

Is Saddam Hussein a tyrant?

Undoubtedly.

Are there domestic concerns that pose more of a security threat to us than Saddam does?

We think so.

Do these problems need to be addressed before we go to war?

The choice is yours.

In a democracy you decide what your priorities are and what will make you feel more secure. You decide how you want your tax dollars spent. And you decide whether or not to resist war in Iraq.



Here are some facts that might help.

Produced by:
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
New England Regional Office
<http://www.afsc.org/location.htm>



Data provided by:
National Priorities Project
Find out what war with Iraq will cost your city or town.
www.nationalpriorities.org

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The Committee on International Security Studies
www.amacad.org/projects/ciss.htm
United States Department of Defense
www.dod.gov
Executive Office of Management and Budget
www.whitehouse.gov/omb

Resources:
Education for Peace in Iraq Center (EPIC)
Up to date news and activist alerts. www.epic.usa.org
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
A Quaker lobby in the public interest. www.fcnl.org

Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)
Progressive analysis. www.ips-dc.org

United for Peace
A major clearinghouse of current information.
www.unitedforpeace.org

Voices in the Wilderness
Site has a broad range of information. www.vitw.org

Local Contact Information:

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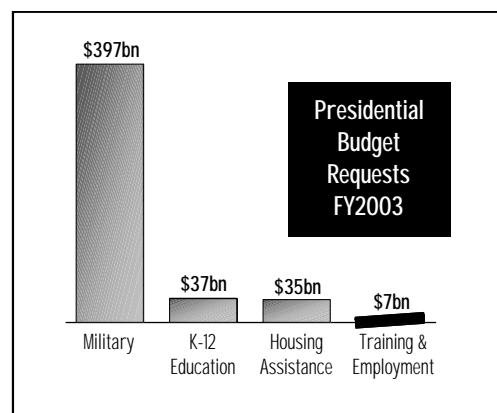
putting the pieces together
– looking at the real cost of war –

Bringing it home...



"The other day a woman stopped into Arise for advice. She's a single mother of five kids (husband dead), on welfare and desperately poor. Her 12 year old son has emotional problems. With the Department of Social Services' cooperation, she placed her son in a residential program in Springfield. She visited him every day and felt his progress was good. On her last visit, she was taken aside by a DSS worker who told her that in order for her son to be able to stay in the program, she would have to give over legal custody of him to DSS. Budget cuts had made it impossible for DSS to provide residential services for any but the children over which they actually had legal custody."

— Michaelann Bewsee,
Arise for Social Justice, Springfield, MA



"Summer is 6 years old. She lives with her mom, Becky, in a motel in a small town in Southern New Hampshire because Becky can't find an apartment she can afford. She works full time, but that isn't enough to afford even a one bedroom apartment in that area. She is on a waiting list for a Section 8 voucher, but that could take a couple of years. They are being housed in a motel because there isn't a shelter or transitional housing program in the area. Becky needs to be near her work and doesn't want her daughter to have to change schools after all the changes they have been through in the last few months. New Hampshire needs about 5,300 more vacant rental housing units to meet the national rental vacancy rate of 6.8% (which is a healthy vacancy rate. NH is below 2%.) It also needs more vouchers, yet the current federal proposal will cut about 350 vouchers."

— Martha Yager,
Housing Project Coordinator, AFSC, Concord, NH

In September 2002, a White House economist predicted that the initial phase of war in Iraq could cost as much as \$100,000,000,000. That's \$100 BILLION! A four-year occupation of the country following the invasion would raise the price tag to as much as \$250 billion! The last Gulf War in 1990-1991 was largely financed by U.S. allies. This time, important financial contributors to the first Gulf War, including Saudi Arabia and Germany will not be joining us. That means that the vast majority of the war's costs will come directly from the pockets of U.S. tax-payers for many years to come. *New Englanders alone will pay \$4 billion of the initial war cost.*

What else could your tax dollars buy?

Schools across the country are poorly financed, overcrowded, and in decay. \$100 billion would *triple* what the federal government spends on elementary and secondary education, providing more than enough money to develop new educational programs, construct new schools and repair those in need of renovation.

education

Each year, over 9 million uninsured children in the United States are deprived access to quality health care, doctors, and effective medicine when they are sick. The \$100 billion to be spent on invasion of Iraq would pay for the health care for each of these children *for the next five years.*

health care

1.8 million families nationwide are in desperate need of affordable housing. At a recent U.S. Conference of Mayors, civic leaders announced a growing need for federal housing assistance. Meanwhile, during a typical 30-day period in November/December 2002, the federal government awarded *\$257 million a day* in military contracts (a total of \$7.7 billion over 30 days). Were this money used for the construction of housing communities instead of armaments, the affordable housing crisis for each of these 1.8 million families would largely disappear in only 2.5 years.

affordable housing

More than 7 million children go home alone after school everyday to an unsupervised setting. A federal investment of \$250 billion (the amount our government could spend on an invasion and occupation of Iraq over the next four years) could provide these children with quality after-school care, train and finance 100,000 new teachers to assist in their education, and pay the entirety of their college costs! Imagine! 7,000,000 children, who might otherwise not get the chance to go to college, could make an enormous contribution to our collective security if war is avoided.

a better future for our children

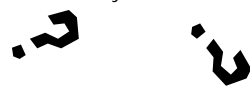
How else would the war affect Americans?

Do you drive a car? War with Iraq will very likely destabilize overseas markets, including the oil industry. Some estimates predict the price of gasoline soaring to as much as \$3 per gallon: an annual increase of nearly \$700 in gasoline costs if you fill up your tank just 30 times a year!

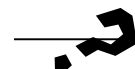
Do you own stock? Since the President and his staff began 'selling' the war with Iraq in August 2002, stock prices have dropped 20 percent and will likely fall even further as the first missiles hit Baghdad.

Do you have children...or pay taxes? The Bush Administration's extraordinary increases in military spending have turned recent budget surpluses into an estimated \$80 billion *deficit* for 2003, yet President Bush remains committed to an economic program that will reward the nation's wealthiest 1% with record tax relief.

Can you survive another prolonged American recession? Most economists predict that a recession will follow an expanded war with Iraq, as well as a 2% to 5% decrease in the Gross Domestic Product (that's \$200 to \$500bn).



War with Iraq? The choice is yours.

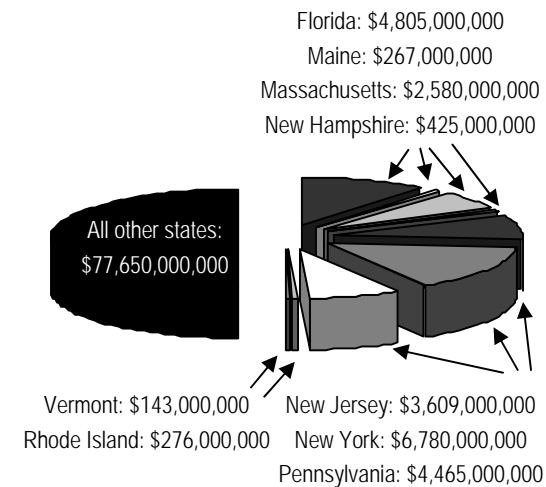


Questions to ponder...

Apache helicopters or food assistance?

U.S. mayors have asked the federal government for a 19% increase in funding for food assistance, as increasing numbers of people face unemployment and homelessness. At roughly \$8 billion, this is equal to the amount the government will be spending this year for Longbow Apache attack helicopters and for so-called "missile defenses" that don't work. The Apache is one of six helicopter programs being funded by the Pentagon. Estimates of the amount to be squandered on "missile defenses" run to more than \$100 billion – a welfare program for the Military-Industrial-Complex.

Can your state afford war?



a \$100 billion pie!

"Raptors" or child welfare?

The amount of money being invested into the F-22 fighter Raptor aircraft program (\$5.25 billion) would pay for 70,000 children's yearly health and after school care, their teacher's salaries (at a ratio of one teacher for each child), and all of their college degrees. The F-22 is one of four Pentagon fighter aircraft programs now being paid for with your tax dollars.