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Operation Endless War

How long must U.S. troops stay in Afghanistan?

By Jim Hightower

12/3/2014

Only a few months ago, President Barack Obama announced the good news that our combat role in Afghanistan — the longest war in U.S. history — would finally end by New Year’s Day.

Put away that champagne.

A flock of screeching war hawks brought heavy political pressure on Obama to reverse himself. So our troops will stay in that war-ravaged, corrupt, bankrupted, ethnically divided country for at least another year or two.

Amazingly, the hawks argued that Obama shouldn’t “rush” the timeline for training Afghan security forces to defend their own country.

Rush? Hello: IT’S BEEN 13 YEARS!



“Operation Enduring Freedom,” as the government originally dubbed this mess of a military mission, should be renamed “Operation Endless War.”

Here we go again — not merely conducting training exercises, but continuing to mire our courageous but overstretched military forces in the Afghans’ civil war, including using U.S. ground troops in combat missions against the Afghan Taliban.

How many more Americans will die or be horribly maimed in that hapless land? How many more billions of our tax dollars will be dumped into Afghanistan’s abyss? And why?

Why are we there? Why are we wasting so many lives and so much of the money we desperately need here at home?

And why are We the People not consulted on such a massive and momentous decision?

It’s reported that the Pentagon not only wants to keep troops there through 2016, but beyond. How many troops? What are they to achieve? That’s a secret.

When Obama announced last May that the United States would have no combat role in Afghanistan after this year, he said, “It’s harder to end wars than to start them.”

True, but that doesn’t mean we can just surrender to those who are turning America into a militaristic state. If Obama won’t fight them, we must.