There Are Alternatives!
-And Resistance Is Possible

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The ceaseless bombing and imminent invasion of Iraq by the USA and allies, particularly the UK, is one more step in the geo-fascist march toward world hegemony. It is "fascist" because of ruthless use of blunt state power, only "geo" as long as some US democracy is left. Serving a three-point agenda—oil, bases and Israel—other points have been brought up to legitimize war.

But these points can all be solved by governments, building on successful governmental diplomacy after the Second World War. A Conference for Security and Cooperation in the Middle East, CSCME, modeled on the Helsinki Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, CSCE, 1973-75. The initiative was taken by a small country, Finland, the veto making the UN inadequate. Today Germany could take the imitative, or, even better, the EU. Participants would be Middle Eastern/West Asian countries, with Germany/EU as facilitators, and the conference would last years. Iraq, Kurdistan and Israel-Palestine would be on the agenda.

An image of a possible outcome for Iraq:
- as a federation with a Kurdish, a Sunni and a Shia part;
- Kuwait as an independent state could be associated with Iraq, with open borders, shared harbor facilities, joint oil regime;
- a lasting UN inspection regime for weapons of mass destruction, making the point that this also applies to Israel;
- a UN election monitoring of free elections for a possible regime change, making the point that this also applies to the USA;
- lifting of sanctions, with emergency relief for hunger, DU, etc.

An image of a possible outcome for Kurdistan:
- guaranteed human rights for Kurds in the countries they live;
- high level autonomy for Kurds but no division with secession;
- a confederation of Kurdish autonomues with passport, governance.

An image of a possible outcome for Israel-Palestine:
- full recognition of Palestine within UN 242/338, capital in ElJ;
- Jordan and Egypt lease some land to Palestine for some time;
- two Palestinian cantons in Israel (with some right of return);
- two Israeli cantons on the West Bank (with some right to remain);
- a Middle East Community Syria-Lebanon-Palestine-Israel-Jordan-

Egypt modeled after the European Community, with open borders for trade and tourism, and economic/cultural/political cooperation;
- a Truth and Reconciliation process
to undo horrors of the past
Massive boycott of US export prod-
ucts.

In most countries civil society is ahead of
governments in massively protesting US belliger-
ence and exploitation. There is talk of boycott of
US products all over, building on successful
action against the apartheid regime in South
Africa, against

Deutsche Shell in the North Sea, and
against the French nuclear testing in Polynesia.
The triggering event would be an invasion of
Iraq, boycott would include the UK and partici-
pating countries, and would apply to Israel if a
transfer operation is started.

The purpose of the boycott would go
beyond material protest to try to change US cor-
porate behavior and to turn them against US
belligerence and disrespect for treaties and world
cooperation.

The boycott would cover consumer goods
from movies, CocaCola, MacDonald to cars, cap-
itl goods of all kinds and finance goods like dol-
ars (use euros, yen and others) and US bonds
and stocks, demanding that governments do
not buy and with corporations divest from US
firms, starting with the vertically most reprehens-
able.

The average profit of a US corporation is
around 6%, meaning that even modest partici-
pation will have major impact. Even a 3% decline in buying will place the trustees/execu-
tives in a dilemma between loyalty to
Washington geofascism and their own profits.

Likely counter-measures against a boycott
will include:

- pressure on governments to outlaw
boycott; problematic because mar-
ket freedom is a major part of neolib-
eral ideology;
- corporations asking Washington for
compensation; problematic given
the US economy in general and the
federal budget;
- corporations cutting expenses to
keep profits, laying off employees,
problematic because the high level
of unemployment already;
- US boycott of products from boy-
cotting countries; problematic given
US consumer dependence on for-
ign products and solidarity (others
may start buying from US-boycotted
countries).

The boycott should be informed by gandhi-
an nonviolence. The task is to reduce and elimi-
nate the US military and economic grip on the
world, not to kill US children. An emergency
relief program for those who suffer in the US
should be considered.

Massive human presence in Iraq

One hundred thousand Western foreigners
in Iraq, among them some hundred prominent
persons, would probably stave the hands even of
these aggressors; notorious for their warfare
against German and Japanese cities. They/we
would be there not to protect the Saddam
Hussein regime but to help protect the Iraqi peo-
ple against one more wave of Western genocidal
violence, and US and UK people against being
co-responsible for this mass murder. Travel to
Iraq, on foot, by bus/truck/car, by plane has
already started, and nervousness has been
observed at the top of the US Army, falsely alleg-
ing that this "human shield" is forced, organized
by Saddam Hussein, and hence against the
Geneva Convention.

Their claims to be democracies notwith-
standing, the USA and the UK work with govern-
ments, by stick and carrot (like oil shares for
France and Russia?). These Anglo-Saxon empire-
builders should learn what democracy means:
that people stand up for what is right, and put
nonviolent power behind it. They should know
that there are perfectly feasible alternatives to
their bellicose fantasies in building sustainable
peace and development. And that peace has
tobe based on equality of all, including for the
law.

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