

Re: OT: Did we just win?

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- *From:* Jonathan Kirwan <[jkirwan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jkirwan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 09 Nov 2006 23:14:47 GMT
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On 9 Nov 2006 10:27:16 -0800, dagmargoodboat@xxxxxxxx wrote:

Jonathan Kirwan wrote:

On 8 Nov 2006 21:44:08 -0800, dagmargoodboat@xxxxxxxx wrote:

[big snip]

Okay, I understand from the snip that you had reservations going back to Iran-Contra, from long before, both for the President and his current helpers. Thanks for that most thoughtful reply.

I know a little about the conflict in Central America second-hand. My dad was there, saw it, felt it, and, as a doctor, did what he could: <http://mysite.verizon.net/resri521/dad/>

War is certainly a very nasty business, not to be taken up lightly. Civilians will be killed, either because there's no way to avoid it, or intentionally, to actively discourage an opposing state, e.g., the fire bombing of Tokyo, and intense bombings of Germany in WWII. Those were good people too our fathers killed. But it had to be done. War is not a toy.

But doesn't every other religious person think the same, that they're here for a reason, whatever that reason might be?

No.

Oh, I think you either misunderstand what I mean, or you're mistaken. Especially among born-again, but also among other christians and even muslims, it's a common theme: a humble belief that God has placed them here on this Earth for some purpose, and they're here to serve him and his will.

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That's what the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormon missionaries who knock on my door saturday mornings think, anyhow.

The President is religious. And he's open about it. And, unlike his opponents and predecessors, he really means it. I don't think that makes him bad, or overly scary. We have separation of church and state, and plenty of checks and balances.

I don't care if he means it or not. I look at results, not words; actions, not beliefs.

Well then what results? What bad practical consequences have there been?

"Faith-based initiatives" (if I have that right) seems a) a clear sponsorship of religion by the State, and b) AIUI, the money exclusively goes to Christian causes and none to other religions.

Apart from that, I don't see any practical consequences to the American people of the President's beliefs. He's made his pitch, to little avail. Abortion rights are unimpaired. Stem cell research, gay marriage...I'd submit that these are more active and vibrant than ever.

There have been NO checks and balances in operation of late.

Of course there have been. Remember the President's Social Security proposal, the one that was shouted down by scare-mongers? Gone. And the President's Gay Marriage amendment?

I admit to being young at heart, and loathe to assume malice until proven. It does take an effort some times, but it's usually worth it.

Thanks for your frank and revealing insights—I understand your views better.

Best,  
James Arthur

Thanks, James. I don't think we can pursue much of the rest of this here. Partly because it makes me recall the suffering too clearly; to hear the cries in the night, so to speak. I remember all too clearly

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those who pursued "the ends justify any means necessary" agendas that horribly hurt and divided the US, financially and politically, as well many others in other countries. They were ruinous then and they have been similarly ruinous now.

Which brings me to addressing myself just to one latter comment above. You say, "I admit to being young at heart, and loathe to assume malice until proven." The team that gradually assembled under this Bush administration \_had\_ already proven themselves abundantly well.

I'll leave it at that.

Jon

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