

WHY ANTI-MILITARIST?

The Military is the first part of the State, which is used primarily to hold a nation together by suppressing minority cultures, protecting ruling class privileges against competing powers, and ensuring capitalist profits against working class interests. Its [upper class] officers command one portion of the working class to fight and/or kill the rest. It is an authoritarian institution: resistance to militarism is resistance to authoritarianism [dictatorship/tyranny]. It helps make us more free.

Conscientious Objection

Anarchists ARE NOT pacifists. The working class has the right to self-defense against the violence of Capitalists, the State, and their paid gangsters ["detectives", "para-militaries", "contractors"]. To feel solidarity [empathy] with other people and offer them mutual aid is a natural human behavior: "*An injury to one is an injury to all.*" To suppress this by telling a person to turn the other cheek and tolerate injustice [e.g., institutionalized religion] is authoritarian and inhumane (Ericco Malatesta). We do support **Conscientious Objection** against joining the armed forces of the State or fighting its wars, because it deprives the State of bodies that they can use against us. Their patriotic duty is often evil done "*for reasons of state*" or because servants of the State were "*just following orders.*"

Preparedness

Military spending is money not spent to improve the well-being of people. **Preparedness** is simply stockpiling weapons, materials, and people for destruction. Wars destroy manufactured goods and infrastructure instead of building infrastructure and making products which benefit people in their current and future lives. It creates a "Sword of Damacles" of weapons used to bully the working class and protect the Rich whenever police alone cannot suppress freedom of speech, association, or association they don't like. Military spies now work with cops to make this easier. The more weapons a country stockpiles, the more it is tempted to act belligerently or imperialistically. **Military spending should be diverted for public works, education, and health care projects.**

"Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps"

Militarism is part of the political indoctrination in schools designed to make people feel impotent and dependent on leaders and bosses. "*Strong people need no leader, they are their own leaders*" (Ricardo Flores Magón). The **JROTC** wastes money which would otherwise be spent on real High School education, to recruit students into the Military using military training and prejudice [it teaches them to romanticize military servitude]. Schools need meals, nurses, textbooks, learning supplies, libraries, student tutoring, etc.. They need Physical Education, Art, Music, and Industrial Arts classes. Some need smaller class sizes. Public school classes should be redesigned to teach job skills and cooperation. **We need to kick JROTC out of the public schools and reinvest in student needs.**

The Poverty Draft

Most soldiers are "volunteers" for economic reasons [**The Poverty Draft**]: lack of jobs, quality of life, hope. Military recruiters target High School students in working class communities of color. The U.S. government's "No Child Left behind" law requires schools to give your phone number to recruiters so they

could harass you. They will lie to you and tell you that you have no future outside the military. If the Military is the only job available in your community, you have been betrayed by Capitalists and the State and you would be a fool to fight for them. The most effective response to the damages done by militarism is **Counter-Recruitment: (1) Organize parents and students to kick military recruiters out of the public schools, (2) Expose the lies of military recruiters to potential recruits and their families, and (3) Help people approached by military recruiters to find real jobs.**

De-Humanizing

Military training is intended to take away your individuality and subordinate your desires to military commands and interests. It makes you dependent on a chain-of-command for your needs and decision-making. Military drill and parade reduces people to robot-like obedience to orders to make it easier to send them to their deaths in war. It also indoctrinates them with a pantheon of lies to romanticize military history [true military history is the record of conquest and murder by the ruling classes against ordinary people]. All military jobs receive basic training as infantry soldiers because the Military always reserves the option to turn you into cannon fodder in combat. Few military job skills are transferable to the civilian world. In fact, people in the real world are getting years of *practical* job experience while you are stuck in the military pulling guard duty and cleaning latrines.

The after-effects of having your freedom and personality taken away for 6-8 years by military brainwashing can last for years *after* you are discharged. Nightmares from combat stress [being forced to kill] can last a lifetime. You may also be a prisoner of war. War wounds and amputations do last a lifetime [some U.S. munitions are radioactive!]. Soldiers and veterans often endure substandard medical care. There are a lot better ways to “*be a man.*” It’s not too late for people conned into enlisting to undo their mistake and get their life on the right track. People in Basic Training can *un-enlist* from the military for various reasons including “*inability to adapt to military life.*” **Get a real job and have a real life.**

National Security

War Profiteers [the Military-Industrial Complex, Bankers, and Neo-colonialists] own the capitalist media and “chicken hawk” politicians who instigate Jingoism [war mania] used to con working class people into fighting for upper class interests. Nationalism is the romanticizing of their territorial ambitions [like “manifest destiny”]. Patriotism is religious-like faith in the State used to moralize its true intentions [it has been called “*the last resort of scoundrels*”]. They use paid experts from professional think tanks to repeat their “party line” and trivialize any contradictory facts or opinions. They use Xenophobia [an irrational fear of anything foreign, or of “different” ideas in general] to demonize dissent because they are afraid of it. Dissent challenges their legitimacy. The State treats dissenters as “internal enemies” [threats to their “**National Security**”]. They use “dirty tricks” like COINTELPRO [counter-intelligence program] to frame us for crime(s) we did not commit, hurt our personal relationships, or otherwise try to ruin our lives [*e.g.*, make us poor], as a way to disrupt our political activity. There is no immoral act which they are not capable of doing “*for reasons of state*” (Michael Bakunin).

We need to adopt a “*Security Culture*” which conceals our activities from the State as much as possible and helps keep our people out of jail. We can start by teaching our children not to cooperate with the police, watching what we say on the phone and in E-mails, and paying cash when possible so there is no computer record of our transaction(s). Avoid petty criminal activity which can be used as a pretext to arrest us, let others know if we or people we know are under surveillance or being followed, and carry a good lawyers business card in case you are arrested and get a phone call. Don’t carry a weapon, illegal drugs, or personal phone lists. Don’t trust anyone you don’t want to share a cell with. **Power to the People!**