

No Worker or Student Blood for Oil!

Strike! March 5 2003

The promised war is not a war about democracy or terror or justice or peace. It is war for oil, for profits, an international war of the rich on the poor—with the rich of the US, especially oil billionaires, leading the charge in battles where only the poor will be expected to fight and die. This is an imperialist war of expansion. The US ruling class seeks to invade the world. But we can build a better world inside the crisis of the old.

Worldwide, bosses move to assault poor and working people at every level of our lives, from school cutbacks to gutting social services like medical care—and mass layoffs—to pay for the economic crisis they created, and their oil war. Everyone is told, “Watch what you say.” The tyrants use surveillance tools, and the suspension of civil liberties, not to protect us, but to attack us. No worker anywhere should die for Exxon-Mobil. No person should be homeless, no child hungry or without a book to subsidize the bloody war. Everywhere, people of the working class and the ruling class have nothing in common—except opposition.

This is a period when each of us will define ourselves, just who we are and what we stand for. The more we are united in mass action as a class, the less we are divided by race, sex, and nation, the better our chances will be. The degree that the ruling class is successful will be partially determined by how much—and how well-- we resist. When they say, “Cut back,” we should say, “Fight Back!” Making concessions to bosses, wherever they are, is like offering blood to sharks. They only want more. Ask the folks at United Airlines. No concessions! Informed resistance is vital to the lives of all people, not only in the US, but everywhere. *Freedom is Solidarity.*

March 5: Strike/Study Against the Imperialists' Oil War

No one has a crystal ball, but early March is a good guess as to when the perpetual war may begin. Whether the war has begun or not, we call on students, teachers, school workers, parents, and all poor and working people to **STRIKE AGAINST THE OIL WAR** on March 5, 2003. Walk out of school, leave work. **SHUT THEM DOWN** and demonstrate that nothing moves, nothing of value is created, without us, students and workers united, thought and action. United, conscious of our actions, we can gain control of what we create. The only war worth fighting is the war for equality, democracy, community, freedom.

Strike! Act. Study. Think. Act. Study. Think. Act Again!

Join the Strike on March 5

It is not enough to strike against the war, even though such a widespread action could have a terrific impact. It is key that we all learn about why it is that when capitalism declared victory over socialism, all that the Masters of Capital could offer most people is endless war, rising inequality, meaningless jobs, starvation in much of the world, epidemics, deepening segregation, militarization of all of social life, and a society of spectacles that has nothing to do with building caring communities for people connected in honest meaningful activity. Why?

Walk Out of School! Shut them down! Walk off the Job! Quit soldiering! Set up are integrated, multi-age, multi-racial study groups, Rouge Forums, where we ask the question, WHY?, and work together for answers. Surely the military brass, our boss, or our textbooks only lie about all that. When we couple our strike with study, we double our power.

What to study? Plan ahead. The Rouge Forum News is online, as is the NO BLOOD FOR OIL web site, available through any search engine. We especially urge you to read the articles by Michael Klare, author of the book "Resource Wars," Robert Fisk, journalist, and the special issue of the Rouge Forum Newspaper, online. Read Marx. Choose your own reading, but fight, learn, and fight again. Nothing but direct action –combined with our struggle for better knowledge-- on the job and in the schools, is going to settle matters in the days ahead. In the long run, we will need to overcome capitalism itself to end this war of all on all. We can win if we fight and learn.

The Rouge Forum is interested in teaching and learning for a democratic society. You are invited to join us.

The Rouge Forum is a group of educators, students, and parents seeking a democratic society. We are concerned about questions like these: How can we teach against war, racism, national chauvinism and sexism in an increasingly authoritarian and undemocratic society? How can we gain enough real power to keep our ideals and still teach--or learn? Whose interests shall school serve in a society that is ever more unequal? We are both research and action oriented. We want to learn about equality, democracy and social justice as we simultaneously struggle to bring into practice our present understanding of what that is. We seek to build a caring inclusive community which understands that an injury to one is an injury to all. At the same time, our caring community is going to need to deal decisively with an opposition that is sometimes ruthless. Online at RougeForum.org. Rouge Forum leaders are available via the www site—as are study guides.

A Rouge Forum Broadside