

Why might people be angry at the US?

US support for Israel's continued occupation and terrorization of Palestinians, its continual blocking of UN resolutions demanding Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the formation of a Palestinian state, and its refusal to discuss the matter at the UN Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa.

US-imposed, illegal economic sanctions against Iraq are killing 4,000 children a month and have killed more than a million Iraqis since the end of the Gulf War. Two high UN officials have resigned in protest because they believe the sanctions to be unnecessary. 200,000, mostly civilians, were killed during the war.

U.S. corporations and U.S.-controlled agencies such as the IMF and World Bank continue the deadly practices of colonialism. They build dams, drill for oil, denude forests, enslave people in dangerous sweatshops, control agricultural land and markets, and invade the culture with materialism, individualism, technology, and violent imagery.

Because most of the violent conflicts in the world are facilitated by U.S. weapons and everybody affected knows it.

Under what conditions might groups resort to violence as political communication?

Why is patriotism dangerous?

It leads to an unquestioning support for government policies

It legitimizes and increases the use of violence against internal dissenters.

It manipulates people's emotions through use of symbols and slogans and thus avoids any serious policy debate.

It prevents us from thinking about the complex interconnections of our world today.

It leads to a false sense of who we are that excludes and endangers many of our fellow citizens.

What are the likely effects of US retaliation?

Loss of thousands of civilian lives in the countries the US chooses to bomb.

Increasing anger against US imperialism leading to more terrorist attacks.

Decreased government expenditures on education, job programs, social security, and other social program and increased spending on defense.

The possible reinstatement of the draft.

Unifying the currently disorganized Arab world and artificially polarizing Islam and the West.

Who benefits the most from this crisis? Who loses and what do they lose?

Benefactors include the military industrial complex, mostly large corporations like McDonnell Douglas, Boeing, and Raytheon, but also the FBI, CIA, and local law enforcement agencies which will receive lots of money for new weapons and personnel, and their increasingly repressive tactics will become legitimized.

The shaky legitimacy of the Bush administration will be propped up and the questions about our democracy that had been raised around his election will be buried.

Losers include immigrants and other people of color in the US who will face increasing racial profiling and who will be subjected to mistreatment by structures of racism that we have worked so hard to eliminate.

Needy Americans will lose as the government suddenly has an extra \$40 billion to give to a retaliatory military operation but hasn't had any money for housing and welfare programs. Existing social welfare programs, education, and other programs will be cut.