

## Wars and climate 2.docx

The *Stop the War Coalition* is an anti-war movement, dedicated to preventing and ending all wars.

Wars are a major cause of the climate crisis with 20% of environmental degradation around the world due to military activities.

If we just stopped fighting over oil and gas, the main fossil fuels causing global warming, the Middle East would not be awash with weapons.

- If it wasn't for oil, would we need Israel with its genocidal crusade, as our ally to protect oil interests in the region, and the oil and gas fields off Gaza?
- If it wasn't for oil, would we have supported Saudi Arabia with its appalling human rights in its war with Yemen?
- If it wasn't for oil, would we have started the war in Iraq, destabilising an entire region?

After the humiliating withdrawal of Western troops from Afghanistan, this devastating war joined those in Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen - all justified by lies -all for minerals, oil, and pipelines. Fossil fuels are even a factor in the Ukraine war.

Wars cause misery and destruction, millions dead, mass displacement of civilians, vast resources wasted, the economic and social fabric of countries ruined, the world a more dangerous place. The effects on climate change are massive; carbon emissions, environmental destruction, resource extraction, forced migrations, the huge costs of military equipment, weapons and bases, and Research and Development.

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Nato's overall military spending in 2023 was \$1.34 trillion - a staggering sum that could have covered twelve years of the promised, and still not delivered, \$100 billion annual climate finance to support low and middle-income countries.

Imagine if those who waged the War on Terror had spent the last 20 years fighting the climate crisis; imagine if we spent those wasted trillions on solar farms and offshore wind turbines; imagine the insulation of every building; imagine a network of electric vehicle chargers.

The Government is increasing defence funding to 2.5% of GDP - £57bn annually - imagine how this could be used to restore our NHS, to combat child poverty, to restore our broken infrastructure, and to provide decent housing and education for all.

And why is a Green Deal too expensive? There's always plenty of money for war.

The sun, wind and tides can generate all our power, making warmongering for oil just stupid. No one will fight a war over access to these natural phenomena. The global move to clean energy could be mankind's greatest peace plan.

If we're to have any hope of a liveable planet, we must divest from war and destruction. So, join *The Stop the War Coalition*, and do it now.