

unpatriotic. War hysteria was the rule of the day. Few persons tried to answer in a thoughtful manner why the US was attacked. This is the case even today.

Since it was the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that were attacked, it seems wise to consider US economic and military policies in trying to answer this question..

For example, on September 11, 1973, the CIA helped engineer the overthrow of Chile's democratically elected government, because the US opposed economic policies initiated by Chile. The overthrow resulted in the initial death of over 3,000 Chileans followed by decades of death and disappearances under the dictator Pinochet.

While many throughout the world sympathized with the US following September 11, 2001, they also recalled that other September 11 in Chile, which was just one of many US incursions into the life of other communities.

Few in the US recall that the Bush administration rejected Afghanistan's offer to turn Osama bin Laden over to an independent court in another country. The call was for retribution to justify, as many have argued, US oil interests. Meanwhile, Afghanistan is in ruins and tens of thousands of Afghans are dead or have been injured.

If this was not sad enough, the immoral and illegal attack and occupation of Iraq has already consumed the lives of more than 1

million Iraqis and over 4500 US military personnel. This does not count the untold number of Iraqis and the tens of thousands of US persons who are injured, many grievously. Meanwhile, recent predictions indicate that the Iraq war will cost the US over \$3 Trillion. Iraq, a once highly developed country, lies in ruins.

It's vital to realize that the, so called, "success" of the Surge in no way minimizes the fact that the invasion and occupation are a war crime. The ends do not justify the means.

**If you want peace,
work for justice.**

- Pope Paul VI

Clearly, in these instances alone, US economic and military policies are being used to control vast oil resources. And this is being done under the banner of a "War on Terror."

While we reject in the strongest possible terms the attack on September 11, 2001, the foregoing reflection attempts to offer in a very brief manner our response to why some might want to attack the US.

What is your opinion? We'd like to hear from you.

IT IS TIME

- for all US Forces to come home to their loved ones and leave other countries and their resources alone
- for the US to close its vast network of 702 military bases in over 130 countries
- for the US to pay restitution to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, for starters
- for the US to stop torture, profiling and the abuse of human rights at home and abroad
- for the US to restore civil liberties decimated by the "Patriot Act" and other anti-democratic acts
- for the US to establish a "peace dividend" here at home for job creation, health care, education and other vital social needs

SOURCES

"Pastoral Statement on the September 11, 2001 Tragedy" www.8thdaycenter.org/aboutus/statements.html

"Before And After: US Foreign Policy and the September 11th Crisis," Phyllis Bennis, http://www.tni.org/detail_page.phtml?page=books_beforeafter

"Iraq Deaths Due to US Invasion" www.ustforeignpolicy.org/iraq/iraqdeath.html

"Cost of Occupation in Iraq" www.alternet.org/waroniraq/81589/

"A Timeline of Oil and Violence" www.ringnebula.com/Oil/Timeline.htm

ACTIONS

1. Consider our common heritage as evidenced by the following Holy Days:

- Islam's Ramadan, August 31-September 29, 2008 which stresses prayer, fasting, charity, and self accountability.
- Judaism's Rosh Hoshanah, September 29, 2008 which ushers in ten days of repentance and ends with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement on October 9.
- Christianity's Lent, a period of fasting, alms giving, prayer and repentance which begins on February 25, 2009 and leads into Easter Sunday, April 12.

2. Begin a vigil at a location near you. It only takes a few persons who commit to doing so weekly or a few times a month. (See "Note" below).

3. Share and discuss this leaflet with your family, friends, coworkers and your faith community.

Local contact:

8th Day Center for Justice

*A Catholic Faith-based NGO
for Social Change*



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*Note: Other Peace Leaflets produced by the 8th Day Center can be found at www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html
You may wish to use them for your own vigils, in classrooms, etc.*

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

Bob Bossie, SCJ

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, a small group of individuals attacked the USA and destroyed or badly damaged two of its most prominent symbols – the center of world trade and the center of the mightiest military force in history – and killed 3,000 persons.



The staff of the 8th Day Center for Justice spent the following day in prayer and reflection in an attempt to discern their response. They agreed to issue a statement and they decided to initiate a silent prayer-vigil at Chicago's federal building each Tuesday at which they would distribute informational leaflets about the attacks and US war plans.

Those persons who supported a different interpretation and response than that provided by the Bush administration and main stream media were branded as