

Dear Madam/Sir

Summary:

1. Establish who benefits from the wars and make them pay into a veterans' fund.
2. Lower the threshold for war participation.

I have been impressed to see the long term effects and costs of the wars getting an airing

I am a 74 year old woman who grew up in West Berlin. I was 4 in 1948 when my family returned there, where the scars of wars were still everywhere, in the streets, and in people's minds. My late father had been a physicist so he was not in the Wehrmacht and I had no relatives who had been.

Over the decades it became clear to me from observation that it is over 5 decades that you need to fund the war wounded after they have returned home.

That has remained the same even though the wars are quite different today. In my childhood days in West Berlin it was obvious that nobody had benefitted from WWII. It never entered our heads to ask who the beneficiaries were, because there was no benefit to anyone. Even the weapons manufacturers who would have profited originally needed some years to recover from WWII. People dreamed of a more peaceful world which was dismissed by others as childish dreamings.

My generation has now seen a lot of wars, lots of destruction, and damaged people.

It is time to ask who are the beneficiaries of the various new wars - and make them pay for the long term consequences as opposed to bunkering their profits in tax havens thus making the general population pay for the long term costs.

This armchair analyst has not kept a list of the companies who have profited from the last few wars. I can only name Halliburton as having profited from the Iraq War, but I am sure there are others. Has Halliburton supported veterans' or deceased veterans' children financially? Has any other company contributed, e.g. Lockheed Martin or Raytheon?

These companies are listed on the NYSE, so their profits lift Wall Street – every new announcement of a war means there will be business and profits for them.

Wars are therefore a speculator's dream and we pay for the long term consequences? We are paying and fighting for freedom and democracy? Neither is of any use if the fight impoverishes people; lack of money paralyses people until they wear a yellow vest.

I wonder if someone in the know can make a list of all companies which profit from wars and are listed on the NYSE, so that we can get an idea how much the wars are influencing the valuations.

Other benefits are in the companies/ for their shareholders and owners who need/want their supply and sales channels ensured. Nestle, CocaCola, Ikea, Aldi, Walmart, En.gie, Wintershall, TOTAL, and Bayer, Revlon, Disney, apple, Samsung, Toyota, Johnson & Johnson are internationally integrated companies who benefit from wars that keep their lines open.

One way to not have long term costs and misery is to have fewer wars, i.e. less participation of Australia in these wars. In this context, the war powers issue ought to be revisited. What we have experienced with Iraq and Afghanistan should not be repeated.

Cabinet/the PM should have war powers for a year only. To continue war participation Parliament should have to authorise. One year would take care of an emergency, but long term wars with more long term costs should require a more open and more elaborate process. There is too much at stake - 50 years, 2 to 3 generations. .