

# TECH AND WAR PROFITEERING



The Bay Area is home to key companies which are not only supplying war materials, but are pushing the edge of war making technology and of corporate fusion with the Department of Defense (DOD). These companies are major contractors with the DOD. They provide services and supplies that create the infrastructure for war and occupation. They also function as pipelines for Department Of Defense personnel to transition into private corporations, for less oversight and more direct profit from war making.

They are changing the way the government approaches and executes war. They are producing and funding not just high-tech weaponry but also apps, algorithms and databases that shift more control, data processing, decision points and tasks out of human hands. They are the leading edge of the mechanization of war, increasing the deadliness of violence, decreasing the need for "boots on the ground," and broadening the disconnect between people living in the U.S. and people being attacked and occupied. The more that U.S. war making undergoes these shifts into mechanization and proxy forces, the less access opponents of war have to strategic points of leverage. Many things deployed on battlefields abroad also get used against communities in the U.S.

## Organizations with connections to the Bay Area are already running campaigns targeting tech corporations.



Palantir (Palo Alto) has been a target of campaigns such as **Mijente's No Tech For ICE**, supported by local groups including **Jewish Voice for Peace**, **Close the Camps**, and **Bay Area Families Solidarity Network**. BlackRock (San Francisco) has been pressured over the last few years through campaigns by climate justice and antimilitarist forces ranging from **Youth Against Apocalypse** to the **Bay Area Antiwar Network**. Bringing more focused pressure to expose these companies' profiteering, especially during a time of economic precarity, could be an important leverage point.

## Potential Bay Area Targets



Campaigns against **Palantir** (formerly in Silicon Valley) and **BlackRock, Inc.** (San Francisco) are established. Some of their most obviously egregious programs have already been brought to public attention, such as Project Maven, which Palantir took over after Google dropped it as a result of public pressure. Palantir's role in surveillance and deportations also creates an opportunity to connect with existing domestic work.

BlackRock is a top investor in the long-established top war profiteering companies such as Raytheon, General Dynamics, and Boeing. BlackRock is already facing pressure to divest from these companies from organizations including Code Pink & Massachusetts Peace Action. BlackRock also has an "iShares" fund dedicated to weaponry. Further, they have ties to dictators around the world and will be a key actor within the Biden administration's imperialist initiatives.

**Perspecta** (with a presence in San Francisco) gets less press but is also a key figure among tech in war profiteering. The company aggressively courts DOD contracts and works directly on war materials such as managing the Army's munition systems through a dedicated cloud, and running the system that prepares and executes Tomahawk strikes.