

THE WAR ON ISLAM



ENVER MASUD

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THE WISDOM FUND

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To my mother and father
who instilled in me
the values
I strive to live by.

“Science flourishes on criticism.

Dangerous propaganda crumbles before it.”

—Alfred McLung Lee & Elizabeth Bryant Lee

The Fine Art of Propaganda

1939

Preface

It began with the Gulf War.

As an immigrant whose first formal education was at Woodstock—an American school in India, a graduate of St. Stephens College, New Delhi and the University of Oklahoma, I witnessed the Watergate hearings, but had little interest in politics or history. It never occurred to me to question the credibility of U.S. news media, but media coverage of the 1991 Gulf War left me with a host of unanswered questions.

The more I read the more questions I had. Over the next few years I began to realize that the media were presenting half truths and distortions designed to support U.S. positions. The media seemed to be acting as public relations firms for the U.S.

I began feeling the urge to present an alternative view, and started contributing to a Washington area newspaper—*Eastern Times*.

Eventually, the desire to reach a broader audience led to the founding in 1995 of The Wisdom Fund, and the setting-up of its web site at www.twf.org.

The *War on Islam* is based upon the articles I wrote for The Wisdom Fund. As such, while some repetition is inevitable, the individual chapters—which serve as an antidote to the less than balanced coverage of events by U.S. news media—may be read in any order, and are written to appeal to a wider audience than the typical book on these subjects.

Hopefully, these glimpses of the war on Islam (and for the non-Muslim, a glimpse of Islam) will awaken concerned Americans and Muslims to the tactics used to divide us. Such understanding may move us closer to our goal of justice and peace for all.

For the reader who seldom ventures beyond major news media, this book promises a journey through new, and often disturbing, terrain.

This 5th edition of *The War on Islam*—in which I challenge the official position on 9/11—may cause some readers to dismiss it as “conspiracy theory.” I am prepared to debate the issue.

Enver Masud
January 1, 2010

“Newsrooms that do not reflect America’s diversity
do their readers an injustice.

They fail to tell the stories of its citizens,
they give readers a distorted image of themselves and
they grossly twist the reality of minority groups.”

—Dorothy Gilliam, *The Washington Post*

December 20, 1997

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THE WAR ON ISLAM

March 1, 1991

The Holocaust

January 16, 1991 marks the beginning of the darkest forty-three days in recent American history.

On this day, the United States and its allies, began the systematic destruction of a country whose defense spending was about one percent that of the U.S. In the next forty-three days the guardians of the “civilized world” would kill a hundred thousand men, women, and children, wound a million more, and destroy \$200 billion worth of property in the cradle of civilization.

Their cause was “just.” They were after the new Hitler. Never mind that until August 1990, this Hitler was their ally in the war with Iran. Never mind that President Saddam Hussein, by no means admired by many of his own people, was not nearly the worst of his breed.

And, of course, oil and the intractable problems at home had nothing to do with it. President George Bush proclaimed a New World Order. Or was it merely old world imperialism? Divide, conquer, plunder, and keep the natives in their place.

The invasion of Kuwait was wrong. Iraq should have settled its dispute with Kuwait peacefully. But was the nature and scale of the U.S. response—sanctioned by a United Nations bullied and bribed into submission—proportionate to the atrocities committed by Iraq?

Having stalemated the United Nations for years, the United States in its newly found zeal, led the western crusade to rid the world of Saddam Hussein.

Never mind that it was silent when Israel bombed Iraq in 1981. Never mind the 23-year occupation by Israel of the West Bank. Never mind all the other atrocities which Amnesty International has reported year after year. Saddam Hussein became the monster that had to be beheaded.

The vast majority in the western world applauded, as they viewed the real life Nintendo game on their television screens. Never mind that lost in the fog of “precision” laser bombing were thousands of innocent men, women and children.

Never mind that the United Nations resolution called only for removing Iraq from Kuwait. While babies in Iraq went without milk, the armchair Rambos, ensconced before their television screens, smelled blood. They howled for going all the way to Baghdad.

They were comforted by an American president who assured them that the United States had no gripe with the Iraqi people. They were only after that new Hitler. Tell that to those Iraqi people who will live with the wounds of war for generations to come.

But a brave minority kept alive the flame of freedom and justice. For upholding the right to free speech, and protesting President Bush’s relentless rush to war, they were labeled unpatriotic. This minority did not forget the principles of the founding fathers, and the siren song of freedom that brought their forefathers past the Statue of Liberty.

This minority realized the horrors being committed, and may yet awaken America’s conscience, so that freedom and justice for all are the principles which guide us in our dealings with nations and people everywhere.

So while we revel in the euphoria of an unprecedented victory, let us not forget the holocaust in Iraq.

[According to Dr. Gideon Polya, it was to the World War II Bengal Famine that the word “Holocaust” was first applied—in Churchill’s *Blind-Spot: India* (New Book Company, Bombay, 1944) by Narayan Gopal Jog.]

[During the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama 2,500 to 4,000 Panamanians died—about ten times the number who died during Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait.]

[Mr. Hussein “was also quietly assured by the United States that it would have no objection to his claiming his prize—Kuwait—once he defeated Iran. The assurances were very quiet and very deniable.”—George Friedman, *America’s Secret War: Inside the Hidden Worldwide Struggle Between the United States and Its Enemies*, p. 20]

October 1, 1991

United Nations of America?

The haste with which the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 678 authorizing the use of force against Iraq, and its actions since the end of this round of fighting in the Gulf, leave little doubt as to who is setting UN policy and objectives.

The UN actions in the Gulf contrast sharply with UN inaction on other long-standing disputes such as those over Kashmir, Lebanon, and Palestine, which have been allowed to fester despite the passage of UN resolutions. To an unbiased observer it should be obvious that a double standard is at work where the UN and the United States are concerned.

The prostitution of the UN to the wishes of one superpower, endangers the very foundation on which the UN was conceived. It inspires little confidence in less powerful nations when one sees the world's nuclear superpowers, which among them have over forty thousand nuclear warheads, rail sanctimoniously against weaker nations such as Iraq, India, and Pakistan for even attempting to build a single nuclear warhead.

And nothing is said of the state of Israel, imposed upon the Middle East by the colonial powers of the West, which is the major source of instability in the Middle East. Israel's nuclear arsenal is not even acknowledged, while a Muslim nation is humiliated by the U.S. led UN searching for evidence of Iraq's nuclear program.

Of course the U.S. has always had a powerful voice in the UN. However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union the system of checks and balances, without which no organization can function effectively, has also collapsed. The UN Security Council has become little more than an extension of the U.S. Department of State.

That may be good for the U.S. in the short run. But in the long run, the transformation of the UN into a new "United Nations of America" may not serve the needs of any nation.

[During 2001, the U.S. stood alone when large numbers of nations concluded accords on such issues as global warming, arms control, germ warfare, and tax havens. It threatened to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and stifled discussion of slavery, racism, and zionism at an international conference in South Africa.]

June 1, 1994

The Third Wave and the New World Order

A new world order is emerging which has little to do with the professed ideology of nations, but is based primarily upon countries' states of technological development.

Writing in *War And Anti-War*, renowned futurists Alvin and Heidi Toffler, define three levels of technological development, the First, Second, and Third Wave, corresponding to countries reaching the heights of the Agricultural Age, the Industrial Age, and the Information Age. The term wave is used because like a wave there occurs a gradual buildup in technological development which reaches a crest, and is followed by another wave.

While many countries have experienced the First and Second Wave, only a few countries like the United States and Japan are at the stage where the Third Wave has begun to be experienced. That is not to say that many other countries have not entered the Information Age. However, these countries are only experiencing the gradual buildup of information technology, but not the crest which marks the wave approaching its peak. While other countries are building industries, many industries in the U.S. are in decline. Increasingly, wealth in the U.S. is being created in the information technologies and services sector.

Third Wave countries are characterized by organizations which are decentralized, have few layers, are task oriented or matrix instead of hierarchical, are highly dependent on sophisticated information and communications systems in which communications flow not only from top to bottom, but also from bottom to top and sideways. Organizations in the U.S. are going through a re-engineering process and are emerging leaner, more efficient, and more effective. The U.S. armed forces are no exception to this trend.

The relevance of the First, Second, and Third Wave, according to the Tofflers, is that the way nations make wealth parallels the way they make war. The Gulf War marked the first test of the \$200 billion U.S. space machine. It was the first major instance where combat forces were deployed, sustained, commanded, and controlled through satellite communications.

Virtually the first shot fired by the U.S. knocked out Iraq's information and communication capabilities. After knocking out Iraq's southern radar defenses, Iraq's electrical systems were crippled with (then secret) bombs that dispersed thousands of carbon filaments to short circuit transmission lines. In essence, the war was over in the first few hours. The importance of information and communications during the Gulf War is underscored by the fact that these systems involved 12 commercial satellites, 118 mobile ground stations, which handled up to 700,000 telephone calls and 152,000 messages per day!

Third Wave capabilities open up entirely new vistas of war making and terrorism. Increasingly, the emphasis in war will be on the acquisition and use of information, the disruption of the enemy's information and communication capabilities, and in disinformation necessary for public support. Terrorists will have new tools at their disposal. Imagine the havoc which would have been created at the World Trade Center if at the height of the Gulf War, instead of a bomb, terrorists were able to disrupt communications with an electromagnetic pulse. The world's financial markets would have been in disarray, and it may have altered the course of the Gulf War. Despite the euphoria that followed the fall of the Iron Curtain, the reasons for war have not changed. Nations make war, as they have throughout history, to acquire resources, to acquire markets, and to acquire allies who will aid in acquiring resources or markets.

Yesterday, historically speaking, the Americas were conquered and native populations decimated to acquire wealth for the Europeans. The British, having nothing the Chinese wanted, forced India, conquered for its spices to grow opium, and forced China to buy the opium. Today, the U.S. and Western Europe with the aid of Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and others fight the Gulf War to maintain control of low-priced, Middle-East oil. The historical reasons for war have not changed; only the methods for fighting war, and for numbing the public to the morality of war, have evolved.

Naturally, Third Wave nations will attempt to maintain their superiority both in making wealth and making war. While we hear talk of nuclear nonproliferation, and limits on missile capabilities and chemical and biological warfare corresponding to Second Wave technologies,

there is much less talk of the nonproliferation of Third Wave war making technologies. Moreover, unlike Second Wave technologies, Third Wave technologies are predominantly dual use. That is they can be used both for war and peaceful purposes. Third Wave countries, while increasing their lead in Third Wave technologies, will increasingly favor the dismantling or dumping of Second Wave war making technologies. They will attempt to dump Second Wave technologies upon First and Second Wave countries, thereby assuring the latter's continued weakness and depletion of wealth, while assuring Third Wave countries' access to First and Second Wave countries' markets and resources.

Second Wave countries may be better off developing or buying more Third Wave weaponry instead of Second Wave weaponry. The example of India's worldwide superiority in Unix may be worth following. India became a world leader in Unix software by essentially skipping the main-frame computer revolution, and moving directly to personal and distributed computing. Can a country entering the industrial age, by selective development, skip the Second Wave, and move toward the Third Wave thereby becoming a world power?

The alliances resulting from the way countries make both wealth and war are creating a New World Order which trisects the world into countries aligned by their having attained First, Second, and Third Wave capabilities. This New World Order is defined more by a nation's technological achievements, and less by its professed ideology.

April 23, 1995

Oklahoma City Bombing: News Media Fail Journalism 101

Within an hour of the bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, former Congressman Dave McCurdy was on CBS talking about "very clear evidence of fundamentalist Islamic terrorist groups." The media, including CNN, joined in the fray.

Responsible Federal law enforcement officials were, however, more circumspect. They were cited on the front page of the *New York Times* of April 20 as stating that they "had no suspect," and that investigators

“did not know whether the bombers were domestic or international terrorists.”

But the damage had been done. Muslims became the target of harassment, threats, and vandalism.

News media coverage of Islam and Muslims fails Journalism 101. Journalists are trained to report the who, what, when, where, why, and how of stories. The “who” in stories of Christians and Jews is a human being, often described by friends, family, teachers, neighbors, if relevant to the story. Very seldom is their religion mentioned. In the case of Muslims, religion is invariably mentioned, and it is about the only thing mentioned of this “other” being. In the case of Christians and Jews, there is usually much discussion of “why” the person did what he or she did. In the case of Muslims, all the reader is told is that the person was a militant, or extremist, or fundamentalist, as if that were sufficient explanation.

The media appear to have excruciating difficulty writing about Muslims without mentioning their religion. In “Through the Minefield of Political Islam,” *Washington Post*, March 31, 1995, Stephen S. Rosenfeld describes his difficulties in writing about Muslims and Islam. He has no such difficulty in writing about other faiths. Why not write about Muslims and Islam, the same way in which one writes about Christians and Christianity?

Following the capture of an alleged Oklahoma City bomber, the *Washington Post*, April 22, 1995, carried a story titled “Muslim’s Burden of Blame Lifts” by Laurie Goodstein and Marylou Tousignant. If the burden has been lifted from Muslims, on whom does it fall? On Christians? Of course not.

[Eric Rouleau, who writes for *Le Monde*, “never used Islam to explain events or personalities; he seems to have viewed his reporter’s mandate as comprising the analysis of politics, societies, and histories—complex enough as they are—without resorting to ideological generalizations . . .”—Edward W. Said, *Covering Islam*, p.117]

["Describing them as ‘Muslim’ terrorists makes as much sense as referring to Timothy McVeigh or the Unabomber as Christian terrorists. Or to Colombia’s Catholic rebels. The Shintoist Japanese Red Army. Or the Greek Orthodox November 17 group.”—Editorial, *Toronto Star*, June 18, 2000]

[In June 1997, a jury convicted Gulf War veteran Timothy McVeigh of bombing the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that left 168 people dead.]

April 28, 1995

Jihad Against Islam

A fact here, a fact there, conclusions out of nowhere, and pretty soon you have an Islamic conspiracy to subjugate the United States and terrorize the world. In the recent PBS documentary *Jihad in America*, producer Steven Emerson, in his struggle to piece together a story, has set forth on his own jihad against Islam and Muslims.

Emerson begins with scenes of the World Trade Center bombing, and the arguable conclusion that the ultimate goal of Muslim extremists is to establish an Islamic empire. The fact that the so-called extremists are waging a struggle to recover their lands from which they were forcibly evicted, or struggling for freedom from foreign domination, a fundamental ideal subscribed to by our founding fathers, is not mentioned.

After a perfunctory disclaimer that Islam or Muslims are not the issue in *Jihad in America*, which aired on PBS on November 21, 1994, Emerson and the experts interviewed mention Islam or Muslim about once a minute for the next fifteen minutes (we stopped counting after that). Contrast this with coverage of Christian or Jewish wrongdoing where the religion of the criminal, the militant, or extremist is seldom mentioned.

We are told “most Americans understand very little about Islam.” Emerson, however, only adds to the misunderstanding. We are not told that Islam is the religion based on God’s message conveyed by a line of prophets including Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad. We are also not told that Islam recognizes Muslims, Jews, and Christians as “People of the Book.”

Where Islam unites Muslims, Jews, and Christians, Emerson struggles to divide. Jihad, the subject of the “documentary,” is not even defined. We are not told that jihad has many definitions, that in general it means struggle, and that the highest form of jihad is the struggle against self.

Emerson then pieces together film clips from diverse sources, and interviews with a handful of “experts.” From this meager “evidence” he takes a gigantic leap to the conclusion that there is an Islamic con-

spiracy to rule the world. The documentary is filled with half truths, and questionable conclusions. Some examples follow.

Afghanistan's freedom fighters, which were supported by the U.S. in their fight to expel the Soviet invasion, are portrayed as Islamic rebels "dedicated to spreading jihad." Having expelled the Soviets, these freedom fighters talk of spreading their jihad (struggle) to aid neighboring countries dominated by other foreign powers. Surely "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" is not for the U.S. alone.

Yes, Islam is used to rally the freedom fighters, but it is hardly a call to an armed war to spread Islam around the world. We talk of our War on Poverty; War on Drugs. President Reagan spoke of a "Crusade Against Drugs." Can Emerson not understand the hyperbole in the language of others?

Emerson jumps from the Ayatollah Khomeini led revolution in Iran to the assassination of President Sadat. The viewer is not told that it was the Shah of Iran's brutal suppression of his people, or of foreign meddling and domination in the Middle East that has caused so much suffering. Instead, selected events are tied together to draw us to Emerson's conclusion of a grand Islamic conspiracy.

Emerson sees danger lurking everywhere. The stationery of the Alkifah Refugee Center in Peshawar, Pakistan (supported by the U.S.), which in translation reads "Office of Services to the Holy Warriors," is a "fact" pointing to a grand Islamic conspiracy. Emerson and the late Senator McCarthy, who saw communists everywhere, would have found a lot in common.

Abdullah Azzam, an Afghan freedom fighter, is given prominence in spreading jihad against Jews, Christians, and moderate Muslims. Azzam may be talking of an armed war or a struggle to overcome foreign domination in the Middle East. But Azzam's speaking before groups in the U.S. does not prove a conspiracy to wage an Islamic war on the U.S.

Was Azzam the sole speaker at these meetings? Who else spoke, what was said, what action was taken, we are not told. Azzam speaks of the Soviets who invaded Afghanistan as the "enemy of Allah." Is this a call to Islamic war as Emerson portrays it, or merely Azzam's way of portraying the Soviet invaders, and their surrogates, so as to rally Af-

ghan Muslims to drive out the Soviets? Emerson is drawn unquestionably to his conclusion of an Islamic jihad against the world.

We're shown a map of the Middle East and North Africa, and told that "Islamic holy warriors began launching attacks against Israel, Egypt, and Algeria." Who controls these attacks, what is the motive? We are not told. But Emerson has no doubts that they are all connected in a grand Islamic conspiracy.

From the Middle East and North Africa, Emerson jumps to Azzam's fund raising efforts in the U.S., and branches of the Alkifah Refugee Center at several U.S. locations, as evidence of jihad in America. Is fund raising by the Irish in America who support the IRA, the Jews who support the extremists in Israel, or the fiery speeches of Louis Farrakhan, evidence of a conspiracy against America?

Target shooting practice by unidentified individuals is portrayed by Emerson as evidence of Muslims training for holy war. What is their connection with specific acts of violence? How are they connected in some grand Islamic conspiracy? Emerson tells us that they are, but for all we know the target shooters may only be members of the National Rifle Association pursuing their hobby.

In short, Emerson has taken a real act of terror, the bombing of the World Trade Center, and isolated events and persons from Pakistan to the U.S. and woven them with invisible threads into a grand Islamic conspiracy against the world. Terrorists exist within many countries and communities, but one man's terrorist may be another's freedom fighter. Emerson fails to show us the threads which weave these diverse Muslims into a jihad against America.

In a nation of immigrants faced with rising tensions among communities, racial divisions, and frustration with immigration, Emerson uses a broad brush to denigrate Islam and Muslims. He misses the opportunity to present issues fairly, to create understanding, and possibly lead to a just resolution of legitimate grievances. *Jihad in America* is not a documentary. It is a propaganda film like those used to demonize Jews in the days of Hitler.

[Emerson's 1991 book *Terrorist* was "marred by factual errors . . . that betray an unfamiliarity with the Middle East and a pervasive anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian bias."—*New York Times*, May 19, 1991]

August 5, 1995

O.J. and Sheikh Rahman: Double Standards of Justice

Our system of justice is supposed to lean in the direction of freeing the potentially guilty, rather than incarcerating the potentially innocent. When we examine the cases against Mr. O. J. Simpson and Sheikh Abdel Rahman, we find that the defendant against whom there was the least evidence will be incarcerated.

We do not know whether Mr. Simpson committed the murders of which he stands accused. Based upon media reports we do know, however, that except for Mr. Mark Fuhrman, the evidence and witnesses against Mr. Simpson were more credible than the evidence and witnesses against Sheikh Rahman.

The *New York Times* reported that there is scant evidence that Sheikh Rahman even knew of the plan to bomb the World Trade Center, and other buildings in New York. The government's primary witness against Sheikh Rahman is an FBI informant, Mr. Emad Salem, who confessed to lying under oath in a previous trial. Six months before the World Trade Center bombing, the FBI terminated Mr. Salem after he failed several lie detector tests. Following the bombing, Mr. Salem was rehired for a fee of over \$1 million.

The double standards of our system of "justice," and the moral bankruptcy of the "experts" is exposed. Most media and expert analyses is focused upon the Simpson case, and almost none on the Sheikh Rahman case. If our system is supposed to lean toward freeing the potentially guilty, rather than incarcerating the potentially innocent, the focus of analyses should be on the Sheikh Rahman case where the government used an ancient law regarding seditious conspiracy to silence an unpopular critic.

For Muslims, who were unjustly accused in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing, the Sheikh Rahman case is further evidence of the cold war with Islam which began with the demise of the Soviet Union. Until Muslims are better organized, the future holds more of the same for Muslims in America.

August 9, 1995

‘The Truth About Islam’ Presented to Cardinal Arinze

Cardinal Arinze, at a landmark dialogue with Muslim leaders, was presented “The Truth About Islam,” a 600 word introduction to Islam, on behalf of the Wisdom Fund.

The occasion was a dialogue on Muslim-Christian relations in the world today, hosted by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services, U.S. Catholic Conference, at the CRS headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland. Muslim leaders from across the U.S. were invited to a roundtable dialogue with H.E. Francis Cardinal Arinze, President, Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue at the Holy See.

Cardinal Arinze spoke of the need to “look beyond the past,” and to “begin the process of healing memory.” Quoting Prophet Muhammad, “No man is a true believer unless he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself,” Cardinal Arinze underscored the need to build upon the shared values of Islam and Christianity which bind over one half of the world’s population. Cardinal William H. Keeler of the Archdiocese of Baltimore called media reporting on Islam “cynical and sensational.”

Mowahid Shah, attorney at law and editor of *Eastern Times*, speaking on behalf of Muslims, urged religious leaders to speak out forcefully against the false stigmatizing of Islam and Muslims. “There were two victims of the Oklahoma City bombing—the innocent dead and the falsely accused,” said Shah. Prof. Esposito, director of Georgetown University Center for Muslim and Christian Understanding, stressed the need to examine media reporting in the wake of the Oklahoma bombing.

The text of the presentation to Cardinal Arinze includes sayings of Prophet Muhammad, and is contained in the Appendix. “The Truth About Islam” is the centerpiece of the Wisdom Fund’s advertising campaign to inform Americans of the history and values shared by Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

August 22, 1995

Muslim Children Forcibly Converted to Christianity

The ABC *20/20* program which aired Friday, August 18, 10:00 PM EST, depicts the plight of a Muslim family, Sadri and Sebhat Krasniqi, who had two children snatched from their custody because, according to a Texas judge, they would be better off in a Christian home.

The assumption that the children would be better off in a Christian home was clearly articulated by the presiding judge who told *20/20* that a Christian home would provide greater stability. The children's father was subsequently acquitted of the charge, which led to the custody battle, of sexually abusing his four-year-old daughter. Furthermore, the Texas Department of Child Protective Services violated its own guidelines requiring it "to seek placement of the children with the closest religious and ethnic match."

The Muslim children, now living in a Christian home, have been forced to convert to Christianity, and to eat pork, which under Muslim dietary laws (similar to Jewish dietary laws) is strictly forbidden. The Krasniqi's, because of mounting legal bills, have had to sell the four restaurants the immigrant family had acquired in their pursuit of the American dream.

The judge's decision, if allowed to stand, is an ugly stain on our democratic ideals, and casts serious doubts on the constitutional rights of minorities and Muslims in America.

September 14, 1995

Peace Prize Awakens Ghosts of Nazi Germany

The award of Germany's most prestigious cultural prize to Annemarie Schimmel, 73, a Harvard professor for over 20 years, has awakened the ghosts of Nazi Germany.

Prof. Schimmel, one of the world's leading experts on Islamic mysticism, will be presented The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade

next month. She will join a line of luminaries which include Albert Schweitzer, Vaclav Havel, Martin Buber, and George Kennan.

The announced award has resulted in a storm of protests from about 220 writers, 100 publishing houses, and several members of parliament who accuse Prof. Schimmel of being too sympathetic to Islamic fundamentalism. The protestors, including novelist Gunter Grass and philosopher Jurgen Habermas say, "This German Orientalist is a welcome guest in totalitarian Islamic states like Iran, but in her entire work there is not a single reference to human rights violations in these countries."

These protests are reminiscent of Nazi Germany and other totalitarian regimes. What is more worrisome is the fact that this climate of xenophobic intolerance has spilled over into the upper crust, and is no longer confined to the less educated, the working class, or the unemployed. Professor Schimmel is being persecuted for her enlightened perspective on Islam.

Prof. Schimmel's works are aimed at providing a better understanding of the Islamic world and the lives of Muslims. She provides an intellectually valid counterpoint to the generally negative portrayal of Islam and Muslims in mainstream U.S. media.

Dr. Ayub Ommaya, a Director of The Wisdom Fund, who is very familiar with Prof. Schimmel's work, says, "The charges against her are baseless and irrelevant. Prof. Schimmel is a spiritual person who writes about Islam and the culture of Muslims. Like Mother Teresa, Prof. Schimmel is apolitical, and oblivious of the politics of countries she visits." Prof. Schimmel, now retired from Harvard, is living among a Sufi community in the Sind province of Pakistan.

Former peace prize winner George Kennan, however, turned out to be a closet hawk. *Policy Planning Study 23*, written by Mr. Kennan for the U.S. State Department in 1948 says in part:

We have about 50% of the world's wealth, but only 6.3% of its population. . . . Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity. . . . To do so, we will have to dispense with all sentimentality. . . . We should cease to talk about vague and . . . unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of living standards, and democratization.

This was, of course, a top secret document at the time Kennan was awarded The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade.

Thus far the selection committee has remained steadfast saying, “Much of the material we have received encourages us to stand by our decision.” Those who believe in academic freedom must speak out against this brazen attack by the vigilantes of political correctness. If we don’t learn from the lessons of the past, we are doomed to revisit it.

October 12, 1995

Pope’s Vision Strikes Chord Among Muslims

Speaking before the United Nations General Assembly, Pope John Paul II’s vision of freedom struck a sympathetic chord among Muslims in America.

Pope John Paul said freedom is “fulfilled in man’s quest for truth. Detached from the truth about the human person, freedom deteriorates into license into the lives of individuals.” The Pope spoke out against “the arrogance of power,” and “Utilitarianism, the doctrine which defines morality not in terms of what is good but of what is advantageous. The subjugation, for example, of a smaller or weaker nation is claimed to be a good thing solely because it corresponds to the national interest.”

The Pope’s message at the UN was reinforced in Baltimore, MD, the site of the first Catholic church in America. The Pope spoke of justice and peace—tenets central to Islam. The Baltimore event was covered by the Faith & Values Channel, broadcast nationwide, which invited representatives of the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim community to comment upon the Papal parade live from their studios in New York. The invitees included Jim Hartz, former anchor of the NBC *Today Show*; Mr. A. J. Cernera president of Sacred Heart University, Rabbi Bemporad, director Jewish Christian Relations, and Father O’Keefe; and Mowahid Shah, editor *Eastern Times*, attorney-at-law, and an advisor at The Wisdom Fund.

Shah, speaking on the Faith & Values Channel, emphasized Islam’s

concept of justice which promotes “empathy for the needy, and identification with the have-nots.” Shah praised the Pope’s firm stance on principles rather than bending to current popular positions. “The Pope’s message of freedom and justice for all,” said Shah, “is central to Islam, which recognizes Jews and Christians as people of the Book, and is rooted in the monotheistic message of Abraham, later prophets, and completed by the Prophet Muhammad. The symmetry between the Catholic and Muslim faiths,” said Shah, “was also reflected in the positions taken by the Vatican and Muslim organizations during the World Population Conference earlier this year in Cairo, Egypt.”

November 22, 1995

Bosnia ‘Peace’ Treaty Rings Hollow, Future Bleak

The Bosnia peace agreement, brokered in private marathon sessions by the Clinton administration, raises many more questions than it answers. One thing, however, is certain: the clarion call “never again” rings hollow, and in effect aggression pays.

If the pact seems to be working it would be a godsend for President Clinton in his second term election bid. But if American peacekeeping forces in Bosnia suffer heavy casualties it could be his political demise. The big domestic question is whether the Republican-controlled Congress will authorize, and even more importantly, finance, the sending of some 20,000 American troops under NATO command to the Balkans. Senator Bob Dole, the leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination, has instead repeatedly called for the lifting of the arms embargo against the Bosnians.

Exhausted now, the parties to the brutal war in Bosnia, mercifully, have agreed to stop the killing. But the future looks bleak for the Bosnian Muslims.

Why did the U.S.-led West deny the Bosnians that most basic of human rights: the right to self-defense? What will the peace pact achieve that could not have been realized without the sacrifice of tens of thou-

sands of Bosnian Muslims? Had President Bush stood firm, the Orthodox Christian Serbs could have been stopped dead in their tracks. But there was to be no “line in the sand” for the Serbs. Mr. Bush had an election coming, the euphoria over the Gulf War was wearing thin, and the U.S. had no vital interests, like oil, in far-off Bosnia.

Today, a number of factors have come together. In recent months, the Roman Catholic Croats, and Bosnian Muslim Serbs, have recaptured large parts of their territories from the Christian Serbs. This exploded Washington’s nonintervention scenario that repulsing the aggressor Christian Serbs could involve the U.S. in an open-ended Vietnam-type war. The United Nation’s dismal peacekeeping failure, the differences between NATO allies and the Atlantic Alliance’s exposure as “a paper tiger,” along with reports of large scale Christian Serb war crimes, forced the Clinton administration to say “enough is enough,” and get NATO air power to knock out Christian Serb radar systems and weapons. Meanwhile, the international sanctions against Belgrade were hurting Serbia. President Slobodan Milosevic, now uncertain of support from the ailing Russian President Yeltsin, was forced to accept the Clinton peace accord.

But for Bosnia itself the future looks grim. Major issues remain unresolved. How long will U.S. troops be in Bosnia to keep the peace? If fighting breaks out again, will the Bosnian government have access to military supplies. Will refugees return to their properties or receive compensation and from whom? Will those indicted for war crimes, like the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, be handed over for trial by the International War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague. Will those whose friends and families have fought and died in the holocaust learn to live again in peace?

And will Bosnia be partitioned, like the Middle East, India, and other countries were partitioned by foreign powers. The aftereffects of those actions are felt keenly by the citizens of those countries to this day. Is Bosnia’s misery over? No. Will Bosnia even continue to exist as agreed to in the treaty? Will the Muslims ultimately be left with only a city/state: Sarajevo?

[“The most irresponsible mistake of the current Bosnian tragedy is the international recognition of a Bosnian state governed by Muslims.”—Henry Kissinger, *Washington Post*, May 16, 1993]

November 23, 1995

Toledo Mosque: Uplifting Sight, Outstanding Community

Driving North on Interstate 75, about an hour South of Detroit, Michigan, one's eyes are drawn to the gleaming white dome and minarets of a mosque. As one gets nearer one sees a magnificent white structure which a sign proclaims is the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo.

The weary traveler, having passed miles of cookie-cutter Americana, cannot but feel his spirits soar at this uplifting sight. Built on forty-eight acres of land in 1983, the mosque and surrounding buildings today cover 40,000 square feet. The sixty-foot dome is flanked by two 135-foot minarets. The octagonal prayer room can accommodate 1,000 people, there is a 500 seat sermon hall, classroom, offices, a medical clinic, a huge dining room, and a large commercial kitchen. There are plans to add two wings: one for a full-time school, and the other for a home for the elderly. Tours are conducted regularly.

Having been invited to speak at the 12th anniversary celebrations of the Islamic Center, it was the outstanding Muslim community I found there which most endeared me to that place. The subject of the seminar was Islam and Media. The speakers included Prof. William Green, dean of undergraduate studies at the University of Rochester; Prof. Jack Shaheen, nationally known commentator and writer, Sr. Sharifa Alkhateeb of the Muslim Women's Georgetown Study Project, Mr. Richard Paton, an editor at *The Blade*, and the author, representing The Wisdom Fund.

The Muslim, Christian, and Jewish speakers agreed that media coverage of Islam and Muslims was largely negative. All, except Mr. Paton, agreed on the need to get more Muslims into the media. Mr. Paton's reservations about this suggestion are, perhaps, understandable since *The Blade* appears to be an exception and frequently carries profiles of Muslims and articles from Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, a regular contributor to *The Blade*, and President of the Islamic Center.

The audience for the seminar included Muslim's from many professions, Christians, and at least one Hindu. The Muslim women were not restrained by the strict separation common to some Muslim communities. In fact, the prayer room has only a three foot divider separating the

men from women. The seminar and Anniversary Dinner were covered by local media, the mayor attended, and congratulations from George V. Voinovich, Governor of Ohio and the Greater Toledo community, were contained in a 30-page program handed out at dinner. Dr. Saleh Jabrin, a major force behind the building of the mosque, was honored by having a new wing dedicated in his name.

Having attended functions at other Muslim centers, I was struck with how well everything was managed. Events were on time, children well behaved, and everything worked smoothly. In the heartland of the United States, the Muslim community of Greater Toledo, the management of the Islamic Center, and the charming and progressive Imam A. M. Khattab have set a standard for enlightened Muslims in America.

January 26, 1996

Why the West Fears Islam

When one examines the West's fear of Islam, and tries to relate it to the reasons usually given—Muslim fundamentalism, militancy, radicalism, terrorism, totalitarianism—it is difficult, if not impossible, to justify this fear on the basis of the reasons usually given. One has to believe, however, given all the facts and expertise available to the West, that the fear has to be rational. What is this fear that causes enemies of the Muslim world to play subtly on the theme of the Crusades in order to demonize Islam and Muslims? Let us first examine what it is not, before we draw our conclusion as to the real reason why the West fears Islam.

The fear of Islamic fundamentalism, militancy, radicalism, terrorism, totalitarianism, and the West's discovery of the "rogue states," appeared quite conveniently with the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Former Defense Secretary McNamara, in his 1989 testimony before the Senate Budget Committee, said U.S. defense spending could safely be cut in half. It became clear that the U.S. had to either undergo massive shifts in spending, a painful and unwelcome prospect for the defense establishment, or find

new justification for continuing high levels of military expenditures. To provide this justification, the Pentagon manufactured the threat of “rogue states and nuclear outlaws.” The Gulf War was a contrived opportunity to sell this justification to the American people, to protect oil company profits, and to control the flow of oil to Europe and Japan which need it much more than does the U.S.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies calculates that the \$262 billion U.S. defense budget accounts for about 37 percent of global military expenditures. Russia, Japan, and China will spend about \$80 billion, \$42 billion, and \$7 billion respectively. The six “rogue states”—Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, North Korea—have a combined annual military budget of \$15 billion. The U.S. budget for covert operations (U.S. terrorism?) alone is double this amount. Given the paltry defense expenditures of all the “rogue states” combined, even after correcting for differences in costs, one has to believe that the “rogue states” are no match, militarily, for the West.

And, leaving aside the morality of U.S. covert operations which invite retaliation, Muslim terrorists should not be a major fear. Far more acts of terrorism and violent crime in the U.S., according to government statistics, are committed by non-Muslims than Muslims. And if Muslims do pose a terrorist threat to the U.S., one hears little discussion of what it is that the terrorists want. Perhaps, all they want is for the West to stop interfering in their countries, in ways that we would never tolerate in the U.S.

Islamic totalitarianism, an oxymoron to anyone with even a rudimentary knowledge of Islam, should not be a Western concern. A Muslim ruler may be totalitarian, but then her rule would not be Islamic. Furthermore, the Western record on supporting totalitarian Muslim regimes—Iran under the Shah, Iraq before the Gulf War—and doing business with nondemocratic regimes—China, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia—speaks for itself.

As for fundamentalism, Islam has no parallel to the U.S. Protestant Christian movement which opposed modern scientific theory, and which coined the term in 1920 to designate those “doing battle royal for the fundamentals.” Rather Islam has, from its birth, stressed the use of reason and logic.

Islamic law is based upon the Quran, examples and sayings of Prophet Muhammad, analogical deduction, consensus among the learned, and individual reasoning. According to Muhammad Asad (*The Message of the Quran*) when the Prophet's contemporaries heard the words islam and muslim, they understood them as denoting man's "self-surrender to God" and "one who surrenders himself to God," without limiting himself to any specific community or denomination, eg. in the Quran, 3:67, where Abraham is spoken of as having "surrendered himself unto God" (kana musliman), or in 3:52 where the disciples of Jesus say, "Bear thou witness that we have surrendered ourselves unto God (bianna musliman)." In Arabic, this original meaning has remained unimpaired.

Absent a generally accepted definition, the label Islamic fundamentalism serves only to obscure issues, rather than to illumine them. Meanwhile, the Christian Coalition, and the zionists and their biblical claim to Palestine appear fundamentalist to many, yet both are courted by U.S. politicians, and not viewed as a threat.

One can go on eliminating Western arguments against Islam and Muslims. Eventually, one has to ask, what then is the source of the West's fear of Islam and Muslims?

The late Marshall G. S. Hodgson, in *Rethinking World History*, states: "[Islam's] conscious hopes for a godly world order represent one of the most remarkable undertakings in world history, and because its less self-conscious general cultural heritage is laden with human values." Muslims see the West beset with broken families, violent crime, and drugs. They see a society divided by race, religion, and huge disparities in income. They long for a peaceful life in which they may provide for the basic needs of their families, and enjoy the respect due to all mankind regardless of their race, religion, position, or wealth.

These Muslims see their goals for a more just and compassionate society thwarted by a corrupt Muslim elite who pursue wealth and power regardless of the cost to their fellow human beings. They see these elites, who govern not by consensus as Islam prescribes, permitting outside powers to exploit their country while they derive few benefits, and find themselves subordinated by Western influences driving them down the troubled road taken by the West. They see few opportunities to earn a

living because most opportunities are withheld for the elites and their sycophants. And they see these elites remaining silent when their faith, which offers solutions to the many social problems that plague the West, is denigrated in the propaganda which serves to maintain these elites.

The Muslim elites' allies are the defense establishment and the neoimperialists. Islam's mandate for justice and compassion opposes the primary objective of these neoimperialists who follow policies outlined in 1948 for the U.S. Department of State by "the leading dove and peace prize winner" Mr. George Kennan. Kennan's top secret *Policy Planning Study 23*, writes MIT Prof. Noam Chomsky, states in part:

We have about 50% of the world's wealth, but only 6.3% of its population. . . . Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity. . . . To do so, we will have to dispense with all sentimentality. . . . We should cease to talk about vague and . . . unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of living standards, and democratization.

To avoid exposure, these neoimperialists and their allies in the U.S. defense establishment, spurred by the enemy within, divert attention by demonizing Islam and Muslims, thereby fanning the fires of bigotry and raising unrealistic fears among the people of the West.

March 9, 1996

Danger of Islam Self-Evident

From the Khomeini-led revolution in Iran, to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, to the bombing of the World Trade Center, the American people have been subjected to relentless anti-Muslim indoctrination. It is imbibed with their mother's milk, stereotyped in their movies, spelled out in fifteen-second soundbites on television. Their daily paper offers them headlines that tell them all they need to know. Politicians and presidents sanctimoniously thrive on it.

The fiercely-held conviction inevitably produced by this insidious assault upon the intellect is that a great damnation has been unleashed upon the world, possibly by the devil himself, but in the form of people—

people not motivated by the same needs, fears, emotions, and personal morality that govern others of the species, but people engaged in an extremely clever, monolithic, international conspiracy dedicated to taking over the world and enslaving it, for reasons not always clear perhaps, but evil needs no motivation save evil itself.

Moreover, any appearance or claim by these people to be rational human beings seeking a better kind of world or society is a sham, a cover-up to delude others, and proof only of their cleverness. The recent bombings which have taken place in Israel are forever proof of the bankruptcy of virtue and the evil intentions of these people in whichever country they may be found, under whatever name they may call themselves. Most importantly, the only choice open to anyone in the United States is between the American way of life and Islam's way of life—that nothing lies between or beyond these two ways of viewing the world.

This is how it looks to the simple folk of America. One finds that media pundits and establishment experts, when probed slightly beneath the surface of their academic language, see it exactly the same way. To the mind carefully brought to adulthood in the United States, the danger of Islam is self-evident; as self-evident as the flatness of the world once was to an earlier mind.

[Islam having replaced communism as the “Evil Empire,” we adapted this from a commentary on communism by William Blum, *Killing Hope: US Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II*, with his permission.]

March 22, 1996

Sacrificing Africans, Muslims to Bring Nile Water to Israel

Are the Sudanese people about to be placed on the sacrificial altar of the Western powers in order to bring water to their progeny—the state of Israel? Are U.S. citizens and Europeans about to be suckered into a “peace-making mission” in Sudan?

It is no secret that Israel is thirsting for new supplies of water. Ever since its birth it has met its water requirements by denying water to the

native Palestinians. This may change as the Israeli-PLO “peace process” is played out. And even if current discriminatory water-sharing arrangements continue, Israel is going to need more water to meet its increasing demand. So how does Sudan enter into the picture?

I first heard of secret studies to bring the Nile’s water to Israel from a Kenyan hydrological expert in Tanzania who declined to be quoted for fear of reprisals. The Nile, of course, runs through Sudan and Egypt. And while Egypt may be persuaded to surrender its water to Israel, the Sudanese mainly Muslim regime presents a bigger obstacle.

Being a professional engineer and international consultant, when I first heard of it, the proposal seemed rather farfetched. However, recent testimony prepared for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on International Relations, by Ms. Muriel Mirak of the Schiller Institute in Washington, D.C., caused me to reconsider.

Ms. Mirak states that the leading witnesses testifying to alleged white slavery in Sudan “are acting as agents of a foreign power,” and “are engaged in witting fraud on the Congress.” She further states that the policies being promoted by Christian Solidarity International, allegedly “a vehicle of the intelligence services of Great Britain . . . if implemented, would unleash genocidal war across the entire region of eastern Africa.”

I am reminded of the October 10, 1990 testimony of “Nayirah” who testified that she had watched infants being taken from incubators in a Kuwait City hospital, and that the Iraqi soldiers “left the babies on the cold floor to die.” As we now know “Nayirah” was none other than the daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington, and that the public relations firm of Hill and Knowlton had staged the event to help former President Bush justify U.S. intervention in Kuwait.

We also know that the current regime in Sudan is considered hostile to U.S. interests, and that the U.S. has for half a century uncritically supported the state of Israel. While we admit there are some missing pieces, here’s how we see the scenario, if left unchallenged, will be played out.

The U.S. public is persuaded of human rights abuses in Sudan. The U.S.-led and Great Britain-backed UN passes the needed resolutions. Sudan is subjected to an embargo. When this fails the U.S. and European powers intervene in Sudan, unleashing civil war across eastern

Africa. The Sudanese regime is either toppled and replaced with one subservient to the West, or sufficiently humbled to agree to western demands to let Israel have the Nile water. U.S. taxpayers then donate some more billions of dollars to Israel.

Of course, if in the meantime several thousand Africans, Muslims, and possibly Americans are killed so what? We know that Africans don't have the same high regard for human life that we do. Didn't the U.S. Supreme Court once state that African Americans were merely property—not human beings? And those Muslims should welcome the opportunity for “jihad” and martyrdom which would send them straight to heaven. And our boys will have died defending American values.

If all this comes to pass, we can count on our media to give it the proper spin so that we can feel good about going to the aid of yet another third world nation that cannot quite take care of itself. And the U.S. Congress and our President can continue to deny the American people the peace dividend that was to have come from the end of the cold war with the former U.S.S.R.

[“The only matter that could take Egypt to war again is water.”—Anwar Sadat, 1979.]

[“The next war in our region will be over the waters of the Nile, not politics.”—Boutros Ghali, 1988]

March 26, 1996

Libya: Who's Terrorizing Whom

Today, the *Washington Post* reported unrest in Libya which the Libyans believe is led by a Col. Khalifa Haftar based in the U.S.

Col. Haftar is reported to be the leader of a contra-style group based in the U.S. called the Libyan National Army. This group is supported by the U.S., and has been given training facilities in the U.S. It's a good presumption that Col. Haftar's group operates in Libya with the blessings of our government.

On May 17, 1991, the *Washington Times* reported that three hundred and fifty Libyans would arrive soon in the United States.

It turns out that the Libyans who arrived in the U.S. in 1991 were not the Libyan President Ghaddafi's terrorists. They were our folks, trained by our CIA. These terrorists, which our government (ever mindful of our sensitivities) prefers to call guerillas, were trained by our CIA to topple President Ghaddafi. Last December 1990, when a new government less sympathetic to our mission was formed in Chad, we tried to find another home for our folks. It seemed that no one wanted our recruits, and so they were flown to the United States from Kenya where they were being temporarily housed. Col. Haftar was part of this group.

The question is, "Is Libya terrorizing the U.S., or is the U.S. terrorizing Libya?" Imagine the media frenzy if the situation were reversed.

March 29, 1996

Propaganda Merchants Posing as Terrorism Experts

At a seminar on terrorism, held yesterday at the prestigious Center for Strategic and International Studies of George Washington University, all it took was two simple questions to expose experts on terrorism for what they are—merchants of anti-Islamic propaganda. The seminar panel included the head of the CSIS terrorism project, a Voice of America spokesman, former officials of the U.S. Department of State, and others from various think tanks.

The experts delivered the usual anti-Islamic propaganda: mosques posing as fronts for terrorists groups; the threat of the rogue states of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. When finally permitted to speak, we asked, "Why would these countries want to terrorize the United States, and why is there no one on the panel with an opposing point of view?"

In all my years managing research programs and projects for the U.S. government and around the world, I cannot recall a single issue as broad as terrorism on which experts did not have opposing views. Only by sifting through opposing views can one hope to arrive at the truth. And what motive do Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria have to terrorize the

U.S.? Given that the \$262 billion U.S. defense budget accounts for about 37 percent of global military expenditures, while the six rogue states—Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, North Korea—have a combined annual military budget of \$15 billion, what do these “rogue” states hope to gain?

The panel on terrorism had no answer. They did, however, ask who we would recommend for future panels. We gave three names: William Blum—former employee of the U.S. Department of State; Noam Chomsky—youngest tenured professor at MIT; Howard Zinn—professor at Boston University. All are of Jewish origin.

April 25, 1996

Gunning for Libya: The Holocaust Continues

At a Defense Department briefing on April 23, a senior defense official stated that the United States would not exclude the use of nuclear weapons to destroy Libya’s chemical plant at Tarhunah. This plant, said the official, “is not in the interest of peace, not in the interest of stability, and not in the interest of world order.”

Libya was blamed in the 1970s and ’80s, writes William Blum in *Killing Hope*, for supporting “a wide array of radical/insurgent/terrorist organizations . . . in various parts of the Middle East, Africa, and Asia; as well as the IRA and Basque and Corsican separatists in Europe . . . the list is without end.” “It is the notion,” writes Bill Schaap in *Covert Action Information Bulletin*, No. 30, “that the Libyan leader, Col. Muammar Qaddafi, is responsible for every act of terrorism in the world.”

The rogue states have replaced native Americans—described in the U.S. Declaration of Independence as “the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions”—as the new all purpose villains.

“Our evidence is direct, it is precise, it is irrefutable,” announced U.S. President Reagan in explaining the American bombing attack on Libya of April 14, 1986 in retaliation for the alleged Libyan bombing nine days earlier of a West Berlin nightclub frequented by U.S. service-

men. The German government, however, remained critical and skeptical of the American position linking Libya to the bombing.

Five months after the December 21, 1988 explosion of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, the U.S. State Department announced that the CIA was confident that the villains were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Ahmed Jibril based in Syria. But when Syria allied with the U.S. in the Gulf War the blame was shifted to Libya.

Conveniently ignored is U.S. bombing of innocent civilians in Libya, including Col. Qaddafi's young daughter, the calculated devastation of Iraq during the Gulf War, and the suffering and death of countless Iraqi civilians in violation of the Christian definition of a "just" war.

Conveniently ignored is Israel's arsenal of nuclear weapons, its refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, its refusal to abide by UN resolutions, its collective punishment of Palestinians, its continued building of settlements on occupied territories, and its repeated incursions into and bombing of Lebanon.

Conveniently ignored are the U.S. use of Agent Orange in Vietnam which devastated that country which had long been a pawn of the superpowers, and the U.S. use of secret experiments on its own citizens with radiation, and chemical and biological weapons.

Conveniently ignored is the continuing need to justify the \$262 billion U.S. defense budget which accounts for about 37 percent of global military expenditures. In 1996, Russia, Japan, and China each will spend about \$80 billion, \$42 billion, and \$7 billion respectively. The six "rogue states"—Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, North Korea—have a combined annual budget of \$15 billion. The U.S. budget for covert operations (i.e. terrorism and support of terrorism) alone is over \$29 billion.

Regardless of the facts, Col. Qaddafi remains the villain who threatens world order. We are frequently reminded that U.S. intervention is needed to extend our version of democracy, and our notions of human rights. The British empire felt it was its duty to civilize the heathen nations of the world. They devastated those nations as a result.

Take the case of India and China.

Clifford D. Conner, an adjunct assistant professor of history at John

Jay College of Criminal Justice, in a letter to the Editor of the *New York Times* wrote: “In 1750, India produced almost 25 percent of the world’s total manufactured goods. By 1914, India’s share had dropped to 2 percent. In 1750 India’s largest export was cotton textiles. By 1850, its largest export was opium, which Britain used to balance its trade with China.” The British forced India to grow opium, and then they went to war with China to force it to buy the opium.

According to Australian journalist John Pilger: “In *Late Victorian Holocausts*, the historian Mike Davis documents that as many as 21 million Indians died unnecessarily in famines criminally imposed by British colonial policies.”

Of course, the U.S. government cannot tell the decent folk of America its real aims outlined in 1948 by “the leading dove and peace prize winner” Mr. George Kennan for the U.S. Department of State. In his top secret *Policy Planning Study 23*, Mr. Kennan stated in part:

We have about 50% of the world’s wealth, but only 6.3% of its population. . . . Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity. . . . To do so, we will have to dispense with all sentimentality. . . . We should cease to talk about vague and . . . unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of living standards, and democratization.

Just over 200 years ago, on July 4, 1776, the U.S. rallied people to these marvelous words in the Declaration of Independence: “WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” The proclamation of that lofty ideal followed the holocaust of about 15 million native Americans, and has yet to be fully realized in the U.S. And beyond the shores of the U.S., presumably, these “Truths” do not apply.

[Dollar amounts for defense spending should be taken with caution. Updated data may be obtained from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.]

[According to Robert D. Crane, principal foreign policy advisor to Richard Nixon from 1963 to 1968, President Reagan, after his attempted assassination, said that his only purpose for the rest of his life was to be an instrument of God in bringing goodness and peace to the world. Adds Dr. Crane, “Completing the American revolution is another term for Islamizing the world.”—“The Grand Strategy of the Great Jihad,” *Middle East Affairs Journal*, Summer/Fall 1998]

May 6, 1996

Nuclear Contamination of Gulf War Battlefields Reported

The battlefields of the Gulf War are reported to be contaminated with nuclear materials—a by-product of the depleted uranium shells fired by U.S. tanks during Operation Desert Storm.

Depleted uranium munitions are reported to have been used in Operation Desert Storm because of their spectacular armor piercing capabilities at long distances. The 120 mm cannon shell used by the U.S. army's M1A1 Abrams tank, the 30 mm bullets used by A-10 anti-tank aircraft, the munitions used by Britain's Challenger tank, and the U.S. and British navies' Phalanx gun systems are manufactured from depleted uranium (DU).

When DU munitions explode they create microscopic airborne particles which contaminate soil, and ground and surface water for several kilometers. "They have contaminated Iraq's soil and water table with toxic and carcinogenic dust that will last 4,500 million years [sic]. The dust released from these uranium tipped shells as they explode causes genetic damage and has been linked to rises in childhood cancers in Iraq" reports Hugh Livingstone of The Edge Gallery.

The Edge Gallery, London, England is planning an exhibit, documentary, and symposium on the testing, combat use, and possible health hazards of DU weapons. Gallery personnel have also collected documents and accounts from Gulf War veterans, doctors, scientists, and environmentalists from America, Britain, Holland, and Iraq.

If the reports are correct, the use of DU in weapons is a callous solution to the nuclear industry's problem of waste disposal. In Britain and America where DU is produced as a by-product of uranium enrichment it is classified as nuclear waste subject to stringent regulations for handling and disposal. Yet as a weapon it becomes "conventional." The U.S. Department of Energy is reported to be virtually giving away the DU to munitions manufacturers.

The Gulf War was the first opportunity that U.S. and British forces had to test their DU weapons in combat conditions. There is speculation that the Gulf War Syndrome may be related to DU contamination.

June 26, 1996

Media Frenzy to Demonize Muslims

The bombing of the Khobar barracks in Saudi Arabia unleashed a media frenzy denigrating Islam, demonizing Muslims. The same thing happened in April 1995 following the Oklahoma City bombing until two Christians were caught and charged as the alleged perpetrators.

By then the damage had been done to the Muslim community. Over 200 incidents against Muslims were reported. However, the Oklahoma City bombing raised no voices against Christianity and Christians.

Now the bombing in Saudi Arabia has the *Washington Post* and others raising fears of “Islamic terrorism” and “Muslim fundamentalists.” CNN blames “pro-Islam, anti-U.S.” Muslims as the likely perpetrators even before law enforcement agencies have identified any suspects.

And what’s Islamic about terrorism? Self defense yes, just war yes, but we find no verse in the Quran, the authoritative text on Islam, condoning terrorism. Even if the perpetrators of the Saudi bombing are Muslim, there is nothing Islamic about their act.

As for Islamic fundamentalism, the media have yet to tell us what it is. Christian fundamentalism is a term applied to doctrines which are based on a literal interpretation of the Bible. There is no parallel in Islam. Christian fundamentalism is defined in terms of the irreducible minimum of Christian belief. If pressed for an answer, we would say the irreducible minimum for being Muslim is to profess: “There is no god but God; Muhammad is the Messenger of God.” In the U.S., whose constitution guarantees the free exercise of all religions, why is this a public concern?

And as for being “pro-Islam, anti-U.S.,” what does that mean? Being pro-Islam has about as much to do with being pro- or anti-U.S. as it has to do with being pro- or anti-Mars!

But the U.S. media, not known for accuracy and fairness when it comes to Islam and Muslims, hide behind meaningless labels, cite the rhetoric of hatemongers, and then bemoan the divisions within the U.S. that are tearing apart the very fabric of our society. The enemy is not out there. It is here. It is among us.

July 10, 1996

Antislavery Advocates Allies in Exploitation of Sudan?

Are antislavery advocates unwitting allies in the propaganda campaign to exploit Sudan? If they're not careful, they may become just that.

Sudan is the largest country in Africa, slightly more than one-quarter the size of the U.S., and is dominated by the Nile and its tributaries. According to the CIA's *World Factbook* the ethnic background of the 30 million Sudanese is 52% black, 39% Arab, 9% others. The major religions are Sunni Muslim 70% (mostly in the north), indigenous beliefs 25%, Christian 5%. Several languages are spoken.

Sudan emerged from British colonialism and Egyptian domination on January 1, 1956 with power concentrated in the central government, and disparities among the regions. The colonial masters attempted, as in India, to exploit religious and ethnic differences to turn the North against the South; to divide and rule. In 1956, the South had one elementary school.

Since independence Sudan has had several governments. A series of conferences, sponsored by the current government, have led to plans for sharing power and resources among the 26 newly established states (previously there were 9 regions), and for addressing the issues confronting this emerging nation. Recently, Sudan has been threatened with "compulsory withdrawal" from the International Monetary Fund, and foreign intervention over allegations of slavery.

Sudan has reserves of petroleum, iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, and gold which the West would like to exploit. Is Sudan facing IMF sanctions because it is in arrears, or because it exceeded IMF targets for development? And, like Libya which was threatened with U.S. bombing over a weapons factory at Tarhunah (which Libya claims to be an irrigation tunnel), is Sudan being threatened with intervention over slavery to provide an excuse for Western domination or justification for U.S. defense spending which former Defense Secretary McNamara testified could safely be cut in half?

The Sudan government claims that the "slavery" is, in fact, hostage taking among rival tribes in the largely non-Muslim South which the

government is trying to control. We are told this has been common practice over the ages, and the hostages (or prisoners) are usually returned or exchanged within days.

One thing is clear. No Sudanese government can justify slavery to a largely Muslim people. Islam, the faith of the Muslim people is unequivocally opposed to slavery. The first call to prayer at the Quba mosque in Madinah, built by Prophet Muhammad himself, was given by the freed slave Bilal. From its very beginning in the seventh century, much of the conversion to Islam, wrongly attributed to the sword, was because of the equality Islam offered. It is something that the U.S. only promised in 1776, began to deliver in 1964, and the promise has yet to be fulfilled.

So before the antislavery advocates rush to judgement, and support measures which may force the North-South division sought by Sudan's colonial masters, they should ask, "Are we helping the Sudanese people, or those who seek to dominate and exploit them?"

[“Police have arrested a 37-year-old man in connection with claims by dozens of deaf Mexicans, rescued by authorities, who said they were forced to work for him for slave wages in New York.”—Jeanne King, “NY Man Arrested in Mexican Slave-Labor Case,” *Reuters*, July 20, 1997]

[“The trans-Atlantic slave trade is perhaps the most horrific event in the history of Western civilization, the sort of slavery that still exists in many parts of Africa is not the same thing.”—David Hecht, BBC Correspondent, February 14, 1998]

[“Of the thousands of women brought to Israel each year to work as prostitutes, many are enslaved, beaten and raped by their pimps.”—Ina Friedman, “Victoria’s, and Israel’s, Ugly Secret,” *Jerusalem Report*]

[“The European Union currently estimates some 500,000 women and girls alone enter Europe as illegal immigrants every year, and crime syndicates have turned human trafficking into the fastest expanding part of their business”—Raf Casert, “EU Debates Modern Slavery Crackdown,” *Associated Press*, February 9, 2001]

[“Each year, 50,000 women are taken to the US to work as sex slaves, officials said. Feeder countries include Ukraine, Albania, the Philippines, Thailand, Mexico and Nigeria. Trafficking of women and children ‘may be the largest manifestation of slavery in the world today,’ said the panel chairman, Sam Brownback.”—“Crackdown on Sex Slavery,” *BBC News Online*, February 23, 2000]

[“A State Department report Thursday said . . . an estimated 700,000 persons a year are transported across international borders to work in sweatshops, construction sites, brothels and fields. Included are several democracies with close ties to the United States: Israel, Greece, Turkey and South Korea.”—“Report Cites 23 Countries in Human Trafficking,” *Associated Press*, July 14, 2001]

July 24, 1996

TWA Flight 800: Closing the Doors on Reason

There are signs that the doors are beginning to close on logic and reason, and the propaganda machinery is cranking up to name a “culprit” in the downing of TWA Flight 800.

In its July 23 editorial, the *Washington Post* advises that while the “evidence of terrorism is not yet there,” that “courtroom-type proof” may be hard to come by, that “international validation before the act of punishment would be the best way to go, but if that is not feasible a national decision by the injured party, the United States, ought to suffice.”

Within the past week, the media has also reported on Iranian efforts to purchase nuclear technologies from German firms.

The “injured party” we believe are first and foremost the passengers and crew on TWA Flight 800, second their loved ones, third TWA, and fourth, possibly, the United States. In fact, eyewitness reports suggest that the U.S. may be the guilty party. There has been nothing to link Iran, or other “rogue” states to this tragedy.

Shanti RTV of the United Kingdom reports, “One hundred witnesses have apparently already told the FBI or other law enforcement agencies that they saw an object flying through the air toward the jet, near the jet, or hitting the jet.” And that “French sources reported on Sunday . . . that French Defense Ministry experts say it is possible that the TWA Boeing 747 which exploded last week was accidentally hit by a missile fired by a U.S. Army unit in the region.” It is further reported that “the French experts believe that . . . the infrastructure needed to fire a missile powerful enough to hit a plane at that altitude is only possessed by army units.”

There are also reports that efforts are underway to oust the Suffolk County Medical Examiner Dr. Witli, apparently a man of exceptional skill and integrity, for his reluctance to participate in a cover up. Logic and reason demand that we look at all the options as Mr. Kallstrom, the FBI agent in charge, has said.

Provided that mechanical failure is ruled out, these options may be identified, by asking, “Who gains and who loses from this tragedy?”

Those who stand to gain the most are more likely culprits than those who stand to lose the most.

A healthy dose of skepticism may also be in order. Five months after the December 21, 1988 explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, the U.S. Department of State announced that the CIA was confident that the villains were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Ahmed Jibril based in Syria. But when Syria allied with the U.S. in the Gulf War the blame was shifted to Libya.

[The *Press-Enterprise* reported today that newly disclosed evidence “points to a missile” as the cause of the explosion that killed all 230 people aboard TWA Flight 800 off New York’s Long Island. The evidence includes reddish residue found on several seat backs that laboratory analysis showed to be “consistent with solid missile fuel” ingredients, the newspaper said.—*Associated Press*, March 10, 1997]

July 29, 1996

TWA Flight 800: Predictably, Media Turns on Muslims

Predictably, the U.S. media has turned on Muslims in the Middle East as likely terrorists who bombed TWA Flight 800.

CNN in its reporting today may be the first to do so, but other media pundits can’t be far behind. Mr. Kallstrom, the FBI investigator in charge, says that in forty-eight hours, perhaps, the FBI may be prepared to say whether it was a bomb or missile that brought down TWA Flight 800. Does CNN know something that the FBI doesn’t as to what caused the TWA plane to blow apart?

Certainly, Middle East groups should be suspect. But what about Christians in the Middle East? Christian Arabs, generally, are united with Muslim Arabs in resisting U.S. supported Israeli domination of the Middle East. And why blame “Muslims?” The bombing of the Murrah building in Oklahoma City did not elicit media voices against Christians. Muslims from the Middle East were initially blamed. The Tokyo subway gassing did not elicit media voices against Buddhists.

Blame was narrowed to a cult. Why is it that Muslims, again, are demonized?

And are Middle East groups the only ones who had the means, motive, and opportunity to bring down the TWA plane? We don't think so. If the FBI determines it was a missile that shot down the TWA plane, it is less likely, according to French authorities, that such missiles are possessed by Middle East groups.

In fact the media have been remarkably silent about coroner reports as to cause of death, and U.S. military activity in the area of the crash. In his book, *The Fire This Time*, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark says that the U.S. government bears prime responsibility for the Gulf War which was planned in Washington long before the first Iraqi soldier entered Kuwait. This was done, says Mr. Clark, to protect oil company profits, control oil supplies to Europe and Japan, and to bolster U.S. military spending.

Could it be that an accidental shoot down of the TWA plane by the U.S. military is being seized upon as another opportunity to revive the bogey of Islamic fundamentalism (Leon T. Hadar, *The Green Peril: Creating The Islamic Fundamentalist Threat*, and Michael T. Klare, *Rogue States and Nuclear Outlaws*), to bolster defense spending? Or is it an opportunity for an attack on Libya or Iran? Just a few weeks ago the U.S. threatened to drop a nuclear bomb on an alleged Libyan weapons factory which Libya claims is an irrigation tunnel, and the Israelis have been trying to enlist U.S. support against Iran.

A responsible media should be making sure that all who had means, motive (either to commit the crime or to conceal an accident), and opportunity to down the TWA plane are thoroughly investigated. They should not be demonizing Muslims.

[“In January 1997 . . . the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms concluded that mechanical failure had caused the tragedy. But FBI officials, still convinced terrorists had downed the plane with a bomb or a missile, dismissed the 24-page report as ‘unprofessional and reprehensible,’ and even persuaded a Treasury Department undersecretary to help them suppress it.”—Michael Grunwald, “FBI Sought to Suppress Report on TWA Crash,” *Washington Post*, May 9, 1999]

[TWA 800 Eyewitness Alliance, in a full-page advertisement in the *Washington Times*, August 15, 2000, stated: “We saw TWA Flight 800 shot down by missiles, and we won't be silenced any longer.”]

August 2, 1996

Islamic Fundamentalism \$500 Billion Bogey

Welfare "reform" expected to save \$55 billion in six years

An extra \$437 billion, the difference between what former Secretary of Defense McNamara recommended, and what will have been spent through 1996, was pumped into the Pentagon budget, from 1990 through 1996, to defend the U.S. from the bogey of Islamic fundamentalism. With interest at seven percent this amounts to over \$500 billion.

To put this spending in perspective, the \$266 billion U.S. defense budget for 1996 accounts for about 37 percent of global military expenditures. Russia, Japan, and China each will spend about \$80 billion, \$42 billion, and \$7 billion. The U.S. budget for covert operations alone is over \$29 billion!

Perhaps an even better perspective is gained by comparing the unnecessary \$500 billion pumped into defense spending with the welfare "reform" bill which President Clinton is expected to sign. The welfare "reform" bill is expected to save \$55 billion over the next six years.

September 4, 1996

U.S. Threatened to Nuke Libya Water Project

As part of the celebrations marking the 27th anniversary of Libya's September 1, 1969 revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi inaugurated the second stage of the Great Man-Made River project which last April the U.S. threatened to attack with nuclear weapons.

Labelled by the international press as the 8th Wonder of the World, the project launched in 1984 and built with the help of Korean firms includes 4,000 km of pipelines, and two aqueducts of 1,000 km. When completed it will bring five million cubic meters per day of water from desert aquifers to Libya's coastal cities. It will eventually increase the size of Libya's arable land by over 70 percent. The total cost of the huge project is expected to exceed \$25 billion.

Because the “Jabal Nefussa” mountainous formation blocks the flow of water from the aquifers to the coast, it was necessary to drill a tunnel through the mountains and to install a pumping station at Tarhunah. This pumping station was described, according to the *Washington Post*, as a chemical plant at a Defense Department briefing on April 23, 1996 where a senior defense official stated that the United States would not exclude the use of nuclear weapons to destroy it. This plant, said the official, “is not in the interest of peace, not in the interest of stability, and not in the interest of world order.” U.S. Secretary of Defense, William Perry, confirmed that the use of nuclear weapons to destroy this chemical weapons factory was not excluded.

Last Saturday, Presidents Alpha Omar Konare of Mali, Jerry Rawlings of Ghana, Lansana Conte of Guinea, Ibrahim Mainasara Bare of Niger and other guests including Nation of Islam leader, Louis Farrakhan, joined Libyan leader Col. Mu’ammur al-Qadhafi to simultaneously push buttons which caused a barrier to open allowing the chemical compound H₂O (aka water) to gush forth to fill the Garabouli dam, 60 km east of Tripoli, and to begin supplying water for drinking and irrigation to Libya’s northwestern coastal plains.

Some intelligence services believe, however, that a chemical weapons factory does exist at Tarhunah. If so they should present their evidence to the relevant international organization for appropriate action. The Great Man-Made River project should not be threatened with nuclear strikes.

September 12, 1996

Values You May Not Want to Teach Children

U.S. foreign affairs offer a lesson in American values, but these may not be the values you want to teach your children.

Take the lessons learned from the September 3, U.S. cruise missile attack on Southern Iraq, which according to President Clinton was “to make Saddam pay a price for the latest act of brutality.” The U.S. may

have prevented the Iraqi brutality with a stern warning. A British newspaper, *The Independent*, said that the KDP (Kurdish party) chief Massoud Barzani warned the United States before its missile attacks that Iran was already supporting the PUK, and that his faction would turn to Baghdad for support if Washington did nothing. The paper said the KDP sent a memo to U.S. officials before the attack on Arbil saying: "Our options are limited . . . Since the U.S. is not responding even politically . . . the only option left is the Iraqis."

So when the Iraqi government goes to the aid of the KDP, which is under attack by the PUK supported by Iran, the U.S. attacks Iraq! Turkey is given the green light by the U.S. to set up a "security zone" in Northern Iraq, to attack villages and refugee camps within Iraq, and to create many thousands more refugees! And then a CIA operation to topple the Iraqi government is exposed in Iraq.

Or take the lessons learned from the Russian bombardment of the Chechens which left 40,000 dead and many more wounded. The U.S. continued to give billions in aid to Russia, interfered in the Russian elections to assure the reelection of Russian President Yeltsin, and possibly had a hand in the killing of the Chechen leader, and war hero, General Dudayev. It is believed that only the U.S. possesses the technology used to target and bomb General Dudayev while using a cellular phone.

Or take the lessons learned from U.S. efforts to impose sanctions on Sudan for slavery which the government of Sudan claims is hostage taking among rival tribes, and has outlawed. But the U.S. remains silent about UN reports of 25,000 to 30,000 Nepali women, many of them minor, who have been sold into prostitution in India by women traffickers. And what of the thousands who turn to prostitution, and develop AIDS, lured by the fortunes to be made at U.S. bases overseas?

Or take the lessons learned from Bosnia where a UN member country is dismembered, and massive genocide is committed. The U.S. prevents the Bosnians from defending themselves by imposing an arms embargo, replaces the Bosnian constitution with the Dayton peace accords, forces the Bosnians into an election schedule which may assure that the gains of Serbian aggression are perpetuated, and makes no serious effort to apprehend the war criminals.

Or take the lessons learned from the U.S. threats of a nuclear attack on Libya last April. The alleged Libyan chemical warfare plant in a tunnel at Tarhunah was inaugurated September 1. The “chemical weapons plant,” it seems, is a man-made river bringing water from desert aquifers to Libya’s coastal population.

Or take the lessons learned from the muted U.S. response to the Israeli bombing of the UN post at Qana in Lebanon, the lack of U.S. enthusiasm for enforcing UN resolutions against Israel, and U.S. efforts to deny weapons to mainly Muslim countries, while Israel stockpiles 200 to 300 nuclear warheads and 1,500 kilometer range missiles, and receives over three billion dollars in U.S. aid annually.

Try explaining these lessons to your children. And the next time one of them blows away an innocent American with a handgun or Uzi, you’ll know where the child learned his values.

September 13, 1996

Islamic Fundamentalism Greatest Danger to World Peace?

They won’t tell you what it is or why it’s so, but “Islamic fundamentalism,” they say, presents the greatest danger to world peace.

Israeli leaders are quoted as saying the greatest danger the world faces is “Islamic fundamentalism.” Muslim leaders fearing opposition parties echo this refrain. Newspapers in the U.S. use the phrase “Islamic fundamentalism” routinely. And the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, perhaps indicative of it’s focus on Islamic fundamentalism, placed a Muslim monument on the cover of it’s *World Factbook*.

Yet we doubt if any of the reporters using this term can define “Islamic fundamentalism.” Neither do they make the effort to get opposing views, nor to explain why it poses a danger to world peace, nor to ask the obvious question: “Why is it that Rev. Billy Graham, a Christian fundamentalist, is awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, appears on the cover of *Time* magazine, and dines with President Clinton, while Islamic fundamentalists are reviled in the U.S. whose constitution guarantees the free exercise of all religions?”

Christian fundamentalism, according to *Grolier's Academic American Encyclopedia*, is a term applied to doctrines which are based on a literal interpretation of the Bible. These late-19th, and early-20th-century Protestant movements opposed modern scientific theory and philosophy. With some differences, Christian fundamentalists insist on belief in the inerrancy of the Bible, the virgin birth and divinity of Jesus Christ, the vicarious and atoning character of his death, his bodily resurrection, and his second coming as the irreducible minimum of authentic Christianity.

This minimum was reflected in such declarations as the 14-point creed of the Niagara Bible Conference of 1878 and the 5-point statement of the Presbyterian General Assembly of 1910. *The Fundamentals*, a 12-volume collection of essays, was written in the period 1910–15 by 64 British and American scholars and preachers. The name fundamentalist was coined in 1920 to designate those “doing battle royal for the Fundamentals.”

The infamous Scopes trial (1925) diminished fundamentalism's appeal, and by the 1950's it had moderated and become evangelicalism. In the 1970's fundamentalism was revived by televangelists (eg. the Moral Majority), and it is now represented by the “religious right” such as the Christian Coalition.

To our knowledge there is no such doctrine, or accepted definition, of “Islamic fundamentalism.” The best we can determine is the definition implicit in media statements: any Muslim opposition to establishment views constitutes “Islamic fundamentalism.” Perhaps that is why the purveyors of propaganda are unable to tell us what “Islamic fundamentalism” is, why it poses the greatest danger to world peace, and why they won't publish opposing views.

We are reminded of the words of Alfred McLung Lee & Elizabeth Bryant Lee in *The Fine Art of Propaganda* published in 1939, “Science flourishes on criticism. Dangerous propaganda crumbles before it.”

[“They put a gun to my head and a grenade to my neck and told me they would kill me if I didn't come. I was taken to Sudan to fight the Dinka because they also had a fight with the LRA.” An estimated 5,000 other children, like 12 year old Sarah Ayero, have been abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army—Chris McGreal, “Misery of Children Enslaved by the Gun,” *The Guardian*, Tuesday July 10, 2001]

September 27, 1996

Compassionate Banker Launches Credit for 100 Million Poor

He refuses to accept that the poor are not creditworthy. He believes that credit is a human right. This compassionate banker has launched a “microcredit” program which hopes to reach 100 million of the world’s poorest by the year 2005.

While working for a bank in Bangladesh, Dr. Muhammad Yunus realized that the poorest who needed only \$50 to \$300 dollars to launch a small business, buy seeds, or build a home had no source of credit. By personally guaranteeing repayment, Dr. Yunus was able to persuade his bank to extend these small loans or “microcredits.”

He was amazed at the results. The repayment rate for microcredits was better than for conventional loans. He was deeply moved by the changes in family lives brought about by a single sewing machine purchased to launch a new business, the tears rolling down the face of a poor woman as she entered her new \$300 home, and many similar stories. But he was frustrated by his bank’s reluctance to extend the program, and decided to open his own bank.

Today his Grameen Bank has a staff of 12,000, and extends microcredits in 36,000 villages. How it operates breaks many banking conventions.

Instead of borrowers coming to the bank, the bank staff goes out to villages every week to extend loans and to collect payments. The Grameen Bank requires no lengthy forms, no collateral, just the signature of five women. It’s focus on women is because experience has shown that women are most likely to be left out of poverty eradication programs, while they have shown themselves to be highly creative entrepreneurs and adept at saving.

The Grameen Bank’s success received attention at the Earth Summit, the World Summit for Children, the Cairo Conference on Population, and the Women’s Conference in Beijing. During the Beijing Conference, ABC *World News Tonight* named Dr. Yunus their Person of the Week.

The lessons learned by the Grameen Bank have been used in many countries, including the United States, to launch similar loan programs.

James D. Wolfensohn, President World Bank, in a letter to the Chairs of the 90 largest banks and commercial financial institutions says “Microcredit programs have brought the vibrancy of the market economy to the poorest villages and people of the world. This business approach to the alleviation of poverty has allowed millions of individuals to work their way out of poverty with dignity.”

The banking revolution spawned by Dr. Yunus continues to grow. A Declaration and Plan of Action to extend the program worldwide is expected to be finalized before the February 2–4, 1997 Global Microcredit Summit in Washington, D.C. Co-Chaired by Hillary Rodham Clinton, United States First Lady; Tsutomu Hata, former Prime Minister of Japan; and Her Majesty, Queen Sophia of Spain.

December 10, 1996

If the Hutus and Tutsis Were Muslim

Some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered by Hutu extremists between April and June 1994 in a proxy war involving the U.S. and France. The news media said little of the Africans’ faith.

Yet there is a recurring pattern of the media identifying the Muslim faith—Islam—at every negative opportunity, while not identifying the faith of non-Muslim wrongdoers. One could compile statistics for the frequency of such occurrences, but the disparities are so great that these few examples should suffice:

Oklahoma City—When terrorism “experts,” based upon little or no evidence, blamed Middle Eastern terrorists for the bombing of the Murrah building, Muslims were immediately accused. Following the capture of the alleged bomber the *Washington Post* (April 22, 1995) carried a story titled “Muslim’s Burden of Blame Lifts,” but that burden was not placed upon Christians.

World Trade Center and Tokyo Subway—The bombing of the World Trade Center was apparently directed against U.S. support for the policies of the Egyptian government. It was identified as the act of Muslim fundamentalists. Contrast this with the poison

gas attack on the Tokyo subway which was identified as the act of a “cult,” but not as a Buddhist or Hindu cult which it appears to be.

Bosnia and Chechnya—The genocide of the Bosnians was described in terms of Serbs, Croats, and Muslims. Why not Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, and Muslims, or Serbs, Croats, and Bosnians? The brutal massacres of Chechen civilians by the Russian military was portrayed as Russia versus the Muslims of Chechnya, and not the Russian Christians against the Chechen Muslims.

TWA Flight 800—Within a week of the downing of TWA Flight 800, CNN identified Middle East terrorists as likely perpetrators. The *Washington Post*, in its July 23 editorial, wrote that while the “evidence of terrorism is not yet there,” that “courtroom-type proof” may be hard to come by, and that “international validation before the act of punishment would be the best way to go, but if that is not feasible a national decision by the injured party, the United States, ought to suffice.”

Afghanistan—The veiling of women, and keeping them from work temporarily, by orders of the Taliban in Afghanistan were identified by the media with Islam.

Rwanda, according to the CIA *World Factbook*, has a population of 8.6 million which is 90 percent Hutu, 9 percent Tutsi. The religion of the people is one percent Muslim, 25 percent indigenous beliefs, 74 percent Christian.

[“Rwanda’s Muslims—many of them intermarried Tutsi-Hutu couples—were opening their homes to thousands of desperate Tutsis. . . .

‘In the Islamic faith, Hutu and Tutsi are the same,’ Kayiranga said. ‘Islam teaches us about brotherhood.’

While Rwanda’s ethnic Tutsis mostly have come to Islam seeking protection from purges and to honor and emulate the people who saved them, Hutus also have come, seeking to leave behind their violent past.”—Laurie Goering, “Islam Blooms in Genocide’s Wake,” *Chicago Tribune*, August 5, 2002]

[“A girl in her early teens sat in Gulu Hospital wearing a hideous grin. A victim of the Lord’s Resistance Army, her lips had been snipped off in the name of God. She was a typical victim of the Christian fundamentalist cults that flourish and fight in Central Africa.”—Sam Kiley, “Suicidal Credo that Came from the West,” *The Times*, March 20, 2000]

June 28, 1997

Terrorism Declines, American Terrorists Deadliest

While terrorism in the U.S. is in decline, the deadliest act of terrorism in U.S. history was committed by an American veteran of the Gulf War.

According to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations the most significant terrorist-related events during 1995 (the most recent year for which the annual FBI report on terrorism is available) are:

February 28, 1995—A Minneapolis jury convicted four members of a domestic extremist group, apprehended by the FBI, of violating the Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act of 1989. The subjects manufactured the biological agent ricin with the intent to kill law enforcement officers.

April 19, 1995—A truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killing 168 citizens and injuring hundreds. This attack was the deadliest terrorist event ever committed on U.S. soil.

October 9, 1995—A 12-car Amtrak train derailed near Hyder, Arizona. The derailment killed 1 person and seriously injured 12 others. This suspected act of terrorism is still under investigation.

November 11, 1995—The FBI prevented an act of terrorism by arresting four U.S. persons in Oklahoma for illegally conspiring to manufacture and possess a destructive device. The subjects were considering attacking civil rights offices, abortion clinics, and federal agencies.

The overall level of terrorist-related events in the United States increased, reversing last year's downturn. In 1994, there were no known terrorist acts and one small-scale suspected act in the United States.

The number of people killed in terrorist attacks in the United States increased sharply from previous years. Last year, 168 people died in a single terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City. In 1994, no American in the United States died in a terrorist attack. In 1993, six people died in the World Trade Center bombing.

July 25, 1997

Broadcasting Fairness Doctrine Promised Balanced Coverage

The passing of media ownership into fewer hands, the potential for conflicts of interests, and the virtual exclusion of significant opposing viewpoints are good reasons to re-examine the broadcasting Fairness Doctrine, and its potential for obtaining more balanced coverage of Islam and Muslims.

The Fairness Doctrine from 1949 until 1987, when it was discontinued by the Federal Communications Commission, required broadcasters, as a condition of getting their licenses from the FCC, to cover controversial issues in their community, and to do so by offering some balancing views. It did not require equal time for opposing views. It merely prevented a station from day after day presenting a single view without airing opposing views.

The Fairness Doctrine's constitutionality was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark 1969 case, *Red Lion Broadcasting v. FCC* (395 U.S. 367). The Court ruled that it did not violate a broadcaster's First Amendment rights. Five years later, however, in *Miami Herald Publishing Co. v. Tornillo* (418 U.S. 241), without ruling the doctrine unconstitutional, the Court concluded that the doctrine "inescapably dampens the vigor and limits the variety of public debate." In 1984, the Court concluded that the scarcity rationale underlying the doctrine was flawed and that the doctrine was limiting the breadth of public debate (*FCC v. League of Women Voters*, 468 U.S. 364).

The Court's decision led to the FCC reevaluation and discontinuance of the Fairness Doctrine. The FCC stated:

We no longer believe that the Fairness Doctrine, as a matter of policy, serves the public interests. In making this determination, we do not question the interest of the listening and viewing public in obtaining access to diverse and antagonistic sources of information. Rather, we conclude that the Fairness Doctrine is no longer a necessary or appropriate means by which to effectuate this interest. We believe that the interest of the public in viewpoint diversity is fully served by the multiplicity of voices in the marketplace today and that the intrusion by government into the content of programming occasioned by the enforcement of the doctrine unnecessarily restricts the journalistic freedom of broadcasters. Furthermore, we

find that the Fairness Doctrine, in operation actually inhibits the presentation of controversial issues of public importance to the detriment of the public and in degradation of the editorial prerogative of broadcast journalists.

In 1987, a bill to place the Fairness Doctrine into federal law passed the House by 3 to 1, and the Senate by nearly 2 to 1, but it was vetoed by President Ronald Reagan. Among those voting for the bill were Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.). In 1989, the Fairness Doctrine easily passed the House again, but didn't proceed further as President George Bush threatened to veto it. In 1991, hearings were again held on the doctrine, but President Bush's ongoing veto threat stymied passage.

Then the Corporation for Public Broadcasting was assigned the responsibility to

facilitate the full development of public telecommunications in which programs of high quality, diversity, creativity, excellence, and innovation, which are obtained from diverse sources, will be made available to public telecommunications entities, with strict adherence to objectivity and balance in all programs or series of programs of a controversial nature.

The "Fairness in Broadcasting Act of 1993" was sponsored in the Senate (S. 333) by Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.), and in the House (H.R. 1985) by Bill Hefner (D-N.C.).

Opponents of the Fairness Doctrine have included New York Governor Mario Cuomo, and broadcaster Rush Limbaugh. Cuomo argued that, "Precisely because radio and TV have become our principal sources of news and information, we should accord broadcasters the utmost freedom in order to insure a truly free press." Limbaugh argued that there should be no government fairness standards on broadcasters, since there are none on the print press.

Others, such as columnist Jeff Cohen, say these arguments miss the key difference: If you set up your competing broadcast station next to a Limbaugh station on the radio dial, without acquiring a government license, you will be prosecuted. Broadcast frequencies are limited, and they belong to all Americans.

Since these attempts to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine, media ownership has passed into fewer and fewer hands. Mark Crispin Miller, professor of Film and Media Studies at Johns Hopkins University, has

written extensively on the media and the increasing concentration of ownership of media companies in the United States. Miller has created charts that trace the holdings of four major conglomerates: Time Warner, Disney/Cap Cities, General Electric, and Westinghouse. Each of these conglomerates owns a news network, CNN, ABC, NBC, and CBS, respectively. And not only do they own news networks, but also radio stations, magazines, cable TV, motion pictures, music, and newspapers. Furthermore, the (non-media) holdings of these conglomerates create “alarming conflicts of interests” says Miller.

Lastly, diverse, opposing voices are virtually excluded from major TV networks. Among these are prominent speakers such as former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, the prolific writer Noam Chomsky, the militant National Alliance, and Muslims who by the year 2000 will constitute America’s second largest religion—Islam.

More recently the Broadcasting Act of 1996 establishes the Broadcasting Standards Commission. In effect, this merges the Broadcasting Standards Council and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, creating a single forum for public concerns relating to the portrayal of sex and violence and matters of taste and decency in television and radio programs, as well as unjust and unfair treatment and unwarranted infringement of privacy by broadcasters.

The reasons that led to the demise of the Fairness Doctrine no longer exist. Perhaps it’s time to resurrect the Fairness Doctrine.

[The Muslim community, virtually unrepresented in U.S. media, now has the opportunity to enter the field of broadcasting. The FCC replaced a 30-year-old equal employment opportunity program that was struck down as unconstitutional in 1998 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. “Under the new system, the FCC will require broadcasters to have an active outreach program for hiring women and racial minorities. The companies will have to publicize job openings widely to ensure that minorities and women hear about and can compete for the positions.”—John Schwartz, “FCC Unveils New Rules on Hiring,” *Washington Post*, January 21, 2000]

[“The Gulf War functioned as a massive advertisement for the defense contractors,” said Mark Crispin Miller in a July 25, 1997 interview. Regarding the AOL-Time Warner union, in a February 29, 2000 op-ed for *mediachannel.org*, titled “The Whole Thing Stinks,” he says, “This first great media mega-merger of the new millennium came as a major shock to all—including the Time Warner journalists.”]

November 3, 1997

U.S. Asks Iraq for the Impossible

Once again the United States and Iraq are headed toward a military confrontation that is neither reasonable nor necessary. Furthermore, U.S. insistence on asking United Nations inspectors and/or Iraq to do the impossible reveals U.S. bias, and continues to discredit and undermine the UN.

A diplomat in Baghdad reports that “Iraq today turned away in a polite way three Americans who were with a United Nations arms-inspection team arriving from Bahrain.” However, Iraq emphasizes that its quarrel is with the U.S., not the UN.

The U.S. and the U.K., on the contrary, have repeatedly said that the Iraqi challenge is to the UN as a whole. They do not rule out military action. “U.S. forces are always ready,” said General Anthony Zinni, who commands U.S. forces in most of the Middle East. He added, “The situation in the Gulf is tense even now. The possibility that operations could be conducted in our region is very real.”

UN inspectors and/or Iraq are being asked to prove that all weapons of mass destruction have been eliminated. As any competent science student knows, the nonexistence of something, in this case Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction, cannot be proven. In any case, the dispute is between Iraq and the UN. Unilateral U.S. military action being urged by U.S. Congressmen is indicative of the extent to which the UN has become a mere pawn of the U.S.

According to former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, about 10,000 Iraqis die each month as a direct result of UN sanctions. In a letter last year to the UN Mr. Clark stated:

The history of this violent century does not reveal a more deadly, cruel, inhumane and degrading torture of the whole population of an entire nation inflicted by foreign power for so long a period of time. That the deed is done in the name of the United Nations Security Council demonstrates its cowardly surrender to the will of the United States and defeats hope that the United Nations will fulfill its promise of faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

November 7, 1997

Sudan: Villain or Victim of Religious Persecution?

This November 4 President Clinton signed an Executive Order imposing comprehensive economic sanctions on Sudan. The White House took this step despite little or no evidence to support its allegations against Sudan, and ample evidence that such sanctions hurt American business and the indigenous poor.

The U.S. action is a direct consequence, alleges The White House, of the

Sudanese regime's sponsorship of international terrorism, its efforts to destabilize neighboring countries, and its abysmal human rights record, including the denial of religious freedom. As a result of these sanctions, Sudanese assets in the U.S. are now blocked. The sanctions also prohibit a wide range of financial transactions between the U.S. and Sudan.

Sudan, the largest country in Africa, is charged with sponsorship of international terrorism. What acts of terrorism? The White House does not say. Is Sudan training terrorists or is it merely guilty of having provided military training to persons who then happened to commit an act of terrorism? Reliable facts and statistics are hard to come by.

Sudan is charged with efforts to destabilize neighboring countries. But on November 10, 1996 the *Washington Post* revealed that the U.S. government had provided \$20 million to anti-Sudanese forces. And last January the Sudan government charged that it was being invaded on three fronts by troops from neighboring Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Uganda. Antigovernment, Sudanese rebels have long been operating from bases in these three states, and striking across the border. This time, however, the invaders were well-armed and backed by tanks and artillery.

Sudan is charged with having an abysmal human rights record, including the denial of religious freedom. Sudan, a mostly Muslim country, has a Christian of the Dinka tribe, George Kungor, as its Vice President. It collects the Islam mandated zakat, or wealth tax, from Muslims only, but uses the tax to serve all its needy people—Muslim and Christian. And, we suspect, more churches are burned right here in the U.S. than in Sudan.

“South Sudan is,” reports Eric Margolis in the January 27, 1997,

issue of *The Toronto Sun*, “inhabited by animist or Christian Nilotic tribesmen who still live in the Iron Age. The two disparate parts of Sudan have been in conflict for decades. In the 1960s and 70s, Israel and Ethiopia armed south Sudanese rebels in an effort to destabilize the government in Khartoum. Oxfam and other Christian ‘missionary’ and ‘humanitarian’ groups raised money and provided arms to the Sudanese rebels—which they do to this day in an effort to prevent the spread of Islam.”

However, the rebels in the mostly Christian south do not seem to discriminate between their perceived enemies—Christian or Muslim. On August 27, 1996, *Reuters* reported,

Three Australian Catholic nuns . . . aged between 52 and 73, are being held with three other missionaries by the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) . . . accused by the rebels of spying and being agents of Islam because of a quotation from the Koran found by the rebels on a bookmark in a Bible belonging to the nuns.

Apparently the situation there has improved. On April 21, 1997 the government concluded a peace agreement with the Christians of Southern Sudan.

The Egyptian’s and British have been trying to control Sudan since the opening of the Suez Canal on November 17, 1869. They suffered a humiliating defeat on January 26, 1885 when Sudanese forces led by the Islamic mystic Ahmad ibn Abd Allah, better known as the Mahdi, recaptured Khartoum from the British led Egyptian troops, and killed General Charles Gordon in that battle. It appears that some in England have neither forgiven nor forgotten.

The London-based Sudan Foundation has been trying to engage Baroness Cox, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords and a leading opponent of Sudan, in an open debate on allegations of slavery in Sudan. “On considering often exactly the same evidence, the Sudan Foundation and Christian Solidarity International have reached exactly opposite conclusions. One must be mistaken,” says Sean Gabb, Director, The Sudan Foundation.

This coming November 16, 1997, Christian Solidarity International, evangelical churches, and sympathetic zionists, sensing an opportunity for their anti-Islam campaign, will give voice to the “growing persecution of Christians.” The goal of their “1997 International Day of Prayer

for the Persecuted Church is to shatter the silence and end apathy—in the church and in the world.”

We welcome an end to apathy. Terrorism, according to Webster's, is “the act of terrorizing; use of force or threats to demoralize, intimidate, and subjugate, especially such use as a political weapon or policy.” Let us examine the facts, engage in debate, get our priorities right. Perhaps, then the Muslim victims of Bosnia, Chechnya, Kashmir, the Philippines, and all victims of religious persecution anywhere may have hopes for peace. As Alfred McLung Lee and Elizabeth Bryant Lee said in *The Fine Art of Propaganda*, “Science flourishes on criticism. Dangerous propaganda crumbles before it.”

Is Sudan the villain or the victim? Only a full and open debate will tell us the truth. Sanctions will hurt Sudan's poorest, and American business.

[“In conclusion, I found that after several years of interest in this issue, which has included visits to Kordofan, the allegations of slavery made against the government of Sudan are unfounded. It is additionally clear that there has been something of an international campaign to isolate Sudan by means of these allegations. I echo the concerns of several international human rights organizations which have condemned the inflammatory nature of these allegations and I question the motivation behind them.

“It is my sincere hope that the British government will look at the reality of the situation in Sudan as distinct from the view put forward by Christian Solidarity International .”—Lord McNair, *The McNair Report on Slavery and Slavery-like Practices in Sudan*, November 1997. Lord McNair is a Liberal Democrat member of the House of Lords, England]

[“An oil field near the civil war front line last month began pumping crude for export, with the help of a private Canadian company, Talisman Energy Inc., and the governments of China and Malaysia.”—Karl Vick, “U.S., Rebels, Urge More Peace Talks For Sudan,” *Washington Post*, October 24, 1999]

[President Carter stated: “Instead of working for peace in Sudan, the U.S. government has basically promoted a continuation of war. . . . The people in Sudan want to resolve the conflict. The biggest obstacle is US government policy. The US is committed to overthrowing the government in Khartoum. Any sort of peace effort is aborted, basically by policies of the United States . . . Instead of working for peace in Sudan, the US government has basically promoted a continuation of the war.”—“Others Say U.S. Has Faltered in Africa,” *Boston Globe*, December 8, 1999]

[In Kashmir, 67,717 people have been shot, and 4,501 killed while in Indian Army or police custody. Rape is frequently used against women as part of their interrogation, 4,242 women between the ages of 7 and 70 that have been raped.—*Media Review Network*, March 5, 2000]

January 26, 1998

Iraq Crisis a Sham, Israel Poses Bigger Threat

The so-called “crisis” in Iraq is a sham created by Israel to divert attention from its long standing violations of UN resolutions, its blocking of the peace process, and its own weapons of mass destruction, and by the U.S. military, industrial, intelligence, congressional (MIIC) complex to justify the defense budget which could safely have been cut in half following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The “crisis” arose when Iraq refused UN inspectors access to palaces and other sites, and asked the UN for a freeze on inspections until the matter had been discussed further at the UN. True, Iraq has stalled UN inspectors, but the stalling is not totally without justification. U.S.-led, UN inspectors have turned what should have been an unbiased fact finding mission into a personal vendetta to unseat President Saddam Hussein. Mr. Hussein is no role model, but whether he remains in office or not is for the people of Iraq to decide. And, certainly, no country that professes democracy should be advocating his assassination.

As a direct consequence of this vendetta thousands have died, and are dying, in Iraq. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, in a May 1, 1996 letter to United Nations Ambassadors, wrote,

The entire population of Iraq has suffered. Millions will not overcome the effects of the sanctions in their lifetimes which have been shortened by years. The history of this violent century does not reveal a more deadly, cruel, inhumane and degrading torture of the whole population of an entire nation inflicted by foreign power for so long a period of time.

Bishop Gumbleton of Detroit who, with more than 50 others, began a fast on January 20, 1998, implored the president and the leaders of the UN to end the sanctions. “I have never seen such devastation,” he said.

UN inspectors have already concluded that Iraq possesses no nuclear weapons, and its ability to produce them has been drastically set back. U.S. insistence that Iraq prove that no more weapons of mass destruction exist is an impossible task—any competent student of science knows that the nonexistence of something cannot be proved.

As for chemical and biological weapons, Alan P. Zelicoff, technical

adviser to the U.S. delegation to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), states in the *Washington Post*, January 8, 1998, that inspections are “costly and probably self-deceptive” because “in just a few days or weeks, biological weapons can be manufactured in militarily significant quantities in a site no larger than a house.” Furthermore, the U.S. itself has “advocated two useful measures for the BTWC: investigations if there are unusual outbreaks of disease (such as occurred in the Sverdlovsk anthrax outbreak of 1979) and similar on-site inspections if a party to the convention alleges that biological weapons have been used.” If this is what the U.S. has advocated at the BTWC, why not apply this to Iraq instead of declaring a crisis, and preparing for war.

Also, Iraq is not the only country that possesses and/or has used chemical and biological weapons. The U.S. used Agent Orange to deadly effect in Viet Nam, CS gas in Waco, and supported Iraq in its eight year war with Iran—after Iraq had used poison gas on the Kurds. Israel has chemical and biological weapons, and used them just a few weeks ago in an assassination attempt in Jordan. To say that Iraq is more likely than others to use such weapons is either self-serving propaganda, racism, or bigotry.

Israel’s weapons of mass destruction are seldom cause for concern, either by the MIIC complex or the U.S. media. Israel, the largest recipient of U.S. aid, has not signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and has built up a formidable arsenal that raises legitimate security concerns for other nations in the region. Israel has also shown that it will use its military might to strike first, as it did in 1981 on Iraq’s Osirak nuclear power plant, a legitimate facility under the NPT. It was this action against an NPT signatory, supported by the U.S., that radicalized Iraq.

Eric Margolis writing for the *Toronto Sun* reports,

Ever since the 1991 Gulf War, Syria, Iran, Egypt and Iraq have been struggling to build offensive missile capability in the face of Israel’s growing nuclear arsenal. Israel is estimated to have as many as 400 atomic and hydrogen weapons. The Israeli Air Force has three squadrons equipped with Jericho nuclear-tipped missiles at the Sedot Mikha base, 45 km south of Tel-Aviv. The Jericho’s can reach all major Arab cities, Iran, and Russia. Israel also has a large

number of gravity nuclear weapons, possibly including neutron bombs. Further enhancing Israel's power, the U.S. is supplying it with the long-ranged F-15F. This deadly strike aircraft, air refueled, can deliver nuclear weapons from Morocco to Pakistan.

If failure to abide by UN resolutions is the criteria, action against Israel is long overdue. UN Resolution 242 passed on November 22, 1967 underscores the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war." All U.S. administrations from President Johnson's time supported this position. President Bush was the first to back away from this position, and under President Clinton the U.S. foreign policy establishment capitulated to Israeli interests. One has only to look at the backgrounds of President Clinton's closest advisors, the State Department, the National Security Council, and House and Senate Foreign Relations committees to see why Israeli transgressions receive little meaningful censure, and those of the Arabs are magnified.

Israel has found an ally in the MIIC complex, which seeking to justify its bloated and unnecessary spending for "defense," is on the offensive seeking enemies.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, former Defense Secretary McNamara, in his 1989 testimony before the Senate Budget Committee, stated that defense spending could safely be cut in half over five years. For the Pentagon it was a simple choice: either find new enemies, or cut defense spending.

Topping the list of potential new global bogeymen were the Yellow Peril, the alleged threat to American economic security emanating from East Asia, and the so-called Green Peril (green representing Islam). The Pentagon selected "Islamic fundamentalism" and "rogue states" as the new bogeymen (Leon T. Hadar, *The Green Peril: Creating The Islamic Fundamentalist Threat*, and Michael T. Klare, *Rogue States and Nuclear Outlaws*).

Unlike Christian fundamentalism, defined in *The Fundamentals*, a 12-volume collection of essays written in the period 1910–1915 by British and American scholars, there is no doctrine of Islamic fundamentalism, and the six "rogue states"—Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and North Korea—have a combined annual military budget of \$15 billion (current U.S. budget about \$265 billion). Nevertheless, an extra

\$437 billion, the difference between what Mr. McNamara recommended and what will have been spent through 1996, was pumped into the Pentagon budget to defend the U.S. from these bogeymen. With interest at seven percent this amounts to over \$500 billion in unnecessary “defense” spending between 1990 and 1996.

Legitimate security concerns may be resolved by UN inspectors using criteria that the U.S. advocated at the BTWC. It is long past time to end the sanctions on Iraq.

February 20, 1998

Israel's Weapons of Mass Destruction

“No other country is in the same league in military spending as the United States,” reports the Center for Defense Information (CDI). And based upon statistics provided by the CDI, no country in the Middle East has more weapons of mass destruction than Israel. And no other country in the world has escaped scrutiny of its nuclear arsenal as has Israel.

The U.S. \$265 billion military budget request for 1998 is five and one-half times that of the second largest spender, Russia. According to CDI,

It is nearly eighteen times as large as the combined spending of the seven countries often identified by the Pentagon as our most likely adversaries (North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan and Cuba), and the United States and its close allies spend far more than the rest of the world combined. They spend more than thirty-three times as much as the seven potential ‘enemies’ combined!

“For 45 years of the Cold War we were in an arms race with the Soviet Union. Now it appears we’re in an arms race with ourselves,” says Admiral Eugene Carroll, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.), Deputy Director CDI.

As for countries possessing nuclear weapons, CDI estimates the following strategic and nonstrategic weapons: China (434), France (482), India (60+?), Israel (100+?), Pakistan (15-25?), Russia (13,200-20,200), United Kingdom (200), United States (15,500). CDI takes these total

figures from Leonard Spector's *Tracking Nuclear Proliferation*. Estimates of Israel's nuclear weapons by others are as high as 400 warheads. Reports have also surfaced that Israel is working jointly with the U.S. on a neutron bomb. Israel has not signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Iraq has, and there is no evidence that it has nuclear weapons.

CDI says,

The highly capable and well-equipped Israeli air force would more than suffice in the nuclear weapons delivery role, particularly with U.S.-supplied aircraft such as the F-4E and F-16. However, Israel has also produced ballistic missiles, against which its potential enemies have no defense. The Jericho I suffices for its immediate adversary of Syria, and the Jericho II brings the entire Middle East under Israel's range, particularly Iran. The Shavit space-launch booster could also be adapted to a long-range nuclear delivery role, and given the decision, Israel would be able to develop an inter-continental ballistic missile.

The UN inspectors in Iraq have found no evidence that Iraq has missiles with a capability greater than the 90 miles permitted by the Gulf War cease-fire agreement. At the CNN televised meeting in Columbus, Ohio on February 18, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stated, "UNSCOM has uncovered and destroyed more of those deadly weapons than were demolished during the entire Gulf War."

Secretary Albright also said in Columbus, Iraq "has fired these missiles against four of his neighbors—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iran and Israel." She was talking of the scuds for which there is no evidence that any are left in Iraq's arsenal.

Defense Secretary William Cohen, holding up a picture taken of an Iraqi mother and child killed by Iraqi nerve gas stated, "This is what I would call Madonna and child Saddam Hussein-style." Has he forgotten the pictures of the charred remains of the women and children gassed and burned in Waco, Texas, by the U.S. government?

Has Secretary Cohen forgotten that the U.S. backed Iraq in its use of gas in the war with Iran? Robert Fisk, the British journalist who has covered the Middle East for years, wrote in the London based *Independent* on February 13:

The French had sold Saddam Mirage jets. The Germans had provided him with the gas that had me almost wretching on the train from Ahwaz. The Americans had sold him helicopters for spraying

crops with pesticide (the “crops,” of course, being human beings). The British gave Saddam Bailey bridges. And I later met the Cologne arms dealer who flew from the Pentagon to Baghdad with U.S. satellite photos of the Iranian front lines—to help Saddam kill more Iranians.

As for Iraq’s remaining chemical and biological weapons, Alan P. Zelicoff, technical adviser to the U.S. delegation to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, states in the *Washington Post*, January 8, 1998, that inspections are “costly and probably self-deceptive” because “in just a few days or weeks, biological weapons can be manufactured in militarily significant quantities in a site no larger than a house.” Furthermore, the U.S. itself has “advocated two useful measures for the BTWC: investigations if there are unusual outbreaks of disease (such as occurred in the Sverdlovsk anthrax outbreak of 1979) and similar on-site inspections if a party to the convention alleges that biological weapons have been used.” If this is what the U.S. has advocated at the BTWC, why not apply this to Iraq?

Secretaries Allbright, Cohen, National Security Advisor Berger, and the media portray Israel as the helpless victim, and Iraq as a world threat. It is Israel’s weapons of mass destruction that threaten the countries of the Middle East, and fuel the arms race. Israel’s “1981 bombing of Iraq’s Osirak nuclear research facility near Baghdad, . . . with U.S.-made warplanes and direct U.S. assistance helped radicalize Iraq,” writes former U.S. Congressman Paul Findley in *Deliberate Deceptions*.

At the February 18 meeting in Ohio, CNN moderator Judy Woolduff said, “Former President Carter, was quoted yesterday as saying that up to a hundred thousand innocent Iraqi civilians could be killed.”

[. . . proving beyond a doubt that, contrary to the Geneva Convention, the U.S. government intentionally used sanctions against Iraq to degrade the country’s water supply after the Gulf War. The United States knew the cost that civilian Iraqis, mostly children, would pay, and it went ahead anyway.”—Thomas J. Nagy, “The Secret Behind the Sanctions,” *The Progressive*, August 2001]

["The Israeli government is considering planting small nuclear landmines near the Golan Heights which could be detonated to halt a Syrian invasion, according to military sources.”—Matthew Campbell and Uzi Mahnaimi, “Israeli Plan for Golan Nuclear Shield,” *Sunday Times*, March 26, 2000]

["The Dolphin ‘roving launch platforms’ also give Israel the ability to strike almost anywhere on the globe, and particularly against Iran and Pakistan, which Israel singles out as ‘long-range’ enemies”—Eric Margolis, “Israel’s Covert Nuclear Program,” *Toronto Sun*, July 2, 2000]

March 9, 1998

Did Israel Push U.S. to Brink of Needless War?

With the most recent “crisis” with Iraq averted, and more realistic assessments of the “crisis” being reported, one has to ask, “Who pushed the U.S. to the brink of a needless war with Iraq?”

At the February 18, 1998, meeting broadcast by CNN to the world from Columbus, Ohio, Defense Secretary Cohen told us “a 5-pound bag of Anthrax” could “kill half the population of Columbus,” and that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq “was working on a missile that . . . could travel all the way from Baghdad to as far as Paris and perhaps other capitals in Europe and one day even perhaps to the United States.”

At the Columbus meeting Secretary of State Madeleine Allbright said, “The risk that the leaders of a rogue state will use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons against us or our allies is the greatest security threat we face.”

And media moguls and pundits warned us of dire consequences if the world failed to stand up to “Saddam.” The *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* devoted pages to the threat of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction. A dispute over inspection procedures had escalated to the virtual certainty of war.

Now the truth begins to emerge.

A British newspaper, the *Independent*, reported on March 3, 1998,

A senior American ambassador in the Middle East is reported to have told American citizens that Iraq’s biological and chemical warheads were “very ineffective” just at the moment when the U.S. and Britain were saying they posed a real threat which would justify airstrikes on Iraq.

Pictures of Israelis trying out gas masks stand out in contrast to a memo written by an American businessman who attended a briefing at the U.S. embassy in Kuwait on February 3. He reports U.S. ambassador Larocco saying:

Gas masks are not required. No one at the American embassy has gas masks and the American embassy does not recommend any. They are not even interested in finding out a source for gas masks. The main reasons for this decision are the new interceptor missiles

in place in Kuwait and the fact that the biological and chemical warheads are very ineffective.

And on March 6 the *Washington Post*, in an article by Martin van Creveld reported:

Now that the Iraq crisis appears to be over, we can see it for what it truly was. In my view, the threat that Saddam Hussein presents today has been vastly exaggerated both in the United States and here in Israel. With his military force still weakened by the 1991 Persian Gulf War and his economy crippled by seven years of sanctions, the Iraqi president is incapable of mounting a serious assault on anyone by air, land or sea.

We have to ask: How could so many persons in government and media be so wrong about the threat from Iraq when The Wisdom Fund with our meager resources, and readily available facts, could see that the “crisis” was a sham as early as January 26?”

When one looks for common factors shared by key government and media players who “vastly exaggerated” the threat from Iraq, one is immediately struck by the fact that virtually all these players have close ties to Israel.

May 29, 1998

Al-Azhar, Vatican Reach Landmark Agreement

The Roman Catholic Church has reached a landmark agreement on promoting a dialogue between Christians and Muslims.

“After four years of negotiation,” reports *BBC News Online*, “the first joint Islamic-Christian committee in history has been established.”

The agreement was reached between Islam’s most prestigious scholarly institution, Al-Azhar University and Mosque, and the Vatican’s council for interreligious dialogue, headed by Cardinal Francis Arinze.

Al-Azhar is the leading center for Islam’s Sunni division, which comprises 90 percent of the world’s approximately one billion Muslims.

The joint committee will now work to encourage cooperation between the two religions.

Cardinal Arinze, at a dialogue hosted by the National Conference

of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services, was presented “The Truth About Islam”—a 600 word introduction to Islam—by The Wisdom Fund.

June 1, 1998

Rebuffed by U.S., India and Pakistan Storm Nuclear Club

India, with its three underground nuclear tests on May 11, 1998, and Pakistan with its tests two weeks later, have stormed the exclusive nuclear club whose declared membership till now was limited to the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China.

Both India and Pakistan now face U.S. sanctions, and the world faces the specter of nuclear proliferation. Sanctions will do damage to U.S. business interests. Yet it is U.S. business interests, and U.S. policy which are largely to blame for the emergence of India and Pakistan into the nuclear club.

India’s tests, the first nuclear tests by India since 1974, came after the U.S. rejected India’s terms for signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). India asked that in return for India’s signing the CTBT, the U.S. present a schedule for eliminating the U.S. nuclear stockpile. The U.S. refused India’s demand.

India’s demand is consistent with the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in which the five self-declared nuclear powers—the U.S., Russia, Britain, France and China—declared “their intention to achieve at the earliest possible date the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to undertake effective measures in the direction of nuclear disarmament.”

Having signed the NPT the nuclear powers continued to enhance their nuclear capabilities. India and Pakistan, which did not sign the nonproliferation treaty, nevertheless, showed remarkable restraint.

The *New York Times* reported on January 17, 1988, “Up to 1977 there had been over a thousand nuclear tests by the six countries possessing bombs, the overwhelming majority of these, of course, by the United States and the Soviet Union.”

The *New York Times* also reported, “The United States has concealed at least 117 nuclear explosions at its underground test site in the Nevada desert over the past quarter-century.”

And now with NATO expanding, and the U.S. extending nuclear protection to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic against Russia, the U.S. says that India

is not really entitled to nuclear protection from China—a China with which India shares a long, disputed border that has been the subject of a bloody war . . . and a China that has not only refused to enter into any nuclear arms reduction treaties but is expanding its nuclear arsenal,

according to Thomas L. Friedman of the *New York Times*.

Rebuffed by the U.S. refusal to take India’s concerns seriously, on May 3, 1998, India’s Defense Minister George Fernandes stated, “We should not only keep the nuclear option open, but also think about exercising this option to make nuclear weapons.” He spoke of strategic threats from China, from Pakistan, increasing China-Pakistan collaboration, and the transfer of nuclear and missile technology from the U.S. to China. Mr. Fernandes further stated that the “United States has officially admitted that Chinese missiles are pointed towards India.”

On May 11, 1998 India “surprised” the world with five nuclear tests, and joined the U.S., Russia, Britain, France and China in the nuclear club. Israel remains the sole undeclared member.

Pakistan’s response to India’s nuclear test was predictable given the failure of the UN Security Council to take effective action against India, and to extend credible security guarantees to Pakistan. Pakistan has fought three wars with India since both gained independence from the British in 1947, has seen its country dismembered when East Pakistan became independent as Bangladesh, and has a continuing dispute with India over Kashmir. The UN resolution of April 21, 1948, on Kashmir calls for the withdrawal of all outside forces from the State, and a plebiscite under the control of an administrator who would be nominated by the Secretary General. India has consistently refused to hold the plebiscite. This remains the biggest hindrance to improved relations between India and Pakistan.

So India tests nuclear weapons because of its fear of China, Pakistan responds to India’s tests, China fears Russian missiles, Russia fears the

U.S., and the U.S. is in a league by itself. "For 45 years of the Cold War we were in an arms race with the Soviet Union. Now it appears we're in an arms race with ourselves," says Admiral Eugene Carroll, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.), Deputy Director of the Washington based Center for Defense Information.

The U.S. \$265 billion military budget request for 1998 is five and one-half times that of the second largest spender, Russia. According to CDI,

It is nearly eighteen times as large as the combined spending of the seven countries often identified by the Pentagon as our most likely adversaries (North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan and Cuba), and the United States and its close allies spend far more than the rest of the world combined. They spend more than thirty-three times as much as the seven potential "enemies" combined!

The U.S. also remains the world's biggest weapons proliferator. The *Associated Press*, quoting a study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, reported on June 26, 1997, "Global military spending declined in 1996, but weapons exports remained stable, with the United States continuing to be the world's largest arms supplier." The U.S. supplied 44 percent of the world's arms according to the peace institute study.

And the world, no doubt, has learned a lesson from the Gulf War and subsequent events—it's still a jungle out there; only the strong survive.

The world saw the U.S. bomb Iraq back into the pre-industrial age—a punishment grossly out of proportion to the damage inflicted by Iraq on Kuwait. And, says former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark regarding the sanctions imposed on Iraq by the U.S. dominated UN, "More than 1.5 million have died as a result of the sanctions, and at least 5,000 continue to die every month."

And the world saw the genocide in Bosnia and Chechnya while the U.S. dominated UN failed to act.

And the world has seen the U.S. ready to bomb Iraq again on flimsy pretexts. At the February 18, 1998 meeting broadcast by CNN to the world from Columbus, Ohio, Defense Secretary Cohen told us "a 5-pound bag of Anthrax" could "kill half the population of Columbus," and that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq "was working on a missile

that . . . could travel all the way from Baghdad to as far as Paris and perhaps other capitals in Europe and one day even perhaps to the United States.”

While Secretary Cohen was hoping to incite U.S. passions against Iraq, a British newspaper, the *Independent*, reported on March 3, 1998 that,

A senior American ambassador in the Middle East is reported to have told American citizens that Iraq’s biological and chemical warheads were “very ineffective” just at the moment when the U.S. and Britain were saying they posed a real threat which would justify airstrikes on Iraq.

And it’s remarkable that with all the discussion of weapons proliferation Israel’s nuclear arsenal merits little U.S. condemnation or sanctions. CDI estimates that Israel has over 100 nuclear weapons. Estimates of Israel’s nuclear weapons by others are as high as 400 warheads. Reports have also surfaced that Israel is working jointly with the U.S. on a neutron bomb. And Israel has not signed the NPT.

According to former U.S. Congressman Paul Findley, Israel’s “1981 bombing of Iraq’s Osirak nuclear research facility near Baghdad . . . with U.S.-made warplanes and direct U.S. assistance, helped radicalize Iraq.” Iraq, a signatory to the NPT, was in compliance with the NPT which states, “the benefits of peaceful applications of nuclear technology, including any technological by-products which may be derived by nuclear-weapon States from the development of nuclear explosive devices, should be available for peaceful purposes to all Parties to the Treaty.”

Until the U.S. takes credible steps to divest its nuclear arsenal, takes a principled stand toward weapons proliferation by all nations, and forgoes its assault on other nations the nuclear club will continue to attract new members.

[“The U.S. Senate is preparing to take a major step to abandon all pretense that U.S. nuclear forces exist only to deter war. An amendment to the pending Defense Authorization Act for 2001 would lead to the development of a new nuclear weapon designed expressly for fighting. . . . a flagrant repudiation of a solemn pledge the United States made in May at the Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York.”—Eugene J. Carroll Jr., “We Are Taking a Detour From Deterrence,” *Los Angeles Times*, July 14, 2000]

[U.S. has “a program of secret research on biological weapons.”—“US Secretly Experimenting With Germ Warfare,” *New York Times*, September 4, 2001]

June 4, 1998

Israel Blocked CIA Reports, Helped India

Israel has been helping India with its nuclear program for about 20 years, and its agents in the CIA prevented reports of this cooperation from reaching the President.

The *Times* of London revealed today, "Cooperation in missile technology stretches back over two decades and repeated private exchanges between nuclear scientists from both countries were kept secret, according to an Indian source yesterday."

London based Shanti RTV stated that Israeli intelligence agents working for the CIA, ordered CIA chiefs not to pass on the information to U.S. presidents, and to ignore covert bomb deals between India and Israel. We were told, "Israel stole the U.S. and European technology, especially military and computer technology, and exported them in an illegal and pirated form to India ready to pay the price in cash."

Yesterday, Israel's *Ha'aretz* reported, "Kalam [head of India's Defense Research and Development Organization] visited Israel several times . . . while senior Israeli scientists went on reciprocal visits to India, according to a senior Indian scientist." The paper also reported that Professor Brahma Chellaney, of Delhi's Centre for Policy Research, had visited Israel last month.

Israel's Chief of Staff cancelled a visit to India this week because, reported *Yediot Aharonot*, "The sense was that a visit in the wake of the nuclear tests might grant a degree of credibility to the baseless reports that Israel and India were [cooperating] on nuclear arms."

The close ties between Dr. Kalam and his Israeli counterparts suggest parallels with Israel's secret cooperation with South Africa in at least one nuclear test in the late 1970s.

[“The 1979 CIA memorandum, . . . said, ‘Israelis have not only participated in certain South African nuclear research activities over the last few years, but they have also offered and transferred various sorts of advanced non-nuclear weapons technology to South Africa.’”—David Albright and Tom Zamora, “South Africa Flirts With the NPT,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, January/February 1991]

[Mahatma Gandhi rejecting the idea of a Jewish State, said, “It is wrong and inhuman to impose the Jews on the Arabs.”—Prof. A.K. Ramakrishnan, Mahatma Gandhi University, June 13, 1998, based on *The Harijan*, November 11, 1938]

July 14, 1998

Soft Spoken Muslim Hero of World Cup

Zinedine Zidane, a soft spoken Muslim, emerged last Sunday as the hero of the World Cup soccer finals in France.

Son of an Algerian janitor, Zidane, with a flick of his head scored the first two of the three goals which gave France victory over Brazil—favored to win the 16th World Cup. With these two goals, Zidane, in the final match of the World Cup, watched by an estimated 1.7 billion television viewers around the world, became an instant celebrity.

In an impromptu celebration 1,500,000 people packed the two miles along the Champs Elysees yesterday to see their conquering heroes in the middle of a working day. A huge portrait of Zidane was projected on the Arc de Triomphe, and crowds shouted “Zidane! President!” Not since DeGaulle marched triumphantly into Paris in 1944 has France seen such a celebration.

The fact that France won the World Cup, with the “most ethnically diverse team in the competition—African, Arab, Pacific Island, West Indian, Armenian, Breton, Norman, Basque, Provençal” according to the London-based *Independent*, may not change the realities of life for immigrants in late-twentieth century France.

For the moment, however, the latent racism in French society—the most racist society in Europe according to a government survey published last week, was forgotten.

“This team is France. But the improved version,” said the news magazine *Marianne*. “This is the France we would love to see: valiant, stubborn, enterprising, multiracial but accepting its ‘metissage’ (mongrel nature) as a gentle fact of life.”

[“A French high school expelled nine Moslem girls on Monday for defying a government ban on wearing Islamic headscarves in class. The headmaster said 11 other girls were likely to be expelled on Tuesday for wearing the headscarves.”—“French School Expels Nine Moslems in Scarf Row,” *Reuters*, October 24, 1994]

[“The refusal of teachers in three French schools to teach Muslim girls wearing headscarves threatens to reopen a long-running conflict between freedom of religious expression and the secular nature of the public education system.”—Jon Henley, “Islamic Scarves Put Pupils On Outer,” *The Guardian*, January 12, 1999]

July 25, 1998

NY Times Slants Reports, Accommodates Defense, Israel

The *New York Times* slanted its reporting of Iran's, July 22, 1998, medium-range missile test to accommodate the defense establishment and Israeli interests.

The day following Iran's missile test, the *New York Times* front page carried a story headlined, "Iran Said to Test Missile Able to Hit Israel and Saudis." the *New York Times* reported a senior official of the U.S. government saying on Wednesday night, "The weapon, with a range of about 800 miles, is capable of hitting Israel and Saudi Arabia, and of altering the political and military balance of power in the Middle East." Surely, the *New York Times* should have asked, "Why?"

A simple "Why" would have revealed that "Israel has also produced ballistic missiles, against which its potential enemies have no defense," according to the Washington-based Center for Defense Information.

A simple "Why" would have revealed that Israel has 100 plus nuclear weapons according to CDI. Iran has none. Estimates of Israel's nuclear weapons by others are as high as 400 warheads.

A little further investigation would have revealed that, according to CDI,

The highly capable and well-equipped Israeli air force would more than suffice in the nuclear weapons delivery role, particularly with U.S.-supplied aircraft such as the F-4E and F-16. However, Israel has also produced ballistic missiles, against which its potential enemies have no defense. The Jericho I suffices for its immediate adversary of Syria, and the Jericho II brings the entire Middle East under Israel's range, particularly Iran. The Shavit space-launch booster could also be adapted to a long-range nuclear delivery role, and given the decision, Israel would be able to develop an inter-continental ballistic missile.

A little further investigation would have revealed that Israel received the first two of the \$84 million F151 warplanes made by the U.S. in January, and "the \$2.5 billion order for 25 of the world's most advanced fighters, plus spare parts, is due to be completed by the end of this year" as reported by the *Times* of London last month.

However, the *New York Times* neither asked "Why," nor did they

report relevant facts. That, of course, would not fit the “spin” they desired to give the story.

The *New York Times*’ spin on foreign affairs is usually adopted by major media. The *Associated Press* followed up on July 24 by reporting: Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on the Near East and South Asian Affairs, said Wednesday’s test creates “a new and incredibly more dangerous environment for the Middle East.”

Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said if Iran has a missile capable of threatening its neighbors, “what is to stop them from developing the means to deliver such a weapon upon the United States and any of our allies?”

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., reiterated calls for a national missile defense system.

The same day, July 24, the *Times* of London revealed, “The Shehab 3 test [Iran’s missile test] was leaked to the paper [*New York Times*] within hours of its detection by a U.S. spy satellite.”

The leak to the *New York Times* by the intelligence community is part of the continuing effort by the defense establishment to justify bloated defense spending.

The U.S. \$265 billion military budget request for 1998 is five and one-half times that of the second largest spender, Russia. According to CDI,

It is nearly eighteen times as large as the combined spending of the seven countries often identified by the Pentagon as our most likely adversaries (North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan and Cuba). And the United States and its close allies spend far more than the rest of the world combined. They spend more than thirty-three times as much as the seven potential enemies combined!

“For 45 years of the Cold War we were in an arms race with the Soviet Union. Now it appears we’re in an arms race with ourselves,” says Admiral Eugene Carroll, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.), Deputy Director of CDI.

To conclude, the *New York Times* used a self-serving report, leaked by the defense establishment, to slant reporting, thereby, accommodating the defense establishment and Israeli interests.

August 4, 1998

Washington Metro Displays ‘The Truth About Islam’

“The Truth About Islam” will be on display in Metro rail stations in Washington, DC, during the month of August.

Described by visitors to The Wisdom Fund web site as the “best, short introduction to Islam,” the message is displayed in 62 by 44 inch, backlighted “dioramas” on Metro rail station platforms. The display is intended to foster harmony among people of diverse faiths. Designed for the age of the 30-second sound-bite, this unique display conveys the spirit of Islam in less than 600 words.

Since February 1995, “The Truth About Islam” has been published in *Foreign Affairs*, the *Washington Times* on the day of the Million Man March, and in other journals and community papers. It is seen by visitors from 50 to 70 countries each month at The Wisdom Fund’s web site www.twf.org. Posters of “The Truth About Islam” are being displayed in homes, offices, prisons, and mosques. They have been presented to religious leaders and public officials, and are being used as teaching aids in schools and universities.

“The Truth About Islam” display may be seen during August 1998 at the following Metro rail stations: Anacostia, Fort Totten, Judiciary Square, L’Enfant Plaza, McPherson Square, Potomac Avenue, Shaw-Howard University, Stadium-Armory, U Street-Cardoza, Van Ness-UDC.

Posters of “The Truth About Islam” superimposed on a photograph of the Quba mosque, the first mosque constructed by the Prophet, are available from the web site www.twf.org—the text of the message is contained in the Appendix.

[Given widespread misunderstanding of Islam, which U.S. media has done little to dispel, “The Truth About Islam”—and a few other items of information regarding Islam and/or Muslims—are included in this book for the benefit of the reader who has not been exposed to the truth about Islam.]

[“The Truth About Islam” was presented in the August/September 2001 issue of *Teacher Magazine* which is sent to 25,000 teacher-leaders at their home address, and placed in the teacher’s lounge of all of the nation’s 80,000 public schools and 21,000 private and parochial schools.]

August 13, 1998

Kenya, Tanzania Bombs: Truth a Casualty?

Has the media moved too quickly to tie Osama bin Laden to the August 7 bombings in Kenya and Tanzania? We certainly don't know, but we hesitate to jump to hasty conclusions.

In August 1964 the rationale for the Viet Nam war seemed very clear. "American Planes Hit North Vietnam After Second Attack on Our Destroyers; Move Taken to Halt New Aggression," headlined the *Washington Post* on August 5, 1964.

That same day the front page of the *New York Times* stated: "President Johnson has ordered retaliatory action against gunboats and 'certain supporting facilities in North Vietnam' after renewed attacks against American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin."

But there was no "second attack" by North Vietnam—no "renewed attacks against American destroyers." "By reporting official claims as absolute truths," wrote syndicated columnist Norman Solomon on the 30th anniversary of that "attack," "American journalism opened the floodgates for the bloody Vietnam War. A pattern took hold: continuous government lies passed on by pliant mass media leading to over 50,000 American deaths and millions of Vietnamese casualties."

"Much later it was discovered," says Norman Solomon, "that rather than being on a routine patrol August 2, the U.S. destroyer Maddox was actually engaged in aggressive intelligence-gathering maneuvers—in sync with coordinated attacks on North Vietnam by the South Vietnamese navy and the Laotian air force."

In the case of the bombing of United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania certain events merit explanation, and relevant questions need to be answered:

How is it that the Israelis, who for some time have been seeking to attack Iran and dismember Sudan, were first on the scene? Did the Israelis contaminate the crime scene with planted evidence, or remove evidence that may point to them?

Why was the Fairfax rescue squad, ready to travel immediately following the bombing, unable to get an airplane for 24 hours,

and upon arrival in Kenya, prevented from participating in rescue efforts by the Israelis?

Why did Israel, according to an *Associated Press* report of August 12, advise U.S. officials “to treat with skepticism a warning that the U.S. Embassy in Kenya might be the target of a bombing attack?” According to *AP*, “an Israeli security official said the Americans had asked Israeli intelligence to assess the credibility of an intelligence source who had warned of an attack.”

Also, on August 12, the London-based *Independent* reported that the *East African Standard* quotes a UIIS guard, belonging to an American-based company which specializes in government security, as saying that he and other security men were engaged in a gun battle with five armed “Arab-looking” bombers who entered the rear compound. This guard, Joash Okindo allegedly claimed several colleagues were killed in a grenade attack. However, UIIS insists none of its employees died.

The *Independent* also stated, “The problem for the FBI is that if some of the ‘witnesses’ were close enough to see what they claimed to have seen, it is a miracle they lived to tell the tale.” How are these discrepancies in witness accounts explained? And could the “Arab-looking” persons be Israeli agents?

What is the evidence, and how was it obtained, that led to the speedy arrests in Tanzania of the “14 people, including six Sudanese, six Iraqis, a Somali-born Australian and a Turk,” reported by the *Associated Press* on August 12?

We’re told by the media that the near simultaneous bombings in Kenya and Tanzania was the work of “professionals, perhaps state sponsored.” So how is it that those professionals did not plan their escape better?

What is the evidence that points to Osama bin Laden? Was bin Laden’s alleged fatwah the proximate cause of the Kenya/Tanzania bombings? Paraphrasing *Black’s Law Dictionary*: Did the fatwah in a natural and continuous sequence, unbroken by any efficient intervening cause, result in the bombings? Was the fatwah the last negligent act contributory to the bombings, without which the bombings would not have occurred?

And why is it that in the case of the bombing of the Murrah build-

ing in Oklahoma City the media gives so much detail regarding events preceding the bombing, the events following the bombing, and the backgrounds and motivation of the perpetrators, while little of this sort of detail is offered in the case of the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania?

The media, that seeks to titillate us with endless speculation in the O.J. Simpson and Monica Lewinsky matters, seems to have little appetite for critical examination of the “facts” when it comes to anything that can be pinned on Muslims.

Like the events leading to the war in Viet Nam, will truth become a casualty?

August 17, 1998

Kenya, Tanzania Bombs: Perpetrators Caught?

What are we to make of Mohammad Sadiq Howaida who has confessed to his role in the Kenya bombing, and his ties to Osama bin Laden? If past experience is a guide, either we will soon learn that Howaida’s confession is bogus, or the truth may remain hidden for a long time.

About six weeks ago, following the India and Pakistan nuclear tests, Iftikhar Chaudhry, a Pakistani, managed to deceive much of the Indian and U.S. media. Chaudhry, calling himself a senior nuclear research scientist, claimed to have defected to the USA, via Canada, to protest plans by Pakistan to launch a preemptive nuclear attack on India.

The Pakistani “defector,” reported Eric Margolis in the *Toronto Sun*, July 9, 1998, “was offered large sums of money by U.S. newspapers for his story. India’s media trumpeted Chaudhry’s allegations. So did some conservative U.S. newspapers, which have been warning of a sinister plot by Iran, China and Pakistan to target Israel with nuclear weapons.” Chaudhry turned out to be a lowly bookkeeper for a bathroom tile manufacturing firm in Pakistan!

During the World Trade Center bombing trial, the *New York Times* reported that the evidence that Sheikh Rahman even knew of the plan

to bomb the World Trade Center, and other buildings in New York, was scant. The government's primary witness against Sheikh Rahman was an FBI informant, Mr. Emad Salem, who confessed to lying under oath in a previous trial.

Six months before the World Trade Center bombing, the FBI terminated Mr. Salem after he failed several lie detector tests. According to the *New York Times*, following the bombing Mr. Salem was rehired for a fee of over \$1 million. Sheikh Rahman, convicted in the World Trade Center bombing, may well be innocent.

[Mohammad Sadiq Howaida, also known as Abdull Bast Awadh and Mohammed Saddiq Odeh, "says Pakistani investigators refused to let him eat, drink or sleep for three days until he was pressured into a false confession."—"Bombing Suspect Alleges He Was Bullied Into Confession," *Washington Post*, September 4, 1998, p. A08]

August 19, 1998

U.S. Prepares Panama Style Assault on Bin Laden?

Is the U.S. preparing for a Panama style assault on Osama bin Laden for the August 7 bombings in Kenya and Tanzania?

Just yesterday, based on FBI statements, *Reuters* and *Associated Press* reported that Howaida, the bombing suspect picked up in Pakistan, denied his and bin Laden's involvement in the bombing. *AP* reported, "After three days of questioning, a suspect [Howaida] in the twin U.S. Embassy bombings in East Africa has not admitted any role in the crimes or implicated anyone else, the FBI said Monday."

Today, based on statements by "Pakistani intelligence officials who spent a week questioning the man," the *Washington Post* and British media are trumpeting bin Laden's involvement in the Kenya/Tanzania bombings, and terrorism around the globe. The *Washington Post*, in a front page headline reported "Suspect Details Anti-U.S. Terror Force." Does the *Post* know something the FBI doesn't?

How is it that Pakistani intelligence, seemingly so effective in apprehending suspects wanted by the U.S., can't seem to find bombers in its own back yard?

The *Reuters* story denying Howaida's involvement in the bombing seems to have disappeared from the Internet. And, apparently, U.S. and British media, and Pakistani intelligence, are ahead of the FBI in identifying the perpetrators.

What is the evidence that bin Laden, 1 of 25 children we're told, has assets valued at \$300 million which are being used to finance terrorism worldwide? How is it that the U.S. has not found and frozen bin Laden's assets? Is bin Laden's wealth greatly exaggerated, as were Iraq's defenses during the Gulf War?

Is the U.S., frustrated in the investigation of the Khobar barracks bombing, about to resort to an assault on bin Laden so as to send a message to other would-be terrorists?

The timing and circumstances seem right. Pakistan could use an easing of sanctions imposed following their nuclear test. The Taliban, in Afghanistan where bin Laden is residing, seeks United Nations recognition. The reward offered following the Kenya/Tanzania bombing may loosen tongues. And President Clinton could use a break.

A Panama-style assault by the U.S., which resulted in the capture of President Noriega, and the death of 2,500 to 4,000 others, seems imminent. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait resulted in about 360 deaths.

["Today, I ordered our armed forces to strike at terrorist-related facilities in Afghanistan and Sudan because of the threat they present to our national security."—August 20, 1998, 2:00 PM, President Clinton]

["But now some State Department and CIA officials argue that the government cannot justify its actions."—"Decision to Strike Factory in Sudan Based on Surmise," *New York Times*, September 21, 1998]

["The White House ignored Attorney General Janet Reno when she questioned whether evidence linking Islamic extremist Osama bin Laden to the bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa was strong enough to justify retaliatory attacks, *The New Yorker* magazine reported."—"Reno Questioned U.S. Raids," *Associated Press*, October 5, 1998.]

["Some 60,000 soldiers and police officers" have passed through the courses at "the long-notorious School of the Americas." Established in 1946, at Fort Benning, Georgia, "the drug-dealing Gen. Manuel Noriega of Panama was an alumnus, as were the Guatemalan colonel linked to the killing of an American innkeeper in 1990, 19 of the 26 soldiers who murdered a group of Jesuit priests in El Salvador in 1989, and the late Roberto D'Aubuisson, who reputedly organized many of El Salvador's death squads."—"Watching What the Army Teaches," *New York Times*, November 21, 1999]

August 24, 1998

President Clinton Fails Vision, Values Test

President Clinton has failed the fundamental test for Chief Executive Officers.

The primary function of the CEO of any organization is to define the vision and values of the organization.

After almost six years in office, President Clinton's vision for the United States remains undefined.

His values, what we know of them, are unacceptable.

August 27, 1998

U.S. Foreign Policy Invites 'Terrorism'

U.S. foreign policy invites "terrorism." To end it we must end policies that create it.

Graham E. Fuller, former vice-chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA, and Charley Reese, self-described "ex-soldier," now a columnist for the *Orlando Sentinel*, are right on target in their recent articles following the U.S. missile strikes on Sudan and Afghanistan in retaliation for the bombing of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Mr. Fuller writes ("Airstrikes Aren't the Endgame," *Los Angeles Times*, August 24, 1998), "It is dangerous to divorce terrorism from politics, yet the U.S. media continue to talk about an abstract war against terrorism without mention of the issues or context that lie behind them."

Mr. Reese writes ("Face It: U.S. Foreign Policy Contributes to Acts of Terrorism," *Orlando Sentinel*, August 18, 1998), "Terrorism is a political act, a response to U.S. foreign policy. It is an act of war waged by people too weak to have a conventional army or one large enough to take on the United States."

Fuller and Reese identify the realities of U.S. foreign policy, Muslim perceptions, and media obfuscation that serve to perpetuate the cycle of violence. Among these are:

“U.S. support for almost any ruler [often against the wishes of his people] willing to protect U.S. interests—routinely identified in Washington as oil and Israel” says Fuller. And this support usually comes without meaningful input from American Muslims.

While Muslims are virtually excluded from high-level policy making and media, “Jewish Americans,” says Fuller, “occupy nearly every single senior position relating to U.S. Arab-Israeli policy.”

Reese says: “The one-sided support of Israel, even when Israel is clearly an aggressor or an abuser of human rights, creates enemies. When your wife and children are killed with U.S. weapons wielded by a government backed by the United States and protected from UN sanctions by the United States, it doesn’t sit too well.”

Reese adds: “We slapped sanctions on Sudan allegedly because someone in Washington doesn’t like its internal human-rights policies that, you can be sure, are far more humane than China’s or those of some of the African dictators we so ardently supported. I suspect the real reason is the current government won’t cut a deal on the oil discovered in Sudan many years ago.”

Terrorism has no place in this world. But distinguishing the freedom fighter from the terrorist is a matter of perspective. And what we call realpolitik, or power politics, is merely a euphemism for terrorism of another kind.

We have a choice: an endless war on terrorism, or following the path to a just and lasting peace. We will have embarked on the path to peace when we routinely include Muslims, of diverse views, in debates at the level that U.S. policy is made.

[“The Clinton administration will not challenge a lawsuit filed by a Saudi businessman who said the bombing last year of his pharmaceutical plant in Sudan was a ‘mistake’ based on faulty intelligence data. The administration also agreed to release \$24 million in assets that the businessman, Saleh Idris, had deposited in U.S. banks.”—Jerry Seper, “U.S. OKs Payout for Sudan Bombing ‘Mistake,’” *Washington Times*, May 5, 1999]

September 25, 1998

Double Standard Targets Muslim Countries

Allegations of chemical and biological weapons (CBW) production by countries with a majority Muslim population receive wide dissemination, media condemnation, a cruise missile assault, and even threats of a nuclear strike. CBW production by Israel, and treaty violations by the U.S. get barely a mention.

“Hours after they launched cruise missiles at the [Sudan] factory on August 20,” said the *New York Times* (September 21), “senior national security advisers described Al Shifa as a secret chemical weapons factory financed by bin Laden. But now says the *New York Times*, “State Department and CIA officials argue that the government cannot justify its actions.”

Others around the world were immediately suspicious of the official rationale for the U.S. assault; it coincided with the day that Monica Lewinsky was to testify before a grand jury against President Clinton. The *New York Times* reported (August 29), “The plant made both medicine and veterinary drugs, according to U.S. and European engineers and consultants who helped build, design and supply the plant.” “The Al Shifa plant,” said the International Action Center (September 21), “raised Sudan’s self-sufficiency in medicine from 3 percent to over 50 percent and produced enough veterinary medicine for all of Africa.”

About two years ago, a pumping station at Tarhunah in Libya was described, according to the *Washington Post*, as a chemical plant at a Defense Department briefing on April 23, 1996 where a senior defense official stated that the United States would not exclude the use of nuclear weapons to destroy it. Then U.S. Secretary of Defense, William Perry, confirmed that the use of nuclear weapons to destroy this chemical weapons factory was not excluded.

The pumping station turned out to be part of what was labelled by the international press as the Eighth Wonder of the World. A project which when completed will bring five million cubic meters per day of water from desert aquifers to Libya’s coastal cities. It will eventually increase the size of Libya’s arable land by over 70 percent.

And need we mention the suffering of the Iraqi people. The review

of sanctions imposed by the United Nations has been delayed due to traces of VX allegedly found in weapons destroyed by Iraq under UN supervision.

“Before the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq had the Middle East’s most advanced and comprehensive health care system,” says former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. “Now Iraq lacks even basic medicines to treat preventable diseases because of the sanctions. More than 1.5 million have died as a result of the sanctions, and at least 5,000 continue to die every month. Most of the victims are children and elderly people.”

The hypocrisy of the double standard regarding weapons of mass destruction is ignored by the media.

Today, the *Times* of London reported, “Israel’s High Court yesterday suspended plans by the Government of Binyamin Netanyahu to expand a top-secret scientific facility south of Tel Aviv where residents fear biological weapons are being produced, according to the local mayor.”

Further, said the *Times*,

The shadowy biological institute situated in the growing suburban community of Nes Ziona . . . [is] believed by many foreign diplomats to be one of the most advanced germ warfare institutions in the Middle East. Israel has repeatedly accused Arab and Islamic countries hostile to it of manufacturing such weapons on a large scale, but has never admitted possessing biological or chemical weapons, just as it has never owned up to a nuclear capability, although it is an open secret that the country has at least 200 nuclear warheads.

According to the *Washington Post* (September 17), “The United States has violated the Chemical Weapons Convention since it was ratified by the Senate 18 months ago.” According to the Washington based Stimson Center “To say that the United States has set a poor example under the CWC would be a vast understatement. . . . For the past 18 months, the United States has been the malignancy in the midst of the CWC.”

[“Tests of Iraqi missile warheads conducted for the United Nations in Swiss and French laboratories have not found evidence of VX nerve gas.”—John M. Goshko, “New Tests of Iraqi Warheads Don’t Find Nerve Gas,” *Washington Post*, September 28, 1998, p. A12]

October 1, 1998

Should U.S. Bomb Israel's Chemical, Biological Plant?

Should the U.S. bomb Israel's top-secret chemical, biological plant south of Tel Aviv?

The *Times* of London has reported (September 25) the existence of a "shadowy biological institute situated in the growing suburban community of Nes Ziona . . . believed by many foreign diplomats to be one of the most advanced germ warfare institutions in the Middle East."

Today, *Associated Press* reported that an "Israeli cargo jet that crashed in Amsterdam six years ago was carrying chemicals used to produce the deadly sarin nerve gas." According to reports Wednesday in a Dutch newspaper, the respected national daily *NRC Handelsblad*, the El Al plane was carrying 50 gallons of the chemical dimethyl methylphosphonate from "an American company in Pennsylvania and was headed for the Israel Institute for Biological Research in Ness ziona near Tel Aviv." Hundreds of residents in the neighborhood surrounding the crash site are suffering health problems say Dutch newspapers.

Last year, on September 25, Israeli agents in Jordan attempted to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Meshal. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself directed the effort, and a chemical or biological agent was used in the attempt to poison Meshal.

"Israel has repeatedly accused Arab and Islamic countries hostile to it of manufacturing such weapons on a large scale," said the *Times* (September 25), "but has never admitted possessing biological or chemical weapons, just as it has never owned up to a nuclear capability, although it is an open secret that the country has at least 200 nuclear warheads."

At the urging of Israel's friends in Washington, on August 20 this year, the U.S. launched cruise missiles at the Al Shifa pharmaceuticals factory in Sudan. Described by senior national security advisers as a secret chemical weapons factory, plant designer Henry R. Jobe from the U.S., British technical manager Tom Carnaffin, who supervised construction from 1992-96, and Jordanian engineer Mohammed Abul Waheed, who supervised plant production in 1997, have all testified that it would have been impossible for this plant to have produced chemical weapons. "State Department and CIA officials argue," reported the

New York Times (September 21), “that the government cannot justify its actions.”

Should the U.S. bomb Israel’s top-secret chemical, biological plant? If you want to get reelected in the U.S., don’t even think about it. Israel isn’t the Sudan.

[“Israeli assault aircraft have been equipped to carry chemical and biological weapons manufactured . . . at the Institute for Biological Research in a suburb of Nes Ziona 12 miles southeast of Tel Aviv.”—Uzi Mahnaimi, “Israeli jets equipped for chemical warfare,” *Sunday Times*, October 4, 1998]

October 6, 1998

Washington Post Slams ‘Asian Values’

The *Washington Post*, Sunday, October 4 editorial, “Malaysian Justice,” slams the values of Asia—a large, diverse continent, and birthplace of all the major world religions.

The *Post* states in the opening sentences, “The true face of ‘Asian values’ appeared in a Malaysian courtroom a few days ago. It was the face of Anwar Ibrahim, his eye blackened from a police beating . . .” Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad is alleged to be responsible for the beating.

Asia, largest of the earth’s seven continents, covers about one-third of the world’s total land area. It has more than 3.2 billion inhabitants, and accounts for three-fifths of the world’s population.

According to Microsoft’s *Encarta*, Asia is bounded by the Arctic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. The Ural Mountains in Russia form the boundary between Asia and Europe. Asia and Africa are separated by the Red Sea. The *Encarta* also states:

Asia is divided for convenience into five major realms: the areas of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; East Asia, including China, Mongolia, Korea, and Japan; Southeast Asia; South Asia, including the Indian subcontinent; and Southwest Asia, including much of the Middle East.

The continent may also be divided into two cultural realms: that which is Asian in culture (East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South

Asia) and that which is not (Asia of the former U.S.S.R., and South-west Asia).

Asia is the birthplace of all the major world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Taoism.

If, as the *Post* says, the face of Anwar Ibrahim, his eye blackened from a police beating, represents the true face of “Asian values,” then does not the Clinton-Lewinsky affair represent the true face of “American values?”

Of course not. The behavior of one person, regardless of how prominent that person or despicable the act, does not define the values of the population at large.

November 3, 1998

Arafat Salutes Sharon, Surrenders Palestinians

Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat rose to salute Israeli foreign minister Ariel Sharon as he entered the conference room at the Wye River Plantation to begin discussions intended to revive the stalled land for peace process begun in Oslo. In the following days, the salute would symbolize Arafat’s surrender of the Palestinians to the Israeli occupation forces, and of his legitimacy as a leader.

Under the Wye River agreement announced on October 23, for which Israel and the PLO are to receive substantial U.S. aid, Arafat agreed to step up “antiterrorist efforts” in the West Bank, and to eliminate anti-Israel provisions in the PLO founding charter. The Israelis would cede 13 percent more of the territory on the West Bank, and release 750 of the 3,000 political prisoners held without trial in Israeli jails.

Arafat’s “antiterrorist efforts,” to be monitored by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, are intended to further crackdown on Palestinians opposed to the agreement. Arafat agreed to disarm about 10,000 of the PLO police force, stifle dissident voices, and step up arrests following any attack on Israelis, or on the basis of “evidence” provided by Israel.

Whether guilty or innocent, those arrested are not likely to receive

either justice or humane treatment. Amnesty International has faulted the Palestinian Authority and Israel on human rights. *Associated Press*, September 10, 1998, reports, "Israel and the Palestinian Authority have consistently violated human rights in the name of security in the five years since they signed their first peace agreement." There are no provisions in the Wye River agreement for the arrest of militant Israelis.

Israel will continue its policy of settlement expansion, and the demolition of Palestinian homes—a policy which has provoked retaliation by the Hamas resistance, and a further crackdown by Arafat on his own people. In the days following the Wye River agreement, Arafat's forces muzzled Sheikh Yassin, Hamas' spiritual leader, and arrested about 300 Hamas resisters.

The Wye River agreement gives the Palestinians little that was not already promised by Israel under the Oslo accords. Netanyahu appears to have shifted from his opposition to the Oslo accords, but may be using the agreement to raise the standards to be met by the Palestinians, and has delayed Israeli troop withdrawal.

Arafat's surrender may provoke reprisals against the Palestinian Authority. *Associated Press*, November 1, 1998, reported, "The [Palestinian] Authority's security apparatus, its officials and elements, will never be safe" from Hamas' vengeance, said a Washington leaflet faxed to news organizations that was signed by the Izzedine al Qassem brigades, Hamas' military arm.

"Israel's internal security service has warned Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister," according to *The Sunday Times*, October 25, 1998, "that a newly formed Jewish underground may try to bomb Muslim holy shrines or assassinate Arab and Israeli leaders in an effort to stop troops withdrawing from the West Bank."

President Clinton who faces impeachment hearings, and the Democratic party facing elections today, are the clear winners. Israel's security concerns have been addressed, without addressing the security concerns of Palestinians, and any delay helps Israel establish facts on the ground which may predetermine the final outcome of the peace process.

An Israeli investigative commission found Sharon, then defense minister, responsible for the 1982 massacre by Lebanese Christian militia of about 900 men, women, and children at the Sabra and Shatila

refugee camps following Israel's invasion of Lebanon, and the withdrawal of Palestinian guerrilla forces from the city.

At the Wye River Plantation meeting last month, Sharon ignored Arafat's salute.

November 11, 1998

Israel's Willing Executioners

While Israel manufactures weapons of mass destruction, occupies land by force for over 30 years, and has been condemned by the UN Security Council and General Assembly in several dozen resolutions, Israel's willing executioners are preparing to bomb Iraq, and to put Americans unnecessarily at risk.

"Israel has repeatedly accused Arab and Islamic countries hostile to it of manufacturing [weapons of mass destruction] on a large scale," says the *Times* of London (September 25), "but has never admitted possessing biological or chemical weapons, just as it has never owned up to a nuclear capability, although it is an open secret that the country has at least 200 nuclear warheads."

For over 30 years Israel has illegally occupied portions of the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. UN Security Council Resolution 242, passed November 22, 1967, emphasized "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war," and contained the underlying formula for all Middle East peace initiatives since then—land for peace. During this period Israel has brutalized the Palestinians, instigated the massacre of refugees in Lebanon, and bombed the UN supervised refugee camp at Qana. Palestinians have retaliated with suicide bombings.

Iraqi charges of UNSCOM—the organization charged with finding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction—being a U.S.-Israel operation cannot be dismissed.

"According to three officials with direct knowledge of the relationship," says the *Washington Post* (September 29), "Israel had become by July 1995 the most important single contributor among the dozens of UN member states that have supplied information to UNSCOM since

its creation in April 1991. . . . Israel and UNSCOM have protected the operation among their most sensitive secrets.”

BBC News Online reported (November 3) that a British Member of Parliament has said that “four members of the United Nations weapons inspection team in Iraq are Israeli spies. Labour’s George Galloway, who has campaigned against air strikes on Iraq, named four people he alleged were agents of Mossad, the Israeli secret service, working under false names and papers with the UNSCOM team.”

Peter J. Boyer’s article in *The New Yorker* (November 9) confirms that UNSCOM inspector Scott Ritter began exchanging information with Israeli intelligence in 1994. Ritter provided Israel U-2 spy plane photos, which could be used to target Iraq, and Ritter’s inspections were guided by Israel.

Brian Jenkins of CNBC reported (November 11) that NBC has confirmed through their own sources that UNSCOM inspectors have indeed been providing intelligence information, including targeting intelligence information, to the U.S. government.

Meanwhile, sanctions imposed after the 1991 Gulf War have devastated the Iraqi people. According to the International Action Center,

The sanctions have already killed 1.5 million Iraqis over the past eight years. 8,000 more die each month. Sanctions are genocidal weapons of mass destruction and they must be lifted immediately. The weapons inspection process proved itself to be an endless farce. It is incredibly hypocritical for the U.S.—with more weapons than all other countries combined—to be leading the way.

With no end to UN sanctions in sight, Iraq halted cooperation with UN weapons inspectors on October 31, but said it wants a peaceful solution, and has permitted the International Atomic Energy Agency, accompanied by UNSCOM inspectors, to continue inspections unimpeded. Iraq says it has destroyed its weapons of mass destruction, and that “it is the U.S. that is not complying with UN resolutions.”

President Clinton chose the anniversary of the armistice ending World War I to further threaten Iraq. He charges that failure to act “would permanently damage the credibility of the UN Security Council to act as a force for promoting international peace.” It is a phrase reminiscent of Plato’s unnamed Athenian Stranger who favored “seeking peace by making war,” says former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey

Clark. Defense Secretary William S. Cohen warned that U.S. credibility is on the line, and “time is running out for Iraq to avert a military strike.”

To understand the U.S. rush to war one has only to look as far as those advising President Clinton. While Arabs and Muslims are excluded from high-level policy making, “Jewish Americans,” says Graham E. Fuller, former vice-chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA, “occupy nearly every single senior position relating to U.S. Arab-Israeli policy.” One might say the same about U.S. media. Israel is leading the U.S. to war, and Americans may die protecting Israel’s hegemony over the Middle East.

President Clinton is known for his close ties to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. “AIPAC’s former president, David Steiner, resigned in the fall of 1992,” wrote the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* (February/March 1994), “after publication of a tape recording in which he was heard boasting that he was ‘negotiating’ with the Clinton campaign over who would be the new administration’s secretary of state.”

The UN lost credibility during the Gulf War when it hastily passed Resolution 678 authorizing the use of force against Iraq, but failed to prevent Serb massacres in Bosnia and Kosova. President Clinton’s credibility has, to put it charitably, been severely compromised. What is on the line now are American lives, and American values. Israel’s willing executioners are sacrificing both, as they lead us to the genocide of a decimated people.

[“United States officials said on Wednesday that American spies had worked undercover on teams of United Nations arms inspectors ferreting out secret Iraqi weapons programs.”—Tim Weiner, “U.S. Spied on Iraq Under UN Cover, Officials Now Say,” *New York Times*, January 7, 1999]

[“Israel and the United States signed agreements today that will give Israeli scientists access to some types of U.S. nuclear technology. The access had previously been denied because Israel refuses to sign the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.”—“United States to Allow Israeli Scientists Access to Nuclear Technology,” *ABC News*, February 2, 2000]

[“American foreign policy in the Middle East has been devoid of true debate.”—Senator Charles H. Percy, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee]

[“An examination of pro-Israel PACs provides a classic study of the PAC problem in our political system.”—Fred Wertheimer, president of Common Cause]

November 16, 1998

President Clinton Misrepresented Iraq Threat

No evidence UNSCOM found any WMD since 1991

Did President Clinton misrepresent the threat from Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction? Like the "Iraq crisis" in February, we believe this "crisis" too was a sham.

Syndicated columnist Robert D. Novak apparently supports our conclusion. The following are from "One-Man Show on Iraq" by Robert D. Novak (*Washington Post*, November 16, 1998, Op-Ed page):

[Lawmakers] could ask angry Pentagon staff officers why the J-3 operations section started logistical prepositioning a month ago—before Saddam Hussein on October 31 triggered the new crisis by restricting inspectors.

Since UNSCOM (the United Nations inspecting organization) never has on its own been able to find chemical or germ weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, how can Saddam Hussein's denial of inspection rights be considered so grave a threat to U.S. security as to enable Clinton as commander in chief to exercise inherent constitutional powers?

Former congressman, and presidential candidate, Jack Kemp said last week that "his staff can find no evidence of UNSCOM documentation of further weapons finds." Adds Kemp, "Indeed, when I asked [U.S. Treasury Secretary] Rubin about this on Friday, he cited specifically only the weapons pointed out by the Iraqis in 1991, though he added that he had been assured there have been other discoveries."

Peter J. Boyer's article (*The New Yorker*, November 9) gives credence to widely discounted claims Thursday by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz that UNSCOM worked closely with the CIA and the Israeli Mossad.

One Pentagon staffer, writes Mr. Novak, "suspects that the timing of Clinton's response was purely political, designed to offset impeachment proceedings." Had the U.S. proceeded with the bombing of Iraq, aborted 18 minutes before the scheduled launch, the Pentagon estimates that 10,000 Iraqis would have been killed.

November 17, 1998

Wye Not Peace, Accords Dead on Arrival

The Wye River Accords announced October 23, 1998 were dead on arrival, and are more likely to lead to continued strife, and perhaps civil war, rather than to peace.

Amidst the hoopla surrounding the White House announcement by President Clinton, and the Chairman Arafat-President Netanyahu handshake, no mention was made of the basic dispute between the Palestinian Authority, and the State of Israel—statehood, borders, refugees, settlements, home demolitions, water rights, Jerusalem. Instead the announced accords require the Palestinian Authority to take measures aimed at guaranteeing the security of Israel, while Israel is not required to take any measures to guarantee the security of Palestinians.

With Arafat's self-imposed, May 4, 1999, deadline for the announcement of a Palestinian state fast approaching (May 4 being the date for completion of the peace process under the Oslo agreement), the accords seem aimed at placing more conditions on the Palestinians for return of territories occupied by Israel, and for giving Netanyahu an excuse to deny the return of those territories. They also require Arafat to take repressive measures guaranteed to increase divisions among Palestinians, and may even lead to civil war.

Under the October 23 accords, Chairman Arafat agreed to step up "antiterrorist efforts" in the West Bank, and to eliminate anti-Israel provisions in the PLO founding charter. The Israelis agreed to cede 13 percent more of the occupied territory on the West Bank, and release 750 of the 3,000 political prisoners held without trial in Israeli jails.

Arafat's "antiterrorist efforts," to be monitored by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, are intended to further crackdown on Palestinians opposed to the agreement. Arafat agreed to disarm about 10,000 of the PLO police force, stifle dissident voices, and to arrest Palestinians on the basis of "evidence" provided by Israel. In the days following the announced accords, Arafat's forces muzzled Sheikh Yassin, Hamas' spiritual leader, and arrested about 300 of the Hamas resistance.

The Wye River accords could hardly have been more fortuitous for President Clinton, and the Democratic Party. At the November 8 elec-

tions, rather than expected victories, the Republican Party lost ground, and President Clinton's chances for impeachment receded with the humbled Republican Party scrambling to find a way out of the impeachments hearings. "God, I'd like to forget all of this. I mean, who needs it?" said Judiciary Chairman Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill).

As for the Palestinians, the New York based Human Rights Watch stated:

The history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is replete with serious human rights violations—arbitrary arrest, torture, and unfair trials—that the parties have tried to justify by invoking security concerns. . . . Instead of creating strong mechanisms to prevent such violations, many sections of the Wye River [Accord] can be read as encouraging them.

According to the *Washington Post* (November 6),

In most of the Middle East the interim peace accord that emerged from the Wye Plantation talks last month has landed with a thud, eliciting caution, at best, and outright disdain among those who see the agreement as a betrayal of Palestinian aspirations to regain all of the West Bank lands occupied by Israel.

"The reaction in such hard-line states as Iran, Syria, and Libya has been characteristically harsh," says the *Washington Post*, and "has failed to spark much emotion or hope even in such moderate states as Egypt, a close ally of the United States and a staunch supporter of the peace process since it became the first Arab state to make peace with Israel in 1979."

"How much baksheesh did Clinton have to dish out?" asks Eric Margolis, *The Toronto Sun* (October 25), "President Jimmy Carter's much ballyhooed Camp David agreement was the biggest bribe in history. Israel got U.S. \$3 billion and Egypt \$800 million—annually. Additional sums were covertly paid to Sadat and his cronies. Israel got lots of secret goodies."

The predictable results of Arafat's surrender to United States' largess, and to the Israeli occupation force are evident.

Izzedine al Qassem brigades, Hamas' military arm, in a leaflet faxed to news organizations announced: "The (Palestinian) Authority's security apparatus, its officials and elements, will never be safe."

"Israel's internal security service has warned Benjamin Netanyahu," according to the *Sunday Times* (October 25), "that a newly formed Jew-

ish underground may try to bomb Muslim holy shrines or assassinate Arab and Israeli leaders in an effort to stop troops withdrawing from the West Bank.”

And in Israel and the occupied territories the killings go on. *Associated Press* reports:

October 26—Two Palestinians commandeer the car of a Jewish settler in the West Bank town of Hebron, kill him and dump his body by the side of the road. An elderly Palestinian farmer is bludgeoned to death near a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, and an Israeli suspect is arrested.

October 29—A suicide bomber drives a car rigged with explosives into an Israeli jeep escorting a school bus in the Gaza Strip. The assailant and a soldier are killed. Hamas claims responsibility.

November 6—Two suicide bombers drive a car packed with explosives into the Mahane Yehuda outdoor market in Jerusalem, killing themselves and injuring 21 Israelis. Hamas claims responsibility.

These incidents, as expected, have given Israel the excuse it needed to delay ratification of the Wye River accords, and to continue its policy of settlement expansion.

Netanyahu has said he will not move forward with implementing the Wye River Accords until the Palestinians do more to combat Islamic militants. According to *Associated Press* (November 11), “Netanyahu aides have also said that construction in the Jewish neighborhood of Har Homa in traditionally Arab East Jerusalem would begin in the near future.”

BBC News Online reports (November 16) that Israel’s Foreign Minister, Ariel Sharon, days before he was due to lead negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories, said in a speech to members of one of Israel’s extreme right parties. “Everyone should take action, should run, should grab more hills, . . . We’ll expand the area. Whatever is seized will be ours. Whatever isn’t seized will end up in their hands.”

Meanwhile, Netanyahu demands that Hamas’ military wing, Izeddine al Qassam, and the military wing of Islamic Jihad be outlawed. The Palestinian Authority says it outlawed them in 1996. “As for Jerusa-

lem,” says Netanyahu, “I have old news for our Palestinian neighbors: Jerusalem was, is, and will be the capital of the state of Israel.”

Associated Press reported (November 16) that Netanyahu “suspended a West Bank troop pullback Monday and demanded that Yasser Arafat retract threats to use force to bring about a Palestinian state.” If Israel refuses to carry out the withdrawals on time, says Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour the agreement is “as good as dead.”

[UN Security Council Resolution 242, passed November 22, 1967, emphasized “the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,” and contained the underlying formula for all Middle East peace initiatives since then—land for peace. In exchange for withdrawing from Egyptian, Jordanian, and Syrian territory captured in the 1967 war, Israel was promised peace by the Arab states. This resolution is the basis for peace talks begun in Madrid, Spain, in 1991.]

December 12, 1998

Sir Syed’s Vision for Education

Speech given by author, at Aligarh Muslim University in India, during the inaugural session of the American Federation of Muslims from India (AFMI) conference commemorating the centenary of the death of the university’s founder—Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

Thank you Vice Chancellor Mahmood-ur-Rehman, honored guests, faculty, and students. While I am descended from Sir Syed, I cannot claim to be an expert on his life and vision. I can only surmise what his vision must have been for the Muslims of India.

I believe his vision would have been based upon the condition of Muslims of that time, his perceptions of where the world was headed, and his knowledge of history. Using these same considerations, one may surmise what priority Sir Syed would have given to education today.

Therefore, the question I would like to present is, what is the priority that education deserves? In other words, what priority should we as individuals, as a family, as a society, give to education?

History may shed light on this issue. Being an engineer by profession, my knowledge of history is limited. It was the Gulf War of 1991 that evoked my interest in history. My focus, because of the principal

parties to the Gulf War, became Islam, the United States, and eventually the European colonization since 1492. I would like to share, very briefly, what I learned during the past seven years.

Let us begin with the spread of Islam.

When Prophet Muhammad died in 632, he was the effective leader of all of southern Arabia. By 711, the Arabs had swept completely across North Africa to the Atlantic Ocean. In less than 100 years, the Bedouin tribesmen, inspired by the word of the Prophet, had carved out an empire stretching from the borders of India to the Atlantic Ocean—the largest empire that the world had yet seen.

Some have said this empire was carved out by the sword. Swords, while used by Muslim armies, cannot account for the spread of Islam. One example is sufficient to challenge the thesis that Islam was spread by the sword—Indonesia.

Indonesia is the largest Muslim country, with its people living on about 6,000 islands. No Muslim armies landed in Indonesia. Islam spread across Indonesia with the example of Muslim traders.

What was the message these traders offered that led to Islam's rapid spread?

Simply put, they spoke of the Oneness of God, the unity of mankind, and that goodness is the only measure of a person's worth. Man was urged to search for knowledge, to care for the poor, the infirm, the orphan, and to respect all faiths. The Quran says:

For each we have appointed a divine law and traced out the way. Had Allah willed He could have made you one community. But that He may try you by that which He hath given you He made you as ye are. So vie one with another in good works. Unto Allah you will all return, and will then inform you of that wherein you differ.—(5:48)

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a leader of India's independence movement, twice president of the Indian National Congress, renowned scholar, and India's first education minister, said:

The unity of man is the primary aim of religion. The message which every prophet delivered was that mankind were in reality one people and one community, and that there was but one god for all of them, and on that account they should serve Him together and live as members of one family. Such was the message which every religion delivered. But curiously, the followers of each religion dis-

carded the message, so much so, that every country, every community and every race resolved itself into a separate entity and raised groupism to the position of religion.

The Quran is replete with verses inviting man to use his intellect, to ponder, to think and to know, for the goal of human life is to discover the Truth. Prophet Muhammad tells us, "The first thing created by god was the Intellect." And he also says, "One learned man is harder on the devil than a thousand ignorant worshippers." His words exhort us to, "Go in quest of knowledge even unto China," and to, "Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave." And where did the search for knowledge lead Muslims?

Islam gave the world its first true democracy.

M. N. Masud, private secretary to Maulana Azad, UNESCO mission chief to Indonesia, ambassador to Saudi Arabia writes in *Understanding Islam*:

If true democracy is not confined to the form or model of government but is the way of life of a people wherein man is treated with respect and given dignity, irrespective of what he is or what he is not, then Islamic society, from the very birth of Islam, has been nearest to the ideal, much nearer to it than has been, perhaps, any other society in the recorded history of man.

I'm sure that Western audiences would immediately challenge this assertion. They may say that Greece was the first democracy. Not true. Greece was an oligarchy (where a few ruled the many). Slaves had no voice in their society, and neither did women.

Other Western audiences may point to the United States and its Declaration of Independence of 1776. But the U.S. too was an oligarchy. Slaves, women, white men without property, and "the merciless Indian Savages" had no voting rights. There are respected American writers who say that the U.S. is an oligarchy even today.

Islam was responsible for numerous advances in science, mathematics, medicine, liberal arts, and for Europe's renaissance.

The Muslims founded many centers of learning. Europeans flocked to Spain to study under Muslim scholars. Arabic was the language of Jewish, Christian and Muslim scholars in Europe until the fall of Muslim Spain in 1492.

His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, in a major speech titled “Islam and the West,” said:

Not only did Muslim Spain gather and preserve the intellectual content of ancient Greek and Roman civilization, it also interpreted and expanded upon that civilization, and made a vital contribution of its own in so many fields of human endeavour—in science, astronomy, mathematics, algebra (itself an Arabic word), law, history, medicine, pharmacology, optics, agriculture, architecture, theology, music. . . .

Cordoba in the 10th century was by far the most civilized city of Europe. . . . Many of the traits on which Europe prides itself came to it from Muslim Spain. Diplomacy, free trade, open borders, the techniques of academic research, of anthropology, etiquette, fashion, alternative medicine, hospitals, all came from this great city of cities. Medieval Islam was a religion of remarkable tolerance for its time, allowing Jews and Christians to practice their inherited beliefs, and setting an example which was not, unfortunately, copied for many centuries in the West. . . .

[Islam] has contributed so much towards the civilization which we all too often think of, wrongly, as entirely Western. Islam is part of our past and present, in all fields of human endeavour. It has helped to create modern Europe. It is part of our own inheritance, not a thing apart.

How did the Muslims accomplish this, and what does this say about the priority these Muslims gave to education?

Perhaps the answer lies in Will Durant’s *Story of Civilization* (vol. IV, p. 237). Mr. Durant writes:

When Baghdad was destroyed by the Mongols it had thirty-six public libraries. Private libraries were numberless. It was a fashion among the rich to have an ample collection of books. A physician refused the invitation of the Sultan of Bokhara to come and live at his court, on the ground that he would need 400 camels to transport his library. Al-Waqidi, dying, left 600 boxes of books, each box so heavy that two men were needed to carry it. Princes like Sahab ibn Abbas in the 10th century might own as many books as could be found in all the libraries of Europe combined.

These words of Will Durant say a lot about Muslims’ thirst for knowledge at the time that Islam was at its zenith.

I believe, also, these words say a lot about the priority Sir Syed must have given to education. We as individuals, as a family, as a society, should do no less.

["O mankind! We created you from a single soul, male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, so that you may come to know one another. Truly, the most honored of you in God's sight is the greatest of you in piety. God is All-Knowing, All-Aware."—*The Quran*, 49:13]

["Do not dispute with the people of the Book (Jews, Christians, Sabeans), unless it be in a way that is better, save with such of them as do wrong; and say: We believe in that which has been revealed unto us, and revealed unto you; our God and your God is One, and unto Him we surrender.— *The Quran*, 29:46]

[Jahangir, the Moghul Emperor, took instruction from a Hindu teacher called Jadrup and said: 'His Vedanta is the same as our tasawwuf' (Sufism). The famous Sufi Ibrahim Ibn Adham said: 'My Master in Spiritual Knowledge was a (Christian) monk called Father Simeon.'—Cyril Glasse, *The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam*, p. 379]

["You are asking me a question that is absurd. What I have already said is like throwing water on a duck's back. When you talk of democracy, I am afraid you have not studied Islam. We learned democracy 13 centuries ago."—Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan]

December 18, 1998

Polls as Predictable as Hitler's Willing Executioners

Poll results showing the American public solidly behind the U.S. bombing of Iraq reveal nothing more than the effectiveness of the propaganda war against Saddam Hussein, Arabs, Muslims, and Islam.

After years of biased media coverage of events relating to Arabs and Muslims, how else is the American public to react?

Thoughtful voices opposed to U.S. imperial policies are seldom heard. How often are persons like former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, professor and prolific writer Noam Chomsky, historian Howard Zinn, or informed journalists like Robert Fisk asked to appear on major TV news or talk shows? How often do we see lawyers on network TV arguing the fine points of law relating to U.S. foreign affairs like they do in the domestic affairs of O.J. Simpson, Monica Lewinsky, and President Clinton?

Self-serving media critics fail to inform the public, or chastise the media, when elementary rules of journalism are not followed.

Is it not relevant when one writes about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, to mention neighboring Israel's? Is it not relevant when

one writes of Iraq's violation of UN resolutions to mention Israel's? Is it not relevant when one writes of Iraq's use of chemical or biological weapons to mention Israel's, Britain's, and ours?

Would the poll results be any different if Americans were told that the U.S. invasion of Panama to seize President Noriega (itself a violation of international law) resulted in about ten times as many deaths as did Iraq's invasion of Kuwait?

After years of biased media coverage, the results of polls regarding the U.S. bombing of Iraq are as predictable as those of a lynch mob, or of Hitler's willing executioners.

December 22, 1998

Clinton Manufactured Crisis, Violated Constitution

President Clinton, in launching the massive December 16 attack on Iraq, used a manufactured crisis to deceive the American people, and to bypass Congress' power to declare war.

Warplanes aboard the USS Enterprise, combined with more than 200 cruise missiles from eight Navy warships, converged on Iraqi targets at 5:06 P.M. EST (1:06 A.M. Baghdad time). Over a four-day period, reports U.S. Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni, who oversaw the Iraq attack, 300 strike fighters, bombers and support aircraft flew 600 sorties, more than half of them at night. Another 40 ships took part in the attack, with 10 of them firing cruise missiles. More than 600 bombs were dropped, 90 cruise missiles fired from the air and another 300 from ships at sea.

The United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) report Mr. Clinton used as cause for war, says syndicated columnist Robert D. Novak ("Wag the Congress," *Washington Post*, December 21), contains six complaints cited by Richard Butler, executive chairman of UNSCOM. These complaints "reflect Saddam Hussein's obnoxious style but do not compare to more than 400 unimpeded inspections reported by Iraq since cooperation resumed November 14."

Mr. Novak provides an example of the type of incidents Mr. Clinton used to justify the attack on Iraq. “On December 9 weapons inspectors from UNSCOM, acting on a tip, showed up without notification at the Baghdad headquarters of the ruling Baath Party to search for ballistic missile components. The Iraqi escorts, citing a 1996 agreement, said only four inspectors could enter.”

The Butler report itself was a setup.

According to Rowan Scarborough of the *Washington Times* (“Did White House Orchestrate a Crisis?” December 18), Scott Ritter, a former UN inspector, said Mr. Butler conferred with the Clinton administration’s national security staff on how to write his report of noncompliance before submitting it to the UN Security Council. The former inspector said the White House wanted to ensure the report contained sufficiently tough language on which to justify its decision to bomb Iraq. “I’m telling you this was a preordained conclusion. This inspection was a total setup by the United States,” said Ritter. Mr. Ritter resigned from UNSCOM in August, accusing the Clinton administration of interfering in how and when inspections were carried out.

The decision to attack Iraq was made before the Butler report was submitted to the UN Security Council.

The MacLaughlin Group (NBC, December 18) reported that while the president told the nation Wednesday night that the attack was triggered by this Butler report, the “time line into the bombing itself shows that the president ordered airstrikes 48 hours before he saw the report.”

Mr. Clinton’s reference to Iraq’s nuclear weapons was completely at odds with the report of the agency charged with reporting on Iraq’s clandestine nuclear weapons capabilities.

The MacLaughlin Group reported that there is another report that was filed with the UNSCOM report: the International Atomic Energy Agency report. The IAEA worked hand in glove with UNSCOM. The agency is charged with determining any Iraqi clandestine nuclear weapons capabilities. This week the IAEA filed a companion separate report, accompanying the UNSCOM report, that went largely unnoticed. In it, the IAEA gives Iraq a clean nuclear bill of health, describing Iraq’s level of cooperation as, “efficient and effective.”

President Clinton told another lie, says Howard Zinn, professor

emeritus of history at Boston University, and author of the bestselling *A People's History of the United States*. Mr. Clinton said that other nations besides Iraq have weapons of mass destruction, but Iraq alone has used them. Says Prof. Zinn,

He could only say this to a population deprived of history. The United States has supplied Turkey, Israel, and Indonesia with such weapons, and they have used them against civilian populations. But the nation most guilty is our own. No nation in the world possesses greater weapons of mass destruction than we do, and none has used them more often, or with greater loss of civilian life. In Hiroshima hundreds of thousands died, in Korea and Vietnam millions died as a result of our use of such weapons.

Mr. Zinn's words echo those of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., cited by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, in a December 20 letter sent to each member of the Security Council. Said Rev. King, "The greatest purveyor of violence on earth is my own government."

Presidential candidate Patrick J. Buchanan ("Failed President, Flawed Policy," December 18) says,

It is time to ask how grave a threat Iraq is to America. In the Gulf War, Iraq did not attack us; we attacked Iraq. We launched the round-the-clock air strikes with 2,000 planes for six weeks; Iraq fired back a handful of scuds. Iraq killed scores of Americans; we killed thousands of Iraqis. Yes, Saddam makes "war on his own people," but who inflicts the greater suffering—Saddam or a U.S.-led embargo that has claimed the lives of 239,000 children, 5 years old and under, since 1990?

Presidential candidate Jack Kemp, in a December 18 letter to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said that "reports coming out of the Pentagon and from a former UN weapons inspector raise a number of serious and troubling questions that, in my opinion, vindicate your skepticism. These questions are so troubling that I believe they warrant immediate congressional inquiries."

Matthew Rothschild, editor of the *Progressive Magazine*, writes ("An Attack That Makes No Sense," *Los Angeles Times*, December 17, 1998):

The U.S. bombing campaign against Iraq is an act of war not sanctioned by international law or by the U.S. Constitution. Within 72 hours of his grand jury appearance in August, Clinton bombed Sudan and Afghanistan. Now, the day before he faced impeachment, he attacks Baghdad and other locations in Iraq. Our founders gave Congress the sole power to declare war. Congress has not is-

sued such a declaration in this instance. According to international law, a country can take unilateral action against another country only for the purpose of self-defense. But this bombing attack can hardly be called an act of self-defense. Saddam has not attacked the United States and does not pose an imminent threat to us.

Last Wednesday, Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) called on President Clinton to resign for the good of the country and the safety of American soldiers. “Once again President Clinton is using American troops to deflect attention from his record of lies, distortions, obstruction of justice and abuse of power.”

In a little noticed speech on the House floor on Thursday, Rep. David Skaggs (D-CO) said: “President Clinton acted in violation of the Constitution in ordering these attacks without authority of Congress.”

[Scott Ritter claimed that Richard Butler, “deliberately planned UN inspections in 1998 to orchestrate a confrontation between Iraq and the UN so the United States could carry out its threats to bomb Iraq.” Ritter made the allegations in a documentary film, “In Shifting Sands . . . the Truth About UNSCOM and the Dismantling of Iraq,” shown to journalists at the UN.—Ronni Berke, “Ex-UN Inspector in Iraq: U.S. Set Up Air Raids,” CNN New York Bureau, July 19, 2001]

January 18, 1999

Defense Increase Jeopardizes Social Security, Medicare

“Islamic terrorism” helps justify defense spending

Desperate to fend off the Republican-led impeachment process, President Clinton has agreed to an \$124 billion increase in defense spending over seven years, thereby, jeopardizing his earlier commitments to education, social security, medicare, and programs for the poor.

Measured in 1995 dollars, U.S. defense spending has declined from a Cold War high of around \$375 billion in 1988 to around \$265 billion in 1997, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Defense spending for the U.S.S.R. was around \$260 billion in 1988. With the break up of the U.S.S.R., Russia’s defense spending has declined to around \$30 billion annually. Nevertheless,

U.S. military leaders warned that funds were needed to fill alarming gaps in military readiness.

“The scope of the problem was driven home,” writes Bradley Graham (*Washington Post*, January 14), after Clinton “listened to generals and admirals cite mounting pilot shortages, ships cruising without full crews, rising cannibalization of parts from inactive weapons to make active ones and cutbacks in army training.”

Others remain unconvinced of the need for defense spending increases.

“Here we go again,” says Rear Admiral Eugene Carroll, USN (Ret.), Deputy Director at the Center for Defense Information, “The U.S. already spends substantially more for military forces than any other nation, with no significant threats to our national security. We’re engaged in an arms race with ourselves.”

“Americans don’t need to spend more money for military security,” says Admiral Carroll. He adds,

What we should do is to quit wasting money on forces and weapons we don’t need to fight nonexistent enemies abroad. Instead, we ought to use the same dollars to address pressing national needs such as improved education, medical care, housing and law enforcement right here at home.

Former U.S. presidential candidate Patrick J. Buchanan, writing in *The American Cause* (January 12) asks, “With the Cold War over, why invite terrorist attacks on our citizens and country, ultimately with biological, chemical or nuclear weapons? No nation threatens us.”

Mr. Buchanan cites a paper by the Cato Institute’s Ivan Eland, “Does U.S. Intervention Overseas Breed Terrorism? The Historical Record,” which documents how attacks on the U.S., or on U.S. citizens, were a direct result of U.S. intervention. Mr. Buchanan’s examples include Pearl Harbor, Viet Nam, Palestine, Lebanon, Libya, Iran, Somalia, and Saudi Arabia.

Says Mr. Buchanan,

America is the only nation on Earth to claim a right to intervene militarily in every region of the world. But this foreign policy is not America’s tradition; it is an aberration. During our first 150 years, we renounced interventionism and threatened war on any foreign power that dared to intervene in our hemisphere.

But the Pentagon has resisted budget cuts for a decade—despite shortfalls in funding for education, medical care, and infrastructure.

Former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, and Lawrence J. Korb, an assistant secretary of defense during the Reagan administration, in their December 11, 1989 testimony before the Senate Budget Committee, stated that U.S. defense spending could safely be cut in half over the next five years.

Anxious to protect cold war levels of defense spending, the Pentagon manufactured the threat of Islamic fundamentalism (Leon T. Hadar, *The Green Peril: Creating the Islamic Fundamentalist Threa*), rogue states and nuclear outlaws (Michael T. Klare, *Rogue States and Nuclear Outlaws*).

While Russia's defense spending declined to about 15 percent of Cold War levels, U.S. defense spending declined to about the 70 percent level. The accompanying chart, based on information from SIPRI, shows annual defense spending in billions (1995 \$) for the U.S., its allies, and potential adversaries.

The total defense spending of all the "rogue states," Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea and Syria, remains at about \$15 billion annually. Iran and Iraq spent only \$3.3 billion and \$1.2 billion respectively in 1996.

Defense Spending (Billions 1995 \$)

| | US/Allies | US | Allies | Russia | China/India | Rogues |
|------|-----------|-----|--------|--------|-------------|--------|
| 1988 | 527 | 380 | 147 | 260 | 13 | 15 |
| 1989 | 523 | 375 | 148 | 240 | 14 | 15 |
| 1990 | 518 | 370 | 148 | 200 | 14 | 15 |
| 1991 | 468 | 320 | 148 | 125 | 14 | 15 |
| 1992 | 473 | 335 | 138 | 50 | 14 | 15 |
| 1993 | 458 | 325 | 133 | 48 | 15 | 15 |
| 1994 | 431 | 300 | 131 | 41 | 16 | 15 |
| 1995 | 406 | 280 | 126 | 26 | 16 | 15 |
| 1996 | 395 | 270 | 125 | 23 | 16 | 15 |
| 1997 | 387 | 265 | 122 | 25 | 17 | 15 |

The total defense spending of Russia, China, and India is about 50 percent that of U.S. allies—the United Kingdom, Germany, and France—and less than 15 percent that of the U.S. plus its allies.

Scaling back defense spending, and restructuring U.S. spending to better meet the needs of the new millennium, a daunting task for any president, was within Mr. Clinton's grasp. But this immensely popular Democratic president, crippled by his private behavior, caved in to the Pentagon. Mr. Clinton squandered, what may have been his last chance, to leave a positive mark on history.

William Hartung, senior fellow of the World Policy Institute, claims that "a Monica-weakened Clinton bowed last fall to the Pentagon's demands for more funding" (*Milwaukee Sentinel & Journal*, January 11). Mr. Hartung contends that "the arms industry has launched a concerted lobbying campaign aimed at increasing military spending and arms exports. These initiatives are driven by profit and pork barrel politics, not by the objective assessment of how best to defend the United States in a post-cold war period."

Mr. Clinton, having cut welfare spending by \$55 billion over six years in 1996, is giving defense \$124 billion spending increase. The surplus which was to have been targeted for education, Social Security, Medicare, and for the poor will be used to fight U.S. provoked "terrorism."

Having bombed a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan and huts in Afghanistan to divert attention from Monica Lewinsky's testimony before the grand jury, having "flattened an agricultural school, damaged at least a dozen other schools and hospitals and knocked out water supplies for 300,000 people in Baghdad" (*Reuters*, January 6) at the start of the impeachment process, Mr. Clinton has now jeopardized the needs of the poor, the infirm, and the middle class, to woo the Republicans during his trial in the U.S. Senate.

["Under Boris Yeltsin, conventional forces bore the brunt of downsizing and shrinking budgets. Priority was given to the strategic nuclear force, which today is Russia's only real claim to status as a military power. Russia still has a standing force of 1.5 million troops, slightly larger than the one maintained by the United States, but the budget will be only \$4 billion this year, compared with the Pentagon's \$284 billion."—Steven Lee Myers, "Russia Fights Stalinist Battles With American Tactics," *New York Times*, January 16, 2000]

["A privately launched spy satellite has revealed what American Intelligence has kept secret for years—that North Korea's only operational missile test centre is a primitive facility consisting of a 'shed, a dirt road, a launch pad and a rice paddy.' Missile experts in the United States dismissed Washington's fears that the rogue nation now posed a serious threat to America's security."—Michael Evans, "Spy Pictures Show Korea's Empty Threat," *Times*, January 12, 2000]

February 15, 1999

Rogue State Par Excellence

By any objective criteria, based upon generally accepted norms for civil society, the rogue state par excellence is not among the frequently cited group of states—Cuba, Libya, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and Syria.

The rogue state par excellence has carried on a campaign of international terrorism and genocide, has refused to abide by international law or treaties, has violated norms of civil society, and has defied world opinion to a degree unmatched by the frequently cited “rogue states.” Some recent examples:

August 20, 1998—After two embassies, in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, had been blown up, this rogue state launched a missile strike on the El Shifa pharmaceutical factory in Sudan, thereby, destroying more than 50 percent of this impoverished nations’ medicine producing capability. Today the London-based *Independent* reports that an investigation of the missile attack by Kroll Associates has concluded that there was no evidence to link the facility or its owner to international terrorism.

August 20, 1998—This rogue state fired 75 cruise missiles into the east of Afghanistan. The missile strike was described as a blow at Osama bin Laden’s camp for training terrorists. A few huts were destroyed, and several civilians killed or injured.

December 16, 1998—On the pretext that Iraq was not cooperating with the United Nations Special Commission, this rogue state launched a massive attack on Iraq. Over a four-day period 300 strike fighters, bombers and support aircraft flew 600 sorties, more than half of them at night. Another 40 ships took part in the attack, with 10 of them firing cruise missiles. More than 600 bombs were dropped, 90 cruise missiles fired from the air and another 300 from ships at sea.

These attacks, in which this rogue state acted as judge, jury, and executioner, violated the United Nations charter, and Security Council resolutions. They were almost universally condemned.

Using its \$265 billion per year military machine, its economic power, and \$97 million appropriated for the purpose of toppling the Iraqi gov-

ernment, this rogue state has maintained crippling sanctions on Iraq whose military outlays were \$3 billion annually at their peak, and about \$1.2 billion recently. According to UNICEF statistics cited by Dennis Halliday, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq who resigned in protest, these sanctions have been killing five or six thousand children every month since the 1991 Gulf War.

Also, as a result of at least one million rounds of ammunition, coated with a radioactive material known as depleted uranium (DU), fired upon a retreating Iraqi army at the close of the Gulf War, three times more children are being born with congenital deformities than before the Gulf war reports the London-based *Guardian/Observer* (December 21, 1998). In both Britain and the United States, veterans of that same war are coming forward with reports of sick and dying children.

Since mid-January of this year, this rogue state has been dropping bombs on Iraqi radar and missile sites, none of which violate any law or treaty. Frequently, civilians are killed and injured. This is done under the guise of protecting dissident groups in Iraq. The “no fly zones” imposed upon Iraq by this rogue state and its allies have no basis in law or treaty, and are a flimsy cover for violating the airspace of a sovereign nation.

The *Washington Post* (December 22) reported last year that this rogue state announced its decision to use a commercial reactor for military nuclear programs. This breaks a 53-year nonproliferation policy it has long urged upon other countries, most recently North Korea, India and Iraq, not to use nuclear power reactors to produce plutonium or highly-enriched uranium, two other key components of nuclear bombs.

About a week ago, the *Associated Press* (February 10) reported that this rogue state conducted an underground nuclear test. It was the sixth such test by this rogue state since a 1992 global ban on test explosions of nuclear weapons.

This rogue state has violated the Chemical Weapons Convention since it was ratified (*Washington Post*, September 17). According to the Washington based Stimson Center, “For the past 18 months, the [rogue state] has been the malignancy in the midst of the CWC.”

Now this rogue state proposes to violate the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty. Its current budget proposal contains \$6.6 billion for a national

missile defense system using space-based sensors, and ground-based missiles, which experts believe won't work, but which is bound to accelerate the arms race.

While urging nonproliferation of weapons by others, this rogue state is the biggest exporter of weapons. According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, global arms trade expanded by eight percent in real terms in 1996 to \$39.9 billion. Most of this expansion was due to increased demand by East Asia and the Middle East. Forty-four percent of these exports, or \$17 billion, were from this rogue state.

While championing democracy, this rogue state supports and sustains authoritarian regimes, and monarchies, against the wishes of their people. It brands those who fight for democracy, or independence from foreign domination, as terrorists.

Last week, this rogue state defied world opinion by voting against the UN General Assembly resolution calling for an international conference on July 15, 1999 on Israeli settlements in traditionally Arab areas that Palestinians claim are illegal. The vote was 115 to 2 with five abstentions.

While suing tobacco companies for damages due to smoking-related illnesses (in a deal reminiscent of the Opium Wars fought by Britain to force China to buy opium, and to settle for peace by giving away Hong Kong), this rogue state used the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to force Thailand into buying imported cigarettes which the Thai government feared would hinder their efforts to control smoking, and consequently smoking-related illnesses.

While bribery has become an acknowledged way of life in many countries, says renowned attorney Gerry Spence in *Give Me Liberty!*, in the U.S. "bribery, made legal, is yet more evil, permitting the corporate core to buy and own the [legislature] and the presidency with pious immunity."

While millions lack health care, and subsist at poverty levels, while thousands sleep on the street, this rogue state's "federal government alone shells out \$125 billion a year in corporate welfare." ("Corporate Welfare," *TIME*, November 9, 1998, Special Report). This, in the midst of one of the more robust economic periods in its history. "Indeed, thus far in the 1990's, corporate profits have totaled \$4.5 trillion—a sum

equal to the cumulative paychecks of 50 million working [citizens] who earned less than \$25,000 a year, for eight years.”

According to *Rights for All*, a 153 page report from Amnesty International, this rogue state has more prisoners known to be awaiting execution than any other country. Prisons for adults also hold at least 3,500 child convicts, in violation of an international convention on civil rights.

In this rogue state’s prisons, says Amnesty International, “thousands of people are subjected to sustained and deliberate brutality at the hands of police officers. Cruel, degrading and sometimes life-threatening methods of restraint continue to be a feature of [its] criminal justice system.”

Amnesty says that “inmates are physically and sexually abused by other inmates and by guards. Sanctions against those responsible for these abuses are rare. Prison guards restrain the inmates with electric shock stun guns, leg irons, pepper spray and restraint chairs. Some women prisoners have given birth while in shackles.”

This rogue state, reports the *Washington Post* (November 6, 1998), skirts—or sometimes flouts—norms of due process. The use of secret evidence to deport or exclude aliens who are accused of no crimes—particularly when combined with laws permitting their indefinite detention—remains the most egregious offense. All the more so since in some of these cases, the evidence—when it finally emerges—seems less than impressive.

“The rise in counterterrorism wiretapping and physical searching under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act,” says the *Washington Post*, “also presents difficulties, as do asset forfeiture proceedings against people who are accused of supporting terrorist groups but have not been charged with crimes.”

This rogue state spies on its citizens. The ECHELON system developed by this rogue state, in partnership with the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Britain, the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) in Canada, and the Defense Signals Directorate (DSD) in Australia, is used to intercept ordinary e-mail, fax, telex, and telephone communications carried over the world’s telecommunications networks.

Unlike many of the electronic spy systems developed during the Cold War—according to *An Appraisal of Technologies of Political Control*

prepared for the European Parliament—ECHELON is designed primarily for nonmilitary targets: governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals in virtually every country. It potentially affects every person communicating between (and sometimes within) countries anywhere in the world.

These are just a few examples of this rogue state's campaign of international terrorism and genocide, its refusal to abide by international law or treaties, and its violation of the norms of civil society—the very same allegations it makes against Cuba, Libya, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and Syria.

This rogue state has been able to do all this because its major media either remain silent, or participate in deceiving its citizens, whereby the vast majority of them remain uninformed. The concerned, informed minority is denied access to the primary channels of communication.

Let's face the facts. During the final decade of this millennium, by any objective criteria based upon generally accepted norms for civil society, the rogue state par excellence has been, and is, the United States—proclaimer of the right of all to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

[For background read William Blum, *Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower*, Michael T. Klare, *Rogue States and Nuclear Outlaws*, and Howard Zinn, *Declarations of Independence: Cross-Examining American Ideology*.]

[“While the U.S. regularly denounces various countries as “rogue states,” in the eyes of many countries it is becoming the rogue superpower.”—Samuel P. Huntington, “The Lonely Superpower,” *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 1999.]

[Gary Wills, “Bully of the World,” *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 1999.]

[“Spy agencies in Britain and America eavesdropped on Diana, Princess of Wales and Mark Thatcher, . . . as part of a global system of monitoring communications, according to former intelligence officials.”—Nick Fielding and Duncan Campbell, “Spy Agencies Listened in on Diana,” *Sunday Times*, February 27, 2000.]

[“Russia today published a revised national security doctrine that reflects a growing sense of apprehension in the military and political establishment about Western intentions, especially after the NATO attack on Yugoslavia last year and amid continuing disagreements over Chechnya and arms control. . . . The new document says nuclear weapons can be used ‘in the case of the need to repulse an armed aggression, if all other methods of resolving the crisis situation are exhausted or have been ineffective.’”—David Hoffman, “New Russian Security Plan Criticizes West Doctrine Broadens Nuclear Use Policy,” *Washington Post*, January 15, 2000.]

March 27, 1999

Kosovo Bombing: Good Intentions, Bad Strategy?

After three days of NATO bombing, the Clinton administration has concluded that the situation in Kosovo has taken “a dramatic and serious turn for the worse.” Critics of the bombing question its legality under U.S. and international law.

“Violence against civilians in Kosovo,” reports Daniel Williams (“Reports Say Civilians Face Rising Violence,” *Washington Post*, March 27), appeared to be spiraling out of control today with reports of executions of ethnic Albanians [Kosovar Muslims] and the burning of houses, shops and cafes by masked and armed bands of Serbs who roamed the streets while residents cowered in their homes or fled in search of safety.

The Albanian government reported that Yugoslav forces had massacred 20 ethnic Albanian men after burning the villages of Goden, Prush and Zylfaj. Refugees fleeing Kosovo have reported to *Reuters* that “about 22,000 refugees were surrounded by Yugoslav forces in Cirez, a village in the central Drenica region.”

Meanwhile, the numbers of refugees crossing into Macedonia has diminished from about 500 a day before the NATO airstrikes to about 300. Armed Serbs have begun to occupy the homes vacated by the Kosovar Muslims.

The legality of bombing Serbia, and its province Kosovo is being questioned both in the U.S. and abroad.

“I think it’s unconstitutional,” said Sen. Robert C. Smith (R-NH), a candidate for president, and opponent of the Clinton administration.

Russia and China have denounced the bombing as blatantly illegal. According to William Branigin and John M. Goshko (“Legality of Airstrikes Disputed in U.S., UN,” *Washington Post*, March 27), China called the airstrikes “a blatant aggression and act of vandalism” yesterday, and said, “the international community has a moral imperative to rise up against this barbarity.” Russia said the attacks violate international law.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has pointed out that NATO explicitly acknowledges that the UN Security Council “has primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.” UN

members say the NATO attacks have not been authorized by any Security Council resolutions.

According to Peter Riddell (“Balkans Conflict: The Public Debate,” *Times*, March 26), generally accepted legal doctrine has been, first, the supremacy of the United Nations Security Council over international disputes and authorizing the use of force; second, the right of countries to defend themselves; and, third, nonintervention in the internal disputes of sovereign states.

The *Economist* (“Stumbling Into War,” March 27) asks, “How would the West respond if one day, say, China were to carry out air strikes against an Indian government fighting to prevent its Muslim-majority province of Jammu & Kashmir from seceding?”

Legal issues aside, the NATO air campaign alone is neither likely to dislodge the Serb leader, Slobodan Milosevic, nor save the Kosovar Muslims. A ten-year embargo, and repeated bombing of Iraq, have not dislodged President Saddam Hussein.

Senior NATO and U.S. officials have begun to discuss the use of ground forces, which a divided U.S. Congress may oppose. The vote supporting U.S. participation in the NATO operation was 219 to 191 in the House, and 58 to 41 in the Senate.

Barring a change of heart by Mr. Milosevic, there seems to be no good way to avoid further bloodshed. The NATO bombing has worsened the situation for the Kosovar Muslims, and taken the world into new legal territory with unknown long-term repercussions.

Begun with good intentions, the NATO bombing may turn out to be bad strategy.

[“Increasingly, it is suggested that NATO also should deploy ground troops. This is an option that President Clinton was wrong to rule out from the start, and he is wrong to rule it out now.”—*Washington Post*, March 30, Editorial]

[“General Klaus Naumann, chairman of NATO’s Military Committee, said that the first phase of the strikes was made deliberately light, in the hope that President Slobodan Milosevic would concede quickly. He also accepted that the alliance was powerless to prevent the expulsion of the remaining ethnic Albanians.”—*Independent*, May 5, 1999]

[“Cohen’s skepticism appeared to be softening as I proceeded, and I moved into the conclusion. ‘Mr. Secretary we’re running out of time to save NATO and our credibility.’—General Wesley K. Clark, *Waging Modern War*, p. 133]

March 28, 1999

Kosovo Bombing: Bad Intentions, Good Strategy?

As NATO enters a fifth day of bombing raids on Serbia, with the declared aim of halting the slaughter of Kosovar Muslims, one has to ask what are NATO's real objectives? Is there a hidden agenda?

Wasn't the slaughter anticipated? Would a reasonable person attack while potential victims are held hostage? The U.S. did not attack Iraq's forces in Kuwait while Americans were held hostage during the Bush administration. The U.S. did not attack Iran while Americans were held hostage during the Carter administration.

Mr. Clinton, speaking from the White House four days ago, told reporters "Our purpose here is to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe. Our objective is to make it clear to Mr Milosevic he must choose peace, or we will limit his plans to make war."

Whether this meant forcing the Yugoslav President to accept the peace accord negotiated at Rambouillet, and already accepted by representatives of Kosovo's Muslims, was not made clear.

Did U.S. and NATO planners not anticipate that if the Serbs were attacked more Muslims would be slaughtered? We have greater respect for U.S. and NATO military planners than to believe that they would launch air attacks, and not make provisions for minimizing the slaughter if that were really their mission. Notice how quickly the pilot of the \$45 million, F-117 stealth fighter was rescued.

The Sunday Times reports ("NATO Attacks," March 28) that well before the NATO air strikes were launched President Clinton knew that "air strikes might provoke Serb soldiers into greater acts of butchery."

On March 15, wrote the *Sunday Times*,

Clinton and his cabinet members, including William Cohen, the defence secretary, and Sandy Berger, the national security adviser, sat in silence as Shelton [General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] outlined the thrust of the analysis. There was a danger, he told them, that far from helping to contain the savagery of the Serbs in Kosovo—a moral imperative cited by the president—air strikes might provoke Serb soldiers into greater acts

of butchery. Air strikes alone, Shelton stated, could not stop Serb forces from executing Kosovars.

Perhaps, preventing a humanitarian catastrophe is not the mission.

Perhaps, the Kosovar Muslims are the sacrificial lambs; a cruel irony coinciding with *Eid-al Adha*. Perhaps, the NATO attack on a sovereign nation, the first in its 50-year history, is intended to justify NATO's continued existence, repeatedly questioned, since the disintegration of the U.S.S.R. which NATO was set up to defend against.

It is useful to recall what happened in Bosnia.

The Clinton plan for Bosnia, forged after the killing of 200,000 Muslims, in effect, legitimized Serb aggression. It set aside the Bosnian constitution, and forced the multiparty, secular, parliamentary democracy of Bosnia to accept a secession of 49 percent of its territory to the rebel Serbs. None of this would have been necessary were it not for the fact that the U.S.-led Western governments denied the Bosnian government that most basic of human rights—the right to self defense.

Today, as part of a 20,000 peacekeeping force, 6,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Bosnia, while thousands of Bosnian Muslims have been unable to return to their homes, and no senior Serb official has been tried for widely acknowledged war crimes. Serb warlords, General Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadjic, continue to reside in Bosnia, in a district controlled by the very NATO troops now going to war with Serbia.

With 61 armed conflicts in progress around the world, why did NATO intervene in Serbia? The Russian slaughter of 80,000 Muslim civilians in Chechnya, in just two years, went on while NATO and the U.S. looked the other way. In fact, while this was happening the U.S. loaned hundreds of millions to Russia.

It is also useful to recall the legal status of Kosovo and Serbia.

According to the U.S. CIA *World Factbook*:

Serbia and Montenegro have asserted the formation of a joint independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized as a state by the U.S.; the U.S. view is that the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY), has dissolved and that none of the successor republics represents its continuation.

Professor of International Law, Francis A. Boyle, says, “the former Yugoslavia disintegrated as a state as the Badinter Commission found. As a result of this disintegration, the Kosovar people exercised their

right of self-determination to establish the Kosova Republic in accordance with standard international law and practice.” Prof. Boyle concedes that “world political circumstances do not yet seem ripe to obtain further international recognition of the Kosova Republic.”

If American casualties were the concern, why weren’t Muslim fighters asked to help save the Kosovar Muslims? Unconfirmed reports tell us many Muslims are ready and willing to help. Perhaps, rather than preventing a humanitarian catastrophe, the U.S.-led NATO bombing is a clever ruse to diminish dissent against U.S. pro-Israel policies, to strengthen U.S. puppet regimes in the Muslim world, or to grab the minerals and petroleum reserves of the Balkans?

Good intentions, bad strategy, or bad intentions, good strategy. Time will tell.

[“The sprawling state-owned Trepca mining complex, the most valuable piece of real estate in the Balkans, is worth at least \$5 billion.”—Chris Hedges, “Below It All in Kosovo, A War’s Glittering Prize,” *New York Times*, July 8, 1998]

[“Kosovo also possesses 17 billion tons of coal reserves, and Kosovo (like Serbia and Albania) also has oil reserves.”—Barry Lituchy, “American Barbarism and the Big Lie Technique are the Winners in Kosovo,” June 1999. Mr. Lituchy teaches history at Kingsborough Community College in New York.]

[“The construction of an oil pipeline across the Balkans from Bulgaria’s Black Sea port of Burgas to Vlore on Albania’s Adriatic coast should begin by the end of the year, the US-led consortium in charge of the operation said yesterday. . . . Oil arriving in Vlore would be transported via Rotterdam to the United States.”—“Balkan Pipeline Under Way Soon,” *AFP*, September 1, 2001]

March 29, 1999

Clinton Forewarned, Precipitated Catastrophe

Europe’s worst humanitarian disaster since World War II?

The *Sunday Times* of London reports that well before the NATO air strikes were launched President Clinton knew that “air strikes might provoke Serb soldiers into greater acts of butchery.”

On March 15, wrote the *Sunday Times* (“NATO Attacks,” March 28),

Clinton and his cabinet members, including William Cohen, the defence secretary, and Sandy Berger, the national security adviser, sat in silence as Shelton [General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] outlined the thrust of the analysis. There was a danger, he told them, that far from helping to contain the savagery of the Serbs in Kosovo—a moral imperative cited by the president—air strikes might provoke Serb soldiers into greater acts of butchery. Air strikes alone, Shelton stated, could not stop Serb forces from executing Kosovars.

Meanwhile, George Jahn of *Associated Press* reports (“NATO Races to Smash Serb Units,” March 29), “Tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians streamed out of Kosovo today while NATO raced against time to smash Serb military units and ease what officials say is becoming Europe’s worst humanitarian disaster since World War II.”

According to *BBC News Online* (“Refugees Flee Kosovo Horror,” March 29), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees believes that up to 25 percent of the population of Kosovo—more than 500,000 people—have fled their homes since the conflict began.

However, say Bill Sammon and Joyce Howard Price (“Pentagon Considers Ground Troops,” *Washington Times*, March 29), “the White House yesterday repeated its assurance that President Clinton has no ‘intention’ of dispatching ground troops to Kosovo.” There was no effective plan approved to prevent, or even minimize, the foreseeable humanitarian catastrophe.

Yet, speaking from the White House five days ago, President Clinton told reporters, “Our purpose here is to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe. Our objective is to make it clear to Mr Milosevic he must choose peace, or we will limit his plans to make war.”

Our purpose here is to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe? Really, Mr. President?

[“But launching a NATO air war against Milosevic was the triumph of threat over thought.”—Bill Clinton’s War, *The Progressive*, May 1999]

[“She did not know that the A-10s that attacked her convoy (of Kosovar refugees) fired depleted uranium ammunition, . . . DU munitions may well be the cause of massive cancers in Iraq, and even of Gulf War Syndrome.”—Robert Fisk, “Convoy of the Damned.” *The Independent*, November 28, 1999]

[“A year after NATO’s intervention, the West’s dream of Serbs and Albanians living together in Kosovo is dead.”—Tom Walker, “West Abandons Dream of a Unified Kosovo,” *Sunday Times*, February 13, 2000]

April 1, 1999

Clinton's Good Intentions Stymied by NATO, Congress?

Muslim nations conspicuous by their absence

Perhaps President Clinton never had a chance. He was damned if he did, and damned if he didn't.

If the U.S. had introduced ground troops, say Clinton aides, Clinton would have been criticized by the U.S. Congress for risking a military quagmire. Had he decided not to intervene at all in Kosovo, he would have been criticized for allowing NATO to standby in the face of a humanitarian disaster.

Therefore, despite warnings from General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that "far from helping to contain the savagery of the Serbs in Kosovo—a moral imperative cited by the president—air strikes might provoke Serb soldiers into greater acts of butchery," the decision was made to go ahead with air strikes.

But that strategy is failing, and it appears that NATO is being timid in attacking Serbian command and control centers.

"Six days of intensive bombardment have failed to take out the Serb antiaircraft defences," report Andrew Marshall and Kim Sengupta ("War in the Balkans—Strategy may be failing, says NATO," *The Independent*, April 1), "with damage estimated at being only 'minimal to moderate,' say military sources. The hit rate is low, and the U.S. Air Force is down to its last hundred cruise missiles."

As for the sites hit one wonders why power plants, radio and television stations, and telephone exchanges were not targeted at the outset as they were in Iraq.

The Independent reports,

In the first five days of the campaign, about 90 attacks were made against at least 70 'individual sites.' Eight airfields had been targeted and seven aircraft destroyed in addition to four MiG-29s and a MiG-21 shot down while trying to intercept NATO planes. There have been 16 attacks on radar and early-warning systems and 16 attacks on surface-to-air missile sites. Twelve of the further 15 air defence facilities have also been struck.

President Clinton may have made matters worse for the Kosovars when, within two days of the first air strikes, he assured the American

people that U.S. troops would only be sent into Kosovo in a peacekeeping role.

“How happy President Milosovic must have been to hear that,” says Robert Fisk (“Lies, Deceit and Betrayal,” *The Independent*, March 30). Fisk adds, “Already, Clinton was making excuses for NATO’s air raids—and then promising that ground troops would never be sent to fight Serbian forces in Kosovo.” Fisk adds,

So Milosevic’s army pressed on eagerly. And when the next flood of Kosovars staggered into Macedonia with their stories of summary executions and house-burning, we were told yet again that things would have been worse without the air raids. Once NATO admitted that 500,000 Kosovars had been displaced, this lie was mercifully forgotten.

And throughout this humanitarian catastrophe, still unfolding, the leaders of Muslim countries have been conspicuous by their absence.

Clinton’s aides would have us believe that President Clinton, with good intentions, at least tried to help the Kosovars. But somewhere along the way, perhaps stymied by NATO members’ or U.S. Congress’ opposition, or some hidden agenda, even the air strikes seemingly avoided key targets.

Given Mr. Clinton’s record on Bosnia, Chechnya, Iraq, and Palestine, we remain skeptical. A more likely reason is that NATO was beginning to look like a paper tiger, and the U.S. couldn’t have that just before NATO’s 50th anniversary celebration on April 23 in Washington, D.C.

Now fewer good options (or the better of bad options) exist than before the NATO air strikes. But whatever strategy is now adopted, independence for Kosovo and swift justice for the aggressors should be high on the list of priorities.

In the meantime, the first priority should be to alleviate human suffering.

[“The peacekeeping force is today 10,000 soldiers short of its authorized strength, . . . Without clearer joint vision on Kosovo’s future and bolder steps to counter Milosevic’s subversion in the Balkans, NATO could still lose a war it claims to have won.”—Jim Hoagland, “A Phony Peace,” *Washington Post*, March 12, 2000]

[“Professor Francis Boyle, lawyer for the Mothers of Srebrenica and Podrinja, . . . said UN officials had deliberately sacrificed Srebrenica to produce the carve-up of Bosnia.—“Mothers Demand Arrest of UN Officials,” *BBC News*, February 4, 2000]

April 7, 1999

Round One Milosevic, Will NATO Win War?

Serbian President Milosevic has won the first round. The issue now is will NATO persevere, or will Mr. Milosevic win the war?

About half the Kosovo population of 2 million has been uprooted since February 1998, and about 500,000 in the past two weeks since U.S. President Clinton told reporters, "Our purpose here is to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe."

Now the Macedonians, as NATO watches, are busy completing the ethnic cleansing begun by Mr. Milosevic. The Kosovars are being forcibly deported from the border camps to destinations not of their choosing.

"Under the cover of darkness on Monday night, 1,491 refugees were flown out of Skopje airport on 10 flights," reported Andrew Buncombe of *The Independent* today, and

all but one of which were heading for Turkey. When one refugee tried to run away he was frog-marched on board by security men. Yesterday morning another 600 refugees were flown out of the Macedonian capital—all bound for the same destination.

"No one would tell seven-year-old Ardita Berisha why she was being forced out of a country at gunpoint for the second time in a week," reported Daniel McGrory of the *Times*. Ardita

kept asking where they were going as an armed policeman shoved her into an airport bus, deporting the Berishas and 1,500 other confused refugees to Turkey yesterday.

Rabia, her mother, began to cry and asked a security guard how her husband was meant to find them as he was stranded somewhere in Kosovo. The guard, his face partially covered by a surgical mask, shouted at her to do as she was told.

Mr. Milosevic has won the first round—ethnic cleansing. Rounds two (return of the Kosovars to their homes), three (independence for Kosovo), and four (bringing Mr. Milosevic to trial for war crimes) have yet to be fought, and Mr. Milosevic has just upped the ante.

Today, Yugoslavia sealed off Kosovo's main border crossings. "German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping warned that the Yugoslavs may be planning to use the civilians in Kosovo as 'human shields' against NATO attack," reported George Jahn of *Associated Press*.

This is bound to complicate matters for NATO which has yet to commit the troops and weapons needed to help the Kosovars on the ground. And the forced deportation of the Kosovars to distant destinations will diminish the TV coverage which serves to mobilize public support for NATO action.

Will NATO persevere, or will rounds two, three, and four, also go to Mr. Milosevic? Despite the genuine concern of average citizens, the Kosovar Muslims have become a pawn in a deadly superpower game. NATO credibility, on the eve of its April 23 celebration of its 50th anniversary, is the prize.

May 7, 1999

U.S. Admits Mistake in Bombing Sudan

The Clinton administration will not challenge a lawsuit filed by a Saudi businessman, and has agreed to release \$24 million in assets that the businessman, Mr. Saleh Idris, had deposited in U.S. banks.

On August 20 last year, the U.S. launched cruise missiles at Mr. Idris' pharmaceuticals plant in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, and a camp in Afghanistan, after bombs exploded at U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The U.S. alleged that both targets had links to the man they blamed for the Kenya and Tanzania bombs, Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden, and that the Al Shifa plant in Khartoum manufactured chemical weapons.

The Al Shifa pharmaceuticals plant made both medicine and veterinary drugs, according to U.S. and European engineers and consultants who helped build, design and supply the plant.

The strikes came on the day that Monica Lewinsky gave evidence on her affair with President Bill Clinton, and bore a much noted resemblance to the movie *Wag the Dog*, in which a U.S. president diverts attention by starting a war.

Mr. Idris was represented by John Scanlon of the Washington law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer Feld, the same firm which employs

Vernon Jordan, who gave evidence in defence of Mr Clinton in the Senate impeachment trial.

Mr. Idris had retained Kroll Associates, the world's leading firm of private investigators, to examine the evidence. Many of Kroll's employees are former intelligence and law enforcement officials of the British and American government, and it has also been hired by several governments, including the U.S. reports the *Independent*.

A legal case could have had major implications for Mr Clinton and for U.S. foreign policy. Facing a deadline to respond to the suit filed February 26, the Clinton administration chose not to contest it.

The Al Shifa plant had raised Sudan's self-sufficiency in medicine from 3 percent to over 50 percent and produced enough veterinary medicine for all of Africa.

Sudan has not been compensated for the deaths, lost jobs, and other financial losses resulting from lost production at the Al Shifa plant.

May 28, 1999

Milosevic Indicted, Clinton Poised to Sellout Kosovars

The indictment of Yugoslavia's President Milosevic by the United Nations war crimes tribunal is a victory for human rights, and for prosecutor Louise Arbour and her staff.

Milosevic and others are charged with the murder of over 340 Kosovar Muslims, aged between 2 and 95, and the deportation of 740,000 others in 1999 alone.

Also indicted are the president of Serbia, Milan Milutinovic; the deputy prime minister of Yugoslavia, Nikola Sainovic, a close aide of Milosevic; the chief of general staff of the Yugoslav army, Dragoljub Ojdanic; and Vlajko Stojiljkovic, the minister of internal affairs of Serbia.

But the indictment may do little to ease the plight of the Kosovar Muslims made homeless by Milosevic and his followers.

The UNHCR estimates that some 790,000 Muslims have left Kosovo since NATO began its air assault March 24. Many were dis-

placed before the current exodus, and only about 10 per cent of Kosovo's 1.8 million Muslims remain in their homes in Kosovo.

In neighboring Bosnia and Herzegovina, another victim of Milosević's rampaging Serbs, authorities expressed disappointment that the indictments did not cover acts committed there in the early 1990s.

The experience of the Bosnian Muslims may be an indicator of the West's commitment to easing the plight of the Kosovars.

In Bosnia, as in Kosovo, the West maintained an arms embargo on Milosevic and his Muslim victims. Thereby, the West prevented others from helping the Muslims being killed, raped, expelled from their homes, and stripped of identification papers and property records.

By the time the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed in December 1995, says the UNHCR, more than one million Bosnians had been displaced within the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and at least one million more were living as refugees in some 25 other countries.

"An estimated 321,000 refugees and 253,000 internally displaced people returned to their homes in the three years following the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement," says the UNHCR, "But there still remain around 400,000 refugees and over 840,000 displaced persons within Bosnia-Herzegovina, most of whom cannot go back to their home villages now controlled by the Serbs."

The Dayton Peace Agreement, forged after the killing of 200,000 Muslims, in effect, legitimized Serb aggression.

The agreement set aside the Bosnian constitution, and forced the multiparty, secular, parliamentary democracy of Bosnia to accept a secession of 49 percent of its territory to the Serbs. Today, as part of a 20,000 peacekeeping force, 6,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Bosnia, but they have yet to bring to trial indicted Serb warlords General Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadjic who reside in a district controlled by NATO.

Now president Clinton, with his China and Russia policy in shambles, with NATO split on the use of ground forces in Kosovo, and with the U.S. Congress increasingly reluctant to back him, is desperate for a negotiated settlement.

Dealing with the KLA had limited NATO's options, as the KLA sought only independence for Kosovo. But with the release of Ibrahim

Rugova, the “moderate” president of the self-styled Republic of Kosovo who had been under house arrest in Belgrade, the KLA have challenged the West’s negotiations on their behalf.

President Clinton, having precipitated a humanitarian catastrophe, seems poised to declare victory with another Dayton type agreement, and sellout the Kosovars as he did the Bosnians. Prosecutor Louise Arbour has made a sellout more difficult for Mr. Clinton.

June 6, 1999

Winning and Losing in Yugoslavia

There was no doubt that if NATO chose to, it would prevail militarily, and it did, but it surrendered its primary objective—preventing a humanitarian catastrophe.

The NATO war machine, with funding of about \$270 billion annually in the United States, and about \$180 billion annually in the other NATO countries, prevailed militarily over Yugoslavia’s armed forces which receive less than \$1 billion annually.

Before the war began it was estimated that after seven years of international economic sanctions, it would take Yugoslavia 29 years to reach the level of economic prosperity it had in 1989. Now the estimate is 45 years—without international aid, estimated at between \$50 billion and \$150 billion, to rebuild the war ravaged country.

Fought for a good cause—the prevention of a humanitarian catastrophe—NATO’s air-only campaign hastened the process of ethnic cleansing begun by President Milosevic. U.S. generals had forewarned President Clinton that this would be the result.

Using the war as an excuse Yugoslav forces destroyed more than 500 villages, and raped, tortured, and killed thousands of Kosovar Muslims.

Perhaps 35,000 people had fled Kosovo in the months before the NATO bombing began. The UNHCR reported 4,000 registered refu-

gees outside of Kosovo on March 27. Now only about 10 per cent of Kosovo's 1.8 million Muslims remain in their homes.

NATO forces, with the exception of the vaunted Apache helicopters, performed brilliantly. They killed 5,000 Serbian soldiers, wounded 10,000, while the NATO count of deaths due to combat, not accident, was zero.

NATO's primary cause was just, but it was not a just war. NATO waged a war that had no reasonable chance of success in preventing a humanitarian catastrophe—its professed goal. NATO waged a war for reasons of self-interest—to perpetuate NATO which has no place in a post Cold War world.

NATO did not wage war as a last resort, having exhausted all non-violent means of settling the dispute with Yugoslavia. Under the G-8 plan for peace accepted by Yugoslavia, NATO accepted terms it refused to accept before the NATO ultimatum that triggered the war—no NATO access to all of Yugoslavia, and no vote for Kosovo's independence. As in Bosnia, arms to Kosovo's Muslims were embargoed.

NATO's peace plan is unacceptable to the KLA which served as NATO's allies on the ground. Thousands of Kosovars have no homes or businesses to return to, few crops and livestock to feed them, and are mentally scarred by what they have witnessed in the last several weeks.

Even if the G-8 plan holds the war is far from over. Will NATO countries, specifically their taxpayers, provide the funding to rebuild Yugoslavia? How long will the Kosovars accept limited autonomy under NATO occupation? How long will an imposed "peace" last?

And what of President Milosevic and others indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia? Will they be brought to trial? What of the formal complaint laid before the Tribunal, by a group of lawyers from several countries, charging individual leaders of NATO countries and officials of NATO itself? Will it be properly processed?

What of the precedent set by NATO in intervening in the internal affairs of a sovereign Yugoslavia? Will this lead to more self-serving interference in the affairs of other states? Will it accelerate the arms race of which the U.S. is the primary beneficiary?

Winning and losing depends upon how one measures it.

The war in Yugoslavia was won like the attack on the Mount Carmel Center in Waco, Texas (April 19, 1993) was won. The cult leader and 80 followers, including women and children, died when their compound burned after U.S. government agents tried to flush them out with tear gas.

The war on Yugoslavia was a demonstration to the world of NATO, and more specifically U.S., credibility, and to justify increases in defense spending to which the U.S. Congress has readily acquiesced. There may have been genuine concern for Milosevic's ethnic cleansing, but NATO was unwilling to risk lives to prevent it.

Beginning with the Gulf War, 500 years after the fall of Muslim Spain in 1492, the Europeans and their descendants are on their second wave of expansion.

The first wave of European expansion, launched with professed good intentions, devastated the Americas, Asia, Africa, Australia, and China. The second wave, with the U.S. led NATO in the vanguard, is heading toward the natural resources of Russia and Central Asia—a somber prelude to the New Millennium.

[“The Serbs would not accept a NATO force; NATO on its 50th anniversary wanted to show it mattered.”—“Rambouillet Talks ‘Designed to Fail,’” *BBC News Online*, March 19, 2000]

August 28, 1999

U.S., Britain Widening War on Iraq

With only six months left before the start in earnest of the United States presidential election campaign, the U.S. and Britain are preparing for a large scale operation against Iraq, reports *Agence France-Presse*.

More than 500 U.S. air strikes this year alone, and \$97 million to his opponents, have failed to topple Iraq's president Saddam Hussein. On August 19, U.S. warplanes, for the first time since December, struck positions outside the no-fly zones set up by the allied forces in northern and southern Iraq. International lawyers argue that these no-fly zones have not been sanctioned by the UN as claimed by the U.S.

Meanwhile, pressure has been growing to ease the sanctions on Iraq. A UNICEF survey released earlier this month found that “between 1984 and 1989, there were 56 deaths of children under 5 per 1,000 live births compared to 131 deaths per 1,000 live births from 1994 to 1999.” More than 1.5 million are reported to have died as a result of U.S. forced UN sanctions on Iraq.

The *Associated Press* reports that the head of the UN’s humanitarian program, France, and other members of the Security Council have expressed desperation with the United States for placing on hold hundreds of aid contracts worth millions of dollars.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark in his August 29 letter to the UN Security Council says:

The UN is inviting a world ordered by the diplomacy of cruise missiles and economic strangulation, governance by deadly high tech military assaults which are indefensible, and foreign imposed hunger and pestilence. The Superpower scofflaw responsible for both crimes is the same deadbeat that refuses to pay its UN dues, directs the creation of ad hoc UN criminal tribunals not authorized by UN Charter to pursue its chosen enemies and refuses to participate in an International Criminal Tribunal created by treaty approved by 120 nations for fear that it might be held accountable under the rule of law.

At a mid-September meeting of the UN Security Council, Britain is expected to submit a US-backed resolution on Iraq which will provide the U.S. and Britain with a new legal tool to take measures against Iraq, reports *AFP*.

The British proposal calls for the creation of a so-called “United Nations Commission on Inspection and Monitoring” (UNCIM) to replace the current weapons inspection committee. Iraq calls the proposal “monstrous” charging that it is aimed at increasing restrictions on the country.

Meanwhile, despite objections from the U.S. Department of State, five staff members of the U.S. House of Representatives, accompanied by Kathy Kelly of Voices In the Wilderness, and Phyllis Bennis of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies, are on their way to Iraq to assess the situation first hand. The staff members work for Reps. Sam Gejdenson, D-Conn.; Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga.; Earl Hilliard, D-Ala.; Danny K. Davis, D-Ill.; and Bernard Sanders, I-Vt.

The U.S. is also urging the Pope to drop his plans to visit the ancient Iraqi town of Ur, where the Bible says Abraham was born, as part of the new millennium celebrations.

September 9, 1999

FBI May Eliminate Dagestani Websites

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, reports *BBC News Online*, has offered to help Russia “in eliminating Websites set up by Islamic militants fighting in the southern republic of Dagestan.”

The “Muslim peoples of the Caucasus—Chechen, Ingush, Circassians, Abkhaz, Dagestanis—have been in almost constant revolt against their Russian colonial rulers for three centuries,” writes Eric Margolis of the *Toronto Sun*.

“Russia crushed all revolts with ruthless ferocity and twice attempted genocide,” says Mr. Margolis, and in

the 1940s, Stalin deported nearly all the 1.5-million Chechen to Siberian concentration camps, where 25 percent died. Two million other Soviet Muslims, including many Dagestanis, were also sent in cattle cars to Stalin’s death camps. Hitler used gas; Stalin used the Russian winter.

Now it appears that the FBI may deny Dagestani freedom fighters their right to free speech, and deny interested readers access to information from relevant sources.

During NATO’s recent war with Yugoslavia the information coming out of Belgrade, Yugoslavia’s capital, was more accurate than that coming from NATO.

“Belgrade’s claims of 76 losses represent only about a fivefold exaggeration,” says Alan J. Kuperman, Research Fellow at the Brookings Institution, while “NATO’s original claims represent up to a twentyfold exaggeration.”

[“FBI agents raided a Muslim web hosting business Wednesday, a Dallas area television station reported. . . . The company hosts web sites for more than 500 companies, including several major Muslim American organizations . . .”—“FBI Raids Muslim Web Hosting Company,” *iViews.com*, September 5, 2001]

September 11, 1999

Foreign Interests Could Lead to Indonesia's Breakup

Foreign interests could lead to a breakup of Indonesia, and precipitate a much wider catastrophe than is now occurring in East Timor.

According to Oxford Analytica, a British political consulting firm, Indonesia blames Australia for “putting pressure on [Indonesia’s President] Habibie through a letter sent by Prime Minister John Howard urging that a referendum be held in the territory [East Timor].”

Indonesia fears that Australia may be seeking the means to weaken it. Australia has the motive, Indonesians believe, and in the turmoil in East Timor Australia sees opportunity. But without U.S./UN backing it lacks the means.

Indonesian President “Habibie and his civilian advisors, many of them drawn from the Association of Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals, have long argued that Catholic East Timor should be allowed to go its own way,” says Oxford Analytica. Others fear that independence for East Timor “will set a disturbing precedent for other restive regions such as Irian Jaya and Aceh.”

Aceh has been racked with violence. The Achenese seek a greater share of profits from Aceh’s oil, and some seek outright independence from Indonesia.

Australia’s offer to lead a UN peacekeeping force to East Timor is viewed with suspicion. About 200 years ago, aboriginals occupied all of Australia and the island of Tasmania. In Tasmania, following the arrival of the British—ancestors of today’s white Australians, not a single Aborigine survived, while those located on the coasts of mainland Australia were forced to flee inland or were killed.

Indonesia, with a population of 213 million, and 17,000 islands (6,000 inhabited) stretching for about 5,000 kilometers, “fears that Canberra is seeking to ally itself with East Timor so that it can take the best advantage of any future breakup of Indonesia.”

The U.S. has its own interests in Indonesia, and shares responsibility for the events leading to the present situation in East Timor.

Stratfor.com—an intelligence consulting firm based in Austin, Texas—argues:

American strategy in Asia is focused on control of the archipelago of islands that runs down East Asia's coast. Starting with the Aleutians, the line runs through Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, and is ultimately anchored on Singapore. Control of this line allows the U.S. to achieve three things.

First, it provides the U.S. with a comprehensive line beyond which Chinese and Russian naval power cannot move in time of war. Second, the line provides the U.S. with offensive positions from which to threaten air and naval actions against the continent and even, should the need arise, occasional amphibious interventions along East Asia's coast. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, it gives the U.S. implicit power over petroleum-hungry East Asia by placing the essential maritime choke points in the hands of U.S. naval forces.

The Asian financial crisis in 1997/98 revealed the weak underpinnings of Indonesia's economy, a large part of which is in the hands of ethnic Chinese, and not the native, majority Muslims. Indonesia brokered a \$42 billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund. Now this loan package has been jeopardized, and continued weakness in Indonesia's economy may trigger widespread unrest.

Meanwhile, President B. J. Habibie appears not to have full control, while Indonesia's military which plays a powerful role is adjusting to changes brought about when President Habbibie took over from President Suharto. Now Ms. Sukarnoputri, daughter of Indonesia's first president, Sukarno, hopes to take over from President Habibie following a vote by the People's Consultative Assembly in November.

"The Indonesian fascist army is a monster that was created by Washington in the 1960s, when the U.S. was escalating the war in Vietnam," says former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. He adds, "Washington tipped the balance toward the fascist right wing of the military by training, equipping and financing a coup," which replaced President Sukarno with the U.S. favored President Suharto.

Suharto's army invaded East Timor in 1975 following its decolonization from Portugal (which obtained East Timor in an 1859 treaty with the Netherlands), and the outbreak of civil war between pro- and anti-Marxist groups. The U.S., which viewed East Timor as another Cuba, looked the other way.

The Indonesia which emerged from years of Dutch colonial op-

pression in 1949 is a mix of cultures as diverse as those of say Washington, DC and the Indians of the Amazon forest. It is now in the midst of a volatile situation that could worsen, and destroy the fragile ties which bind Indonesia.

Provided that there have been no irregularities, Indonesia has little choice but to abide by its agreement with Portugal and the UN regarding the future of East Timor. But attempts to breakup Indonesia are likely to precipitate a much wider catastrophe than is now occurring in East Timor.

The first priority for Indonesia, and the international community, is to minimize harm to the people of East Timor and all of Indonesia. And it's in Indonesia's self interest to set aside internal divisions, and to be at the forefront of the solution to the problems in East Timor, Aceh, and Irian Jaya.

September 15, 1999

One Million Indonesians Died in U.S. Backed Coup

One million Indonesians are reported to have died in the U.S. backed coup that led to the Suharto presidency, and the occupation of East Timor.

Aid agencies estimate (*BBC News Online*, September 13) that between 600 and 7,000 people have been killed and as many as 300,000 have fled their homes since the UN-backed August 30 referendum on East Timor's future.

Now pro-Jakarta militias, angered by President Habibie's decision to allow international peacekeepers into East Timor, have told aid workers (*The Times*, September 14) that they will take revenge by embarking on a violent killing spree in West Timor. Should this occur, would the UN-approved, Australia-led, multinational force extend operations to West Timor?

The wider catastrophe we fear may become reality, and the likely winners will not be the Indonesians who suffered under 350 years of

colonial oppression, and had their lives shattered once again when U.S.-backed Suharto assumed the presidency and ousted President Sukarno.

G. C. Allan and Audrey Donnithorne, in *Western Enterprise in Indonesia and Malaya*, write:

In 1940 only 240 Indonesian students graduated from the high schools and only 37 from the colleges. In that year, out of over 3,000 higher civil servants there were only 221 Indonesians, and even in the middle ranks a larger number of posts were held by Europeans and Eurasians, who counted as Dutch.

By 1945, writes Reba Lewis, author of *Indonesia: Troubled Paradise*, 93 percent of the people were still illiterate. After 350 years of colonial domination, there were only a hundred Indonesian physicians; less than a hundred Indonesian engineers; and, in a nation dependent upon the efficiency of its land productivity, only ten Indonesian agricultural experts.

Indonesia proclaimed independence on August 17, 1945, and on December 27, 1949, Indonesia became legally independent from the Netherlands (Holland).

In 1958, the U.S. attempted to oust Sukarno. Thomas Ross and David Wise in their book *The Invisible Government*, relate how in 1958 the U.S. supplied a right-wing rebel force in Indonesia with arms and a small air force of B-26 bombers for the failed attempt.

Deirdre Griswold, in *The Second Greatest Crime of the Century*, writes:

Between October 1, 1965, and April or May of the following year, the right-wing military regime of Generals Nasution and Suharto seized power and consolidated its strength in Indonesia. In that scant seven months as many as a million people were slaughtered. The rising toll of victims appeared occasionally in the press here, recorded with little more passion than a sports score.

Until the 1965 coup, Indonesia was one of the most dynamic countries. "The Sukarno government," adds Ms. Griswold,

took a number of bold steps in foreign policy that shocked the Western capitals and threatened to be infectious. Indonesia withdrew from both the UN and the Olympic games, declaring them to be dominated by imperialism, and started to set up rival international bodies. At the very moment that the right-wing coup was taking place, a conference against foreign military bases, which of course was aimed first and foremost at the U.S. with its 3,000 [sic] installations overseas, was in session in Djakarta.

After twenty-five years of fighting the Japanese, the Dutch and the U.S. imperialists, the 1965 coup and the subsequent slaughter of a million Indonesians, paved the way for U.S. companies who, in 1966, began arriving for “the feast,” writes Ms. Griswold.

Unilever setup oil and edible fat plants. Uniroyal got its rubber plantation and latex plant. Union Carbide, Singer Sewing Machine and National Cash Register got back properties expropriated during the revolution. Eastern Airlines partnered with the Indonesia airline Garuda; Mobil Oil secured oil exploration rights. For a mere \$75 million, Freeport Sulphur got a contract for exploiting West Irian copper which is 20 times as rich as ores found in Arizona and Utah. Freeport claims it has since paid nearly \$1.7 billion in direct benefits (taxes, dividends, royalties) to the Government of Indonesia.

The U.S. armed, trained Suharto military invaded the former Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1975 to stop a civil war between pro- and anti-Marxist groups. President Suharto did what his Western mentors had done to acquire colonies or to consolidate their own state boundaries, and 200,000 East Timorese are reported to have been killed resisting the Indonesian occupation.

Wrongs cannot be righted until the facts are known and understood. Peace and social justice cannot prevail until the rich and powerful set an example for the weak and impoverished.

September 22, 1999

Greed at Core of Indonesia's Timor Problem

At its core the problem of East Timor, and indeed much of Indonesia, has a lot to do with greed rather than the Muslim–Christian divide portrayed in the media.

From the first century CE, until the 16th, Indonesia was comprised of various Hindu kingdoms. The Hindu–Buddhist kingdom of Sriwijaya, on Sumatra, rose in the 7th century CE. The Hindu Mataram dynasty flourished in the plains of Central Java between the 8th and 10th cen-

turies CE. Founded in the late 13th century, the Majapahit Empire, the last of the Hindu kingdoms, became the most powerful.

Sumatra was then known as the “Island of Gold,” and Java as the “Rice Island.”

Muslim traders began arriving in the 13th century, and Islam spread peacefully through the islands. Descendants of some Hindu kingdoms retreated to the islands of Bali and Lombok where they flourish to this day. In the early 16th century the Hindu kingdom of Mataram converted to Islam.

With the fall of Muslim Spain in 1492 (as in the Americas, Africa, and South Asia), came 350 years of brutal colonial rule and exploitation. First to arrive were the Portuguese in 1511. The Portuguese were followed by the Dutch (1602 to 1799), the British (1811 to 1815), and again the Dutch (1816 to 1908).

The colonial masters took slaves, forced the natives to grow crops for export which resulted in famines, and destroyed the thriving inter-island trade.

By 1908 nationalist movements began seeking self-government, and Indonesia declared independence on August 17, 1947. Sukarno, a leader of the independence movement, became president. He was overthrown in 1965 by Suharto in a U.S.-backed military coup in which it is reported that one million people, mainly Chinese, were killed.

When the Dutch and Portuguese formally partitioned East Timor between them in the 19th century, East Timor remained a part of the Portuguese colony. The governor of Portuguese Timor, in 1974, granted permission for political parties, and five emerged.

Said to be lacking popular support, the Fretilin party, seeking independence from Indonesia, resorted to terror. Civil war broke out, and on August 27, 1975, the governor and Portuguese officials abandoned the capital Dili. The U.S. armed, trained Indonesian military intervened. It is reported that between 70,000 and 200,000 Timorese were killed in subsequent fighting.

Fretilin, supplied with arms from the Portuguese army arsenal, declared East Timor independent. The four other parties in East Timor declared their independence and integration with Indonesia. East Timor

became the 27th province of Indonesia, but this claim was not recognized by the UN.

Rich in natural resources, Indonesia's primary problem is the equitable sharing of these resources. Foreign interests, and internal corruption, add to the inherent difficulty that while Java is Indonesia's most heavily populated island, many of the resources are located in less populated islands.

According to former U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, Edward Masters, Indonesia did more in 35 years to develop barren, infertile East Timor than Portugal did in four centuries.

Indonesia allocated development funds to East Timor at a rate six times the national average. In 1975, less than 10% of Timorese were literate, there were only 50 schools, and no colleges. By 1994 East Timor had 600 elementary schools, 90 middle schools and three colleges. Under the Portuguese, East Timor had only two hospitals and 14 health clinics. By 1994, there were 10 hospitals and nearly 200 village health centers. In 1975, it had 20 km hard surfaced roads, by 1994 there were 500 km. The number of Catholic Churches in predominantly Catholic East Timor quadrupled under Indonesian rule

But the Fretilin party continued to resist Indonesian rule, and offshore oil discoveries attracted foreign interests.

"Australian oil technicians say that the Timor seabed could yield some of the world's most productive oil fields," reported the Multinational Monitor. A treaty was signed in 1989 by Australia and Indonesia. This Timor Gap Treaty came into force in 1991 and is due for review in 2031. Australia needs this oil, and massive revenues are said to flow to both governments. Independence for East Timor would likely give it a larger share of these revenues.

The division of natural resources is also at the core of secessionist movements in Aceh, Irian Jaya, and in the neighboring Philippines.

On Aceh in 1971, Mobil Oil discovered one of the world's richest onshore reserves of natural gas, estimated at 40 billion cubic meters. Aceh provides an estimated 11% of Indonesia's total exports, but less than 10% of this wealth is reinvested in the province. Mobil Oil is reported to have caused massive environmental damage, and is said to

be linked to the Indonesian military's land seizures, bombings, and massacres.

On Irian Jaya, military repression, and massive environmental damage has been linked to Freeport McMoRan, a Louisiana corporation.

In April 1967, Freeport McMoRan became the first foreign company granted an operating permit following the 1965–1966 U.S.-backed coup that installed General Suharto. Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is credited with having introduced company officials to President Suharto. According to Paul S. Murphy, Senior Vice President, Mr. Kissinger sits on Freeport's board earning \$25,000 a year, and is paid an annual retainer of \$200,000 for consultation work.

In 1999, Freeport McMoRan received approval to almost double production, which will increase land seizures and environmental damage. With reserves valued at \$40 billion, the Freeport project is the largest single gold deposit in the world and the third largest open-cut copper mine.

In the neighboring Philippines, National Steel Company, writes Fred Hill author of *Teasing the Tiger: A Third World Study of Muslim Mindanao*, the Philippines' largest steel mill is destroying Lake Lanao—essential for the survival of neighboring communities. Located in the Muslim countryside, it is the major employer in the area. But except for 5 or 10 Muslims its 4,000 employees are Christian Visayans, many of whom were brought there in the 1970s. The media publish reports about Muslim violence in Mindanao, but not the reasons for their frustration.

And similarly in East Timor the violence has little if anything to do with Muslim-Christian enmity. Christians live in peace with Muslims in West Timor, and elsewhere in Indonesia. About half of the pro-Indonesian militia leaders have Christian names. Greed, the greed of corporations, government officials, individuals is at the core of problems. The religion card is used to divide, rule, and exploit the people and the land—just like colonial rulers did in earlier times.

["The Philippines' new president on Tuesday announced a cease-fire with the main separatist rebels in Mindanao, a resource-rich but economically backward region where fighting has claimed more than 120,000 lives over three decades." "Cease-Fire Order in Philippines," *AP*, February 20, 2001]

["Australia estimates the death toll in the violent aftermath of East Timor's August 30 self-rule ballot at between 500 and 1,000, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer

said Wednesday. Downer rejected claims that Indonesian forces and their militia allies massacred tens of thousands of people and had dumped thousands of bodies at sea, saying they would inevitably have washed ashore eventually.”—“Australia Estimates East Timor Death Toll at 500 to 1,000,” *AFP*, December 1, 1999]

[“Angela de Freitas, a member of the East Timorese interim parliament, interrupted the signing ceremony to declare the new agreement for sharing of Timor Gap oil and gas illegal. ‘Don’t sell our country,’ she said before security officers escorted her from the room.”—“Timor Treaty Pours Oil on Troubled Waters,” *The West Australian*, July 6, 2001]

September 28, 1999

America’s Disgraceful Silence over Chechnya

America’s silence over Russia’s indiscriminate bombing of Chechnya, even as “peacekeepers” undertake their “humanitarian intervention” in East Timor, is a disgrace.

“Russian jets pounded dozens of Chechen targets yesterday,” reported the *Times* of London, “as a swelling flood of refugees headed for a border that Russia is fortifying as if for war. Two big oil refineries, three bridges and a half-built television centre in Grozny were destroyed in the fifth consecutive day of bombing.” Experts say that Moscow may be hoping to fight a sophisticated air war modeled on NATO’s Kosovo campaign.

BBC News Online is reporting a “humanitarian catastrophe in Chechnya” where 30,000 to 100,000 Chechens have fled into the neighboring southern Russian republic of Ingushetia.

Following a recent spate of bombings in Russian cities, which killed 300 people, Russian police have arrested more than 100 people, while thousands who look like Chechens have been interrogated. Chechen officials deny that they are behind the killings.

The Chechens, a distinct ethnic group who have lived in the mountains and plains of Chechnya since the first millennium B.C., have endured 250 years of savage Russian colonial rule writes Peter Daniel DiPaola, in *A Noble Sacrifice? Jus ad Bellum and the International Community’s Gamble in Chechnya*. The Chechens are a subjugated people. They have fought continual wars of independence against the Russians.

In 1944, Stalin deported the Chechens and Ingush to Central Asia and dissolved the Chechen-Ingush republic. About 25 percent of the deported Chechens and Ingush died in exile or enroute. They have also been the victims of widespread job and educational discrimination.

In their 1994–1996 war for independence, says Aleksander I. Lebed, the former Russian security chief, “about 80,000 people had been killed in the fighting and that some 240,000 had been wounded.”

President Clinton supported Russia’s 1994–1996 war in Chechnya. He personally pushed a new, \$10.2 billion loan for Yeltsin through the International Monetary Fund saying that he backed Russia’s need to “maintain its territorial integrity.” He had no such qualms regarding Indonesia’s integrity when he threatened to delay a \$42 billion IMF loan package to get Indonesia to agree to the Australia-led UN occupation of East Timor.

Neither the Chechen freedom fighters, nor their support of neighboring Dagestan’s quest for independence from Russia gets any encouragement from the West. The U.S. has offered Russia “technical and investigative assistance” in its investigation of the explosions reports the *Associated Press*. But the U.S. offer of help in shutting down Dagestani web sites is hardly in keeping with America’s professed ideal of free speech.

According to David Hoffman of the *Washington Post*, political commentator Andrei Piontkovsky says that Russia will bomb “Chechnya into the Stone Age. Unfortunately, I am sure this is the thing they are certain to do now. The Chechens will react with more bombs. Moscow will react with pogroms against people from the Caucasus.”

Reports Eric Margolis of the *Toronto Sun*, the respected Georgian writer, Melor Sturua, a columnist for the leading Russian newspaper *Izvestia*, wrote of America’s disgraceful silence over Chechnya:

I remember a time when the arrest of even one Soviet dissident would create a storm of indignation here (in the US). Soviet embassies were picketed, Soviet goods boycotted, Soviet crimes were condemned.” Congress imposed trade sanctions on the USSR to force it to allow Jewish emigration to Israel.

Unfortunately for the Chechens, Chechnya just happens to be a gateway to the Caspian Sea oil worth between \$2 trillion and \$4 trillion at 1997 market prices.

["Geologists are not sure exactly how much oil is available for extraction in the Caspian Sea region—some say 40 billion barrels (about twice the amount found in the North Sea area), some say 100 billion and some claim that as much as 200 billion barrels are waiting to be tapped there."—Michael T. Klare, *Resource Wars: Global Geopolitics in the 21st Century*]

[“Russia’s state-owned Rosneft oil company announced yesterday that it has been given the right to exploit and export Chechnya’s substantial oil and gas reserves.”—Giles Whittell, “Fleeing Chechens ‘Caught in Snowy Death Trap,’” *The Times*, February 9, 2000]

November 14, 1999

U.S. Supporting Russia’s Genocidal War in Chechnya

The United States, by its attacks on Afghanistan, Sudan, and Yugoslavia, and by its continuing war on Iraq, set the example, is providing billions in aid to Russia, and must share responsibility for Russia’s genocidal war on Chechnya.

On September 18, following a meeting between Russian investigators and officials at the FBI, the *Associated Press* reported that the State Department and FBI chief Louis Freeh offered “technical and investigative assistance” to the Russian government in its investigation of four explosions in apartment buildings in Moscow that killed more than 300 people.

Russian authorities accuse Chechen freedom fighters of being responsible for the bombings. The Chechens have denied responsibility, but are, according to analysts at *Stratfor.com*, “the preferred scapegoat.”

A state of emergency could benefit president Yeltsin, who would like to see the December elections postponed until he can ensure a loyal successor.

According to *Stratfor.com* “Yeltsin’s opponents, such as former Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, have long feared that Yeltsin would call a state of emergency for political gain. The recent bombings could give him the excuse to do this legitimately.”

Despite the lack of evidence against the Chechens, and the May 1997 treaty granting Chechnya de facto independence, Russia launched massive, indiscriminate attacks on Chechnya.

BBC News Online reports that refugees arriving at the border with the neighboring republic of Ingushetia have been giving “consistent accounts of death and destruction caused by Russian troops.” Refugees say people are being killed as they try to flee the Russian bombardment.

An estimated 200,000 refugees have fled to Ingushetia. About 3,000 have been killed, and 10,000 wounded. Chechnya’s president, Aslan Maskhadov, has appealed to President Clinton to halt the “genocide of the Chechen people.”

The Russian prime minister, Vladimir Putin, cites the U.S. example to justify the attack on Chechnya. Says Mr. Putin, “Exactly the same tactics were deployed during Operation Desert Storm, in the bombing of the former Yugoslavia, and in the various United States attempts to strike back at the world’s most wanted terrorist—Osama bin Laden.”

Meanwhile billions in U.S. dollars continue to flow to Russia through the International Monetary Fund.

Contrast this with President Clinton’s threat to delay a \$42 billion IMF loan package to get Indonesia to agree to the UN intervention in East Timor. And now reports have emerged that the recent killings in East Timor were greatly exaggerated—presumably to justify UN intervention.

Contrast this also with the UN sanctions initiated today against Afghanistan for its refusal to surrender Osama bin Laden to the U.S. The U.S. accuses bin Laden of masterminding the bombing of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, but refuses to provide evidence to back its claim.

“The Chechen people are now standing on the threshold of total destruction,” says foreign minister Iyas Akhmadov.

[“Authorities estimate that only a few thousand of the more than 500,000 people who lived here in early fall are left.”—Sharon LaFraniere, “Little Life Left Amid Grozny’s Hollow Ruins,” *Washington Post*, March 1, 2000]

[“The president has not undertaken a single concrete action to demonstrate U.S. opposition to Russia’s cruel war.”—William V. Roth Jr., “Actions, Not Words,” *Washington Post*, March 18, 2000]

November 16, 1999

EgyptAir 990 Pilot's Prayer Indicates Criminal Act?

A Muslim pilot's prayer as an EgyptAir plane was going down is said to point toward a criminal act, and the investigation into last month's crash off Massachusetts may be turned over to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Today's *Washington Post* carries a front page, above the fold headline: "Pilot Prayed, Then Shut Off Jets Autopilot." The article states that "voice and data recorders from EgyptAir Flight 990 reveal that just before one of the pilots, apparently alone in the cockpit, turned off the autopilot, he uttered a very short Muslim prayer, government sources said. National Transportation Safety Board officials found the evidence so disturbing they are considering turning the probe over to the FBI."

ABC's Washington affiliate displayed the words of the Islamic prayer, known as the *shahadah*, as the prayer uttered by the EgyptAir pilot. *Agence France-Presse* quoted an airline official saying the prayer was the *shahadah*.

Aviation experts have stated that there could be several reasons for taking the plane off autopilot, and shutting down the engines, but the utterance of the *shahadah* has caused the NTSB/FBI team to classify the investigation as a criminal matter.

If this is all the evidence available to date, then this is a grievous act of bigotry by top officials of the U.S. government. Had they reached similar conclusions based upon a Jewish or Christian pilot's prayer, U.S. congressmen and media would be demanding that these officials be terminated.

A Hindu, Buddhist, Jew, or Christian may well utter a prayer when confronted with a potentially deadly situation. A prayer so uttered is not in itself evidence of a deliberate criminal act.

What may be criminal is to rule out other explanations for the crash. At this stage all options should be kept open, but speculation on the basis of a prayer uttered by the pilot is at the very least irresponsible.

The *shahadah* is one of the five "pillars of Islam." It is a short prayer: "There is no god but God; Muhammad is the Messenger of God." The

four other pillars of Islam are prayer five times daily, fasting, alms-giving, and the pilgrimage to Mecca.

To become a Muslim, one has only to recite the *shahadah*. Like the pilgrimage to Mecca, it is required only once in a lifetime. However, pious Muslims recite the *shahadah* throughout their lives, even as often as several times each day—particularly in times of distress. Sufis, Islam's mystics, use the first part of the *shahadah*, "There is no god but God," repeatedly in their chanting. The *shahadah* is recited as one is dying, and if one cannot do so someone else may recite the *shahadah* for them.

It is normal for the Muslim pilot of EgyptAir 990 to have uttered the *shahadah* if confronted with a deadly situation beyond his control. What is not normal is to consider the recital of this prayer as an indication of a criminal act.

Normally, the transfer of an investigation from one agency to another would not be a matter of concern. But we question the transfer of the investigation to the FBI, whose case against the blind Egyptian, Muslim cleric Sheikh Rahman was not one which would inspire confidence.

The *New York Times* reported that there was scant evidence that Sheikh Rahman even knew of the plan to bomb the World Trade Center, and other buildings in New York. The government's primary witness against Sheikh Rahman was an FBI informant, Mr. Emad Salem, who confessed to lying under oath in a previous trial. Six months before the World Trade Center bombing, the FBI terminated Mr. Salem after he failed several lie detector tests. Following the bombing, Mr. Salem was rehired for a fee of over \$1 million.

The *shahadah* is also the last sentence of The Wisdom Fund's 600 word introduction to Islam, known as "The Truth About Islam." It is available on the Internet at www.twf.org, and has been displayed in international journals and in Washington Metro rail stations.

[Michael J. Sniffen reported ("EgyptAir Probe Focusing on Tape," *AP*, November 18, 1999), "A team of government safety experts, hired translators, and Egyptian, FBI and manufacturer representatives is trying to precisely transcribe EgyptAir 990's cockpit voice recorder tape, . . . The group will work all weekend and hopes to complete the transcript next week, the NTSB said Wednesday."]

November 26, 1999

Alternative Theories Emerge for EgyptAir 990 Crash

After 10 days of Muslim bashing—following the *Washington Post's* November 16 front page, above the fold headline which read: “Pilot Prayed, Then Shut Off Jets Autopilot”—alternative theories have begun to emerge for the October 31 crash of EgyptAir 990.

That evening, following the *Washington Post's* lead, relief pilot Gameel el-Batouty's prayer, identified as the *shahadah*—there is no god but God, Muhammad is the Messenger of God—appeared on television screens with the clear implication that the utterance of this short prayer indicated a deliberate act of suicide and murder.

But the very next day, November 17, ABC's Washington affiliate stated that the pilot had said, “I have made my decision. Now I put my faith in God's hands.” It is not clear whether the pilot also uttered the *shahadah*, or whether his utterance was incorrectly reported yesterday.

The National Transportation Safety Board advisory released November 17 indicated that the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) working group expected to have a transcript completed next week.

The flight data recorder (FDR) showed that the Boeing 767-300 pitch attitude moved from 40 degrees nose down to 10 degrees nose down. The speed brake handle moved from the stowed position to the deployed position. The last altitude registered was about 16,400 feet, at which time the aircraft was traveling at 574 knots.

The elevator split, which had previously been reported, was further defined by the FDR group. During the last 15 seconds, maximum split between the elevators was about 7 degrees and appeared to be lessening.

While the aircraft was at 33,000 feet, the autopilot cut off. Eight seconds later, the elevator moved into the nose down position, and the throttle was pulled back. Fourteen seconds after the nose down movement began, the aircraft reached Mach 0.86 and the master warning sounded. Thirteen seconds later, the engine start lever went to the “off” position. Fourteen seconds after that, the FDR, CVR and transponder shut off. From autopilot cutoff to end of data was about 50 seconds.

However, the lack of necessary facts did not deter U.S. media speculation.

The media consensus seemed to be that the pilot was depressed because he had been passed over for promotion, he had financial problems because of his child's health condition, and this drove him to crash the plane into the Atlantic.

These theories were challenged by his family who claimed that the pilot was financially well off, and they took television crews on a tour of the home Mr. Batouty had built for his upcoming retirement.

Still for the past ten days the recitation of an Islamic prayer, repeatedly mentioned by the media, confirmed for them the pilot's state of mind. *Newsweek* magazine based its cover story on the assertion that the pilot recited "Tawakilt ala allah" (I put my trust in God) 14 times.

Now doubts about who said what, and other theories have begun to emerge.

The London based *Independent* reported on November 20 (Andrew Marshall, "Doubt Cast on Suicide Theory for Air Crash"):

The American theory turns on a few facts whose interpretation is disputed. The cockpit voice recorders apparently show that the aircraft's captain, Ahmed al-Habashi, left the flight deck, leaving the relief copilot, Gamil al-Batouti, at the controls. He had been reported to have said "I made my decision now," before repeating a Muslim prayer variously translated as "I put my faith in God's hands" or "I depend on God."

"But yesterday," said the *Independent*, "an unnamed official told news agencies that Mr. Batouti did not say 'I made my decision now' casting some doubt on the pilot suicide theory."

The *Star-Ledger* of Newark, NJ (Michael Hedges, "Pilot Who Saved Jet in '79 Says: Be Wary Of Crash Probe Theories," November 23) described an event where a "Boeing jetliner had leveled off above 30,000 feet after leaving New York when, mysteriously, it began a steep and terrifying descent, falling at speeds that briefly topped 800 mph."

The *Star-Ledger* goes on to say,

The aftermath of that incident two decades ago has caused [the pilot Harvey "Hoot"] Gibson to be skeptical of quick explanations for aircraft crashes, like the theory that EgyptAir Flight 990 was downed October 31 by a suicidal pilot. . . . Gibson says he believes his flight suffered from some sort of rudder failure, the cause in later years of at least two airline crashes involving Boeing 737s. . . . It was the same rudder on the 727 as the 737.

On November 24, the *Associated Press* reported (“Egyptian Expert Offers Blast Theory”) that “Gen. Issam Ahmed, head of the country’s flight training program, urged Egyptian investigators to look closely at what happened in the rear of the plane and not to let their U.S. counterparts impose the suicide scenario.” Said the general, “The two pilots took the right steps, including turning off the autopilot and the engines in an attempt to control the plane.”

Today, November 26, Mr. Gibson and Gen. Issam Ahmed have been joined by others challenging reckless media speculation.

The *Washington Times* reported today on its front page (“Austrians Offer Malfunction Theory of EgyptAir Crash”) that the “crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 might have been caused by a flight stabilizer breakdown that could have sent the plane plunging into the sea, an Austrian institute said yesterday.”

The independent Austrian Institute of Aerospace Medicine and Space Biology said, “The abnormal dive of the Boeing 767 could be due to a so-called ‘stabilizer runaway.’ . . . The stabilizer runaway batters the plane so strongly that the autopilot is insufficiently strong and it is automatically turned off on purpose in such a case.”

FOX News reported (“Airline Pilots’ Group Hits Out at EgyptAir Probe”) that an “international airline pilots’ group Friday stepped into the controversy over the probe into the EgyptAir flight 990 crash, denouncing what it said was a media frenzy about suicide as a cause.”

Captain Ted Murphy of the International Federation of Airline Pilots’ Associations told *Reuters*, “The big issue is the failure of the industry to resist the temptation to talk. Authorities have to resist giving an answer straight away.”

Faced with these emerging theories the *Washington Post* began backing off from its earlier focus on the pilot’s prayer. The Post (David A. Vise and Don Phillips, “No Letup For FBI In Probe Of Crash”) said: “While his prayer in Arabic—I have put my faith in God’s hands—has played a role in the probe, it is less significant, officials said, than the actions he took in the cockpit.”

For now, all options should be kept open. Speculation on the basis of a prayer uttered by the pilot is at the very least irresponsible.

November 30, 1999

EgyptAir 990: FAA Order Raises New Questions

The Federal Aviation Administration yesterday ordered a special inspection of Boeing Co. after a series of quality-control problems, including the discovery by American Airlines mechanics of 16 improperly tightened bolts in a Boeing 767 tail section, reports Don Phillips (“FAA Calls a Special Inspection of Boeing,” *Washington Post*, November 30).

Boeing has determined that an incorrect torque wrench had been used because of a difference between Boeing requirements and the work instructions given to workers.

The FAA ordered inspection gives some credence to questions raised about the stabilizer of the Boeing 767 involved in the EgyptAir 990 crash.

Less than a week ago the independent Austrian Institute of Aerospace Medicine and Space Biology said that “the abnormal dive of the Boeing 767 could be due to a so-called ‘stabilizer runaway.’ . . . The stabilizer runaway batters the plane so strongly that the autopilot is insufficiently strong and it is automatically turned off on purpose in such a case.”

And an international airline pilots group has stepped into the controversy over the probe into the EgyptAir flight 990 crash, denouncing what it said was a media frenzy about suicide as a cause.”

Captain Ted Murphy of the International Federation of Airline Pilots’ Associations told *Reuters*, “The big issue is the failure of the industry to resist the temptation to talk. Authorities have to resist giving an answer straight away.”

This is not the first time that U.S. government officials and media have jumped to hasty conclusions.

Five months after the December 21, 1988, explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, the U.S. State Department announced that the CIA was confident that the villains were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Ahmed Jibril based in Syria. But when Syria allied with the U.S. in the Gulf War the blame was shifted to Libya.

When TWA 800 crashed in 1996, the *Washington Post*, in it’s July

23 editorial, stated that while the “evidence of terrorism is not yet there,” that “courtroom-type proof” may be hard to come by, that “international validation before the act of punishment would be the best way to go, but if that is not feasible a national decision by the injured party, the United States, ought to suffice.”

There is one thing of which we may be reasonably sure. The cause of such crashes may never be determined with certainty.

Newsweek magazine, in their cover story of November 29 by Daniel Klaidman and Mark Hosenball, “I Put My Trust in God,” on the crash of EgyptAir 990, state, “Nearly three years after the NTSB determined that a faulty fuel tank aboard the Boeing 747 caused the explosion that destroyed TWA Flight 800 in July 1996, Boeing is still trying to prove that the plane was brought down by a missile or a bomb.”

Boeing’s concerns are echoed by the Associated Retired Aviation Professionals which states: “Recently uncovered information now shows that TWA Flight 800 could have been shot down by one or more shoulder-fired missiles.” The association’s membership includes Admiral Thomas Moorer former Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chief’s of Staff.

According to *Time* magazine (Johanna McGeary, “A Prayer Before Dying,” November 29): “The U.S. has a long investigation to finish before it can prove any hypothesis is valid. It took investigators 16 months to conclude effectively that an exploded fuel tank, not a missile, brought down TWA 800. The truth about EgyptAir 990 still lies hidden in the deep.”

[As of March 15, 2000, the transcript, expected to take five days, had not been released.]

[“American investigators studying the crash of an Egyptair jet in 1999, said today that they were looking into a control problem with the same model plane that occurred Tuesday as it approached Paris. . . . Egyptians attribute the problem to flaws in the pitch mechanism.”—“A New Theory in Egyptair Crash,” *New York Times*, March 29, 2001]

[“EgyptAir says it will not contest liability over claims filed by relatives of more than 200 people killed when one of its planes plunged into the Atlantic Ocean in 1999. A lawyer for the airline told Reuters news agency in New York the decision did not mean the company admitted it was responsible for the crash. Christopher Carlsen said EgyptAir wanted to help the victims’ families now and dispute the cause of the disaster later. The airline believes there was a mechanical problem with the Boeing 767 jet.”—“EgyptAir Abandons Liability Battle,” *BBC News Online*, January 26, 2001]

November 30, 1999

Secret Evidence Used to Prosecute Arabs, Muslims

Nasser K. Ahmed, jailed by the U.S. government for more than three years on the basis of secret evidence was freed last night, but about 20 others remain in jail on the basis of a 1996 antiterrorism bill authorizing the use of secret evidence in deportation proceedings.

Ahmed's case is not yet over—he is free on personal bond pending a final ruling by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Board of Immigration Appeals on whether he should be granted asylum. Using secret evidence, that is evidence not shown to the accused, the INS had sought to deport Ahmed to Egypt after he overstayed his visa.

Ahmed was accused of belonging to an Egyptian terrorist group of which Abdel Rahman is said to be the spiritual leader. Ahmed admitted to being an admirer of Sheikh Abdel Rahman, but has denied involvement in terrorism.

Ahmed's release came 40 days after that of Hany Kiardeeen, a 32-year-old Palestinian immigrant, who had been held by the INS since March 1998 because the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force had developed secret evidence that he had hosted a meeting with terrorists planning the World Trade Center bombing, and had talked of murdering Attorney General Janet Reno.

Immigration judge, Donn Livingston, sharply criticized the government's case, calling it "double or triple hearsay," and questioned the reliability of some government sources, saying he had a "very real concern" that the Egyptian government might be the source of secret evidence against Ahmed. Judge Livingston cited "the very real danger that the Egyptian government" was seeking to silence Abdel Rahman, one of its harshest critics (Benjamin Weiser, "U.S. Frees Egyptian Jailed on Secret Evidence," *New York Times*, November 30, 1999).

The U.S. government also sought to use secret evidence to expel six Iraqis brought to this country by the CIA. In another case, the government arrested and sought to deport eight Los Angeles activists for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the basis of secret evidence.

The use of secret evidence by the INS was first authorized by the

1996 antiterrorism bill that followed the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bombings. Secret evidence has been used in about two dozen cases around the country in which the INS asserted national security concerns as the basis for depriving immigrants of the right to examine and confront adverse witnesses and evidence. All of the cases are against Arab or Muslim immigrants reported Lorraine Adams and David A. Vise of the *Washington Post* (“Classified Evidence Ruled Out in Deportation,” October 21, 1999).

For the first time, on October 20, a federal court weighed the constitutionality of the use of secret evidence and found it unconstitutional.

Federal district Judge William Walls held in Kiaraldeen’s case that “the government’s reliance on secret evidence violates the due process protections that the Constitution directs must be extended to all persons within the United States, citizens and resident aliens alike.”

However, the 1996 antiterrorism bill has yet to be repealed or revised.

Representative David E. Bonior of Michigan has introduced legislation to ban the use of secret evidence in deportation proceedings. Says Rep. Bonior, “we still have about 20 others who are being held, and it’s a travesty of justice that this continues in our country without people having the right to face their accusers.”

December 6, 1999

Religion Newswriters Association Bashes Islam

“Top 10 Stories of The Millennium” includes event that never took place!

Among the top 10 stories of the millennium, according to the Religion Newswriters Association, is “Islam’s expansion into Africa, Europe and Asia, including its move into India (1190–1200), resulting in the destruction of most of the subcontinent’s indigenous Buddhist culture.”

There’s just one problem with this story. Islam did not destroy Buddhist culture. Buddhism never really caught on in India. It was absorbed into Hinduism.

It's worth reading what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said about Islam's expansion in "The Discovery of India." Pandit Nehru, together with Mahatma Gandhi, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad led India's independence movement. Pandit Nehru, a Hindu, and India's first prime minister had this to say:

Frequent intercourse [trade and cultural relations] led to Indians getting to know the religion, Islam. Missionaries also came to spread the new faith and they were welcomed. Mosques were built. There was no objection raised either by the state or the people, nor were there any religious conflicts. . . .

Mahmud's raids are a big event in Indian history. . . . Above all they brought Islam, for the first time, to the accompaniment of ruthless military conquest. So far, for over 300 years, Islam had come peacefully as a religion and taken its place among the many religions of India without trouble or conflict. . . . Yet when he [Mahmud] had established himself as a ruler . . . Hindus were appointed to high office in the army and the administration. . . .

It is thus wrong and misleading to think of a Muslim invasion of India or of the Muslim period in India, just as it would be wrong to refer to the coming of the British to India as a Christian invasion, or to call the British period in India a Christian period. Islam did not invade India; it had come to India some centuries earlier.

. . .

As a warrior he [Akbar] conquered large parts of India, but his eyes were set on another and more enduring conquest, the conquest of the minds and hearts of the people . . . throughout his long reign of nearly fifty years from 1556 onwards he labored to that end.

Although Muslims ruled India for several centuries, Hinduism remains the dominant religion, and Sikhism, a new religion combining elements of Islam and Hinduism, was born. King Akbar even tried to form a new religion, Din Elahi, combining the best of several religions, but it attracted few followers.

Islam attracted a following in India for the same reasons that it did in North Africa.

Jawaharlal Nehru had this to say about Islam's spread:

North Africa was torn with internecine conflicts between rival Christian factions, leading often to bloody struggles for mastery. The Christianity that was practised there at the time was narrow and intolerant and the contrast between this and the general toleration of the Muslim Arabs, with their message of human brotherhood,

was marked. It was this that brought whole peoples, weary of Christian strife, to their side.

Perhaps the most striking example of Islam's peaceful spread is Indonesia. The largest Muslim country, with more than 200 million people spread over 6,000 islands, was never invaded by Muslims. Islam was spread by the example of traders.

The Hindu scholar, and noted historian, Dr. Bishambhar Nath Pande said, "History was compiled by European writers whose main objective was to produce histories that would serve their policy of divide and rule."

We're reminded of Dorothy Gilliam's column of December 20, 1997 for the *Washington Post*. Ms. Gilliam wrote:

Newsrooms that do not reflect America's diversity do their readers an injustice. They fail to tell the stories of its citizens, they give readers a distorted image of themselves and they grossly twist the reality of minority groups.

We asked Debra Mason, executive director, Religion Newswriters Association, what are the facts that support her statement that Islam's expansion into India resulted in "the destruction of most of the subcontinent's indigenous Buddhist culture?" Ms. Mason didn't respond.

December 7, 1999

Russia to Chechens: 'Get Out or Die'

The deadline is this Saturday. Forty thousand Chechens trapped in Grozny have been delivered an ultimatum by Russia: "Get out or die." And the Russians may also be using chemical weapons.

A communique, received today by The Wisdom Fund, from Mr. Colin Archer, secretary-general of International Peace Bureau (IPB) states: "Russian forces are using chemical weapons in their attack on Grozny, declared three Chechen representatives at a meeting with journalists in Geneva this morning." The IPB is among the oldest of the international peace federations covering issues ranging from nuclear weapons and landmines to conflict resolution and peace education.

President Clinton has criticized the Russian ultimatum to civilians,

calling it “a threat to the lives of the old, the infirm, the injured people, and other innocent civilians who simply cannot leave or are too scared to leave their homes.”

But the Russians have shrugged off the West’s belated criticism. Russia had earlier been given the green light for the attack on Chechnya by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright who dismissed proposals for cutting off aid to Russia.

BBC News Online reported (November 5) that Secretary Albright said the war in Chechnya must not be allowed to damage relations between Russia and the West, and turn Russia back into a Cold War enemy. Albright added, “We believe it is very important for there to be economic stability in Russia. That is in our national interest.”

Russia launched this war on Chechnya in retaliation for alleged bombings of apartment buildings in Moscow. The Chechens deny they are responsible, and view the war as being prosecuted primarily to assure the election prospects of Russian prime minister Vladimir Putin.

“Russian parliamentary elections are scheduled for December 19, and the results are regarded as a bellwether for next year’s presidential vote. Putin has staked his presidential candidacy on the war’s outcome, and so far his popularity has soared” (Daniel Williams, “Russia Tells Chechens: Leave Grozny or Die,” *The Washington Post*, December 7).

For Russia and the West the fate of the Chechens, who have suffered 250 years of brutal, colonial rule, is overshadowed by “The Great Game”—a reference to the rivalry between Imperial Russia and the British Empire over influence in Central Asia at the end of the last century—being replayed.

Thomas Goltz, author of *Azerbaijan Diary: A Rogue Reporter’s Adventures in an Oil-rich, War-Torn, Post-Soviet Republic* due this winter, writes,

This time the stakes are just as high—control over the vast deposits of “sweet” crude oil beneath the Caspian Sea—but there are more players. The United States (and the West) is taking a keen interest in the region as an alternative source of energy supply for the next century. Russia has long regarded the Caspian as its strategic reserve and Moscow does not take kindly to the prospect of the once-Soviet states which actually sit on the oil drilling their way to real economic independence.

Goltz adds,

Iran is keenly interested both in becoming a player itself and in keeping the United States from dominating its backyard to the North. Turkey desperately seeks a sphere of influence of its own after being effectively locked out of the European Union. Even China, the new giant Tiger to the East, has indicated interest.

Michael T. Klare, professor of peace and world security studies at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, and the author of the forthcoming book, *Resource Wars: Global Geopolitics in the 21st Century* writes: “Now, in this new era of geopolitical competition, Clinton wants the oil to move along an east-west axis from Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan (this part traversing the Caspian Sea itself) and thence by land to Georgia and Turkey, thereby avoiding both Russia and Iran.”

The agreement signed by Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey on November 18th in Istanbul achieves president Clinton’s key objective, and raises the stakes for Russia.

December 31, 1999

Facts Belie Hype About ‘Islamic Terrorism’

This decade ended with a continuation of the media hype about “Islamic terrorism,” while mass murder of Muslims goes unpunished, and in the guise of helping Muslims, their countries are exploited.

Just review what’s been happening in Bosnia, Chechnya, Indonesia, Kosovo, and the Middle East—the majority of those killed or made refugees are Muslim. In Bosnia alone, thousands of mosques were destroyed by Christians. Yet it is the Muslims who are labelled as terrorists.

In *Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1998*, the U.S. Department of State says, “the number of international terrorist attacks actually fell again in 1998, continuing a downward trend that began several years ago.” But media hype about terrorism, and the budget for the war against terrorism has been on an upward trend.

According to the State Department report, the “Total International Attacks by Region” are as follows:

Total International Attacks by Region

| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Africa | 6 | 25 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 21 |
| Asia | 37 | 24 | 16 | 11 | 21 | 49 |
| Eurasia | 5 | 11 | 5 | 24 | 42 | 14 |
| Latin America | 97 | 58 | 92 | 84 | 128 | 110 |
| Middle East | 100 | 116 | 45 | 45 | 37 | 31 |
| North America | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| West Europe | 185 | 88 | 272 | 121 | 52 | 48 |

Other useful statistics from the Department of State report, the “Total U.S. Citizen Casualties Caused by International Attacks,” are as follows:

Total U.S. Citizen Casualties Caused by International Attacks

| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Dead | 7 | 6 | 10 | 25 | 6 | 12 |
| Wounded | 1004 | 5 | 60 | 510 | 21 | 11 |

Perhaps, the more interesting statistics, as far as “Islamic terrorism” is concerned, appear in “Total Anti-U.S. Attacks,” which lists attacks by region as follows: Africa–3, Europe–3, West Europe–13, Middle East–5, and Latin America–87.

From these statistics, it is evident that Americans have little to fear from terrorism in the U.S., and even less from “Islamic terrorism.” And, given the statistics for the Middle East and Latin America, one wonders why one doesn’t hear about “Christian terrorism,” at least as often as one hears about “Islamic terrorism.”

Furthermore, according to John Mueller and Karl Mueller (“Sanctions of Mass Destruction,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 1999), “On average far fewer Americans are killed each year by terrorists than are killed by lightning, deer accidents, or peanut allergies. To call terrorism a threat to national security is scarcely plausible.” The Muellers add, “Economic sanctions may well have been a necessary cause of the deaths of more people in Iraq than have been slain by all so-called weapons of mass destruction throughout history.”

Graham E. Fuller, former vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA, says (“Airstrikes Aren’t the Endgame,” *Los*

Angeles Times, August 24, 1998), “it is dangerous to divorce terrorism from politics, yet the U.S. media continue to talk about an abstract war against terrorism without mention of the issues or context that lie behind them.”

[“If the agenda can be restricted to the ambiguities of Arafat, the abuses and failures of the Sandinistas, the terrorism of Iran and Libya, and other properly framed issues, then the game is basically over; excluded from the discussion is the unambiguous rejectionism of the United States and Israel, and the terrorism and other crimes of the United States and its clients, not only far greater in scale but also incomparably more significant on any moral dimension for American citizens, who are in a position to mitigate or terminate these crimes.”—Noam Chomsky, *Necessary Illusions*, p. 49]

[Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait took about 360 lives. According to the documentary *Panama Deception*—produced by the Empowerment Project and broadcast in more than 20 countries worldwide, Blue Ribbon winner at the American Film & Video Festival in 1993, and recipient of several international film awards—the U.S. invasion of Panama, December 20, 1989, to capture Gen. Noriega, took 2,500 to 4,000 lives.]

January 8, 2000

Chechens Pay for Putin’s Rise, Yeltsin’s Immunity

The Chechens are paying a high price for Mr. Vladimir Putin’s rise from obscurity to Acting President of Russia, and for his grant of immunity to former president Boris Yeltsin who was being investigated on charges of corruption.

A series of bomb explosions last summer in Moscow and other Russian cities was the beginning of Putin’s rise to power and popularity. According to Stephen Mulvey, until his appointment as Prime Minister last August (“Vladimir Putin: Spy Turned Politician,” *BBC News Online*, January 1, 2000), “he was a little known figure who had spent most of his career working for the Soviet security service, the KGB, including several years as a spy in Germany. In a matter of weeks he had become the most popular politician in the country, and by the end of the year, the acting president.”

According to the *Economist* (Editorial, January 8, 2000), “No clear evidence has yet been found for who was responsible for those bombs, and no one has claimed responsibility.” But, says the *Economist*, given

the huge benefits that Putin, and the security forces in general, have gained from those tragedies it would be foolish to rule out Putin's role in the bombing.

The *Independent* (Helen Womack, "Russian Agents 'Blew Up Moscow Flats,'" January 6, 2000) has obtained a videotape in which a Russian officer, Lieutenant Galtin, captured at the border between Dagestan and Chechnya while on a mine-laying mission says, "I know who is responsible for the bombings in Moscow (and Dagestan). It is the FSB (Russian security service), in cooperation with the GRU, that is responsible for the explosions in Volgodonsk and Moscow."

This confirms what Dr. Aslambek Kadiev told BBC ("A Chechen View of Russia's War," December 26, 1999) a few days earlier. Said Dr. Aslambek,

There are two main reasons for the two wars which Russia has launched against Chechnya. The first is economic: Russia wants to control the Caucasus oil fields and pipeline routes. The second is connected with the political situation in Russia, and particularly inside the Kremlin.

Dr. Kadiev explains,

The political purpose of the first Chechen war was to increase Boris Yeltsin's popularity and get him reelected president in 1996. The main aim of this second war is to ensure that Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, a former spy and President Yeltsin's anointed heir, becomes president at the next elections. The apartment bombings in Russian cities early this year were used by Russia to justify its invasion.

Boris Yeltsin stunned Russians by announcing his resignation, and saying elections for a new president will be held in 90 days. According to the *Associated Press* (Barry Renfrew, "Yeltsin Resigns, Turns Over Powers," January 31, 1999),

Yeltsin said he was stepping down immediately because he wanted Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to succeed him. Putin then signed a decree offering Yeltsin immunity from prosecution, a lifetime pension, a government country home and bodyguards and medical care for him and his family.

According to the *Washington Post* (Sharon LaFraniere, "Yeltsin is Linked to Bribe Scheme," September 8, 1999), a Swiss investigation uncovered evidence that "a construction company that received major Kremlin contracts paid tens of thousands of dollars of bills charged to

credit cards in the names of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his two daughters,” Yelena Okulova and Tatyana Dyachenko. And this may be just the tip of the iceberg.

About \$100 billion to \$150 billion has fled abroad since 1992, according to Russian and Western estimates (David Hoffman, “Russia’s Cash Flow Flows Out,” *Washington Post*, August 29, 1999).

Russian general prosecutor, Yuri Skuratov, had threatened to reveal the identities of what he described as high-level government officials with Swiss bank accounts. They had been examining how the foreign currency earnings of the national airline, Aeroflot, were reportedly channeled into a Swiss company believed by the investigators to be controlled by tycoon Boris Berezovsky.

As long as he remained in office, Yeltsin was immune from prosecution. But with presidential elections scheduled for next May, Yeltsin had three choices: flee the country, choose a sympathetic successor, or declare a state of emergency, canceling the elections. Vladimir Putin, his handpicked successor, granted immunity and more to Boris Yeltsin.

The Chechens, who are paying with their lives for the Yeltsin/Putin *Wag the Dog* war, have endured 250 years of brutal Russian occupation. About one-quarter of them perished during forced exile by Stalin in 1944. Since the recent Russian war on Chechnya, an estimated 200,000 Chechen refugees have fled to Ingushetia. About 3,000 have been killed, and 10,000 wounded. And 40,000 remain trapped in basements in Chechnya in subfreezing temperatures.

Now, according to the London *Times* (Alice Lagnado, January 8, 2000), “Russia may resort to more powerful weapons to end a war that is going badly. Vacuum bombs could bring the fighting to a speedy end. Russian forces may also be considering the use of chemical weapons.”

The U.S. attitude to the war in Chechnya was summed up in statements by Madeleine Albright, and Lawrence Eagleburger.

Canadian columnist, Eric Margolis reported (“U.S. Aids Russia’s Crimes in the Caucasus,” *Toronto Sun*, October 12, 1999):

In Moscow, standing next to her beaming Russian hosts, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright proclaimed ‘we are opposed to terrorism’—meaning Islamic rebels in the Caucasus fighting Russian rule. She said nothing about Russia’s blatant violation of its 1996 treaty that granted Chechnya de facto independence. She made no protest over Moscow’s egregious violation of the 1990

CFE [Conventional Forces in Europe] Treaty, the most important east-west arms reduction pact, by moving large new forces into the Caucasus.

And on a recent PBS “Newshour with Jim Lehrer,” former U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger rationalized Russia’s genocidal war on Chechnya, saying, “They’re not very nice people.”

[“Former Russian prime minister, Mr. Sergei Stepashin, in recent interviews with the daily *Nezavissimaya Gazeta* and Interfax agency, said the plan to send the Russian army into Chechnya ‘had been worked out in March.’ He says he played a central role in organizing the military build up before the invasion, which ‘had to happen even if there were no explosions in Moscow.’”—Patrick Cockburn, “Russia Planned Chechen War Before Bombings,” *Independent*, January 29, 2000]

[The U.S. reaction is apparent from the following: Sharon LaFraniere, “Allbright Hails Putin’s Can-Do Style,” *Washington Post*, February 3, 2000]

January 15, 2000

Media Show Bias in Coverage of Violence in Indonesia

The U.S. media’s anti-Muslim bias shows once again in their reports on the violence in Indonesia, where calls of “jihad” receive widespread newspaper and television coverage, but the massacre and burning of dozens of Muslims by Christians—the reason for the call to “jihad”—gets little or no coverage.

Richard Lloyd Parry, Asia Correspondent for the *Independent*, reported on January 11, 2000 that, “Aid workers say they have found the bodies of large numbers of Muslims massacred and burnt by Christians in the ongoing violence in the Indonesian Spice Islands.”

Mr. Parry reports,

A doctor with the aid team said he had seen a mosque in the village of Popilo in which bodies lay five deep. More bodies, including those of young children, were bulldozed into the ground near by. “I think it was about 200 bodies,” he was quoted as saying. “I saw some dried blood in the mosque, so I assume . . . that the victims were slaughtered inside the mosque.”

On January 5, 2000, Irwin Firdaus of the *Associated Press* had reported:

Media reports in Jakarta said up to 10,000 people on Halmahera

[in the Spice Islands] were seeking shelter in military barracks while waiting to be evacuated. The *Indonesian Observer* daily quoted local residents as saying most of those fleeing were Muslim, and that Christian militias had gone on a killing spree throughout the island.

Yet, as far as we can tell, this Christian killing spree was not covered by U.S. media. Instead U.S. media paid far greater attention to Muslims calling for “jihad” in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

They did not report why Muslims were calling for “jihad,” nor the various meanings of jihad (or struggle), thereby, leaving the impression of a bloodthirsty Muslim majority out to kill Christians—just because they are Christian.

The truth is considerably more complex, and neither Muslims nor Christians are blameless.

The 1,000 plus islands comprising the Moluccas (or Maluku) in Indonesia, stretch from Halmahera in the north to Wetar off the northeastern end of Timor. The largest of the islands, Halmahera and Seram, are the most undeveloped and underpopulated. The smallest, Ambon and the Bandas, are the most developed and populated.

The Moluccas—the fabled Spice Islands—to which Indians, Chinese, Arabs, and Europeans came in search of cloves, nutmeg, and mace, bore the brunt of the first European attempts to colonize Indonesia.

The Portuguese were the first to arrive in 1509, followed by the Dutch in 1599. By 1630 the Dutch were established in Ambon, and they had established their headquarters in Jakarta.

After a brief occupation by the British, the Dutch returned in 1814, but encountered resistance. The leader of the rebellion, Pattimura, was captured and executed. He is regarded as one of Indonesia’s national heroes—Ambon’s university and airport are named after him.

When the Dutch left Indonesia after World War II, the mainly Christian population of Ambon in the Moluccas, proclaimed an independent Republic of the South Moluccas (Republic Maluku Selatan; RMS) rather than join with the rest of mainly Muslim Indonesia.

In 1950 Indonesian troops occupied the islands, and the Ambonese, many of whom worked for the Dutch, as missionaries or soldiers in the Dutch army, fled to the jungles of Seram.

The Dutch intended to demobilize them, and send them back to

Ambon. But fearing that this would mean sending them to their death, about 12,000 were taken to the Netherlands by the Dutch government. And from the Netherlands they continue their resistance to Indonesian rule. Many have returned to retire or do business.

The violence in the Moluccas has come amid increasing religious tensions, fueled in part by Muslim migration to the islands, which during Dutch rule had a Christian majority.

Adding to the religious tensions is the prospect of wealth for some.

According to *AFP* (January 11, 2000), Indonesian president, Abdurrahman Wahid, said that the most recent bloody Muslim-Christian battles on Halmahera island in North Maluku, which have left hundreds killed, were “perpetrated by someone who wants to be the governor of the province,” as well as “the prospect of a gold mine” in the area.

Others, rumored to be after the oil on Seram, may be fueling the violence which has taken about 2,000 lives in the past year.

[“Audi Wuisan, the coordinator of the crisis center of the Indonesian Council of Churches, . . . said on January 13, copies of an open letter had circulated in West Nusatenggara province, of which Lombok is part, telling Christians there to condemn Christians in Maluku for slaughtering 3,000 Muslims.”—“Angry Indonesian Mob Sets Churches on Fire over Slaughter of Muslims,” *AFP*, January 17, 2000]

[“A Muslim mob set fire today to at least eight churches on the Indonesian tourist island of Lombok and battled police trying to stop the spread of religious violence that has claimed more than 2,000 lives. . . . On Saturday, the Indonesian Council of Ulamas, a powerful group of Islamic leaders, said it supported calls for a holy war to protect Muslims from any further violence.”—Ali Kotarumalos, “Indonesian Religious Violence Grows,” *AP*, January 17, 2000. Note: The *AP* version of the same incident, does not mention the slaughter of 3,000 Muslims reported by *AFP*. It does mention “2,000 lives” claimed by violence, but does not say whose lives were taken. Given the references to “holy war,” American readers are likely to assume that it is Christian lives that were taken, in mostly Muslim Indonesia.]

[On January 24, 2000, about 200 hospital staff, 700 patients and visitors were taken hostage in Thailand by the Christian fundamentalist God’s Army. On January 25, an *AP* headline read, “Myanmar Hostage Takers Were Polite.” Compare this title with those of articles pertaining to Muslims.]

[“With Indonesian President . . . replaced by Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, there is mounting concern that the world’s fourth most populous nation may be sliding towards civil war and, ultimately, disintegration.”—Alex Standish, “Showdown in Jakarta as Wahid is Ousted,” *Jane’s Security Digest*, July 23, 2001]

June 15, 2000

Commission Hypes Terrorism, Doubles Budget

While U.S. government statistics indicate that terrorism is declining, L. Paul Bremer III, Chairman of the National Commission on Terrorism, in the June 2000 report to Congress, says the threat of terrorism is “becoming more deadly,” and recommends actions which would further erode American’s civil liberties.

Created in the wake of the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings in Africa, the commission’s recommendations include greater monitoring of foreign students, sanctions against Greece and Pakistan, and adding Afghanistan to the list of countries designated a “state sponsor” of terrorism. The list currently includes Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan, North Korea and Cuba.

The U.S. is “not considering sanctions” against Greece or Pakistan says U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Larry Johnson, a counter terrorism expert who appeared with Mr. Bremer on *WETA NewsHour* on June 6, challenges the commission’s findings.

Mr. Johnson says,

we had no problem as a country sanctioning Hezbollah and Hamas, but one of the terrorist groups that was left off the list of designated terrorist groups . . . was the Irish Republican Army. The message we sent to the world is if you’re Irish Catholic, it’s okay to be a terrorist. If you’re a Muslim, that’s bad.

Mr. Johnson also disagrees that the threat of terrorism is “becoming more deadly.” He says “the number of deaths fell from 4,800 in the 80s to 2,500 this last decade.” Government statistics confirm a steady decline in terrorism.

In *Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1998*, the U.S. Department of State says, “the number of international terrorist attacks actually fell again in 1998, continuing a downward trend that began several years ago.”

Based upon data from the 1998 and 1999 reports, “Total U.S. Citizen Casualties Caused by International Attacks” are as follows: the number of those killed each year from 1993 through 1999 is 7, 6, 10, 25, 6, 12, 5; the number of those wounded during these same years is 1004, 5, 60, 510, 21, 11, 6.

Perhaps, the more interesting statistic, as far as “Islamic terrorism”

is concerned, is “Total Anti-U.S. Attacks: 1999” which lists attacks by region as follows: Africa–16, Asia–6, Eurasia–9, Latin America–96, Middle East–11, North America–1, and West Europe–30.

Given the statistics for the Middle East and Latin America, one wonders why one doesn’t hear about “Christian terrorism,” at least as often as one hears about “Islamic terrorism.”

Furthermore, “To call terrorism a threat to national security is scarcely plausible,” say political science professors John Mueller and Karl Mueller (“Sanctions of Mass Destruction,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 1999, p. 43). They add, “On average far fewer Americans are killed each year by terrorists than are killed by lightning, deer accidents, or peanut allergies.”

In fact, the U.S. may have more to fear from American terrorists than foreign. On April 19, 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killing 168 citizens and injuring hundreds. This attack by an American Christian was the deadliest terrorist event ever committed on U.S. soil.

But as long as there’s money to be made, and friends of the zionists remain in control of key positions in the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government, they will perpetuate their self-serving myths—leaving Americans vulnerable to the realities. For this year, the budget for counter terrorism was doubled to \$10 billion.

August 4, 2000

Justice, Not Compromise, on Jerusalem

U.S. media coverage of Camp David II praised Israeli concessions, and chastized Palestinian President Yasser Arafat for failing to compromise with Israel. Remarkably, what was not mentioned are the UN resolutions which are the basis for peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, and the basis for a just peace.

UN Resolution 242, passed by the Security Council on November 22, 1967, contains the basis for all peace negotiations since then—it emphasizes “the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war.”

Arab East Jerusalem, together with Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Syria's Golan Heights were occupied by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict—the third such conflict since the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states by the UN General Assembly in 1947.

Jerusalem, revered by Jews, Christians, and Muslims, under UN Resolution 181—the *Partition Plan*—was designated as *corpus separatum*—a city that stands apart, ruled neither by Jew nor Muslim, but by an international regime under UN auspices. Israel accepted this when it endorsed the *Partition Plan*, and again when it was admitted into the UN in 1949. The Vatican, which recognized Israel as a state in 1993, has reaffirmed its position that Jerusalem should be accorded some type of special international status.

Indeed, until recently the U.S. consistently opposed Israel's claim to Jerusalem, and maintains its embassy in Tel Aviv rather than Jerusalem as a symbol of its opposition to Israel's claim. According to Paul Findley—U.S. representative from Illinois from 1961 to 1983—“In the early 1950s the Eisenhower administration went so far as to prohibit American diplomats from doing business with Israeli officials in Jerusalem.”

In 1980 Israel passed the *Basic Law* declaring Jerusalem its capital. The international community responded by passing UN Security Council Resolution 476 stating that Israeli actions to change the status of Jerusalem constitute a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention and declaring such measures null and void. Also passed was UN Security Council Resolution 478 which states, “the enactment of the *Basic Law* by Israel constitutes a violation of international law.”

However, writes Mr. Findley, “Washington's policy on Jerusalem has weakened over the years.” Still, on March 3, 1990, President George Bush publicly reaffirmed the designation of Arab East Jerusalem as “occupied territory.”

But the U.S. Congress has routinely passed non-binding resolutions calling for recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. And the Democratic Party, in the 1984 party platform stated: “The Democratic Party recognizes and supports the established status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. As a symbol of this stand, the U.S. embassy should be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.” And, in a clear effort to pander to

the Jewish vote, the Republican Party seems set to hop on the same bandwagon this year.

The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations at Camp David during July 2000 were just the latest in the long history of attempts by Israel, aided by the U.S., to obstruct the implementation of recognized UN resolutions for which U.S. media incorrectly place blame on Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Findley, writing in *Deliberate Deceptions: Facing the Facts about the U.S.-Israeli Relationship*—which should be required reading for every American journalist writing about the Middle East—provides the following history of peace plans rejected by Israel:

1977 Carter Comprehensive Peace Plan—Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin “refused to accept the usual interpretation that UN Resolution 242 meant withdrawal on all fronts. . . . Israel finally accepted a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979 only after Egypt and the United States agreed essentially to ignore the Palestinians and the United States promised Israel up to \$3 billion in extra aid beyond its annual sum of around \$2 billion.”

1981 Prince Fahd Peace Plan—This affirmed the rights of the states in the region to live in peace, called for Israel’s withdrawal from all Arab lands captured in 1967. Israel immediately rejected the proposal.

1982 Reagan Peace Plan—This called for Israeli withdrawal on all fronts according to UN Resolution 242, a freeze on Israeli settlements on occupied territory, full autonomy for the Palestinians, but insisted that Jerusalem remain undivided; its future negotiated between the parties. Prime Minister Menachem Begin instantly rejected the plan.

1988 PLO Peace Plan—“The National Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization on November 15 renounced terrorism, accepted UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and called for an international peace conference. . . . Israel immediately rejected the proposal. . . . U.S. reaction was lukewarm.”

1989 Bush Peace Plan—“The Bush administration embraced Resolution 242 as the basis for peace.” Secretary of State James Baker asked for Israel to forswear annexation, stop settlement activity,

allow schools to reopen. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir labeled Mr. Baker's speech as "useless." Frustrated, Mr. Baker publicly told Israel, "When you're serious about peace, call us."

The Gulf War, and the Madrid-Oslo "peace process" which followed the war, exposed the reality that the U.S., Israel, and client Arab-regimes are united in an alliance meant to retain American domination of the oil-rich Middle East. This reality tempers support among Arab regimes for the Palestinian cause, but at Camp David II they stood firmly behind Mr. Arafat.

The "Oslo agreement was doomed," writes veteran Middle East reporter for the *Independent*, Robert Fisk,

its deviation from the UN Security Council resolutions upon which it was supposedly founded has gone so far that there is no chance of a satisfactory outcome to the four issues that finally paralyzed Arafat and Barak at Camp David: Jerusalem, settlements, the Palestinian right of return and a Palestinian state.

On July 29, 2000 on Israeli television, President Clinton warned Mr. Arafat not to carry out his intention to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state by September 13. If that happens, the president said, "there will inevitably be consequences. Not just here, but throughout the world. And things will happen. I would review our entire relationship."

Three days later, Mr. Arafat, when asked if he intended to delay the declaration of a Palestinian state, said: "Never, never. There is no retreat on the fixed timetable of the declaration of the state. It will be declared at the fixed time, which is September 13, God willing, regardless of those who agree or disagree."

Mr. Clinton and U.S. presidents who have chastized other states as acting outside the law and international norms, on the issue of Jerusalem, are themselves acting to thwart the application of recognized international agreements and the will of the international community. Justice, not compromise, is what's required on Jerusalem.

[“The foundation for all my proposals to the two leaders was the official position of the government of the United States, based on international law that was mutually accepted by the United States, Egypt, Israel and other nations, and encapsulated in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. Our government's legal commitment to support this well-balanced resolution has not changed.”—Jimmy Carter, “For Israel, Land or Peace,” *Washington Post*, November 26, 2000]

August 7, 2000

Secret Evidence Laws Target Arabs, Muslims

U.S. federal agents stormed into Hany Kiareldeen's shop, handcuffed him, and detained him for what would become 19 months in jail—all on the basis of secret evidence.

Kiareldeen, a 32-year-old Palestinian immigrant, had been held by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) since March 1998 because the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force had developed secret evidence that he had hosted a meeting with terrorists planning the World Trade Center bombing, and had talked of murdering Attorney General Janet Reno.

Kiareldeen has been freed, but 20 other Muslims remain in U.S. jails on the basis of a 1996 anti-terrorism bill authorizing the use of secret evidence—evidence that neither the defendants nor their lawyers have the right to see—in deportation proceedings.

The use of secret evidence by the INS was first authorized by the 1996 anti-terrorism bill that followed the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bombings.

Secret evidence has been used in about two dozen cases around the country in which the INS asserted national security concerns as the basis for depriving immigrants of the right to examine the evidence against them, and to question adverse witnesses. All of the cases are against Arab or Muslim immigrants reported Lorraine Adams and David A. Vise of the *Washington Post* ("Classified Evidence Ruled Out in Deportation," October 21, 1999).

Hany Kiareldeen was freed after seven judges reviewed his case and rejected government claims that he posed a threat to national security. But he has never seen the classified report used to jail him.

According to the *Christian Science Monitor*,

The main charges apparently came from Kiareldeen's ex-wife, who was locked in a custody battle with him and had repeatedly made false accusations against him. The INS evidence alleged that Kiareldeen had hosted a meeting with terrorists in his Nutley, N.J., apartment 18 months before he had moved there.

Nasser K. Ahmed, jailed by the U.S. government for more than three years on the basis of secret evidence was freed 40 days after Hany

Kiareldeen, but Ahmed's case is not yet over—he is free on personal bond pending a final ruling by the INS Board of Immigration Appeals on whether he should be granted asylum. Using secret evidence, the INS had sought to deport Ahmed to Egypt after he overstayed his visa.

Ahmed was accused of belonging to an Egyptian terrorist group of which Sheikh Abdel Rahman is said to be the spiritual leader. Ahmed admitted to being an admirer of Sheikh Abdel Rahman, but has denied involvement in terrorism.

The U.S. government also sought to use secret evidence to expel six Iraqis brought to this country by the CIA. In another case, the government arrested and sought to deport eight Los Angeles activists for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the basis of secret evidence.

For the first time, on October 20, 1999, a federal court weighed the constitutionality of the use of secret evidence and found it unconstitutional.

Federal district Judge William Walls held in Kiareldeen's case that "the government's reliance on secret evidence violates the due process protections that the Constitution directs must be extended to all persons within the United States, citizens and resident aliens alike."

Immigration judge, Donn Livingston, sharply criticized the government's case against Nasser K. Ahmed, calling it "double or triple hearsay," and questioned the reliability of some government sources, saying he had a "very real concern" that the Egyptian government might be the source of secret evidence against Ahmed. Judge Livingston cited "the very real danger that the Egyptian government" was seeking to silence Abdel Rahman, one of its harshest critics reports Benjamin Weiser of the *New York Times* ("U.S. Frees Egyptian Jailed on Secret Evidence," November 30, 1999)

Muslim and Arab groups have lobbied to repeal secret evidence laws.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, says "secret evidence is unconstitutional and is used disproportionately against members of the Muslim and Arab-American communities. Almost all of the individuals held based on secret evidence are Muslims and Arabs." CAIR argues that

the basic guarantee to due process of law contained in the Fifth

Amendment should not be denied to anyone, citizen or non-citizen. To deprive any individual in the United States of liberty without a chance to confront the evidence used against him is a denial of justice. It flies in the face of American values.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee argues, this practice is manifestly unconstitutional and stands in direct violation of long-standing traditions guaranteeing the rights of defendants to confront the evidence against them. Moreover, since the passage of the *1996 Anti-Terrorism and E ffectiv e Death Penalty Act*, secret evidence has been used primarily against persons of Arab ethnicity and Muslim religious affiliation. At least three Federal judges have ruled that it violates 5th amendment rights to due process.

Secret evidence threatens not just Arabs and Muslims, but everyone's right to free speech—a right guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Representative David E. Bonior of Michigan says it is a “travesty of justice that this continues in our country without people having the right to face their accusers.”

While the laws remain intact, on June 22, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to cut \$173,480 in U.S. Justice Department expenses, the estimated annual cost of detaining people based on secret evidence.

Largely symbolic, the amendment to a government appropriations bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Campbell (R-CA)— co-sponsored by Reps. David Bonior (D-MI), Ray LaHood (R-IL) and Mark Sanford (R-SC)— does send a signal regarding Congressional intent, and reinforces recent court decisions.

Campbell's amendment passed 239 to 73 following a one-hour debate in which House members voiced their opposition to secret evidence. Mr. Campbell also introduced legislation to ban the use of secret evidence entirely. The Secret Evidence Repeal Act (H.R.2121) has more than 100 congressional sponsors.

The only organizational opposition to H.R.2121 has come from the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League— also a Jewish organization. The American Jewish Committee issued a statement voicing “deep regret” over the June 22 vote on the Campbell amendment.

August 12, 2000

Washington Post Covered for Israeli Spies

The *Washington Post* covered for Iranian Jews tried in Iran on charges of spying for Israel, and distorted reports so as to demonize Iran and Muslims.

The *Post* editorial “Iran’s Human Rights Disorder,” July 1, 2000 stated that Iran

continues to display arbitrary brutality and a sweeping disregard for international norms. . . . The salient example at the moment continues to be the trial of 13 Jews in Shiraz on charges of spying for Israel. Verdicts for the 13 are expected today after a travesty of a trial, a closed proceeding punctuated by televised “confessions.” The proceeding looked very much like an exercise in religious baiting of Iran’s 3,000-year-old and historically quiet Jewish community.

The *Post* omitted mention of the four Muslims also charged. That would have contradicted the *Post’s* accusation of “religious baiting” of the “quiet Jewish community.”

The very same day that the *Post* editorial appeared, the *Associated Press* (Afshin Valinejad, “Three Jews Acquitted of Spying”) reported:

Ten Iranian Jews were convicted of spying for Israel on Saturday and sentenced to prison terms of four to 13 years, while three others were acquitted, . . . two Muslim suspects were acquitted in the case, and another two Muslims received sentences similar to Jews. Little information has ever been released about the Muslims involved.

Further undermining the *Post’s* accusation against Iran, on August 9, Douglas Davis of the *Jerusalem Post* reported: “Israel has privately admitted to Iran that the 10 Jews convicted of espionage by a court in Shiraz last month were spying for Israel. . . . The admission was reportedly made during secret meetings between Israeli and Iranian officials at a Cairo hotel on July 31 and August 1, in the presence of US Ambassador to Egypt Daniel Kurtzer and Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Zvi Mazel.”

[“Since Sept. 11, more than 60 Israelis have been arrested or detained, . . . There is no indication that the Israelis were involved in the 9/11 attacks, but investigators suspect that the Israelis may have gathered intelligence about the attacks in advance, and not shared it.”—Carl Cameron, *Fox News Channel*, December 14, 2001]

September 4, 2000

U.S. Elections All About Money

“The Money Trail” on *ABC World News Tonight* was, arguably, the most interesting segment of network television coverage of the Republican and Democratic party conventions. American elections are, after all, all about money, and since 1976 they’ve been about money more than ever before.

Mr. Charles Lewis, founder of the Center for Public Integrity explains:

In 1976, in a landmark case, *Buckley v. Valeo*, the Supreme Court framed campaign spending as a free speech issue. In other words, wealthy individuals can spend as much of their own money as they want on their own campaign. . . . The Court also held that while advertisements expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate could be regulated, advertisements about issues could not be restricted under the Constitution.

As a result, writes Mr. Lewis in *The Buying of the President*, “Politicians and their parties can collect and spend as much money as they want.” Before the first vote was cast in the presidential primaries a private referendum had already been conducted among the nation’s financial elites as to which candidate would earn the party’s nomination. “In every election since 1976,” says political fund-raising consultant Stan Huckaby, “the candidate who has raised the most money by the end of the year preceding the election, and who has been eligible for federal matching funds, has become his party’s nominee for President.”

As of late June, according to Common Cause, the Republicans had raised \$137 million in soft money; the Democrats \$119. U.S. Senator Russell Feingold calls it “legalized bribery,” and corporate donors expect to be generously rewarded. In past years, the federal government alone shelled out \$125 billion a year in corporate welfare according to a special report in *TIME* magazine.

An indication of the character and views of each presidential candidate follows:

Republican George W. Bush—George W. Bush was a director and shareholder of Harken Energy when in January 1990 it was granted “exclusive rights to carry out exploration, development,

production, transportation, and marketing of petroleum throughout most of Bahrain's Gulf offshore areas." The company drilled two dry holes, but "Bush had sold off two-thirds of his holdings in Harken for nearly a million dollars, and bought a small share of the Texas Rangers, a deal that ultimately netted him—with a helping hand from Texas taxpayers—some \$15 million."

Mr. Bush has said, "America should not interfere in Israel's democratic process and America will not interfere in Israel's elections when I'm the president." He would move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. He says that his favorite philosopher is Jesus.

Mr. Bush is for free trade, and the World Trade Organization. He inherits his dad's foreign policy advisors: former Secretary of Defense, Richard B. Cheney—his choice for vice-president, former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin L. Powell, and a director of Chevron, Condoleeza Rice. He will also be advised by former Reaganite, Paul D. Wolfowitz, who believes in "exporting American values," and wants to base U.S. troops in Southern Iraq to help Iraqi dissidents overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

Democrat Al Gore—Armand Hammer of Occidental Petroleum, described as "the Godfather of American corporate corruption," liked to say that he had Al Gore's father Senator Albert Gore, Sr. "in my back pocket." Upon his election to the U. S. House of Representatives, "the Gore relationship with Hammer had already begun to transfer from father to son."

Mr. Gore has consistently adopted positions similar to that of the Israeli lobby. In March, 2000 responding to a question about re-locating the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem Gore said, "The outcome I think is hardly in doubt and my desires are the same as your desires."

Mr. Gore, an interventionist, is for the World Trade Organization. His choice of Sen. Joseph Lieberman for vice-president—portrayed by the media as Mr. Morality, and who believes that all human beings are created in God's image—

puts him even more firmly in the grasp of the Zionist lobby courted by the Clinton/Gore team. As for Mr. Lieberman's morality, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Editor of *Tikkun*, writes: "Identifying Lieberman as a moral hero only makes sense when we narrow our vision of 'morality' to the sphere of sexual ethics and abandon the Biblical insistence that social justice is the core of ethical life."

Green Party Candidate—Ralph Nader, an attorney, has devoted his adult life and earnings to consumer causes—essentially a struggle for social justice. Republicans and Democrats, he says, are "rotten to the core," and "have turned government over to big business." He calls George Bush "a wholly owned subsidiary of the oil industry."

Mr. Nader favors U.S. leading the effort for nuclear disarmament, cutting defense spending in half over 10 years, lifting the sanctions on Iraq, and "waging peace." He supports peace in the Middle East "based on respect for civil liberties and human rights."

Reform Party Candidate—Patrick Buchanan was speech writer for President Nixon, communications director for President Reagan, and presidential candidate in 1992 and 1996. He left the Republican party to join the Reform Party in 1999. In Nixon's "White House that became notorious for its dirty tricks, Buchanan quickly developed a reputation as the toughest trickster of all."

Mr. Buchanan opposes the World Trade Organization, would withdraw American troops from Europe and much of the world, end sanctions on Iraq, and end Israeli lobby domination of Mideast policy. He favors Palestinian statehood, and Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. Mr. Buchanan quotes Harry Truman on the Presidency being "pre-eminently a place of moral leadership." Mr. Buchanan is being challenged by Mr. John Hagelin—another claimant to the candidacy of the Reform Party.

American Muslims, while participating in ever larger numbers in the political process, reflect the divisions among Muslims worldwide.

Unable to agree on a single presidential candidate, they are likely to have a greater impact on congressional, state, and local races, than on the presidential race.

Mr. Eric Erfan Vickers, a Muslim civil rights activist and lawyer, is running as a democrat for the U.S. House of Representative from St. Louis, Missouri.

A few Muslim candidates are running in state and local races. These include: Morshed Alam—City Council, Queens, NY; Hassan Fahmy—Council seat in Prospect Park, NJ; Lateefah Muhammad—Mayor, Tuskegee, AL; Syed R. Mahmood—State Assembly, CA; Karriem Mohammad—State House, MI; Akhtar Sadiq—State Senate, GA; Mr. Saghir Tahir—House of Representatives, NH; Karim Shahid—State House, GA; Muhammad Abdullah—House of Representatives, MI.

The most crucial factors influencing the outcome of presidential elections, say academic analysts, “are the state of the country and the state of the economy.” Six of the seven forecasts presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association foresee Mr. Gore winning the election in November.

September 27, 2000

Corporate Globalization Threatens Poor, Middle Class

Beseiged by 9,000 protesters, 14,000 of the world’s financial elite met this September in Prague at the 55th annual summit of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to propose schemes for furthering corporate globalization—a globalization that threatens the poor and middle class of both the developing and developed world say the protesters.

The demonstrations in Prague this September were the latest in a series of protests, which have targeted summits of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Seattle last December, and the IMF and World Bank in Washington in April.

Labelled anti-capitalist or anti-globalist, the protests are ultimately about free markets, democracy, and societal values. The protesters see

themselves as a global movement for living democracy. Evidence and experts lend credibility to the protestors' arguments.

The divergence of views regarding the global economy has much to do with how success is measured by the IMF and World Bank, i.e. increases in Gross National Product (GNP)—the market value within a nation for a year of all goods and services produced as measured by final sales of goods and services to individuals, corporations, and governments plus the excess of exports over imports.

GNP falls short as the sole measure of successful development because it does not properly reflect the living conditions of the majority of the poor and middle class—the way in which it is computed sometimes leads to absurd results. For example, the costs of cleaning up the Exxon Valdez oil spill counted as a plus to the GNP according to David C. Korten, a graduate of the Stanford Business School, faculty member at Harvard University Graduate School of Business, with stints at the Ford Foundation, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Created in 1990 by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq, and advocated by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, the Human Development Index (HDI) measures a country's achievements in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment, and adjusted real income. The HDI is a recognized tool of development evaluation at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The UNDP *Human Development Report 2000* ranks countries by HDI as being high, medium, or low in human development.

Of the 174 countries ranked, 46 belong in the "high" human development group. These include Canada, Norway, and the U.S. ranked 1, 2 and 3, and five Muslim countries: Brunei Darussalam—32, Kuwait—36, Bahrain ranked 41, Qatar—42, and United Arab Emirates—45.

The "medium" human development group includes 93 countries including Cuba—56, Malaysia—61, Libya—72, Kazakhstan—73, Saudi Arabia ranked 75, Lebanon—82, Oman—86, Jordan—92, Albania—94, and Iran—97, Indonesia—109, Egypt—119, India—128, Pakistan—135.

The "low" human development group includes 35 countries including Sudan ranked 143, Bangladesh—146, Yemen—148, Tanzania—156, and Sierra Leone—174.

Saudi Arabia stands out as an example of the shortcomings of GNP

as a measure of successful development. Despite an average annual growth rate of 5.6 percent from 1965 to 1997, on human development Saudi Arabia ranks behind Libya which has suffered under a U.S.-backed, UN embargo since 1992, and Cuba—virtually isolated for 40 years!

As any competent manager knows, you get what you measure. The IMF/World Bank use GNP as the primary measure of success, whereas HDI measures real improvement in the lives of human beings.

Their achievements, according to Mr. Korten, bring the real functions of the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO—established by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and which plays a crucial role in the further liberalization of the world economy—into sharp focus.

Mr. Korten, says Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu, provides “a searing indictment” of the unjust international economic order in his widely-acclaimed book *When Corporations Rule the World*. Klaus Schwab, President, World Economic Forum says Mr. Korten’s book creates “an intellectual framework for the entry of humankind into the 21st century.”

Mr. Korten writes:

The World Bank has served as an export-financing facility for large Northern-based corporations. The IMF has served as the debt collector for Northern-based financial institutions. GATT has served to create a corporate bill of rights protecting the rights of the world’s largest corporations against the intrusions of people, communities, and democratically elected governments.

When developing countries are unable to repay their debts, the World Bank and IMF impose “economic reforms” on the country. Under the label of “structural adjustment” even more of the country’s resources are channeled to debt repayment, and laws are rewritten to open national economies to the global economy in which the developing country cannot compete. Such programs are declared successful when GNP growth rates increase. Yet country trade deficits, and debts are seldom reduced, and social conditions usually worsen.

Veteran British journalist Graham Hancock, author of the *Lords of Poverty: The Power, Prestige, and Corruption of the International Aid Business*, says that “official” development organizations administer the West’s aid and deliver it to the poor of the Third World in a process that has

been described as “a perversion of the act of human kindness.” His book gives many examples of failed projects, and their impact on the people and the environment. In country after country, economic growth has been accompanied with decreases in the quality of life for the poor and middle class.

When the World Bank was created to facilitate capital investments in “backward and underdeveloped” regions of the world, “little note was taken of the evident contradiction,” writes Mr. Korten,

that if maintaining the U.S.-style economy required access to most of the world’s resources and markets, it would be impossible for other countries to replicate that experience. Nor is it evident that much thought was given to the contradiction of financing industrial exports to low-income countries with international development loans that could be repaid by these countries only if they developed export surpluses with the countries that had initially extended the loans.

Indeed, every \$1 contributed to the World Bank, claims the U.S. Treasury Department, returns \$2 to the U.S. economy. Meanwhile, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow—not only in the developing countries, but also in the U.S.

A new survey by the U.S. Federal Reserve found that the nation’s poor are not just falling further behind the more fortunate—they were worse off, in absolute terms, in 1998 than in 1995.

Mr. Korten writes:

In 1950—about the time the commitment was made to globalize the development process—the average income of the 20 percent of people living in the wealthiest countries was about thirty times that of the 20 percent living in the poorest countries. By 1989, this ratio had doubled to sixty times. . . . The argument that globalization increases competition is simply false. To the contrary, it strengthens tendencies toward global-scale monopolization.

According to James K. Galbraith, professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, the University of Texas at Austin: “The success stories of the developing world in the years since 1979—China, Taiwan, and India above all—have in common insulation from the global capital markets and freedom from major private debt.”

The true purpose of foreign aid was revealed by George Ball.

In his memoirs, *The Past Has Another Pattern*, published in 1982, Mr. Ball, undersecretary of State in the Johnson and Kennedy adminis-

trations, wrote: “Our foreign aid, small as it is, has become largely a selective instrument of political coercion.”

Unlike the protestors gathered in Prague, much of the world has yet to wake up to the dangers of corporate globalization—an erosion of national sovereignty and democracy, and the promotion of consumerism at the expense of traditional and/or family values and social justice.

Unchecked, the juggernaut of corporate globalization will lead to ever more repressive societies as corporations rewrite laws to protect their privileges, and governments increase budgets to enforce those laws at home and abroad.

The U.S. military, whose \$288 billion annual budget dwarfs that of the rest of the world, has called for additional spending of more than \$50 billion a year through most of this decade to better serve its corporate masters.

October 31, 2000

USS Cole: A Diversion or Casualty of War

While refueling in the Yemeni port of Aden on October 12, the \$1 billion USS Cole was struck by a \$5,000 boat piloted by two suicide bombers that blasted a 30 feet by 40 feet hole midway in the hull just above the waterline, killing 17 American sailors and injuring 39 others. The USS Cole may have to be scrapped.

The bombing, said President Clinton, in his speech at the USS Cole memorial ceremony was the act of “hate-filled terrorists” who
 envy our strength without understanding the values that give us strength. For them, it is their way or no way: their interpretation, twisted though it may be, of a beautiful religious tradition; their political views; their racial and ethnic views.

John Lehman, secretary of the Navy in the Reagan administration, in his op-ed article of October 15 in the *Washington Post*, wrote that the attack “was a well-planned act of war by obviously brave and disciplined warriors.”

The values these “warriors,” and ordinary citizens in the Middle

East, oppose is Western greed that robs them of their freedom, resources and opportunities—and the U.S. bias toward Israel that damages U.S. interests in the region.

U.S. forces, of which the USS Cole was a part, enforce crippling sanctions and the US/UK self-declared “no-fly zones” against Iraq—which the UN says have resulted in the deaths of at least one million citizens of Iraq, including at least 500,000 children under the age of five.

And Iraq is not the only victim of U.S. manipulation in the Gulf. U.S. puppet regimes live in luxury while squandering their nations’ wealth, deterring democracy, and offering few meaningful job opportunities to their citizens.

According to *The Military Balance 1999-2000*, prepared by the U.S. Navy, U.S. forces in the Gulf include: the U.S. Sixth Fleet patrolling the eastern Mediterranean sea with 17 ships, 66 aircraft, and 13,010 sailors and marines, and the Fifth Fleet patrolling the Persian Gulf with 22 ships, 66 aircraft, and 12,880 sailors and marines. In addition, the U.S. has based 3,590 military personnel in Turkey; 5,720 in Saudi Arabia, 5,190 in Kuwait, 900 in Bahrain, 30 in Qatar, and 690 in Oman.

Forgotten by most Americans, the U.S. continues its war on Iraq.

Since December 20, 1998, according to the *Washington Post*, more than 12,000 sorties have been flown against Iraq alone, and other Muslim countries have not been spared. Among the major strikes:

January 1993—100 U.S., British and French aircraft bombed Iraqi radar and surface-to-air missile sites. U.S. warships fired 46 Tomahawk cruise missiles into a site just outside Baghdad.

June 1993—U.S. ships fired 24 Tomahawks into Iraq’s intelligence headquarters in retaliation for an alleged plot to assassinate President George Bush.

September 1996—After Iraq attacked Kurds in northern Iraq, U.S. forces fired 27 cruise missiles against Iraqi military targets.

August 1998—In retaliation for the bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa, U.S. warships in the Red and Arabian seas fired missiles at targets in Sudan and Afghanistan.

December 1998—In “Operation Desert Fox,” the military dropped

more than 600 bombs and launched more than 400 cruise missiles at Iraq in 70 hours of strikes.

These attacks by the U.S., its double standard with respect to UN resolutions on the inadmissibility of acquiring land by force, and its one-sided support of Israel in the never ending “peace process”—which has failed to improve the lives of Palestinians living in dire poverty under a brutal, humiliating Israeli occupation—have given many in the region cause for retaliation.

Yemeni authorities say they have arrested several “Islamic militants” in connection with the bombing, but say it is too early in the investigation to implicate the millionaire Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, whom U.S. officials suspect of involvement.

Alternative media point to another possible culprit. Israel, they say, needed to divert world attention and sympathy from the Palestinian intifada—triggered by the violation of the Haram as-Sharif by the Likud leader Ariel Sharon, accompanied by 1,000 Israeli troops. The intifada has claimed the lives of 130, and injured 4,000—the vast majority Palestinian. Sharon is reviled for his role in the massacre of 2,000 Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in Lebanon 18 years ago.

As “proof” alternative media cite the assault on the USS Liberty by Israel, and Israel’s alleged role in the bombing of the World Trade Center.

James M. Ennes, Jr, writing in *Assault on the Liberty*, states: “In June 1967, jet aircraft and motor torpedo boats of Israel brutally assaulted an American naval vessel, the USS Liberty, in international waters off the Sinai Peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea.” This attack was covered up by the U.S. government, and “remains the only major maritime incident in all U.S. history that has not been publicly investigated by the United States Congress.”

Former Mossad agent Victor Ostrovsky told the New York based *Village Voice* in 1993 that Israeli intelligence may have been behind the World Trade Center bombing. Desperate to crack down on another Palestinian intifada, and draw media attention away from 400 freezing Palestinians expelled to Lebanon by Israel, Israel needed a plan to discredit the Palestinians. Ostrovsky admitted that he didn’t have “a shred of evidence” to support his theory.

Besides having a motive, Israel apparently had the means to attack the USS Cole. On October 19, *BBC News Online* reported: “Samples of explosives taken from the destroyer had been identified by U.S. investigators as of a type available only in Israel, the USA, and two Arab countries.”

And the navy itself has cast doubt on the “facts” surrounding the bombing. Roberto Suro and Alan Sipress of the *Washington Post* wrote on October 21:

the Navy now says, the apparent suicide attack took place more than 90 minutes after mooring had been completed . . . The revision casts doubt on previous assertions by top Navy commanders that the bombing was virtually unpreventable because the small boat blended in with harbor workboats helping the U.S. warship tie up to a fueling station in the port of Aden.

[“U.S. investigators . . . have been told by Yemeni officials that anti-Western guerrillas had planned to bomb another U.S. destroyer as it refueled in Aden last January. . . . A suspect arrested in Yemen had told officials there that the plot against the destroyer USS The Sullivans went awry when a small boat loaded with explosives apparently sank before the attack could be carried out. . . . The attempt had been scheduled for January 3.”—Charles Aldinger, “Yemen Is Told of Earlier Plot Against a U.S. Ship,” *Reuters*, November 10, 2000. Why aren’t U.S. investigators looking for the sunken boat for clues?]

[“U.S. officials cautioned that there is still no hard evidence that bin Laden was behind the Cole attack.”—Thomas E. Ricks and Vernon Loeb, “Cole Security Lapses Found,” *Washington Post*, December 9, 2000]

[President Ali Abdallah Salih “said over and over again that Israel might be responsible for the bombing of the USS Cole.”—“Yemen’s President, Naming Names,” *Washington Post*, December 10, 2000]

[“Pat Dolan, . . . said her agency expects the final repair tab to be \$249.8 million—about one-quarter its original cost.”—John Porretto, “Crew, Others Discuss USS Cole During Ingalls Shipyard Tour of Damaged Ship,” Aug 13, 2001]

[“In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, the FBI has stumbled on the largest espionage ring ever discovered inside the United States. The U.S. Justice Department is now holding nearly 100 Israeli citizens with direct ties to foreign military, criminal and intelligence services.”—Charles R. Smith, “U.S. Police and Intelligence Hit by Spy Network,” NewsMax.com, December 19, 2001]

[“It calls Israel’s armed forces a ‘500-pound gorilla in Israel. . . . Known to disregard international law to accomplish mission. . . .’ Of the MOSSAD, the Israeli intelligence service, the SAMS officers say: ‘Wildcard. Ruthless and cunning. Has capability to target U.S. forces and make it look like a Palestinian/Arab act.’”—Rowan Scarborough, “U.S. Troops Would Enforce Peace Under Army Study,” *Washington Times*, December 10, 2001]

December 13, 2000

Election 2000: Time for Sober Reflection by Muslims

American Muslims appear to have emerged as a political force—perhaps crucial in swinging the election in favor of Mr. George Bush as the next president of the United States. However, while significant progress has been made by Muslims, now is the time for sober reflection.

Muslims remain virtually unrepresented in Congress, the White House, and the all important media—and the path ahead is much more difficult.

Two weeks before elections, the American Muslim Political Coordination Council endorsed Texas Gov. George W. Bush citing his outreach to the Muslim community, his stand on the issue of secret evidence, and an expectation of greater flexibility on foreign policy issues. This was American Muslims' first attempt at a bloc vote. An informal post-election poll—not a statistically valid survey—found 70 percent of Muslims voted for Mr. Bush. Coupled with the closeness of the popular vote nationwide, and in key states such as Florida, it highlighted the importance of the Muslim vote for presidential candidates George Bush and Al Gore.

The results of the November 7 election were hotly contested—most significantly in multiple cases filed in the Florida courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court. However, the December 12 U.S. Supreme Court decision appears to have cleared Mr. Bush's way to the White House. With time running out for further challenges and recounts, Mr. Bush will have won the Florida electoral vote by a very slim margin of 537 popular votes, thereby, giving him the majority of electoral votes needed to elect the next president of the United States: 270 out of total of 538.

The narrow margin for victory in Election 2000, together with 152 Muslims elected mostly to local offices—92 in Texas—has given American Muslims greater visibility on the political scene. This should increase over time as more Muslims become politically active, and as their numbers increase by birth, immigration, and reversion to Islam.

But significant challenges lie ahead that will test the mettle and faith of Muslims.

Muslims were able to unite in fighting bigotry, racial profiling, the use of secret evidence in immigration proceedings, and on the future of Jerusalem. In the near future these issues, with the probable exception of Jerusalem, may be resolved, and unless consensus is achieved on new issues, the political momentum will dissipate.

Now is the time to build on the gains of Election 2000.

The first priority is to arrive at consensus strategic objectives. Without agreement on where Muslims are headed, there can be no agreement on how to get there. Based on this agreement, a “briefing book” on the American Muslim position on specific issues should be prepared and placed in congressional offices, and with key members of the executive branch. Representative Tom Campbell (R-CA) suggested such a “briefing book” to Syed R. Mahmood of the United Muslims of America—recent candidate for the California State Assembly.

To develop these objectives, update them periodically, and to effectively leverage the limited resources of the community, requires a support organization that does not presently exist. Such an organization would exist only to serve its member organizations. It would not engage in initiatives not authorized by its member organizations via properly approved resolutions. It would be funded by its member organizations—local, state and national—according to a formula based upon their income. Think of this organization as an OSP—organization service provider. The OSP would provide the infrastructure necessary to serve the collective, as opposed to the individual, needs of its member organizations.

An organization model that may serve as a good starting point is the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

NARUC has a small Washington headquarters staff that essentially maintains the infrastructure for joint action by NARUC member organizations in each of the 50 states. The officers of NARUC and the permanent committees are rotated, while the substantive work is done by ad hoc task forces setup to tackle specific issues. The recommendations of these task forces may lead to resolutions by the NARUC standing committees which, when approved by the Executive Committee, be-

come NARUC's legislative agenda—essentially the “briefing book” suggested by Mr. Campbell.

Setting up such an organization is technically quite simple, but it will not come easily. Yet, given the diversity of Muslim views, a single hierarchy is not likely to be effective for long. A NARUC type organization can serve to focus the efforts of any number of diverse, Muslim organizations toward common objectives, while each organization remains free to pursue its other goals.

One might ask: “Given the existence of the AMPCC, what is the need for yet another Muslim organization?”

The AMPCC is comprised of the leaders of the American Muslim Alliance, American Muslim Council, Council on American Islamic Relations, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Council of Presidents of Arab-American Organizations. It lacks efficient and effective mechanisms for: including all Muslim organizations; building consensus among dozens (if not hundreds) of Muslim organizations; building and maintaining the infrastructure for joint action; funding itself. Also, by perpetuating hierarchies, the AMPCC lacks the flexibility for attracting the best resources available to the community.

In essence, we propose a flexible organization, able to serve the entire community, with a small professional staff (one person initially, three maximum) utilizing state-of-the-art mechanisms and technology. On an organization chart, one may envision this as an inverted pyramid balanced on top of a pyramid. Member organizations are at the top, followed by the Executive Committee, and other permanent and/or ad-hoc committees, task forces, etc. as needed. The OSP answers to the Executive Committee.

The consensus and transparency resulting from the creation of such an organization, would act as an incentive for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of all organizations served by the OSP.

Regardless of the specific objectives agreed upon, much greater Muslim representation in American media has to be a very high priority. New rules, established by the Federal Communications Commission earlier this year, have opened the door to the hiring of more women and minorities in the broadcast industry.

Assuming that American Muslims do one day achieve significant

representation in Congress, the White House, and American media, that is when they will face their biggest challenge. Where will they stand when it comes to a choice between the greed of unrestrained capitalism, and social justice—the essence of Islamic society?

[“In Brazil’s municipal elections several weeks ago, results from even the most remote regions were tallied within 12 hours. . . . The elections went smoothly because Brazil, Latin America’s largest and most populous nation with 170 million people, voted electronically.”—Stephen Buckley, *Washington Post*, December 2, 2000]

[Court challenges to vote counts may have been avoided had one fact been acknowledged: precision cannot exceed accuracy. The accuracy of systems for counting votes, now utilized in Florida and in many other states, is less than the precision required for establishing who won when the margin of victory is estimated to be as small as generally reported in the press. For example: One may use a simple ruler to measure the width of a room where the required precision may be one half inch, and the ruler is accurate to one tenth of an inch. One may not use the same ruler to measure the width of a single hair which requires precision of say one thousandth of an inch. Thus, the Florida recounts were incapable of providing results in which one may justifiably have a higher degree of confidence than in the initial count.]

January 4, 2001

Deregulation Fiasco, Red Flag for Developing Countries

Guided by the World Bank and other development agencies, countries throughout Asia and Africa are deregulating and restructuring their electric power sector, even as this prescription is causing havoc in California—the world’s sixth-largest economy.

Federal regulators in the United States say that California’s experiment in electricity deregulation has failed. “This version of competition was a disaster,” said Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman James Hoecker—head of the U.S. government agency which regulates wholesale power distribution—this past December.

High electricity costs and lack of supply have idled factories and businesses from California to the Pacific Northwest. “Businesses are being forced to choose between paying exorbitant power bills or closing their doors,” reports *Reuters*.

Southern California Edison told state officials it might begin to

ration electricity to its customers because it has no money to buy more, reported the *Washington Post*.

The deregulation of California's electricity market—which along with Norway, and the United Kingdom models, are recommended by the World Bank and others to developing countries—was supposed to bring cheaper electricity to the state. Instead, with wholesale electric rates 10 to a 100 times higher than a year ago, California's largest utilities face losses of over \$8 billion. To avoid bankrupting the utilities, the state Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco approved emergency rate increases of between 7 and 15 percent.

Amidst fears that California utilities would be unable to pay market prices, U.S. Energy Secretary, Bill Richardson, signed an extraordinary, emergency order that would force out-of-state power producers to supply electricity to California.

California's big three utilities—Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric and San Diego Gas and Electric—serve about 27 million customers, buy their electricity through the Power Exchange from different public and private producers, such as Houston-based Enron Corporation, which critics charge are manipulating the electricity market.

Enron denies the charge, saying it is merely a matter of supply and demand.

Five investigations into possible market manipulation by electric supply companies are underway, and consumer groups are planning ballot initiatives to reverse deregulation by putting the state in charge of the power system or reregulating entirely, reports the *Washington Post*.

In 1996, the electricity market in California was deregulated in the hopes that market forces and competition would lead to cheaper prices. The U.S. Department of Energy estimated average annual cost savings Of \$250 for a family of four. Consumers were promised that rates would remain frozen until 2002.

But instead, the “free market” has wreaked havoc. No new major power stations have been built while a booming, high-tech economy has increased electricity demand. Since the summer of 2000, the state has experienced frequent energy emergencies that required businesses to limit electricity use.

Estimates of the cost of a one day electricity outage in the Silicon Valley, the heart of California's computer industry, range as high as \$100 million.

Patricia Irwin, a professional engineer and editor in chief of *Electrical World* magazine, in a full-page display in the *Washington Post*, December 31, 2000, (apparently designed to calm growing apprehension with deregulation) states that California's electric power shortages are due "first" to the fact that "Utilities there had built almost no new generating plants and very little in the way of transmission capacity for a decade."

True, but Ms Irwin's statement, while explaining the cause of California's electricity shortages, may point to a fatal flaw in California's "deregulated" electric power industry. In a free market, producers have a greater incentive to build in anticipation of supply shortages, rather than when supply surpluses are anticipated. This was not the case in California.

Until the rush to deregulation, the United States enjoyed very high reliability of supply. That is changing under the new system. In mid-December last year, the California Independent System Operator warned that the state would experience rolling blackouts.

And "deregulation" itself is a misnomer. The new system is still regulated, but in ways that provide electricity supply companies greater opportunity for profits, where previously, these companies were limited to recovering only their legitimate costs.

Energy Insight Today newsletter projects that Duke Energy's revenues for the Moss Landing power plant—owned by Pacific Gas and Electric prior to deregulation—will be \$238 million for 2000, compared with \$49 million for 1999.

During the next five years, electric power companies in the Middle East are expected to add 92 gigawatts of new electric power generation at a cost of around \$60 billion. Countries such as China, India, and Indonesia are also adding large amounts of new capacity. Unable to pay for this new capacity, many of these countries have sought World Bank and other loans, which come with requirements for deregulating electricity markets, and restructuring the electric power sector.

In some developing countries, the electric sector consumes one-half

to three-quarters of the non-defense budget. California's deregulation fiasco should serve as a red flag for developing countries.

[The author has 35 years of industry, state government, federal government, and international experience in the electric power sector. He managed the *National Power Grid Study*, and *National Electric Reliability Study*, while employed at the U.S. Department of Energy.]

[On December 2, 2001 Enron filed for Chapter 11 reorganization with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. "The Houston-based company was among the first to back Bush when he ran for governor of Texas. Enron and its executives went on to become the largest source of financial support for Bush's gubernatorial campaigns, giving more than \$500,000, according to a study by the Center for Public Integrity."—Josh Gerstein, "Friends in High Places," *ABC News.com*, December 10, 2001]

February 5, 2001

Millions Spent Subverting 'Enemies,' Stifling Dissent

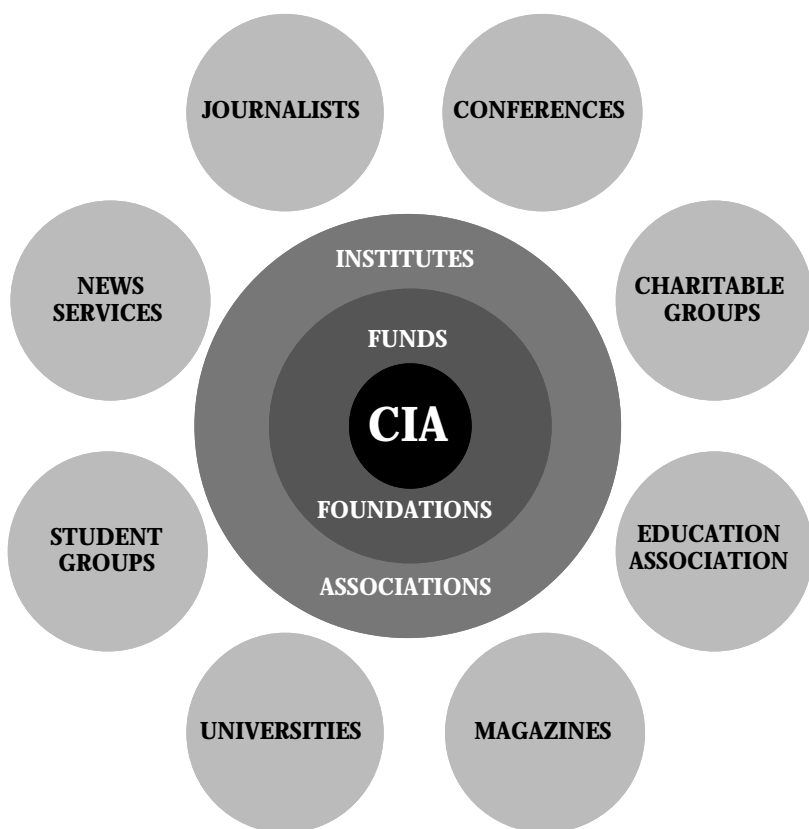
Half a century ago, when the perceived enemy was communism, the CIA spent millions of dollars to influence private groups in order to advance U.S. positions. Today, the perceived enemy are the "Islamists," and the new White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives has the potential for stifling dissent, and dividing religious communities.

Consider the CIA disinformation program begun late in the 1940s and early 1950s.

This program eventually involved most of the major private institutions in American life (John Harwood, "O What a Tangled Web the CIA Wove," *Washington Post*, February 26, 1967). "It was not enough for the United States to arm its allies, to strengthen government institutions, or to finance the industrial establishment through economic and military programs," wrote Mr. Harwood. "Intellectuals, students, educators, trade unionists, journalists and professional men had to be recruited directly through their private organizations."

The *Washington Post* article includes a chart, "This is How the Money Goes Round," upon which we base the accompanying chart and the following description:

This is How the Money Goes Round



Secret government funds, possibly hundreds of million, were given by the CIA to a number of foundations depicted by the first circle surrounding the CIA. Included in this group were foundations such as: Beacon Fund; Benjamin Rosenthal Foundation; Independence Fund; Marshall Fund; Robb Charitable Trust; Rubicon Foundation. Some were largely occupied with other work. Some such as the Vernon Fund, were mainly CIA conduits.

The foundations in the first circle gave money to other private organizations. They are depicted by the second circle. Included in this group were organizations such as: American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees; American Friends of the Middle East; American Newspaper Guild; International Development Foundation; National Education Association; National Student Association. One step away

from the source of money, they could rarely be identified as part of the CIA pipeline.

The groups and organizations in the second circle passed the secret funds along to specified CIA approved groups, organizations, and study projects such as: Congress for Cultural Freedom; Foreign News Service, Inc.; Harvard University; International Committee of Jurists; International Federation of Free Journalists; Radio Free Europe; University of Southern California; World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession. These are depicted by the third set of circles. Their job was to parcel out money to individuals.

“Allen Dulles, who ran the CIA in the 1950s, was a product of the New York law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, which has always epitomized the Establishment,” wrote Mr. Harwood. “While he was in charge at the Agency, his business and legal confreres were used extensively to enable the CIA to achieve its secret purposes.”

“The list of Establishmentarians . . . includes such other figures as Robert J. Manning, editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, McGeorge Bundy . . . foreign policy adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson . . . [and later] president of the Ford Foundation.”

In most cases the foundations which served as CIA conduits . . . were fully aware of what they were doing. In the case of the ultimate recipients of the money, the facts are more ambiguous. Some of them such as the National Education Association and leaders of the National Student Association, had no illusions about the source of their funds.

The CIA did not act on its own initiative but “in accordance with national policies established by the National Security Council in 1952 through 1954.”

Following more revelations about the CIA in the 1970s, the Watergate scandal, and investigations by the Church Committee of the Senate, the Pike Committee of the House, and the Rockefeller Commission, the CIA was becoming an embarrassment, and Congress decided something had to be done.

Congress created the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), ostensibly set up to “support democratic institutions throughout the world through private, nongovernmental efforts.”

“The idea was,” writes former U.S. Department of State official

William Blum, and author of *Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower*, “the NED would do somewhat overtly what the CIA had been doing covertly for decades, and thus, hopefully, eliminate the stigma associated with CIA covert activities.”

Allen Weinstein, who helped draft the legislation establishing NED, is reported to have said: “A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA.”

The major recipients of NED funds include the International Republican Institute; the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs; American Center for International Labor Solidarity (an AFL-CIO affiliate); Center for International Private Enterprise (a Chamber of Commerce affiliate). These institutions disburse funds to other organizations which intervene in the

internal affairs of foreign countries by supplying funds, technical know-how, training, educational materials, computers, faxes, copiers, automobiles, and so on, to selected political groups, civic organizations, labor unions, dissident movements, student groups, book publishers, newspapers, other media, etc.,

writes Mr. Blum.

“In the decade since the end of the Cold War,” writes Michael Dobbs of the *Washington Post*, democracy assistance has become an American growth industry.” The U.S. Agency for International Development spent \$649 million on democracy programs in 2000, a substantial increase from \$165 million in 1991. It is reasonable to assume that advisers funded by NED, participate in these democracy assistance programs.

Another organization, whose agenda should be viewed with some scepticism, is Human Rights Watch—“cynically” described in a column on *Antiwar.com*, as “a joint venture of George Soros and the State Department,” whose “‘civilising mission’ produces its own atrocities.”

This January 2001, following his inauguration as president, Mr. George Bush announced the creation of a new White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Aside from the constitutional issues relating to the separation of church and state, this may be just another way for those in power to “divide and rule.”

The likely result is that leaders of organizations receiving government funds, will tend to place a higher priority on assuring the continuity of their government funding, than on the interests of their members.

February 6, 2001

Pan Am 103: Lockerbie Verdict 'Astonishing'

Professor Robert Black, former judge and Scotland's leading expert on criminal procedure and evidence, described the January 31 decision by three Scottish judges to convict Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi as "astonishing."

Mr. Megrahi, alleged Libyan secret serviceman, was found guilty of the murder of 270 people when Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland. Co-defendant Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah was found not guilty of the murder.

Prof. Black, who devised the format of the Netherlands-based trial, conducted under Scottish law at Camp Zeist, points to the Opinion of the Court, paragraph 89:

We are aware that in relation to certain aspects of the case there are a number of uncertainties and qualifications. We are also aware that there is a danger that by selecting parts of the evidence which seem to fit together and ignoring parts which might not fit, it is possible to read into a mass of conflicting evidence a pattern or conclusion which is not really justified.

In Prof. Black's view the Crown case has failed to comply with strict Scottish legal rules that evidence be corroborated. He adds, "for reasons that were never satisfactorily explained," a fragment of an electronic circuit board "was not dealt with by the investigators and forensic scientists in the same way as other pieces." This fragment of a timer is an important link to Libya in the evidence.

Other evidence questioned by Prof. Black relates to clothing purchased by Mr. Megrahi in Malta, and computer printouts linking Mr. Megrahi to a piece of unaccompanied baggage on Flight KM 180 from Malta to Frankfurt on December 21, 1988 which was then carried on to Heathrow.

"The best we learn of events in Libya," writes veteran journalist Robert Fisk ("Libya: What's the Bloody Motive?," *Independent*, February 4, 2001), "is from a CIA-paid 'witness' who is totally discredited by the judgment."

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi has condemned the verdict in the Lockerbie bombing trial as an "injustice." Mr. Megrahi will appeal.

February 15, 2001

The Coming Multi-polar World

Today, the United States is the undisputed world superpower, but that will not last. Five-hundred years ago, China was the undisputed superpower, and it is re-emerging as a world power. Europe is beginning to exert its independence of the U.S. India is a regional power and growing stronger. Russia will again challenge the U.S.

Between 1405 and 1433, a Chinese Muslim, Zheng He, commanded the largest naval fleet that the world would see for the next five centuries according to Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. In *Thunder from the East*, Kristof and WuDunn write:

Not until World War I did the West mount anything comparable. Chinese records show that Zheng He's fleet included twenty-eight thousand sailors on three hundred ships, the longest of which were four hundred feet long. By comparison, Columbus in 1492 had ninety sailors on three ships, the biggest of which was eighty-five feet long.

China then was the undisputed superpower. Three-hundred years ago, Asia's share of the gross domestic product (GDP) was 62 percent, Europe's 23 percent, the U.S. zero. With the massacre of 15 million Native Americans, with millions of Africans forced into brutal slave labor, and with the markets created by World War II, the U.S. GDP rose to 28 percent in 1952.

The U.S. share of GDP is now declining, even as Asia's GDP is rising. Kristof and WuDunn provide the following GDP statistics:

Percent Share of World GDP

| | 1700 | 1820 | 1890 | 1952 | 1998 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Entire Asia | 62 | 58 | 32 | 17 | 33 |
| China | 23 | 32 | 13 | 5 | 11 |
| India | 23 | 16 | 11 | 4 | 5 |
| Japan | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Europe | 23 | 27 | 40 | 30 | 23 |
| United States | 0 | 2 | 14 | 28 | 21 |

China's self-imposed isolation in the fifteenth century laid the groundwork for the rise of Europe, and eventually the U.S. But with the dismantling of colonialism in the mid-twentieth century, China and India have become increasingly powerful, and if they can avoid

sectarian strife, should continue to grow stronger. Russia is improving relations with China, India, and Iran while trying to revive its status as a great power and challenge the U.S., according to the recent CIA *World-wide Threat Briefing*.

Europe has begun reducing its dependence on NATO with the European Union's plans for a rapid reaction force, and opposition to the U.S. missile defense system—opposed also by the Federation of American Scientists. And in Africa, organizations such as the Organization for African Unity are beginning to assert their independence.

Meanwhile, much of the world, including the U.S., is increasingly being dominated by corporations, and U.S. leadership is on the decline. With the election of Ariel Sharon in Israel, according to journalist and author Thomas L. Friedman (*New York Times*, February 6, 2001), “The Bush team has a full-fledged public relations disaster on its hands in the Arab world.”

The U.S. has no one to blame but itself.

Multi-billionaire George Soros, in his new book *Open Society: Reforming Global Capitalism*, writes:

There have always been two main themes in U.S. foreign policy: geopolitical realism, and what may be called “open society idealism. . . . The two tendencies are often at loggerheads. . . . The net result is an element of hypocrisy in U.S. foreign policy.

Mr. Soros adds:

The United States is the only superpower and therefore can call the shots. But this cannot be reconciled with our claim to the leadership of the free world. . . . It may be shocking to say this, but the United States has become the greatest obstacle to establishing the rule of law in international affairs.

Mr. Soros proposes the creation of an Open Society Alliance—NATO “complemented with a political alliance whose explicit purpose is to promote the values and principles of open society.” This sounds ominously like Rudyard Kipling’s “white man’s burden,” or the Spanish historian’s description of the voyages to the Indies: “to serve God and his Majesty, to give light to those who sat in darkness and to grow rich as all men desire to do.”

How will Muslims perform in this emerging multi-polar world, and its vast opportunities and challenges? They have the resources, but have yet to demonstrate the courage, unity and strategic thinking needed to place them in the top ranks of this new world order.

March 18, 2001

What Would Buddha Say to the Taliban?

The Taliban's destruction of the statues of Buddha at Bamiyan, Afghanistan, provoked near-universal condemnation. One voice, however, has not been heard—that of Buddha himself.

What would Buddha say having witnessed 13 centuries of Muslim rule in Afghanistan during which centuries of cultural heritage survived? Yet in just 21 years, since the Russian invasion of 1979, “thousands of Hellenistic, Iranian and Indian artifacts from Afghanistan's many-layered past have been smuggled out to the voracious and amoral Western art market.”—Robert Hughes, “Buddha Bashing,” *TIME*, March 19, 2001.

What would Buddha say having witnessed a decade of Soviet occupation, the expulsion, by the courageous Afghans, of the mighty Soviet superpower—which led to its demise, and the fall of the Berlin Wall at the cost of 1.5 million Afghans killed, another million maimed, six million who migrated because of Russian brutalities (out of a total population of 18 million), and many thousands who continue to be maimed or killed by the land mines left behind by the Soviets?

What would Buddha say to the U.S. that not only turned its back on the Afghans following these sacrifices, but helps prolong a civil war by not recognizing the Taliban which has brought a large measure of stability to the 90 percent of Afghanistan which it controls, and is reported to have wiped out virtually all opium production—roughly 75 percent of the world's supply?

What would Buddha say to the U.S. which demonizes the Taliban because it seeks control of Caspian oil, enemies to justify defense spending—the U.S. share of the world's military spending at about 35 percent is now substantially higher than during the Cold War, and nearly three times that of all its potential adversaries combined—and to deter others from building an oil pipeline through Afghanistan?

What would Buddha say to the U.S. which in the mid-1990s embargoed arms to the Bosnian Muslims, and a world that stood by and watched the genocide of the Bosnians, the destruction of over 1,400

mosques, and the looting of priceless treasures from Bosnia's National Museum, by Christian Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats?

What would Buddha say to NATO, which on its 50th anniversary, desperate for a new mission following the break up of the Soviet Union, and to protect its credibility, under the guise of saving Kosovo's Muslims, bombed military and civilian targets in Yugoslavia?

What would Buddha say to the Chinese, Russians and Indians who fear the Taliban's alleged support for oppressed Muslims in the Chinese province of Xinjiang, the former Soviet republic of Chechnya, and in the disputed state of Kashmir?

What would Buddha say to the world's powers for their determination to protect the statues at Bamiyan, while they do little to prevent the destruction of Palestinian homes, and the killing and wounding of thousands of Palestinians, armed only with stones, and a few rifles and automatic weapons, against the most powerful state, and nuclear power, in the Middle East—Israel?

What would Buddha say to a “world [which] seems to care more about the destruction of two stone statues, which—let's be honest—hardly anyone had ever heard of until ten days ago, than about 100,000 refugees who have been starving and freezing to death near Herat a few hundred miles away from them?”—“The Afghan Iconoclasts,” *The Economist*, March 10, 2001.

Born in 563 B.C. in India, Siddharta Gautama, the Buddha, was deeply moved by the suffering of his people, and at age 29 gave up his kingdom and a life of luxury to seek enlightenment. When asked, “Are you a saint? Are you an angel? Are you a god? What are you?” answered, “I am awake.” His answer became his title, for this is what Buddha means.

Buddha might ask the world, “Are you awake?” To the Taliban he might say, “I have failed to alleviate the suffering of the Afghan people. Forgive me.”

[“Chinese authorities have launched a campaign against one of the most significant centers of Buddhist teaching in China, knocking down housing for monks and nuns and forcing several thousand Buddhist followers to leave the center, witnesses said today.”—John Pomfret, “China Moves Against Buddhist Center,” *Washington Post*, June 21, 2001]

April 22, 2001

Holocaust Remembrance Veils Criminal Policies

Last Thursday, President Bush, speaking in the Capitol Rotunda to survivors of “The Holocaust,” as part of the annual “Days of Remembrance,” said Americans are “bound by conscience” to be sure that the lessons of the concentration camps outlast the living witnesses. Forgotten during the “Days of Remembrance” were all the other holocausts—two of which occurred within the United States, and others that are ongoing.

“Hitlerism was a human catastrophe which, unfortunately, had a precedent in the policy applied over five centuries by the European colonialists to ‘colored people,’” writes Roger Garaudy, French Deputy Speaker and Senator, in *The Founding Myths of Israeli Politics*.

What Hitler did to white people, they did to the American Indians, . . . just as they did to the Africans, of which they deported between 10 and 20 million, which means that Africa was robbed of 100 to 200 million of its inhabitants since ten people had to be killed for one to be taken alive during capture by the slave-dealers.

“To speak of the ‘greatest genocide in history,’” adds Garaudy, “was for the Western colonialists to have their own crimes forgotten, as it was a way for Stalin to mask his own ferocious repressions.”

Norman G. Finkelstein, professor at the City University of New York, whose parents survived Nazi concentration camps—the rest of the family was exterminated, writes in *The Holocaust Industry*.

The number of scholarly studies devoted to the Nazi Final Solution is conservatively estimated at over 10,000. Consider by comparison scholarship on the hecatomb in Congo. Between 1891 and 1911, some 10 million Africans perished in the course of Europe’s exploitation of Congolese ivory and rubber resources. Yet, the first and only scholarly volume in English directly devoted to this topic was published two years ago.

French military analyst, Phillipe Delmas, writing in *The Rosy Future of War*, says:

The same Europe that we are now trumpeting as a model of pacifism has been built by wars, down to the last stone. . . . The two World Wars—only recently fought—caused 100,000,000 deaths including 60,000,000 civilians. The Russian and Chinese Revolu-

tions caused at least 50,000,000 more deaths; actually, historians have recently revised this upward to 100,000,000. As for the 146 little wars since 1945, they have discreetly exterminated close to 30,000,000 people, three-quarters of them civilians, and most of them in the name of the world powers. . . . China has endured Western colonialism, invasion by the Japanese, liberation, and successive Maoist revolution: all told, China has suffered an estimated 30,000,000 to 60,000,000 deaths.

Peter Dale Scott, a former Canadian diplomat and English Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, writes in “Using Atrocities: U.S. Responsibility for the Slaughters in Indonesia and East Timor”:

The massacres we do not hear about, at least at the time, are those for which the United States itself is responsible. This on-going, systematic suppression, from the Philippines in the 1950s to El Salvador in the 1980s, falsifies our understanding, not just of our own history, but of all managed atrocities throughout the world.

Dr. Eric Herring, the Iraq sanctions specialist at Bristol University, says:

U.S. and British decision-makers have exploited popular humanitarian sentiment for the most cynical Realpolitik reasons. They have no desire for the Shi’ite majority to take control or for the Kurds to gain independence. Their policy is to keep them strong enough to cause trouble for Saddam Hussein while ensuring that Saddam Hussein is strong enough to keep repressing them. This is a direct descendant of British imperial policy from the First World War onwards [and is about the control] of Iraqi oil. . . . Divide and rule was and is the policy.

Dr. Robert Dickson Crane, co-founder of the Center for Strategic Studies at Georgetown University, and foreign policy advisor in the Nixon administration, writes:

The current tragedy [in Sudan] results from the deliberate colonialist policy of Great Britain more than a century ago to put two totally different peoples into one administrative unit in order to better carry out its policy of divide and conquer. . . . From my own proprietary knowledge as a government official, I know that the Israeli Mossad has tried to orchestrate the war between the south and the north, and the CIA has funded it, for more than thirty years. The objective is to pit black Africa against Arab Africa and thereby reduce the Arab, and now the Muslim, threat to Israel.

Until recently, “the Nazi holocaust barely figured in American life,” says Prof. Finkelstein. He adds:

Everything changed with the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war. . . . it was

only after this conflict that The Holocaust became a fixture in American Jewish life. . . . [since then] it has been used to justify criminal policies of the Israeli state and U.S. support for those policies.

Prof. Finkelstein sees the federally funded Holocaust museum on the Washington Mall as “incongruous.” “Imagine the wailing accusations of hypocrisy here,” he says, “were Germany to build a national museum in Berlin to commemorate not the Nazi genocide but American slavery or the extermination of the Native Americans.”

May 25, 2001

The Taliban and Afghanistan's Hindus

The Taliban's religious police minister, Mohammed Wali, is reported to have told *Associated Press*, that Hindus living in Afghanistan may be required to wear an identity label on their clothing to distinguish them from Muslims, and that Hindu women would be required to veil themselves.

Less conspicuous forms of identification, such as the carrying of “a thumb-sized yellow marker inside their pockets,” are under consideration (*AFP*).

The Taliban's proposal has given Western media yet another opportunity to attack the Taliban's record on human rights—condemned by Muslims, but ignored by the U.S. until feminists, a powerful voting bloc, took up the cause. Israel, which requires personal identification for Jews and non-Jews escapes similar scrutiny and condemnation.

And, it's a pity that this concern for human rights does not extend to the Bosnians, Chechens, Palestinians, and to millions more living in grinding poverty—including those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As for the Hindus in Afghanistan, according to UN wire reports, journalist Kamal Hyder said Hindus he had spoken with “do not feel discriminated against.” Of Afghanistan's population of 25 million people, non-Muslims comprise a small minority, with the largest group—Hindus—numbering about 500 (Constable, *Washington Post*). The badges

are not felt to be necessary for Sikhs, because they wear distinctive turbans reports *BBC News Online*.

Taliban officials defended the proposal. “Senior Taliban information ministry official Mullah Abdulhanan Himat told the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (*Reuters*, May 23) that the ruling aimed to protect Hindus and other minorities from the demands of religious police enforcing Muslim rules.”

Donald Grayston, a religious studies professor at Vancouver’s Simon Fraser University, said the Taliban actions are rooted in humiliation and anger.

“Afghanistan has been destroyed,” he said, referring to the years of devastating drought and war, reported the *Toronto National Post*.

It’s covered with mines. People can’t farm. They were poor to begin with and now they’re destitute. The young men who run the Taliban see the humiliation in their fathers and grandfathers, and are so angry. If there are Hindus in Afghanistan, they’re just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

And, is it mere coincidence that this story broke just when the Mitchell report was drawing attention to Israel’s human rights record in Palestine? And, why is there not a similar denunciation of the distinctive automobile license tags which give every Jew privileges that are denied to Palestinians in the land of their birth?

According to *Times of India*, anti-Taliban forces are also suspect.

The ministry of external affairs goofed when it condemned the Taliban regime in Afghanistan for allegedly forcing Hindus living in that country to wear yellow clothes, stop wearing turbans and start following the Shariat. . . . the source of the original report appears to be Masood Khalili, the anti-Taliban Afghan ambassador in New Delhi who made similar allegations in February as well.

Unlike the automobile license tags which mark Palestinians for second class treatment today—as the yellow Star of David marked Jews in Nazi Germany in the 1930s—the Taliban’s reported proposal, misguided perhaps, has drawn wide condemnation, while Israel’s practices are shielded by Western media.

[“If the situation in Afghanistan is ugly today, it is not because the people of Afghanistan are ugly. Afghanistan is not only the mirror of the Afghans; it is the mirror of the world.”—Barnett R. Rubin, *The Fragmentation of Afghanistan*]

June 1, 2001

\$1 Million for Witnesses in Embassy Bombing Trial

Four men were convicted on May 29, in Federal District Court in Manhattan, of conspiring with Osama bin Laden in a terrorist plot to bomb the American Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. But \$1 million spent to procure the testimony of key witnesses for the government, raises troubling questions about the integrity of the criminal justice system.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Mohamed Rashed Daoud al-Owhali, 24, and Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, 27. Mohammed Saddiq Odeh, 36 faces life in prison without parole. "Prosecutors had decided earlier not to seek the death penalty in his case, without explaining why," according to Benjamin Weiser of the *New York Times* (May 31). Wadih El-Hage, 40, also faces life without parole, "although the government acknowledged that he had no role in the bombings," Mr. Weiser reports.

The principal witnesses for the prosecution were two former members of al Qaeda, a loosely knit organization headed by Osama bin Laden. Defense lawyers question the credibility of these two former bin Laden aides.

Jamal Ahmed Al-Fadl, a Sudanese man, said he had complained about his \$500 monthly salary. L'Houssaine Kherchtou, a Moroccan, was upset with Osama bin Laden after he was refused \$500 to cover the cost of an emergency operation for his wife.

Defense lawyers suggest that both men were "motivated by greed in their decision to cooperate with the government, which had spent more than \$1 million to provide them with new identities and lives through the witness protection program, testimony showed," Mr. Weiser reports.

There is evidence that lends credence to the concerns of the defense lawyers.

According to the television series *Frontline: Secret Threat to Justice*—based on an article by Michael Curriden ("The Informant Trap," *National Law Journal*, March 20, 1995):

A nine-month investigation by the National Law Journal has found that abuses by informants and law enforcement threaten the rights

and the safety of innocent people, as well as the integrity of the courts.

Throughout the country, law enforcement's reliance on informants has grown to almost Orwellian proportions, as snitches exert growing control over agents and judges fail to impose any checks or balances. . . . The informants know the bigger [the] story they tell, the more the government is going to give them. . . .

"Criminals are likely to say and do almost anything to get what they want" says Judge Stephen S. Trott. "This willingness to do anything includes . . . lying, committing perjury, manufacturing evidence, soliciting others to corroborate their lies with more lies."

Some have made headlines lately, such as Michael Fitzpatrick, the longtime informant at the heart of the alleged plot by Malcolm X's daughter to assassinate Louis Farrakhan, and Emad Salem, the main witness in the terrorist conspiracy trial in New York, who prosecutors say was paid more than \$1 million for his help. . . .

According to Mr. Weiser, prosecutors did not offer evidence directly showing that Osama bin Laden ordered the embassy attacks.

"Today's guilty verdicts are a triumph for world justice and for world unity in combating international terrorism," said Mary Jo White, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan. Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia have criticised the verdict as "unfair," reports *BBC*.

Unlike the many opportunities provided convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, and his attorney, to state their case before an international audience, we don't anticipate CNN and others giving the same opportunity to the four convicted for the bombing of the American Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

[“The jury acquitted the accused of all charges of criminal violence, and the court fined the federal government for falsifying evidence, for withholding evidence, and for lying.”—Testimony before Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, May 24, 1995, of David B. Koppel of the Cato Institute, based upon Gerry Spence, *From Freedom to Slavery: The Rebirth of Tyranny in America*]

[“The United Nations has savaged the Crown Office's handling of the Lockerbie trial claiming the outcome was rigged through the unfair suppression of evidence; it was politically influenced by the USA; and the court had no grounds to return a guilty verdict.”—“UN Claims Lockerbie Trial Rigged,” *Sunday Herald*, April 8, 2001]

[“Now, in the vote at the UN, in the headlines of papers across Europe, in the planning of countries large and small, there is a growing consensus that the world's most destructive rogue nation is the most powerful country of them all.”—Editorial, “Rogue Nation,” *The Nation*, May 28, 2001]

July 30, 2001

Deadly Deception, Pretexts for War

Scott Ritter, former UN Special Commission inspector, claims that Richard Butler, former chief UN weapons inspector, “deliberately planned UN inspections in 1998 to orchestrate a confrontation between Iraq and the UN so the United States could carry out its threats to bomb Iraq.” Ritter makes the allegations in a documentary film, “In Shifting Sands . . . the Truth About UNSCOM and the Disarming of Iraq,” shown to journalists at the UN reported Ronni Berke (*CNN*, July 19).

Ritter’s revelation should come as no surprise. The alleged pretext for bombing Iraq, was just one more act of deadly deception, by the U.S. and its allies, designed to rally the public against the “enemy.” Some examples:

The annual commemoration of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, invariably includes these words from the speech by President Franklin D. Roosevelt: “Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.” But few Americans know, and they’re seldom told, that the “U.S. believed that war with Japan was inevitable, and that ‘the United States should provoke it at a time which suited U.S. interests.’ Analysts recommended an eight point plan designed to provoke a Japanese attack,” according to Robert Stinnett, writing in *Day of Deceit: The Truth About FDR and Pearl Harbor*. The plan included military provocations, and a recommendation to “Completely embargo all trade with Japan, in collaboration with a similar embargo by the British Empire.”

The embargo was in place when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

Britain and France had their plan for taking back the Suez Canal after it was nationalized by President Nasser of Egypt on July 26, 1956. “France secretly enlisted the help of Israel,” writes James Bamford in *Body of Secrets: Anatomy of the Ultra-Secret National Security Agency from the Cold War Through the Dawn of a New Century*. Mr. Bamford was Washington Investigative Producer for ABC’s *World News Tonight* with

Peter Jennings, and has written investigative cover stories for the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Washington Post Magazine*, and the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*.

“The intrigue involved Israel launching a war against Egypt,” writes Mr. Bamford. Then, once Egypt began defending itself, England and France would go in as ‘peacekeepers.’ As part of the ‘peace,’ the canal would be taken from Egypt and kept by Britain and France. Israel would capture the Sinai from Egypt.” The plan was agreed to by Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion, defense minister Shimon Peres, armed forces chief Moshe Dayan, and Britain’s prime minister, Anthony Eden.

Following the failed, Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba on April 17, 1961, by 1,300 members of a CIA-supported counter-revolutionary Cuban exile force, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) drew up and approved plans for “launching a secret and bloody war of terrorism against their own country in order to trick the American public into supporting an ill-conceived war they intended to launch against Cuba.” Mr. Bamford writes:

Codenamed Operation Northwoods, the plan . . . called for innocent people to be shot on American streets; for boats carrying refugees fleeing Cuba to be sunk on the high seas; for a wave of violent terrorism to be launched in Washington, D.C., Miami, and elsewhere. People would be framed for bombings they did not commit; planes would be hijacked. Using phony evidence, all of it would be blamed on Castro, thus giving Lemnitzer [Chairman JCS] and his cabal the excuse, as well as the public and international backing, they needed to launch their war.

Accidents, writes Mr. Bamford, were to be used to advance U.S. interests. Had the February 20, 1962 launch of John Glenn—the first American to orbit the earth, later a U.S. presidential candidate—not been successful, the JCS were prepared to use John Glenn’s possible death as a pretext for war.

The flight was to carry the banner of America’s virtues of truth, freedom, and democracy into orbit high over the planet. But Lemnitzer and his Chiefs had a different idea. They proposed to Lansdale [U.S. general in charge of Operation Mongoose—covert operations against Cuba] that, should the rocket explode and kill Glenn, “the objective is to provide irrevocable proof that . . . the fault lies with the Communists et al Cuba [sic].” This would be accomplished, Lemnitzer continued, “by manufacturing various

pieces of evidence which would prove electronic interference on the part of the Cubans.”

In 1963, writes Mr. Bamford, the JCS proposed secret U.S. attacks on Jamaica and Trinidad-Tobago. “Both were members of the British Commonwealth; thus, by secretly attacking them and then falsely blaming Cuba, the United States could lure England into the war against Castro.”

The 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident, that sparked the Vietnam War, was also deliberately provoked. “Restless from a decade of peace,” writes Mr. Bamford, “out of touch with reality, the Joint Chiefs of Staff were desperate for a war, any war.”

In the 1960s, as Britain was dismantling its colonies, the U.S. conspired with Britain to receive secretly, gratis, and for 50 years, the Chagos Archipelago. Between 1965 and 1973, to clear the largest island in the archipelago, Diego Garcia, for a listening post for the U.S. National Security Administration, every man, woman, and child was physically removed from the islands, and placed bewildered and frightened, on the islands of Mauritius and Seychelles, wrote a British writer, Simon Winchester.

While falsely blaming their “enemies,” the U.S. government, and American “free press,” have covered-up for their “friends.”

Three days after Israel launched its June 5, 1967, surprise attack on Egypt, it carried out a deliberate and sustained attack on the USS *Liberty*, with the objective of leaving no survivors.

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, in a memo dated June 8, 1997 wrote, I am confident that Israel knew the *Liberty* could intercept radio messages from all parties and potential parties to the ongoing war, then in its fourth day, and that Israel was preparing to seize the Golan Heights from Syria despite President Johnson’s known opposition to such a move.

Mr. Bamford writes,

Within the first few hours Israeli jets pounded twenty-five Arab air bases ranging from Damascus in Syria to an Egyptian field loaded with bombers, far up the Nile at Luxor. Then using machine guns, mortar fire, tanks, and air power, the Israeli war machine overtook the Jordanian section of Jerusalem as well as the west bank of the Jordan River and torpedo boats captured the key Red Sea cape of Sharm al-Sheikh.

Based on transcripts and survivor accounts Mr. Bamford writes:

On the morning of June 8, the Israeli military command received a report that a large American eavesdropping ship was secretly listening only a few miles off El Arish. At that same moment, a scant dozen or so miles away, Israeli soldiers were butchering civilians and bound prisoners by the hundreds, a fact that the entire Israeli army leadership knew about and condoned, according to the army's own historian. . . .

At the time, Israel was loudly proclaiming—to the United States, to the United Nations, and to the world—that it was the victim of Egyptian aggression and that it alone held the moral high ground. Israel's commanders would not have wanted tape recordings of evidence of the slaughters to wind up on desks at the White House, the UN, or the *Washington Post*.

The Gulf War of January 16, 1991, is yet another example of U.S. deception. "Iraq's war against Iran may have cost as much as \$500 billion," write Alan Geyer and Barbara G. Green in *Lines in the Sand*. Postwar economic problems and reconstruction costs were \$280 billion or more. Saddam Hussein was in a position to be manipulated.

In a July 25, 1990 meeting with U.S. ambassador April Glaspie, Saddam Hussein was informed, "We have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border disagreement with Kuwait." Meanwhile, the U.S. encouraged Kuwait to continue its slant drilling into Iraqi oil fields. On August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Ever since the Arab oil embargoes of the 1970s, the U.S. had been seeking an opportunity to dominate the Middle East.

A high point of the public relations campaign against Iraq, was the testimony of a Kuwaiti refugee, before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus on October 15, 1990, who told of Iraqi troops removing over 300 babies from incubators in Kuwait City hospital, and dumping them on the floor to die.

On January 6, 1992, *Harper's Magazine*, revealed that "Nayirah," the alleged refugee, was the daughter of Saud al-Sabah, Kuwait's ambassador to the United States, and that Hill and Knowlton, a large public relations firm, had helped prepare her testimony, which she had rehearsed before video cameras in the firm's Washington office.

[George H. W. Bush's citing top-secret satellite images showing "250,000 Iraqi troops and 1,500 tanks stood on the border" threatening Saudi Arabia was refuted by two commercial Soviet satellite images of the same area.—Scott Peterson, "In War, Some Facts Less Factual," *Christian Science Monitor*, September 6, 2002]

August 10, 2001

Our Own Worst Enemy

While many voice the slogan, “united we stand, divided we fall,” few realize what is required to achieve unity—common purpose, goals, objectives, and fewer still are willing to surrender their personal ambitions, or perhaps their hidden agenda, for the good of the community. The organization needed to determine such goals and objectives does not exist.

Informal organizations are formed when the desired goal requires the resources of two or more persons. Informal organizations become formal organizations to overcome the limits of informal organization. Formal organizations cooperate informally with other organizations to overcome the limits of individual organizations. Ultimately, informal cooperation is insufficient, and organizations enter into formal relationships, thereby, augmenting informal organizations.

Washington is home to a few thousand such organizations representing the common interests of their member organizations, but Muslim organizations remain the exception. During the last decade, Muslim organizations have had modest victories through informal cooperation among ad hoc groupings of Muslim organizations, but have yet to move toward more effective formal cooperation among member organizations.

Prior to the 2000 elections, several Muslim organizations announced their support for candidate George Bush who was elected by a very narrow margin—the Muslim vote in Florida helped get him elected.

Following his election as president, George Bush, launched a massive attack on Iraq, announced his intention to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and gave the green light to Ariel Sharon to attack Palestinian civilians with tanks, and U.S. made fighter planes.

Now Muslims are asking: How was the decision to support candidate Bush made, and what did we get in return for our support? Should Muslims support issues, rather than a party or presidential candidate? What are the goals and objectives of those Muslim organizations claiming to represent us? What are the sources and uses of funds received by these organizations? How can we work together to determine common objectives, and leverage our resources to achieve those objectives?

The answers are not forthcoming.

And while Muslim organizations flounder, our competition is getting ahead. As a minority community in the U.S., with less resources than our competition, the only way to beat the competition is not merely by working harder. We must also work smarter.

In his classic text, *The Functions of the Executive*, Chester I. Barnard defines three essentials for successful organizations: common purpose, communication, and willingness to cooperate.

Common purpose requires the participation of as many representatives of the Muslim community as wish to do so, and effective participation requires a formal organization. Let us, for ease of identification only, call it the American Muslim Congress or Conference (AMC), a brief description of which follows:

The mission of the AMC would be to achieve consensus on goals and priorities for the American Muslim community, and to facilitate cooperation toward those goals among AMC member organizations.

Initially, AMC would meet annually. At these meetings, resolutions prepared by task forces and committees drawn from member organizations would be submitted to a vote. Resolutions passed by the AMC would form the basis of a briefing book which would aid AMC members in presenting their position to legislative bodies and other organizations. Using structured decision processes, the resolutions would also be used to determine AMC's goals and priorities.

Membership in the AMC would be open to all Muslim organizations registered with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. As a condition of joining AMC, each organization would be required to submit its IRS tax status determination letter, and the names of its officers. To retain its membership, each member organization would submit annually its income statement for the preceding year, a letter certifying the number of its contributing members, and pay its assessed fee or dues.

The initial Board of Directors would be the nominees of the first 20 organizations to join AMC, and they would be replaced annually from among the top 20 organizations based upon the voting triad described below. The chair would be rotated annually within the 20 members of the Board of Directors.

Funding for AMC (essentially a virtual organization with a part-time person for the first year, and one or two persons in later years)

would be provided by fees paid by member organizations. The fee would be a percentage of the member organization’s gross income—the AMC Board of Directors would determine the percentage based on the budget they approve for AMC.

A 75 percent vote, based upon an equally weighted triad—number of member organizations, number of contributing members in each organization, and the organization’s gross income—would be required to pass resolutions, and would form the basis for all decisions by the AMC. An example of the voting triad follows:

Example of Voting Triad

| Organizations Name | Organizations | | Membership | | Gross Income | | Weighted Voting % |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------|------------|----------|--------------|--|----------------------|
| | % | Members | %` | Income | % | | |
| A | 16.67 | 1000 | 1.93 | \$5,000 | 6.21 | | 8.27 |
| B | 16.67 | 5000 | 9.67 | \$20,000 | 24.84 | | 17.06 |
| C | 16.67 | 20 | 0.04 | \$40,000 | 49.69 | | 22.13 |
| D | 16.67 | 15000 | 29.00 | \$10,000 | 12.42 | | 19.36 |
| E | 16.67 | 700 | 1.35 | \$500 | 0.62 | | 6.21 |
| F | 16.67 | 30,000 | 58.00 | \$5,000 | 6.21 | | 26.96 |

AMC would publish an Annual Report which would include the text and voting results of resolutions passed by its members, together with the tax status, membership count, and the income statements of its member organizations.

To remain effective, AMC should exist solely to facilitate cooperation among other Muslim organizations—on an organization chart, AMC would appear below its member organizations. Its substantive work would be done by committees and task forces drawn from its member organizations. It’s own very limited staff, described in a previous article as the organization service provider, would merely facilitate this cooperation, thereby, leveraging the resources of the entire American Muslim community.

The choice is ours. We can either continue to make marginal gains while our competition gets ever farther ahead, or we can stand united to achieve our common goals—it takes just two motivated organizations, with the right people and resources, to begin the process of uniting the community. Will we rise to the challenge, or remain our own worst enemy?

November 19, 2001

Why Iraq May be Next

Iraq may be next in line for a U.S. attack. Paul Strobin and Stan Crock reveal the role that oil may play in a U.S.-Russia deal for a U.S. attack on Iraq (“U.S.-Russia: Just How Far Will the Love-in Go?,” *Business Week*, November 26, 2001):

Putin could try to exact a steep price for allowing a decisive U.S. strike against the oil-rich Iraqi state. Russian oil majors have curried favor with Saddam’s regime with an eye on future contracts. But if Bush quietly guarantees that Russian oil companies will get a prime slice of the Iraqi oil, Putin might go along. ‘There is a good case for a behind-the-scenes bargain,’ says Dmitri Trenin, analyst at the Carnegie Moscow Center. For now, Putin has called for the renewal of international inspections in Iraq. If Saddam refuses, Putin can save face if the U.S. goes after Iraq by citing Saddam’s intransigence to his own proposal.

In an October 1999 interview, former United Nations Special Commission chief inspector Scott Ritter said, “Iraq has been disarmed. Iraq today possesses no meaningful weapons of mass destruction.” Ritter also said that Iraq does not currently possess the capability to produce or deploy chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. Iraq’s neighbor, Israel, is known to possess such weapons.

Despite this, the U.S. has used the bogey of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction to embargo Iraq. “The most difficult issue is UN control of Iraqi oil revenues. President Bush will certainly be lobbied by American oil companies, which want their share of the business of refitting the Iraqi oil industry.” (Barnaby Mason, “Bush Faces Iraq Dilemma,” *BBC News Online*, January 1, 2001)

The embargo (John Pilger, “Iraq: The Great Cover-Up,” *New Statesman*, January 22, 2001)

has been compared with a medieval siege. The word ‘genocide’ has been used by experts on international law and other cautious voices, such as Denis Halliday, the former assistant secretary general of the United Nations, who resigned as the UN’s senior humanitarian official in Iraq, and Hans von Sponeck, his successor, who also resigned in protest. Each had 34 years at the UN and were acclaimed in their field; their resignations, along with the head of the World Food Programme in Baghdad, were unprecedented.

A *Seattle Times* editorial (“End the Iraq War,” May 14, 2001) states:

Ten years of sanctions have left an estimated 300,000 to 1.5 million Iraqis dead. CBS’ Lesley Stahl used the figure of 500,000 dead when she interviewed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in 1996. Was such collateral damage worth it? Albright replied, ‘I think this is a very hard choice, but the price - we think the price is worth it.’”

Under false claims of a UN mandate—“no-fly zones” were imposed unilaterally by the U.S. and Britain—U.S. bombing of Iraq has become routine.

Denver Post columnist, Reggie Rivers, writes:

The stories hit the paper and we flip through them as if nothing is happening. The headlines read: ‘Coalition planes fire at Iraqi air defense sites.’ ‘Air Force drone missing over Iraq.’ ‘U.S. launches major air attack on Iraq.’ ‘Allied jets hit Iraqi targets’.

And this would not be the first time that the U.S. has provoked a confrontation with Iraq. Ronni Berke (“Ex-U.N. Inspector in Iraq: U.S. Set Up Air raids,” CNN New York Bureau, July 19, 2001) writes.

“The United States urged United Nations weapons inspectors in 1998 to deliberately provoke a confrontation with Baghdad to provide political cover for a U.S. bombing campaign, a former inspector claims in a new film documentary.” The president’s advisors have been pushing for an attack on Iraq, and Mr. Bush is no stranger to the politics of oil.

Mr. Charles Lewis, founder of the Center for Public Integrity, writes in *The Buying of the President*:

George W. Bush was a director and shareholder of Harken Energy when in January 1990 it was granted “exclusive rights to carry out exploration, development, production, transportation, and marketing of petroleum throughout most of Bahrain’s Gulf offshore areas.” The company drilled two dry holes, but

Bush had sold off two-thirds of his holdings in Harken for nearly a million dollars, and bought a small share of the Texas Rangers, a deal that ultimately netted him—with a helping hand from Texas taxpayers—some \$15 million.

“Israeli intelligence agencies have not detected any link between Iraq and the September 11 terrorist attacks.” (Anton La Guardia, “Iraq ‘not linked to September 11’,” *Telegraph*, November 21, 2001)

January 1, 2002

Attack on America

On September 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767 out of Boston for Los Angeles, crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York at 8:48 a.m. Eighteen minutes later, United Airlines Flight 175, also headed from Boston to Los Angeles, rammed into the south tower. American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757 from Washington's Dulles International Airport bound for Los Angeles, crashed into the western wall of the Pentagon at 9:40 a.m. United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757 flying from Newark to San Francisco, crashed near Pittsburgh.

The 110-story towers of the World Trade Center were obliterated. The Pentagon suffered massive damage.

The attack created unforgettable scenes of carnage and chaos, and plunged Americans into a state of unaccustomed anxiety. Fear of further attacks led to the shutdown of the entire domestic air traffic system. The president's flight was diverted, and senior officials were evacuated from Washington to secure locations elsewhere. About 3,000 Americans, and nationals of other countries—including several hundred Muslims—lost their lives. The lives of millions of families were shattered. Tens of thousands lost their jobs. The airlines had to be bailed out. Other interest groups lined up for federal hand outs. The U.S. and world economies, already struggling, slid toward recession.

The attack shocked and horrified the world, and came as a surprise to most Americans. "Why do they hate us?" asked President George W. Bush.

America wasn't attacked just because "they hate us." The World Trade Center and the Pentagon symbolized what many in the world view, not always correctly, as a major source of their deprivation and misery. Few among major news media dared to tell the truth.

Wrote one American columnist, Joseph Sobran: "Who has reason to hate this country? Only a few hundred million people: Arabs, Muslims, Serbs, and numerous others whose countries have been hit by U.S. bombers."

Only one member of Congress, Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), voted

against the September 15 joint resolution of the U.S. House and Senate, authorizing President Bush to “use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks.”

Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda, and the Taliban became the target of a massive, U.S. “war on terrorism.” 5,000 civilians were reported killed by U.S. bombing, 20,000 indirectly, and a million more Afghans joined the five or six million displaced by 23 years of war. To deter independent coverage of the war, U.S. forces bombed the Kabul offices of Al-Jazeera TV.

On the day of the attack on America, the *Washington Times* quoted a paper by the Army School of Advanced Military Studies which said that the MOSSAD, the Israeli intelligence service, “Has capability to target U.S. forces and make it look like a Palestinian/Arab act.” This, coupled with the arrest in the U.S. of dozens of suspected, Israeli spies, and reports that several of the alleged hijackers that struck the World Trade Center were still alive, fuelled alternative theories.

Before the end of the year, a U.S.-backed government was installed in Kabul, but the search for Osama bin Laden continued.

That Americans were surprised by the attack, is evidence of the failure of major news media to communicate to Americans the reality of the world in which we live. Years of biased reporting and half-truths have left Americans poorly informed of the enemies we have created.

While Americans are usually welcomed around the world, America—represented by U.S. foreign policy, covert actions, and military interventions—is often “hated.” *The War on Islam* answers “why?” Informed Americans, demanding the best from our leaders and news media, and justice for all, may be our best hope for peace in this century.

By all means, bring the guilty to justice, but let’s not let the hawks in the U.S. establishment escalate the conflict. This will encourage retaliation, and diminish the security we have enjoyed in America. The path to greater security for all lies in eliminating the causes of terrorism—injustice and poverty.

The president that does this will secure America’s future, build goodwill around the world, and leave an enduring legacy.

March 16, 2002

5,000 Killed, 50,000 Homeless in India ‘Pogrom’

An independent reporters group claims that 5,000 Muslims were killed, 50,000 made homeless; hundreds of mosques, and dozens of hotels, shops, and villages were destroyed during riots in the Indian province of Gujrat.

Former Chief of the Indian Navy, L. Ramdas, in an open letter to the Indian Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, has condemned the anti-Muslim violence in India describing it as genocide and a “pogrom.”

Mr. Ramdas demanded that the Chief Minister of Gujrat be dismissed for his involvement in the riots, and a ban on “extremist rightwing organizations like the VHP, Bajrang Dal, and the RSS.”

“Clearly this appears to be the culmination of a planned series of attacks on our minority communities by the extremists within the Sangh Parivar,” wrote Mr. Ramdas. He elaborates:

The entire list is too long to cite here, but to name only a few, the past decade has witnessed the destruction of the Babri Masjid in 1992, which led to the Mumbai bomb blasts and the subsequent massacre of innocent Muslims; the burning alive of Father Staines and his sons in Orissa; and the attacks on Christians and their places of worship in Gujrat and elsewhere.

Hindu extremists, armed with swords and rifles, are reported to have “exploded houses and mosques” with LPG and oxygen cylinders, and are reported to have been supplied with trucks loaded with gasoline and gas cylinders. They are reported to have been paid Rs 500 (\$12.50) per day, and provided food, water, wine, and medical aid. If arrested, their legal expenses were to be covered by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, and if they were killed, it is reported, their families would be given Rs 200,000 (\$5,000).

Based on “actual field surveys and counts in the state of Gujrat,” the independent reporters group estimates the toll of death and destruction as follows:

More than 5,000 dead, 40 to 50 thousand homeless in 25 relief camps, including 72 people burned inside their homes in Gulmarg society, 29 people killed in Mehsana village, 46 people killed and burned in a truck on Lunawada highway, 18 people

burned in the “Best Bakery” in Baroda, 350 Muslim dead thrown in a well near Naroda Patiya, young girls and women molested and raped before burning.

Mosques destroyed: 12 in Baroda, 10 in Ahmedabad, all in the villages affected by riots, and several converted into Hindu temples.

Completely burned areas of Ahmedabad: Ansar Nagar, Chamanpura, Nutan Mill, Gulmarg Society, Maryambibi’s Chawl, Barasancha’s Chawl, Darji’s Chawl, Anupam Cinemas area, Lent Wada, Pannalal’s Chawl, Niranjan’s Chawl, Jhalampura’s Chawl, three societies of Vatwa, three societies of Narol, Guptangar (Juhapura), Naroda Patiya, Mai Fatehshah (Shahpur), Premdarwaja.

All the property of small Muslim villages, approximately 200 hotels, two cloth markets (Nawa Bazar and Mangal Bazar with 163 shops) were destroyed.

“The entire nation is shocked at the callousness and inefficiency displayed by the law and order machinery of the Government of Gujarat,” said Mr. Ramdas. The government, he says:

not only failed to perform its duty to its citizens, but also stood by and in several cases actually incited what can best be described as a “pogrom.” Compare this to the scene indelibly imprinted on my mind, when I saw Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, hop out of an official car and chase away looters and rioters, who were killing Muslims and looting their properties in Connaught Place in August 1947.

[“A report released in late April by Human Rights Watch is a clear exposure of the role played by the police and the government . . . The large-scale slaughter of mostly Muslim residents of the western state of Gujarat was made possible through the active participation of the BJP-controlled state apparatus with the connivance of the federal government.”—Joseph Kay, “Report Exposes Role of Government in Communal Violence In India,” *World Socialist Workers Organization*, May 8, 2002]

[“Interviews with passengers on the train, witnesses to the incident and police and railway officials suggest that the train fire was not a premeditated ambush by young Muslims, but rather a spontaneous argument, provoked by the Hindu activists, that went out of control.”—Rajiv Chandrasekaran, “Provocation Helped Set India Train Fire,” *Washington Post*, March 6, 2002]

[“Investigations made by the Ahmedabad-based Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) have now shown that almost 60 litres of inflammable material was poured from inside the compartment before it was set on fire.”—“Godhra Bogie Was Burnt From Inside,” *Times of India*, July 3, 2002]

April 27, 2002

What Really Happened on September 11 Remains a Mystery

The 110-story towers of the World Trade Center were obliterated. The Pentagon suffered massive damage. This much is clear. Much else remains a mystery.

On September 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767 out of Boston for Los Angeles, crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York at 8:48 a.m. Eighteen minutes later, United Airlines Flight 175, also headed from Boston to Los Angeles, crashed into the south tower. American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757 from Washington's Dulles International Airport bound for Los Angeles, crashed into the western wall of the Pentagon at 9:40 a.m. United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757 flying from Newark to San Francisco, crashed near Pittsburgh.

Europol's director, Jurgen Storbeck (*Telegraph*, September 15, 2001), stated: "It's possible that he [bin Laden] was informed about the operation; it's even possible that he influenced it; but he's probably not the man who steered every action or controlled the detailed plan."

President Bush, however, ignored Europol's doubts, reneged on Secretary of State Colin Powell's pledge to provide evidence, and named Osama bin Laden, and al-Qaeda as the perpetrators.

Now some insist that the U.S. government's version of events is either incomplete, or inaccurate. A best-selling French book, *The Frightening Fraud*, by Thierry Meyssan, makes the farfetched claim that the "U.S. invented air attack on Pentagon."

We believe that it's premature to draw conclusions about what really happened—relevant questions have yet to be answered.

For starters, in the Pentagon crash site photos, there's little or no evidence of the plane that struck the Pentagon. (I live about a mile from the Pentagon. The first question that I asked other onlookers as we viewed the crash site was, "Where's the plane?")

Arlington County Fire Chief, Ed Plaughter, at a press conference held by Assistant Defense Secretary, Victoria Clarke, on September 12, 2001, at the Pentagon, when asked by a journalist: "Is there anything left of the aircraft at all?" is reported to have said: "First of all, the ques-

tion about the aircraft, there are some small pieces of aircraft visible from the interior during this fire-fighting operation I'm talking about, but not large sections. In other words, there's no fuselage sections and that sort of thing."

Did Chief Plaugher not see the plane's engines? Wouldn't the engines have survived in some recognizable form? An engine from one of the planes that struck the World Trade Center was shown lying on the street on network television. So was an engine from American Airlines Flight 587 which crashed shortly after takeoff in New York on November 12, 2001.

Furthermore, the damage to the Pentagon seems inconsistent with what a Boeing 757 would have caused. The hole in the Pentagon wall appears too small to have been caused by a Boeing 757, and photos appear to show that the plane had not penetrated as far into the Pentagon as reported.

Again we draw no conclusion, but answers are needed. Indeed, early reports claimed that a truck bomb had exploded, and the damage was similar to that inflicted on the USS Cole in Yemen.

And there are other troubling questions. For example:

What are the odds that all the "black box" flight recorders were damaged beyond use?

Why were the alleged hijackers' names not on the passenger lists?

Why are several alleged hijackers reported to be still alive?

Why did Mohamed Atta, one of the alleged hijackers, take a suitcase containing a curiously worded will and burial instructions on a suicide flight?

Why did the seat numbers of the hijackers, given in a cell phone call from Flight Attendant Madeline Amy Sweeney to Boston Air Traffic Control, not match the seats occupied by the men the FBI claims were responsible?

How did the terrorists obtain top-secret White House and Air Force One codes and signals—the stated reason for not returning President Bush promptly to Washington on September 11?

Why were none of the attacking planes intercepted? It is reported that planes are routinely intercepted if they deviate from their flight path and contact can't be made.

Why did the Justice Department deny a surveillance warrant for Zacarias Moussaoui? Since 1978, it is reported, more than 12,000 warrants were issued, only Moussaoui's was denied.

Why doesn't the U.S. Congress hold hearings on these questions? It would keep Americans focused on the "war on terrorism."

On the day of the attack on America, the *Washington Times* quoted a paper by the Army School of Advanced Military Studies which said that the MOSSAD, the Israeli intelligence service, "Has capability to target U.S. forces and make it look like a Palestinian/Arab act." Dozens of Israelis were reported to have been arrested, but the role played by this "huge Israeli spy ring that may have trailed suspected al-Qaeda members in the United States without informing federal authorities" remains unclear, and "it is no longer tenable to dismiss the possibility of an Israeli angle in this story."

Field reports by the Drug Enforcement Administration agents, and other U.S. law enforcement officials, on the alleged Israeli spy ring have been compiled in a 60-page document.

John F. Sugg of the *Weekly Planet* (Tampa, Florida, April 22, 2002) reported that

DEA agents say that the 60-page document was a draft intended as the base for a 250-page report. The larger report has not been produced because of the volatile nature of suggesting that Israel spies on America's deepest secrets.

James Bamford, formerly Washington Investigative Producer for ABC's *World News Tonight* with Peter Jennings, and who has written investigative cover stories for the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Washington Post Magazine*, and the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, describes an operation which suggests that even the U.S. armed forces cannot be ruled out as suspects.

Mr. Bamford's book, *Body of Secrets: Anatomy of the Ultra-Secret National Security Agency from the Cold War Through the Dawn of a New Century*, reveals that the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) drew up and approved plans for "launching a secret and bloody war of terrorism against their own country in order to trick the American public into supporting an ill-conceived war they intended to launch against Cuba."

Mr. Bamford writes:

Codenamed Operation Northwoods, the plan . . . called for inno-

cent people to be shot on American streets; for boats carrying refugees fleeing Cuba to be sunk on the high seas; for a wave of violent terrorism to be launched in Washington, D.C., Miami, and elsewhere. People would be framed for bombings they did not commit; planes would be hijacked. Using phony evidence, all of it would be blamed on Castro, thus giving Lemnitzer [Chairman JCS] and his cabal the excuse, as well as the public and international backing, they needed to launch their war.

September 11 was a godsend for the U.S. military-industrial complex. A \$48 billion increase in the “defense” budget sailed through both houses of Congress, bringing U.S. military spending to \$379 billion.

According to the *Washington Post* (January 27, 2002), this represents

the biggest one-year rise since the Reagan buildup two decades ago and a suspension of “the peace dividend.” . . . It matches the combined military spending of the 15 countries with the next biggest defense budgets. (The proposed increase alone is about the same as the entire defense budget of the next biggest spender—Japan.) . . . It would roughly match, in inflation adjusted terms, the U.S. defense budget in 1967, at the height of the Vietnam War.

And for 2003 the president’s budget directs an additional \$37.7 billion to “homeland security.”

U.S. energy companies may also be about to receive a dividend.

The events of September 11, led to the U.S. war on Afghanistan—a war apparently planned prior to September 11, and possibly after U.S. negotiations with the Taliban for a pipeline broke down. According to *BBC News* (September 18, 2001), Niaz Naik, a former Pakistani Foreign Secretary, was told by senior American officials in mid-July that military action against Afghanistan would go ahead by the middle of October.

The events of September 11 also led to an open-ended “war on terrorism,” which helped justify enormous increases in “defense” and “security” spending, and the passage of “anti-terrorism” legislation long desired by some in the Justice Department.

According to the *Irish Times* (February 11, 2002),

The Pakistani President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and the Afghan interim leader, Mr. Hamid Karzai, agreed yesterday that their two countries should develop “mutual brotherly relations and cooperate in all spheres of activity”— including a proposed gas pipeline from Central Asia to Pakistan via Afghanistan.

It's curious that these two leaders, who only later vowed to "bury the recent history of poisonous relations" between their nations (*Washington Post*, April 3), could agree so quickly to the pipeline. Afghanistan's interim president Hamid Karzai, and Zalmay Khalilzad, the Bush-appointed special envoy to Afghanistan, probably facilitated the agreement.

According to George Monbiot (*Guardian*, February 12):

Both Hamid Karzai, the interim president, and Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. special envoy, were formerly employed as consultants to Unocal, the U.S. oil company which spent much of the 1990s seeking to build a pipeline through Afghanistan.

Zalmay Khalilzad drew up Unocal's risk analysis on its proposed trans-Afghan gas pipeline according to the *Irish Times*. The Taliban, after initially negotiating with Unocal, had begun showing a preference for Bridas Corporation of Argentina.

While relevant questions regarding the September 11 attack went unanswered, without the benefit of UN resolutions, and despite the fact that the Taliban stated their willingness to give up Osama bin Laden for trial to an international court, the U.S. launched its war on Afghanistan—one of the world's poorest countries, already devastated by 23 years of war and civil strife following the Russian invasion of 1979.

Irwin Arief of *Reuters* reported (October 8, 2001) that U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said, in a letter to the 15-nation Security Council, that the investigation into September 11 attacks on his country "has obtained clear and compelling information that the al-Qaeda organization, which is supported by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, had a central role in the attacks." The letter added, "there is still much we do not know. Our inquiry is in its early stages."

Negroponte added, however, that "U.S. military raids on Afghanistan, joined by Britain, were launched Sunday under the authority of Article 51 of the UN charter, which allows nations under attack to defend themselves." This despite U.S. statements that 15 of the 19 alleged hijackers were citizens of Saudi Arabia.

The war in Afghanistan created a million new refugees (adding to the existing five or six million), caused the death of 5,000 civilians by bombing, another 20,000 were killed indirectly (2800 civilians were killed in the September 11 attack on the U.S.), and President Bush seemed intent on continuing his father's Crusade. Former president Bush

is reported to have told U.S. troops in Kuwait (*AFP*, January 19, 2000) that they were “doing the Lord’s work.”

Begun as Operation Infinite Justice, President Bush has vowed to save civilization itself. He has expanded his Crusade to the brutally repressed Moros of the Philippines. Israel’s attack on Palestine has delayed his promised attack on Iraq.

Yet more than six months after the U.S. launched its “war on terrorism,” hard evidence regarding the September 11 attack remains scarce.

FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III said in the text of a speech released on April 29 (*Los Angeles Times*, April 30):

In our investigation, we have not uncovered a single piece of paper—either here in the United States, or in the treasure trove of information that has turned up in Afghanistan and elsewhere—that mentioned any aspect of the September 11 plot.

[“President Bush was expected to sign detailed plans for a worldwide war against al-Qaida two days before Sept. 11 . . . In many respects, the directive, as described to *NBC News*, outlined essentially the same war plan that the White House, the CIA and the Pentagon put into action after the Sept. 11 attacks.”—“U.S. Planned for Attack on al-Qaida,” *MSNBC News*, May 16, 2002]

[“Weeks before the terrorist attacks on 11 September, the United States and the United Nations ignored warnings from a secret Taliban emissary that Osama bin Laden was planning a huge attack on American soil.”—Kate Clark, “Revealed: The Taliban Minister, the U.S. Envoy and the Warning of September 11 that Was Ignored,” *Independent*, September, 7, 2002]

[“Two years ago a project set up by the men who now surround George W. Bush said what America needed was ‘a new Pearl Harbor’. Its published aims have, alarmingly, come true.”—John Pilger, “What America Needed Was ‘a New Pearl Harbor’,” December 12, 2002]

[“In the hours immediately following the September 11, 2001 attacks . . . Rumsfeld again insisted that Iraq should be ‘a principal target of the first round in the war against terrorism.’ The president allegedly replied that ‘public opinion has to be prepared before a move against Iraq is possible’.”—Chalmers Johnson, *The Sorrows of Empire: How the Americans Lost Their Country*]

[“More than a thousand Muslim immigrants were rounded up after the attacks on the two World Trade Center towers. . . . Muslims have been the victims of massive and widespread arrests in the thousands; long-term detentions without due process of law; immediate deportations; raids of homes and offices of prominent Muslim leaders on the East Coast; FBI mapping of mosques; surveillance of Muslim activity; interviews with thousands of Arab immigrant men; INS registrations where hundreds more were detained; use of secret evidence when cases have been heard; closures of Islamic charities.”—“Under Patriot Act II, the new war will be on everyone’s rights,” *San Jose Mercury News*, February 19, 2003]

May 9, 2002

What's Wrong With 'Suicide' Bombing?

What's wrong with "suicide" bombing? Like tanks, gunships, bunker-busting bombs, F-16s, cruise missiles, and B-2 bombers, it kills people. That's what's wrong.

The fatalities reported between December 1987—the first Palestinian intifada—and January 2002, were 2,166 Palestinians, and 454 Israelis. During this same period, the number of Palestinians seriously injured by live ammunition, rubber bullets, shrapnel, etc. were 18,761; the number of Israelis seriously injured 427. This from statistics reportedly endorsed by the Israeli human rights group, B'Tselem.

According to University of California professor Huston Smith, author of *The World's Religions*. "The Koran's definition of a Holy War is virtually identical with that of a Just War in the Canon Law of Catholicism. It must either be defensive or to right an horrendous wrong."

Islam forbids killing except in certain circumstances such as in self defense, or in response to another killing. Even then Islam counsels forgiveness, or compensation for the victim's family.

What else is wrong with "suicide" bombing? Legally, less than what one might believe. While it may or may not be good strategy, it appears to be permissible under international law.

Most Israelis over the age of 18, aren't exactly civilians. All eligible men and women are drafted into the Israel Defense Force at age 18. Men serve for three years, women for 21 months. Upon completion of compulsory service each soldier is assigned to a reserve unit.

We Hold These Truths, a Christian organization, reports:

All Israeli busses are owned and operated by the state, and each one serves as a military transport vehicle. Civilian passengers often find themselves riding next to an on-duty, rifle-carrying soldier being ferried to a duty station.

Israeli pizzerias and McDonalds fast-food restaurants are teeming with off-duty and on-duty Israeli military men and women, many of both sexes carrying rifles.

Palestine is occupied land, and under international law, the Palestinians have the legal right to resist this occupation by any and all means.

Busses, restaurants, discos—where Israeli military congregate—may be lawful targets.

But there's no excuse for killing children. And there's no excuse for either Israelis or Palestinians knowingly putting children in harm's way.

And what fuels the intifada, and the Palestinian "suicide" bombings, is Israeli destruction of Palestinian homes and orchards, Israeli settlements—a violation of international law, and President Sharon's desire to scuttle the peace process, and drive Arabs out of Palestine, permanently.

Suicide—the deliberate termination of one's life—for a greater cause is not an Arab monopoly.

According to Richard O'Neill author of *Suicide Squads*, sixty years ago, both Allied and Axis soldiers set off on suicidal or near-suicidal raids using "midget submarines, and manned aircraft, as well as human torpedoes, human bullets, and kamikaze aircraft."

And what Western media call "suicide" bombings are generally viewed as martyrdom by Arabs.

Islamic scholars say Islam forbids suicide, but accepts martyrdom—suicide being a selfish act contrary to God's will, martyrdom being an act of courage, sacrifice, and faith.

In the end, whether it's "suicide" bombers, or tanks, gunships, bunker-busting bombs, F-16s, cruise missiles, and B-2 bombers, the end result is the same: people die. And Palestinians are the overwhelming victims.

So why does the media focus on "suicide" bombing?

Because it sets up Palestinian Arabs, both Christian and Muslim, as the "other," therefore, a more legitimate target in the eyes of the American public, and it helps legitimize Israel's criminal conduct against the Palestinians, which, according to Francis A. Boyle, professor of international law at Purdue University, "has been financed, armed, equipped, supplied, and politically supported by the United States."

[“Beginning in the late 1980s, Tamil nationalists adopted suicide bombing on a large scale, . . . From a Tamil population of roughly 2.5 million, the guerrillas mounted about 250 suicide missions, . . . including the belt-bomb assassination of India's prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, in 1991”—David Von Drehle, “U.S. Fears Use of Belt Bombs,” *Washington Post*, May 13, 2002]

September 2, 2002

A Clash Between Justice and Greed, Not Islam and the West

The clash between Islam and the West, is not a clash between Islam and Christianity worthy of war. The clash between Islam and the West, is not a clash between Islam and Judaism worthy of war. The clash between Islam and the West, is not a clash of civilizations worthy of war.

The clash between Islam and the West, may be summed up in three words: justice versus greed.

Muslims, Christians, Jews

The *Quran*—the Word of God for Muslims—states:

O mankind! We created you from a single soul, male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, so that you may come to know one another. Truly, the most honored of you in God's sight is the greatest of you in piety.

Thus, Islam, perhaps like no other religion, declares to Muslims the sanctity of all “nations and tribes.” What may surprise Christians and Jews, and even many Muslims, is that the *Quran* refers to them all as “muslim.”

Muhammad Asad, born Leopold Weiss in Poland in 1900, in his interpretation of the *Quran* wrote:

When his contemporaries heard the words *islam* and *muslim*, they understood them as denoting man's “self-surrender to God” and “one who surrenders himself to God,” without limiting himself to any specific community or denomination—e.g., in 3:67, where Abraham is spoken of as having “surrendered himself unto God” (*kana musliman*), or in 3:52 where the disciples of Jesus say, “Bear thou witness that we have surrendered ourselves unto God (*bianna musliman*).” In Arabic, this original meaning has remained unimpaired, and no Arab scholar has ever become oblivious of the wide connotation of these terms.

The three faiths share the Abrahamic heritage, the same values, and revere many of the same prophets. The prophets of Judaism and Christianity, are also Islam's prophets.

Muslims, Christians, Jews once lived in peace in Palestine—all three referred to God as Allah. The three faiths thrived in Muslim Spain until

its fall to Christian armies. Maimonides, highly revered among Jews, studied and practiced in Muslim Spain.

With the fall of Muslim Spain to Christian armies in 1492, Muslims and Jews were expelled or forced to convert to Christianity. The Jews who chose to convert and remain in Spain, were called maranos (pigs) by the Christians.

Islam teaches that “the most excellent jihad is for the conquest of self.” It teaches Muslims to speak out against oppression, and to fight if necessary for justice. This is jihad.

Mainly Muslim Turkey has been a member of NATO since 1952. Virtually every Muslim country supported the U.S. “war on terror” until it degenerated into an excuse for a crackdown on Muslims by governments across the world.

While leading Christian evangelists, and the hawks in U.S. government, push for war on Iraq, predominantly Christian Europe is opposed to war. According to the *Guardian*, “Church leaders including the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, have questioned the legality and morality of an American-led assault on Iraq in a strongly worded declaration handed to Downing Street.” Non-Muslim organizations in the U.S. have been demonstrating in opposition to the war.

Many Jews support statehood for the Christians and Muslims in Palestine. “Britain’s chief rabbi, Jonathon Sacks, head of the Jewish community in the U.K. and the Commonwealth for 11 years, warns that Israel’s stance towards Palestinians is incompatible with Judaism,” according to *BBC News*. Naturei Karta International, an Orthodox Jewish organization, has printed on its stationery: “Pray for the peaceful dismantling of the Zionist State.”

Clash between peoples, nations, and within civilizations

But, there have been, and perhaps there always will be, clashes both among and between peoples and nations, and within civilizations.

The clash between the Dalits—the lowest caste in India, and the upper castes, is a clash that has persisted for centuries. Europe, throughout its history, has been ravaged by clashes within Christianity. Muslims have fought wars with Muslims.

For the most part, the underlying reason for these clashes is eco-

conomic. Economics, more specifically greed, is the primary reason for the clash between Islam and the West.

The U.S. desire to control the world's resources and markets, its abject surrender to the zionists regardless of the cost to Americans and others, and the virtual exclusion of dissenting voices from the national dialogue, is very likely to lead to war.

What's evident from world history is that the U.S. will be going to a war which will benefit a few, at the expense of many. The clash over the control of resources and markets is not new.

Control of the world's resources and markets

Following the fall of Muslim Spain in 1492, Europeans spread out over the world—to the Americas, Africa, Asia, Australia. Millions of natives in those continents were brutalized, enslaved, killed.

By some accounts, 15 million natives of North America perished, 50 million natives of South America perished, and 100 to 200 million Africans perished—“since ten people had to be killed for one to be taken alive during capture by the slave-dealers.”

By the end of the 18th century, the Spanish, Portugese, Dutch, British, and French ruled much of the world.

In the mid-twentieth century, when the British Empire was crumbling, and the colonial powers were pulling out from Asia and Africa, they drew up national boundaries for their continuing benefit, and the U.S. Empire began to take shape.

The U.S. had fought for control of the world's resources and markets while keeping the true reasons for war from Americans.

Major General Smedley D. Butler, recipient of two Congressional Medals of Honor, described his experience in the U.S. Marine Corp:

War is just a racket. . . I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909. . . I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

The primary goal of U.S. foreign policy, defined after World War

II, assured a continuing clash between the U.S., and weaker, resource-rich nations.

George Kennan, recipient of the Albert Einstein Peace Prize, chairman of the Policy Planning Staff at the State Department, wrote in the top secret Policy Planning Study No. 23:

We have about 50% of the world's wealth, but only 6.3% of its population. . . . Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity.

While U.S. policy advisors may differ on the specific timing and means, this militant foreign policy—often backed up by assassination of opponents (aka “regime change”), military coups, terrorism—has powerful proponents.

Former National Security Advisor to President Carter, Zbigniew Brzezinski, writes in *The Grand Chessboard* (1997):

A power that dominates Eurasia [the territory east of Germany and Poland, stretching all the way through Russia and China to the Pacific Ocean—including the Middle East and most of the Indian subcontinent] would control two of the world's three most advanced and economically productive regions. A mere glance at the map also suggests that control over Eurasia would almost automatically entail Africa's subordination, rendering the Western Hemisphere and Oceania geopolitically peripheral to the world's central continent. About 75 per cent of the world's people live in Eurasia, and most of the world's physical wealth is there as well, both in its enterprises and underneath its soil. Eurasia accounts for 60 per cent of the world's GNP and about three-fourths of the world's known energy resources.

The key to controlling Eurasia, says Brzezinski, is controlling the Central Asian Republics. “The three grand imperatives of imperial geostrategy are to prevent collusion and maintain security dependence among the vassals, to keep tributaries pliant and protected, and to keep the barbarians from coming together,” he adds.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*:

Behind a veil of secret agreements, the United States is creating a ring of new and expanded military bases that encircle Afghanistan and enhance the armed forces' ability to strike targets throughout much of the Muslim world.

Since Sept. 11, according to Pentagon sources, military tent cities have sprung up at 13 locations in nine countries neighboring

Afghanistan, . . . they may also increase prospects for renewed terrorist attacks on Americans. . . . On any given day before Sept. 11, according to the Defense Department, more than 60,000 military personnel were conducting temporary operations and exercises in about 100 countries.

Uncritical support of the apartheid state of Israel

The unresolved issue of Israel helps keep the “barbarians”—presumably, the Muslim nations of the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia—from coming together. The U.S.—which displayed exceptional zeal in implementing UN Security Council resolutions against Iraq—has displayed the same zeal in blocking implementation of UN Security Council resolutions against Israel.

UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 which emphasizes “the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,” and requires the “withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict,” has yet to be implemented. Meanwhile the U.S. sends billions of dollars in aid to Israel.

While the U.S. pushes for war on Iraq, and maintains no-fly zones in Northern and Southern Iraq, under the U.S. interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 687 (with which most others disagree), the U.S. ignores Article 14 of the same resolution which has “the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery and the objective of a global ban on chemical weapons” for all the nations in the region—including Israel which is known to possess chemical and biological weapons, and 200 to 400 nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them.

The United States, which claims to promote democracy around the world, continues its uncritical support of the apartheid state of Israel (read *Israel: An Apartheid State* by Israeli lawyer, Dr. Uri Davis), and its unlawful occupation of Palestine. Fortunately, for now the “barbarians” and most of the “civilized” world appear to be standing on the side of justice in the Middle East.

Need to justify U.S. military spending

New military bases, such as those established in Central Asia during the Afghan war, support the defense establishment’s need to justify military spending.

According to Lawrence J. Korb, assistant secretary in the Defense Department during the Reagan administration:

In 1985, at the height of the Reagan build-up, the United States and the Soviet Union spent equal amounts on defense; now Russia spends only one-sixth of what the United States spends. . . . Our NATO allies spend three times more on defense than Russia. Israel spends as much as Iraq and Iran combined. South Korea spends nine times more on defense than North Korea. And Japan spends more on defense than China.

The U.S. covert operations budget alone is more than double the total defense budget of the “rogue states”—Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Syria.

“For 45 years of the Cold War we were in an arms race with the Soviet Union. Now it appears we’re in an arms race with ourselves,” says Admiral Eugene Carroll, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.), Deputy Director, Center for Defense Information.

Former Defense Secretary McNamara, in his 1989 testimony before the Senate Budget Committee, said U.S. defense spending could safely be cut in half.

The real rogue and international outlaw

Multi-billionaire George Soros, writes in *Open Society: Reforming Global Capitalism*: “The United States has become the greatest obstacle to establishing the rule of law in international affairs.”

According to a survey done for the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations and the German Marshall Fund of the U.S., “a majority of people in six European countries believe American foreign policy is partly to blame for the Sept. 11 attacks.”

The U.S. stands virtually alone against the world in efforts to build a safer, better world. For example:

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966) was unanimously approved by the UN General Assembly but not ratified by the U.S.

Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (1972) was signed and ratified by the U.S. and USSR, but overturned by President Bush.

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1979) was ratified by more than 150 governments but not the U.S.

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) was supported by 130 governments but never ratified by the U.S.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) was ratified by 187 governments but not the U.S.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (1996) was signed by President Clinton, ratified by all NATO allies and Russia, voted down by the U.S. Senate, and is opposed by President Bush.

Kyoto Protocol (1997) sets targets for emissions which cause global warming awaits ratification by the U.S.

Chemical Weapons Convention (1998) was crippled by the U.S. by limiting what may be inspected in the U.S.

Biological Weapons Convention (2001) was signed by 144 countries, but the U.S. rejected the “verification protocol.”

Nonproliferation and Test Ban Treaties (2002) have been jeopardized by the U.S. by its announcement to build and use small, tactical, nuclear weapons.

International Criminal Court (July 1, 2002) was backed by 74 countries, signed by President Clinton, but was fiercely opposed by the U.S. unless American citizens were given immunity from war crimes prosecutions.

The opposition by a signatory to the treaty undermines the entire system of international law. According to the *Guardian*:

The U.S. threatened to assert it is no longer bound by the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a 1969 pact detailing the obligations of nations to obey other international treaties. Under the convention, a country that has signed a treaty cannot act to defeat the purpose of that treaty, even if does not intend to ratify it.

Meanwhile, according to the *New York Times*, the U.S. continues to develop microbes to wipe out entire cities, genetically engineered fungus, and genetically engineered materials-eating bacteria, and to test warheads containing live microbes.

George Monbiot, writing in the *Guardian* (March 19, 2002), says:

But of still more concern is the recent discovery that [the U.S.] government has been planning to test warheads containing live microbes in large aerosol chambers at the U.S. Army’s Edgewood Chemical Biological Centre in Maryland.

At Fort Benning, Georgia, the U.S. operates what may be the best terrorist training academy in the world. “Put simply, the School of the

Americas has trained some of the most brutal assassins, some of the cruelest dictators, and some of the worst abusers of human rights the western hemisphere has ever seen,” said Rep. Joe Moakely (D-MA)—reported the *Washington Post* (July 31, 1999).

The need for dialogue

Civilized nations—nations that respect the rule of law—solve economic clashes with dialogue, not war.

But the voracious U.S. appetite for resources and markets, the desire to control those resources and markets, the uncritical U.S. support of Israel, and the need to justify military spending, are driving the U.S. to war. This is bound to create more resentment, and perhaps retaliation.

Those who stand to benefit by war, have characterized opposition to U.S. domination as a “clash of civilizations.” They are not interested in just agreements freely negotiated. They understand only the language of realpolitik—a euphemism for state-sponsored terrorism.

Fortunately, due to an increasingly multi-cultural society, and the Internet, the world is waking up. Many see the clash between Islam and the West for what it is: a clash of justice versus greed.

The September 11, 2001 attack on America may have been prevented, had there been an honest exchange of dissenting views presented to Americans. President John F. Kennedy said: “Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.” Only through dialogue is “peaceful revolution” possible.

[“Franklin Graham, son of the Rev. Billy Graham and one of the nation’s most outspoken critics of Islam, said Wednesday he has relief workers ‘poised and ready’ to roll into Iraq to provide for the population’s post-war physical and spiritual needs.”—Deborah Caldwell, “Poised and Ready,” *BeliefNet*, March 27, 2003]

[“Two months after the Sept. 11 attacks, Franklin Graham called Islam ‘a very evil and wicked religion’ during an interview on NBC, the television network. In his book published last year, *The Name*, Graham wrote that ‘The God of Islam is not the God of the Christian faith.’ He went on to say that ‘the two are different as lightness and darkness.’

. . . the Rev. Jerry Vines, a former denomination president, told several thousand delegates that Islam’s Allah is not the same as the God worshipped by Christians. ‘And I will tell you Allah is not Jehovah, either. Jehovah’s not going to turn you into a terrorist,’ Vines said.—Mark O’Keefe, “Christianizing the Enemy,” *Newhouse News*, March 27, 2003]

October 26, 2002

Kashmir's Anguished Cries Fall on Deaf Ears

Fifty-five years ago today, the Maharajah of Kashmir signed *The Instrument of Accession*, ceding Kashmir to India. Since then, over 70,000 “militants” or “freedom fighters” are reported to have been killed by the Indian army. Rape is reported to have been used during the interrogation of women. Over 4,000 women between the ages of 7 and 70 are reported to have been raped.

Hindus have also suffered amidst the violence. Often the identity of the perpetrators—backed by India or Pakistan—is either unknown or disputed.

The recent problems began with the *Indian Independence Act* passed by the British Parliament on July 18, 1947, which partitioned British India into two sovereign nations—India and Pakistan. Under the Act, the rulers of some 562 Indian states—so called Princely States—were given the option of merging with either India or Pakistan. The Hindu ruler of Muslim-majority Kashmir acceded to India.

Kashmir's accession to India in 1947 was followed by an invasion by Pakistan-backed members of the Pathan tribe. On August 13, 1948, the UN Commission for India and Pakistan called for an end to hostilities, with a truce which was to be followed by a plebiscite to determine the wishes of the Kashmiri people—the chief demand of Kashmiri separatists.

Since then, India and Pakistan have fought three wars. The first, which ended on January 1, 1949, partitioned Kashmir along the cease-fire line. The second, which ended on September 6, 1965, was fought over Kashmir. The third, which ended on December 3, 1971, was fought over Bangladesh.

The *Simla Agreement* of July 2, 1972 recognized the cease-fire line of 1971 as the Line of Control. India and Pakistan agreed to resolve their differences through peaceful means.

However, the demand for a plebiscite continued to be resisted by India, the surfacing of evidence of election-rigging in 1987 added to Kashmiri grievances, and this paved the way for armed resistance against Kashmir's corrupt government in 1989.

In 1990, the government of India imposed central rule on the portion of Kashmir under its control: Jammu and Kashmir. Central rule lasted until 1996, when elections were held. In the elections held this October, the family that had ruled Kashmir for most of the past half century was swept from office.

The Kashmiri people's demand for a plebiscite remains, and now that both India and Pakistan have tested nuclear weapons the West has taken note, and made some efforts to resolve the dispute.

"The fear felt by the rest of the world, but apparently not by many in India and Pakistan, is that the risk of the first nuclear war erupting in the sub-continent is very far from hypothetical," according to the *Telegraph* (May 26, 2002).

But the UN has yet to intervene, and India does not want the UN to do so. Pakistan does.

The British Lord Mountbatten who negotiated India's independence from British colonial rule, and India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, agreed that ultimately the fate of Kashmir was to be decided by its people.

On November 2, 1947 Jawaharlal Nehru is reported to have said: "We have declared that the fate of Kashmir is ultimately to be decided by the people. That pledge we have given, not only to the people of Kashmir, but to the world. We will not and cannot back out of it. We are prepared, when peace and order have been established to have a referendum held under the auspices of the United Nations."

Fifty-five years later the people of Kashmir are still waiting for the plebiscite, and paying daily with their blood. But like those of the Chechens, Kashmir's anguished cries fall on deaf ears, while the UN lends its support to war on another suffering people—the Iraqis.

Kashmir's suffering may be traced back to the 1846 *Treaty of Amritsar*, when the British rulers of India sold Kashmir to Golab Singh, the ruler of Jammu, for the paltry sum of 5 million British Indian rupees.

The imposition of a non-Muslim ruler over the Kashmiri Muslims was described by Sir Charles Napier in these terms: "What a king to install! Rising from the lowest, foulest sediments of debauchery, to float on the highest surge of blood, he lifted his besmeared front and England adorned it with a crown."

November 21, 2002

If Not Bin Laden, Then Saddam Hussein

A war against Iraq could kill half a million people—3.9 million in the worst case scenario—warns *Collateral Damage*, a new report from Medact, an organization of British health professionals.

Iraq, according to the CIA, has not supported al-Qaeda.

Iraq has not threatened the U.S. Its defense budget is less than one percent of the U.S. defense budget.

Iraq has, for the most part, complied with weapons inspectors sent there under UN Security Council Resolution 687. The weapons inspectors were pulled out of Iraq when the U.S. announced it would attack Iraq.

Israel, on the other hand, has not even been asked—leave alone forced—to comply with this resolution. Article 14 of Resolution 687 has the “goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery and the objective of a global ban on chemical weapons.”

The UN Security Council has once again been bullied and bribed into passing a new resolution against Iraq. Most honest observers believe Resolution 1441 is little more than a fig leaf for the U.S. to hugely escalate its 12-year war on Iraq.

This escalation may or may not hurt President Saddam Hussein, but it will kill many thousands, perhaps millions, of ordinary Iraqis.

While the world is distracted by Iraq, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon plans to escalate attacks on Palestinians, and has asked the U.S. to attack Iran, after it is done with Iraq.

Israel may also be seeking a pipeline from the Euphrates river in Iraq. Meir Ben-Meir, former Director General of Israel’s Ministry of Agriculture, predicts that the next war in the Middle East will be over water.

President Bush, unsuccessful in his efforts to catch Osama bin Laden “dead or alive,” is anxious to distract Americans with a new bogey man: Saddam Hussein—the product of a 1963 coupe, by President John F. Kennedy’s CIA, that ousted Abdel Karim Kassem, and brought the Baath Party to power in Iraq.

January 10, 2003

Pakistan Receives Soybean Oil Instead of F-16s

Pakistan is to receive soybean oil instead of 28 F-16s for which it paid \$658 million in the late 1980s.

The U.S. government sold Pakistan 28 F-16 fighter/bomber jets, but never delivered the aircraft because of a U.S. law barring arms transfers to Pakistan if it were to build nuclear weapons.

This law, the Pressler amendment, was a punishment to Pakistan because it had been fulfilling its contractual relation with Iran to help finish a nuclear power plant started back in the days when the Shah of Iran was a U.S. ally.

Nuclear scientists are reported to have said that there is almost zero chance the plant would be used to produce fuel for nuclear weapons.

Yet, for two decades, the U.S. held on to the F-16s, and Pakistan's \$658 million.

In 1995, President Clinton pledged to resolve the problem. He offered to sell the planes to a third country, and transfer to Pakistan the funds received, less warehousing costs.

In a letter to President Clinton, Gerry Solomon, Chairman House Rules Committee, Bob Livingston, Chairman House Appropriations committees, and 21 congressmen, including Henry Hyde and House Minority Whip David Bonior wrote: "The aircraft are now outdated and, in any event, will not fetch a price commensurate with what Pakistan originally paid." They urged President Clinton to settle the issue so that "our future relationship with the Government and the people of Pakistan will not be jeopardized."

Pakistan had been the conduit for U.S. arms and ammunition to the Afghans fighting the U.S. proxy war with the Soviets, and Pakistan's economy had been severely impacted by the Afghan refugees.

Pakistan is also a critical ally in the U.S. "war on terror" that led to the defeat of the Taliban.

None of this mattered. Pakistan never received the F-16s which it had bought and paid for. The F-16s were given to the U.S. armed forces.

Instead of F-16s, Pakistan received soybean oil (*Dawn*, January 6, 2003). Pakistanis got a lesson in doing business with the U.S.

March 18, 2003

U.S.-Israeli Propaganda Links September 11 and Iraq

Aided and abetted by Israel, Christian zionists, and a compliant media, President Bush's propaganda succeeded in convincing the majority of Americans of Iraq's connection with Al-Qaeda, and therefore with September 11 in order to justify Bush's war on Iraq.

Linda Feldman ("The Impact of Bush Linking 9/11 and Iraq," *Christian Science Monitor*, March 14, 2003) wrote:

In his prime-time press conference last week, which focused almost solely on Iraq, President Bush mentioned Sept. 11 eight times. He referred to Saddam Hussein many more times than that, often in the same breath with Sept. 11.

Bush never pinned blame for the attacks directly on the Iraqi president. Still, the overall effect was to reinforce an impression that persists among much of the American public: that the Iraqi dictator did play a direct role in the attacks.

According to Bruce Morton ("Selling an Iraq-al Qaeda Connection," *CNN*, March 11):

In a February CNN-Time poll, 76 percent of those surveyed felt Saddam provides assistance to al Qaeda. Another poll released in February asked, "Was Saddam Hussein personally involved in the September 11 attacks?" Although it is a claim the Bush administration has never made and for which there is no evidence, 72 percent said it was either very or somewhat likely."

For several years, Israel, and its proxies in the U.S., have supported a war on Iraq.

A 1996 policy paper, "A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm," written for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by Richard Perle, Douglas Feith, and David Wurmser, et al, now all policy makers in or policy advisers to the Bush administration, stated:

Israel can shape its strategic environment, in cooperation with Turkey and Jordan, by weakening, containing, and even rolling back Syria. This effort can focus on removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq, an important Israeli strategic objective in its own right, as a means of foiling Syria's regional ambitions. Jordan has challenged Syria's regional ambitions recently by suggesting the restoration of the Hashemites in Iraq.

In 1970, wrote Seymour Hersh (*The Price of Power*), the FBI "caught Richard Perle passing U.S. secrets to Israel."

According to Brian Whitaker (“U.S. Thinktanks Give Lessons in Foreign Policy,” *Guardian*, August 19, 2002):

Around him [Perle] there is a cosy and cleverly-constructed network of Middle East “experts” who share his neo-conservative outlook and who pop up as talking heads on U.S. television, in newspapers, books, testimonies to congressional committees, and at lunchtime gatherings in Washington.

Central to this network of experts, is the The Washington Institute. Considered the most influential of the Middle East thinktanks, “it makes no secret of its extensive links with Israel.” Its director is the former U.S. diplomat, Dennis Ross.

As further evidence, consider the following:

Ben Lynfield, (*Christian Science Monitor*, August 30, 2002):

. . . Israel has its own agenda in backing a U.S. attack on Iraq. As Egypt and other Arab allies issue vehement warnings to dissuade Washington, Israel’s fear is that the U.S. will back off. “If the Americans do not do this now,” said Israeli Deputy Defense Minister and Labor Party member Weizman Shiry on Wednesday, “it will be harder to do it in the future.”

Israeli commentator Akiva Eldar (*Ha’aretz*, October 1, 2002):

A few weeks ago, Richard Perle invited the Pentagon chiefs to a meeting with researchers from a Washington think tank. According to information that reached a former top official in the Israeli security services, the researchers showed two slides to the Pentagon officials. The first was a depiction of the three goals in the war on terror and the democratization of the Middle East: Iraq, a tactical goal; Saudi Arabia, a strategic goal; and Egypt, the great prize. The triangle in the next slide was no less interesting: Palestine is Israel, Jordan is Palestine, and Iraq is the Hashemite Kingdom.

Israeli correspondent Aluf Benn (*Ha’aretz*, November 18, 2002):

All of their hopes and expectations are pointed toward Washington: an American attack on Iraq is seen as the lever which can extricate Israel from its economic, security and social quagmire. It is hoped that the removal of Saddam Hussein from power will set in motion a “domino effect,” will end the Palestinian Intifada, bring about the end of Yasser Arafat’s regime and eradicate the threat to Israel from Iran, Syria and Hezbollah.

Anatol Lieven, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (*London Review of Books*, December 2002):

The idea, in other words, is to scare these states not only into helping with the hunt for al-Qaida, but into capitulating to the U.S. and, more important, Israeli agendas in the Middle East. “The road

to Middle East peace lies through Baghdad” is a line that’s peddled by the Bush Administration and the Israeli lobby.

UC Berkeley journalism professor Sandy Tolan (*Los Angeles Times*, December 1, 2002):

The next steps, favored by hard-liners determined to elevate Israeli security above all other U.S. foreign policy goals, would be to destroy any remaining perceived threat to the Jewish state: namely, the regimes in Syria and Iran. In 1998, [David] Wurmser, now in the State Department, told the Jewish newspaper *For ward* that if [Iraqi opposition leader] Ahmad Chalabi were in power and extended a no-fly, no-drive zone in northern Iraq, it would provide the crucial piece for an anti-Syria, anti-Iran bloc.

Robert Novak (*Washington Post*, December 26, 2002):

. . . the Bush administration has tied itself firmly to Gen. Sharon and his policies. In private conversation, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice has insisted that Hezbollah, not al Qaeda, is the world’s most dangerous terrorist organization. How could that be, considering al Qaeda’s global record of mass carnage? In truth, Hezbollah is the world’s most dangerous terrorist organization from Israel’s standpoint.

Dexter Filkins (*New York Times*, December 29, 2002):

With a scandal chipping away at his government, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon changed the subject to Iraq this week and found his country eager to listen.

Former U.S. presidential candidate Patrick J. Buchanan (*The American Conservative*, March 24, 2003):

Neocons say we attack them because they are Jewish. We do not. We attack them because their warmongering threatens our country, even as it finds a reliable echo in Ariel Sharon. . . . there is a loose collection of friends of Israel, who believe in the identity of interests between the Jewish state and the United States. . . . These analysts look on foreign policy through the lens of one dominant concern: Is it good or bad for Israel?

Meanwhile, there was a clear effort to suppress evidence of Jewish support for war. This from Dana Milbank (*Washington Post*, November 27, 2002):

A group of U.S. political consultants has sent pro-Israel leaders a memo urging them to keep quiet while the Bush administration pursues a possible war with Iraq. The six-page memo was sent by the Israel Project, . . . The Iraq memo . . . labeled “confidential property of the Israel Project,” which is led by Democratic consultant Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi . . .

Following the expected military conquest of Iraq, the man set to govern the country is Lt. Gen Jay Garner. Garner is said to maintain close ties to the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs—a “thinly-disguised Israeli espionage and recruiting front which targets retired American military and intelligence officers.”

Behind Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfeld are the “masterminds” of Bush’s foreign policy—Karl Rove and Paul Wolfowitz—who believe “war will mean America is respected in the Islamic world” (“Two Men Driving Bush Into War,” *Obsever*, February 23, 2003). They helped forge an alliance between the zionists, and Christian fundamentalist groups such as the Christian Coalition and the Jerry Falwell Ministries.

These Christian fundamentalists believe in God’s biblical promise to give the land of Israel to the Jews forever, and on God’s statement that he will “bless those who bless the Jews and curse those who curse the Jews.” These fundamentalists believe in Armageddon, and that a war between Muslims and Jews will bring about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, during which, the Christians will ascend to Heaven.

President George W. Bush may believe that “he’s doing God’s will.”

According to author Michael Ortiz Hill (*Counter Punch*, January 4, 2003):

Reverend Billy Graham taught Bush to live in anticipation of the Second Coming but it was his friendship with Dr. Tony Evans that shaped Bush’s political understanding of how to deport himself in an apocalyptic era. Dr. Evans, the pastor of a large Dallas church and a founder of the Promise Keepers movement taught Bush about “how the world should be seen from a divine viewpoint.”

On March 3, 2003, *Newsweek* (John Barry, “Exclusive: The Defector’s Secret”) exposed what may be the biggest lie of the Bush administration’s pro-war propaganda.

Iraq’s highest ranking defector, Hussein Kamel, according to the UN transcript of his debriefing, had told the CIA, British intelligence, and UN inspectors in 1995, that Iraq had destroyed all its chemical and biological weapons. General Kamel was Saddam Hussein’s son-in-law, and for 10 years he ran Iraq’s nuclear, chemical, biological, and missile programs.

General Kamel’s assertions raise questions about whether the weapons of mass destruction attributed to Iraq still exist.

March 20, 2003

Poll: Bush 'Biggest Threat to Justice and Peace'

The results of a poll released on November 9, 2002 by The Wisdom Fund, identified President George Bush, Jr. as the “biggest threat to justice and peace.”

Visitors to The Wisdom Fund web site when presented with three choices: Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, George Bush, Jr., voted overwhelmingly for President Bush. Mr. Bush received 55% of the votes cast, Osama bin Laden 24%, and Saddam Hussein 21%.

Later polls confirm the results of The Wisdom Fund’s unscientific poll. Some examples:

Patrick Wintour and Ewen MacAskill (“1 in 3 Say Bush is Biggest Threat,” *Guardian*, November 14, 2002): “President George Bush is seen by a third of Britons as a bigger threat to world safety than Saddam Hussein, according to a new poll conducted by a senior U.S. Republican and due to be broadcast today.”

Richard Morin (“Poll Finds World Doubts U.S. Motives in Iraq,” *Washington Post*, December 4, 2002): “In no country except the United States was Hussein’s continued rule seen by a majority as ‘the greater international threat to our country’.”

Glenn Kessler and Mike Allen (“Bush Faces Increasingly Poor Image Overseas,” *Washington Post*, February 24, 2003): “The messages from U.S. embassies around the globe have become urgent and disturbing: Many people in the world increasingly think President Bush is a greater threat to world peace than Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.”

TIME, Europe edition, asked: “Which country really poses the greatest danger to world peace in 2003?” Based on 673,027 votes cast, the results as of March 10, 2003: North Korea 5.6%; Iraq 6.5%; the U.S. 87.9%.

John Brady Kiesling, political counselor at the U.S. embassy in Athens, resigned in protest. In his resignation letter, he said, “Our fervent pursuit of war with Iraq is driving us to squander the international legitimacy that has been America’s most potent weapon of both offense and defense since the days of Woodrow Wilson.”

March 25, 2003

The Final Solution: ‘Shock and Awe’

On March 19, the U.S. launched a pre-emptive war on Iraq—the centerpiece of its strategy: “shock and awe,” and as in 1991 there’s a hidden agenda.

In 1991, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Americans were expecting a “peace dividend” from reductions in military spending, they were fuming over the Savings and Loan crisis, and the economy was depressed. Bush, Sr. needed a distraction.

The U.S. enticed Iraq into invading Kuwait—U.S. ambassador April Glaspie told Saddam Hussein, “we have no opinion on . . . your border disagreement with Kuwait.” To convince Americans and the world of the necessity for war, the U.S. concocted the story of Iraqi soldiers tossing 300 babies out of incubators to take back to Iraq, and by false reports of 250,000 Iraqi troops massed on the border with Iraq.

In 2002, Americans were expecting better health care, education, campaign finance reform, fuming over corporate scandals— Enron, WorldCom, etc., a peacetime defense budget had skyrocketed to Cold War levels, and the economy was depressed. Now, like Bush, Sr., Bush, Jr., needed a distraction.

This time the allegations were that Saddam Hussein “gassed his own people,” and that he had weapons of mass destruction which he could give to terrorists. So could others, but that was not mentioned.

Yes, the Kurds had been gassed during the 8-year Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s when the U.S. was supporting Iraq. But now, UN inspectors found no evidence of Iraq’s alleged chemical or biological program—which may yet exist. The alleged mobile, biological weapons laboratories turned out to be mobile, food testing laboratories. IAEA inspectors rebutted allegations about Iraq’s nuclear program. Iraq began destroying its Al Samoud missiles, some of which slightly exceeded the 150 kilometer range prescribed by the 1991 cease-fire.

The U.S., unable to convince the world of the danger posed by “Saddam’s weapons of mass destruction,” and contrary to the *Charter of the United Nations*, adopted a policy of “regime change.” In fact, the decision for “taking out Saddam” had been made about a year ago.

And the U.S. had bigger goals than just Iraqi oil. The grand design is to control the oil and gas fields of the Caspian Sea and the Middle East, and thereby, control the economies of Europe and Asia. Israel's friends in the U.S., Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, and others, want Iraq, Iran, and Syria disarmed so as to leave Israel the unquestioned power in the Middle East.

The 1991 Gulf War never really ended. Since 1991, the U.S. had been bombing Iraq in U.S.-declared, no-fly zones. The U.S. escalated these attacks, and on March 19, the U.S. launched over 30 cruise missiles, and dropped two one-ton bombs in an attempt to assassinate Saddam Hussein and his sons.

Defense Secretary Rumsfeld had promised "Shock and Awe"—an attack "of a force and scope and scale beyond what has been seen before." On March 20, the U.S. and Britain launched hundreds of cruise missiles at Bagdad, Mosul, Kirkuk, and Tikrit.

Millions of people around the world demonstrated against the war. In New York, hundreds of thousands of people filled a 30-block long stretch of Broadway for four hours.

Robin Cook, Leader of the House of Commons, and former Foreign Secretary under Tony Blair resigned in protest. In his speech on March 18, he said: "It is more than 30 years since resolution 242 called on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. We do not express the same impatience with the persistent refusal of Israel to comply."

Senator Robert C. Byrd, in a speech on March 19, said, "We cannot convince the world of the necessity of war for one simple reason. This is not a war of necessity, but a war of choice." He asked, "Why can this President not seem to see that America's true power lies not in its will to intimidate, but in its ability to inspire?"

President Bush has requested \$75 billion for the first six months of war on Iraq. The 10-year cost is expected to run over \$500 billion. The U.S. expects this to come out of Iraqi oil revenues.

Like the Opium Wars of 1839–42, and 1856–60, in which the British took Hong Kong and other regions of China, the victim will be asked to pay for the victor's war of aggression. After 156 years of British colonial rule, Hong Kong reverted to China on June 30, 1997.

How long will the U.S. occupation of Iraq last?

April 5, 2003

Toward Justice and Peace

President Bush, Sr., said to U.S. soldiers in the continuing Gulf War—in words reminiscent of previous colonial empire-builders—that they were “doing the Lord’s work” (*Agence France-Presse*, January 19, 2000). President Bush, Jr., is on a “crusade.” George Kennan, head of U.S. State Department planning until 1950, phrased it differently.

In 1948, when developing countries were beginning to emerge from Western colonial rule, Kennan “the leading dove and peace prize winner,” in the top secret, U.S. Department of State, *Policy Planning Study 23*, prescribed in part:

We have about 50% of the world’s wealth, but only 6.3% of its population. . . . Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity. . . . To do so, we will have to dispense with all sentimentality. . . . We should cease to talk about vague and . . . unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of living standards, and democratization.

More simply stated, Kennan’s prescription is follow the money, and it appears that this prescription for U.S. foreign policy remains the guiding light.

Security, as it should be, is at the heart of U.S. policy. But far too many decisions are rationalized as being security driven, when it is greed that is the determining force.

Geographically, the U.S. is among the most secure land masses. Yet it continues to outspend, by several orders of magnitude, all its potential adversaries combined.

According to the Center for Defense Information (February 3, 2003): “The United States and its allies account for two-thirds of world military expenditures.” Not counting the budget request for the war on Iraq, the \$399 billion U.S. defense budget for 2003 is equal to that of the next 15 biggest spenders combined. It is 6 times bigger than Russia’s (the second biggest spender), 8 times bigger than China’s (the third biggest spender), and 52 times bigger than Canada’s!

The defense spending of the “rogue states,” or “axis of evil,” pales in comparison. According to the latest (2001) figures available from

CDI: Iran spent \$4.8 billion; North Korea 2.1; Iraq 1.4; Libya 1.2; Syria 1.0; Cuba 0.8; Sudan 0.6—a total just under \$12 billion, or less than 3% of the U.S. budget for 2003.

The magnitude of U.S. defense spending fuels the search for enemies. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the choice was between the Yellow Peril (East Asia) and the Green Peril (Islam). Islam was chosen. And Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria were designated “rogue states.” These were joined by Cuba, North Korea, and Sudan. Under George Bush, Jr., these states became the “axis of evil.”

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, at least \$600 billion of unnecessary spending went to fight the bogey of “Islamic fundamentalism.”

On December 5, 2001, 114 “signatories of the Geneva Convention gathered in Switzerland,” according to the London *Telegraph*, “to reprimand Israel for ‘indiscriminate and disproportionate violence’ against Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories. . . . It was the first such declaration by signatory states since the Convention was signed in 1949.” Australia, Israel, and the U.S. “boycotted the session.”

Despite this, Israel’s transgressions are condoned by the U.S. Since 1973, Israel “has cost the United States about \$1.6 trillion. If divided by today’s population, that is more than \$5,700 per person.”

The U.S. professes its desire for democracy, human rights, and free trade, but these are empty slogans used to coerce weaker nations to submit to exploitation by the West. The absence of democracy and human rights, has not deterred close relations with other countries. It is not free trade that the U.S. seeks, but corporate globalization—the latter tends to eliminate free trade, not foster it.

At some point, corporate globalization destroys the very conditions that generations of economists such as Adam Smith have claimed to be essential to an efficient market—according to development experts such as David C. Korten, a market composed solely of individual buyers and sellers, none large enough to influence the market price.

The world’s 48 poorest countries account for only 0.4 percent of world trade and their share is shrinking. The 1998 United Nations Human Development Report notes that in 1960 the income of the 20 percent of the world’s people who lived in the richest countries was 30 times the income of the 20 percent who lived in the poorest countries.

By 1995 the ratio was 82 to 1. In 100 countries, per capita income is actually lower now than it was 30 years ago.

By following the prescription of its foreign advisors, Saudi Arabia saw its per capita income drop from \$15,700 in 1980, to \$5,700 by 2000. In 1982, Saudi Arabia had reserves of \$170 billion. Now, the national debt is almost that amount.

To assure the election of Boris Yeltsin, the Clinton administration ignored widespread corruption and loaned billions to Russia, while U.S. promoted privatization schemes permitted the “oligarchs” to loot Russia of its vast assets. For the Russian people, however, the “free market” of the 1990s was the biggest disaster since the Nazi invasion of 1941.

Large, unregulated capital flows caused the near collapse of Malaysia and Indonesia. According to Joseph Stiglitz, recipient of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics,

The International Monetary Fund and the U.S. Treasury badly underestimated the magnitude of the Asian downturns of 1997—and this mistake was at least partly responsible for the disastrous IMF policies prescribed in Indonesia, Thailand and elsewhere.

Mr. Stiglitz compares free trade policies promoted by the IMF to the Opium Wars in which the West used military blockades to force open markets for unbalanced trade. In the nineteenth century, they used gunboats. “Now they use economic weapons and arm-twisting.”

During the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, two million Afghans were killed, and 750,000 civilians lost limbs to land mines. A million homes, and thousands of mosques, and schools were destroyed.

The 1991 Gulf War claimed over 200,000 Iraqi lives. One-and-a-half million died as a result of sanctions. The Kurds and Shias, encouraged to revolt by the U.S., were abandoned—thousands were killed. 199,000 U.S. veterans of the war filed disability claims, *AP* reported.

The U.S. “war on terrorism” killed 25,000 Afghans; millions more became refugees. The U.S. got its commitment for a gas pipeline for which Unocal had unsuccessfully negotiated with the Taliban.

The victims of September 11, and other disasters attributed to Muslims, can expect multimillion dollar awards from U.S. courts. Yet on March 20, a U.S. court dismissed the claims of the families of the 3,800 dead, and other victims, of the world’s worst-ever industrial disaster—the 1984, gas leak at a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India.

In 1946, the Nuremberg Tribunal rejected German arguments of the “necessity” for pre-emptive attacks against its neighbors, but it’s not likely that the U.S. will be held accountable for its invasion of Iraq.

There have also been many positive developments.

Despite the bigotry of Christian evangelicals, such as Jerry Falwell, Franklin Graham, and Pat Robertson, this decade has seen the rise of millions of individuals, thousands of organizations—Jews, Christians, Muslims, and others—working for a just and peaceful world.

The Internet has brought together people and organizations around the world who value human survival, family, friends, helping others, saving the environment, self-growth, and spiritual pursuit.

They have come out in unprecedented numbers to say “no war,” “peace is patriotic.” They are a growing political force.

The war on Islam, facilitated by the enemy within, and backed by a foreign policy establishment subservient to the zionists—both Jewish and Christian, is being waged because vast resources are to be had in Muslim lands, because the U.S. needs an enemy to justify defense spending, and perhaps even more importantly because Islam’s prescription for a just social order opposes Kennan’s prescription.

Kennan’s prescription leads to unbridled capitalism, and exploitation of the masses. Islam’s prescription for a just social order opposes unbridled capitalism, supports free markets, and cannot be overturned by legislation or executive order.

For most, the war on Islam has about as much to do with faith as did the wars waged by the Europeans after the fall of Muslim Spain in 1492.

John Edwards, in *History Today* wrote:

On the second day of January [1492] I saw Your Highnesses’ royal banners placed by force of arms on the towers of the Alhambra . . . and in the same month . . . Your Highness, as Catholic Christians and princes devoted to the holy Christian faith and the furtherance of its cause, and enemies of the sect of Mohammed and of all idolatry and heresy, resolved to send me, Christopher Columbus, to the . . . regions of India.

Columbus, and the Europeans who came to America, raped, pillaged, and murdered for gold, diamonds, and other wealth. Faith may have inspired them, but uncounted millions were enslaved or died to

satisfy their greed. Other Europeans spread across South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia, bringing with them more slavery, death, destruction. Greed drove them on.

Greed is the determining force today for those who seek to exploit the resources of the Middle East, the Caspian Sea, Indonesia. Countries that refuse to guarantee low-cost oil to the U.S., and recycle their petrodollars back to the U.S., via construction projects, arms purchases, etc., are dubbed the “enemy.”

Under the guise of saving humanity, and preserving civil society, the U.S. is assaulting the world—causing death, destruction and misery. Little has changed since 1492, except the technology for fighting wars, and for demonizing the “enemy.”

With the demise of the Soviet Union, the U.S. had an opportunity to create a “New World Order” based upon justice and peace. Instead, U.S. military ventures in Iraq, Afghanistan, and former Yugoslavia—in pursuit of resources and markets, or to control them—have reignited the Cold War, and set precedents likely to lead to more wars.

The half-truths and distortions of major U.S. news media threaten democracy, and remain the biggest obstacle to justice and peace.

In the language of systems theory, such reporting may be compared to inaccurate negative feedback. Without accurate negative feedback, the right corrective action cannot be taken, and systems become unstable, or unsustainable.

Since society itself is a system, the half-truths and distortions of major U.S. news media make civil society unsustainable.

Major General Smedley Butler, the recipient of two Congressional Medals of Honor, said in a speech in 1933: “War is just a racket. . . . when the dollar only earns 6 percent over here, then it gets restless and goes overseas to get 100 percent. Then the flag follows the dollar and the soldiers follow the flag.”

When enough people realize that the war on Islam is ultimately a clash of values—greed versus justice, mercy, compassion—we will have moved closer to justice and peace for all.

July 4, 2003

Denial Is Not An Option

If we wish to preserve that which we commemorate this 4th of July then denial is not an option

Are we or are we not the good guys—liberating oppressed peoples, eliminating weapons of mass destruction, maintaining law and order around the world, improving the lives of the less fortunate in developing countries? So why do so many others have such a negative opinion about us?

It's not a terribly difficult question to answer, but Americans seem to be in denial.

On February 24, Glenn Kessler and Mike Allen of the *Washington Post* wrote: "The messages from U.S. embassies around the globe have become urgent and disturbing: Many people in the world increasingly think President Bush is a greater threat to world peace than Iraqi President Saddam Hussein."

On May 16, a Gallup International poll found that, "Majorities in all other countries think that as a result of recent military action in Afghanistan and Iraq, the world is a more dangerous place."

A BBC poll released on June 16 stated that, "Nearly two-thirds of respondents to an international poll for the BBC say they have an unfavourable opinion of George W Bush."

A few examples should help Americans understand why others have such a negative opinion about us.

International Law

Multi-billionaire George Soros has written: "The United States has become the greatest obstacle to establishing the rule of law in international affairs."

In one way or another, we have not lived up to our obligations under the: International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966); Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (1972); Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1979); UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982); Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989); Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (1996); Kyoto Protocol

(1997); Chemical Weapons Convention (1998); Biological Weapons Convention (2001); Nonproliferation and Test Ban Treaties (2002); International Criminal Court (July 1, 2002).

We have signaled to the world that the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties no longer binds us. Under the convention, a country that has signed a treaty cannot act to defeat the purpose of that treaty even if does not intend to ratify it. Instead we have been bullying and bribing other states to sign bilateral agreements to circumvent the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

Yet, we do not hesitate to seek satisfaction from the UN and other international bodies when it is our interests that are at risk.

While threatening pre-emptive strikes on states that we believe are seeking weapons of mass destruction, we continue to increase our stockpiles of those weapons, thereby, encouraging others to attempt to do the same.

In 1996, the International Court of Justice unanimously held that Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty obligates states to “bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.” Our recently released Nuclear Posture Review makes a mockery of our commitments and the Court’s ruling.

We have shown an utter disregard for international conventions on human rights by holding “illegal combatants” in a legal limbo at Guantanamo. These prisoners have been tortured, and denied rights under both American law and international law.

We rounded up hundreds of Muslims in the U.S., and kept them in jails without being charged or allowed to communicate with family or lawyers. Of the 82,000 Muslims who voluntarily registered at the request of the Justice Department, 13,000 face deportation.

Our actions have thrown the entire system of international law into chaos.

Foreign Aid

Every dollar contributed to the World Bank, claims the U.S. Treasury Department, returns two dollars to the U.S. economy. Our foreign aid programs have enriched the elites; they have done little for the less fortunate.

According to development expert David C. Korten, “The World Bank has served as an export-financing facility for large Northern-based corporations. The IMF has served as the debt collector for Northern-based financial institutions. GATT has served to create a corporate bill of rights protecting the rights of the world’s largest corporations against the intrusions of people, communities, and democratically elected governments.”

Harvard professor Amy Chua writes: “For the last twenty years the United States has been promoting throughout the non-Western world raw, laissez-faire capitalism—a form of markets that the West abandoned long ago . . . It is striking to note that at no point in history did any Western nation ever implement laissez-faire capitalism and overnight universal suffrage at the same time—the precise formula of free market democracy currently being pressed on developing countries around the world.”

And even though California’s model of electric utility restructuring has clearly failed, the U.S. Agency for International Development is aggressively promoting this model for developing countries.

Joseph Stiglitz, recipient of the 2001 Nobel Prize in economics, compares free trade policies promoted by the IMF to the Opium Wars in which the West used military blockades to force open markets for unbalanced trade.

Iraq

750 years after the Mongols destroyed Baghdad—the cradle of civilization—we have done the same. Iraq neither attacked us nor threatened us. We invaded Iraq claiming it was an “imminent threat.” We are occupying Iraq in order to install a “democracy” that is to our liking, we have taken over their oil fields, and the Iraqis want us out.

Senator Robert C. Byrd, in a speech on March 19, said, “We cannot convince the world of the necessity of war for one simple reason. This is not a war of necessity, but a war of choice.”

Iraq’s highest ranking defector, Hussein Kamel, according to the UN transcript of his debriefing, had told the CIA, British intelligence, and UN inspectors in 1995, that Iraq had destroyed all its chemical and biological weapons. General Kamel was Saddam Hussein’s son-in-law,

and for 10 years he ran Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological, and missile programs.

And even if Iraq possessed the weapons we claim they did, it would be suicidal for them to use those weapons against the U.S. or their neighbors.

Both Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and our invasion of Iraq were illegal. At our insistence, Iraq suffered 12 years of crippling sanctions, which killed a million or more Iraqis. Iraq is still paying reparations for its invasion of Kuwait. Will we pay for our invasion of Iraq? No—we aim to profit from it.

Israel

Thomas Stauffer, a consulting economist, estimates that Israel, since 1973, has cost the United States about \$1.6 trillion. A Pew survey released in early June reported that in 20 of the 21 countries polled the U.S. was considered too supportive of Israel—our double standards are obvious. The largest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is in Israel—the recipient of the biggest portion of our foreign aid.

If we truly wish to rid the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, how can we ignore Israel's? Article 14 of UN Security Council Resolution 687, passed in 1991 at the conclusion of the Gulf War, has “the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery and the objective of a global ban on chemical weapons.”

If we went after Iraq with such zeal for invading Kuwait, why have we not shown similar zeal in ending Israel's 35-year, illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza? We have given a green light to Israel's assassination of Palestinians. Our Middle East roadmap, wrote Columbia University Professor Edward Said, “is not about a plan for peace so much as a plan for pacification: it is about putting an end to Palestine as a problem.”

Need for 'Enemies'

Americans who couldn't be bothered by all of this need only look at our defense budget—greater than that of the next 15 countries com-

bined, it takes away funds which would otherwise go toward education, health care, social security, infrastructure development, etc.

The “rogue states” and “axis of evil” combined spend on defense less than half of what we spend on covert operations alone. The Iraq war alone is costing us about one billion dollars per week!

To sustain this massive spending on “defense,” our government has to keep making new “enemies,” use them to scare us, and take away more and more of our freedoms to protect us from these “enemies.” At risk is our way of life, and democracy itself.

In a democratic society we must take responsibility for the actions of our elected leaders. If we wish to preserve that which we commemorate this 4th of July, then denial is not an option.

August 8, 2003

The 2004 Election: One Issue, One Candidate

For the vast majority of Americans, there’s only one issue in the 2004 election that has the potential for making their life significantly better than it is now: reducing defense spending.

We now have the highest defense budget in our history, it is breaking the national budget, and diverting resources from things Americans want: peace, security, jobs, lower taxes, health care, education, fixing social security, infrastructure development, social services, a better environment, etc. High defense spending is also responsible, indirectly, for increasing government intrusion into our lives. Our democracy itself is at risk.

Our \$400 billion defense budget equals the combined military spending of the next 15 biggest defense spenders in the world. The defense budgets of our designated “enemies”—Iran, North Korea, and Syria—are \$5 billion, \$2 billion, and one billion. Our Cold War enemies Russia and China spent \$65 billion and \$47 billion. We also have NATO, the United Kingdom, and others to share the burden of defense against our “enemies.”

The \$400 billion for defense, plus the military portion from other

parts of the budget, plus the interest on the military portion of the national debt, plus veterans benefits, account for roughly 50% of total federal outlays!

Clearly, there is a huge mismatch between the military threat posed by our “enemies” and our response to the threat, yet the Bush administration is pushing a new generation of nuclear weapons—we already have enough to annihilate virtually every major city on the planet.

While spending on unnecessary weapons, and weapons that we know won’t work—such as missile defense systems—crowd out \$2 trillion, badly needed, capital improvements in the civilian economy, a study by the Defense Department’s inspector general found that the Pentagon couldn’t properly account for more than a trillion dollars it had spent.

Furthermore, missile defense systems, nuclear weapons, cruise missiles, and traditional armies are hardly the way to fight “terrorism” which many experts say is inspired by our foreign policies. Indeed the wars we’ve been fighting are creating more “terrorists,” and making Americans less secure both at home and abroad.

To justify our massive spending on “defense” our government has to instill fear in Americans, find enemies on whom to focus our military might, and break international laws to attack other countries, thereby, throwing into chaos the entire system of international law without which no country can prosper in this interconnected world.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union, Americans were expecting a “peace dividend.” However, the economy was depressed, taxpayers had just spent billions bailing out the S & Ls, and President Bush, Sr. needed a distraction. Islam—the Green Peril—became the designated enemy. Iraq, our former ally against Iran, became the new bogeyman, and so we had the first Gulf War.

Yes, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, but we had a hand in getting him to invade, and we could have ousted him without resorting to war, but that didn’t fit in with the aim of the empire builders who wished to gain control of the energy resources in the region.

In 2001 we had the attack on the World Trade Center, the economy was depressed, we had the Worldcom, Enron scandals, and by 2003 President Bush, Jr. needed a distraction. So we had another war on Iraq.

Intelligence reported no Iraq links to al-Qaeda, or the attack on the World Trade Center.

Now we're spending one billion dollars per week to sustain our occupation of Iraq. We have added 10,000 Iraqi civilians killed and 20,000 wounded to the hundreds of thousands already killed, maimed, or born with birth defects as a result of the first Gulf War, and the subsequent sanctions. This is not winning us many friends in the region, and President Bush has promised us a "war on terror" for years to come.

This "war on terror" will not eradicate "terrorism"—often this "terrorism" is resistance to some misguided policy of ours. Rather than examine our policy, "terrorism" is used to justify greater defense spending, and to divert spending from things that will improve Americans' lives.

In his 1961, farewell speech to the nation, President Dwight D. Eisenhower—former Supreme Commander of the allied forces in France, President of Columbia University, commander of the new NATO forces being assembled in 1951—said:

Crises there will continue to be. In meeting them, whether foreign or domestic, great or small, there is a recurring temptation to feel that some spectacular and costly action could become the miraculous solution to all current difficulties.

President Eisenhower warned:

This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence—economic, political, even spiritual—is felt in every city, every State house, every office of the Federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society.

In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.

Only one candidate for president in 2004 has shown the courage to

take on the issue of defense spending. He first came to national prominence in 1977 when he was elected mayor of Cleveland at age 31—the youngest person ever elected to lead a major American city. As a state senator, and as a U.S. Congressman from Ohio, he has stood for what's right at considerable risk to his own career. He was among a handful of lawmakers who filed suit to stop the Bush administration from going to war with Iraq.

There's only one candidate for president who has the potential to deliver what the vast majority of Americans want: peace, security, jobs, lower taxes, health care, education, fixing social security, infrastructure development, social services, a better environment. That candidate for president of the United States is Mr. Dennis J. Kucinich.

September 16, 2003

New Iraq Constitution a Pretext for Exploitation

Israel does not have a written constitution. The British do not have a written constitution. The U.S. constitution provided few benefits for the majority of Americans for over 150 years. So why must the Iraqis wait for a new constitution before the U.S. occupation force transfers power to them?

Iraq's original constitution, together with the widely misunderstood Shariah (Islamic law derived from the Quran and other sources), provide a reasonable basis for Iraqi self rule—at least until the Iraqis themselves draft and approve a new constitution.

Israeli Constitution

Israel, touted as the region's sole democracy, has not had a written constitution since its founding in 1948. Its political system is based upon its *Declaration of Independence* and various laws. The following texts are "recognized as constitutional by Israel's Supreme Court":

Declaration of Independence (1948)

Law of Return (1950)

World Zionist Organization—Jewish Agency (Status) Law

Basic Laws: *The Knesset* (1958); *Israel Lands* (1960); *The President of the State* (1964); *The Government* (1968); *The State Economy* (1975); *Israel Defense Forces* (1976); *Jerusalem, Capital of Israel* (1980); *The Judicature Law* (1984); *The State Comptroller* (1988); *Human Dignity and Freedom* (1992); *Freedom of Occupation* (1992)

Israel is of course a Jewish state—it makes no separation between Church and state. Dr. Uri Davis, author of *Israel: An Apartheid State*, compares Israeli treatment of its Christian and Muslim citizens to South Africa's treatment of "blacks" during apartheid.

British Constitution

The British Constitution is also unwritten. It has two basic principles: the Rule of Law, and the Supremacy of Parliament. It is derived from a variety of sources, the primary ones are:

Statutes such as the *Magna Carta of 1215* and the *Act of Settlement of 1701*

Laws and Customs of Parliament; political conventions

Case law—constitutional matters decided in a court of law

Constitutional experts who have written on the subject

Britain maintains a formal relationship between Church and state. The Queen is the United Kingdom's Head of State. Her role, stated in the Preface to the 39 *Articles of the Church of England*, describes the monarch as 'being by God's Ordinance, according to Our just Title, Defender of the Faith and ... Supreme Governor of the Church of England'.

According to the official web site of the British Monarchy: "Archbishops and bishops are appointed by The Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister, who considers the names selected by a Church Commission. They take an oath of allegiance to The Queen on appointment and may not resign without royal authority."

U.S. Constitution

The U.S. has a written constitution which was drafted and approved in 1787. Over the next four years ten amendments, and a *Bill of Rights*, were approved. However, under this constitution Native Americans,

women, whites who did not own property, African Americans, and other minorities had no voting rights.

All white males were granted the right to vote by 1860. Women were granted the right to vote in 1920. In the 1960s African Americans were still fighting for the right to vote that, while granted by law, was denied to them in a variety of ways. President Bush owes his election to poor white and African American voters wrongfully struck from voter rolls in the state of Florida. Florida's governor is Jeb Bush, brother of President Bush.

Iraq Constitution

Iraq had a written constitution. Prior to the U.S. invasion of Iraq a task force of Iraqi expatriates, formed by the U.S. Department of State, concluded that it would be a relatively simple matter to remove the decrees issued by President Saddam Hussein, and thereby restore the original Iraq constitution.

Under their original constitution Iraqi's enjoyed a high standard of living, women's rights, and the highest literacy rate among the Arabs.

Noah Feldman, a professor at New York University Law School, was appointed in May 2003 to the U.S. Office for Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance as an adviser on framing a new constitution for Iraq. "He's got substance in both an Islamic background and in practical constitutionalism," said David H. Souter, the Supreme Court justice for whom Professor Feldman had been a law clerk. His book, *After Jihad: America and the Struggle for Islamic Democracy*, is a thoughtful examination of Islam and democracy. Mr. Feldman resigned two months later.

Isam al-Khafaji, one of 140 Iraqis on the council formed by the U.S. to help with the postwar reconstruction and rehabilitation, also resigned. "I feared my role with the reconstruction council was sliding from what I had originally envisioned—working with allies in a democratic fashion—to collaborating with occupying forces," he said.

Islamic Law and Human Rights

Properly interpreted, the Shariah provides the principles for creating a just society. Democracy, human rights, the separation of "Church"

and State, the rights of minorities, etc. were all recognized by Islamic jurists.

In a major speech His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, stated:

Islamic countries like Turkey, Egypt, and Syria gave women the vote as early as Europe did its women—and much earlier than in Switzerland! In those countries women have long enjoyed equal pay, and the opportunity to play a full working role in their societies. The rights of Muslim women to property and inheritance, to some protection if divorced, and to the conducting of business, were rights prescribed by the Quran twelve hundred years ago, even if they were not everywhere translated into practice. In Britain at least, some of these rights were novel even to my grandmother's generation!

Women lead two of the largest Muslim countries, Indonesia with a population of 231 million, and Bangladesh with a population of 133 million.

As for separation of Church and state, centuries before the Europeans, Islamic jurists recognized a conceptual separation (Islam has no “Church”, i.e. an hierarchy of priests, bishops, etc.). Islamic jurists divided the Shariah into two categories: religious observances and worldly matters. The first were beyond the scope of modification. The second which covered criminal law, family law, and transactions were deemed subject to interpretation.

Regarding democracy the London based Impact International monthly reported that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (founder of Pakistan), stressed time and again that there was no need to borrow the concept or practice of democracy from others because Muslims had learnt democracy 1300 years ago. Mr. Jinnah believed that as the Prophet signed pacts with the Christians, Jews and other minorities in Madinah-al-Munnawwarah, minorities would enjoy equal rights in Muslim countries.

Replying to a question whether Pakistan would be a secular or theocratic state? the Quaid rebuked:

You are asking me a question that is absurd. What I have already said is like throwing water on a duck's back. When you talk of democracy, I am afraid you have not studied Islam. We learned democracy 13 centuries ago.

Of course, as in many non-Muslim countries, neither their faith

nor their constitution were sufficient to prevent some Muslim leaders from doing more harm than good.

Pretext for Exploitation

So why must Iraqis wait for a new constitution to secure their independence from the U.S. occupation force? The drafting of the constitution is a pretext for exploiting Iraq's national wealth, providing oil and water to Israel, and maintaining control of the energy resources of the Middle East.

The U.S. is secretly building two giant intelligence facilities in Iraq at a cost of some half a billion dollars, according to a report in Israel's *DEBKA-Net-Weekly*. U.S. engineering and construction units are setting up what amounts to an "intelligence city" on a site north of the oil city of Mosul in Kurdistan and a second facility in Baghdad's Saadun district on the east bank of the Tigris. *DEBKA-Net-Weekly* military experts infer from the "vast dimensions of the two projects and their colossal expense" that it is Washington's intention to retain a large U.S. military presence in Iraq for at least a decade.

On August 26 Scotland's national newspaper reported, "The United States has asked Israel to explore reviving a pipeline route pumping oil from Iraq direct to the oil refineries in the Israeli port of Haifa. The office of the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, sees the pipeline project as a 'bonus' in return for Israel's backing of the US-led campaign in Iraq, the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported yesterday."

Stephen C. Pelletiere, writing in the *New York Times*, stated, "In the 1990's there was much discussion over the construction of a so-called Peace Pipeline that would bring the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates south to the parched Gulf states and, by extension, Israel. No progress has been made on this, largely because of Iraqi intransigence. With Iraq in American hands, of course, all that could change."

To fulfill Israeli expectations, and those of American corporations, Iraq can expect the U.S. Agency for International Development, assisted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, to push for a restructuring of Iraq's economy. U.S. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld has begun promoting privatization as a good idea for Iraq's ailing economy.

Mr. Rumsfeld's plan for Iraq is the first step of the Assistance Strategy prepared for developing nations. Each nation's finance minister is handed a 'restructuring agreement' pre-drafted for his 'voluntary' signature, then, says Joseph Stiglitz (recipient Nobel Prize, Chairman, President's Council of Economic Advisers, Chief Economist, World Bank), the Bank hands every minister the same four-step program.

Investigative journalist Gregory Palast who interviewed Dr. Stiglitz describes the Assistance Strategy: Step One is Privatisation which Stiglitz says could more accurately be called, 'Briberisation.' "You could see their eyes widen" at the prospect of 10% commissions paid to Swiss bank accounts for simply shaving a few billion off the sale price of national assets. Step Two is 'Capital Market Liberalization.' In theory, capital market deregulation allows investment capital to flow in and out. Unfortunately, as in Indonesia and Brazil, the money simply flowed out and out. Step Three is Market-Based Pricing, a fancy term for raising prices on food, water and cooking gas. Step Four is Free Trade by the rules of the World Trade Organization and World Bank.

Dr. Stiglitz likens this "free trade" to the Opium Wars of the mid-19th century in which Great Britain went to war with China to force open its markets, and took Hong Kong as the price for ceasing hostilities.

January 29, 2004

Exploiting Iraq: \$64 Lunch, \$125,000 Truck Driver

Sixty-four dollars for lunch, \$125,000 for a truck driver, that's just a small fraction of what our imperial venture in Iraq is costing U.S. taxpayers.

A trusted source, recently on leave from an assignment in Iraq, reports that he and others working for the U.S. can get their meals in cafeterias being run for the U.S. occupation forces. "Just show your U.S. issued identification card, and help yourself to a \$64 breakfast, lunch, or dinner," he said.

The high prices for meals is due to their being flown in from Ku-

wait, reports our source. Deliveries by truck from Kuwait may not be much cheaper.

Dahr Jamail, an independent journalist from Alaska, reporting from Iraq, describes a “convoy of 10 Kuwaiti fuel trucks . . . passes us. They are escorted by two Humvees. Each truck has a sign on it that says, ‘KBR owned asset’. Another of the trucks pulling a tank of petrol has a sign on it that says, ‘First Kuwaiti Construction Company’.”

He’s told that “these truck drivers started out making \$125,000 per year. They won’t hire Iraqis because they don’t trust them.”

To put these numbers in perspective, members of the new Iraqi army were being paid \$60 a month by the U.S. last December (CNN, December 13, 2003). The U.S. settled 176 negligence and wrongful death claims filed against American soldiers for a total of \$106,000 or \$600 each.

The US army estimates that of the \$87 billion earmarked this year for the broader Iraqi campaign, including central Asia and Afghanistan, one third of that, nearly \$30 billion, will be spent on contracts to private companies” (Guardian, December 10, 2003).

A report in 1998 by the United Nations Development Programme estimated the annual cost to achieve universal access to a number of basic social services in all developing countries: \$9 billion would provide water and sanitation for all; \$12 billion would cover reproductive health for all women; \$13 billion would give every person on earth basic health and nutrition; and \$6 billion would provide basic education for all.

The gross national income (GNI) per capita of 64 countries is \$735 or less; that of 54 countries is \$736 to \$2,935; that of 34 countries is \$2,936 to \$9,075 according to the World Bank.

Forty-five percent of the world’s population of 6.3 billion, or 2.8 billion human beings, subsists on two dollars or less per day, and 1.1 billion on less than a dollar per day.

[\$15m—Amount of a contract awarded to an American firm to build a cement factory in Iraq.

\$80,000 —Amount an Iraqi firm spent (using Saddam’s confiscated funds) to build the same factory, after delays prevented the American firm from starting it.—Graydon Carter, “Bush by numbers: Four years of double standards,” *Independent*, September 3, 2004

July 26, 2004

Why No Arab Names on 9/11 Passenger List?

Why are there no Arab names on the passenger list for the planes used in the September 11, 2001 attack on America: American Airlines Flight 11, United Airlines Flight 175, American Airlines Flight 77, and United Airlines Flight 93?

Why is the “terrorist ringleader Mohamed Atta” not listed on the passenger list for American Airlines Flight 11?

We understand that the passenger list published by the *Associated Press* on September 17, 2001 is based on information supplied by “family members, friends, co-workers and law enforcement.” How could “law enforcement” miss all the Arab names?

Yet on September 28, 2001—seventeen days after the attack—the FBI found a curiously worded will and burial instructions, in Mohamed Atta’s suitcase that Atta had checked for the American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston to Los Angeles, but which was never loaded on the plane.

Are we to believe that Mohamed Atta’s suitcase bore his name, but his ticket was purchased under a different name? If so what is that other name, and is it on the passenger list? If the suitcase bore a non-Arab name, why did the FBI open it? Wouldn’t it have been returned to the family of the ticketed passenger?

The 585 page report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States appears to be silent on these issues, and while it contains much useful information, it leaves many loose ends.

In formulating its “global strategy,” the Commission states that the “catastrophic threat at this moment in history is more specific. It is the threat posed by Islamist terrorism—especially the al Qaeda network, its affiliates, and its ideology.” (p. 362)

Al Qaeda does pose a threat, but the underlying causes of “terrorism” are U.S. policies toward the Muslim world.

Why does the report not highlight the reasons most Muslims cite as the source of not only Muslim frustration, but as polls show, worldwide frustration, with the U.S.: Uncritical U.S. support for Israel’s occupation of Palestine, the U.S. occupation and exploitation of Muslim lands,

and U.S. support for authoritarian regimes while proclaiming America's desire for democracy in those lands.

The report mentions Islam about 300 times, but did the commission seek the testimony of independent, Muslim scholars or experts? Did it obtain advice primarily from those who drove the U.S. to war: Israel and its U.S. backers, global corporations, and the military-industrial complex?

Until the U.S. focuses on the specific issues which frustrate Muslims, and many others, and until the U.S. includes informed, independent Muslims in the much needed, national dialog, we see no early end to the "war on terrorism."

America was not attacked just because "they hate us." Until the U.S. accepts this fact, it will be fighting the wrong war.

August 7, 2004

Sudan, Oil, and the Darfur Crisis

Are the U.S. and Britain seeking a pretext for intervention in order to take advantage of Sudan's oil?

The situation in Darfur is tragic, but it is not genocide—oil may be the real target of those seeking military intervention.

According to Alex de Waal, the "world authority" on Sudan,

Characterising the Darfur war as 'Arabs' versus 'Africans' obscures the reality. Darfur's Arabs are black, indigenous, African and Muslim—just like Darfur's non-Arabs . . . Until recently, Darfurians used the term 'Arab' in its ancient sense of 'bedouin'. These Arabic-speaking nomads are distinct from the inheritors of the Arab culture of the Nile and the Fertile Crescent.

'Arabism' in Darfur is a political ideology, recently imported, after Colonel Gaddafi nurtured dreams of an 'Arab belt' across Africa, and recruited Chadian Arabs, Darfurians and west African Tuaregs to spearhead his invasion of Chad in the 1980s. He failed, but the legacy of arms, militia organisation and Arab supremacist ideology lives on (*The Observer*, July 25, 2004).

Sudan's 40 million population is 70% Sunni Muslim, 25% indigenous beliefs, and 5% Christian. Sudan's African Muslims killing African

Muslims in tribal warfare is tragic, but cannot correctly be described as genocide—the systematic destruction by the government of Sudan of a national, racial, ethnic, or religious group.

Tensions in Darfur, in western Sudan, have existed since the 1970s. Forced by drought and scarce resources, the nomadic cattle herders in the north ventured into lands populated by the more settled communities in the south.

Renewed fighting broke out at the very moment when a peace agreement was about to be signed which would have ended 21 years of conflict between the government of Sudan, and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in southern Sudan.

Darfur's tribes rebelled against the government complaining that the Sudan government had failed to develop the area. It is alleged that the rebels, aware of the terms of the proposed peace agreement between the government of Sudan and the SPLA, hoped to strike a favorable deal for themselves.

Southern Darfur, like southern Sudan, is rich in oil. The Chinese National Petroleum Corporation holds the large oil concession in southern Darfur. Chinese soldiers are alleged to be protecting Chinese oil interests.

It is also alleged that the rebels in southern Darfur are getting weapons from outside Sudan. "UN observers say they have better weapons than the Sudanese army, and are receiving supplies by air," according to Crescent International (UK).

The government of Sudan, after agreeing with UN Secretary General Kofi Anan to a 90-day period to end the conflict, was given 30 days under a UN resolution pushed through by the U.S. and Britain.

Sudan, largely undeveloped, and barely emerging from colonial oppression, has been given a virtually impossible task of pacifying an area the size of France. This may be the pretext for yet another U.S.-British intervention for oil.

In 1996, the U.S. sent nearly \$20 million in surplus U.S. military equipment to Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda to topple the government of Sudan (*Washington Post*, November 10, 1996), and it would appear that the U.S. and Britain are now competing with China, Sudan's largest trading partner, for Sudan's oil.

What Sudan, and Darfur in particular, need now is humanitarian assistance—not avarice masquerading as altruism.

Meanwhile, the international community remains largely silent about Uganda.

There the Lord's Resistance Army has killed tens of thousands of people, often mutilating their bodies, displaced more than 1.6 million people in northern Uganda, kidnapped thousands of children, forced many to become soldiers or sex slaves (*Voice of America*, July 29, 2004).

January 16, 2005

Abu Mazen: Israel's New 'Security Subcontractor'?

Mahmoud Abbas was elected Palestinian Authority president by a wide margin last Sunday, January 9. Now Palestinians expect him to improve their increasingly desperate living conditions, and Israel expects him to put an end to attacks on Israelis.

We don't envy Abbas, popularly known as Abu Mazen, his job.

Unlike the upcoming election in Iraq, Palestinians outside the West Bank and Gaza were not permitted to vote.

Of the estimated 9 million Palestinians worldwide, about 3 million live in the West Bank and Gaza, about 1.4 million were eligible to vote, and about 700,000 actually voted.

And in an apparent effort to forestall gains by Hamas in Palestinian elections, the Israeli army arrested several potential candidates just days before the election.

So Abu Mazen doesn't exactly have a mandate from the Palestinians.

He also does not appear to have the support of either the United States and/or Israel without which he is powerless to improve living conditions for the Palestinians.

Nobel peace laureate, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former President Nelson Mandela have likened Israel to apartheid South Africa.

And in as much as the Israeli occupation of Palestine is the catalyst for attacks on Israelis, Abbas can do little to change that—Israel can.

Besides an early improvement in their living conditions, Palestinians expect a Palestinian state along the lines of the 1967 borders, and a just solution for the Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

Israel, it seems, is less interested in peace, than in driving the remaining Palestinians out of the West Bank and Gaza.

However, a growing movement within Israel and the U.S. might move Israel toward a just solution for both Palestinians and Israelis.

Abu Mazen needs to spell out an unambiguous vision for this just solution.

Were he to, under pressure from the U.S. and Israel, sign away Palestinian rights, it won't bring peace to either the Israelis or Palestinians.

So Abu Mazen, absent U.S. pressure for a just solution to the Palestine problem, can choose to be Israel's new "security subcontractor," or be sidelined like former PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

May 1, 2005

Saddam Hussein's Palaces

Home to the U.S. Occupation Force in Iraq

The contrast between the occupation force and the occupied people couldn't be more vivid— one resides in palaces, the other often resides in bombed out homes or as refugees within their own country.

In Saddam Hussein's birthplace—Tikrit, Iraq, the U.S. occupation force has commandeered the former dictator's palaces to use as homes and offices for the occupation force.

Local government's requesting to use these palaces as schools, libraries, museums, hotels, etc., are being denied, and are angry with the Americans.

Of-course, the generals get the best rooms and lavish bathrooms (see slide show). The privates sleep on cots and use portable latrines.

The occupation force lives in air-conditioned comfort, enjoys \$64 lunches with 22 flavors of ice cream—"better than those served at the

University of California”. The caterer, Kellogg Brown & Root—a subsidiary of Halliburton (once run by Vice President Richard Cheney)—rakes in the taxpayer’s dollars.

The occupation force has running water, electricity, and security—all of which were promised to the Iraqi people, all of which they mostly had under Saddam Hussein, and all of which they have much less of under the U.S. occupation force.

The Iraqis, of course, resent this—except for the few who have made it into the inner circles of the occupation force.

Contracts are doled out to Iraqis in the inner circle—often these are the interpreters. They get to lord it over more qualified firms and individuals, thereby, alienating more Iraqis.

Outside their relatively secure enclaves the occupiers are targets of the Iraqi resistance. For Americans killed or maimed, their palace quarters, \$60,000 in pay and allowances for the lowest private, and the promise of \$90,000 in loans for education become small compensation for them and their families, but it is what draws them into the military.

Iraqis struggle just to feed their families, and live in fear of a knock on the door late at night that may be the beginning of their disappearance into the American gulags in Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, Diego Garcia, Guantanamo, and elsewhere.

And it isn’t just in Tikrit, this vivid contrast between the occupiers and the occupied exists virtually all over Iraq.

Since there is no draft, the elites of America are largely untouched by the mounting human tragedy: roughly 1600 Americans dead, 180 members of the “coalition” dead, 100,000 Iraqis dead, and countless more maimed or wounded.

Absent the American elite’s personal stake in the war, mainstream media debate—which the elite control—has become largely divorced from this unnecessary human tragedy.

India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, in a letter to his daughter, wrote about the British occupation of Iraq (“Iraq and the virtues of aerial bombing,” June 7, 1933):

“The novel feature of the modern type of imperialism is its attempt to hide its terrorism and exploitation behind pious phrases about ‘trust-

eeship' and the 'good of the masses' and 'the training of the backward peoples in self-government' and the like."

Nehru's letters to his daughter Indira Gandhi—who became India's prime minister in 1966—were written from a British prison in India. Published as *Glimpses of World History*, they should be required reading for the new imperialists occupying Iraq today.

July 4, 2005

Iraq War: 'Supreme International Crime'

Having launched a pre-emptive war, and lied to the world about its reasons, he was left with few options. During his internationally televised speech to the nation from Fort Bragg on June 28, U.S. president George W. Bush put on a brave front, and vowed to stay the course.

Before launching the war on Iraq in March 2003, Mr. Bush said the war was about eliminating weapons of mass destruction from Iraq, and Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was a threat to the U.S. Mr. Bush implied that Mr. Hussein was responsible for the September 11, 2001 attack on America. He was not.

When no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq, spreading democracy in the Middle East became Mr. Bush's rationale for war. It wasn't. It isn't.

Yesterday, Mr. Bush said the Iraq war was fought to prevent terrorism. But it is the war that is creating more terrorists. He recalled September 11, wrongly reinforcing what many Americans believe, that Iraq was responsible for the biggest attack ever on the U.S. mainland.

Mr. Bush launched the Iraq war "not in March 2003, as everyone believed, but at the end of August 2002, six weeks before Congress approved military action against Iraq" wrote Michael Smith—the British journalist who first revealed the secret Downing Street memos.

The July 23, 2002 memo states that "Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy."

Former Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, chief U.S. prosecutor at the first Nuremberg trial, called waging aggressive war “the supreme international crime differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole.”

Another prosecutor at the subsequent Nuremberg war crimes trials, Benjamin B. Ferencz, wrote:

The same view would later be confirmed by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Far East. It was also confirmed in the detailed judgment in the ‘Ministries Case’ of the Subsequent Proceedings held at Nuremberg.

Some would have us believe that it was a just war. It was not.

It was not waged in response to an imminent threat. It was not proportionate to any perceived threat. Civilian infrastructure was not spared. Iraqis are not better off than they might have been in an Iraq contained by sanctions.

July 28, 2005

Fatwa Against Terrorism: Questions

Muslim scholars in the United States, Canada, Spain, and the United Kingdom have now issued fatwas—opinions regarding religious doctrine or law by a recognized authority—against terrorism. Hopefully, this may silence critics who had been asking why Muslims hadn’t spoken out against terrorism. They had, but mainstream news media gave them little attention.

However, these fatwas provide little new guidance to Muslims confronted with the complexities of the real world. Muslims with only a minimal understanding of Islam know that Islam prohibits acts of violence against peaceful citizens, prohibits the destruction of their crops, water supplies, etc., and urges forgiveness rather than retribution. More guidance is needed.

First, what is terrorism?

The UN High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change defines terrorism as “any action intended to cause death or serious bodily

harm to civilians or noncombatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do, or abstain from, any act.”

According to Webster’s *New World Dictionary*—the Second College Edition, terrorism is defined as “use of force or threats to demoralize, intimidate, and subjugate, esp. such use as a political weapon or policy.” This often equates with power politics and realpolitik.

Second, who is a terrorist and who is a freedom fighter?

To cite an often-repeated cliché: one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter. The passage of time may cause us to change our opinion of them. We have only to consider the labels applied over time to Nelson Mandela, the “terrorist” and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize (1993); Yasser Arafat, the “terrorist” and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize (1994); and America’s founding fathers—terrorists in the eyes of the British, freedom fighters in the eyes of Americans.

Third, who is a civilian?

The U.S. troops in Iraq are supported by an army of civilian contractors who provide security, bring them fuel, food, etc., and provide other services. The U.S. occupation of Iraq is overseen, and supported, by the largest U.S. embassy in the world many of whom carry out intelligence activities. Are these civilians or legitimate targets for the Iraqi resistance?

Israel presents a different issue. Except for religious scholars who are exempt, Israelis are drafted into the Israel Defense Force at age 18. Men serve for three years, women for 21 months. Upon completion of compulsory service each soldier is assigned to a reserve unit. Are these reservists, who change from military uniform to civilian clothes in the same day, civilians or military targets?

In the past, intelligence agencies are reported to have infiltrated consulting firms, charitable organizations, news services, student groups, etc.

Fourth, what about the rights of citizens of an occupied country?

Under international law, citizens of an occupied country have the legal right to resist occupation by any and all means. Indeed history

records with favor the French resistance that fought against Nazi occupation.

Are those who collaborate with occupation forces a legitimate target for the resistance? Does the right to resist occupation grant authority to attack Israeli settlers in occupied Palestine?

An Italian judge ruled in April this year that “militants who attack military or state targets, even with suicide bombers, cannot be considered terrorists in times of war or occupation.”

Fifth, what about state-sponsored acts of violence?

Former Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, chief U.S. prosecutor at the first Nuremberg trial, called waging aggressive war “the supreme international crime differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole.”

“The same view would later be confirmed by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Far East. It was also confirmed in the detailed judgment in the ‘Ministries Case’ of the Subsequent Proceedings held at Nuremberg” wrote Benjamin B. Ferencz—a prosecutor at the subsequent Nuremberg war crimes trials.

Does the fatwa apply to Russia’s war on the Chechens, China’s repression of the Uighurs, the Philippines’ war on the Moros of Mindanao, and the U.S. invasion of Iraq—the supreme international crime?

And what does the fatwa say about the U.S. invasion of Iraq? In his Nobel lecture, Harold A. Pinter, recipient of the 2005 Nobel Prize for literature, called it “an act of blatant state terrorism.”

[“Terrorism is the war of the poor, and War is the terrorism of the rich.”—Sir Peter Ustinow]

[Terrorism is a tactic, a technique, a weapon that fanatics, dictators, and warriors have resorted to throughout history. . . . “We might as well be sending the 101st Airborne Division to conquer lust, annihilate greed, capture the sin of pride.”—Patrick J. Buchanan, *Where the Right Went Wrong*, Thomas Dunne Books, 2004]

[A far sounder definition was offered by Israeli National Security Council chairman Major General Uzi Dayan, who defined as terrorist in a December 2001 speech “any organization that systematically harms civilians, irrespective of its motives.”—Kennedy, “The Farcical Definition at the Heart of the War on Terrorism,” Future of Freedom Foundation, January 30, 2006]

September 28, 2005

Were the ‘British’ Undercover Agents Carrying Explosives?

This may undermine the U.S. and British rationale for prolonging the occupation of Iraq

British armed forces broke into Basra jail, and freed two undercover, “British” agents arrested by the Iraqi police while allegedly traveling in an unmarked car, in civilian—some say Arab—dress, and in possession of explosives.

An Iraqi defence ministry source said: “The dramatic show of strength, also allowed about 150 Iraqi prisoners to escape,” reported the Times of London.

Details of the arrest and the subsequent breakout from the Basra jail, including the nationality of the men arrested, have been contested.

The Guardian reports that an Iraqi judge has “renewed arrest warrants for two British soldiers who were rescued from jail.”

The accompanying photos are said to be of the two “British” agents arrested on September 19, and the items found in the car they were driving.

The key issue, however, is: “Were the two ‘British’ agents carrying explosives, and what did they intend to do with them?”

If, as some allege, their purpose were to attack Iraqis, and make it appear to be the work of other Iraqis, it would lend substance to allegations that the Americans and/or British are responsible for some of these attacks.

And it would undermine the U.S. and British rationale for prolonging the occupation.

At the very least, the ‘British’ agents may be classified as unlawful combatants, and if incarcerating unlawful combatants indefinitely in Guantanamo is lawful, then the Iraqis should have the right to hold the ‘British’ agents.

[Although reported initially by the Times and the Mail, all mention of the explosives allegedly found in the SAS men’s unmarked Cressida vanished from the news. —John Pilger, “Sinister Events in a Cynical War,” *New Statesman*, September 27, 2005]

October 25, 2005

‘Islamofascism’ is an Oxymoron

The President and virtually every major U.S. news media persist in using oxymorons: Islamic extremism, Islamic terrorism, and now, in the President’s October 6 address to the National Endowment For Democracy, “Islamofascism.”

The President repeated this rhetoric in his address today, October 25, at the Joint Armed Forces Officers’ Wives’ Luncheon.

For anyone with sufficient knowledge of Islam, Islamic extremism, Islamic terrorism, Islamofascism, etc. are oxymorons. Muslims, as the *Quran* teaches (2:143), are “a community of the middle way.” While some Muslims may properly be addressed as terrorists, etc., to define them as “Islamic” is an oxymoron.

Perhaps this is a little difficult for non-Muslims to understand because, unlike other faiths, the faith and the believer have different names: Islam and Muslim respectively.

Leaving aside for the moment the contentious issue of defining terrorism, Muslim terrorist would be more accurate, but then one should be consistent when referring to Christian, Jewish, or Hindu terrorists.

However, what news media generally do is to refer to non-Muslim terrorists as belonging to a “cult”, thereby, taking care not to smear non-Islamic faiths—Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, or Buddhism.

As for Islamofascism, Islam has no central authority—it does not meet the definition of fascism. Even when the community of Muslims (the ummah) had a central authority (the caliphate), it was neither totalitarian nor fascist.

The term “Islamic fundamentalism” presents another problem. Christian fundamentalism was defined in *The Fundamentals*—a 12-volume collection of essays written in the period 1910-15. There is no generally accepted definition of Islamic fundamentalism. In one sense all Muslims are fundamentalists because they believe that the *Quran* is the Word of God.

When news media use the term “Islamic fundamentalism” they are not stating a fact, but a conclusion about Islam. They should then be

prepared to provide the reasoning behind such usage by a scholarly analysis of the *Quran* that indeed this is what Islam teaches.

It would be more accurate to use the term Muslim fundamentalist, rather than Islamic fundamentalist. Hopefully, then the writer has checked out the fact that the person is a Muslim—“fundamentalist” is a conclusion they may draw independent of the *Quran* and/or Islam.

Looking at the issue from another perspective consider the terms “terrorism”, “fundamentalist” etc. when applied to persons of other faiths or religions.

Thus one would say Jewish terrorist—not Judaic terrorist. Judaic or Christic terrorism would be the equivalent of saying Islamic terrorism. Jewish or Christian terrorist would be the equivalent of saying Muslim terrorist.

Yet another way to look at the issue of “Islamic terrorism” is to ask: “What is the difference between Islamic terrorism, Christic terrorism, and Judaic terrorism?”

Is the terrorism itself, somehow, different in each case, or is it merely the fact that it is being carried out by a Muslim, Christian, or Jew?

If one cannot define the difference, then isn’t the term “Islamic terrorism” synonymous with Christian (or Christic?) terrorism and Judaic terrorism? Could a Muslim perpetrate Christic terrorism or Judaic terrorism? Clearly, this leads to absurd statements.

More importantly perhaps, the use of the term Islamic terrorism has a more pernicious effect. It paints an entire faith as suspect, lets governments off the hook too easily by not forcing them to more precisely define the “enemy,” and it endorses the propaganda of the hate-mongers.

It also distorts the true nature of the problem, and solutions such as the *Patriot Act*, do not receive the scrutiny they deserve, thereby, giving governments the freedom to conduct war or take punitive action for purposes that have little to do with the real threat.

“This country faces a new type of fascism,” says *MSNBC* commentator Keith Olbermann. “American democracy is in grave danger,” warns former Vice-president Al Gore. We’re “living in a fascist state,” writes Lewis H. Lapham, editor of the American monthly *Harper’s Magazine*.

January 16, 2006

Iran Has an 'Inalienable Right' to Nuclear Energy

Is Iran's plan for an oil exchange trading in Euros the real issue? Or is it Israel? And why haven't the nuclear powers fulfilled their treaty obligations?

Iran has an "inalienable right" to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes such as the production of electric energy, and the enrichment of uranium for its nuclear reactors. Could it be that Iran's plan for an oil exchange trading in Euros is the real issue? Or is it Israel?

Article IV of the 1968 *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty* (NPT), which entered into force on March 5, 1970, states:

1. Nothing in this Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of this Treaty.
2. All the Parties to the Treaty undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Parties to the Treaty in a position to do so shall also cooperate in contributing alone or together with other States or international organizations to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.

Thus, not only does Iran have an "inalienable right" to use nuclear energy for electricity, the NPT obligates the nuclear powers to "further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes." Iran has gone beyond its obligations under the NPT to assure others of its peaceful intentions.

According to Dr. Gordon Prather—a nuclear physicist who was the top scientist for the army in the Reagan years, in December, 2003, Iran signed an *Additional Protocol to its Safeguards Agreement* and had volunteered to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—pending ratification by the Iranian Parliament—as if the Additional Protocol were actually "in force."

The IAEA *Safeguards Statement* for 2004 states: "As of the end of

2004, 40 non-nuclear-weapon States party to the NPT had not yet brought comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency into force.”

Iran also offered, says Dr. Prather, “to voluntarily forego a complete fuel cycle . . . if the Europeans would get the United States to reverse the campaign of denial, obstruction, intervention, and misinformation.”

Iran had already offered on March 23, 2005 a package of “objective guarantees” (developed by an international panel of experts) that met most of the demands later made by the conservative, Washington based Heritage foundation says Dr. Prather.

The IAEA has found no “smoking gun” in Iran that would indicate a nuclear weapons program, said Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei— Director General of the IAEA, on December 6, 2005.

To further ease U.S. fears, “America can take part in international bidding for the construction of Iran’s nuclear power plant if they observe the basic standards and quality,” said Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi at a news conference on December 11, 2005.

Thirty years ago, Iran developing a nuclear capacity “caused no problems for the Americans because, at that time, the Shah was seen as a strong ally, and had indeed been put on the throne with American help“, says Tony Benn, Britain’s secretary of state for energy from 1975-79. “There could hardly be a clearer example of double standards than this, and it fits in with the arming of Saddam to attack Iran after the Shah had been toppled, and the complete silence over Israel’s huge nuclear armoury” he says.

With world oil production expected to peak in 5 to 25 years, and demand to exceed supply sometime after that, it makes sense for Iran to look toward alternative means for generating electricity, and to reserve its oil for other purposes including increasing revenues from export.

Iran is about to commit a far greater “offense” than Saddam Hussein’s conversion to the euro for Iraq’s oil exports in the fall of 2000. Beginning in March 2006, the Tehran government has plans to begin competing with New York’s NYMEX and London’s IPE with respect to international oil trades—using a euro-based international oil-trading mechanism,” says William R. Clark—author of *Petrodollar Warfare: Oil, Iraq and the Future of the Dollar*

According to Toni Straka, a Vienna, Austria-based financial analyst who runs a blog, *The Prudent Investor*, Iran's "proposal to set up a petroleum bourse was first voiced in Iran's development plan for 2000–2005. . . . Cheaper nuclear energy and increases in oil exports from the current level of roughly 2.5 million barrels a day will result in a profitable equation for Iran.

"Only one major actor stands to lose from a change in the current status quo: the US" says Toni Straka, "which with less than 5% of the global population, consumes roughly one third of global oil production."

Yes, given the technology and knowledge Iran could develop a nuclear weapon, but so could 35 to 40 other countries. And "under the current regime, there is nothing illicit for a non-nuclear state to conduct uranium-enriching activities . . . or even to possess military-grade nuclear material," says ElBaradei.

Israel—not a signatory to the NPT—has had this capability for years, is believed to have more than 200 nuclear weapons, the missiles to deliver them to Iran, and it is no secret that it has been threatening strikes on Iran's Bushehr nuclear electric power plant—just as it launched an unprovoked and illegal attack on Iraq's, Osirak nuclear electric power plant in 1981.

U.S. news media's timidity, and the Israeli lobby, helped launch the illegal, U.S. invasion of Iraq.

This invasion has claimed the lives of over 2000 U.S. soldiers, and over 180,000 Iraqis. It has left uncounted others wounded and maimed. It has destroyed much of Iraq's—indeed the world's—cultural heritage.

And it is estimated to cost U.S. taxpayers "between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion, up to 10 times more than previously thought," according to Linda Bilmes—former assistant secretary of Commerce, and Joseph Stiglitz—recipient of the 2001 Nobel Prize in economics.

The U.S. news media is showing the same timidity that it displayed before and during the Iraq war in investigating U.S. allegations against Iran, and again Israel is pushing the U.S. to attack.

John Ward Anderson of the *Washington Post* wrote: "The foreign ministers of Britain, Germany and France called Thursday for Iran to be referred to the UN Security Council for violating its nuclear treaty

obligations.” Neither he, nor the editors, nor the ombudsman at the Post have responded to our request to identify which “nuclear treaty obligations” is Iran violating.

In fact it is the U.S. and other nuclear powers that have not fulfilled their obligations under the NPT, including those stated in Article VI:

Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

In 1996, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) unanimously held that Article VI obligates states to “bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.”

And Robert S. McNamara, U.S. Secretary of Defense from 1961 until 1968, has written: “I have never seen a piece of paper that outlined a plan for the United States or NATO to initiate the use of nuclear weapons with any benefit for the United States or NATO.”

Despite the ICJ decision, the questionable utility of a nuclear arsenal, and 37 years after agreeing to “pursue negotiations” toward “complete disarmament,” Russia and the U.S. maintain a stockpile of about 10,000 nuclear weapons each, and the Guardian has reported that the U.S. is considering “the construction of a new generation of nuclear weapons, including ‘mini-nukes’, ‘bunker-busters’ and neutron bombs designed to destroy chemical or biological agents, according to a leaked Pentagon document.”

Writing in the November/December 2005 issue of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Jack Boureston and Charles D. Ferguson say, “In pursuing a civilian nuclear program, Iran has international law on its side. . . . The best way to know the full extent of Iran’s nuclear doings is to offer it help.”

[Iran has never attacked anyone outside of its borders for 280 years—Seymour M. Hersh, “Congress Agreed to Bush Request to Fund Major Escalation in Secret Operations Against Iran,” *Democracynow.org*, June 30, 2008]

[The consensus view on Iran’s nuclear program shifted dramatically last December with the release of a landmark intelligence report that concluded that Iran halted work on nuclear weapons design in 2003.—Joby Warrick, “Ex-Agent Says CIA Ignored Iran Facts,” *Washington Post*, July 1, 2008]

February 6, 2006

The Cartoons of Prophet Muhammad

‘All freedoms, including the freedom of speech, come with responsibility. . . . Having the right to cause offense does not make it right to do so’

Jyllands-Posten, the Danish paper that first published the cartoons of Prophet Muhammad, has ignited a firestorm akin to that during the Salman Rushdie affair.

It’s Sunday editor, Jens Kaiser, had in the past rejected Jesus cartoons saying: “I don’t think *Jyllands-Posten’s* readers will enjoy the drawings. As a matter of fact, I think that they will provoke an outcry.”

The paper’s culture editor, Flemming Rose—who commissioned the cartoons of Prophet Muhammad, said in an interview: “This is about the question of integration and how compatible is the religion of Islam with a modern secular society.”

It is not. It is about civil society. It is about double standards. It is about hypocrisy. It is not about a free press—which we support.

“Islam,” said HRH Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales, in a speech some years ago, “is part of our past and present, in all fields of human endeavour. It has helped to create modern Europe. It is part of our own inheritance, not a thing apart.”

“What we presumptuously call ‘Western’ culture is owed in large measure to the Andalusian enlightenment, wrote Christopher Hitchens, in his review of Maria Rosa Menocal’s, *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*.

The Christian reconquest of Spain in 1492 CE led to the expulsion of its Jews and Muslims, their forced conversion to Christianity, or death.

In India—the country with third largest Muslim population (Indonesia is first, Pakistan is second, Bangladesh is fourth), the Muslim Emperor Akbar (1542–1605 CE), according to Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, laid the foundations of a secular state.

Written in 622 CE, the *Constitution of Madinah*, a treaty among Muslims, non-Muslim Arabs, and Jews of Madinah has been compared with the *Mayflower Compact* of 1620 CE.

Islam is compatible with a modern secular society. The West's double standards, hypocrisy, and injustice fuel Muslim anger. For example:

On March 6, 2001 the European Court of Justice ruled, "the European Union can lawfully suppress political criticism of its institutions and of leading figures, sweeping aside English Common Law and 50 years of European precedents on civil liberties." Article 5 of the *Basic Law*, the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany, "sets out the possibility of limitations on the freedom of expression."

A challenge in 1990 to the publication of Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* on the grounds that it contained "a blasphemous libel concerning Almighty God (Allah) the Supreme Deity common to all the major religions of the world" was rejected because Britain's blasphemy law was restricted to "scurrilous vilification of the Christian religion."

A Paris court on February 27, 1998, fined Roger Garaudy, former Deputy Speaker of the French parliament and a convert to Islam, \$40,000 for statements made in his 1996 book *The Founding Myths of Israeli Politics*. The European Court of Human Rights declared inadmissible his appeal lodged in the case of Garaudy v. France.

Ernst Zundel, Germar Rudolf and David Irving are serving time in jail in Europe for their views about the holocaust.

It has been reported that *Jyllands-Posten's* Rose, "a devotee of the Zionist Neo-Con cult," traveled to Philadelphia in October 2004 to visit Daniel Pipes, whose web site *Campus Watch* seeks to undermine academic freedom and dissent. President George W. Bush nominated Pipes to the board of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

It has been reported that changes to the *Patriot Act* sought by President Bush would make illegal at certain gatherings signs that have not been previously approved.

Would a U.S. president invite Zundel, Rudolf, Irving, or Garaudy to dinner at the White House as then President Clinton invited Salman Rushdie? Why doesn't the press support Zundel's, Rudolf's, Irving's, or Garaudy's right to free speech?

"The principle of secularism, in the broader interpretation endorsed

in India, demands symmetric treatment of different religious communities in politics and in the affairs of state,” writes Prof. Sen in *The Argumentative Indian*.

Muslims are fed up with the double standards, and the almost daily attacks on Islam. “Muslims live their religion. We do not,” writes veteran, Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk.

The violent demonstrations—which, it is reported, followed months of peaceful protest, and rejection of requests by Muslim ambassadors to meet with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen—may not be the path Prophet Muhammad would have chosen, but they are understandable.

These demonstrations may be compared to the 1965 riots in the Watts district of Los Angeles. The riots, said the Commission set up to investigate them, “weren’t the act of thugs, but rather symptomatic of much deeper problems.”

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the cartoons were “offensive,” but that “we vigorously defend” individuals’ right of expression reports the *Washington Post*. Why didn’t the U.S. object when France banned headscarves in schools?

Freedom of expression is not the message President Bush sent to Muslims when he bombed *Al-Jazeera’s* news staff in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable,” said President John F. Kennedy. The virtual, and sometimes violent, exclusion of Muslims’ views from mainstream debate risks “violent revolution.”

Civil society requires more than merely observing the law. Language acceptable in a book or tabloid is not necessarily acceptable from society’s leaders—be it from the head of state, or in a major newspaper.

“All freedoms, including the freedom of speech, come with responsibility. . . . Having the right to cause offense does not make it right to do so,” said Terry Davis, the head of Europe’s leading human rights watchdog, the Council of Europe.

[Zieler received an email back from the paper’s Sunday editor, Jens Kaiser, which said: “I don’t think Jyllands-Posten’s readers will enjoy the drawings. As a matter of fact, I think that they will provoke an outcry. Therefore, I will not use them.”—Gwladys Fouche, “Danish paper rejected Jesus cartoons,” *Guardian*, February 6, 2006]

April 17, 2006

Assured by the U.S., Saddam Invaded Kuwait

From the Gulf War of 1991, to September 11, 2001, and the invasion, and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. government and major news media have concealed the truth.

On March 16, 2006, George W. Bush presented the *U.S. National Security Strategy* (NSS) the twin pillars of which are:
 promoting freedom, justice, and human dignity;
 confronting the challenges of our time by leading a growing community of democracies.

Defeating global terrorism is a key component of this strategy intended to achieve the NSS goals. Indeed the war on terrorism, launched shortly after the attacks of September 11, 2001, was intended to do just that.

Arguably the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq has created more “terrorists”, and the facts reveal that freedom, justice, human dignity, and democracy are not the real goals of the NSS.

Rumsfeld fired Gen. Garner for trying to build a democratic Iraq

In September 2003 I asked: “Israel does not have a written constitution. The British do not have a written constitution. The U.S. constitution provided few benefits for the majority of Americans for over 150 years. So why must the Iraqis wait for a new constitution before the U.S. occupation force transfers power to them?”

Author and investigative journalist Greg Palast confirms the answer given by many in the alternative news media. In his April 14, 2006 column, Palast relates his conversation with General Jay Garner—the United States’ first post-invasion “viceroy” in Iraq:

Garner arrived in Kuwait City in March 2003 working under the mistaken notion that when George Bush called for democracy in Iraq, the President meant the Iraqis could choose their own government. Misunderstanding the President’s true mission, General Garner called for Iraqis to hold elections within 90 days and for the U.S. to quickly pull troops out of the cities to a desert base. ‘It’s their country,’ the General told Palast of the Iraqis. ‘And their oil’.

Gen. Garner’s tenure as “viceroy” was short-lived. “On April 21,

2003,” writes Palast, “the very night General Garner arrived in Baghdad, he got a call from Washington. It was Rumsfeld on the line. He told Garner, in so many words, ‘don’t unpack, Jack, you’re fired’.”

Paul Bremer, the Managing Director of Kissinger Associates, who postponed elections for a year, replaced Garner. Then “he issued 100 orders,” writes Palast “selling off Iraq’s economy to U.S. and foreign operators, just as Rumsfeld’s neo-con clique had desired.”

Saddam Hussein was ‘assured by the United States that it would have no objection to his claiming his prize—Kuwait’

Dr. George Friedman whose firm Stratfor has been dubbed by Barron’s as “The Shadow CIA”, and who has provided analysis to Fortune 500 companies, news outlets, and the U.S. government writes in his book *America’s Secret War*:

The Carter administration wanted to motivate Saddam to fight, but he had little to gain simply by fighting Iran. What Saddam wanted was to become the dominant power in the Persian Gulf. Absorbing Kuwait, which had historically been a part of Iraq under the Ottoman Empire until the British carved it out for their own interests, was a key goal, but so was dominating the region politically. He knew that if he defeated Iran, Iraq would be the dominant power in the region. He was also quietly assured by the United States that it would have no objection to his claiming his prize—Kuwait—once he defeated Iran. The assurances were very quiet and very deniable. . . .

In his famous meeting with U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie on July 25, 1990, just before the invasion, Saddam calmly explained his intention to invade Kuwait, and Glaspie, not informed by the State Department that the policy had changed, proceeded to give Saddam the reassurance of American support that had been the U.S. policy transmitted by ambassadors and back channels for a decade. . . .

What Glaspie didn’t know, and what Glaspie hadn’t been told, was that the United States had never expected Iraq to win and certainly was not prepared to let Saddam collect his war prize.

Iraq’s subsequent invasion of Kuwait was used by President George H. W. Bush to justify the 1991 war with Iraq, and the crippling sanctions that followed the war.

The sanctions were maintained throughout the Clinton administration, and into the George W. Bush administration.

The U.S. lied to sell the 1991 Iraq war to Americans

Ever since the Arab oil embargoes of the 1970s, the U.S. had been seeking an opportunity to dominate the Middle East. Now the public had to be rallied to the “just war.”

A high point of the public relations campaign against Iraq, was the testimony of a Kuwaiti refugee, before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus on October 15, 1990, who told of Iraqi troops removing over 300 babies from incubators in Kuwait City hospital, and dumping them on the floor to die.

On January 6, 1992, John R. MacArthur, publisher of *Harper's Magazine* and author of “Second Front: Censorship and Propaganda in the Gulf War,” revealed in a *New York Times* Op-Ed that “Nayirah,” the alleged refugee, was the daughter of Saud al-Sabah, Kuwait's ambassador to the United States, and that Hill and Knowlton, a large public relations firm, had helped prepare her testimony, which she had rehearsed before video cameras in the firm's Washington office.

“The chairmen of the Congressional group, Tom Lantos, a California Democrat, and John Edward Porter, an Illinois Republican, explained that Nayirah's identity would be kept secret to protect her family from reprisals in occupied Kuwait” wrote MacArthur.

To build bases in Saudi Arabia, from which to launch the 1991 war on Iraq, the U.S. lied to the Saudis.

On September 6, 2002, Scott Peterson of the *Christian Science Monitor*, wrote:

“When George H. W. Bush ordered American forces to the Persian Gulf—to reverse Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait—part of the administration case was that an Iraqi juggernaut was also threatening to roll into Saudi Arabia.

“Citing top-secret satellite images, Pentagon officials estimated in mid-September that up to 250,000 Iraqi troops and 1,500 tanks stood on the border, threatening the key US oil supplier.

“But when the St. *Petersburg Times* (Jean Heller, January 6, 1991) in Florida acquired two commercial Soviet satellite images of the same area, taken at the same time, no Iraqi troops were visible near the Saudi border—just empty desert.”

The “top-secret satellite images” were used to persuade the Saudis

to allow U.S. troops into Saudi Arabia—home of the holiest of Muslim shrines, the Kaaba at Mecca. The U.S. bases in Saudi Arabia turned Osama Bin Laden, who had sided with the U.S. in expelling the Soviet Union from Afghanistan, against the U.S.

[Mark Zepezauer, *Boomerang!: How Our Covert Wars Have Created Enemies Across the Middle East and Brought Terror to America*, Common Courage Press, 2002]

[. . . the invasion of Iraq “was the culmination of a 110-year period during which Americans overthrew fourteen governments that displeased them for various ideological, political, and economic reasons.—Stephen Kinzer, *Overthrow: America’s Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*, Times Books, April 4, 2006]

June 8, 2006

FBI: Bin Laden Not Wanted for 9/11

The ‘FBI has no hard evidence connecting Bin Laden to 9/11’

The FBI’s *Most Wanted Terrorists* web page does not state that Bin Laden is wanted for the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The FBI page states: “Usama Bin Laden is wanted in connection with the August 7, 1998, bombings of the United States Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya. These attacks killed over 200 people. In addition, Bin Laden is a suspect in other terrorist attacks throughout the world.”

When asked why there is no mention of 9/11 on the FBI’s web page, Rex Tomb, the FBI’s Chief of Investigative Publicity, is reported to have said, “The reason why 9/11 is not mentioned on Usama Bin Laden’s Most Wanted page is because the FBI has no hard evidence connecting Bin Laden to 9/11.”

In the months leading up to the September 11, 2001 attack, it is reported, the Taliban “outlined various ways bin Laden could be dealt with. He could be turned over to the EU, killed by the Taliban, or made available as a target for Cruise missiles.” The Bush administration did not accept the Taliban’s offer.

“On September 20, 2001,” according to the *Guardian*, “the Taliban

offered to hand Osama bin Laden to a neutral Islamic country for trial if the US presented them with evidence that he was responsible for the attacks on New York and Washington. The US rejected the offer.”

On September 23, 2001 the *BBC* reported that four of the hijack “suspects”—Waleed Al Shehri, Abdulaziz Al Omari, Saeed Alghamdi, and possibly Khalid Al Midhar—were alive, and that FBI Director Robert Mueller acknowledged “the identity of several of the suicide hijackers is in doubt.”

Bin Laden, in a September 28, 2001 interview with the Pakistani newspaper *Ummat*, is reported to have said: “I am not involved in the 11 September attacks in the United States.”

Skeptics dismiss the video tape “found in a house in Jalalabad”, Afghanistan, which allegedly shows Bin Laden confessing to the September 11 attacks. In a December 20, 2001, broadcast by German TV channel *Das Erste* “two independent translators and an expert on oriental studies found the White House’s translation not only to be inaccurate, but manipulative.”

FBI Director Robert Mueller, in a speech at the Commonwealth Club on April 19, 2002, said: “In our investigation, we have not uncovered a single piece of paper—either here in the United States, or in the treasure trove of information that has turned up in Afghanistan and elsewhere—that mentioned any aspect of the September 11 plot.”

In fact there are no Arab names on the partial list of passengers on the 9/11 flights. A final list is not available.

Yet on September 12, 2001 *ABC News* reported that “investigators have identified all the hijackers”. Among those identified was “Satan Suqami, a Saudi national on American Airlines Flight 11, whose passport was recovered in the rubble.”

The evidence against Bin Laden, promised by Secretary of State Colin Powell on September 23, 2001, has yet to be made available to the public.

Bin Laden is the “prime suspect” in the September 11 attacks, said President Bush on September 17, 2001, and he pledged to capture him “dead or alive.”

August 10, 2006

Israel, U.S. Punish Palestinians for Electing Hamas

Following the unexpected, landslide victory for Hamas—which won 76 out of 132 seats—the former governing Fatah party won 43, in an election deemed fair by international observers, Israel and the U.S. set out to destabilize the newly elected Palestinian government.

Israel blocked \$50 million a month in customs and tax receipts collected for the Palestinian Authority, causing a monthly deficit of \$110 million (*New York Times*, February 23, 2006), and the U.S. and Israel began to make life for Palestinians more miserable than it already was.

“A former head of the Israeli intelligence service Mossad today said the entire Palestinian cabinet could be targeted for assassination” (*Guardian*, April 21, 2006).

Despite the international court of justice ruling it illegal, Israel grabbed yet more Palestinian land for illegal Jewish settlements with its 390-mile wall which snakes through the West Bank. “Nearly 50,000 Palestinians are to be left in limbo on the Israeli side of the wall; 65,000 will face a daily commute through 11 transit points.” (*Guardian*, May 19, 2006)

Following the capture of an Israeli soldier by Hamas, Israel mounted a devastating attack on Gaza.

On June 28 an Israeli missile destroyed six transformers in Gaza’s only power station “cutting all the electricity to 700,000 Gaza consumers, threatening water supplies and depriving its public of light, cooking, broadcast news, and a crucial issue in scorching summer temperatures fans.” (*Independent*, June 29, 2006)

“Overnight the Israeli army arrested at least 64 Hamas representatives, 38 of them MPs, in the West Bank.” (*Times*, June 29, 2006)

Since Israel withdrew from Gaza in September 2005 “between 7,000 and 9,000 heavy artillery shells have been shot and fired into Gaza. On the Palestinian side, the estimates are approximately 1,000 Kassam missiles, crude missiles, have been fired into Israel” according to Norman Finkelstein speaking on *Democracy Now* on June 29.

The United States vetoed a draft UN resolution calling for an end

to Israeli attacks and “disproportionate use of force” in the Gaza Strip, and for the release of the captured Israeli soldier.

“From Golda Meir to Ehud Olmert, the lie has held that the war with the Palestinians is an existential one for survival imposed on Israel when it is actually a war for real estate, one dunam after another, that does not belong to us” wrote Gideon Levy (*Haaretz*, August 7, 2006).

According to the Institute for Middle East Understanding, as of August 8, 2006, there were 9,273 Palestinian prisoners—mostly political—in Israeli prisons or detention camps.

September 12, 2006

Israel Rampages Across Lebanon

Using as a pretext the arrest on July 12 of two Israeli soldiers by Lebanon’s Hezbollah, Israel unleashed a month-long, U.S.-approved blitzkrieg across Lebanon. Amnesty International accused Israel of committing war crimes.

Israeli planes smashed airport runways, power plants, fuel storage tanks, gas stations, lighthouses, bridges, roads, and thousands of homes. Refugee convoys too were targeted by Israeli bombers.

Britain and the U.S. blocked calls for a ceasefire. By the time public pressure forced the UN Security Council to act, Israel had fired an estimated 237,000 artillery shells, and more than a million cluster bombs. Israel’s month long attacks killed more than 1000 people, and caused an estimated \$2 billion of damage.

According to UN reports, wrote the *Christian Science Monitor* (August 1, 2006), “Since its withdrawal of occupation forces from southern Lebanon in May 2000, Israel has violated the United Nations-monitored ‘blue line’ on an almost daily basis”.

The Council for the National Interest says (July 14, 2006), “There are real issues between Lebanon and Israel that should have been settled with the help of the United States long ago. Israel failed to keep her promise to make available maps of the 140,000 mines she left behind in Lebanon. Three small sectors of land overlooking the Litani River were

retained by Israel and were the cause of complaints from the government of Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, not just Hezbollah. The three Lebanese prisoners that were moved by Israel, contrary to the Geneva Convention prohibition against an occupying power transporting prisoners into its own territory, should have been returned long ago.”

Israel continues to occupy the Shebaa Farms, in violation of UN Resolution 242 of 1967, and covets the waters of the Litani and Wazzani rivers in Lebanon.

Israel and the U.S. had hoped to destroy Hezbollah prior to planned attacks on Syria and Iran. Instead Hezbollah seems to have increased its following, not only in Lebanon, but across the Muslim world.

September 24, 2006

The Book Hugo Chavez Should Have Held Up

One in three Americans has serious doubts about the conspiracy theory offered by the U.S. government that 19 Arabs armed with box-cutters were responsible for the hijacking of four airplanes, and the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

A Scripps Howard poll found: “More than a third of the American public suspects that federal officials assisted in the 9/11 terrorist attacks or took no action to stop them so the United States could go to war in the Middle East”.

Yet major news media refuse to investigate alternative hypotheses offered by dozens of independent researchers and groups. When they do report on them, they are dismissive of these hypotheses, but do not address the evidence offered.

Until last week, had I been asked where should one begin to examine the alternative hypotheses, and the vast amount of evidence available, I would have recommended *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions* by David Ray Griffin, Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Theology

Now I'm not so sure.

I have just finished reading a new book that claims, “9/11 was a ‘false-flag’ attack, orchestrated by forces within the U.S. government”.

This attack was used, claims the author, “to launch the kind of ‘clash of civilizations’ that Samuel Huntington had predicted. As illustrated by the fact that all the countries on the Pentagon’s hit list are predominantly Muslim, this war pits the predominantly Christian West (along with its ally Israel) against the Islamic world.”

“One of the evils of this civilizational war,” writes the author, “is that it has implanted in Western minds an association between ‘Muslim’ and ‘terrorist,’ so that Muslims tend to be regarded as guilty until proven innocent.”

The author calls upon the church to reflect on the “truth of this thesis—that 9/11 was a false-flag operation carried out by forces within our own government in order to advance the American empire.” He urges them to reflect upon “the implication of this book’s thesis” and suggests several courses of action.

For Muslim leaders who are genuinely concerned about their community, and for all Americans, the truth about 9/11 may be the most important issue of our time.

So where should one begin to examine the alternative hypotheses, and the vast amount of evidence available?

Read *Christian Faith and the Truth Behind 9/11* by David Ray Griffin—the book that Hugo Chavez should have held up during his speech to the United Nations General Assembly on September 20, 2006.

[One of the most fascinating contradictions involves the whereabouts of principals on the morning of 9/11 during the critical hours between 9:00 -10:00 am. Public and internal records suggest that the timeline of events was adjusted by the Commission to place the principals at their command posts too late to protect the nation, too late to orchestrate a military response, too late to give stand-down orders, too late to give shutdown orders or to be otherwise guilty of collusion. The conflicting testimony of eye-witnesses such as Richard Clarke, Norman Mineta and FAA officials, who placed the principals and military liaisons at their command posts well before the Commission’s timeline did, was simply omitted from the 9/11 Commission Report. . . . Griffin . . . simply presents the contradictions.—“911 Contradictions An Open Letter to Congress and the Press,” *Pakistan Daily*, June 10, 2008]

October 10, 2006

Divide and Rule, 'Ethnic Cleansing Works'

Polls by the State Department and independent researchers show that Iraqis favor an immediate U.S. pullout, meanwhile, an “independent commission”, according to the *Sunday Times*, “may recommend carving up Iraq into three highly autonomous regions”.

We believe that the commission’s recommendation will have little to do with the welfare of the Iraqis. Their recommendations will have much to do with expanding U.S. control of the energy resources of the Middle East and Central Asia.

In a letter to President Clinton in 1998, the *Project for the New American Century* (PNAC)—the global domination project of the neoconservatives, which includes elements of Israel’s *A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm*—urged him to remove Saddam Hussein from power in order to secure “our vital interests in the Gulf” that holds “a significant portion of the world’s supply of oil.” This probably wouldn’t happen, they said, unless “some catastrophic and catalyzing event—like a new Pearl Harbor” took place.

September 11, 2001 became the new Pearl Harbor.

The National Security Strategy of the United States of America, issued by the Bush administration in September 2002, said: “The events of September 11, 2001, opened vast, new opportunities.” But the decision to invade Iraq had been made much earlier.

White House counter-terrorism advisor Richard Clarke revealed in 2004 that on September 11, 2001—while he was briefing President Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and other high officials—“the Bush administration was considering bombing Iraq in retaliation. . . . Rumsfeld was saying we needed to bomb Iraq,” Clarke said. “We all said, ‘But no, no, al-Qaida is in Afghanistan.’”

Thus began a campaign to deceive the world, and in particular the American people—the high point of which was Secretary of State Colin Powell’s infamous presentation to the UN Security Council in February 2003.

To justify the invasion of Iraq “evidence” of Iraq’s possessing weap-

ons of mass destruction was conjured up by the neocon-established Office of Special Plans in the Pentagon.

In May 2005, the *Sunday Times* revealed the secret Downing Street memo: “Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy.”

In June 2005, the *Sunday Times* revealed: “Ministers were warned in July 2002 that Britain was committed to taking part in an American-led invasion of Iraq and they had no choice but to find a way of making it legal.”

Now a U.S. commission is about to recommend carving up Iraq as the solution to Iraq’s “sectarian violence”.

Iraq’s sectarian bloodshed is *Made in the USA* say Erik Leaver and Raed Jarrar. Writing in *Asia Times* they say, “Iraq never had a history of sectarian conflicts. U.S. policy choices provided a perfect road map for starting one.”

The policy choices appear to have been calculated, and deliberate.

Thomas H. Henriksen wrote in the *Hoover Digest*:

From the founding of the United States, the federal government has relied on subterfuge, skullduggery, and secret operations to advance American interests. . . . The post-invasion stage in Iraq also is an interesting case study of fanning discontent among enemies, . . . Like their SOG predecessors in Vietnam, U.S. elite forces in Iraq turned to fostering infighting among their Iraqi adversaries on the tactical and operational level.

Investigative reporter and author James Bamford writes in *A Pretext for War*:

Oddly, among the things they were trained to do at Harvey Point was practice blowing up busses—Palestinian-terrorist style. “We made a school bus disappear with about twenty pounds of U.S. C-4,” said former CIA officer Robert Baer. . . . “We were also taught some of the really esoteric stuff like E-cell timers, improvising pressurized airplane bombs using a condom and aluminum foil, . . . By the end of the training, we could have taught an advanced terrorism course.”

Pepe Escobar writing in *Asia Times* says:

Pentagon financing of these myriad [Iraqi] militias and the active involvement of Allawi in all these operations suggest that the Pen-

tagon itself is destabilizing the country it is supposed to control.
Destination: civil war.

Robert Dreyfuss, covers national security for *Rolling Stone*, says:

I have repeatedly written about Shiite death squads and about abuses by the paramilitary Badr Brigade, the secret army trained and run by Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Iraqi Sunnis and opposition leaders . . . have charged that the Iraqi government has been running assassination teams.

The U.S., with its advisors, control of finances, and by the security it provides, controls the Iraqi government.

Journalist, author, film-maker, John Pilger, writing in the *New Statesman* says:

. . . in contrast to the embedded lie that the killings are now almost entirely sectarian, 70 per cent of the 1,666 bombs exploded by the resistance in July were directed against the American occupiers and 20 per cent against the puppet police force. Civilian casualties amounted to 10 per cent. In other words, unlike the collective punishment meted out by the US, such as the killing of several thousand people in Fallujah, the resistance is fighting basically a military war and it is winning. That truth is suppressed, as it was in Vietnam.

According to a poll released last month by the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland, "Six in 10 Iraqis approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces, . . . Nearly eight in 10 say the U.S. presence in Iraq is provoking more conflict than it's preventing".

And it is clear that it is chiefly the U.S. installed government, not the Iraqi people, that would like the U.S. to stay longer. "Jalal Talabani, the Iraqi president, has asked for a long-term US military presence in Iraq, saying his country needs two permanent US air bases to deter what he calls foreign interference." These bases are under construction.

So now we have this "independent commission"—the Iraq Study Group, that wants to carve up Iraq into three regions.

The Iraq Study Group is led by co-chairs James A. Baker, III, a former Secretary of State, and Lee H. Hamilton, former Congressman. Other members of the study group include: Robert M. Gates, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Edwin Meese III, Sandra Day O'Connor, Leon E. Panetta, William J. Perry, Charles S. Robb, and Alan K. Simpson.

None among this group would appear to have a real appreciation for Iraq's culture and history, and the needs and aspirations of the Iraqi

people. The group does have experience in covert operations, and in increasing profits for multinational corporations, and the military-industrial complex. In doing so, some have enriched themselves.

History leads us to believe that the recommendations of this “independent commission” will be designed to further the interests of their constituencies, and not of the Iraqi people.

Most of today’s conflicts in present day Asia and Africa may be traced to imperial/colonial powers that occupied these lands, and carved them up for the benefit of the conquering Europeans. Carving up Iraq will continue this policy of divide and rule.

“The de facto role of the US armed forces will be to keep the world safe for our economy and open to our cultural assault. To those ends, we will do a fair amount of killing”, wrote Ralph Peters in the *U.S. Army War College Quarterly* in the Summer 1997.

In June 2006, Ralph Peters, writing in the *Armed Forces Journal*, recommended:

As for those who refuse to ‘think the unthinkable,’ declaring that boundaries must not change and that’s that, it pays to remember that boundaries have never stopped changing through the centuries. Borders have never been static, and many frontiers, from Congo through Kosovo to the Caucasus, are changing even now (as ambassadors and special representatives avert their eyes to study the shine on their wingtips).

“Oh, and one other dirty little secret from 5,000 years of history: Ethnic cleansing works”, says Peters.

The Iraq war has taken the lives of well over 100,000 Americans and Iraqis, maimed and wounded countless others, and the unexploded bombs and depleted uranium will continue to take their toll.

The Iraq war’s cost to the US taxpayer “is likely to be between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion,” according to a report written by Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel prize-winning economist, and Linda Bilmes, a Harvard budget expert.

For the sake of the Iraqi people, the American soldier, and the American taxpayer, the U.S. should leave Iraq. A reasonable plan with timeline—ay 10 months, prepared with the assistance of the international community—should be presented to the Iraqis so that they may prepare as best they can.

No doubt, there will be chaos and more killing, but in the long run the continued U.S. presence will do more damage than the damage the Iraqis may do to themselves—there’s no way of avoiding that after the destruction of their society, institutions, and infrastructure.

And one more thing. Iraq paid for its invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the U.S. should pay reparations for its war of aggression against Iraq—the “Supreme International Crime”.

October 20, 2006

This War on Terrorism is Bogus

Michael Meacher, British Member of Parliament, said this “war on terrorism is bogus. . . . the blueprint for the creation of a global Pax Americana was drawn up . . . in September 2000 by the neoconservative think tank Project for the New American Century (PNAC).”

Section V of *Rebuilding America’s Defenses*, entitled “Creating Tomorrow’s Dominant Force”, includes the sentence: “Further, the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event—like a new Pearl Harbor.”

September 11, 2001 became the new Pearl Harbor, and it gave the U.S. the excuse it needed to launch its wars on Afghanistan and Iraq,

A secret Downing Street memo of July 23, 2002 revealed (*Sunday Times*, June 12, 2005) that “Britain was committed to taking part in an American-led invasion of Iraq and they had no choice but to find a way of making it legal.”

After September 11, 2001 the U.S. passed the infamous *Patriot Act*, increased surveillance on all Americans, and about 5,000 foreign nationals were detained, and denied basic constitutional rights, in the name of “wartime” expediency.

On March 4, 2004, a German court “overturned the world’s only conviction” in connection with the September 11 attack on America “because the U.S. withheld crucial evidence.

April 1, 2007

What Really Happened to 7 World Trade Center

Why does the 'The 9/11 Commission Report' offer no explanation for its collapse on September 11, 2001?

On September 11, 2001, 5:20 PM, 47-story Building 7 of the World Trade Center (WTC 7) collapsed in about seven seconds. To this day there is no official explanation of why it collapsed.

The 9/11 Commission Report tells us that the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management was located on the 23rd floor of WTC 7, and at 8:48 AM the Emergency Operations Center was activated, but it does not mention the collapse of WTC 7. Major news media have largely ignored this omission.

The collapse of the nine-story Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995 was repeatedly shown on television, and initially blamed on Muslim terrorists. Videos of the collapse of the 47-story WTC 7, while readily available on alternative news sites, have generally not been shown to the public after September 11 by major news media.

Dr. Steven E. Jones, a physics professor at Brigham Young University, writes:

Concluding remarks in the FEMA report on the WTC 7 collapse lend support to my arguments: The specifics of the fires in WTC 7 and how they caused the building to collapse ["official theory"] remain unknown at this time.

Prof. Jones attempted to make his point on MSNBC's "The Situation" with Tucker Carlson on November 15, 2005, but was prevented from doing so.

Buildings 5 and 6, which stood between the twin towers and Building 7, sustained much greater damage than Building 7, but they did not collapse in the way that the twin towers, and Building 7 collapsed.

Indira Singh, a first responder on September 11, said during an appearance on KPFA that by "noon or one o'clock", the Fire Department was telling them that they had to move the triage site because "we're going to have to bring it down."

CNN's Aaron Brown and BBC's Jane Standley reported that Build-

ing 7 “has collapsed or is collapsing” before it collapsed. The BBC picture above is time stamped 21:54 London time which is 16:54 or 4:54 PM EST.

Diane Sawyer, an award-winning investigative journalist, interviewed an eyewitness on ABC News Live Coverage who said: “At Building 7 there was no fire there whatsoever, but there was one truck putting water on the building, but it collapsed completely.”

Dan Rather, at the time anchor and managing editor of the CBS Evening News, while reporting on the collapse of Building 7, said:

For the third time today, it’s reminiscent of those pictures we’ve all seen too much on television before - a building was deliberately destroyed by well placed dynamite to knock it down.

Larry Silverstein, the World Trade Center leaseholder, was shown on television saying:

I remember getting a call from the ER, Fire Department Commander, telling me that they were not sure they were gonna be able to contain the fire, and I said, ‘We’ve had such terrible loss of life, maybe the smartest thing to do is pull it.’ And they made the decision to pull and we watched the building collapse.

If Building 7 was “pulled”—a demolition term, when were the explosives planted to pull it? Who planted them?

No steel-framed, high-rise building has collapsed from fire, either before September 11, 2001 or after September 11, 2001.

On February 23, 1991, a 38-story tower in Philadelphia burned for 18 hours; on October 17, 2004, a 56-story tower in Caracas burned for 17 hours; on February 12, 2005, a 32-story tower in Madrid burned for 24 hours. None of these collapsed like World Trade Center buildings 1, 2, and 7. Why then should we believe that on September 11, 2001, three steel-framed, high-rise buildings collapsed from fire?

The FEMA investigation of WTC7 stated: “Further research, investigation, and analyses are needed to resolve this issue.”

NIST’s draft report released on August 21, 2008 does not address the most basic questions: why the collapse exhibits none of the characteristics of destruction by fire, such as slow onset with large visible deformations that would cause the building to fall to the side most damaged by the fire, but it does exhibit all the characteristics of a classic controlled demolition.

May 7, 2007

United Airlines Flight 93 Shot Down on 9/11

Rare television footage taken on September 11, 2001 reveals facts that contradict the generally accepted explanation that United Airlines Flight 93 crashed after four passengers attacked the hijackers in an attempt to gain control of the airplane.

According to the 9/11 Commission Report, at 8:42 United Airlines Flight 93 took off from Newark, NJ, bound for San Francisco. Its last “normal contact” with the FAA was at 9:27.

Around 9:28 the Cleveland, OH, controller heard “a radio transmission of unintelligible sounds of possible screaming or a struggle from an unknown origin.”

Other transmissions followed, and at 9:30 Ziad Jarrah, the alleged hijacker—a fragment of whose passport was found at the crash site, was heard saying, “There is a bomb on board and are going back to the airport, and to have our demands [unintelligible]. Please remain quiet.”

At 10:01 another aircraft is reported to have witnessed “radical gyrations in what investigators believe was the hijackers’ effort to defeat the passenger assault.”

United 93 crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania at 10:03, 125 miles from Washington, DC.

Video footage from NBC, Fox, and the 9/11 Commission hearings contradicts the official theory.

In the NBC and Fox news television footage from September 11, 2001 we hear:

NBC Reporter: “The debris here is spread here over a 3 to 4 mile . . . This is one of those cases where the pictures really do tell the story . . . one of the most horrifying aspects of this is how little debris is visible . . . that’s all you see, just a large crater in the ground, and just tiny, tiny bits of debris . . . the investigators . . . have found nothing larger than a phone book.”

Fox Reporter: “I’ve seen the pictures, and it looks like there’s nothing there except a hole in the ground.”

Fox Affiliate Photographer: “The only thing you could see was a big gouge in the earth, and some broken trees . . .”

Fox Reporter: “Any large pieces of debris?”

Fox Affiliate Photographer: “There was nothing that you could distinguish that a plane crashed there . . . ”

Fox Reporter: “How big would you say that hole was?”

Fox Affiliate Photographer: “From my estimate it was 20 to 15 feet long . . . 10 feet wide.”

Fox Reporter: “What could you see on the ground other than dirt, ash?”

Fox Affiliate Photographer: “You couldn’t see anything . . . just dirt, ash, and people walking around.”

NBC and Fox reports make no mention of the Boeing 757’s fuselage, tail, landing gear, and engines.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, during a Christmas Eve address to U.S. troops in Baghdad, said “the people who attacked the United States in New York, shot down the plane over Pennsylvania.” The Pentagon says Rumsfeld “simply misspoke.”

There’s also the statement by Lee Hamilton, Vice Chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

While questioning Norman Y. Mineta, Former Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Hamilton refers to an “order given, I think by the President, that authorized the shooting down of commercial aircraft that were suspected to be controlled by terrorists.”

September 29, 2007

Reason and Revelation

Speech given by author at the Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association of Washington, DC fund-raising dinner .

When Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) passed away in 632 A.D., he was the effective leader of all of southern Arabia. By 711 A.D., Arabs had swept across North Africa to the Atlantic Ocean. In less than 100 years, the Bedouin tribesmen, inspired by the Word of God, had carved out an empire stretching from the borders of India to the Atlantic Ocean—the largest empire that the world had yet seen.

Muslims conquered lands as was the custom of the day, but Islam was not spread by the sword. Indonesia is a prime example. Indonesia,

with 6000 inhabited islands, today has the largest Muslim population. No Muslim armies landed in Indonesia.

Muslims offered an appealing message: There is One God; mankind is one; goodness is the only measure of a person's worth. Man was urged to care for the poor, the infirm, the orphan, to respect all faiths, and to search for knowledge.

200 years later Muslims are divided; the path forward is less clear.

In the Baghdad of 813 A.D., Caliph al-Mamun struggling to build a nation, is caught between the ideas of literalists and those of religious thinkers, and he has a dream.

He sees a figure of light and gold standing before him.

"Who are you?" asks a frightened al-Mamun.

"I am Aristotle", the spirit says. "I have come to answer your question".

"And what is my question?" al-Mamun asks—he knows but wants the spirit to say it.

"Your question is, What is better for the affairs of man and the affairs of society, reason or revelation?"

Al-Mamun nods, and asks, "And what is your answer to the riddle?"

"My son," says Aristotle, "they are not in opposition. But to find true revelation, man must first choose reason, because reason is the doorway to revelation."

Of course, the dream is imaginary. Author Michael Hamilton Morgan describes it in his book "*Lost History*" (p. 47).

So great was al-Mamun's love of knowledge that after defeating the Byzantine emperor, he asks not for caskets of gold but a copy of the *Almagest*—Ptolemy's book on astronomy written around 150 A.D.

Al-Mamun goes on to establish the House of Wisdom in Baghdad. Later al-Hakim will build the House of Knowledge in Cairo.

Reason gave Muslims the superior strategy and technology that helped win battles. Revelation taught Muslims the principles of justice, and of mercy and compassion.

Muslims taught and practiced a degree of tolerance remarkable for their time. The Quran reminded them: "For each we have appointed a divine law and traced out the way. Had Allah willed He could have made you one community." (5:48)

Islam, perhaps like no other religion, declares to Muslims the sanctity of all “nations and tribes.” What may surprise Christians and Jews, and even many Muslims, is that the Quran refers to them all as “muslims.”

Muhammad Asad, born Leopold Weiss in Poland in 1900, in his interpretation of the Quran wrote:

When his contemporaries heard the words islam and muslim, they understood them as denoting man's 'self-surrender to God' and 'one who surrenders himself to God,' without limiting himself to any specific community or denomination. Ne.g., in 3:67, where Abraham is spoken of as having 'surrendered himself unto God' (kana musliman), or in 3:52 where the disciples of Jesus say, 'Bear thou witness that we have surrendered ourselves unto God (bianna musliman).' In Arabic, this original meaning has remained unimpaired, and no Arab scholar has ever become oblivious of the wide connotation of these terms.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was twice president of the Indian National Congress, a renowned scholar, and India's first Education Minister (my father was his private secretary), wrote:

The unity of man is the primary aim of religion. The message which every prophet delivered was that mankind were in reality one people and one community, and that there was but one god for all of them, and on that account they should serve Him together and live as members of one family.

By providing opportunities based on merit to all, Muslims won the hearts and minds of the conquered people. Muslims worked side by side with Jews, Christians, Hindus, and others to create the centers of learning and cultural expansion in Iraq, Iran, Spain, Egypt, and India.

The Quran is replete with verses inviting man to use his intellect, to ponder, to think and to know, for the goal of human life is to discover the Truth. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) tells us: “The first thing created by god was the Intellect.” And that: “One learned man is harder on the devil than a thousand ignorant worshippers.” His words exhort us to: “Go in quest of knowledge even unto China.” And to: “Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave.”

The love of knowledge helped create cities that drew scholars from across the world.

Will Durant in his *Story of Civilization* (vol. IV, p. 237) writes:

When Baghdad was destroyed by the Mongols [1258] it had thirty-

six public libraries. Private libraries were numberless. It was a fashion among the rich to have an ample collection of books. A physician refused the invitation of the Sultan of Bokhara to come and live at his court, on the ground that he would need 400 camels to transport his library. Al-Waqidi, dying, left 600 boxes of books, each box so heavy that two men were needed to carry it. Princes like Sahab ibn Abbas in the 10th century might own as many books as could be found in all the libraries of Europe combined.

Muslims built a civilization that would lift Europe out of darkness.

HRH, The Prince of Wales, in his October 27, 1993 speech titled, “Islam And The West”, said:

Not only did Muslim Spain gather and preserve the intellectual content of ancient Greek and Roman civilization, it also interpreted and expanded upon that civilization, and made a vital contribution of its own in so many fields of human endeavour — in science, astronomy, mathematics, algebra (itself an Arabic word), law, history, medicine, pharmacology, optics, agriculture, architecture, theology, music.

Cordoba in the 10th century was by far the most civilized city of Europe. . . . Many of the traits on which Europe prides itself came to it from Muslim Spain. Diplomacy, free trade, open borders, the techniques of academic research, of anthropology, etiquette, fashion, alternative medicine, hospitals, all came from this great city of cities. Mediaeval Islam was a religion of remarkable tolerance for its time, allowing Jews and Christians to practice their inherited beliefs, and setting an example which was not, unfortunately, copied for many centuries in the West

[Islam] has contributed so much towards the civilization which we all too often think of, wrongly, as entirely Western. Islam is part of our past and present, in all fields of human endeavor. It has helped to create modern Europe. It is part of our own inheritance, not a thing apart.

It is reported that the best selling poet in America is Rumi—born September 30, 1207 in Afghanistan.

The Christian reconquest of Spain in 1492 under Ferdinand and Isabella was the beginning of the end of the Muslim era. By 1858, the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zaffar, who ruled little more than the city of Delhi, was exiled by the British to Burma.

In 1875, Sir Syed, seeking to improve literacy among Indian Muslims, founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College. This college

became Aligarh University. It nurtured many leaders of India and Pakistan. You, the alumni of Aligarh University, are continuing the tradition by funding scholarships for those less fortunate than yourselves.

Today, as it was for Muslims in the early 7th century, the key to successfully negotiating the path ahead, for themselves and for generations to come, remains reason and revelation.

October 16, 2007

1, 2 World Trade Center Report Challenged

Aircraft collision 'would not cause collapse or substantial damage', NIST does not support 'pancake theory'

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the U.S. government agency responsible for analyzing the collapse of 1 and 2 World Trade Center, stated in a memo dated February 3, 1964:

The buildings have been investigated and found to be safe in an assumed collision with a large jet airliner (Boeing 707 - DC 8) traveling at 600 miles per hour. Analysis indicates that such collision would result only in local damage which would not cause collapse or substantial damage to the building and would not endanger the lives and safety of occupants not in the immediate area of impact.

The memo also states: "The structural analysis carried out by the firm of Worthington, Skilling, Helle & Jackson is the most complete and detailed of any ever made for any building structure."

The February 3, 1964 memo is included as Appendix A to *Baseline Structural Performance and Aircraft Impact Damage Analysis of the World Trade Center Towers*, NISTNCSTAR1-2, April 26, 2006.

Executive Summary, Table E-8 of the NIST report estimates aircraft impact speeds at 443 mph plus or minus 30 for AA 11 (WTC 1), and 542 mph plus or minus 24 for UAL 175 (WTC 2).

Executive Summary, Finding 18 states: "the tower still had reserve capacity after losing a number of columns and floor segments due to aircraft impact."

In an August 30, 2006 Fact Sheet, NIST stated:

NIST concluded that the WTC towers collapsed because: (1) the impact of the planes severed and damaged support columns, dislodged fireproofing insulation coating the steel floor trusses and steel columns, and widely dispersed jet fuel over multiple floors; and (2) the subsequent unusually large jet-fuel ignited multi-floor fires (which reached temperatures as high as 1,000 degrees Celsius) significantly weakened the floors and columns with dislodged fireproofing to the point where floors sagged and pulled inward on the perimeter columns. This led to the inward bowing of the perimeter columns and failure of the south face of WTC 1 and the east face of WTC 2, initiating the collapse of each of the towers.”

In response to an April 12, 2007 “Request for Correction,” NIST’s Catherine S. Fletcher, Chief, Management and Organization Division, in a letter dated September 27, 2007, stated:

NIST Computer Simulations: NIST has used an extensive database of photographic and video evidence to validate the models used to analyze the behavior of the towers up to the point of initiation of collapse. . . .

The WTC Steel Temperature: While NIST did not find evidence that any of the recovered core columns experienced temperatures in excess of 250° C, it is not possible to extrapolate from such a small sample size to state that none of the core columns on the fire affected floors reached temperatures in excess of 250° C. . . .

The Goal of the WTC Report and Its Overall Analysis: NIST has stated that it did not analyze the collapse of the towers. NIST carried its analysis to the point where the buildings reached global instability. . . . we were unable to provide a full explanation of the total collapse.

In other words, NIST has not analyzed the collapse of the towers. NIST’s analysis ends with the “initiation of collapse.”

NIST admits that physical evidence does not support their conclusion of fire temperatures as high as 1,000 degrees Celsius. In the samples taken from the site, there’s no evidence that any core column experienced temperatures in excess of 250° C.

Steel loses 50% strength at 650° C, and melts at 1500° C. And while turbulent, premixed jet fuel/air temperature will reach 1000° C, turbulent, diffusion jet fuel/air temperature will reach only 500° C to 650° C. The latter is what one would expect from the impact of the aircraft.

If for the sake of argument only, one were to assume that the fire was large enough, the fire was neither hot enough, nor long-lasting enough (the bulk of the fire was out in 10 to 15 minutes), to significantly weaken the towers. Moreover, the steel structure, in essence a large radiator, would have dispersed the heat.

Kevin Ryan, a division director who was terminated by Underwriters Laboratories for challenging the NIST analysis, wrote:

Of course, those of us who have actually followed NIST's investigation know that they could not produce any 'robust criteria' to establish that fireproofing was lost through forces of vibration. Instead, NIST performed a shotgun test to see if the fireproofing could have been lost through shearing forces.

The shotgun test not only failed to support NIST's pre-determined conclusions, as was the case for all of their other physical tests, but it actually proved that the fireproofing could not have been sheared off because too much energy would be needed.

Richard Gage, founder of Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth, makes the following points regarding the NIST report:

The destruction occurred with rapid onset, at virtually free-fall speed, and with radial symmetry.

One hundred eighteen first responders described hearing, seeing and feeling explosions and seeing flashes of light at the onset of destruction.

The concrete floors were almost completely pulverized into dust and gravel.

The structural steel framework was largely dismembered into shippable lengths. Much of it was hurled outside the Twin Towers' perimeters, some as far as 500 feet away.

Tons of molten metal were seen by FDNY and others, and was described as "flowing like lava" for weeks after 9/11, yet its existence was denied by NIST.

Proven chemical evidence of thermate, an incendiary material which produces molten iron as its by-product, found on the columns and beams, previously molten metal, and iron-rich micro-spheres in the dust by Dr. Steven Jones (and corroborated by the U.S. Geological Survey, but never explained).

"These features are characteristic of controlled demolitions, and not office or jet fuel fires", writes Gage.

In the August 30, 2006 Fact Sheet, NIST stated that it does not support the "pancake theory" of collapse.

November 9, 2007

What Really Happened on September 11 at the Pentagon

There is little if any hard evidence available to the public, that American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757 flying from Washington Dulles International Airport, crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

At the Dept. of Defense (DoD) News Briefing on September 12, 2001, American Airlines, Flight 77, Boeing, Dulles, and passengers were not mentioned.

Standing in front of the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, Jamie McIntyre, CNN's senior Pentagon correspondent since November 1992, reported:

From my close up inspection there's no evidence of a plane having crashed anywhere near the Pentagon. . . . The only pieces left that you can see are small enough that you could pick up in your hand. There are no large tail sections, wing sections, fuselage—nothing like that anywhere around which would indicate that the entire plane crashed into the side of the Pentagon. . . . It wasn't till about 45 minutes later . . . that all of the floors collapsed.

Arlington County Fire Chief Ed Plaughter, incident commander at the Pentagon on September 11, corroborates Jamie McIntyre's report. At the September 12, 2001, DoD briefing, when asked: "Is there anything left of the aircraft at all?" said: "there are some small pieces of aircraft ... there's no fuselage sections and that sort of thing."

Victoria Clarke, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs—"presenter" of the DoD briefing, did not contradict Chief Plaughter.

Colonel Karen Kwiatkowski, who from her fifth-floor, B-ring office at the Pentagon, witnessed "an unforgettable fireball, 20 to 30 feet in diameter," writes in *9/11 and American Empire: Muslims, Jews, and Christians Speak Out*, that she was called for stretcher duty as she and others stared in disbelief at a smoking gash in the Pentagon . . . But no person or thing emerged from that side of the Pentagon. We heard that survivors and injured folks were being recued from the inside, . . . and out the River exit into ambulances.

Kwiatkowski continues that there was

a strange absence of airliner debris, there was no sign of the kind of damage to the Pentagon structure one would expect from the im-

pact of a large airliner. This visible evidence or lack thereof may also have been apparent to the secretary of defense, who in an unfortunate slip of the tongue referred to the aircraft that slammed into the Pentagon as a 'missile'.

Barbara Honegger, military affairs journalist at the Naval Postgraduate School, writes that NORAD's

Gen. Larry Arnold, revealed that he ordered one of his jets to fly down low over the Pentagon shortly after the attack that morning, and that his pilot reported back that there was no evidence that a plane had hit the building.

Publicly available photos support these statements by McIntyre's, Plaugher, Kwiatkowski, and Honegger.

The hole in the Pentagon wall—prior to the collapse of the roof—appears much too small to accommodate a Boeing 757. If only the fuselage penetrated the Pentagon, then the wings would have remained outside. But no large debris—anything resembling the Boeing 757 wings and fuselage—is visible on the Pentagon lawn, and the lawn itself shows no sign that a Boeing 757 skidded across it or struck it.

The engines of the Boeing 757 would have survived the impact and heat. An engine from a plane that struck the World Trade Center was shown on network television, and so was an engine from American Airlines Flight 587 which crashed shortly after takeoff from New York on November 12, 2001.

One photo from the Pentagon crash site shows what could be an engine part about 30 inches in diameter outside the Pentagon. Another photo shows what could be an engine part (its size is difficult to determine) inside the Pentagon. Were these parts, and another piece of debris on the Pentagon lawn traced to Flight 77?

According to George Nelson, Colonel, USAF (ret.), serial numbers on aircraft parts could confirm the plane's identity. But the FBI has refused to make that evidence available to the public.

Another question put to Chief Plaugher at the briefing was: "Chief, there are small pieces of the plane virtually all over, out over the highway, tiny pieces. Would you say the plane exploded, virtually exploded on impact due to the fuel..." Plaugher responded: "I'd rather not comment on that." How did "small pieces of the plane" end up "out over the highway" when the plane is reported to have disintegrated inside

the Pentagon after it crossed the highway? If it disintegrated outside the Pentagon why is there nothing that looks like a Boeing 757 on the Pentagon lawn? If it disintegrated either inside or outside the Pentagon what caused the hole in C-ring?

When asked, "Have you removed the bodies?" Chief Plaughter replied, "We have no information on any type of casualty or body counts at this time."

National news media, particularly Jamie McIntyre, failed to follow up on Chief Plaughter's comment that "there's no fuselage sections and that sort of thing" when dozens of onlookers, relatives, and firefighters were interviewed on network television about the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center.

Photos and videos of the Pentagon reveal yet more curious sights: a trailer, light poles, and a highway sign in front of the damaged area still intact after a Boeing 757 is alleged to have flown through there; office furniture and a computer monitor which survived the fire that is alleged to have vaporized the Boeing 757, but left human bodies in good enough condition to be indentified; two men in white shirts and ties rushing to pick up pieces of whatever struck the Pentagon; "50 FBI officers" walking "shoulder-to-shoulder across the south grounds of the Pentagon, picking up debris and stuffing it into brown bags."

The Pentagon crash may be the only commercial airline crash in modern history in which most of the available evidence has been withheld from the public. Indeed reporters on the scene were "handcuffed and dragged away".

Many eyewitnesses reported seeing a large plane hit the Pentagon. Others reported seeing a commuter plane (Could this have been a cruise missile?). But their accounts are contradicted by CNN's Jamie McIntyre, and the statements of Fire Chief Plaughter and Col. Kwiatowski, who were in a better position to observe the evidence, and whose credentials may be verified.

Then there's the testimony of Norman Y. Mineta, Former Secretary of Transportation, that Vice President Richard B. Cheney may have given a do not shoot order to facilitate an attack on the Pentagon.

In response to a question by the Vice-Chairman of Commission, Mr. Mineta states:

There was a young man who had come in and said to the vice president, “The plane is 50 miles out. The plane is 30 miles out.” And when it got down to, “The plane is 10 miles out,” the young man also said to the vice president, “Do the orders still stand?” And the vice president turned and whipped his neck around and said, “Of course the orders still stand. Have you heard anything to the contrary?”

Five video frames initially released by the Pentagon raised more questions than they answered—no Boeing 757 was visible. Videos released on May 16, 2006, pursuant to a *Freedom of Information Act* request by Judicial Watch, are as inconclusive as the first five frames.

Further doubt has been cast on the official account of Flight 77 by an organization of pilots. They claim that “video captured by the parking gate cam is in direct conflict with the Aircraft Flight Data Recorder data released by the NTSB.”

The 9/11 Commission Report animation (July 2004) shows an aircraft flying south of the Navy Annex. The video captured by Pentagon security cameras shows an object flying level before striking the Pentagon. The NTSB animation (January 2002), according to the pilots’ organization, shows an aircraft flying north of the Navy Annex, not levelling off, and being too high to have hit the Pentagon.

And there are unresolved issues regarding the complex maneuver executed by the alleged pilot of Flight 77, and the identities of the alleged hijackers.

CBS News reported:

Radar shows Flight 77 did a downward spiral, turning almost a complete circle and dropping the last 7,000 feet in two-and-a-half minutes. The steep turn was so smooth, the sources say, it’s clear there was no fight for control going on. And the complex maneuver suggests the hijackers had better flying skills than many investigators first believed. The jetliner disappeared from radar at 9:37 and less than a minute later it clipped the tops of street lights and plowed into the Pentagon at 460 mph.

Hani Hanjour’s reported lack of flying skills makes it highly unlikely that he could fly a Boeing 757 in a spiral turn from 7000 feet, level off at an estimated 350 mph south of the Navy Annex (over a hill which slopes down toward Route 27 after which there’s about 150 yards to level off), and strike the first floor of the Pentagon—each floor is

about 15.5 feet tall. The *New York Times* reported that Hani Hanjour “could not fly at all.”

The names of the alleged hijackers do not appear on *Associated Press* September 17, 2001 “partial list of victims” on the hijacked flights—the final list has not been made public. Hani Hanjour’s “name was not on the American Airlines manifest for the flight because he may not have had a ticket” reported the *Washington Post*.

On September 23, 2001 the BBC reported that four of the hijack “suspects”—Waleed Al Shehri, Abdulaziz Al Omari, Saeed Alghamdi, and possibly Khalid Al Midhar were—alive, and that FBI Director Robert Mueller acknowledged “that the identity of several of the suicide hijackers is in doubt.”

The FBI’s “Most Wanted Terrorists” web page does not state that Bin Laden was responsible for the attacks on September 11.

In a speech at the Commonwealth Club on April 19, 2002, FBI Director Mueller said :

In our investigation, we have not uncovered a single piece of paper—either here in the United States, or in the treasure trove of information that has turned up in Afghanistan and elsewhere—that mentioned any aspect of the September 11 plot.

Just prior to September 11, 2001, a congressional committee was investigating unaccounted funds at the DoD—\$2.3 trillion in FY 1999, and \$1.1 trillion in FY 2000. The section of the Pentagon destroyed housed records of DoD spending, and the personnel for monitoring that spending.

[Clearly, if the official story that flight 77 hit the Pentagon at 9:37 were true, Flight 77 could not have been the source of massive damage to the west side of the building a minimum of five minutes earlier at 9:32. . . . Multiple standard-issue, battery-operated wall clocks . . . stopped between 9:31 and 9:32-1/2 on September 11. . . .

The Pentagon was attacked by bomb(s) at or around 9:32 am, possibly followed by an impact from an airborne object significantly smaller than Flight 77, a Boeing 757. . . .

Only a military aircraft, not a civilian plane flown by al Qaeda, would have given off the “Friendly” signal needed to disable the Pentagon’s anti-aircraft missile batteries as it approached the building.—Barbara Honegger, “The Pentagon Attack Papers,” *physics911.net*, September 6, 2006]

November 17, 2007

The Achilles' Heel of the Official 9/11 Conspiracy Theory

Achilles, the son of King Peleus of Thessaly and the shape-changing nymph Thetis, is the central character of Homer's great poem, the Iliad. The Achilles' heel is named for the only part of the body of the Greek hero that was vulnerable.

Stretching the metaphor a bit, the collapse time, i.e. the time from the beginning of collapse to total collapse, is the Achilles' heel of the official 9/11 conspiracy theory. The official theory is also vulnerable to other challenges.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)—U.S. government department assigned the job of explaining what *The 9/11 Commission Report* does not—estimates (October 5, 2007 FAQ)

the elapsed times for the first exterior panels to strike the ground after the collapse initiated in each of the towers to be approximately 11 seconds for WTC 1 and approximately 9 seconds for WTC 2. These elapsed times were based on: (1) precise timing of the initiation of collapse from video evidence, and (2) ground motion (seismic) signals recorded at Palisades, N.Y.

NIST adds:

significant portions of the cores of both buildings (roughly 60 stories of WTC 1 and 40 stories of WTC 2) are known to have stood 15 to 25 seconds after collapse initiation before they, too, began to collapse. Neither the duration of the seismic records nor video evidence . . . are reliable indicators of the total time it took for each building to collapse completely.

The 9/11 Commission Report puts it more simply (p. 322): “the South Tower collapsed in ten seconds”.

These collapse times are close to that of a billiard ball dropped from the top of WTC 1 or 2. The time is calculated using the equation taught in high school physics classes: Distance = 0.5 X Acceleration X Time Squared.

Using this equation a billiard ball dropped from the top of the 1368 feet tall WTC 1 or 2 would travel 1296 feet in 9 seconds—it would reach the ground in 9.2 seconds (assuming acceleration due to gravity of 32 feet per second per second, and no wind resistance).

The towers' collapse at near free-fall speed, due solely to airplane impact and the resulting fires, defies logic.

In Section 6.14.4 of NIST NCSTAR 1, NIST states:

the structure below the level of collapse initiation offered minimal resistance to the falling building mass at and above the impact zone. The potential energy released by the downward movement of the large building mass far exceeded the capacity of the intact structure below to absorb that energy through energy of deformation.

NIST (a) offers no calculations to support this theory, (b) does not explain how "falling building mass" which explodes into powder retains enough energy to dislodge the floors below, and (b) does not explain the symmetry of collapse.

Prof. Kenneth L. Kuttler, who has done the calculations concludes: "Clearly, fall times of over 25 seconds are expected with reasonable assumptions, yet the observed fall time for the Tower is less than that."

Regarding the molten metal reported in the WTC debris pile more than three weeks later, NIST says:

The condition of the steel in the wreckage of the WTC towers (i.e., whether it was in a molten state or not) was irrelevant to the investigation of the collapse since it does not provide any conclusive information on the condition of the steel when the WTC towers were standing.

The molten steel may not provide "any conclusive information on the condition of the steel when the WTC towers were standing", but it is very relevant to the evaluation of hypotheses of why the towers collapsed. The steel at the bottom of the debris pile did not spontaneously get hot and melt after collapse.

NIST rejects the "pancake theory" for the collapse, but elsewhere NIST lead investigator Shyam Sunder explains the squibs (puffs or jets of smoke and dust caused by the detonation of explosives used to demolish buildings) seen in videos of the collapse: "Those clouds of dust may create the impression of a controlled demolition but it is the floor pancaking that leads to that perception."

NIST did not evaluate the use of explosives. NIST writes that an assisted collapse would require many thousands of pounds of explosives, yet their explanation of a gravity only collapse requires none.

Earlier this year researchers at Purdue University claimed to have the answer. They stated, "the weight of the fuel acted like a flash flood

of flaming liquid, knocking out essential structural columns within the building and removing fireproofing insulation from other support structures.”

These researchers simulated the “top 20 stories” for “3/4 seconds real-time”. By extrapolation, flawed yet illustrative, a simulation of the 102 real-time minutes from impact to collapse could take 652,800 hours— $(102 \times 60 / 0.750) \times 80$ hours, or about 75 years.

A NIST letter dated September 27, 2007, in response to a “request for correction”, states: “NIST carried its analysis to the point where the buildings reached global instability. . . . we were unable to provide a full explanation of the total collapse.”

Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth state that “controlled demolition with explosives was involved in the destruction of the Twin Towers on 9/11.” They offer the following evidence:

- Rapid onset of destruction
- Symmetrical and near-freefall speed of collapse
- Virtually complete pulverization of concrete
- 20-ton beams hurled 500 feet
- 700, half inch, bone fragments on top of adjacent buildings
- Molten metal “flowing like lava”
- Iron-rich microspheres
- Chemical evidence of the incendiary thermate
- Ends of columns and beams exhibiting rapid oxidation, sulfidation and intergranular melting
- 118 first-responders report sounds of explosions and flashes of light
- Squibs, or mistimed explosions 40 stories below collapse wave

Richard Gage, architect, in a letter to Mark Weitzman of the Simon Wiesenthal Center who, in testimony before the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment, referred to AE911Truth.org as an “Incubator of 9/11 Conspiracies and Disinformation”, has demanded a retraction of Weitzman’s “false, defamatory, outrageous and insulting statements”.

Regarding the 47-story WTC 7—whose collapse in under 7 seconds is not even mentioned in *The 9/11 Commission Report*—NIST writes that “a draft report will be released for public comment by the end of 2007 and that the final report will be released in early 2008.”

NIST, and the 9/11 Commission, refuse to debate their findings with independent researchers.

February 11, 2008

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed Charged

The Pentagon today charged Khalid Sheikh Mohammed for masterminding the events of September 11, 2001 even though the Pentagon's own News Transcript contradicts *The 9/11 Commission Report's* central claim regarding the attack on the Pentagon.

At the September 12, 2001, U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) briefing, Arlington County Fire Chief Ed Plaughter when asked: "Is there anything left of the aircraft at all?" said: "there are some small pieces of aircraft ... there's no fuselage sections and that sort of thing."

Victoria Clarke, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs—"presenter" of the DoD briefing to the world press, did not contradict Chief Plaughter, and CNN video of September 11, 2001 corroborates Ed Plaughter's remarks at the DoD briefing.

Standing in front of the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, Jamie McIntyre, CNN's senior Pentagon correspondent since November 1992, reported: "From my close up inspection there's no evidence of a plane having crashed anywhere near the Pentagon. . . . The only pieces left that you can see are small enough that you could pick up in your hand. There are no large tail sections, wing sections, fuselage—nothing like that anywhere around which would indicate that the entire plane crashed into the side of the Pentagon. . . . It wasn't till about 45 minutes later . . . that all of the floors collapsed."

"American Airlines," "Flight 77," "Boeing," "Dulles," and "passengers" are not mentioned in the News Transcript.

I just returned from a 3-week lecture tour of South Africa where, using establishment news sources, I showed to large audiences in about a dozen cities that the major conclusion of *The 9/11 Commission Report* are false. A television interview broadcast to Sub-Saharan Africa summarizes this evidence.

In his new book, *The Commission: The Uncensored History of the 9/11 Investigation*, New York Times investigative journalist Philip Shenon writes that Philip Zelikow, the 9/11 Commission's executive director attempted to intimidate staff to avoid findings that would be damaging to President George W Bush, who was running for re-election, and

Condoleezza Rice, his then National Security Adviser. (Shenon apparently accepts the major conclusions of “The 9/11 Commission Report”—we do not.)

Tom Leonard of the British *Telegraph* wrote, “When Bob Kerrey, a Democrat member of the commission, learned the extent of Mr Zelikow’s ties to the administration, he confronted Tom Kean, its Republican chairman. . . . Mr. Kerrey reportedly threatened to resign unless Mr Zelikow was sacked, but was persuaded to stay.”

Sen. Max Cleland, resigned from the commission in November 2003 saying, “Bush is scamming America.”

“The chair and vice chair of the 9/11 Commission, respectively Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, assert in their book, *Without Precedent*, that they were ‘set up to fail’ and were starved of funds to do a proper investigation”, reported the *Guardian*.

The others charged by the Pentagon are: Walid Bin Attash, Walid Bin Attash, Ramzi Binalshibh, Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, Mustafa Ahmad al-Hawsawi, and Mohammed al-Qahtani.

March 1, 2008

The 9/11 Commission Report is Fatally Flawed

The 9/11 Commission Report is fatally flawed. At the NRECA Conference Center in Arlington, Virginia, on November 1, 2006, I presented the evidence as a slide presentation. A summary of that evidence may be seen in the video *9/11: What Really Happened* produced during my 3-week, 9/11 lecture tour of South Africa—www.twf.org/911.html.

If approached with an open mind, this presentation should lead one to the conclusion that we were not told the truth about September 11, 2001—the stated *casus belli* for the war on Afghanistan, and repeatedly linked to the war on Iraq by President Bush, and Vice President Cheney.

David Ray Griffin’s book *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*, and the film *911 Mysteries*—the presentation links to

both these and other sources—should, at the very least, raise serious doubts about *The 9/11 Commission Report*.

Indeed there is prima facie evidence for the use of expertly placed explosives to cause the collapse of 1, 2, and 7 World Trade Center.

The prime example is 7 World Trade Center—its collapse in less than 7 seconds is most easily recognized as a controlled demolition. *The 9/11 Commission Report* does not even mention the collapse of this 47-story building, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology has yet to produce its report.

Philanthropist Jimmy Walter issued a “Million Dollar Challenge”—the first person to prove explosives were not used in the destruction of the World Trade Center will receive a million dollars. The prize remained unclaimed.

The Iraq war alone is expected to cost the U.S. between one and two trillion dollars according to Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz. A study directed by Johns Hopkins estimates over 650,000 Iraqis have died as a result, and 1.6 million have fled the country. Add to this the cost in American lives, the destruction of Iraq’s society, institutions and infrastructure, and millions more maimed and wounded. In the words of veteran journalist Robert Fisk, “We have turned Iraq into the most hellish place on Earth.”

It is now incumbent upon all Americans of conscience, specially leaders of faith-based organizations, to speak out and demand the truth.

Muslim leaders, in particular, have a special duty because most of this death and destruction has been inflicted upon the Muslim world, and Muslims everywhere are the target of a new cold war with Islam—of which my former colleague at *Eastern Times*, Mowahid H. Shah, wrote in the Christian Science Monitor, July 30, 1990.

And now that it is clear that the Bush administration manipulated the intelligence on Iraq there is the matter of compensation for the victims of U.S. aggression—the “Supreme International Crime” in the words of former Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, chief U.S. prosecutor at the first Nuremberg trial. The United Nations Compensation Commission approved \$52.5 billion in claims against Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

April 12, 2008

Iraqis Pay? The Arrogance of the U.S.

The war ended with the toppling of Saddam's statue, the Iraqis want them out, and now the U.S., having destroyed much of Iraq, has the arrogance to ask Iraqis to pay for the occupation and reconstruction.

The Iraq war began with lies—weapons of mass destruction, mushroom cloud, Al Qaeda, and it ended with more lies.

Robert Fisk, veteran Middle East correspondent for the Independent, wrote: “a statue of Saddam Hussein was pulled down on Wednesday, in the most staged photo-opportunity since Iwo Jima.”

David Zucchino, writing in the Los Angeles Times on July 3, 2003, added:

“As the Iraqi regime was collapsing on April 9, 2003, Marines converged on Firdos Square in central Baghdad, site of an enormous statue of Saddam Hussein. It was a Marine colonel—not joyous Iraqi civilians, as was widely assumed from the TV images—who decided to topple the statue, the Army report said. And it was a quick-thinking Army psychological operations team that made it appear to be a spontaneous Iraqi undertaking.”

The war ended on April 9, 2003. What followed is a brutal occupation fiercely resisted by Sunnis and Shias alike—as they struggle amongst themselves because of the power vacuum created by the disbanding of the Iraqi army, and the decapitation of Iraq's government by elimination of its Baath party members.

And the Iraqis want the U.S. out of Iraq.

Ibrahim Khalil, who took part in the toppling of Saddam's statue five years ago, told reporters this Wednesday: “If history can take me back, I will kiss the statue of Saddam Hussein which I helped pull down.”

Polls by the State Department and independent researchers show that Iraqis favor an immediate U.S. pullout.

ABC News reported on September 27, 2006 that according to a poll released by the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland, “Six in 10 Iraqis approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces, . . . Nearly eight in 10 say the U.S. presence in Iraq is provoking more conflict than it's preventing”.

Karen DeYoung, writing for the *Washington Post* on December 19, 2007, stated:

“Iraqis of all sectarian and ethnic groups believe that the U.S. military invasion is the primary root of the violent differences among them, and see the departure of “occupying forces” as the key to national reconciliation, according to focus groups conducted for the U.S. military last month.”

But the U.S. refuses to leave or even provide a timeline for leaving, and it keeps changing the goal posts.

Following testimony by Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, and Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker, the Bush administration is convinced that “actions by Iran, and not al-Qaeda, are the primary threat inside Iraq” from which Iraq must be protected.

Americans are fed up with this war that has cost the lives of 4000 plus U.S. military men and women, maimed and wounded many more, the final bill for which is estimated to be over \$3 trillion, the presumptive Republican nominee for president, Senator John McCain, says the U.S. could be in Iraq for a 100 years.

Now after the illegal U.S. invasion —the “supreme international crime,” Senator Carl Levin, during the Senate Armed Services Committee Hearing on the Situation in Iraq with Ambassador Crocker and General Petraeus, said Iraqis should pay for the U.S. occupation and reconstruction.

Anne Penketh, diplomatic editor for the *Independent*, wrote on October 27, 2006, that the Kuwaitis were still getting payouts for the deaths and destruction caused by the 1990 Iraqi invasion.

“The latest payments, totalling \$417.8m (£220m), were made yesterday to governments and oil companies for losses and damages stemming from the Kuwaiti occupation, bringing the total paid out to more than \$21bn (£11bn). The total claims that have been approved run to \$52bn (£27.5bn) and will take many more years to complete.”

Aren't Iraqis, like the Kuwaitis, owed reparations by the aggressor?

The U.S. should be paying compensation for the 1.2 million Iraqis killed, countless others wounded and maimed, for the 1.6 million who have fled or been made refugees within their own country, and for the destruction we have caused.

And these numbers do not include the “500,000 children and old

people killed by the US-UN anti-civilian sanctions in the 10 previous years.”

Nor does it include the Iraqis killed during the first Gulf War in which the U.S. enticed Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait, and lied to the American public and the UN to sanction the war.

John R. MacArthur, then publisher of Harper’s magazine, describes the role played in the deception by Representatives Tom Lantos and John Edward Porter.

Retired General William E. Odom, in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on April 2, 2008, said:

“The surge is prolonging instability, . . . nay sayers insist that our withdrawal will create regional instability. This confuses cause with effect. Our forces in Iraq and our threat to change Iran’s regime are making the region unstable. Those who link instability with a US withdrawal have it exactly backwards.”

Iraqis are owed reparations by the U.S. It is the height of arrogance to ask them to pay for the continuing U.S. occupation which most Iraqi’s understand is for the purpose of controlling their energy resources, and forestalling a move from dollars to Euros for oil payments.

The U.S. should just get out.

[Sources in Iraq’s parliament told Press TV on Thursday that Washington has offered three million dollars in bribe to the lawmakers who sign the “framework accord.”—“US bribing Iraqi MPs to sign deal,” *Press TV*, May 29, 2008]

[The US is holding hostage some \$50bn (£25bn) of Iraq’s money in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to pressure the Iraqi government into signing an agreement seen by many Iraqis as prolonging the US occupation indefinitely—Patrick Cockburn, “US issues threat to Iraq’s \$50bn foreign reserves in military deal,” *Independent*, June 6, 2008]

[US President George W. Bush long has vowed that the United States would leave Iraq if asked by Baghdad’s leadership, . . .

Iraqi leaders have pressed for a withdrawal timetable as part of negotiations over the US military role beyond December 31—Laurent Lozano, “Time for US to leave Iraq? Not so fast, say analysts,” *Agence France Presse*, July 13, 2008]

[And not only have companies like BP and Texaco been offered these no-bid contracts, . . . the Iraqi Oil Ministry announced that they also will be handing out longer-term management agreements, which will give oil companies the ability to manage existing fields in Iraq and hold onto 75 percent of the worth of those contracts . . . which is absolutely unheard of in the region, where 51 percent for the country is the baseline for new exploration, for new fields. These are existing fields.—“Naomi Klein Reexamines ‘The Shock Doctrine,’” *Democracynow.org*, July 15, 2008]

February 4, 2009

Did a Bomb Explode at the Pentagon on 9/11?

When did Fort Meyer Fire Department (FMFD) Foam Unit 161, and Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA) Foam Unit 331, arrive at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, and why does it matter?

National Airport's aircraft rescue firefighters (ARFF) foam units "knocked down the bulk of the fire in the first seven minutes after their arrival," said Captain Michael Defina, who was the shift commander that day at Reagan National Airport (*National Fire Protection Association Journal*, November 1, 2001).

Captain Defina, who had been at the site of a motor vehicle accident, arrived at the Pentagon "two to three minutes" after he "saw a smoke plume arise" from the Pentagon.

Captain Defina drove onto the heliport and directed Foam Unit 331 to set up there, where Fort Myer Rescue Engine 161 had established a hydrant water supply. The only other firefighting apparatus he saw on the west side was Arlington County's Engine and Truck 105 on the far north end. Their crews went into the building to conduct search and rescue.

"While Foam Unit 331 hit the fire with foam from its roof and bumper turrets, Rescue Engine 335's four-person crew used hand lines in an attempt to control the fires".

Why does this matter? Let's construct a timeline of events at the Pentagon, and see if it tells us anything.

- 9:29 — Flight 77 is at 7000 feet, 38 miles west of the Pentagon (*9/11 Commission Report*, p9).
- 9:32 — Bombs cited in Barbara Honegger's two-hour, under-oath, videotaped interview/testimony of key Pentagon eyewitness April Gallop.
- 9:xx — Captain Defina arrives at Pentagon "two to three minutes" after seeing a plume of smoke.
- 9:xx — Captain Defina's Engine 331 "knocked down the bulk of the fire in the first seven minutes after their arrival".
- 9:xx — Firefighter Alan Wallace hears "the Boeing 757's screaming engines" and yells "Runnnnn!" to "firefighter Mark Skipper."

- 9:37:46 — Flight 77 traveling at 530 mph hits the Pentagon (*9/11 Commission Report*, p10).
- 9:38 — FMFD Foam Unit 161 is on fire at the Pentagon (*Arlington County After-Action Report*, Annex pages A-4 and A-5).
- 9:40 — FAA grounds all flights at U.S. airports (FOX Facts, May 3, 2006).9:41 - ACFD fire Truck 105 arrives at the Pentagon (*Arlington County After-Action Report*, Appendix 1).
- 9:41 — ACFD Battalion Chief Cornwell arrives and assumes Incident Command (*Arlington County After-Action Report*, Appendix 1).
- 9:41 — Command established (*9/11 Commission Report*, p314).
- 9:48 — ACFD Assistant Chief Schwartz arrives and assumes Incident Command (*Arlington County After-Action Report*, Appendix 1).
- 9:55 — Incident commander orders evacuation of impacted areas (*9/11 Commission Report*, p315).
- 9:57 — A partial collapse occurs (*9/11 Commission Report*, p314).
- 10:15 — Incident commander orders full evacuation (*9/11 Commission Report*, p315).

Was the “plume of smoke” that Captain Defina saw from the crash of Flight 77, or from the bombs reported inside the Pentagon at 9:32?

The debris seen in the photo of Foam Unit 161 above, and the “slab deflected upward,” are consistent with an explosion inside the Pentagon.

At the Dept. of Defense News Briefing on September 12, 2001, when asked about the “small pieces of the plane virtually all over, out over the highway, tiny pieces”, Arlington County Fire Chief Ed Plaughter responded, “I’d rather not comment on that.” Neither Flight 77 nor Boeing 757 were mentioned during this news briefing.

Questions about what hit the Pentagon on September 11, continued to be raised at the Dept. of Defense News Briefing on September 15, 2001. Neither Flight 77 nor Boeing 757 were mentioned during this news briefing.

Arrival times for Foam Units 161 and 331 are not mentioned in the *9/11 Commission Report* or the *Arlington County After-Action Report*.

April 14, 2009

Those Somali Pirates and the Scramble for Africa

Those Somali pirates—trying to stop illegal dumping and trawling, the crisis in Darfur, the war crimes charges against Sudan’s president Omar al-Bashir, and the bases in Africa sought by AFRICOM are best understood in the context of the New Great Game—the scramble for Africa’s resources.

In January 1991, Somalia’s president Mohammed Siad Barre was overthrown by a coalition calling itself the United Somali Congress which then divided into two groups—one led by Ali Mahdi Muhammad, who became president, and the other led by Mohammed Farah Aidid.

Fighting broke out among rival clans, and food shortages became widespread. Pictures of starving Somalis were repeatedly broadcast in the United States. In a bid to destroy the forces of Mohammed Farah Aidid, on December 12, 1992, the U.S., undercover of a “humanitarian mission” invaded Somalia.

In the following ten months, 10,000 Somalis died in battles with the U.S.

Colin Powell, at the time the chairman of the Pentagon’s Joint Chiefs of Staff, called the invasion a “paid political advertisement” for the Pentagon at a time (less than a year after the end of the so-called Cold War) when Congress was under growing pressure to cut the war budget.

The U.S. ultimately withdrew. The deciding battle for Mogadishu, the Somali capital, was captured in the film “Black Hawk Down.”

It was a humiliating defeat for the U.S., and Somalia descended into chaos. U.S. support for warlords fueled the turmoil. Peace was restored when the Islamic Courts Union came to power.

“Finally, after 16 years, the Somali people have decided to liberate themselves with the leadership of the Islamic court,” said Sheikh Sherif Sheikh Ahmed, Chairman, Islamic Courts Union.

“The Union of Islamic Courts does not want to impose a Taleban-style Islamic state in Somalia, says their leader.” (*BBC News*, June 6, 2006)

But the U.S. had its own plan. On December 24, 2006, Ethiopia, supported by the U.S., invaded Somalia.

The coordinated assault was the first open admission by Ethiopia's Christian-led government of its military operations inside Somalia, where—with tacit American support—it has been helping a weak interim government threatened by forces loyal to the Islamic clerics who control the longtime capital, Mogadishu, and much of the country. (*New York Times*, December 25, 2006)

“The real reason [for U.S. support of the invasion] is likely to be that the Ogaden region, which borders Somalia, sits on a not yet exploited gas field.” (Daniel Whitaker, *Observer*, November 12, 2006)

“The Somali government is busy crying ‘al-Qaida’ at every turn and offering lucrative deals to oil companies, in a bid to entice greater western support.” (Salim Lone, *Guardian*, April 28, 2007)

When the U.S. role was revealed, support for the Islamists increased, and Somalia faced a new humanitarian crisis.

A local human rights group put the death toll at 1,000 over just four days earlier this month, and more than 250 have been killed in the past six days.

“More than 320,000 of Mogadishu's 2 million residents have fled since heavy fighting started in February.” (Salad Duhul and Elizabeth A. Kennedy, *Independent*, April 24, 2007)

The United Nations labeled it the “worst refugee crisis.”

Winterpatriot.blogspot.com reported that

the United States has intervened directly into the conflict, carrying out bombing raids on fleeing refugees and nomads, firing missiles into villages, sending in death squads to clean up after covert operations, and . . . assisting in the “rendition” of refugees, including American citizens, into the hands of Ethiopia's notorious torturers.

“Amnesty International has called for the role of the United States in Somalia to be investigated, following publication of a report accusing its allies of committing war crimes.” (Steve Bloomfield, *Guardian*, May 7, 2008)

16,000 civilians died in this new conflict, and despite U.S. support, the Ethiopian troops were forced to withdraw in January 2009.

Analysts had feared the withdrawal of the Ethiopians would lead to a power vacuum and fighting between rival Islamist factions.

“But at the moment all factions—whether they back the peace process with the government or not—seem to be working together.” (*BBC News*, January 15, 2009)

Now, the new “Great Game of Hunting Somali Pirates,” may be a precursor to reestablishing U.S. control in the region—i.e. bases for AFRICOM.

The “piracy in Somalia has its origin among disgruntled fishermen who had to compete with illegal poaching by foreign commercial vessels in its tuna-rich coastal waters”, writes former Indian ambassador M. K. Bhadrakumar.”

At some 3,300 kilometres, Somalia has the longest coastline in Africa. With a fertile upswelling where the ocean reaches Africa’s Horn, the seas are rich in tuna, swordfish and shark, as well as coastal beds of lobster and valuable shrimp. (Daniel Howden and Abdinahir Mohamed Guled, *Independent*, November 14, 2008)

The pirates are actually a blessing in disguise. They provide an excuse for the administration to beef up its military presence and put down roots. . . .

When the Asian tsunami of Christmas 2005 washed ashore on the east coast of Africa, it uncovered a great scandal. Tons of radioactive waste and toxic chemicals drifted onto the beaches after the giant wave dislodged them from the sea bed off Somalia. Tens of thousands of Somalis fell ill after coming into contact with this cocktail. They complained to the United Nations (UN), which began an investigation. . . .

In 2006 Somali fishermen complained to the UN that foreign fishing fleets were using the breakdown of the state to plunder their fish stocks. These foreign fleets often recruited Somali militias to intimidate local fishermen. Despite repeated requests, the UN refused to act.” (Mike Whitney, Global Research, December 2, 2008)

The scramble for Africa’s resources is accelerating.

A US businessman backed by former CIA and state department officials says he has secured a vast tract of fertile land in south Sudan from the family of a notorious warlord, in post-colonial Africa’s biggest private land deal. . . .

He believes that several African states, Sudan included, but possibly also Nigeria, Ethiopia and Somalia, are likely to break apart in the next few years. (Javier Blas and William Wallis, *Financial Times*, January 9, 2009)

With the US-backed Ethiopian forces ousted, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, whose Islamic courts movement ruled Mogadishu and most of southern Somalia for six months before being ousted by the Ethiopian military at the end of 2006, was elected as Somalia’s new President on January 31, 2009.

Despite resistance from virtually every nation in Africa, the U.S. continues to seek a home for its Africa Command, AFRICOM. The lure of African oil and other resources causes Washington to devise various schemes to dominate the continent . . . a central Washington political thrust in Africa revolves around the Darfur region of Sudan [where Israel is collaborating with rebel forces]. What the U.S. really wants is regime change in Sudan, and control of its oil resources. (Mark P. Fancher, opednews.com, February 18, 2009)

“Barely a day after the daring rescue of an American sea captain, cable TV’s Spike announced a deal Monday to produce a show about U.S. Navy pirate hunters” perhaps to prepare Americans for the overthrow of Somalia’s new president, and an AFRICOM base forced upon Somalia.

Like millions of innocent civilians in Somalia and Sudan, the captain of the Maersk Alabama was caught up in this deadly game.

[Just between you and me, shouldn’t the World Bank be encouraging MORE migration of the dirty industries to the LDCs? I can think of three reasons:

(1) The measurement of the costs of health-impairing pollution depends on the forgone earnings from increased morbidity and mortality. . . .

2) The costs of pollution are likely to be non-linear as the initial increments of pollution probably have very low cost. . . .

3) The demand for a clean environment for aesthetic and health reasons is likely to have very high income elasticity.—Lawrence Summers, “Dirty’ Industries,” World Bank, December 12, 1991]

[The IUUs (Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported), which are estimated take out more than \$450 million in fish value out of Somalia annually, neither compensate the local fishermen, pay tax, royalties nor do they respect any conservation and environmental regulations - norms associated with regulated fishing. It is believed that IUUs from the EU alone take out of the country more than five times the value of its aid to Somalia every year.

. . . it cost European companies \$2.50 per ton to dump the wastes on Somalia’s beaches rather than \$250 a ton to dispose of the wastes in Europe.

. . . There are seven pirate clans in Somalia, . . . They do not use the word “ransom.” They call what they collect a “fine” for illegal acts.—Mohamed Abshir Waldo, “There Are Two Piracies In Somalia,” AfricanLoft, February 11, 2009]

[The Somali pirates who took control of the 17,000-ton “Maersk Alabama” cargo-ship . . . probably were unaware that the ship they were boarding belonged to a U.S. Department of Defense contractor with “top security clearance,”—Jeremy Scahill, “Pirates’ Strike a U.S. Ship Owned by a Pentagon Contractor, But Is the Media Telling the Whole Story?,” altnet.org, April 8, 2009]

May 25, 2009

The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power

Ivanwald, situated in a cul-de-sac at the end of 24th Street North in Arlington, Virginia, is the stronghold of a widespread “invisible” and powerful organization, working for “democracy” and “free markets,” but in reality extending the American empire.

Founded by a Norwegian immigrant Abraham Vereide (known as Abram)—now led by Doug Coe, the network - organized much like Ivanwald into cells of five, and “populated by elite, politically ambitious fundamentalists,” is the subject of Jeff Sharlett’s book: *The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power*.

The organization has operated under many guises, some active, some defunct: National Committee for Christian Leadership, International Christian Leadership, the National Leadership Council, Fellowship House, the Fellowship Foundation, the National Fellowship Council, the International Foundation. These groups are intended to draw attention away from the Family, and to prevent it from becoming, in the words of one of the Family’s leaders, “a target for misunderstanding.”

Established in 1935 to oppose FDR’s New Deal and the spread of trade unions, the Family’s network spans the world organizing weekly prayer meetings at which the rich and powerful meet to advance their agenda.

The Family’s only publicized gathering is the National Prayer Breakfast—“attended by Pakistan’s famously corrupt Benazir Bhutto.” Its keynote is often delivered by an outsider. One such address was delivered by Saudi Arabia’s Prince Bandar.

Every president since Eisenhower has attended the National Prayer Breakfast Abram founded in 1953.

The Family, writes Sharlett, that hosts Prayer Breakfasts in public, in private preaches a gospel of “biblical capitalism,” military might, and American empire.

Some examples of the Family’s activities according to Sharlett:

Marshall Green, American ambassador in Indonesia compiled for Indonesia’s president Suharto a “shooting list”: “the names of thousands of leftist political opponents, from leaders identified by the

CIA to village-level activists, the kind of data only local observers—conservative missionaries, classically—could provide.” . . . Green and his men followed the results of their gift closely, checking off names as Suharto’s men killed or imprisoned them.

A document in the Family’s archives titled “Important Dates in Indonesian History” notes that in March 1966, the Communist Party was banned and Campus Crusade arrived in April. Suharto wasn’t a Christian, but he knew that where missionaries go, investors follow. He also wanted to use God—any God—to pacify the population. In 1967, Congressman Ben Reifel sent a memo to other Fellowship members in Congress noting that a special message from Suharto calling on Indonesians to “seek God, discover His laws, and obey them” was broadcast at the same time as a Fellowship prayer session in the Indonesian parliament for non-Christian politicians.

By 1969, the Fellowship claimed as its man in Jakarta Suharto’s minister of social affairs, who presided over a group of more than fifty Muslims and Christians in parliament. Another Fellowship associate, Darius Marpaung—he’d later claim that God spoke through him when he told a massive rally that the time had come to “purge the communists,” an event that helped spark the massacre—led a similar group in Indonesia’s Christian community.

. . . in December 1975, when Portugal relinquished its claims to the tiny island nation of East Timor. It declared independence; nine days later Suharto’s army invaded, on the pretext that its neighbor was communist. Two hundred thousand people—nearly a third of the island’s population—were killed during the long occupation, to which the United States gave its blessing.

[Senator] Brownback said he’d met with King Abdullah about starting a fellowship group around the person of Jesus. . . . Abdullah let him know he’d made contact with the senator’s man and agreed to “fellowship” with him on a regular basis.

The Iraqis come up often, particularly with regard to their conversion . . . 900,000 bibles in the Arabic language [were] distributed by Christians in Iraq.

David Kuo . . . and a few others transformed the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives into the very Republican vote-getting machine its critics had accused it of being from the start.

In 2002, “roundtable” events with faith and community leaders, organized by the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives, “contributed to nineteen out of twenty victories in targeted races.”

The Family’s members include Secretary of State Hillary Clinton,

and former U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft, a leader in the Family, who maintained his prayer cell while presiding over the Department of Justice.

Senators Don Nickles (R., Okla.), Charles Grassley (R., Iowa), Pete Domenici (R., N.Mex.), John Ensign (R., Nev.), James Inhofe (R., Okla.), Bill Nelson (D., Fla.), and Conrad Burns (R., Mont.) are referred to as “members,” as are Representatives Jim DeMint (R., S.C.), Frank Wolf (R., Va.), Joseph Pitts (R., Pa.), Zach Wamp (R., Tenn.), and Bart Stupak (D., Mich.).

The Family operates through dozens of affiliates. One such affiliate has a townhouse next door to the Capitol—the C Street Foundation at 133 C Street SE in Washington, DC. Numerous affiliates are headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Organizations led by evangelists Billy Graham, Ted Haggard, Jerry Falwell, and others are affiliated with the Family.

It is estimated that 10 percent of the nation’s children are educated at home and in fundamentalist academies via curricula and books prepared by the Family and its affiliates.

At the National Prayer Breakfast on February 5, 2009, President Obama took the opportunity to announce the creation of the White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Representatives from some 120 countries were invited for the occasion.

[To this aggressive extension of American power in the world, President George W. Bush adds God—and that changes the picture dramatically. It’s one thing for a nation to assert its raw dominance in the world; it’s quite another to suggest, as this president does, that the success of American military and foreign policy is connected to a religiously inspired “mission,” and even that his presidency may be a divine appointment for a time such as this.—Jim Wallis, “Dangerous Religion: George W. Bush’s theology of empire,” *Sojourners Magazine*, September-October 2003]

[U.S. Soldiers have been encouraged to spread the message of their Christian faith among Afghanistan’s predominantly Muslim population—“GIs Told to Bring Afghans to Jesus,” *military.com*, May 4, 2009]

[. . . a cadre of 40 U.S. chaplains took part in a 2003 project to distribute 2.4 million Arabic-language Bibles in Iraq.—Kathryn Joyce, “Christian Soldiers: The growing controversy over military chaplains using the armed forces to spread the Word,” *Newsweek*, June 19, 2009]

[The former employee also alleges that Prince “views himself as a Christian crusader tasked with eliminating Muslims and the Islamic faith from the globe,”—Jeremy Scahill, “Explosive Allegations: Blackwater Founder Implicated in Murder,” *AlterNet*, August 5, 2009]

July 2, 2009

Scientific Evidence Official Account of Flight 77 Is False

Given the topography, the force generated by the transition of ‘Flight 77’ from its downward path to level flight would cause the aircraft to crash before striking the Pentagon

A simple formula, familiar to high school students, can be used to refute the official account of American Airlines Flight 77—alleged to have struck the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

$$\text{Force} = \text{Mass} \times \text{Velocity Squared} / \text{Radius}$$

This formula approximates the force that would be exerted on an aircraft when it transitions from its downward path to level flight.

First we determine the mass of the aircraft.

Flight 77, a Boeing 757, had taken off from Washington Dulles International airport, and was bound for Los Angeles. Assuming its fuel tanks were full, and ignoring the weight of the 64 passengers, and cargo (which should be available if one wants to include them), the weight of the plane would be about 255,000 pounds (Boeing Technical Specifications).

For our calculation we’ll assume that weight and mass are equal, i.e. 255,000 pounds.

For velocity we turn to the official account that Flight 77 struck the Pentagon at “530 miles per hour” (The 9/11 Commission Report, p10).

For our calculation we’ll assume that speed and velocity are equal, i.e. 530 mph.

To calculate the radius, we could begin with a statement in *The 9/11 Commission Report* (p9): Flight 77 was “5 miles west-southwest of the Pentagon” when it “began a 330-degree turn. At the end of turn, it was descending through 2,200 feet”.

Next we need to calculate the maximum radius (the most conservative case) of the arc that would allow the aircraft to transition from its downward path to level flight (while clearing obstacles in its path), and strike the Pentagon at the point described in official reports.

We chose instead to use the radius calculated by Pilots for 9/11 Truth.

Pilots for 9/11 Truth base their calculation on the Flight Data Re-

corder (FDR) data obtained pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the National Transportation Safety Board, and carefully constructed topography of the area below the flight path.

Leaving aside the discrepancies between the official account of Flight 77, and the Flight Data Recorder (which NTSB refuses to answer), Pilots for 9/11 Truth calculated a radius equal to about 579 feet.

From this they calculated the force on the Boeing 757 at 34 Gs, i.e. 34 times the force due to gravity.

There has been some criticism of the calculations performed by Pilots for 9/11 Truth, and they have answered their critics.

With mass, velocity, and radius equal to 255,000 lbs, 530 mph, and 579 feet respectively, the preceding formula yields force equal to 8,276,850 lbs, i.e. the Boeing 757 would act as if it had increased its weight by 8,276,850 lbs, or more than 32 times its normal weight.

With a virtual weight of about 8.5 million pounds, Flight 77 could not have levelled off before striking the Pentagon. It would have crashed before it reached the Pentagon.

This single fact is sufficient to refute the official account of Flight 77.

Neither Hani Hanjour—the alleged pilot trainee “noted for incompetence”, nor the Boeing 757, would have been in any condition to fly with “the top of the fuselage of the aircraft no more than 20 ft above the ground” (*Pentagon Building Performance* Report, p14).

Pilots for 9/11 Truth did another calculation by lowering the height of “Flight 77” below that shown by the FDR. They lowered it to the top of the Virginia Department of Transportation communications antenna that sits below the alleged flight path.

With this very conservative case, they calculated the force on the Boeing 757 at 11.2 Gs. “11.2 Gs was never recorded in the FDR. 11.2 Gs would rip the aircraft apart” they state.

If you disagree, figure out the mass, velocity, and radius, and plug them into the formula to calculate the force. If you have a better formula, use it. Could a Boeing 757 survive the calculated force?

What hard evidence has the government released to support its position that Flight 77 struck the Pentagon? We haven’t seen any.

July 4, 2009

A Message For American Muslim ‘Leaders’

The Quran repeatedly calls on believers to seek knowledge. It uses words such as, “Why do they not ponder?” “Why do they not reflect?”

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) reminded his followers, “The first thing created by God was the intellect.” They were enjoined to, “Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave.”

Muslims went seeking knowledge “even unto China.”

They resolved the conflict between reason and revelation in the ninth century—long before it was resolved in the West.

But despite the Quran’s warning, and the Sayings of the Prophet, when it comes to *The 9/11 Commission Report*, American Muslim “leaders” seem to have accepted it as revelation.

Since 9/11, based on half-truths and little evidence, more than a million Muslims have been killed in unjust wars. Millions more have been maimed, wounded, displaced, imprisoned, tortured, and their cities destroyed.

Throughout it all, American Muslim “leaders” have maintained an unquestioning silence regarding the fatal flaws identified in *The 9/11 Commission Report* by thousands of concerned Americans.

Military, intelligence, and law enforcement personnel; architects and engineers; professors; pilots and aviation personnel; families of those affected by 9/11; and others have spoken out. They’re calling for a new investigation of 9/11.

In this movement for “9/11 Truth,” American Muslim “leaders,” with some exceptions, have been conspicuous by their absence.

The renowned poet-philosopher Allama Iqbal (1877-1938), in his famous *Shikwa & Jawab-i-Shikwa* (*Man’s Complaint and God’s Answer*), wrote (translated from Urdu by Khushwant Singh):

With reason as your shield and the sword of love in your hand,
Servant of God! the leadership of the world is at your command.

The 9/11 Commission Report is not revelation. It is time for American Muslim “leaders” to seek knowledge, use their intellect, and deal with the facts about 9/11.

September 11, 2009

9/11: Neither Before Nor Since . . .

On September 11, 2001, there occurred five events which, as far as we know, are unique in world history. According to official accounts:

At 9:59 A.M., 110-story Two World Trade Center (the South Tower), having been struck by United Airlines Flight 175 at 9:03 A.M., collapsed at near free fall speed.

At 10:28 A.M., 110-story One World Trade Center (the North Tower), having been struck by American Airlines Flight 11 at 8:47 A.M., collapsed at near free fall speed.

The 110-story North and South Towers remained standing after being struck by Boeing 767s. They collapsed, according to official accounts, due to fire. No steel frame tower has collapsed due to fire, neither before 9/11 nor since 9/11.

At 9:38 A.M., American Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757, struck the Pentagon at 530 mph, and unlike other aircraft disasters, disappeared leaving no identifiable fuselage, wings, or tail outside.

At 10:03 A.M., United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757, crashed in a field in Pennsylvania leaving a crater about the size of an automobile, debris scattered over a few miles, and unlike other aircraft disasters, only tiny pieces “no larger than a phonebook” at the site of the crash.

At 5:20 P.M., 47-story Seven World Trade Center collapsed at near free fall speed. The 9/11 Commission chose not to even mention its collapse in their final report.

Seven World Trade Center was not struck by a plane. It collapsed due to fire—we’re told. No steel frame tower has collapsed due to fire, neither before 9/11 nor since 9/11. On 9/11, three did.

Five events on 9/11—unheard of before 9/11, since 9/11. Is this just coincidence or a cover-up?

We don’t believe the official account, and neither do many American patriots—200 military, intelligence, government professionals; 700 architects and engineers; 200 pilots and aviation personnel; 400 professors; 230 survivors and family members; 200 artists and media professionals. December 1, 2009

December 1, 2009

9/11 ‘Mastermind’: Dim Prospect for a Fair Trial

The prospect of a fair trial for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (KSM) appears dim. President Obama pledged that the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks will receive a fair trial, but later he seemed to contradict himself.

A few days after that pledge, the Associated Press reported that in a series of TV interviews during his trip to Asia, [Obama] said those offended by the legal rights accorded Mohammed by virtue of his facing a civilian trial rather than a military tribunal won't find it “offensive at all when he's convicted and when the death penalty is applied to him.”

Cynthia Hujar Orr, president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said Obama only made it harder to find an impartial jury. “It's already very difficult to get a fair proceeding in any of these high-profile cases,” Orr said.

Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, was “confident that Mr. Mohammed would be convicted.”

Obama's and Holder's confidence in a guilty verdict for KSM is not without foundation.

New York based attorney, Scott Fenstermaker, who has represented Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali in various legal proceedings at Guantanamo Bay—in an interview published in the *Populist*—had this to say about the prospect for a fair trial for Guantanamo detainees:

The government wants to control who represents the detainees. The government not only wants to, but it is. The government does this by controlling the judges. The judges are doing exactly what the government wants them to do in these cases. The judges ask what the government wants them to do, and then they do it.

Fenstermaker ought to know. Referring to Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, “The government would not let me represent him . . . The government goes crazy every time the detainees want me to represent them,” he said.

In *United States v. Zacarias Moussaoui*, defence lawyers seemed to ignore a key prosecution exhibit that would have contradicted the government's account of Flight 77—alleged to have struck the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

According to a September 12, 2001 front page article in the Washington Post, by Marc Fisher and Don Phillips, Barbara K. Olson called her husband twice in the final minutes of Flight 77. Her last words to him were, “What do I tell the pilot to do?”

“She called from the plane while it was being hijacked,” said Theodore Olson—42nd Solicitor General of the United States. “I wish it wasn’t so, but it is.”

However, prosecution exhibit P200054 from the trial of Zacarias Moussaoui contradicts the Solicitor General’s account. It shows that Barbara Olson made only one phone call—it did not connect, and it lasted for 0 seconds.

Given Fenstermaker’s experience, and the defence lawyer’s failure to make use of evidence that contradicts the government in the Moussaoui trial, the prospect of a fair trial for KSM appears dim.

Don’t expect the trial judge to admit hard facts that cast “reasonable doubt” on the case against KSM.

[The only information the commission was permitted to have about what was learned from interrogations of alleged plot ringleaders, such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, came from “thirdhand” sources. The commission was not permitted to question the alleged plotters in custody or even to meet with those who interrogated the alleged plotters.—Paul Craig Roberts, “9/11: Why Were The Tapes Destroyed?,” The Wisdom Fund, February 2, 2008]

[The documents showed waterboarding was used 183 times on Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who admitted planning the 9/11 attacks, the New York Times reported today.—Matthew Weaver, “CIA waterboarded al-Qaida suspects 266 times,” *Guardian*, April 20, 2009]

[When you waterboard someone 183 times, I can guarantee you he’s brain dead—Robert Baer, “Hardball with Chris Matthews,” MSNBC, April 22, 2009]

[The government has released new versions of transcripts of hearings held at the Guantanamo Bay detention center, which show Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other accused high-ranking terror detainees saying harsh interrogation methods led them to offer false stories.—“US reveals new pieces of Gitmo hearings,” Associated Press, June 15, 2009]

[At each stage . . . a higher court will countenance the cowardly decisions made by the trial judge, ennobling them with the unfortunate force of precedent. . . . the twisted logic required to disentangle KSM’s initial torture from his subsequent “clean team” statements will provide a blueprint for the government, giving them the prize they’ve been after all this time—a legal way both to torture and to prosecute.—David Feige, “The Real Price of Trying KSM,” *Nation*, November 19, 2009]

January 6, 2010

The Prosecution of Muslims in Post-9/11 America

On September 5, 2009, Carol J. Williams of the *Los Angeles Times* reported:

Then-Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft violated the rights of U.S. citizens in the fevered wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks by ordering arrests on material witness warrants when the government lacked probable cause, a federal appeals court said in a scathing opinion Friday.

In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, 5000 Muslim men were ordered into "preventative detention", 19,000 were subjected to "voluntary interviews", and over the next year "more than 170,000 men from 24 predominantly Muslim countries and North Korea were fingerprinted and interviewed in a programme of "special registration" according to Gary Younge of the *Guardian* (January 3, 2010).

The following is a sampling of the treatment of Muslims and their organizations by the U.S. government:

The Holy Land Foundation Trial: Justice Denied

Five founders of the Holy Land Foundation, once the nation's largest Muslim charity, have received prison terms of up to sixty-five years on charges of supporting the Palestinian group Hamas. The five were never accused of supporting violence and were convicted for funding charities that aided needy Palestinians. The government's case relied on Israeli intelligence as well as disputed documents and electronic surveillance gathered by the FBI over a span of fifteen years. . . . the United States government, through USAID, continued to give money to the same charities for years after Holy Land was closed. —DemocracyNow! May 29, 2009

Is Justice Finally in Sight for Sami Al-Arian?

Arrested in 2003, Al-Arian went on trial in late 2005 on charges that he used an Islamic think tank and a Muslim school and charity as a cover for raising funds to finance "terrorism." In 2006, after a six-month trial costing taxpayers a reported \$50 million, a Florida jury refused to find Al-Arian guilty on a single one of the 17 counts he was charged with. The jury acquitted Al-Arian of eight charges, including

the most serious, and deadlocked on nine others; 10 of 12 jurors reportedly favored acquittal on all counts. . . .

But the nightmare was only beginning. Against even government prosecutors' recommendations, Judge James Moody sentenced Al-Arian to the maximum allowable sentence.—Nicole Colson, *CounterPunch*, March 24, 2009

Guantanamo at Home

The Justice Department claims that the "centerpiece" of its case against Hashmi is the testimony of Junaid Babar. According to the government, in the beginning of 2004, Babar, also a United States citizen, stayed with Hashmi at his London apartment for two weeks. In his luggage, the government alleges, Babar had raincoats, ponchos and waterproof socks, which Babar later delivered to the third-ranking member of Al Qaeda in South Waziristan, Pakistan. It was alleged that Hashmi allowed Babar to call other conspirators in terror plots, using his cellphone. Babar, who was arrested in 2004 and has pleaded guilty to five counts of material support for Al Qaeda, faces up to seventy years in prison.—Jeanne Theoharis, *Nation*, April 20, 2009

Court Decision Strips Foreigners' Rights

Dismissing a case challenging the detention of Arab and Muslim foreign nationals in the weeks after Sept. 11, U.S. District Judge John Gleeson ruled that it is constitutionally permissible to round up foreign nationals on immigration charges based solely on their race, religion or country of origin. What's more, he said they can be detained indefinitely, even after they have agreed to be removed to their home countries. In essence, he authorized a repeat of the Japanese internment—as long as the internment is limited to foreign nationals charged with visa violations (a group that at last count numbered about 11 million people).—David Cole, *Mercury News*, June 19, 2006

Government by Star Chamber

The Orwellian named Patriot Act has destroyed habeas corpus. The executive branch has gained the unaccountable power to detain American citizens on mere suspicion or accusation, without evidence, and to hold Americans indefinitely without a trial.—Paul Craig Roberts, *CounterPunch*, September 16, 2005

March 3, 2010

How Does the Anti-Terror Fatwa Define Terrorism?

It doesn't, and there's no universally accepted definition—that's the problem

Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri, founder of “Minhaj-ul-Quran International, has issued a 600-page fatwa that bans suicide bombing “without any excuses, any pretexts, or exceptions.”

The first question any fatwa on terrorism must address is how does one define terrorism?

In 2005, then UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, recognized this need, and called for a

universally accepted definition of terrorism, he endorsed the wording contained in the recent report from the UN High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, . . . The panel defined terrorism as any action intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organisation to do, or abstain from, any act.

Five years later, there's still no generally accepted definition of terrorism—presumably because it would include acts that major powers now commit with impunity.

We're satisfied with the simple definition in *Webster's New World Dictionary of The American Language*, Second College Edition, which defines terrorism as the “use of force or threats to demoralize, intimidate, and subjugate, esp. such use as a political weapon or policy”.

Given this definition of terrorism, together with the definition of “power politics” and “realpolitik”—see Appendix: Realpolitik and Terrorism, leads to the conclusion that frequently realpolitik equals, power politics, equals terrorism.

We did not find a definition in Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri's English language summary.

Neither “suicide” nor “terrorism” are mentioned in highly regarded, English language translations of the Quran by Abdullah Yusuf Ali (an Indian Muslim), Muhammad Asad (born Leopold Weiss, a Jew, in what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire), and Marmaduke Pickthall (a British Christian who converted—Muslims say reverted—to Islam).

To paraphrase Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri—“without any excuses, any pretexts, or exceptions”—killing civilians is wrong.

However, like previous fatwas, this new “fatwa against terrorism” leaves the most important question—what is the definition of terrorism?—unanswered.

Until there’s a “universally accepted definition of terrorism”, fatwas by Muslim leaders will, at best, have limited impact.

[Terrorism is the war of the poor, and War is the terrorism of the rich.—Sir Peter Ustinov]

[In 1853 the relative peace and stability of the Tokgawa era was rudely interrupted by the appearance in Tokyo Bay of Commodore Perry, an American naval officer, at the head of a fleet of black ships, demanding on behalf of the United States—along with various European powers, notably Britain—that Japan should open itself to trade. Japan’s long period of isolation could no longer be sustained: like so much of the rest of the world in the nineteenth century, Japan could not ignore the West and its metamorphosis into such an expansive and predatory players. In 1858, faced with the continuing threat of invasion, Japan signed the unequal treaties which opened up the country to trade on extremely unfavourable terms, including the imposition of extra-territoriality on its main ports, which excluded Western nationals from the requirements of Japanese law. The unequal treaties represented a major restriction of Japan’s sovereignty. In 1859 Japan was obliged to lift the ban on Christianity imposed over 300 years earlier. (p51-52)

. . . The First Opium War, in which the Qing unsuccessfully sought to resist British demands to allow the import of Indian-grown opium, led to the treaty of Nanjing. This was the first of the so-called unequal treaties and resulted in the imposition of reparations, the loss of Hong Kong, and the creation of four treaty ports in which the British enjoyed special concessions. . . the Second Opium War (1857–60), which culminated in the ransacking of the Summer Palace in Beijing by British and French troops and the resulting Treaty of Tianjin and the Beijing Conventions. These established a whole string of new treaty ports in which Western citizens were granted extra-territoriality, the right to foreign military bases was conceded; missionaries were given freedom to travel in the interior; and further reparations were imposed. (p86-88)—Martin Jacques, “*When China Rules the World: The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order*,” Penguin Press HC, November 12, 2009]

[It is the all-justifying term for anything the U.S. Government does. Invasions, torture, due-process-free detentions, military commissions, drone attacks, warrantless surveillance, obsessive secrecy, and even assassinations of American citizens are all justified by the claim that it’s only being done to “Terrorists,” who, by definition, have no rights. Even worse, one becomes a “Terrorist” not through any judicial adjudication or other formal process, but solely by virtue of the untested, unchecked say-so of the Executive Branch.—Glenn Greenwald, “Terrorism: the most meaningless and manipulated word,” salon.com, February 19, 2010]

March 10, 2010

The War on Islam Hits Home

The lies of the Bush administration have been exposed, the U.S. economy is in deep, and most likely, long-lasting recession, its reputation abroad has been shattered. The war on Islam has hit home.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, and Harvard economist Linda Bilmes, estimate the cost of the Iraq war at \$3 to \$5 trillion, or \$10,000 to \$16,666 for every American.

This is in addition to the \$623 billion budgeted for defense. Compare this to \$500 billion budgeted by the rest of the world combined!

In Iraq, 1.2 million people have been killed during the U.S. invasion. 500,000 children and old people were killed during the 10 previous years by the U.S.-UN sanctions.

More than 4000 American soldiers have died, 320,000 had brain injuries, and 300,000 U.S. veterans have mental problem.

In the US,

North Korea and Iran are seen as the biggest risks. However, the youngest U.S. respondents share the Europeans' view that theirs is the biggest threat, with 35 per cent of American 16- to 24-year-olds identifying it [U.S.] as the chief danger to stability

according to a survey by Harris Research for the Financial Times.

The American Human Development Report, funded by Oxfam America, the Conrad Hilton Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, finds the U.S. has slumped from 2nd place in 1990 to 12th place as measured by the "human index".

The U.S has squandered the "peace dividend."

Following this collapse of the Soviet Union, a search for new "enemies" led to the creation of the "Islamic fundamentalist" threat, which evolved and became the "rogue states," followed by the "axis of evil," and after 9-11, the "war on terror," and "Islamofascism."

Veteran journalist Bill Moyers writes:

Oh, no, they told us, Iraq isn't a war about oil. That's cynical and simplistic, they said. It's about terror and al-Qaeda and toppling a dictator and spreading democracy and protecting ourselves from weapons of mass destruction. But one by one, these concocted rationales went up in smoke, fire and ashes. And now the bottom line turns out to be . . . It is about oil.

While most Americans seek an end to the Iraq war, “Israel and its Fifth Column in this city seek to stampede us into war with Iran” writes Patrick J. Buchanan.

Muslims continue to die in wars promoted by the military, industrial, congressional complex, global corporations, Israel, and Christian Zionists. And despite what they tell us, Afghanistan is not the “good war.”

For the U.S. these wars are largely for control of resources and markets—particularly the energy resources of the Middle East and Central Asia. For the military-industrial complex and global corporations the wars are for profit. For Christian Zionists the target is Islam. Often these wars are supported by a few Muslim “leaders” for personal benefit.

According to historian R. T. Naylor, as reported by Standard Schaeffer,

Al-Qaeda itself does not exist, except in the fevered imaginations of neo-cons and Likudniks . . . who find it extremely useful as a bogeyman to spook the public and the politicians to acquiesce in otherwise unacceptable policy initiatives at home and abroad. Very simply, what you have are loose networks of likeminded individuals—sometimes they pay homage to some patron figure who they may never have met and with whom they have no concrete relationship. They conduct their operations strictly by themselves, even if they may from time to time seek advice.

In *Who Speaks for Islam?*, a product of the Gallup World Poll’s massive research, authors John L. Esposito and Dalia Mogahed find that Muslims around the world want basically what Americans want. They reject terrorism, they admire the West for its technology and democracy. What they least admire about the West is its perceived moral decay and breakdown of traditional values. They criticize or celebrate countries based on their politics, not based on their culture or religion.

There are clashes between states and within states, but in war no one “wins,” hundreds of thousands of humans die, most of them civilians, many of them children, says renowned historian Howard Zinn.

A “clash of civilizations” exists only in the imaginations of those who lead us to war for money or power. Ultimately, most wars are a clash of values—greed versus justice.



“He has plundered our seas,
ravaged our Coasts,
burnt our Towns,
and destroyed the Lives of our People.
He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies
of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the
Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny,
already begun with circumstances of
Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the
most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the
Head of a civilized Nation.”

—*U.S. Declaration of Independence*

July 4, 1776

We hold these truths to be self-evident,
that all men are created equal,
that they are endowed by their Creator
with certain unalienable Rights,
that among these are Life,
Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
—*U.S. Declaration of Independence*
July 4, 1776

Appendix

Selected Bibliography

Introduction to Islam

Sir Abdullah Suhrawardy, *The Sayings of Muhammad*—Gandhi referred to these sayings as “the treasures of mankind.” This introduction to Islamic values was found in the overcoat pocket of Leo Tolstoy when he took his last walk in the fields he used to till.

Seyyed Hossein Nasr, *The Heart of Islam*—renowned Muslim scholar offers to people “interested in authentic Islam and its relation to the West” an introduction into the inner dimension of Islamic teachings, as well as its external expressions in law, history, art, and community.

Reza Aslan, *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*—Charts the growth of Islam from the Prophet’s model community in Madinah to its challenges in the contemporary world.

Feisal Abdul Rauf, *Islam: A Sacred Law*—With intellect, common sense, and wit, Imam Feisal applies traditional law to contemporary issues and moral dilemmas.

Karen Armstrong, *A History of God: The 4000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*—Former Catholic nun traces the evolution of the concept of God in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Karen Armstrong, *Muhammad: A Biography of The Prophet*—“Muhammad . . . had undertaken the task of redeeming human history and creating a just society which would enable men and women to fulfil their true potential.”

Khaled M. Abou El Fadl, *The Great Theft: Wrestling Islam from the Extremists*—Professor of Islamic Law at UCLA may be considered “the academic voice of world’s majority-moderate Muslims.”

Jerald F. Dirks, *The Cross & The Crescent*—A former ordained minister in the United Methodist Church draws parallels between Christianity and Islam which, often known by clergy and church leaders, seldom find their way to the laity.

Michael H. Morgan, *Lost History: The Enduring Legacy of Muslim Scientists, Thinkers, and Artists*—Reveals how early Muslim advancements in science and culture lay the cornerstones of the European Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and modern Western society.

Akbar S. Ahmed, *Living Islam*—Basis for a BBC television series; good overview of Islam’s past and present; nicely illustrated.

John L. Esposito and Dalia Mogahed, *Who Speaks For Islam?: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*—Presents the findings of six years of research and more than 50,000 interviews representing 1.3 billion Muslims in more than 35 nations.

Muhammad Asad, *The Road to Mecca*—A deeply moving autobiography of Leopold Weiss of Poland, adventurer, correspondent for the *Frankfurter Zeitung* at age 22, Pakistan’s representative to the UN, and interpreter of the Quran.

Introduction to U.S. History and Politics

Howard Zinn, *Declarations of Independence: Cross-Examining American Ideology*—Professor of history and political science, former air force bombardier in Europe, presents conclusions which challenge establishment myths.

William Blum, *Killing Hope: US Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II*—Is the United States a force for democracy? From China in the 1940s to Guatemala to the Gulf War, former U.S. Dept. of State official provides a comprehensive study of the ongoing American holocaust.

Gabriel Kolko, *A Century of War?*—“The foremost modern historian of war” says that the roots of terrorism lie in America’s cynical policies in the Middle East and Afghanistan, and a half-century of crusades for oil and against communism.

John Pilger, *Hidden Agendas*—Journalist, twice winner of Britain’s Journalist of the Year award, gives the unfiltered truth about worldwide struggles for justice and the veiled role of the U.S. and Britain.

Chalmers A. Johnson, *Blowback: The Costs & Consequences of American Empire*—If the 20th century was the American century, the 21st century may be a time of reckoning for the United States.

James Carroll, *Crusade: Chronicles of an Unjust War*—Dissects the President’s exploitation of the nation’s fears, invocations of a Christian mission, and efforts to overturn America’s traditional relations-with other nations and its own citizens.

Kevin Phillips, *American Theocracy: The Peril and Politics of Radical Religion, Oil, and Borrowed Money in the 21st Century*—Argues that a “reckless dependency on shrinking oil supplies, a milieu of radicalized (and much too influential) religion, and a reliance on borrowed money . . . now constitute the three major perils to the U.S.

Chris Hedges, *American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War On America*—Former Presbyterian seminarian turned journalist, warns that the radical Christian Rights Dominionism movement meets the classic definition of fascism and is a growing threat to justice and freedom in the United States.

Jeremy Scahill, *Blackwater: The Rise of the World’s Most Powerful Mercenary Army*—Self-regulated profiteering armies, bankrolled by right-wing millionaire Eric Prince, are being entrusted with U.S. foreign policy and U.S. lives.

David Ray Griffin, *Christian Faith and the Truth Behind 9/11: A Call to Reflection and Action*—If you are open to the grace of honest inquiry and the risk of following the historical Jesus in confronting the evils of empire, this rigorously argued book is a must read.

David Ray Griffin, *Debunking 9/11 Debunking: An Answer to Popular Mechanics and Other Defenders of the Official Conspiracy Theory*—An emeritus professor of theology with no previous interest in conspiracy theories, Griffin exposes the falsity of the official theory about 9/11.

Paul Findley, *Deliberate Deceptions*—U.S. Representative from Illinois speaks out on the facts behind the U.S.-Israeli relationship, and they’re not what establishment media generally report.

Norman G. Finkelstein, *The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering*—Following the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, leaders of American Jewish

organizations have exploited the Nazi Final Solution, and used it to extort billions from American taxpayers.

Deirdre Griswold, *Indonesia: The 2nd Greatest Crime of the Century*—Describes 350 years of colonialism, the blood bath supported by the U.S., the role of the CIA, and of the U.S. corporations who arrived for the feast.

Michael Klare, *Rogue States and Nuclear Outlaws*—Pentagon manufactured threat of rogue states and nuclear outlaws to protect cold war levels of defense spending which former Defense Secretary McNamara says could safely be cut in half.

Michael A. Sells, *The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia*—For NATO powers to acknowledge genocide in Bosnia would mean acknowledging that they broke the Genocide Convention of 1948 by refusing to prevent and punish it.

Ramsey Clark, *The Fire This Time: U.S. Crimes in the Gulf*—Former U.S. Attorney General says that the U.S. government bears prime responsibility for the Gulf War which was planned in Washington long before the first Iraqi soldier entered Kuwait.

Alan Geyer and Barbara G. Green, *Lines in the Sand: Justice and the Gulf War*—Based on the debates of bishops, church councils, and scholars, this book focuses on the moral issues of the Gulf War.

Larry J. Sabato and Glenn R. Simpson, *Dirty Little Secrets : The Persistence of Corruption in American Politics*—Four out of five Americans don't trust their government. Authors describe the corruption in American politics, and what Americans should know if they are to reform the system.

Greg Palast, *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*—Award-winning, investigative reporter exposes the truth about globalization, corporate cons, and high finance fraudsters. He was the first to reveal how thousands of Democrat voters were removed from voter rolls to before the presidential election of 2000.

Charles Derber, *The Wilding of America*—Capitalism and individualism run amok are destroying America, and creating a world in which multinationals control national governments.

Noam Chomsky, *Deterring Democracy*—Reveals a world in which the U.S. ruthlessly exploits its financial and military might to control markets and resources—from Nicaragua to the Philippines, Panama to the Middle East.

Noam Chomsky, *The Culture of Terrorism*—"U.S. international and security policy . . . has as its primary goal . . . the freedom to rob, to exploit and dominate, and to undertake any course of action to ensure that existing privilege is protected and enhanced.

John Tirman, *The Spoils of War: Human Cost of America's Arms Trade*—Executive Director of the Winston Foundation, writes that the Middle East conflict is the direct result of U.S. arms sales to the region, and such sales undermine the very security that the weapons were meant to protect.

Naomi Klein, *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*—Privatization, free trade, slashed social spending have resulted in depressions, mass poverty, private corporations looting public wealth.

Ralph Nader, *Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us!*

David C. Korten, *When Corporations Rule the World*—Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu says: “This is a ‘must read’ book—a searing indictment of an unjust international economic order, . . . by a sober scion of the establishment with impeccable credentials.”

Graham Hancock, *Lords of Poverty: The Power, Prestige, and Corruption of the International Aid Business*—A comprehensive study of the 60 billion dollar a year world foreign aid business; earned the 1990 H. L. Mencken Award for an outstanding book of journalism.

Amy Chua, *World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability*—Yale law professor says globalization aggravates ethnic tensions by creating a small but abundantly wealthy new class and it’s stimulating a new wave of anti-Americanism.

Antonia Juhasz, *The Bush Agenda: Invading the World, One Economy at a Time*—Documents the relationships between the war and energy corporations and the Bush dynasty as they pursue a particularly militaristic Pax Americana form of corporate globalization.

John Perkins, *The Secret History of the American Empire: Economic Hit Men, Jackals, and the Truth about Global Corruption*—An expose of the corrupt business and economic policies of the U.S., World Bank, International Monetary Fund.

Alternatives to Economic Globalization—The culmination of a three-year project by the International Forum on Globalization, whose members include Ralph Nader, David Korten, John Cavanagh, Lori Wallach, and Jerry Mander, it presents both a sober critique of globalization as well as practical, thoughtful alternatives.

Robert Tillman, Kitty Calavita, Henry N. Pontell, *Big Money Crime: Fraud and Politics in the Savings and Loan Crisis*—Authors describe white collar crimes, unparalleled in US history, that cost the taxpayer \$500 billion. The BCCI scandal of 1991, and the collapse of SE Asia’s economy in 1997, pale in comparison.

Edward S. Herman, Noam Chomsky, *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*—As an analysis of press censorship in the U.S., it is an insightful look at the ways public opinion and choices are molded by dominating interests.

Edward W. Said, *Covering Islam*—Columbia University professor reveals the hidden agendas and distortions of fact that underlie even the most “objective” coverage of the Islamic world.

Alan Axelrod, *America’s Wars*—One of the nation’s leading authors of popular history provides a unique one-stop resource for essential information on every military action involving the United States and its precursor colonies.

Howard Zinn, *A People’s History of the United States*—Describes the reality of 500 years of American democracy, capitalism, human rights, and the treatment of women, poor white Americans, Native Americans, and African Americans.

J. M. Roberts, *The Penguin History of the World*—Provides a one volume outline of world history beginning with the origins of man. It is a sanitized, yet less than admirable, version of 500 years of Europe’s exploitation of the world beginning with the fall of Muslim Spain in 1492.

Realpolitik and Terrorism

Webster's New World Dictionary, Second College Edition

terrorism—1. the act of terrorizing; use of force or threats to demoralize, intimidate, and subjugate, esp. such use as a political weapon or policy 2. the demoralization and intimidation produced in this way

power politics—international political relations in which each nation attempts to increase its own power or interests by using military or economic coercion

Realpolitik—practical politics; a euphemism for power politics

Frequently, realpolitik = power politics = terrorism

United States Senator Barry Goldwater

“Extremism in the pursuit of liberty is no vice. Moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue.”

General Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, *60 Minutes*, April 30, 1995

The special forces are used “to put down rebellions or to start one.”

[At the time, Gen. Shelton was head of a U.S. special forces unit.]

Major General Smedley D. Butler, U.S. Marine Corps, Excerpt from a speech given in 1933.

“War is just a racket. . . . It has its ‘finger men’ to point out enemies, its ‘muscle men’ to destroy enemies, its ‘brain men’ to plan war preparations, and a ‘Big Boss’ Super-Nationalistic-Capitalism. . . .

I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912 (where have I heard that name before?). I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.”

[General Butler is the recipient of two U.S. Congressional Medals of Honor.]

Harold Pinter, “Nobel Lecture: Art, Truth & Politics,” Nobelprize.org, 2005

The invasion of Iraq was a bandit act, an act of blatant state terrorism, demonstrating absolute contempt for the concept of international law. . . . it is just that Bush and Blair be arraigned before the International Criminal Court of Justice.

Ivan Eland, “Does U.S. Intervention Overseas Breed Terrorism?”

“According to the Pentagon’s Defense Science Board, a strong correlation exists between U.S. involvement in international situations and an increase in terrorist attacks against the United States.”

[Ivan Eland is director of defense policy studies at the Cato Institute.]

Robert Pape, *Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*

[One of the worlds foremost authorities on the subject, Professor Pape has created the first comprehensive database of every suicide terrorist attack in the world from 1980 until today. With striking clarity and precision, Professor Pape uses this unprecedented research to debunk widely held misconceptions about the nature of suicide terrorism and provide a new lens that makes sense of the threat we face.]

FACT: Suicide terrorism is not primarily a product of Islamic fundamentalism.

FACT: The world's leading practitioners of suicide terrorism are the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka—a secular, Marxist-Leninist group drawn from Hindu families.

FACT: Ninety-five percent of suicide terrorist attacks occur as part of coherent campaigns organized by large militant organizations with significant public support.

FACT: Every suicide terrorist campaign has had a clear goal that is secular and political: to compel a modern democracy to withdraw military forces from the territory that the terrorists view as their homeland.

FACT: Al-Qaeda fits the above pattern. Although Saudi Arabia is not under American military occupation per se, one major objective of al-Qaeda is the expulsion of U.S. troops from the Persian Gulf region, and as a result there have been repeated attacks by terrorists loyal to Osama bin Laden against American troops in Saudi Arabia and the region as a whole.

FACT: Despite their rhetoric, democracies—including the United States—have routinely made concessions to suicide terrorists. Suicide terrorism is on the rise because terrorists have learned that it's effective.

Stephen Endicott and Edward Hagerman, *The United States and Biological Warfare*

“The United States developed biological weapons and tested them on the North Koreans and the Chinese during the Korean War—outbreaks of cholera and plague in China are linked to American aerial attacks.”

Peter Dale Scott, “U.S. Responsibility for the Slaughters”

“The massacres we do not hear about, at least at the time, are those for which the United States itself is responsible. This on-going, systematic suppression, from the Philippines in the 1950s to El Salvador in the 1980s, falsifies our understanding, not just of our own history, but of all managed atrocities throughout the world.”

Stephen Farrell, “Up to 500 Executed After the Fall of Mazar,” *The Times*, November 13, 2001

“Summary executions, abductions and looting have followed the capture of Mazar-i-Sharif by [U.S. backed] Northern Alliance forces, the United Nations said yesterday. . . . Peter Bouchaert, of Human Rights Watch, said that early reports suggested that up to 500 people had died and 2,000 Taleban had been taken captive.”

“Bush Dishes Out Licences to Kill on a Wide Front,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, November 12 2002

“U.S. President George W Bush has authorised a variety of people in his administration to launch attacks like the missile strike that killed six suspected al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen last week. . . .

“Human rights group Amnesty International has called on the U.S. to state clearly that it doesn't sanction such executions.”

S. Frederick Starr, “Afghanistan Land Mine,” *Washington Post*, December 19, 2000

“How did the United States become the junior partner to a misguided Russian policy arising from that country's desire for revenge against humiliations suffered in Afghanistan and Chechnya and from a kind of post-imperial hangover? The trail goes back to the Clinton administration's desire to throw Moscow a bone after brushing the Russians aside during the Kosovo crisis. That bone was support for Russia's crusade against ‘Muslim fundamentalism’ and ‘terrorism.’ We bought the Russians' line that these forces, rather than seven generations of savage Russian and Soviet misrule, fueled the revolt in Chechnya.”

[The writer is chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins's Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.]

Noam Chomsky, *What Uncle Sam Really Wants*

“The use of terror is deeply ingrained in our [U.S.] character. The first step is to use the police. If major surgery becomes necessary, we rely on the army. When we can no longer control the army . . . it's time to overthrow the government. The second step is to use the military. The U.S. has always tried to establish relations with the military in foreign countries, because that's one of the ways to overthrow a government that has gotten out of hand.”

Chris Floyd, “Global Eye—Into the Dark,” *Moscow Times*, November 1, 2002

“According to a classified document prepared for Rumsfeld by his Defense Science Board, the new organization—the ‘Proactive, Preemptive Operations Group (P2OG)’—will carry out secret missions designed to ‘stimulate reactions’ among terrorist groups, provoking them into committing violent acts which would then expose them to ‘counterattack’ by U.S. forces.”

William Blum, *Killing Hope*

“Americans have made it a point to keep at a distance while inflicting some of the greatest horrors of the age: atomic bombs on the people of Japan; carpet-bombing Korea back to the stone age; engulfing the Vietnamese in napalm and pesticides; providing three decades of Latin Americans with the tools and methods of torture, then turning their eyes away, closing their ears to the screams, and denying everything . . . and now, dropping 177 million pounds of bombs on the people of Iraq in the most concentrated aerial onslaught in the history of the world. . . .

“Tanks pulling plows moved alongside trenches, firing into the Iraqi soldiers inside the trenches as the plows covered them with great mounds of sand. Thousands were buried, dead, wounded, or alive.”

“House Kills Training Funds For School of the Americas,” *Washington Post*, July 31, 1999

“Put simply, the School of the Americas [Fort Benning] has trained some of the most brutal assassins, some of the cruelest dictators, and some of the worst abusers of human rights the western hemisphere has ever seen,” Moakley [Rep. Joe Moakely (D-MA)] said in a statement. “If we don’t stand for human rights down in Georgia, how can we possibly expect to promote them anywhere else in the world?”

“Watching What the Army Teaches,” *New York Times*, November 21, 1999

“Owing to criticism and pressure, the Army is finally moving to reform a training academy that should preferably be closed—the long-notorious School of the Americas. Established in 1946 to befriend and tutor members of the Latin American military and train them in the virtues of democratic civilian control, over the decades it became an instrument of American cold-war policy, providing training for fighting and interrogating leftist guerrillas.

“The school became far better known for the dictators and thugs it graduated than for any good works done. The drug-dealing Gen. Manuel Noriega of Panama was an alumnus, as were the Guatemalan colonel linked to the killing of an American innkeeper in 1990, 19 of the 26 soldiers who murdered a group of Jesuit priests in El Salvador in 1989, and the late Roberto D’Aubuisson, who reputedly organized many of El Salvador’s death squads.”

Suzanne Goldenberg, “More than 80,000 held by US since 9/11 attacks,” *The Guardian*, November 18, 2005

The US has detained more than 80,000 people in facilities from Afghanistan to Cuba since the attacks on the World Trade Centre four years ago, . . . At least 14,500 people are in US custody in connection with the war on terror, Pentagon officials in Washington and Baghdad said yesterday. Some 13,814 people are being held in Iraq and there are approximately 500 at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Gideon Polya, “UK, US And Israeli State Terrorism And Western Holocaust Denial,” *Countercurrents.org*, December 21, 2006

Western academics, journalists and politicians generally IGNORE the WW2 man-made Bengal Famine in British-ruled India that killed 4 million - it was associated with a 1940s demographic deficit of 10 million, horrendous military and civilian sexual abuse of starving Indian women and girls, and may have been due to a deliberate, cold-blooded British scorched earth policy to discourage Japanese invasion from Burma. This Bengal Holocaust became a Forgotten Holocaust - it has been deleted from most British history books and from general public perception in a continuing process of egregious Holocaust Denial. Yet it was to the WW2 Bengal Famine that the word "Holocaust" was first applied.

The Mail, *Macleans*, October 26, 1998

“The real reasons why, after 1492, Western Europe began a trajectory, dramatically outpacing China and the world of Islam in wealth creation and in political liberty: superior weapons, disease, slavery, and two new, recently depopulated continents to plunder.”

U.S. Sponsored Assassinations

Following is a list of prominent foreign individuals whose assassination (or planning for the same) the United States has been involved in since the end of the Second World War (several assassinations in various parts of the world carried out by anti-Castro Cubans employed by the CIA and headquartered in the United States are not included):

1949–Kim Koo, Korean opposition leader; 1950s–Numerous political figures in West Germany; 1950s–Chou En-lai, Prime minister of China; 1950s–Sukarno, President of Indonesia; 1951–Kim Il Sung, Premier of North Korea; 1950s–Claro M. Recto, Philippines opposition leader; 1955–Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India; 1957–Gamal Abdul Nasser, President of Egypt; 1959–Norodom Sihanouk, leader of Cambodia; 1960–Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim Kassem, leader of Iraq; 1950s to 1970s José Figueres, President of Costa Rica; 1961–Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, leader of Haiti; 1961–Patrice Lumumba, Prime Minister of the Congo; 1961–Gen. Rafael Trujillo, leader of Dominican Republic; 1963–Ngo Dinh Diem, President of South Vietnam; 1960s–Fidel Castro, President of Cuba, many attempts on his life; 1960s–Raúl Castro, high official in government of Cuba; 1965–Francisco Caamaño, Dominican Republic opposition leader; 1965 to 1966–Charles de Gaulle, President of France; 1967–Che Guevara, Cuban leader; 1970–Salvador Allende, President of Chile; 1970–Gen. Rene Schneider, Commander-in-Chief of Army, Chile; 1970s to 1981–General Omar Torrijos, leader of Panama; 1972–General Manuel Noriega, Chief of Panama Intelligence; 1975–Mobutu Sese Seko, President of Zaire; 1976–Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica; 1980 to 1986–Muammar Qaddafi, leader of Libya; 1982–Ayatollah Khomeini, leader of Iran; 1983–Gen. Ahmed Dlimi, Moroccan Army commander; 1983–Miguel d'Escoto, Foreign Minister of Nicaragua; 1984–Nine comandantes of the Sandinista National Directorate; 1985–Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, Lebanese Shiite leader (80 people killed in the attempt); 1991–Saddam Hussein, leader of Iraq.

[It was disclosed in October 1984 that the CIA had prepared a manual of instruction for its clients . . .

The CIA manual, entitled *Psychological Operations in Guerrilla Warfare*, gave advice on such niceties as political assassination, blackmailing ordinary citizens, mob violence, kidnapping, and blowing up public buildings. . . .

A section called "Selective Use of Violence for Propagandistic Effects" informed students that "It is possible to neutralize carefully selected and planned targets, such as court judges, police and state security officials," and others.

Throughout, the manual reads like what the Western world has always been taught is the way communists scheme and indoctrinate. It proved intensely embarrassing to the Reagan administration.]

[Reprinted with permission from William Blum, *Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II*]

The Crusades and Jihad

Prophet Muhammad

“The most excellent Jihad is that for the conquest of self.”

“The ink of the scholar is more holy than the blood of the martyr.”

Huston Smith, *The Illustrated World's Religions*, p.168

“Muhammad adhered meticulously to the charter he forged for Medina, which—grounded as it was in the Koranic injunction, ‘Let there be no compulsion in religion’—is arguably the first mandate for religious tolerance in human history.”

Karen Armstrong, *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*, p.165

“There are also Christians there who feel it their duty to live alongside the oppressed and the destitute and engage in a dedicated struggle for a just and decent society. It is in this light that we should consider the Islamic jihad, which Westerners usually translate as ‘holy war.’”

Akbar S. Ahmed, *Living Islam*, p.64

“An eyewitness of the fourth Crusade was horrified: ‘I Geoffrey de Ville Hardouin, Martial of the court of Champagne, am sure that since the creation of the universe, a plundering worse than this has not been witnessed.’ Compare this to Mehmet the conqueror’s entry when, with humility and awe, he fell to his knees, taking the dust from the floor and wiping it on his turban as an act of devotion. Christians here have a saying: ‘Better the turban of a Turk than the tiara of the Pope.’”

“As for the unfortunate Jews, they would be massacred by the Christians on their way to the Crusades and massacred by them on their way back from the Crusades. Not surprisingly Muslims thought that here was a civilization doomed to barbarism and backwardness for ever.”

John Haywood, *Atlas of World History*, p.48

“As an inducement the papacy offered Crusaders spiritual and legal privileges, most important of which was remission of penances due for sin. This was popularly interpreted as a guarantee of immediate entry into heaven if the Crusader were to die on the expedition.”

Paul Krugman, “White Man’s Burden,” *New York Times*, September 24, 2002

“The new Bush doctrine, in which the United States will seek ‘regime change’ in nations that we judge might be future threats, is driven by high moral purpose. But McKinley-era imperialists also thought they were morally justified. . . . And the purpose of our conquest of the Philippines was, McKinley declared, ‘to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them.’”

“Bush Salutes U.S. Air Strikes on Iraq as ‘Lord’s Work,’” *AFP*, January 19, 2000

Former U.S. president George Bush: “I’m delighted that I’ve been invited out here today to salute you, who, in my view, are doing the Lord’s work.”

The Bible

“The Christian God is a being of terrific character—cruel, vindictive, capricious, and unjust.”—Thomas Jefferson (Third President of the U.S.)

The Quran has been attacked for promoting violence, and for treating women as second class citizens.

Among those in the forefront of attacks on the Quran and/or Islam are David Horowitz and Robert Spencer at frontpagemag.com, and J. Grant Swank, Jr. at MichNews.com. To make their point, they take verses from the Quran out of context. For example:

Swank quotes Quran 2:191: “And slay them wherever ye catch them.”

The complete verse is: “And slay them wherever you may come upon them, and drive them away from wherever they drove you away—for oppression is even worse than killing. And fight not against them near the Inviolable House of Worship unless they fight against you there first; but if they fight against you, slay them: such shall be the recompense of those who deny the truth.”

Swank quotes Quran 4:84: “Then fight in Allah’s cause.”

The complete verse is: “Fight thou, then, in God’s cause—since thou art but responsible for thine own self—and inspire the believers to overcome all fear of death. God may well curb the might of those who are bent on denying the truth: for God is stronger in might, and stronger in ability to deter.”

For Horowitz, Spencer, Swank, and others of their ilk, we offer the following excerpts from the Bible.

Genesis

[19:8] Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

[19:31] And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth:

[19:32] Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

[19:33] And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

[19:34] And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our Father.

[19:35] And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

[19:36] Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.

Exodus

[34:13] But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:

[34:14] For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

[34:15] Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;

[34:16] And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.

[34:17] Thou shalt make thee no molten gods.

Leviticus

[20:9] For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him.

[20:10] And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

[20:11] And the man that lieth with his father's wife hath uncovered his father's nakedness: both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

[20:12] And if a man lie with his daughter in law, both of them shall surely be put to death: they have wrought confusion; their blood shall be upon them.

[20:13] If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

[20:14] And if a man take a wife and her mother, it is wickedness: they shall be burnt with fire, both he and they; that there be no wickedness among you.

[20:15] And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast.

[20:16] And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

Numbers

[15:32] And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.

[15:33] And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation.

[15:34] And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him.

[15:35] And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.

[15:36] And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Deuteronomy

[2:34] And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain.

[3:6] And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city.

[7:2] And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them.

Joshua

[6:21] And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.

Judges

[19:23] And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, Nay, my brethren, nay, I pray you, do not so wickedly; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly.

[19:24] Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man do not so vile a thing.

[19:25] But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning; and when the day began to spring, they let her go.

[19:26] Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord was, till it was light.

[19:29] And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, together with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel.

1 Samuel

[15:3] Go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass

Psalms

[137:8] O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.

[137:9] Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.

Wikipedia: "Bible refers to respective collections of religious writings of Judaism and of Christianity. The exact composition of the Bible is dependent on the religious traditions of specific denominations. The *Authorized King James Version* is an English translation of the Christian Bible begun in 1604 and first published in 1611 by the Church of England."

Sharia or Islamic Law

The definition of justice, according to Dr. Robert D. Crane, founder of the Center for Civilizational Renewal, is respect for human rights, which were formulated six centuries ago by Islamic scholars.

These rights, says Dr. Crane, are: “the right to life and personal integrity (haqq al haya), to family and community existence and cohesion at all levels of human society (haqq al nasi), to equal opportunities in accessing ownership of the means of economic production (haqq al mal), to political freedom for self-determination both within and among nations (haqq al hurriyah), to human dignity (haqq al karama, including freedom of religion and gender equity), and to education, knowledge, and freedom of expression (haqq al ilm).”

Regarding separation of Church and State, according to Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, author of *Islam, a Sacred Law*, Islamic jurists recognized this concept centuries before the Europeans, and divided the body of Shariah rules into two categories: religious observances and worldly matters. The first they observed to be beyond the scope of modification. The second, subject to interpretation, cover the following:

1. Criminal Law: This includes crimes such as murder, larceny, fornication, drinking alcohol, libel.
2. Family Law: This . . . covers marriage, divorce, alimony, child custody, inheritance.
3. Transactions: This covers property rights, contracts, rules of sale, hire, gift, loans and debts, deposits, partnerships, and damages.

“One of the most sensible definitions of the purposes of the Shariah,” according to Imam Feisal, was given by Ibn al-Qayyim al-Jawziyyah who said:

“The foundation of the Shariah is wisdom and the safeguarding of people’s interests in this world and the next. In its entirety it is justice, mercy and wisdom. Every rule which transcends justice to tyranny, mercy to its opposite, the good to the evil, and wisdom to triviality does not belong to the Shariah . . .”

According to Imam Feisal the sources of Shariah are, in order:

1. The Quran—God’s Word revealed to Prophet Muhammad.
2. The Sunnah—practice and teachings of the Prophet.
3. Ijma—consensus of those in authority.
4. Qiyas—reason, logic, and opinion based upon analogy.

Imam Feisal describes seven other methods for deriving Islamic laws. These seven, plus ijma and qiyas, are collectively known as ijthad or interpretation, and/or opinion based upon reason and logic.

Several schools of Shariah have evolved: Shafii, Hanbali, Hanafi, Maliki—the orthodox schools, and Jafari—the Shiite school. The Zaydis and Ibadis also have their own schools.

“Classical international law, reputedly invented by the Spaniards Vittorio and Suarez, borrowed the concept of inalienable human rights from Islamic law,” according to Dr. Crane. Shariah has much greater flexibility than is portrayed in the West, and may better protect society than does Western law.

The Truth About Islam

Islam means “submission to the Will of God.” In its ethical sense Islam signifies “striving after the ideal.” A Muslim is one who submits to the Will of God. “Islam” and “Muslim” derive from the same word as the Arabic for “peace.” The traditional Muslim greeting is “Peace be unto you.”

Islam offers hope for salvation to the righteous and God-fearing of all religions. Muslims believe in the Divine Revelations of many prophets including Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, but do not believe that God assumed human form. The Quran, Muslims believe, is God’s Word and Final Revelation to The Prophet Muhammad. Revealed over a period of twenty-three years,

The Quran was compiled and distributed to distant lands within twenty-five years of The Prophet’s death in 632 CE. This is the only Quran recognized by Muslims.

Comprising laws, moral precepts, and narratives, The Quran’s timeless text remains an inspiration and guide for more than one fifth of humanity. Together with The Quran, the epitome of Classical Arabic, Muslims lives are guided by the examples and sayings of The Prophet.

Thousands of sayings have been attributed to The Prophet. Some are accepted as authentic; some traced to The Prophet’s companions; some are the subject of debate. Some examples:

“The first thing created by God was the Intellect.”

“The most excellent Jihad is that for the conquest of self.”

“The ink of the scholar is more holy than the blood of the martyr.”

“One learned man is harder on the devil than a thousand ignorant worshippers.”

“Riches are not from an abundance of worldly goods, but from a contented mind.”

“Reflect upon God’s creation but not upon His nature or else you will perish.”

“He who wishes to enter Paradise at the best door must please his mother and father.”

“No man is a true believer unless he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.”

“When the bier of anyone passes by you, whether Jew, Christian, or Muslim, rise to your feet.”

“The thing which is lawful, but disliked by God, is divorce.”

“Modesty and chastity are parts of the Faith.”

“Heaven lies at the feet of mothers.”

“Women are the twin-halves of men.”

“Actions will be judged according to intentions.”

“That which is lawful is clear, and that which is unlawful likewise,

but there are certain doubtful things between the two from which it is well to abstain.”

“The proof of a Muslim’s sincerity is that he pays no attention to that which is not his business.”

“That person is nearest to God, who pardons . . . him who would have injured him.”

“Yield obedience to my successor, although he may be an Abyssinian slave.”

“Assist any person oppressed, whether Muslim or non-Muslim.”

“The creation is like God’s family . . . the most beloved unto God is the person who does good to God’s family.”

Islamic Law is based upon The Quran, examples and sayings of The Prophet, consensus among the learned, analogical deduction, and individual reasoning. Islamic society comes closer than any other society to the ideal democracy. All persons are equal before God; goodness is the only criterion of worth. There is no priesthood in Islam; even a child, with greater knowledge of The Quran than his elders, may lead them in prayer. To become a Muslim one need only profess,

“There is no god but God; Muhammad is the Messenger of God.”



“One thing that is particularly impressive about the articles is Masud’s obvious depth of knowledge about the U.S. and its policies in the world, and the way he is able to bring in impressive and telling statistics and background information to support his arguments and his case.”—Crescent International, Canada“

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His book is a superb contribution to the truth.

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‘The contents of the book are an eye opener.’—All India Conference of Intellectuals, India

‘His thoughts may prove valuable to thinking people in America’—Mumia Abu Jamal, USA

The Book

Following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, President Bush asked, “Why do they hate us?” Only a few dared to tell the truth.

America wasn't attacked because "they hate us" or because "they want to destroy our freedom." 9/11 was the new Pearl Harbor designed to kill the peace dividend, and to advance the imperial plan for control of world resources and markets that was becoming more difficult to justify after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The War on Islam provides hard facts and perspectives missing from major news media—from the Gulf War of 1991 to America's intervention in Bosnia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kosovo, Libya, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, and in other parts of the Muslim world.

This expanded, updated, 5th edition spans the period from 1990 to 2010. Ten thousand copies of earlier editions have been printed—190,000 downloaded.

The Author

Enver Masud is founder of The Wisdom Fund—TWF.org. His articles on national and world affairs have been published in newspapers and magazines in the U.S. and overseas. He is the author of *9/11 Unveiled*, and a contributing author of *9/11 and American Empire*, and *Islam: Opposing Viewpoints*.

An engineering management consultant, Mr. Masud has worked for the World Bank, EBRD, and USAID in Albania, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Latvia, Pakistan, Russia, Tanzania. He managed research programs and the National Power Grid Study for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Enver grew up in India, graduated from St. Stephens College, and received a Master of Science degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Enver's father M. N. Masud—a descendant of Shah Waliullah, worked with Maulana Azad, Pandit Nehru, and (briefly) Mahatma Gandhi, was ambassador to Saudi Arabia, a UNESCO Mission Chief, and an Olympic gold medallist. His mother Atiya Fatima was a volunteer social worker and educator, and is descended from Sir Syed Ahmad Khan—founder of India's first Muslim university.

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