

Chapter 2

Topic 8 Globalisation, green crime, human rights & state crime

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Activity: Media

State-corporate crime and war

Learning outcomes

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify key features of state-corporate crime.
- Assess the impact of state-funded private business interests in Iraq.

In the aftermath of the Iraq War in 2003, the US government used private contractors to carry out a wide range of activities. This can be seen as state-corporate crime, perpetrated by the corporations but funded by the state.

Working in groups, watch the two clips below and answer the questions that follow each of them:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVEJq7-GggQ>

This clip shows how the US government used 'cost-plus' contracts with Halliburton.

1. What happened to the jobs that soldiers were doing in Iraq when Haliburton Had the contracts?
2. How much did Haliburton charge for laundry/
3. Why did the soldiers use the Haliburton (KBR) service for laundry?
4. Describe the hotel that Haliburton used for orientation events for their staff.
5. What do the company do with any incorrect equipment they receive?
6. Why were they able to do this?
7. What happens when a truck breaks down?
8. Why do Haliburton not worry about costs?
9. What is the problem with outsourcing intelligence?

Watch this clip, starting from 1 minute 30 seconds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ParFskGjsns>

The clip gives an insight into the differences between the experience of the troops in Iraq and that of the company employees. It also gives an insight into the impact of war profiteering.

17. *According to the commentator, in what way has the status of war profiteers has changed between the Second World War and today?*
18. *What did the truck driver have to do in order to get his medal?*
19. *What is the difference in treatment of the company workers and the troops?*
20. *According to Greenwald, what was the effect of the corporations on the troops in Iraq?*
21. *Why were KBR not concerned that the water in Iraq was unsafe?*
22. *How was Halliburton able to maintain their contracts despite providing unsafe water?*
23. *How much profit has the head of Halliburton made since the beginning of the conflict?*
24. *Why does the use of private companies affect the services being supplied for both Iraqis and Americans?*

The clip above is a trailer for the film Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers.

If you want to know more, the full film can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBmqPi8PZ5Q>