

War, What Is It Good for?

By [Philip A Farruggio](#)

Global Research, January 13, 2020

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

Edwin Starr in 1970, had this hit song War.

This was of course during the apex of the phony war on Vietnam.

One line of the lyrics that resounded so well for this writer was:

.

.

War
Friend only to the undertaker
War
War
War-Good God, now
Now
Give it to me one time now
Now now
What is it good for?

The 2003 illegal and, may I include, *immoral* US invasion and occupation of Iraq opened up a Pandora's box of terrible repercussions that to this day, nearly 17 years later, still resonate. Yet, for this empire, what it succeeded in doing was to *gift* various US corporations \$50 Billion of reconstruction contracts. You see, what the grifter community calls the *Long Con* is to attack a country on false claims, destroy much of its infrastructure, occupy the damaged mess you created and make gazillions from taxpayer money. As the helicopter tail gunner in the film *Full Metal Jacket* exclaimed as he stood there, arbitrarily murdering civilians: *Ain't war great!*

After the phony invasion in March of 2003 the bu...hit named *Coalition Provisional Authority* took money from the Iraqis and dished it out to a number of international corporations. They justified this robbery as compensation for 'lost profits' and 'decline in business' due to the 'aggressive actions' of Saddam Hussein since 1990.

My Yiddish speaking friends call that *Chutzpah!*

Believe it or not, US based companies like Sheraton received \$11 million, Bechtel \$ 7 million, Mobil \$2.3 million, KFC some \$ 321,000.... even Toys R Us got \$190,000. OH, and Israeli farmers received \$8 million.... and listen to this: *They were not able to harvest fully due to the threat from Saddam's regime.* Plus, Israeli hoteliers and travel agencies received \$15 million. I kid you not!

Now, while this was all going on, 500,000 Iraqi citizens lost their jobs, and soon after that over 50% of the workforce became unemployed. And people now ask why they want us the hell OUT of their country? When they ended the (so called) 'War in Iraq' in 2011, seven million Iraqis lived below the poverty line. Large amounts of Iraqi money were paid out to those infamous and humanitarian US corporations for local projects. Most were never completed, and corruption was rampant... by all parties concerned, Iraqi and American.

Sarah Anderson wrote a great piece on Global Research about how even the threat of war makes money for the top military contractors. Look below to see how the top 5 military contractors made a bundle right after the killing of General Suleimani:

Top 5 Military Contractors						
	CEO	Total CEO compensation, 2018	Company stock holding (#), most recent Form 4	Closing value of stock holding, 1/3/20	1-day change in stock holding value, 1/3/20	1-day % change in share price, 1/3/20
Lockheed Martin	Marilyn Hewson	\$21,516,613	44,945	\$18,595,735	\$645,866	3.60
Boeing	Dennis Muilenburg*	\$23,392,187	143,190	\$47,648,054	-\$80,187	-0.17
General Dynamics	Phebe Novakovic	\$20,720,254	717,278	\$129,239,216	\$1,255,237	0.98
Raytheon	Thomas Kennedy	\$22,420,258	159,577	\$36,353,236	\$531,391	1.48
Northrop Grumman	Wesley Bush**	\$24,185,259	251,947	\$94,482,502	\$4,865,089	5.43
AVERAGE		\$22,446,914	263,388	\$65,263,749	\$1,443,479	
TOTAL		\$112,234,571	1,316,938	\$326,318,743	\$7,217,397	

*Resigned 12/22/19. **Resigned 1/1/19 while staying

What is needed in our fine nation is for we, the good and decent folks, to start demanding action. We must demand that the majority of our almost 1000 foreign bases be closed and personnel returned home. We need to make drastic cuts in this obscene military spending, whereupon 50% of our federal tax money goes down that rabbit hole. Take the savings, of treasure and US military lives, and fix our broken safety net... period! Oh, and how about we use eminent domain and nationalize all military contracting companies... at NON PROFIT! Maybe then Edwin Starr's song would be a great reminder of what used to be...

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Philip A Farruggio is a contributing editor for The Greenville Post. He is also frequently posted on Global Research, Nation of Change, World News Trust and Off Guardian sites. He is the son and grandson of Brooklyn NYC longshoremen and a graduate of Brooklyn College, class of 1974. Since the 2000 election debacle Philip has written over 300 columns on the Military Industrial Empire and other facets of life in an upside down America. He is also host of the 'It's the Empire... Stupid' radio show, co produced by Chuck Gregory. Philip can be reached at paf1222@bellsouth.net.

[**Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page**](#)

[**Become a Member of Global Research**](#)

Articles by: [Philip A Farruggio](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca