



WANT TO STOP CLIMATE CATASTROPHE? END MILITARISM AND WAR!



The degradation of the environment, the extraction of natural resources, and the exploitation of peoples' labor on a global scale have been key drivers of the capitalist system - from the colonial expansion of its earliest years, to settler wars against Indigenous peoples, to the Trump regime's strategy of global "energy dominance." This drive for profit and dominance has led us to the climate crisis we face today.

US militarism has been essential to maintaining and managing capitalist exploitation of land and people all over the world through direct coercion and occupation or by enlisting the support of other nation states to oppress their people for the benefit of their own elite class and US capitalists. Just as militarism is crucial to capitalist extraction, so too is the United States' vast system of bases, shipping routes, warehouses, vehicles, and weaponry utterly dependent on the fossil fuel industry to keep up its massive operations across the globe.

THE U.S. MILITARY'S ROLE IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET

The US military is the single largest consumer of oil in the world, some estimates are close to a million barrels a day. At the same time, US militarism has been key to maintaining US control of oil production, consumption, and transportation across the world. A recent report shows that the US military spends at least \$81 billion a year to protect its oil interests, not including the cost of active warfare.**

The annual carbon footprint of the military is larger than most countries on earth. It's the single largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world. And this doesn't even include the NSA, CIA, the nuclear arms program and other agencies of war.

Since the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the US military has emitted a staggering 1.2 billion tons of carbon into the atmosphere. For comparison, the entire annual carbon emissions of the United Kingdom amount to roughly 360 million tons.*

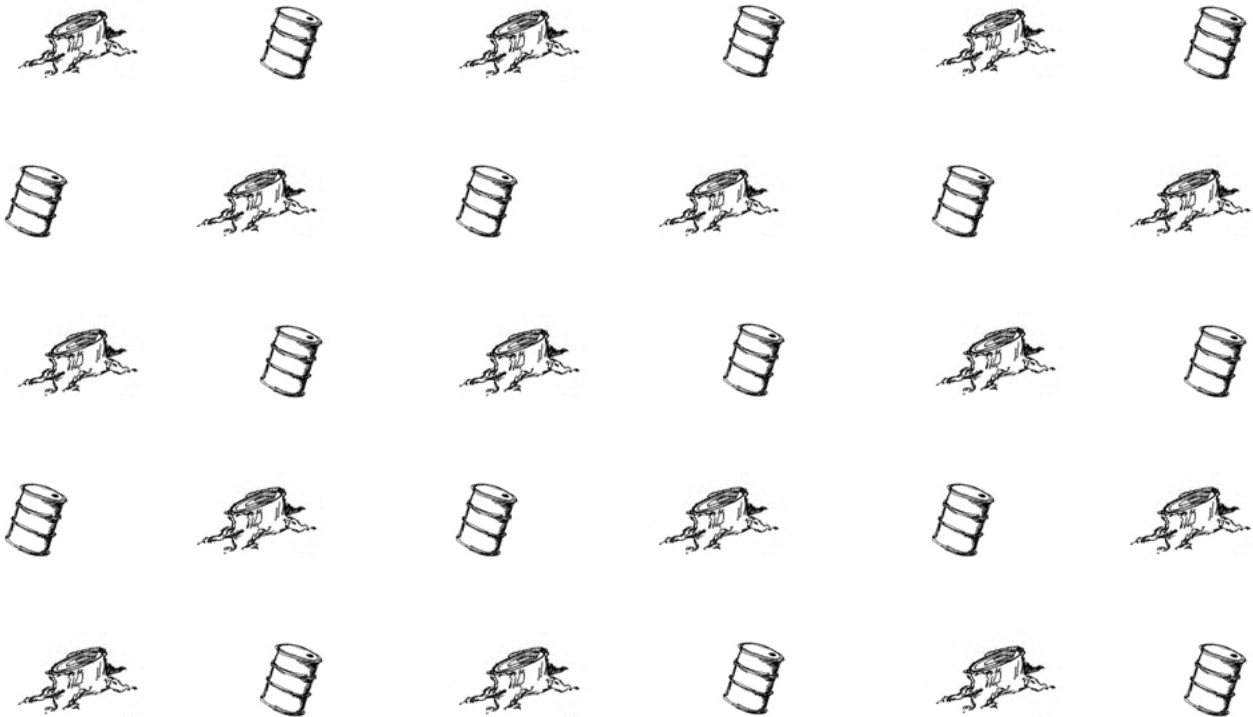
The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the proxy wars in Yemen, Syria, Libya and elsewhere have also created massive deforestation and drought.*

The open burning of toxic waste, the use of uranium munitions and other impacts of war have spread vast amounts of toxins over those countries and their neighbors. The intense fighting over the city of Fallujah (in Iraq) has caused the population to suffer “the highest rate of genetic damage in any population ever studied.”

Imperialist nations and their allies use militarized violence to squash organized opposition to projects of resource extraction that endanger the land and its inhabitants. The brutal repression of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and water protectors in 2016-2017 by law enforcement and the National Guard and the assassinations of environmental activists in the Philippines, Brazil, and Guatemala are just a few examples.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR MOVEMENTS?

The only way we can really confront the existential, ecological crisis we face is at its roots—by fighting to “keep it in the ground” and simultaneously demanding an end to the U.S. military’s devastating assault on the planet and its people.



*"How Military Build-Up and War Contribute to Climate Emergency" The Intercept (15 September 2019)

**" We Now Have a Dollar Value for One of Oil's Biggest Subsidies" Vox (21 September 2018)

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