Death, destruction, disaster – the war in Afghanistan is a shambles. And the war against terrorism is a meaningless phrase. I am against the empire (we have created), the control of many parts of the world’s resources secured by the deployment of air, naval and ground forces in places such as the Balkans, Iraq and across to Afghanistan. I am against deception; the claim that Britain’s foreign policy is aimed at ensuring freedom, justice and democracy around the world, then in fact its overseas agenda is driven by corporate greed, power and domination with our supposed friends and allies, the United States. Is this not true?

With Blair the warmonger determined to follow Bush to oust the Taliban and fight terrorism in Afghanistan, it has already become an extremely bloody conquest. Now our supposed democratic government, including the Eton prefect Cameron and his whipping boy Clegg, is rambling along without even a murmur of protest. We have been told that Britain would triumph because ‘the Afghans basically hate the Taliban.’ Yet this triumph does not seem true, as an appalling attrition rate of one in four soldiers killed or wounded has emerged. It is high time that us ordinary citizens speak out clearly and powerfully against these insane imperialistic aspirations.

My claim is straightforward: in the name of fighting terrorism and spreading democracy around the globe our government has both in the past, and is now, undermining democratic processes and institutions within Britain. Put differently, Blair, Bush, and Clegg and yes Cameron too, have and are exploiting both grief and fear which is ruining the very essence of democratic life here and abroad.

Let’s look at the facts. In order to fund this war, Clegg and Cameron are insisting on a £36.9 billion military budget in 2011/2012, thus designating an absurd percentage of government spending on the military budget, which is more than developed countries such as China (2.2%), Japan (1.0%), France (2.5%) and Germany (1.4%). And yet don’t these countries all have bigger populations?

Meanwhile, only 12% of the budget will go towards education and only 18% to health care. All this at a time when almost 4 million (1 in 3) children in Britain live in poverty and £8.5 billion need to spent on repairing state schools. Incidentally, the cost on one Chinook helicopter would be enough to repair over 1,000 ageing school buildings.

This intolerance towards the plight of the poor is accompanied by a rapid increase in government power. Much more needs to be said about the on-going attack on civil liberties, and also the pointlessness of this unwinnable war. We have sent in over 8,000 brave troops to fight for what reason? And almost daily another young soldier is added to the saddening list of fatalities, carried out in the back of a Chinook helicopter with the Union Jack draped over his coffin.

In order to justify its foreign policy goals, our government has been demonising all perceived enemies and in this way has helped awaken local xenophobic tendencies. Not surprisingly, this tactic has had far reaching ramifications for Arabs and Muslims inside the UK as well. Do we need the Daily Mail teaching us to hate people who are different.

Everyone involved in this wretched war knows it has failed; yet leaders must tell us the contrary. Our supposed ‘heroes’ declare that ‘progress is being made’ and that Afghanistan was ‘enjoying a rising tide of security.’ David Cameron and his defence secretary, Liam Fox, dare not tell the truth while their troops are in the battlefield. They talk of leaving ‘when the Afghan forces can defend themselves’ which is farcical, or ‘when the streets of London are safe,’ which is never! But they also talk about withdrawing troops by 2015! Our leaders would rather avoid embarrassment than be honest about the loathsome war we are fighting.

Cameron and Clegg’s Machiavellian worldview, coupled with their attack on civil liberties and utter lack of compassion towards the civilians in Afghanistan (over 10,000 have died since 2001), is done in the name of some distorted notion of patriotism and to win something which is not there to be won. Yet Obama and Cameron are talking not of victory but of money and withdrawal dates. These are desperate cries of ‘talk to the Taliban,’ when such cries are manifestly self-defeating. Why should the Taliban talk when we are about to run?

Democracy is, after all, dependant on views, on the opportunity of people to express their opinions, debate issues and persuade each other. But how can we have a meaningful debate on Afghanistan without access to the true story about what is going on there? Our politicians never listened to the will of the people over Iraq and they are making the same mistake with Afghanistan.

Accordingly, I am against the war because it will help Cameron and Clegg underwrite the most egregious acts of violence and increase hatred towards the UK. The war is also threatening basic democratic practices inside the UK. Almost 10 years after the hideous attacks of 9/11 and 6 years after the 7/7 bombings, democracy is under assault.

There is simply no good news out of Afghanistan. Its innate xenophobia should, in 2001, have been exploited to drive a wedge between the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Instead, invasion and occupation have thrown them together, while the nation-building ambition of liberal interventionism has gone horribly wrong. The enemy, though, is not the Taliban or extremist groups; the enemy is within!