

Welcome to the website “underway against militarism.”

We'd like to invite you for a walk through central Berlin – a walk to learn about:

—how the business of war is conducted in Berlin by corporations, politicians and industry pressure groups —how growing militarism and the militarization of everyday life are connected to struggles over global resources and capitalist domination —about the history of anti-militarist protest.

An antimilitaristic walk through central Berlin

We invite you to join us to the places of the militaristic Berlin. We will inform about corporations, that handle with war, about lobbyists and service-centers, but also about places of antimilitaristic resistance.

next dates: three sundays in 2008: **August, 31; Oktober, 5; November, 28**

time: 14.00

start: entry of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Unter den Linden 6

duration: about 90 min.

The participation is for free.

“Not with us!”

In the early 1950s, just a few years after the atrocities of the Second World War, German armed forces were reconstituted as the Bundeswehr. At that time, tens of thousands of demonstrators filled the streets to protest the remilitarization of Germany. “Not with us!” was their slogan. Today, fifty years later, when the German parliament meets to debate and take decisions about German participation in wars and extended military operations abroad, the streets are quiet. Resistance to militarization has all but disappeared.

Since 1990, the Bundeswehr has been involved in 40 out-of-area operations, most of them in other peoples' lands, far from Germany. The atrocities committed in these wars are witnessed only by deployed soldiers and their families, and by the staff of the aid organizations and “security firms” working in conflict areas. Only infrequently do these wars penetrate our everyday routine, as news of kidnappings or bombings remind us to ask ourselves how much a human life is worth. Most of the victims killed by NATO bombs die anonymously and out of sight. With little media attention or investigation, they are classified as “collateral damage” or killed “Taliban combatants.”

In the rhetoric-driven discourse of the “war on terror” and the bureaucratic language that governs “humanitarian reconstruction” the facts are concealed: war necessarily implies a violent intervention in a foreign country and inevitably results in killed and maimed civilians.

To Take a Stand

Critical journalists, researchers and victims' organizations have revealed the distortions and manipulations serving to justify and legitimate the wars of the past. The films and literature based on their work document past war crimes and show the resulting social impact and long-term infrastructural devastation in countries targeted by “interventions.” Meanwhile, however, new military operations are justified by the new security and anti-terrorism propaganda and are conducted with scarcely any public objections or protest.

The Bundeswehr is again involved in military intervention, but these take place far away. Is it this distance that makes it so difficult to register the atrocities and devastation that result? Is the visual evidence of the damage too much for people to bear, or does the public really accept the official justifications for the new wars?

Or are the reasons to be found in the ways in which militarism and militarization are subtly worked into the fabric of everyday life – in the form of a friend's brother, who has worked in the war zone as an employee of a private security firm; of the attractive woman at a café table who represents an

arms manufacturer; of the cousin who works for a transport company delivering munitions to military bases; of the friendly neighbor who helped to design the drone aircraft that was already deployed in operations against anti-nuclear demonstrations in Germany...?

War Is Business

While the Bundeswehr is deployed in operations in far-away lands, the profiteers of war do their business while drinking a “latte macchiato” at a café on Unter den Linden or while dipping sushi in soy sauce on Potsdamer Platz. Right here and now, they do deals in “intelligent weapons systems,” in body-destroying 120-millimeter smoothbore guns, and Tornado aircraft that will misidentify civilian hideouts as military “targets.”

Many German and European arms manufacturers maintain offices on one of Berlin’s famous promenades. It’s not the glamour that attracts them. They come to Berlin to be near the German government – to the politicians and bureaucrats who make decisions affecting their profits. Here, the lobby of the military industrial complex actively shapes foreign policy. The best-positioned firms will make good money from war.

Militarization and Repression

According to conservative politicians, the Bundeswehr will soon be operating inside Germany. The military mission during the anti-G8 protests in June 2007 set an important precedent. In Heiligendamm, the same Bundeswehr that wages war in Afghanistan provided local and regional police forces with surveillance photography and intelligence about the alter-globalization movement. What will be next?

Now is the time to stop militarization and global wars!

Disarm the military! Rededicate arms manufacturers! Desert and support deserters!

Dissolve the Bundeswehr, mobilize against the military!

Welcome to the internet page “en route against militarism”

We’d like to invite you for a walk through the complex metropolis Berlin. A walk through the city to learn about:

- representative offices, pressure groups, politician as well as service companies, located in Berlin and engaged in the business of war
- the increasing militarism and the impact on the struggle about global resources and capitalistic dominance
- the impact on civil life and the way to deal with social conflicts
- antimilitaristic protest and actions in the past

“Not with us!”

In the early 1950s, less than ten years after the atrocities of the Second World War, “NOT WITH US!” was the slogan, under which tens of thousands of protesters poured into the streets to rally against the foundation of the Bundeswehr and the remilitarization of Germany. 50 years later, today the debates and decisions whether to take part in a war or extend military operations are taken in the German parliament without any resistance.

Since 1990, the Bundeswehr has been involved in 40 out-of-area operations, most of them far away from Germany. Only the deployed soldiers, their families, the staff of aid organizations and so-called ‘security companies’ witness the atrocities of these wars. Every once in a while, the news about kidnappings and bomb explosions penetrate our everyday routine, and remind us to ask how much is the life of a human being worth. However, most of the victims killed by NATO bombs die anonymously. Without further media attention, they remain ‘collateral damage’ or ‘taliban combatants’.

The discourses of the “War against the Terror” and so called “humanitarian reconstruction work” tend to conceal the indisputable fact, that war implies a violent intervention into a foreign country – and the consequence of killed and mutilated civilians.

To take up a position

Journalists, Scientists and victims organisation/ association reveal the lies and the ideologie, which had served to defend and legitimate past wars, their studies and work, as well as films and literature depict war crimes committed in the past and show the economical and social impact as well as the long term infrastructural devastation of the targeted countries.

At the same time, accompanied by the propaganda of the need to defend Freedom, peace and Security against terrorist attacks, new military operations are carried out again without hardly any objection.

The military interventions, in which the Bundeswehr participates, take place far away, is this the reason, why it seems so difficult to figure the atrocious devastations? Is the visualisation of the comitted damage and harm too much, that people prefer to supress it rather than to realise it? Or do people really believe the announced reason, which are exposed to the public in order to legitimate a war?

Or is it the complexity of the reality, which makes it so hard do define the own point of view: the friend's brother, who has already taken part in a war as member of a private military firms, the attractive woman sitting in a Cafe, who is engaged as a representative of an arm manufacturer, the cousin, working for a transport company, that delivers munition to some operational zone, the friendly neighbour, who participated in the developpment of a drone, which had already served in operations against the protest against the nuclear transport in Germany... ?

War is Business

While the out-of-area missions of the Bundeswehr are taking place far away from home, the profiteers of the war do their murderous business having a 'Latte Machiato' Unter den Linden or 'Sushi' at Potsdamer Platz. Right here and right now, they deal in 'intelligent weapon systems' and '120 mm smoothbore guns', which tear up their victims, and sell Tornados to identify civilian hide-outs as military targets.

Many German and European arms manufacturers maintain a branch on one of Berlin's famous promenades. Its the physical proximity to the German government, and not the representative glamour, that matters to this kind of business and brings it to Berlin. Here, the lobby of the industrial military complex actively shapes the foreign policy. Because good money can be made with war.

Militarization instead of participation

According to conservative politicians, the Bundeswehr will soon be operating within Germany. In June 2007, the military mission during the anti-G8 protests set an important precedent. In Heiligendamm, the same Bundeswehr that wages a war in Afghanistan, provided photo material and intelligence information about the anti-globalization movement to local and regional police forces. What will be next?!

Its time to stop militarization and global wars!

Disarm the military! Rededicate arms manufacturers! Desert from the military!

Dismiss the Bundeswehr, counter military mobilization!