



Introduction to the film and subsequent discussion with director Amir Amirani

"A WORK OF BEAUTIFUL RAGE"
★★★★★
EMPIRE

"ROUSING AND MOVING"
★★★★★
RADIO TIMES

- TONY BENN
- BRIAN ENO
- DANNY GLOVER
- RICHARD BRANSON
- JESSE JACKSON
- KEN LOACH
- DAMON ALBARN

- LINDSEY GERMAN
- TARIQ ALI
- NOAM CHOMSKY
- MEDEA BENJAMIN
- RON KOVIC
- MARK RYLANCE
- HANS BLIX

WE ARE MANY

15 MILLION PEOPLE MARCHED AGAINST WAR
AND CHANGED THE WORLD FOREVER

On Wednesday, 15.3.2023, ab 20 Uhr, Anna-Siemsen-Hörsaal (Von-Melle-Park 8)

„We are many“

A film by Amir Amirani
[OmU, GB, 2014]

It has always been one of the means of rhetorical warfare to put those civil society forces that are committed to a peaceful solution of international conflicts into the camp of the "enemy" to be fought. However, one is also not currently a partisan of the Russian president if one doubts, based on humanistic motives, that the self-proclaimed "defenders of Western values" in Ukraine and elsewhere are really and exclusively concerned with freedom, democracy, peace and international law. History up to the present shows that the "West" is only too willing to

*"Rise, like lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number!
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you:
Ye are many—they are few!"*
Percy B. Shelley, „The Masque of Anarchy“, 1819.

trample all these values and public opinion underfoot as soon as there are lucrative deals to be made somewhere in the world that promise juicy extra profits for the ailing national arms, energy and oil companies. The most serious evidence of this interest-driven hypocrisy is the war of aggression against Iraq launched exactly 20 years ago by the USA and Great Britain in violation of international law, which to date has claimed over 1 million civilian victims and has profoundly destabilised the entire region of the Near and Middle East politically, socially and culturally. At the same time, it is the war operation of a Western military alliance that has experienced the most vehement opposition to date in the form of a globally active peace movement, from whose work far-reaching conclusions can be drawn for today's creation of civil development and a sustainable world peace order.

The film "We are many" by the Iranian-British director Amir Amirani impressively documents the genesis, background and historically profound aftermath of the anti-war protests which culminated on 15 February 2003 in the largest coordinated manifestation in human history: more than 30 million people in 789 cities, spread over 72 countries on all continents (including Antarctica), joined forces to say "NO!" to the mendacious plans of the so-called "Operation Iraqi Freedom". The official justification for the Western weapons campaign was already then that the defence of Western values, which had been attacked by the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, required a military response

and that any means was justified to eliminate a bloodthirsty dictator like Saddam Hussein, who, moreover, threatened world peace with weapons of mass destruction. As early as 12 September 2001, a few intrepid pacifists and antimilitarists contradicted this view by pointing out that the justifications for the war were constructed and one-sidedly reduced to the Western contribution to the promotion of the Saddam regime, and that behind the "values" rhetoric there were long-cherished plans to invade Iraq in order to finally gain Western access to

the country's immense oil reserves. This courageous initiative of the opponents of the war, who were immediately accused of being "terrorist friends", turned into millions of "enemies of the state" worldwide in two years of tireless educational and persuasive work. Their work could not prevent the "war for oil". However, the vehement commitment to peace changed the social discourse permanently and fundamentally. The rulers were disavowed with their lies on warfare. From all the independent organs of the United Nations and from the historical course of development, the motives of the peace movements were vindicated. Their commitment against the war and its partisans also laid the foundation for the later democratic-revolutionary uprising in the "Arab Spring" and for the strengthening of other human rights movements worldwide.

With its moving illustration of these interrelationships, the documentary conveys crucial insights of urgent relevance today: Peace requires the courage of proactive enlightenment. It is the overcoming of all forms of violence for the conscious, planned, democratic and solitary shaping of globally humane living conditions. It is not decided between nations, but between the top and the bottom. When the silent, overwhelming majority comes to articulate its globally unifying interest in peace in a well-founded way, it unfolds a disarming power that no one can escape in the long run. We are many - they are few.

Therefore: Bread, Peace, Dignity - now! International solidarity: an end to austerity.

www.schuldenbremse-streichen.de

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