

I hereby pledge to avoid	I pledge to avoid	In the event of war,
active resistance	against the war	I will escalate my
Hereafter I will	corporations and	resistance by
endeavour to remove	and also take	practising a system
financial support for	the amount of TAX I	rationing;
the economic system	contribute to the UK	Further details can
behind the war	government	be found overleaf.

Name
 Address

RATION PLEDGE

Voluntary



Detach and post this section.

FULLY OPENE THIS BOOK FOR MORE INFO

Read the rest of this ration book. Consider your
 on spending habits and whether you could
 commit to the ration scheme. Sign and send off
 the ration pledge opposite. **Put it into action.**

If you disagree with the government on going to
 war then remove your support by drastically
 cutting your financial contribution.

Withhold your taxes. We all pay tax -
 it's difficult not to. Not only are we taxed on the
 money we earn, but also on products we buy, in
 the form of VAT and duties.

**How 'Rationing'
 starves the
 war machine**

PAGE 3

War On Terror?

September 11th. The United States had plans drawn up
 in July 2001 for the invasion of Afghanistan. The Taliban
 regime (previously funded and trained by the US to fight
 the Russians) stood in the way of a pipeline which would
 provide access, via the Caspian, to the regions huge oil and
 gas reserves. Oil companies have been very interested in
 the region since the dissolution of the USSR.

April 2001 (before S11) advisers informed George W.
 Bush that *'Iraq remains a destabilising influence to the flow
 of oil to international markets from the Middle East'* and
 suggested that *'military intervention'* should be considered.
 Iraq has the world's second biggest oil reserves.

PetroDollar\$. In November 2000, Iraq switched it's
 national reserves and crude oil sales from Dollars to Euros.
 Did this seal it's fate? If other oil producers follow suit, the
 already beleaguered US economy could crash.

Weapons of Mass Distraction. While Saddam was
 using chemical weapons against Iran in 1983, Donald
 Rumsfeld, (now US defense secretary) was meeting with
 Saddam. Neither Ronald Reagan or George Bush Snr
 seemed bothered by Saddams behavior. Infact, their
 administrations authorised further sales of poisonous
 chemicals and biological agents!

Business as usual. The US has a long history of
 intervening in other countries to secure it's own interests.
 Just last year the US backed an attempted coup to oust
 Venusuuala's elected socialist government. The US currently
 gets most of it's oil from Venusuuala and Columbia (prime
 target of the US War On 'Drugs').

Will voluntary 'rationing' stop the war? By itself, probably
 not. But along with all the other pressures, who can tell. If we
 kick Blair out or force him to change his policy then Bush may
 be unable to legitimise his actions.

But even if we can't stop the war - modifying our consumerism
 will have numerous other positive outcomes.

Gandhi also promoted similar withdrawal of support for the
 english regime. From defying the 'salt laws' and the associated
 Tax, to boycotts of imported British textiles, Gandhi
 really hurt - the bottom line!

In South Africa, while the ANC promoted armed struggle against
 Apartheid, it was mass consumer boycotts by township
 communities along with international boycotts of companies
 doing business in South Africa that really hit the system where it
 really hurts - the bottom line!

The US civil rights movement in the early sixties staged direct
 action in segregated diners. Hundreds of people took part in these
 events but along side these full-on scary acts of defiance were
 consumer boycotts by both blacks and sympathetic whites. These
 boycotts scared the shit out of the companies involved and they
 came to agreements which ended the segregation.

PAGE 2

Reasons to Boycott corporate USA.

The USA is the worlds only superpower. How can we,
 as global citizens contain it? We must ensure that it is
 not tempted to take advantage of its overwhelming
 military superiority, and begin to remove regimes
 which do not suit its commercial and political ends or
 ignore international protocols designed to protect the
 global environment? Non violent civil disobedience is
 fine if you're an American, and many good hearted
 citizens are taking such action - but what can we do if
 we don't actually live there?

The USA is the worlds largest consumer of fossil
 fuels - and the worlds largest polluter.

The US government still refuses to sign the Land
 Mine Ban Treaty (also known as Ottawa Convention).

US commitments to reduce CO2 emmission have been
 dropped thanks to Bush and his oil industry buddies.

Anti-American? Critising US corporations
 and politicians is NOT anti-american. America is a
 continental land mass and americans are the people
 who were born there or live there. Some americans
 support the unethical behavior the governments and
 corporations, others do not.

Additionally, pledgers would undertake to boycott US corporations
 and brands in order to put pressure on the US economy.

Pledgers undertake to avoid purchase of unnecessary items whenever
 possible and thus deny Blair's government revenue from VAT.

These 'ration books' invite you to join others in an act mass
 civil disobedience in the form of reduced consumption and
 therefore reduced economic support for the UK and US war
 mongers.

The time for marches is over! It is now time for civil
 disobedience. Already there has been direct action against
 military bases, recruitment centers etc around the country.
 But many people do not feel able to take part in such
 actions. What we need is a form of resistance that is open to
 everyone.

George W Bush is hell bent on war and Tony Blair is
 backing him all the way despite the fact that the majority of
 the British people do not agree. Over a million people
 marched in London to express their feelings about the
 Bush/Blair war. It was the biggest protest march in this
 country's entire history. But our democracy is dead, the
 wishes of the people ignored. What can we do now?

PAGE 1

The Problem



Your Ration Book

Issued to safeguard everybody's future

Name

Address

EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBER

Date of issue

Issue Number of Book

Please spread the word to

EVERYONE

Beta1c

How to use this Ration Scheme

IDEAS FOR CONSCIENTIOUS CONSUMERS

- 1. Consider your position.** Do you really want to stop this war? How far are you personally willing to go?
- 2. Withdraw your economic support.** This booklet contains details about what products carry VAT and some of brands and companies you might avoid.
- 3. Inform the government.** Complete the pledge at the back of this booklet and send it off. Lets us know too, and local papers / politicians.
- 4. Tell your friends,** neighbours, colleagues etc. and see if they would be interested in taking the pledge also.
- 6. Redirect your savings.** Consider donating some of the money you are saving to anti-war campaigns or sanctions breaking projects.
- 6. If war is declared.** Don't give up! Escalate your dissent and widen your efforts. Reinforce government of your intentions.
- 7. Stay informed.** You can't rely on mainstream media. Seek alternatives. The first casualty of war is the truth.
- 8. Support other efforts.** The state tries to marginalise groups in order to divide opposition. United we stand.. The struggle against injustice takes many forms.

VAT on Food and Drink

Certain categories of processed and package foods carry VAT but there is no tax on fresh fruit and vegetables which are rightly considered essential.

By avoiding processed foods and preparing your own meals, not only will you enjoy a healthier diet but you will deny the government Value Added Tax.

Additionally, when you choose to buy locally produced, organic or fairtrade items from local small businesses, you support small and local farmers and the economy of your region rather than giving money to the directors and shareholders of foreign own corporations.

US softdrinks have achieved total worldwide domination equaling or even surpassing such other American cultural icons as jeans, movies, TV dramas and fast-food chains. More than half are **Coca-Cola** products, while **PepsiCo** brands account for one in five. Not to mention that chemical cocktail **Sunny Delight** placed misleadingly by **Procter & Gamble** in chill cabinets next to real fruit juice.

Income and Savings

Want to avoid paying income tax?

If you are not on PAYE then perhaps you could find a way to avoid paying all your income tax. But another way to reduce your income tax is to join the overtime ban. Reducing the amount of time you spend working may mean you earn less but it means you have more quality time with friends and family.

What about your savings?

Reducing your consumption is likely to leave you with extra cash. As for your savings, many high street banks have large investments in arms companies. Look into ethical investments - perhaps the Co-op. or Triodos Bank

Avoid Barclays, HSBC, Prudential
Got government bonds? CASH THEM!

For more information about ethical investments try...

The Ethical Investment Research Service - www.eiris.org
80-84 Bondway, London, SW8 1SF
Tel: 020 7840 5700 Fax: 020 7735 5323
UK Social Investment Forum - www.uksif.org
Unit 203, 16/16a Baldwins Gardens, London EC1N 7RJ
Tel: 020 7405 0040 Fax: 020 7405 0080
Ethical Investors Group - www.ethicalinvestors.co.uk
Montpellier House, 47 Rodney Rd, Cheltenham GL50 1HX
Tel: 01242 539848 Fax: 01242 539851

Fossil Fuels Energy and Transport

Everytime you buy a litre of fuel at the petrol station, you give the government around 50p pence. Over 25 billion is paid by motorists on fuel duty every year. The revenue from oil, fuel and road taxes accounts for over 6% of all government revenues.

The government suggests that the average motorist drives around 6,000 miles a year. In a car with a fuel consumption of 30mpg this would cost £675.

1. Try to Drive Less - Think about how you use your car. Do you really need to take the car? Could you not walk, cycle or take public transport?

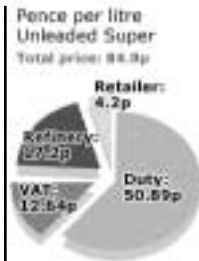
2. Slow Down - If you have to drive, cut your speed. Driving at 50 MPH can use up to 30% less fuel than driving at 70 MPH.

SAVE ENERGY / SAVE LIVES

Within your local community you could organise voluntary 'black outs' (when people switch off all their lights at the same time) as a visual protest against the war.

Don't forget to figure out how to save energy EVERYDAY, at home and at work.

When the cost of oil is war, leaving the TV on may be murder.



If a litre of fuel costs 85p, 21.7p will be the production costs and profit, around 51p will be duty and 12.5p will be VAT on top of all that.

Alcohol & Tobacco

Tax on alcohol raises over £11 billion.

Beer 29% tax, Wine 51% tax, Spirits 61% tax

Tax on Tobacco brings in around £10 billion - that's £19,000 every minute!. A 20-a-day smoker will spend about £1,600 a year on cigarettes - mostly on tax.

The price on popular brands of cigarettes is **over 80% tax** - the highest in the world. A UK brand retailing at £4.40 costs £2.00 in Belgium and £1.50 in Spain. The difference is even greater on rolling tobaccos, 50g costing £9 in the UK and in Belgium around £2.

As a consequence of the high tax, about 70% of UK rolling tobacco consumption is smuggled. UK Customs estimate that they lost revenue of £2.8 billion in 2000/1 with 17 billion cigarettes (21% of total consumption) being smuggled each year. Losses in duty collected on alcohol have also increased massively in recent years thanks to the channel tunnel and the 'booze cruise'.

QUIT, CUT DOWN, MAKE YOUR OWN TAKE A BOOZE CRUISE WITH FRIENDS OR JOIN THE BLACK MARKET

What's your brand? Watch out for US giants Philip Morris, RJ Reynolds, BAT/Brown & Williamson. Their brands include Marlboro, Benson & Hedges, Golden Virginia and many more.

US Corporate Brands

There are obviously thousands of US companies and brandnames and it would be impossible for us to list them all. Here are some of the biggest players that you are likely to come across. All are already the targets of consumer pressure for their unethical behaviour.

McDonalds (& Aroma) - [see www.mcsopotlight.org]

Asda / Wal-Mart Stores . Use sweat-shop labour overseas [see www.walmartwatch.com]

Esso (Exxon Mobil) - Gave massive financial backing to Bush and successfully lobbied for the US to pull out of the Kyoto climate agreement. [see www.stopesso.com]

Kraft / Philip Morris - Leading the tobacco industry's campaign against public health. [see www.infact.org]

Procter & Gamble [see www.multinationalmonitor.org]

AOL Time Warner - The worlds biggest media monopoly, US owned and pro war.

Disney, Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Levi, Starbux, Caterpillar, GAP, Intel, IBM, Dell, Compaq, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft, Motorola, Johnson & Johnson, Texaco, DuPont (Jet, Lycra, Kevlar, Gortex), International Paper (toilet paper)

Check out your utilities: Many power and water companies are US multinationals such as TXU Energy.

Affix stamp here

Please complete and send this pledge to :

**Mr Gordon Brown,
Whitehall,
Westminster,
London WC1**

Please also send let us know that you have signed up to the pledge so that we may accurately monitor and report the number of pledgers.
www.pledge.yours.at pledge@yours.at

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR PURCHASES

EXERCISE YOUR CONSUMER POWER EVERYDAY

By using the guide below you can be assured that your purchases minimise contributions to the war machine.

Even if this ration pledge has no direct influence on those who might constrain Bush and Blair - using your consumer 'vote' in this way will certainly be better for your local economy, the environment and exploited people everywhere.

Group 1 ESSENTIALS / NON VAT CARRYING GOODS

These goods carry no VAT and basically consist of products considered essential to everyone.

If everyone only bought these items, the government would lose 64 billion - twice the entire military budget.

Group 2 SECOND HAND / CHARITY SHOP

Privately sold second hand products and those sold for charity normally carry no VAT.

Group 3 LOCAL / ETHICAL GOODS

Look out for...
Locally grown and produced.
Locally owned shops
Organic
Fair trade
Cruelty Free
Repaired or Recycled

Avoid and discourage...
Imported goods
Supermarkets
Multinationals - especially US corporations.
Sweat-shop labour
Over packaged or disposable

Conscientious consumerism sends a clear message about what we find acceptable and what we don't. The power is ours!