

# Don't let Anzac Day be used to promote today's wars

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**AS THE COUNTRY GETS READY** to commemorate the loss of thousands of New Zealand lives 100 years ago at Gallipoli, the government is preparing to commit us to another brutal intervention in Iraq—a war that the American government expects 'could last years.'

When asked why New Zealand might join an ANZAC-badged unit, the prime minister replied 'one argument could possibly be the 100 years commemoration of Gallipoli.'

New Zealand has followed America, Britain and Australia into the Middle East before. In 2003, NZ supported the US occupation with engineers, a frigate and surveillance aircraft all helping to contribute to the current disastrous situation.

Today's government is now discussing a joint ANZAC military force, despite publicly committing itself to no more than a 'training team' of 40, compared with Australia's promise to the United States of fighter bombers and a 200-strong elite SAS fighting force.

The NZ Defence Force is training its soldiers for Middle East combat 'just in case.'

Gallipoli was a bloodbath. 131,000 young men were killed and another 262,000 wounded as a result of the conflict in 1915.

The US invasion of Iraq in 2003 was a bloodbath. 171,000 were killed from 2003 until America's withdrawal in 2011, and another 30,000 have been killed since.

Both wars were avoidable. Both were wrong.

Oppose New Zealand involvement in the current conflict.

**Lest we forget.**

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# LEST WE REMEMBER

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## War in Iraq and Anzac Day 2015



## **For 100 years our military myth-makers have been trying to rewrite history...**

### **THE NZ GOVERNMENT AND ITS DEFENCE FORCE**

continue to take over the memory of World War I through their celebrations of Anzac Day, lest we remember what really happened and why.

### **LEST WE REMEMBER that the War was wrong**

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WWI was the result of an imperialist arms race by the European ruling elite and its industrial backers. New technology such as the machine gun saw young men turned into mass cannon fodder at the mercy of a relentless and dehumanising industrial war machine.

### **LEST WE REMEMBER that WWI was fought in defence of European empire and industry, NOT in defence of ideals of democracy and freedom**

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The war was instigated by opposing European empires seeking to control world resources. By the war's end this was so evident to returning servicemen as to provoke world-wide revolt, ultimately resulting in revolution in Russia.

### **LEST WE REMEMBER that the sacrifice was NOT equal**

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Anzac Day commemorations perpetuate a myth of brave allies fighting side by side, when the battles at Gallipoli and elsewhere were fought by workers against workers on distant battlefields while commanding officers dictated their doom from the shelter of tactical 'war rooms.'

### **LEST WE REMEMBER that as many Māori opposed the War as supported it**

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Many Iwi, such as Taranaki, Waikato and Tūhoe strongly opposed the war, causing the government to rope in young men from Niue and the Cook Islands instead. Prior to the war, Māori were not welcome in the NZ army, but when they were needed to fill the ranks, they were praised for their bravery and battle skills.

### **LEST WE REMEMBER that the victories of WWI extended Western colonialism in the Middle East, setting the pathway for present day international disasters**

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The original invasion of Iraq by Britain took place in World War I, in a pattern repeated by the United States in 1991 and 2003. Following the signing of the armistice in 1918, British troops continued to advance on Iraqi oil fields in order to lay claim to the country's resources. They ruled the colony with an iron fist and refused to negotiate with the many nationalist Muslim groups that flourished as a result, labelling them 'extremists.' During this 14-year-long British occupation, local people were terror bombed by the British Air Force. War minister Winston Churchill wanted to use mustard gas against the local people, saying "I am strongly in favour of using poisoned gas against uncivilised tribes...[to] spread a lively terror." It is one of the so-called 'weapons of mass destruction' that the United States used as an excuse to illegally invade and occupy Iraq in 2003—no such weapons were ever uncovered.

