

the reason for war was oil, but that is too simple. We went to war with Iraq over what currency oil is sold in.

The US dollar is a global currency, and is the reserve currency in most countries. All World Bank and IMF loans to countries are in US dollars, and have to be repaid in dollars. Also, all international oil transactions are done in greenbacks, which require all countries that import oil to acquire dollars, i.e. run a trade surplus with the United States. Keeping demand and value of the dollar high.¹ The dominance of the dollar has given the United States a huge economic advantage globally, allowing us to run up huge trade deficits without suffering for it. In addition, countries that export oil are under economic pressure to invest in the US, to avoid currency fluctuation rates. The Saudis alone have trillions of dollars in US financial markets.

In September of 2000, Iraq decided sell its oil in euros only.² This was a major threat to the dollar's global hegemony, and to our entire economy. If oil started being sold in euros, or even a euro/dollar mix, our whole economy could collapse. Demand for the dollar would drop, as euros become a viable reserve currency. Oil exporters, selling in euros, would be more inclined to invest in European financial markets rather than our own. Dollar values would drop, and since we moved off of a gold standard, it could be a wheelbarrow-of-dollars-for-a-loaf-of-bread scenario. Every dollar bill is more like a loan, repayable by the hard work of the American people, rather than something that is actually worth something.

When Saddam switched to the euro, the euro was trading for 82 US cents; when the war started the euro was worth 1.05 US dollars—A huge financial success for Iraq.³ Since then the dollar has continued to drop, and the euro has risen to 1.24 US dollars.

Iraq isn't the first country to toy with the idea, of switching off of the "dollar standard." In the 70's, OPEC saw the benefits of undercutting the dollar, but at that time there was no competitor to the dollar. Iran has openly talked about doing the switch since '99, and is another member of the 'Axis of Evil.' Coincidence?

But now that Iraq is well on its way to becoming the 51st state, the oil is flowing, and being sold in dollars. American global dominance continues for another day. Hooah

Sources:

1. Geewax, Marilyn "Muslims Angry at US Weigh Selling Oil in Euros, Not Dollars" Cox News Service. 4/16/03.
2. Hoyos, Carola. "Iraq oil exports safeguarded as UN agrees to payment in euros." Financial Times. (London). 10/31/00.
3. Pressure Point "Dollars, the Euro and War in Iraq" www.pressurepoint.org/Roots/DollarEuroWarMain.html

The State of Disunion

Halliburton stock price before the invasion	19.05
Halliburton stock price as of March 10 th 2004:	30.70
\$ amount of annual deferred payment from Halliburton to Vice President Dick Cheney:	150,000
\$ amount of defense contracts awarded to Halliburton in the fiscal year of 2003:	3,982,000,000
Estimated number of Iraqi civilian casualties:	10,282
# of 9/11 hijackers trained by the US military in the 1990's:	5
# of minutes between when the FAA first knew flight 11 was hijacked and when the first fighters were scrambled:	39
# of minutes regulation allows for fighters to be scrambled:	10
% the US dollar has dropped to the euro since Sept 2000:	-73



ONE-TERM PRESIDENT

(note to taggers, this image is a stencil.)

Get Involved!

The Red Pill is looking for volunteers. Writers, poets, cartoonist, and artist wanted. Get your stuff published NOW! If that's not you, and you still want to help photocopy and distribute at will.

**Saturday, March 20th, anti-war protest at Lincoln Park at noon.

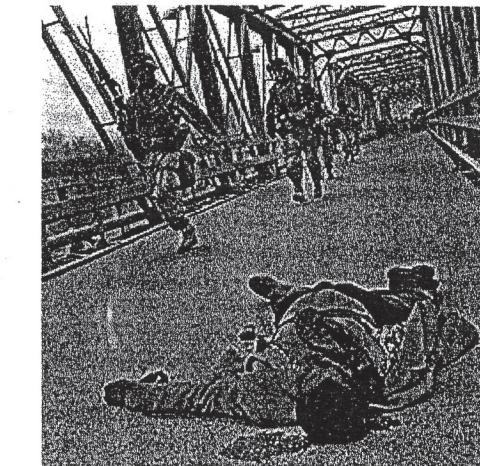
**Monday, March 22nd at 7pm "Uncovered: the Truth About The Iraq War" will be showing at Saccomanno Lecture Hall.

If you have an event, protest, or meeting let us know, and we'll get the word out-FREE.

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The Red Pill

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The Losers

The Winners

In war, there are always losers and winners. The losers in this most recent Gulf War are the estimated 10,282 dead Iraqi civilians, the five hundred and fifty one dead American soldiers, and the taxpayers who foot the bill, even though we can't find the weapons of mass destruction.

The big winners have been corporations, who through defense contracts and reconstruction contracts, turn death into profit, and a tidy profit at that. Companies like Bechtel, LockheedMartin, Northrop Grumman, and Halliburton have close ties to the Bush administration, and have profited because of it. For example, Laura Cheney, Vice President Dick Cheney's wife, owns a significant amount of stock, and sits on the board of directors of LockheedMartin. LockheedMartin manufactures cruise missiles for the military, for about one million dollars each. An estimated 500 cruise missiles were used in the "Shock and Awe" stage of the war, alone—a cool 500 million for Lockheed, and a significant financial gain for the Cheney family. This is war profiteering, and it's shocking and awful. Sticking with the Cheney family—Vice President Cheney's former company Halliburton, where he served as CEO for the five years prior to his term in office, has been blessed by this administration's policies of endless war, and no-bid Pentagon contracts. In 2002, before the war, Halliburton had 483 million dollars in defense contracts; in 2003 Halliburton received 3.9 billion in defense contracts—a 700% increase. Cheney and the White House both say that Cheney has severed all ties with the company, but Cheney still receives deferred payments that equal about 150,000 dollars a year, not to mention his 20 million dollar retirement package with 18 million dollars in stock options. Halliburton stock is up 62% since the

beginning of the war. Again, we all lose, and again Cheney and Halliburton win big. Some would argue that Halliburton is a corporation and is merely doing what corporations do—make money. In Iraq, Halliburton has done all it can to make money including fraud, bribery, and price gouging. In January of this year, Halliburton admitted that two of its employees had accepted 6.3 million dollars in bribes from a Kuwaiti subcontractor. In February, a Defense Department audit found that Halliburton subsidiary KBR had overcharged the military for 27.4 million dollars for meals they didn't serve. Halliburton blamed the error on its Saudi subcontractor, but a January 8th memo from KBR instructed the subcontractor to charge for “the projected number of meals or the actual head count—whichever is greater” Halliburton also had to repay 61 million dollars it overcharged the military for importing fuel from Kuwait into Iraq, and still Halliburton claims to be “a good steward of taxpayers’ dollars.”

America needs to wake up, and stop the bloodshed and war profiteering that is going on in our name. We need to cut these vultures off at the source by getting Bush and company out of office.

9/11, the Extraordinarily Slow Military Response

Since 9/11, two congressional investigations have investigated the “intelligence failure” leading up to the attacks, but questions more urgently need to be answered in regards to the military’s incredible inaction that day. At 8:13am flight 11 turned off its transponder signal, and was first considered a possible hijacking. Almost two hours later, Flight 93 crashed into the Pennsylvania countryside. According to the governments own records: **NONE OF THE HIJACKED PLANES WERE INTERCEPTED BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT.** This is even more inconceivable when one considers that scrambling (sending into the air) of fighter aircraft at the first indication that something is amiss is standard procedure. In 2000, fighters were scrambled 129 times.¹ A couple of years ago when golfer Payne Stewart’s plane lost cabin pressure, and the Learjet missed a turn, F-16 interceptors were dispatched within minutes.² It is considered an air emergency when a plane deviates 15 degrees or two miles from its flight plan. It is also considered an emergency when: “There is unexpected loss of radar contact and radio communications with any... aircraft.”³

The few planes that were scrambled on 9/11 were scrambled too late. At 8:52 the first fighters were scrambled to intercept flight 11, but flight 11 had already crashed into the North Tower six minutes before. Major General Paul Weaver, Director of the Air National Guard, said “The pilots [fly] like a scalded ape, topping 500mph, but are unable to catch up.”⁴ According to the NORAD timeline it takes the fighters nineteen minutes to get to New York. They arrive eight minutes after flight 175 crashed into the South Tower.⁵ F-15’s can travel at speeds upwards of 1800 miles per hour,

but the F-15s scrambled travel at a leisurely pace of under six hundred miles per hour.

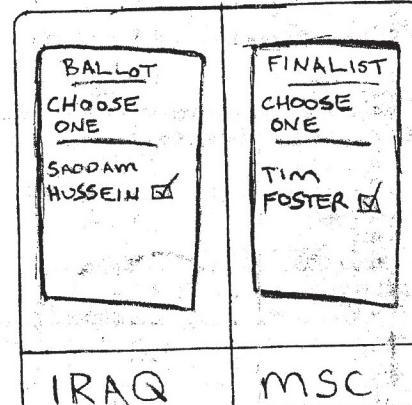
Flight 77 first deviates from its flight plan at 8:46. Forty-one minutes later the FAA finally decides to notify NORAD. According to regulations a fighter should have been scrambled as soon as flight 77 went off course. At 9:27, NORAD orders three F-16 fighters scrambled from Langley Air Force Base. Aircraft at Andrews Air Force Base 15 miles away are not scrambled. NORAD states that the fighters from Langley are 129 miles away when flight 77 smashes into the Pentagon. If this is true, the fighters had only traveled 24 miles in eight minutes, or 180 miles per hour. At this point four planes have been confirmed hijacked two have crashed into the WTC, so why the hell are the fighter jets only going 180mph when their top speed is 1800mph?

NORAD was officially informed that flight 93 had been hijacked at 9:16. Flight 93 crashed at 10:06, fifty minutes after the military was informed that it had been hijacked, and no planes were able to intercept it, according to NORAD. F-16’s were scrambled from Toledo, Ohio, but they don’t even get airborne until eleven minutes after flight 93 crashed.

Where the hell was the military on 9/11? Why was the FAA so slow to notify our defenses? Why did the fighters take their sweet time in intercepting the hijacked planes? Was there a ‘stand down’ order given?

Sources: 1. Slobodian, Linda “NORAD on Heightened Alert” *The Calgary Herald*, 10/13/01. 2. FAA Regulations <http://faa.gov/Atpubs/ATC/chp10/atc1002.html#10-2-5> 3. Arnot, Dr. Bob “Cockpit Security, Quick Response Not in Evidence Tuesday,” *MSNBC* 9/12/01. 4. NORAD News Release. “NORAD’s Response Times” www.norad.mil/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.news.html_rel_09_18_01 5. Whittle, Richard “National Guard Fighters Raced After 2 Airlines” *The Dallas Morning News* 9/16/01. 6. Thompson, Paul “The Complete 9/11 Timeline” www.unansweredquestions.org/timeline/

Democracy at Work



9/11 Timeline

- 7:59 am—Flight 11 takes off from Boston destined for the North Tower.
- 8:10—Flight 77 takes off from Washington DC destined for the Pentagon.
- 8:13—Flight 11's transponder is turned off, and is now considered a “Possible Hijacking”
- 8:14—Flight 175 takes off from Boston destined for the South Tower.
- 8:25—Boston flight control notifies other air traffic controllers that Flight 11 has been hijacked. But wait another fifteen minutes to notify NORAD.
- 8:40—NORAD is informed that Flight 11 has been hijacked. A staggering 27 minutes after it is first considered a “Possible Hijacking”
- 8:42—Flight 93 takes off from Newark International Airport after a forty-minute delay, destined to crash into rural Pennsylvania.
- 8:43—NORAD is notified that Flight 175 has been hijacked.
- 8:46—Flight 11 crashes into the North Tower.
- 8:46—Flight 77 goes fifteen miles off course.
- 8:52—Two F-16's are scrambled from Ois Air Force Base to intercept Flight 11, which has already crashed. This is 39 minutes after Flight 11 was first considered a possible hijacking.
- 9:03—Flight 175 hits the South Tower.
- 9:06—Air traffic controllers nationwide are told that Flight 11 crashed into the WTC, and was a “Probable” hijacking.
- 9:16—FAA informs NORAD that Flight 93 has been hijacked.
- 9:24—FAA informs NORAD that Flight 77 “may” have been hijacked.
- 9:27—NORAD orders three F-16's from Langley Air Force Base 129 miles away from DC, to intercept Flight 77. Ready aircraft at Andrews Air Force 15 miles away are not scrambled. this is forty one minutes after Flight 77 deviated seriously from course, and 74 minutes after Flight 11 first aroused suspicion.
- 9:38—Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon.
- 9:38—The F-16's from Langley have only covered 24 miles in eight minutes; an average speed of only 180 miles per hour. F-16's have a top speed of 1800+ miles per hour. This is after four planes have been hijacked and two of them have crashed into the WTC, so why the delay?
- 10:01—FAA orders F-16's to scramble after Flight 93, from Toledo. Even though there are numerous fighters in the air above Washington DC which is closer to Flight 93 than Toledo is, none are scrambled. This is forty-five minutes after NORAD was notified that flight 93 had been hijacked.
- 10:06—Flight 93 crashes into rural Pennsylvania. Almost two hours after Flight 11 was first considered to be hijacked.
- 10:17—Fighters from Toledo get airborne

The \$ vs. the Euro, the Reason for War in Iraq

Many reasons for going to war with Iraq have been given. First, it was weapons of mass destruction, but none can be found. Then, it was the ties between Iraq and Al-Qaeda, which are circumstantial at best. Finally, the reason became “liberation,” but logically one cannot be both an occupying force and a liberating army. If you read the protestors sign