

Re: Why Americans don't know what the rest of the world knows

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From: Bob (this one) (*Bob_at_nospam.com*)

Date: 08/14/04

Date: Sat, 14 Aug 2004 11:58:08 -0400

C Kent wrote:

> *"liaM" <cuddly@mindless.com> wrote in message*
> *news:cfkn5h\$b8g\$1@news-reader3.wanadoo.fr...*
>
>> *fresh~horses wrote:*
>>
>>> *"C Kent" <CKent@nospam.net> wrote in message*
>>>
>>>> *"liaM" <lhooq@email.com> wrote in message*
>>>>
>>>>> *How is terrorism fought ? by reacting to their threat in a climate of*
>>>>> *fear with war in distant lands and defensive barriers and partial*
>>>>> *abrogations of civil rights at home.*
>>>>
>>>>> *It should be fought by simultaneously 1) KILLING any and all existing*
>>>>> *terrorist, and 2) draining the swamps (i.e. conditions) that breed*
>>>>> *terrorists (so there aren't so many you have to KILL in the future) by*
>>>>> *promoting democratic governments educational reforms and free markets*
>>>>
>>>> *I think it would be better "fought" by not invading other countries*
>>>> *for spurious and imperialistic reasons*
>>>>
>>>>> *9/11 is not a spurious or imperialistic reason*

It isn't so much when talking about Afghanistan where the Taliban was sheltering Bin Laden and his people. It surely is when talking about Iraq with no WMD's, no ties to 9/11, no nukes.

That business about promoting free market conditions simply won't work everywhere until there are vast and unforeseeable changes worldwide. A good number of cultures that I've been involved with don't like the competitive/combatative nature of it. Others are far more fierce about trade and commerce than we are. Look at the markets and bazaars of the Middle East and through Asia. Where tribal values apply, free markets don't work because it generally is primarily a barter economy. Where

technology is not modern, expanding free markets don't work well because they don't have the background needs like roads, vehicles, secondary services and global savvy. Look at Russia.

It's a very difficult question, this business about minimizing the breeding grounds for terrorists. Palestinians have lived in refugee camps for more than a half century. Several Arab countries have more money than they have any idea what to do with. And the Palestinians still live in camps. There seems to be scarce sympathy sufficient to move them to solve the problems. There isn't the premium on education there that prevails in the more economically developed countries. First big hurdle. Freedom isn't valued as much as conformity; to family, to culture, to religion, to nation.

>> *Unfortunately we have the Republican Junta to thank for giving the terrorists 2 overwhelming reasons to hate us.*

>

> *Actually, it more the inaction of the previous democrat administration that would only show token responses [i.e. shooting 2 million dollar missiles into empty tents and hitting camels in the butt] that gave the terrorist the bright idea that they could act without any real punishment.*

C'mon. When the Marines were killed in Beirut, Reagan pulled the rest out and had a gunboat shell the hillside above town. As impotent a gesture as can be imagined. The point is that no administration has done a particularly good job with terrorism and it's roots. It's new stuff. We aren't used to that kind of fighting and we aren't comfortable with it. We're more the John Wayne stand up and fight types. It's a new world where the old conditions no longer apply.

>> *Before the peoples of the world looked up to us. Now we are hated.*

>> *Imho we won't win peace by killing and exterminating the opposition.*

>

> *Actually, by definition, if the terrorist's are killed and exterminated then they can't bother U.S. --- which is the whole point.*

It's essentially impossible to kill all the terrorists; we don't know who or where they are. It behooves us to have friends around the world who can get better info than was given to Bush before the Iraqi invasion. Nobody had good info and that became obvious in fairly short order. We don't know where to look. We don't know where the money comes from. It appears that we're beginning to get more intel, but it'll be years before we can have enough of the right characters on the ground where they need to be.

It's a strange new time we're in. With more complexity than ever before. On the positive side, we have more and better tools than ever before.

Bob