

ENDING THE WAR ON AFGHANISTAN

The Biden administration has announced that it will pull U.S. troops out of Afghanistan by September 11, 2021. This promise is insufficient and will not lead to the collective safety and self-determination of the people of Afghanistan and beyond.



U.S. troops are only one part of the war making apparatus upon which the U.S. relies to create and maintain relations of imperial dominance. Left untouched, this vast military infrastructure -- comprised of private contractors, intelligence agencies, proxy militias, and "diplomatic and humanitarian" institutions -- will continue to inflict harm on the lives of Afghan people and communities in the region and around the world that have been targeted, dispossessed, and displaced during the "War on Terror."

Without a strong response from social movements, the U.S. will have free rein to reframe its withdrawal in a way that suits U.S. military interests. A modified withdrawal could include leaving a more covert U.S. military presence in Afghanistan and push hybrid war making that could include sanctions and other strategies of counter-insurgence.

Bay Area organizers are in a good position to mobilize around this issue because of the deep roots in anti-war and anti-imperialist struggle in the region, the presence of key actors on the issue based in the region that could be turned into targets in an antiwar campaign, and the presence of elected representatives with a track record of pushing an anti-war agenda that could be leveraged by movements.

Bay Area groups are already campaigning against the war.



About Face | Veterans against the War is running the Drop the MIC campaign against endless war that includes advocating for the repeal of the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force that approved US war making on Afghanistan.

Alliance of South Asians Taking Action (ASATA) is developing programming and direct actions to commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and the ensuing war on terror.

Black Alliance for Peace held a day of action in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan on April 8, 2021, and has developed political education materials on the issue, including a recent webinar on the U.S. war against Afghanistan.

Potential Bay Area targets



Support could be offered to elected officials such **Barbara Lee** and **Ro Khanna** who are leading efforts to limit U.S. military capacity. Lee is leading efforts to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002. Lee represents the 13th Congressional District (covering Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont, and San Leandro). Khanna is attempting to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002. Khanna represents the 17th Congressional District (covering the South Bay and East Bay)

Bay Area groups could also put pressure on people and institutions affiliated with the **Afghanistan Study Group**, which was created by the United States Institute for Peace, an imperialist think tank. The Afghanistan Study Group was behind the push to extend the deadline for troop withdrawal beyond the May 1, 2021, deadline that had already been set by Trump. **Nancy Lindborg**, CEO and President of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation based in Los Altos, is a member of the Afghanistan Study Group.

Eric Schmidt (former Google CEO) could be targeted for his work in enhancing the Pentagon's tech capabilities in the form of more engineers and software development, including the use of Artificial Intelligence.