

## Re: How America Massacred Many Innocent Civilians At Fallujah

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Date: 14 Jun 2004 07:55:17 -0700

a\_weisman@yahoo.com (A\_Weisman) wrote in message  
news:<e55e6d97.0406131741.1d7b7b86@posting.google.com>...  
> *"Martijn" <Kw3Ls@hotmail.com> wrote in message*  
*news:<40cc7d71\$0\$771\$3a628fcd@reader10.nntp.hccnet.nl>...*  
> > *"A\_Weisman" <a\_weisman@yahoo.com> schreef in bericht*  
> > *news:e55e6d97.0406121537.54c7643@posting.google.com...*  
> >  
> > *At last an American on this group who is not looking through his/her*  
> > *patriotic glasses like most others do.*  
>  
> *"Martijn there are many (but not enough) who are informed and who*  
> *aren't simply reactionary and jingoistic here".*

There may even be some here who have been deeply troubled and frustrated over the anachronistic tribal political structure in some middle eastern, oil-rich states, and have great sympathy for the people who starve in the face of great wealth...literally flowing from the earth. There may have been many in the State Department...former and present...who saw the need to "modernize" the gulf states political structure and distribute the wealth of these nations more appropriately among their people.

Some may even have sympathy for the objectives of anyone who would aspire to bring down such regimes. Their attempt to drive a wedge by attacking the allies of the Saudi regime, however, makes them international criminals...and the US has a right to defend itself from such attacks...al Qaeda and Osama are outside the boundaries of international law, now...regardless of how one may understand the motivations...or even sympathize with them.

Unfortunately, the "free-flow-of-oil" from that region is not only of paramount importance to the United States...but to the GLOBAL economy...particularly, Asia...increasingly China. An ascendancy of fundamentalist Moslem regimes...controlling the world's supply of oil...threatening the world with that control...is frightening ...from a GLOBAL perspective...probably capable of throwing the world economy

into deep economic depression.

That's reality.

The United States...as the world's largest military power has had the unenviable task of securing that flow...which means supporting those with their hands on the shutoff valve.

The collapse of the former USSR left the US as the preeminent economic, military and political power...a position unparalleled, probably since the UK in the height of the Empire. The challenge is to use that power wisely...for the good of the world's people...and not just the narrow interests of the west...or the US in particular.

To the extent that the intervention in Iraq makes any sense, it's real primary objectives were probably to intervene in the region, where there was an opportunity...before the Islamic revolution spirals out of control...establishing a positive western presence...and securing a foothold against total oil shutoff. We see the future...we will need new oil buddies, basically.

Secondly...by taking out Saddam...one of Israel's most fervent, vocal and dangerous enemies is off the board, in theory, making the possibility of progress there possible.

The reality here, for our European friends, also, is that the fairly substantial Jewish population in certain key states in the US means that American presidents or presidential candidates are reluctant to oppose Israeli policy...and are eager to convince Jewish voters of their support of Israel. While the raw numbers are not high...in the last election, this issue could easily have cost either side the election.

Domestic electoral politics sometimes have critical roles in American foreign policy actions.

The other objective, apparently, was to build a "model democracy" in the middle east...and thus, provide an example of how a pro-western government would work for the benefit of other arab states with similar tensions.

Naive, at best. But the overall objective may have...may have...been more benign than many critics, particularly in Europe, have insinuated. Perhaps a good objective. Brilliant military execution. No follow-through on the most important objective. Too few resources devoted. Ridiculous assumptions concerning "planting the seeds" of a democracy in a desert and expecting them to grow.

Some of the European criticism is a bit difficult to hear at times...as some of it is an outgrowth of the very colonial, imperialistic policies which created the very exploitive divisions in

the first place. The French and Russians, for instance, had their hands deep into Iraq.

Very moralistic now...liberals, neo-Socialists and "Green" parties objections should be, perhaps viewed in the historic context of the roles of European intervention in the area.

In other words...thanks for the mess. Thanks for blaming us for trying to straighten it out. And, if and when Islamic fundamentalists shut down the world's oil supply...and economic chaos ensues...please remember to donate your help. Talk to us then.

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> *"There needs to be some kind of balance. For all the danger, the era of the cold war did provide a certain inherent check".*

Honestly, I think this "balance of power" theory hasn't been heard since the treaty of Versailles. I don't think we think along the lines of these concepts any longer. You cannot "create" a balance to the United States(unless it is China, perhaps)...nor can you "dismantle" the US.

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> *"Throughout history there has been a need for a balance of power to check the unfettered power of any one nation".*

Metternich? Is that you?

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> *"But just like Germany didn't need to be "dismantled" (it is united again and not a threat) I think the bigger problem is similar to that of Germany prior to WW II".*

Personally, I think if there is an appropriate analogy to German history, it may well be to the failed attempt to create a democracy in Germany following WWI...the "Weimar Republic"...and the role the weakness of that government played in allowing the fascists to come to power. This, apparently, is what we intend to do in Iraq.

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> *"It wasn't that ALL the people of Germany were united in their desire for lebensraum or aryan purity or world domination. Or that all Germans of the era were "evil."*

Okay...at the risk of appearing to be an anal smartass...you mean "Lebensraum", or "living space"...you are confusing the word for "Liebestraum"...or, "sweet dreams", the famous Liszt melody. It's sort of unintentionally funny...but a common error.

What I find most personally disturbing about our direction here was the initiation of action by the United States...

...without a convincing showing for need of action or provocation.

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It has been along standing policy of the US to NOT initiate aggressive action.(Okay...Laos, Cambodia, Grenada excepted).

I doubt that the relative ease with which this was done should be overlooked, and it well may be time to review the "War Powers Act" as it applies to similar actions.

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