

"We found the weapons of mass destruction."
THE LIES OF GEORGE W. BUSH
BY DAVID CORN [▶▶ buy the book](#)

 **SUBSCRIBE NOW**
AND **SAVE OVER \$100**
[CLICK HERE!](#)

the daily **outrage** **by** **Ari Berman**

Paybacks to Polluters

12/21/2004 @ 10:50am [permalink](#)

[E-mail this Post](#)

The Bush Administration's assault on the [environment](#) continues.

Over the weekend the Administration blocked an effort by the international community to act decisively against global warming when representatives of nearly 200 countries met in [Buenos Aires](#) for two weeks to discuss the implementation of the [Kyoto Protocol](#).

The historic treaty--now ratified by 126 countries, including [Russia](#)--goes into effect February 16, and mandates significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions for industrialized countries. Because the Administration [withdrew from Kyoto](#) in 2001, it was granted only "observer" status in Argentina. But international participants had privately hoped to bring the US back on board during the summit.

Instead the Administration pushed for off-the-record meetings to try and undermine Kyoto, questioned the scientific basis of global warming and lobbied for oil-rich Saudi Arabia. In the end, US efforts were largely successful and participants agreed to hold only a single workshop next year to "exchange information" on climate change, as *The New York Times* [reported](#). No goals were reached for 2012, when Kyoto expires. Essentially, the US subverted global discussions about a treaty it has already rejected.

Symbolic of the continuing regulatory backlash, the Pentagon is also seeking to [delete environmental language](#) from its internal policy memoranda. DoD has long been America's worst polluter, responsible for [28,500 potentially contaminated sites](#), according to the House Committee on Energy. Under Bush, its won exemptions from major environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act. Now commitments to such goals as "preventing pollution and minimizing environmental consequences," will vanish from the books.

The Daily Outrage aims to shine a spotlight on the forces that corrupt our democracy. The outrages come from all over



these days: lobbyists stifling reformers in both parties, defense contractors profiting off pre-emptive war, the mainstream media echoing government deceptions, and a rightwing attack machine defending neo-imperialists and distorting progressive values. These stories rarely make the front-page, penetrate talk-radio, or appear on the evening news. So let *The Daily Outrage* guide you through the tangled web of media, money and politics at home and abroad. And [click here](#) to let us know of any outrages you think we should be covering.

register for
EmailNation

Enter your e-mail address for free advisories from *The Nation*.



ARCHIVES

[December 2004](#)

[November 2004](#)

[October 2004](#)

[September 2004](#)

Moving forward after a string of [pro-polluter victories](#), the energy industry has donated much of the \$4.5 million in [corporate cash](#) going toward Bush's January 20 inauguration. The second-term promises an even better return on investment.

[XML](#) [SUMMARIES](#)

RSS FEED

PREVIOUS POST [Axing the ICC](#)

[About/Contact](#) | [Media Kit](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Copyright © 2004 The Nation