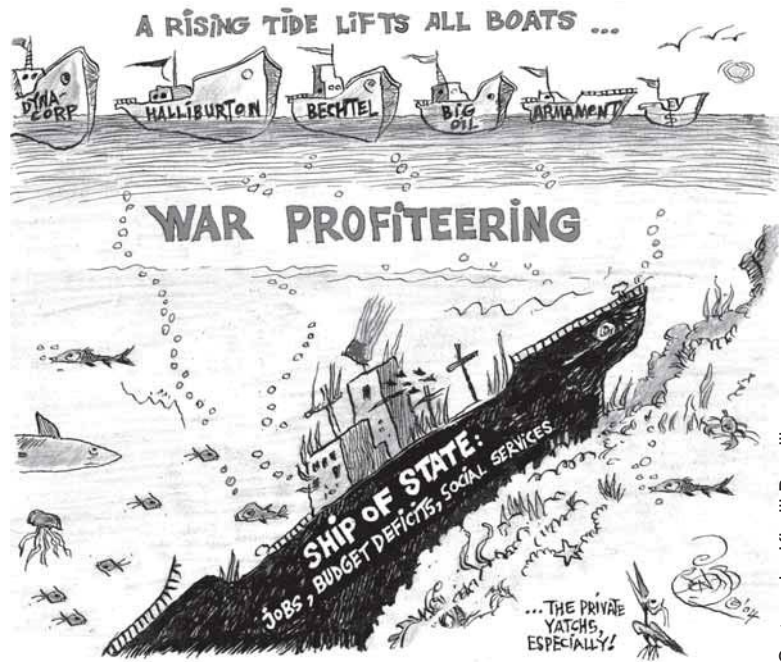


Who Wins at War?

by Silja Kallenbach

For many major corporations peace is not nearly as profitable as war. For ordinary citizens it carries high costs.

- Spending for the war in Iraq will pass \$210 billion in 2005, including military, reconstruction funding and other Iraq war-related expenditures.
- For every ten soldiers stationed in Iraq there is one private contractor paid by U.S. tax payers.
- Lockheed Martin Corporation had \$21.9 billion in defense contracts in 2003. That is more money than the U.S. government paid out in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families that same year.
- In Iraq, Halliburton Corporation overcharged or presented questionable bills for close to \$1.5 billion. Video cassette players, for example, cost \$300 in some instances, and \$1000 in others. Likewise, the company charged \$2.31 for towels on one occasion and \$5 for the same type of towels on another.
- Immediately before being elected Vice President of the United States in 2000, Dick Cheney headed Halliburton. In 2004, Cheney's tax returns show that he received \$194,852 in deferred payments from Halliburton. In the same year, Cheney received a salary of \$203,000 as Vice President.
- In the 2006 federal budget, Medicaid will be cut by \$10 billion and student loans may be cut by \$7 billion over five years. Food Stamps are also at risk.
- Education, veteran's health care, housing and community development, child care, Head Start, home energy assistance, environmental programs, certain child welfare programs and many others will be cut substantially in the coming years if Congress follows the guidelines laid out in the budget.



Cartoon by Khalil Bendib.

Sources: The National Priorities Project, <www.nationalpriorities.org>; "War without end? The costs of the new military buildup," <www.fourthfreedom.org>; Green Left Weekly Online, "Iraq: Making a Killing: the big business of war," <www.greenleft.org.au/back/2005/625/625p20.htm>; PBS:Frontline "Private Warriors," <www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/warriors/faqs>.

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ACTIVITY

1. Look at the cartoon with a partner. Look up any words you don't know.
2. Read the facts in this article then look at the cartoon again. Discuss what you think it means.
3. Share your ideas with your classmates.
4. Who do you think is benefiting from the war in Iraq? Who is losing because of the war in Iraq?