

CONTACT

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Axis Of Asininity Is Rushing U.S. Demise

4/21/03—#1 (16-248)

RE: ESJ PERSPECTIVE ON "RELIGIONS".
MIDDLE EAST "LIBERATION": PHASE TWO
BEGINS

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EASTER: THE BUNNIES WON!

GCH—As the day of horror passed in the Philippines with a waiting line of people insisting on being "crucified" for anywhere from 10 seconds to 30 seconds, we are relieved to find Monday come and are still awaiting the ascensions! Man can play his games of pretend crucifixion and resurrection—**BUT HOW MANY HAVE YOU SEEN ASCEND?**

This year there were some "volunteers" caught using anesthesia so all the "hanged" did was wake up a few pesos richer with sore hands

having bypassed the foot nailings while also using wide-band Velcro supports. Are you people nuts or what? Is there **NOTHING** left which is sacred even in the mythology culture?

"RELIGIOUS" OBSERVATION

[QUOTING paper received 4/21/03, Manila, Philippines:]

TO BE OR NOT TO BE: THE ANTICHRIST
Comments by Erick San Juan

Who has the spirit of Antichrist? Is it Saddam Hussein who hails from what was basically known as "Babylon", or is it U.S. President George W. Bush, who comes from what scholars labeled as the "Revived Roman Empire"? **[H: Or, is it more likely an intended part of the "new" "Israeli Homeland"? In around 1988, the "Jewish Council", as reported to the public by attorney**

Alan Dershowitz of the U.S., announced that the U.S. now represents "The United States of Israel" due to the fact or fantasy that it is pronounced as the new "Israeli Homeland". Along about the same time came an entry to the Congressional Record that actually the Noahidic doctrine/laws were the U.S.-established "Religion". Perhaps you should keep these things in mind when you feel, rather, like flinging stones at me. These are the creeping and silent entries that change history.]

The reason why there is so much confusion these days, especially where it concerns the characters of the so-called "End times", is because ideas contradicting the revealed truth which was always taught are being propagated everywhere. In the Catholic world, for example, the lack of pious practices is evident in the behavior of modern-day Catholics: the loss of devotion for the Holy Mass and Sacraments and the general relaxation of traditional customs.

When was it ever seen that he who is supposedly
(Continued on page 2)

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the “Vicar of Christ” assisted at religious ceremonies of false religions under the pretext of unity and fraternity?

On November 4, 1997, the Vatican announced that Christians who are anti-Jewish offend God and told Roman Catholics to admit past errors against Jews and not repeat them because according to Pope Wojtyla (himself a Polish Jew from Odessa), “The Jews are our elder brothers in the faith.”

But no less than Our Lord Jesus Christ himself told the Jews, “You are of your father the Jews” (*John* 8:43), so where is the connection between us and them? **[H: Not to pick greatly, BUT, at the time of Jesus the “Jews” were not CALLED “Jews”. Therefore, for you “believe every word in the Good Book” readers—errors in translations with subtle persuasions run amuck constantly. Is it important? Only in that lies replace truth and then when set to correct there is a major war over who “revised” what! However, one little seemingly insignificant false premise can destroy a world. This is a big deal, friends, on selected holidays such as “Easter” which is STILL celebrated as the old “Pagan” holiday of the Spring “fertility rites” of ancient days long before any “Jesus” “Christ” by any name.]**

Rabbi Bokser says, “It is a fallacious impression” to hold that Judaism is the religion of the Hebrews. The *Talmud*, not the *Torah*, is the core of faith of Modern Jewry. According to its teachings, “Jesus learned magic in Egypt and performed his miracles by means of it.” (*The History of the Talmud*, E. Dilling, Part 2, Chapter IX, p. 171, Yer. Dhab. 144, Ab. Zarah 27b).

An obscure item in an old English newspaper, *Jewish WORLD*, also relates parallel teaching. It reads, “The great ideal of Judaism is that the whole world shall be imbued with Jewish teachings, and that in a Universal Brotherhood of Nations—a greater Judaism in fact—all the separate races and religions shall disappear” (Feb. 9, 1883). In a word, Modern Jewry sees itself as the world’s savior, the redeemer of mankind. And when “full” redemption comes, “all people will be converted to Judaism”. (*The Messianic Idea in Israel*, Joseph Klausner, Macmillan Publishing, 1955, page 527). Fundamentally, therefore, Judaism is anti-Christian!

The biblical Jews were not the Israelites or Hebrews. They came from Edom, having descended from Esau, Jacob’s brother. “...yet I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. Whereas Edom saith, we are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the Lord of Hosts, they shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them the border of wickedness, and the people against whom the Lord hath indignation forever.” (*Ma. 1: 2-4*).

Saint Paul, however, spoke of Jews who will be converted, and they were. The last unconverted Jew committed suicide at the fortress of Masada, which was surrounded by Titus and his Roman legions.

Who then are the modern Jews? They come from two main branches. There are the Sephardic Jews in Western Europe, some of whose ancestors fled after Titus conquered Jerusalem in 70 A.D. They spread across North Africa to Spain where they intermarried

with other tribes of the Mediterranean, notably those descendants of the Edomites known as “Idumeans”. Then there are the Ashkenazi Jews who are actually “Khazars” (Cathars, Cathari), a people of Turkish-Mongolian-Finn stock, whose life and history are interwoven with the Jews of Russia (*Christianity vs. Judaism*, Malcolm Ross, p. 14).

No less than noted Jewish writer and former professor of the Tel Aviv University, Arthur Koestler, in his monumental work *The Thirteenth Tribe* confirmed everything about the origin of modern Jews. After his book was published and circulated, Koestler and his wife mysteriously disappeared, never again to be seen.

Aside from some passing historical references in the books of *St. Matthew* and *Acts*, the name “Babylon” is mentioned in two other books of the *New Testament*. *1 Peter* and the *Apocalypse*. A few biblical commentators have considered the “Babylon” of *1 Peter* (5:13) to be a reference to the literal city on the Euphrates. The “Babylon” passages in the *Apocalypse*, however, are a wholly different matter. They are widely recognized today as being the prophetic end-time context, referring to a great world power to emerge on the scene, with all the qualities of the ancient Roman Empire of the Caesars. This is no other than the Anglo-American Establishment promoting a “New World (Dis)Order”. And the Bush father-and-son tandem are its principal promoters!

The Bush family members are Ashkenazic, or “those who call themselves Jews but are not. They are from the synagogue of Satan.” (*Apoc. 2:9, 3:9*). [END QUOTING]

The next also was received by fax today and certainly is worthy of a LOT of attention. It appears to have been originally sent about on 4/15/03 but remains timely and worthy of note.

We apologize for being unable to offer direct connection information for Internet search but it comes via *ANTIWAR.com*.

[QUOTING “Phase Two Begins”, by Justin Raimondo, 4/14/2003:]

PHASE TWO BEGINS

The ‘liberators’ of the Middle East are ready for the next stage in their campaign to make the world safe for Israel.

As the phony “liberation” of Iraq takes place against a backdrop of frenzied looting and clueless gloating, any doubt as to the real provenance of this war should be erased for good. This was and is a proxy war waged on behalf of Israeli interests, and Washington’s next target, clearly Syria, ought to make that obvious to even the densest of the pro-war conservatives and the “war for oil” crowd.

It didn’t take long for the War Party to shift gears. Amid a barrage of threats, Damascus is now in Washington’s crosshairs, and military action could come sooner than anyone imagines. The pretext? That Syria supposedly shipped night goggles to Iraqi military, is reportedly harboring Ba’athist leaders, and is now alleged to be in possession of Iraq’s nonexistent “weapons of mass destruction” doesn’t matter. At this point, they don’t even need a pretext: The War Party is running on sheer momentum. What’s interesting, however, is that phase two may be enacted in the name of, you guessed it, “peace”: that

is, a comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As the [UK] *OBSERVER* notes:

“The United States has pledged to tackle the Syrian-backed Hizbollah group in the next phase of its ‘war on terror’ in a move which could threaten military action against President Bashar Assad’s regime in Damascus. The move is part of Washington’s efforts to persuade Israel to support a new peace settlement with the Palestinians. Washington has promised Israel that it will take ‘all effective action’ to cut off Syria’s support for Hizbollah—implying a military strike if necessary, sources in the Bush administration have told the Observer.”

This is how Washington seeks to “persuade” the Israelis, by caving in to their every demand.

The Americans were driven out of Beirut by Hizbollah on October 23, 1983, when hundreds of American Marines were killed in a suicide bomber attack on their barracks. As retired Mossad Officer Victor Ostrovsky points out:

“The loss of 241 Marines, most of them still sleeping in their cots at the time of the suicide mission, was the highest single-day death toll for the Americans since 246 died throughout Vietnam at the start of the Tet offensive.”

It is just possible that the Marines are coming back, this time, under the leadership of a President who won’t make like Reagan, and, as Norman Podhoretz puts it, “cut and run” at the first sign of trouble.

As I warned at the end of March, the Middle East escalator is going into high gear. The seeds of the next war have been planted in the soil of Iraq—and they are sprouting with dizzying speed.

But what’s really bizarre is the manner in which Washington tries to rationalize a peculiar madness that in no way benefits the United States. In order to appease Ariel Sharon into agreeing to a phony Palestinian mini-state, one without any army, without control over its foreign policy, and without doubt a joke, the Americans are being blackmailed into knocking off Israel’s many enemies in the region. Then and only then will Tel Aviv deign to even consider a compromise. Sharon can then go to his ultra-nationalist allies and say:

“With our influence extended from the West Bank to the Euphrates, I, not you, have fulfilled the dream of a Greater Israel. In partnership with the Americans, we dominate the Middle East. Israel can—finally!—afford this compromise-in-name-only.”

By the time Bush and Sharon are through, not a single Arab state will be left standing.

Having installed a Palestinian Quisling where Arafat used to be, the two of them can stand amid the smoking ruins of a war-ravaged Middle East and declare that “peace” has come to the region at last—the peace of the grave.

Hizbollah, a political party in Lebanon whose members sit in that country’s national legislature, is backed by Syria just as Israel once backed the Lebanese Falangists. But the “Free Lebanon Army” was driven out, in the end, along with their Israeli sponsors, and the Americans, having not learned from this precedent, or the lesson of Beirut, seem eager to repeat past mistakes.

Suicide bombers have already struck in Iraq, and more are on the way if the news that U.S. forces have uncovered a cache of “suicide-bomber belts” is to be believed. How long can we stand against that kind of enemy, and, more importantly, why should we? **Why, oh why, is the Rumsfeld-Wolfowitz-Perle Axis of Asininity marching us headlong into this abyss?** This is no quagmire; it’s an ambush.

It boggles the mind to realize that this administration is willing to risk another Beirut, 1983-style, only this time on a regional scale. The question is: Why take that risk? Don’t ask “is it worth it?” Better to ask: ***to whom is it worth it?***

The imperial project of the Rumsfeld-Wolfowitz-neoconservative cabal is the Israeli occupation of Palestine writ large. I am told by people in the know that if anyone knew the number and nature of the stymied attacks on New York City alone, Manhattan and environs would soon be all but emptied.

The neoconservative militants’ slogan of “creative destruction” as the solution to the problems of the Middle East always had a rather sinister aspect. Now imagine that concept applied to the domestic scene. George W. Bush’s Middle Eastern rampage had made another terrorist attack on America all but inevitable. Explain to me, again, how this makes Americans safer.

The White House has been captured by the pernicious political correctness of the post-9/11 neoconservative tendency in the GOP, best expressed by liberal Democrat Martin Peretz, publisher of **The New Republic, who wrote in his magazine days after the attack that “We’re all Israelis now”.** [H: **This would certainly seem to make V.K.’s accusations of us being “Jew haters” because we quoted Mr. Dershowitz “United States of Israel” quite tame in comparison?**]

Excuse me, but no we aren’t. We are Americans, first, last and always, a nation with a character, and interest, unique to ourselves. The terrorist attack on America made us more, not less, dependent on our Arab and Muslim allies in the region. The propagandists who insist that [there are no?] Arab and Muslim allies in the region. The propagandists who insist that we have always been at war with Islam and just didn’t know it are intent on fulfilling their own prophecies of Armageddon in the Middle East.

The heretical sect of dispensationalist Christians who see Israel as the embodiment of God’s Will on Earth are motivated not by “dual loyalty”, but a single allegiance to a mystic faith that is not only American but also universal, a creed that promises redemption to sinners everywhere. If God says that the interests of the U.S. and Israel are identical, their destinies mystically intertwined, then who are we to deny it?

The neoconservative theology, while differing with the dispensationalists in particulars as well as in style, also promises universal redemption, via the god of Democratic Capitalism. Neocon evangelists spread the word, in their newspaper columns and heavily-subsidized magazines, and the rafters of the American Enterprise Institute ring with the hosannas of the faithful. The sight of U.S. military might taking down a fifth-rate military power in a matter of weeks is all the “argument” they require. They worship a different god: Ares, by name.

God is on our side, and might makes right. These are the two principles that unite the War Party. Their partiality to Israel is, on the one hand, religious, as far as the dispensationalists are concerned, and, in the case of the neocons, ideological. But in both cases it amounts to support for a dangerously unbalanced foreign policy—one so potentially disastrous that it constantly teeters on the brink of treason.

Americans will soon be disabused of the myth of the welcoming Iraqis, who hailed their own conquest and embraced the destroyers of their cities. One particularly volatile factor is the Shi’a majority and the recent slaughter of two Iraqi mullahs at a meeting that was supposed to bring about “reconciliation” is a warning the Americans ignore at their own peril. Another explosive factor is the role of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI); formerly based in Teheran, SCIRI is the only opposition group that ever had cadres inside Iraq. Unlike the Iraqi national congress, SCIRI did not have to be flown to Iraq courtesy of the American taxpayers; they already have troops on the ground, particularly in the south.

The main political consequence of the war, internally, is to increase Iranian influence. If free elections were held in the southern Shi’a provinces of Iraq, they would undoubtedly usher in some sort of “Islamic Republic”. The effort by the neocons in the administration to install Ahmed Chalabi as the Pentagon’s puppet, far from forestalling this possibility, only makes it a more credible threat to the postwar order. I guess it all comes under the heading of “creative destruction”.

The degeneration of Iraq into a maelstrom of violence and looting; the targeting of American soldiers; the incredible costs, both economic and personal, one has to ask who benefits? Iraq, a smoldering ruin, will never again threaten Israel.

They never did threaten us, not even when we invaded. Those “weapons of mass destruction” the Iraqis supposedly had which George W. Bush declared could be flown over U.S. territory in drones, or passed on to terrorists somehow never got used. Richard Perle declares that the U.S. struck so swiftly that the Iraqis may not have had time to launch whatever it is they might have launched, but nobody believes this. There was no poison gas attack; no biological weaponry was deployed. So far there have been no sites where such weapons are to be found, in spite of several false alarms. But the original reasons for our intervention will be lost in the war crimes trials to come with the atrocity stories and the tendency of Americans to forget by Wednesday the sermon they heard last Sunday.

SCIRI is demanding the withdrawal of all foreign troops, and the demand for free elections in Iraq is rising while the Axis of Asininity is intent on installing an “interim” American-led government festooned with a few handpicked Iraqis for decorative purposes. The “interim”, you can be sure, will be endless. If you want to see the future of the region, look toward the West Bank and Gaza. That is the sort of “democracy” the neocons are bringing to the Middle East.

So far, the U.S. is not committing itself to action against Syria and Iran, but that is an oversight a

delegation of Israeli negotiators is determined to correct THIS WEEK, when they arrive in Washington for talks. The drumbeat is being sounded by Israel’s amen corner in the U.S. and has been taken up by the Republican congressional leadership; the “Syria Accountability Act” would freeze all trade relations and impose draconian sanctions, paving the way for war. There is no “Israel Accountability Act”—but then, you knew that, didn’t you?—**Justin Raimondo** [END QUOTING]


I suggest that we begin a new “file” separate and apart from this writing to continue with Part 3, Chapter 3 of *Conspiracies and Controversies* for easier sequence of reading and referencing. You are being slowly roasted as was the frog in the warm water then boiled alive before he realized the water was boiling.

You have now given U.S.A.-Israel a full base of operations in the very area of your civilization birthing—Iraq. The blood is only just begun in the spilling, pillaging, plundering and ravaging. The world will dearly pay for this blunder. And no, this is NOT because of some totally honorable past goodness of “sorts”. Babylon was one of the most evil places ever to grace the planet.



The rites will be played out in that area called Middle East but the “new” world will have to be structured (created, if you will) out of Asia, namely Southeast Asia. And that is my “prophecy revelation” of the day for you score keepers.

Beware the magicians at work, for the tricks will get ever so much more fascinating, limiting to your freedoms and confusing as you march along each day. And to you who think some stupid thing such as SARS is an accident, then I certainly want you to look at the bridges I have for sale. I am often embarrassed in your behalf, students in the lie. Have you noticed that nobody seems to even note such a thing as SARS in Iraq? Yes indeed, sometimes it is quite difficult to just keep plugging along in this maze of puzzlement.

Thank you, GCH

dharmia 

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The News Desk

By John & Jean Ray

PILLAGERS STRIP IRAQI MUSEUM OF ITS TREASURE

By John F. Burns, *New York Times*, 04/12/03

BAGHDAD, Iraq—The National Museum of Iraq recorded a history of civilizations that began to flourish in the fertile plains of Mesopotamia more than 7,000 years ago. But once American troops entered Baghdad in sufficient force to topple Saddam Hussein's government this week, it took only 48 hours for the museum to be destroyed, with at least 50,000 artifacts carried away by looters.

The full extent of the disaster that befell the museum only came to light today, after three days of frenzied looting that swept much of the capital.

As fires in a dozen government ministries and agencies began to burn out, and as some looters tired of pillaging in the 90-degree heat of the Iraqi spring, museum officials reached the hotels where foreign journalists were staying along the eastern bank of the Tigris River. They brought word of what is likely to be reckoned as one of the greatest cultural disasters in recent Middle Eastern history.

A full accounting of what has been lost may take weeks or months. The museum had been closed during much of the 1990's, and like many Iraqi institutions, its operations were cloaked in secrecy under Mr. Hussein.

So what officials told journalists today may have to be adjusted as a fuller picture comes to light. It remains unclear whether some of the museum's priceless gold, silver and copper antiquities, some of its ancient stone and ceramics, and perhaps some of its fabled bronzes and gold-overlaid ivory, had been locked away for safekeeping elsewhere before the looting, or seized for private display in one of Mr. Hussein's ubiquitous palaces.

What was beyond contest today was that the 28 galleries of the museum and vaults with huge steel doors guarding storage chambers that descend floor after floor into darkness had been completely ransacked.

Officials with crumpled spirits fought back tears and anger at American troops, as they ran down an inventory of the most storied items that they said had been carried away by the thousands of looters who poured into the museum after daybreak on Thursday and remained until dusk on Friday, with only one intervention by American troops, lasting about half an hour, at lunchtime on Thursday.

Nothing remained, museum officials said, at least nothing of real value, from a museum that had been regarded by archaeologists and other specialists as perhaps the richest of all such institutions in the Middle East.

As examples of what was gone, the officials cited a solid gold harp from the Sumerian era, which began about 3360 B.C. and started to crumble about 2000 B.C. Another item on their list of looted antiquities was a sculptured head of a woman from Uruk, one of the great Sumerian cities, dating to about the same era, and a collection of gold necklaces, bracelets and earrings, also from the Sumerian dynasties and also at least 4,000 years old.

But an item-by-item inventory of the most valued pieces carried away by the looters hardly seemed to capture the magnitude of what had occurred. More powerful, in its way, was the action of one museum official in hurrying away through the piles of smashed ceramics and torn books and burned-out torches of rags soaked in gasoline that littered the museum's corridors to find the glossy catalog of an exhibition of "silk road civilization" that was held in Japan's ancient capital of Nara in 1988.

Turning to 50 pages of items lent by the Iraqi museum for the exhibition, he said that none of the antiquities pictured remained after the looting. They included ancient stone carvings of bulls and kings and princesses; copper shoes and cuneiform tablets; tapestry fragments and ivory figurines of goddesses and women and Nubian porters; friezes of soldiers and ancient seals and tablets on geometry; and ceramic jars and urns and bowls, all dating back at least 2,000 years, some more than 5,000 years.

"All gone, all gone," he said. "All gone in two days."

An Iraqi archaeologist who has participated in the excavation of some of the country's 10,000 sites, Raid Abdul Ridhar Muhammad, said he had gone into the street of the Karkh district, a short distance from the eastern bank of the Tigris, at about 1 p.m. on Thursday to find American troops to quell the looting. By that time, he and other museum officials said, the several acres of museum grounds were overrun by thousands of men, women and children, many of them armed with rifles, pistols, axes, knives and clubs, as well as pieces of metal torn from the suspensions of wrecked cars. The crowd was storming out of the complex carrying antiquities on handcarts, bicycles and in boxes. Looters stuffed their pockets with smaller items.

Mr. Muhammad said he found an American Abrams tank in Museum Square, about 300 yards away, and that five marines had followed him back into the museum and opened fire above the looters' heads. This drove several thousand of the marauders out of the museum complex in minutes, he said, but when the tank crewmen left about 30 minutes later, the looters returned.

"I asked them to bring their tank inside the museum grounds," he said. "But they refused and left. About half an hour later, the looters were back, and they threatened to kill me, or to tell the Americans that I am a spy for Saddam Hussein's intelligence, so that the Americans would kill me. So I was frightened, and I went home."

He spoke with deep bitterness against the Americans, as have many Iraqis who have watched looting that began with attacks on government agencies and the palaces and villas of Mr. Hussein, his family and his inner circle broaden into a tidal wave of looting that targeted just about every government institution, even ministries dealing with issues like higher education, trade and agriculture, and hospitals.

American troops have intervened only sporadically, as they did on Friday to halt a crowd of men and boys who were raiding an armory at the edge of the Republican Palace presidential compound and taking brand-new Kalashnikov rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons.

American commanders have said they lack the troops to curb the looting while their focus remains on the battles across Baghdad that are necessary to mop up pockets of resistance from paramilitary troops loyal to Mr. Hussein.

Mr. Muhammad, the archaeologist, directed much of his anger at President Bush. "A country's identity, its value and civilization resides in its history," he said. "If a country's civilization is looted, as ours has been here, its history ends. Please tell this to President Bush. Please remind him that he promised to liberate the Iraqi people, but that this is not a liberation, this is a humiliation."

[JR: The U.S. invasion of Iraq was primarily to oust Saddam, his regime and evidently to destroy Iraq's ancient history and its records. Now whose plan would that fit into? Who or what motivated these looters to destroy the National Museum with its priceless artifacts? This museum housed the exhibits where the Cradle of

Civilization began that was in the region once known as Sumer, Mesopotamia and Babylonia. Perhaps Saddam had the forethought and did take steps to secure these treasures knowing they would be targeted once war began. I wonder if there were any Zees (Zionists) among these pillagers and if their caravan leads straight to Israel? Our satellites knew where every Iraqi was, so you have to speculate what the U.S. does know, but isn't telling. If the U.S. and Israel's aim was to destroy the old Iraq in order to build the new Iraq they have succeeded beyond measure. I am sure that the victory smiles on Bush and Sharon and their henchmen can hardly be contained. The question is, if we cannot tolerate the oldest of civilizations how can we abide the new?!!!]

BAGHDAD: THE DAY AFTER

By Robert Fisk, *Independent*, 04/11/03

Arson, anarchy, fear, hatred, hysteria, looting, revenge, savagery, suspicion and a suicide bombing

It was the day of the looter. They trashed the German embassy and hurled the ambassador's desk into the yard. I rescued the European Union flag—flung into a puddle of water outside the visa section—as a mob of middle-aged men, women in chadors and screaming children rifled through the consul's office and hurled Mozart records and German history books from an upper window. The Slovakian embassy was broken into a few hours later.

At the headquarters of Unicef, which has been trying to save and improve the lives of millions of Iraqi children since the 1980s, an army of thieves stormed the building, throwing brand new photocopiers on top of each other and sending cascades of UN files on child diseases, pregnancy death rates and nutrition across the floors.

The Americans may think they have "liberated" Baghdad but the tens of thousands of thieves—they came in families and cruised the city in trucks and cars searching for booty—seem to have a different idea of what liberation means.

American control of the city is, at best, tenuous—a fact underlined after several Marines were killed last night by a suicide bomber close to the square where a statue of Saddam Hussein was pulled down on Wednesday, in the most staged photo-opportunity since Iwo Jima. ...

As the occupying power, America is responsible for protecting embassies and UN offices in their area of control but, yesterday, its troops were driving past the German embassy even as looters carted desks and chairs out of the front gate.

It is a scandal, a kind of disease, a mass form of kleptomania that American troops are blithely ignoring. At one intersection of the city, I saw U.S. Marine snipers on the rooftops of high-rise building, scanning the streets for possible suicide bombers while a traffic jam of looters—two of them driving stolen double-decker buses crammed with refrigerators—blocked the highway beneath.

Outside the UN offices, a car slowed down beside me and one of the unshaven, sweating men inside told me in Arabic that it wasn't worth visiting because "we've already taken everything". Understandably, the poor and the oppressed took their revenge on the homes of the men of Saddam's regime who have impoverished and destroyed their lives, sometimes quite literally, for more than two decades.

On the Saddam Bridge over the Tigris, a thief had driven his lorry of stolen goods at such speed he had crashed into the central concrete reservation and still lay dead at the wheel.

But there seemed to be a kind of looter's law. Once a thief had placed his hand on a chair or a chandelier or a door-frame, it belonged to him. I saw no arguments, no fist-fights. The dozens of thieves in the German embassy

worked in silence, assisted by an army of small children. Wives pointed out the furnishings they wanted, husbands carried them down the stairs while children were used to unscrew door hinges and—in the UN offices—to remove light fittings. One even stood on the ambassador's desk to take a light bulb from its socket in the ceiling. ...

Every government ministry in the city has now been denuded of its files, computers, reference books, furnishings and cars. To all this, the Americans have turned a blind eye, indeed stated specifically that they had no intention of preventing the "liberation" of this property. One can hardly be moralistic about the spoils of Saddam's henchmen but how is the government of America's so-called "New Iraq" supposed to operate now that the state's property has been so comprehensively looted? And what is one to make of the scene on the Hillah Road yesterday where I found the owner of a grain silo and factory ordering his armed guards to fire on the looters who were trying to steal his lorries. This desperate and armed attempt to preserve the very basis of Baghdad's bread supply was being observed from just 100 metres away by eight soldiers of the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division, who were sitting on their tanks—doing nothing. The UN offices that were looted downtown are 200 metres from a U.S. Marine checkpoint.

And already America's army of "liberation" is beginning to seem an army of occupation. I watched hundreds of Iraqi civilians queuing to cross a motorway bridge at Daura yesterday morning, each man ordered by U.S. soldiers to raise his shirt and lower his trousers—in front of other civilians, including women—to prove they were not suicide bombers.

After a gun battle in the Adamiya area during the morning, an American Marine sniper sitting atop the palace gate wounded three civilians, including a little girl, in a car that failed to halt—then shot and killed a man who had walked onto his balcony to discover the source of the firing. Within minutes, the sniper also shot dead the driver of another car and wounded two more passengers in that vehicle, including a young woman. A crew from Channel 4 Television was present when the killings took place.

Meanwhile, in the suburb of Daura, bodies of Iraqi civilians—many of them killed by U.S. troops in battle earlier in the week—lay rotting in their still-smouldering cars. And yesterday was just Day Two of the "liberation" of Baghdad.

[JR: Our U.S. troops have evidently become as desensitized to the chaos and the plight of the Iraqis as the Israeli military has towards the Palestinians. I guess war and the power of victory have such a "programmed" effect on occupational forces. Our military, it seems, is reflecting the Bush Administrations political disdain towards the Arab/Muslim people.]

DID U.S. DEALERS/COLLECTORS
ORGANIZE MUSEUM LOOTING?

From *Iraq War.ru*, posted 04/07/03

By Liam McDougall, *Sunday Herald*, 04/14/03

Fears that Iraq's heritage will face widespread looting at the end of the Gulf War have been heightened after a group of wealthy art dealers secured a high-level meeting with the U.S. administration.

It has emerged that a coalition of antiquities collectors and arts lawyers, calling itself the American Council for Cultural Policy (ACCP), met with U.S. Defence and State Department officials prior to the start of military action to offer its assistance in preserving the country's invaluable archaeological collections.

The group is known to consist of a number of influential dealers who favour a relaxation of Iraq's tight restrictions on the ownership and export of antiquities. Its treasurer, William Pearlstein, has

described Iraq's laws as "retentionist" and has said he would support a post-war government that would make it easier to have antiquities dispersed to the U.S.

Before the Gulf war, a main strand of the ACCP's campaigning has been to persuade the U.S. government to revise the *Cultural Property Implementation Act* in order to minimise efforts by foreign nations to block the import into the U.S. of objects, particularly antiques.

News of the group's meeting with the government has alarmed scientists and archaeologists who fear the ACCP is working to a hidden agenda that will see the U.S. authorities ease restrictions on the movement of Iraqi artefacts after a coalition victory in Iraq.

Professor Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, leading Cambridge archaeologist and director of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, said: "Iraqi antiquities legislation protects Iraq. The last thing one needs is some group of dealer-connected Americans interfering. Any change to those laws would be absolutely monstrous."

A wave of protest has also come from the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), which says any weakening of Iraq's strict antiquities laws would be "disastrous". President Patty Gerstenblith said: "The ACCP's agenda is to encourage the collecting of antiquities through weakening the laws of archaeologically-rich nations and eliminate national ownership of antiquities to allow for easier export."

The ACCP has caused deep unease among archaeologists since its creation in 2001. Among its main members are collectors and lawyers with chequered histories in collecting valuable artifacts, including alleged exhibitions of Nazi loot.

They denied accusations of attempting to change Iraq's treatment of archaeological objects. Instead, they said at the January meeting they offered "post-war technical and financial assistance", and "conservation support".

[JR: Is it just a coincidence that this ACCP Zionist group was formed just as Bush took office? And now we learn they have been lobbying to get laws changed like they were assured there would be a war with Iraq and wanted access one way or another to the archaeological artifacts of a conquered Iraq. As we all know, there are no coincidences where Zionists are involved. Are we to believe the Iraqi people destroyed the history of their own civilization? Oh, some may have been caught up in the frenzy of looting but were they incited to go on a rampage to deflect the professional looters. Some of the hundreds of thousands of stolen items will be recovered but most of those items that weren't destroyed will end up in international private, illegal collections. And guess who will profit the most?]

RUMSFELD CONDEMNS REPORTS
OF MASS LOOTING IN IRAQ

By Charles Aldinger, *Daily News*, 04/11/03

WASHINGTON (*Reuters*)—Calling rampant looting and lawlessness in Iraq an "untidy" period between war and freedom, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Friday condemned media reports that anarchy ruled in Iraqi cities.

Rumsfeld and the chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff told reporters that U.S. troops were struggling to secure Baghdad and intervening when possible to stop looting two days after the collapse of Saddam Hussein's rule.

"It's untidy. And freedom's untidy. And free people are free to make mistakes and commit crimes and do bad things," stormed Rumsfeld, his hand chopping the air for emphasis in response to reporters' questions at a Pentagon briefing.

"They're also free to live their lives and do wonderful things. And that's what's going to happen here," he added after reporters asked what steps U.S. forces were taking to stop the looting.

Media reports from Baghdad and other cities overrun by the U.S.-led invasion have chronicled an orgy of looting, often by armed men, at government buildings but also at local shops, private businesses and hospitals, which have been stripped.

The secretary condemned the reports, which have marred the image of exuberant Iraqis welcoming the troops. The invasion ended more than two decades of brutal rule by Saddam.

He said television images of acts of looting and violence were played "over and over again" for sensational effect.

"The images you are seeing on television, you are seeing over and over and over, and it's the same picture, of some person walking out of some building with a vase," he said.

"Where they (U.S. forces) see looting, they're stopping it. And they will be doing so," Rumsfeld added.

Television pictures shown in the United States and correspondent reports portrayed U.S. forces repeatedly standing by idly on Friday as looting went ahead.

Rumsfeld challenged suggestions that Washington might be losing the good will that it had gained by ousting Saddam.

"I picked up a newspaper today, and I couldn't believe it," he said. "I read eight headlines. And it talked about chaos, violence, unrest ... I've never seen anything like it."

"And here is a country that's being liberated. Here are people who are going from being repressed and held under the thumb of a vicious dictator. And they're free."

Law and order crumbled in Baghdad, Mosul and the southern city of Basra as pent-up passions spilled onto the streets. Armed men roamed the streets of the capital, robbing buildings and hijacking cars, a *Reuters* report said.

"Is this your liberation?" screamed one shopkeeper at the crew of a U.S. M-1A2 Abrams tank who watched as youths helped themselves to everything in his small hardware store.

Rumsfeld and U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, insisted that the period of unrest would be followed by law and order.

They said Washington planned to help set up an Iraqi police force and interim government services ahead of the formation of a new Iraqi government in the coming weeks and months.

Myers said unrest and some lawlessness had been expected in the military plan to handle Iraq in the wake of a war that still continues after three weeks of fighting.

[JR: What is there to comment on? Rumsfeld's defensive harangue certainly speaks volumes. Only White House spokesman Ari Fleischer or Rummy's handlers at the Defense Department could explain away his muddled comments.]

ARMED LOOTERS ROAM BAGHDAD STREETS

ABC NEWS, 04/11/03

Armed men are roaming the streets of Baghdad as the Iraqi capital descends deeper into anarchy.

Twenty-five people have been admitted to hospital after suffering gunshot wounds in clashes during looting.

Elsewhere in the city, one reporter saw a young man shoot the driver of a passing pickup truck, drag him from the vehicle and drive it away.

It is not clear whether the driver was killed or only wounded.

The *Reuters* reporter says armed men are swarming through a children's hospital in the Mansur district where the bodies of civilians and dead fighters have been collected.

He says they appear to be looting it.

"The situation has become worse since yesterday. It is anarchy," correspondent Khaled Oweis said.

An *AFP* correspondent at the scene says shopkeepers in central Baghdad have opened fire for the first time on looters.

In two separate incidents, shopkeepers armed with assault rifles, pistols or iron bars opened fire on groups trying to ransack their shops.

The hospital in the east of the city has been ransacked and all staff have fled with the exception of two doctors who administer first aid but do not carry out operations.

All patients have left the hospital, one of Baghdad's largest, and Shiite fighters from the southern city of Najaf under the leadership of Sheikh Abbas al-Zubaidi have set up camp there.

A Red Cross official says the al-Kindi hospital, which was visited by an ICRC team just before the shooting, is in a "chaotic and catastrophic" situation.

"We are extremely concerned about the fate of the hundreds of people who have suffered injuries during the conflict," Red Cross officer Roland Huguenin said.

"We're still in need of treatment and the fact that some of the large hospitals came under attack, as we may say, by looters is most distressing."

The latest looting incident comes as the United Nations expresses grave concern following what it says is anarchy and chaos in the capital.

Ramiro Lopes da Silva of the UN Office of the Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Iraq says it sends the wrong signal to the newly liberated Iraqis.

He has warned American inaction could be in breach of the Geneva convention for failing to protect hospitals.

"If they stay at the margins of the issue, that is grave because it gives also the wrong signal to the Iraqi people, who've been subject to so many decades of dictatorship, of what freedom and democracy means," he said.

U.S.-BACKED MILITIA TERRORIZES TOWN

Iraqwar.ru, 04/09/03

Hay Al Ansar, on the outskirts of Najaf in Iraq, was glad to be rid of Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party government, when the city was seized by U.S. forces last week.

But they appear to be just as terrified, if not more so, of their new rulers—a little-known Iraqi militia backed by the U.S. Special Forces and headquartered in a compound nearby.

The Iraqi Coalition of National Unity (ICNU), which appeared in the city last week riding on U.S. Special Forces vehicles, has taken to looting and terrorising their neighbourhood with impunity, according to most residents.

"They steal and steal," said a man living near the Medresa al Tayif school, calling himself Abu Zeinab. "They threaten us, saying: 'We are with the Americans, you can do nothing to us'."

Sa'ida al Hamed, another resident, said she witnessed looting by the ICNU and other armed gangs in the city, which lost its police force when the government fled last week. One man told a U.S. Army translator on Monday that he was taken out of his house and beaten by ICNU forces when he refused to give them his car. They took it anyway.

If true, the testimony of residents reveals a darker side to U.S. policy in Iraq. In their distaste for peacekeeping and eagerness to hand the ruling of Iraq back to Iraqis, U.S. forces are in danger of losing the peace as rapidly as they have won the war.

U.S. Special Forces said they were looking into the complaints, which had been passed to them by U.S. military sources. They declined, however, to discuss the formation of the group, how its members were chosen, or who they were.

The head of the ICNU, who says he is a former colonel in the Iraqi artillery forces who has been working with the underground opposition since 1996, announced on Tuesday that he was acting mayor of Najaf, and his group had taken over administration of the city.

Other Iraqi exiles, brought in by the CIA and U.S. Special Forces to help assemble a local government over the next few days, say the militia is out of control.

"They are nobody, and nobody has ever heard of them, all they have is U.S. backing," said an Arab journalist.

Abu Zeinab said the ICNU "has no basis in this city, we don't know who they are". He said the residents, who are predominantly Shia Muslims, followed only Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, leader of much of the Shia world, who lives in the city.

Ayatollah Sistani has so far refused to meet representatives of U.S. forces and has made no public pronouncements on co-operating with the U.S. military. Associates say he is "waiting for the situation to become clearer".

Hassan Mussawi, a Shia cleric who helps lead the ICNU, said reports of looting by his group were untrue—fabricated by religious extremists to discredit his movement.

He said his group was seeking to arrest former Iraqi government officials and "collaborators" with Mr. Hussein's regime.

"If they do not resist arrest we hand them over to the Americans. If they resist then we take measures accordingly."

The allegations against the ICNU threaten to undermine much of the goodwill built up by U.S. forces among the citizens of Najaf, who still cheer troops driving through the city. In an effort to curb rampant looting, U.S. forces have begun to patrol at night. ...

The city's political rivalries appear to be affecting humanitarian assistance. U.S. Special Forces have objected to certain Shia leaders distributing food aid, for fear of their ties to Iran.

Sixteen truckloads of food from the Kuwait Red Crescent Society is being distributed according to a ration plan drawn up by the Iraqi Ministry of Commerce for the United Nation's oil-for-food programme.

U.S. forces are also trying to get running water and power returned to the city, by bringing in a 2.5MW generator from Kuwait to restart the city's power plant, which was shut off by Iraqi forces. ...

[JR: For the Iraqi people all the U.S. invasion has brought them is anarchy, looting, death and massive destruction of their cities. When the chaos became rampant our military said restoring order wasn't at the top of their list as they were there to fight a war. After that comment, the next day the military imposed sunset-to-sunrise curfews. The following day the cheerleaders in our media announced that the U.S. would be sending our own police to bring order to Iraqi cities. Since these super cops are expected to restore order in a war zone you can bet that these "policemen" are specially trained and experienced in handling hostile urban situations. You have to know that among the liberators who marched into Iraq are "advisors" from Israel who are there to set up their own organizations to secure Israel's future plans. Operation Iraqi Freedom's primary objective was to secure the oil fields and our military has already admitted to this. The oil fields are probably the most safe and secured places in all of Iraq. High-tech security systems will probably be next on the list of important things to do. Despite White House denials, Cheney's Halliburton Company has that \$2 billion contract to get those fields up and running. I wonder how many Iraqis will be working in those oil fields? The Iraqis haven't seen anything yet. Wait until the influx of experts, advisors, and "ethnic carpetbaggers" from the West come in to take over and set up their own companies. Bringing liberty to Iraqis held no importance for the Bush boy as he used the plight of the Iraqi people to rally the support of his Christian Crusaders here in America. America and its leaders have achieved their unholy war and have earned for us a very high place in history's Hall of Shame and Infamy, not to mention that of the Universe.]

SOLDIERS' REJOICING RAISES ISSUE: ARABS SENSITIVE TO DISPLAYS OF AMERICAN FLAG

By Hugh Dellios, *Tribune*, 04/11/03

DOHA, Qatar—For much of the Arab world, the most powerful symbol of the fall of Baghdad was not the statue of Saddam Hussein being torn down, it was the image of the Marine placing the U.S. flag over the statue's head moments before it fell.

Although the flag was quickly replaced with an Iraqi flag, the image played prominently Thursday on newspaper front pages in Cairo and Web sites based in Saudi Arabia. It mirrored a similar incident of soldiers raising the American flag in Umm Qasr, Iraq, in the opening days of the war.

The flag incidents reinforced Arab fears that occupation is the hidden motive behind the U.S. invasion of Iraq, despite repeated assurances to the contrary by U.S. military commanders and senior Bush administration officials.

"That's a powerful picture. It will have a big impact on Arab readers," said Khaled Al Maena, editor of the *Arab News*, the English-language affiliate of the influential Saudi newspaper *Sharq al Awsat*.

U.S. officials have tried to downplay the flag incidents and have begun to recognize how damaging the images could be for efforts to persuade the Iraqis and other Arabs that they want to help rebuild Iraq for Iraqis.

The Army issued an order Thursday barring the display of the U.S. flag on vehicles, buildings, statues and command posts in Iraq, the *New York Times* reported.

The order said that "displaying the American flag counters the perception that we are liberators and allows enemy and other bad actors to use the images of our flags prominently displayed to reinforce their message that the U.S. is here to oppress the Iraqis."

Air Force Maj. Gen. Victor "Gene" Renuart said Thursday that the raising of the flag in Baghdad was merely a result of "enthusiasm and jubilation".

He emphasized that U.S. soldiers had quickly acknowledged the sensitivity of the issue and taken the flags down.

In a television interview Wednesday, the Marine who unfurled his flag said he had done it on orders of his commander.

"It was a crazy experience. A lot of people³/₄Iraqi people³/₄downstairs below us chanting, and just being able to do that . . . I'm still blown away," Cpl. Edward Chin of New York told *ABC News*. "And the flag³/₄it was on the Pentagon when it got hit on 9/11. That was the same flag, and me being from New York, it kind of all goes together a little bit."

Yet however momentary, the sight of the U.S. flag in Baghdad's central square Wednesday was instantly interpreted by many Arabs as a revelation of darker U.S. motives. ...

[JR: The scene of an American flag (that conveniently happened to be the flag that flew over the Pentagon on 9/11) being draped over the statue of Saddam, by an American soldier, conveniently from New York, did as was intended, implant a negative image in the minds of the Arab and Muslim people. What was omitted is the fact that the statue of Saddam was pulled down by one of our tanks, and that CROWD consisted only of a dozen cheering Iraqis. How is it that in every town our troops marched into, the Iraqis were reported as waving American flags? Our U.S. troops or those imbedded press corps people must have packed small flags to pass out to the Iraqi "greeters". Note too that those close or tight shots you see on TV of happy Iraqis; are obviously staged. What is not staged are the scenes of American troops scavenging through the buildings of Baghdad looking for souvenirs or relaxing around the palaces and homes that have been abandoned.

This is meant to both insult and to impress upon the minds of the Arab people, that America is the occupier and controller of Iraq as well as a conqueror in words as well as in deeds. The most crucial battle will be to win over the Iraqi people with our Softwars propaganda programs. This will be the Mother/ Father of all battles!]

MEDIA BLITZ PLEDGES 'NEW ERA' FOR IRAQIS

By Jeff Zeleny, *Washington Bureau*, 04/11/03

WASHINGTON—In his first public remarks since the dramatic fall of Baghdad, President Bush pledged Thursday in a televised address that the Iraqi people would soon taste political freedom. ...

The broadcast is part of a wide-ranging public-relations effort by the White House and the Pentagon to assure Iraqis that neither the U.S. nor its ally, Britain, will occupy their country. The aggressive campaign includes a daily newspaper as well as radio and television reports that will air five hours each night on the former state-run network, now called Towards Freedom TV....

"This is George W. Bush: The president of the United States," he said, speaking against a red backdrop as white Arabic subtitles appeared on the screen. "We will help you build a peaceful and representative government that protects the rights of all citizens. And then our military forces will leave."...

Future broadcasts will include briefings from government officials, including Bush, and specially produced news shows and interviews. The programs are designed to combat negative images of the U.S. that are being transmitted throughout the Arab world.

Since allied troops penetrated Baghdad and commandeered the Iraqi broadcasting system, the U.S. Defense Department has transmitted programming from military aircraft, and new television facilities are en route from London. Allied forces also began Thursday to publish an Arabic-language newspaper called *The Times*.

"For decades, the Iraqi people have heard nothing but totalitarian propaganda that was designed to prop up the regime of Saddam Hussein," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. "Their messages to the Iraqi people were far from the truth."

The information campaign, which is controlled by the U.S. government, started weeks ago with a program called *Commando Solo*. That initiative beamed radio messages to Iraqi people to counter the pro-Hussein propaganda that was delivered through state-run television.

Not all Iraqis, though, were able to see that Hussein's face had been replaced by those of Bush and Blair. Most of Baghdad remained without power Thursday, after an intense allied bombing campaign.

Within the next month, though, the Bush administration hopes the public-relations campaign will be visible to the majority of Iraq's 24 million people. The White House said the ultimate goal is a free press operated by the Iraqi people.

"Your nation will soon be free," Bush said. "The government of Iraq and the future of Iraq will soon belong to you."

By replacing Iraqi TV with carefully scripted messages from the U.S. and Britain, some critics questioned whether the new programming is merely propaganda from a different government. ...

[JR: Bush is doing a "Sharona" on the Iraqi people. He says one thing to gain the confidence of the Iraqi people while behind the scenes he is engaged in plotting the course against them and their country's future. What makes our propaganda the truth, as opposed to the "truth of Saddam and his regime"? Will *Commando Solo's* programs of happy news wash away the memories and the horrors that the Iraqi people have seen and gone through

during the past month or erase the 12 years of hardships under our sanctions? How can we ever replace the loss of the loved ones that have been killed or captured or are missing? What about those who paid so dearly for their so-called freedom with the scars they bear or the limbs missing from their bodies or their children that they could not save? Bush and Blair's assurances that Iraq will not become an occupied country, is pure conjecture on their part. It will take a much longer time than our quickie war to restore Iraq and the confidence of its people. The new Iraq and its people will be assimilated into Western cultures and the Western way of thinking and doing things. It has been that way for the Arab people ever since the British discovered oil under the sands of the Arabian deserts.]

RUMSFELD UNDER THREE-PRONGED ATTACK

By Jim Lobe, *Asia Times*, 04/04/03

WASHINGTON (*IPS*)—While the United States military continues to explode real bombs over Baghdad, a full-scale guerrilla war centered on President George W. Bush's Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld appears to have broken out in earnest back in Washington.

A coalition of retired senior military officers, moderate Republicans, and even some civilian hawks who have strongly supported Rumsfeld's efforts to "transform" the U.S. military is increasingly taking aim at the Pentagon chief, whom they accuse of intimidating the uniformed military and needlessly alienating Washington's European allies.

In a searing column in Wednesday's *New York Times*, the former commander of the U.S. Central Command in the Persian Gulf region, retired Marine Corps General Joseph Hoar, even called on Congress to hold hearings on how the current military campaign in Iraq was conceived and developed and whether Rumsfeld had prevented senior officers from testifying to Congress about their concerns.

Except for a handful of liberals who have expressed alarm at the eagerness with which Rumsfeld and his neo-conservative advisors have taken Washington to war, Democrats have been reluctant to join the attacks lest they be accused of being unpatriotic.

But they voted unanimously in key congressional committees on Tuesday for a supplemental 2004 appropriations bill that denied the Pentagon control over a U.S. \$2.5 billion fund to provide relief and development assistance in Iraq. The committees instead earmarked the money for the State Department's Agency for International Development (USAID).

In another slap, the House and Senate appropriations committees also deleted a requested \$150 million account that Rumsfeld had requested for assistance to unspecified "indigenous forces" involved in the U.S.-led global "war on terrorism". ...

The attacks on Rumsfeld and his advisors are being waged on three fronts: the military conduct of the war; their plans for the postwar occupation; and their resistance to any meaningful role for the United Nations, an issue regarded as especially important to Washington's traditional European allies.

The attack on the military front is being waged above all by retired senior military officers such as Hoar and retired General Barry McCaffrey, who led armored units in the 1991 Gulf War, as well as with anonymous comments from officers in the field. They have argued that by insisting on a fast dash by marines and infantry units from Kuwait to Baghdad, Pentagon officials have stretched forces far too thin, creating re-supply bottlenecks and exposing troops to guerrilla attacks from rear areas, which Pentagon planners had almost entirely discounted.

In particular, critics charge that Rumsfeld and his staff

imposed a plan against the advice of some commanders designed to show off their ideas about a military "transformation"—relying more on high-tech weaponry and speed than on the traditional U.S. doctrine of deploying overwhelming force at every point of the battlefield. ...

That line of attack from Rumsfeld's critics is related directly to the Pentagon's plans for occupying Iraq after the war. The assumption put out by Wolfowitz and other neo-conservatives inside and outside the administration before the attack, that the vast majority of Iraqis would celebrate the arrival of U.S. troops as "liberators", has been widely discredited, leaving major questions about the nature and size of the occupation.

Particularly damaging to Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz was the way they ridiculed Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki's testimony before Congress prior to the war, that an occupation could require 200,000 U.S. troops or more. "Wildly off the mark," Wolfowitz said at the time, an assertion that not only seemed designed to humiliate the U.S. Army's senior officer, but that now, after two weeks of war, appears far too optimistic.

"The problem with the conduct of the war is that it is laying the seeds for a very ugly occupation," noted retired ambassador Chas Freeman, who warned that U.S. troops could face a situation not dissimilar to that experienced by Napoleon Bonaparte when he tried to occupy Spain. "It is fairly incredible that the civilians [in the Pentagon] inhaled their own propaganda about the welcome that U.S. forces would receive from the Iraqis," Freeman told *Inter Press Service*, adding: "No one who knew anything about the region ever bought [the notion that U.S. troops would be welcomed as liberators], but no one who knew anything about the region was invited to take part in policy discussions. In this case, there was a sort of cabalistic exclusion of the experts and an intent to misrepresent intelligence to sustain the policy."

But the critics' third line of attack may be the most telling, if only because it is being mounted in part by individuals who strongly supported the invasion. In their view, Rumsfeld and his coterie have contributed most to the dangerous breach that has opened up between Washington and its European allies on the road to war.

They say that the only way to undo the damage is to agree with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the rest of Europe that the UN must play a central role in any occupation—a position strongly opposed by Pentagon civilians, who have already designated a retired general to take over assisted by former Central Intelligence Agency director James Woolsey, another neo-conservative. Rumsfeld has insisted that the UN role be confined to relief and reconstruction and that its personnel report to the U.S. occupying forces.

But on this issue, Democrats, moderate Republicans, and even some neo-conservatives are refusing to go along, opposing any subordination of the world body to a U.S. viceroy. "The last thing we need to do is look as though we are putting in a puppet government," noted the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Joseph Biden, who cited Rumsfeld by name as the man responsible for idea.

"Blair will break with us over this issue," predicted Freeman. "If we attempt to pursue a unilateral U.S. military occupation of Iraq, not only will we be compounding our political problems in Iraq and with the Arab world, but we also will be completely isolating ourselves."

[JR: All the planning and strategy for this attack on Iraq was done only within the neo-conservative camp and without those in the military with the expertise on war and whose job it is to plan out an invasion. Rummy surrounds himself with those who are either of the same mind or too afraid to be other than yes men. Oh, the U.S. and Britain won the war against Saddam, but at the cost of excessive coalition lives, turning Iraq into a region of chaos and disaster and

its people into suicide bombers with even greater hatred towards Americans and British. Rummy planned everything with the assumption that the Iraqi people would welcome the coalition invading army with open arms after the massive bombings and after the civilians were fired upon and many killed or wounded when they tried to evacuate the towns and cities under attack. What makes Rummy think that his invading army, intent on occupation, would be cheered by the Iraqis because they were being liberated from one suppressive regime and then placed under the strict rules of occupation and told that IN TIME they will be free to govern themselves. Ask any Palestinians how they feel about living under those conditions for over half a century.]

U.S. SEES LIMITED UN ROLE IN IRAQ

By Adam Entous, *Daily News*, 04/04/03

WASHINGTON (*Reuters*)—The United States on Friday ruled out a leading role for the United Nations in immediate post-war Iraq, saying Washington and its allies had earned top-status having given “life and blood” to the war effort and promised to include Iraqis in the process from day-one.

“It would only be natural to expect that after having participated and having liberated Iraq, coalition forces, having given life and blood to liberate Iraq, that the coalition would have the leading role. I don’t think anybody is surprised by that,” President Bush’s national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, told reporters. ...

While finding Saddam³/₄either dead or alive³/₄would be “helpful”, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush’s “definition of victory” was removing the current government from power and eliminating the country’s alleged weapons of mass destruction. ...

If Saddam eludes U.S. forces, he would join the ranks of America’s most wanted, a list now topped by al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, whom Washington blames for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Rice said the UN would have a part to play in post-war Iraq, particularly in the distribution of humanitarian aid and running the oil-for-food program, designed to use oil proceeds to help feed the people.

But she said: “The precise role of the UN will be determined in consultations between the Iraqi people, coalition members and UN officials.”

Rice said the decision to leave the UN in a supportive role was not aimed at penalizing the world body for refusing to authorize war against Iraq as demanded by Bush.

“It’s not a matter of confidence,” she said.

Rice said the new Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA), headed by retired Army Gen. Jay Garner and reporting to U.S. commander Gen. Tommy Franks, would spearhead humanitarian assistance and reconstruction in coordination with nongovernmental organizations.

“The Department of Defense is the lead U.S. agency in this effort,” Rice said, seeking to quell power battles pitting the Pentagon against the State Department over taking the lead in a post-Saddam Iraq.

She said ORHA’s first priority will be restoring basic services in Iraq, from water and electricity to essential medical care.

After an initial phase, Garner’s office would turn over functions to an Iraqi interim authority, which Rice said would include Iraqi exiles and citizens still living in the country. In turn, Garner’s office would shift to an advisory role.

Rice said the Iraqi interim authority could start functioning in some parts of the country even before the war is over, but that depended on security and other factors. “We’ll have to see what unfolds on the ground to see if it makes sense,” she said.

But she stressed: “The interim authority will not be a coalition-imposed provisional government. Iraqis will be developing the interim authority at various stages of the process.”

Rice said the goal was “to return sovereignty to the Iraqi people as soon as possible.”

[JR: The White House is again redefining what our mission is in Iraq. Our goal wasn’t to get rid of Saddam... it was to set up a new regime. Fleischer is accurate when he says, “it doesn’t matter if Saddam is dead or alive”. Why would Bush or his handlers want the capture of Saddam or bin Laden dead or alive when they have successfully promoted them as their evil poster boys to jump-start our many wars. The U.S. is following the Zionists’ plan to limit the powers of the UN and olde Europe. They didn’t support us in our war and are now considered irrelevant as to world affairs. The U.S. has in place new power structures that will duplicate or replace the organizations of olde Europe like the Bilderbergers, the Committee of 300, along with their offshoots the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations. Our PNAC (Project for a New American Century) is a group that will formulize our ideological, political, economic, military and foreign policies. There is also the AEI (American Enterprise Institute) that is formulating Israel’s Zionist policies for the Middle East. WOLFowitz and Perle have hand picked retired Army General Garner to run the day-by-day money-making decisions as to who will enjoy the spoils of war in Iraq and who will not. Garner is a pro-Israel and an anti-Arab protagonist that has close connections to the Israeli-sponsored group called JINSA (Jewish Institute or National Security Affairs). Israel has her talons in the heart of Iraq and is already playing a direct role in her future. God help us and the world to rid Iraq of the Zionist parasites who have overtaken her!]

U.S. ROLE WORRIES EAST ASIA

By Marshall M. Bouton, *Tribune*, 04/06/03

Marshall M. Bouton, president of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, has just returned from a trip to East Asia

From Tokyo to Singapore, Asian leaders are focused on the progress of the war in Iraq. The war has brought home their vulnerability in the post-9/11 world. Most of all, they are concerned that Iraq could turn the United States from a stabilizing to a destabilizing power in east Asia.

Asians fear the contagion of war even more than the SARS virus that is moving across the region.

They face their own threats of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. But the biggest threat is a United States that uses its power either too little or too much, endangering Asia’s progress. While Europeans may be resisting American primacy, Asians still count on it to provide international order as they pursue their largely domestic priorities.

Iraq is the main topic of conversation with American visitors in every capital.

Televisions are tuned not only to *CNN* and *BBC* in government offices, airports and restaurants, but also to unprecedented 24/7 reporting and commentary on government channels such as China’s *CCTV*. Protests against the war, large and small, are seen in the streets, even in allied capitals such as Tokyo and Seoul and buttoned-up bastions such as Beijing.

Memories of 20th Century wars, poverty and domestic instability are still quite fresh. The economic miracle of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s gave east Asians much confidence that the future would be different, but then the financial crisis of 1997-98 battered them again.

Asia today is focused on the economic growth and

regional economic integration essential to domestic and international stability in the long run.

Although Asia is far behind Europe in building an economic community, Asians, like Europeans, give priority to their regional effort and are very wary of international actions that might disrupt it.

Seeing the U.S. at war in Iraq, however, Asians are beginning to grasp how 9/11 has changed American thinking and priorities. Given that virtually every Asian society has experienced massive violence in the last 60 years, Asians may have underestimated how much more vulnerable Americans feel after the loss of nearly 3,000 lives. Iraq is demonstrating vividly that Americans are resolved to do something about it.

Asian governments, with the exception of Malaysia and Indonesia, have concluded that they must support U.S.-led antagonism against Iraq not because they are necessarily convinced that the threat posed by Saddam Hussein warrants the use of military force at this time, but because they believe their relationships with the U.S., so critical to their goals of economic progress and domestic stability, are at risk.

Asia knows it needs a powerful U.S. engaged in the region. The key question in Asian leaders’ minds is how to manage their relationships with the United States so that new U.S. priorities and approaches, especially the willingness of the U.S. to respond to threats unilaterally and pre-emptively, do not result in regional instability and economic setbacks.

In northeast Asia, this concern is focused on the problem of how to deal with a destitute and desperate North Korean regime that is threatening to develop nuclear weapons.

Japan, South Korea and China share the U.S. conviction that North Korea must not become a nuclear weapons power. But they fear that the U.S. will conclude that it must use military means to prevent this development, with disastrous consequences for them. They have decided that support for the U.S. war in Iraq, or at least no active opposition to it, is a price worth paying to retain some influence on U.S. actions in their region.

Japan is counting on the U.S. to prevent North Korea from building missiles and possibly nuclear or chemical and biological weapons. For 50 years, Japan’s security has depended on U.S. protection. A nuclear-armed North Korea would put the reliability of the U.S. security guarantee in doubt and put enormous pressure on Japanese leaders to remilitarize. At the same time Japan is fearful of the consequences of war on the Korean Peninsula.

In South Korea, the new government of President Roh Moo Hyun is supporting the U.S. in Iraq despite considerable anti-Americanism in the country.

Seoul, which would bear almost the entire brunt of war on the peninsula, realizes that it, too, must try to influence U.S. responses to North Korea’s provocations. It sees the possibilities very differently and wants the U.S. to negotiate directly with the North even though this would risk the South being cut out of the key decision-making.

For its part, China places great importance on a stable relationship with the U.S. so that it can concentrate on pressing domestic problems, especially the need to keep unemployment from rising too high as the economy is restructured. ...

In Southeast Asia, keeping the U.S. geopolitically engaged and helpful in countering the potential rise of radical Islam are the main concerns. Right now, the nations there are concerned that U.S. preoccupation with the Middle East, Europe and northeast Asia after the war in Iraq will result in less attention to Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asian leaders, though, are divided over the impact of war in Iraq and the U.S. war on terrorism, more broadly, on Islam in the region. Not surprisingly, the two Muslim-majority countries, Indonesia and Malaysia, have

been openly and actively opposed to the war. The three countries with Muslim minorities, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines, have been quietly supportive. ...

Today, Southeast Asians recognize that Islam is becoming politicized, especially in Indonesia and Malaysia.

The challenge is to prevent radicalism from infecting this process. In this respect support for the U.S. in Iraq cuts both ways. Widespread revulsion at the war among Southeast Asian Muslims is cementing the reality, as one person told me, that to be Muslim is to be anti-American.

So Asian leaders are walking a tightrope. They want the U.S. to be successful in the "war on terrorism". Failure not only would affect their interests directly but might lead to U.S. disengagement from the region. On the other hand, they seek to limit the new U.S. tendency toward unilateralism and the use of force. ...

[JR: The American market is vital to the economy of East and Southeast Asia but many are concerned that the power and influence of the U.S. could in fact jeopardize their own sovereignty. With the U.S. acting unilaterally, outside the realm of the world body of the UN, what Third World nation can afford to defy the U.S. The world is very apprehensive over the way Iraq was invaded and conquered with just a coalition of mostly two—yet the entire world did not stop it from happening. Now every country, not just Southeast Asia, feels vulnerable should the U.S. either covet their nation's natural resources, determine its government does not fit the American model or if they try to shift away from using U.S. Dollars as reserves or for trade. Today power makes right and the seats of power too often rule through fear.]

MILITARY TARGETS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

By Julie Deardorff, *Tribune*, 03/13/03

The Pentagon on Thursday will ask the U.S. House and Senate Committees on Armed Services to exempt the military from federal environmental laws that top brass says are hampering military training.

The proposed legislation, called the Readiness and Range Preservation Initiative, would excuse armed forces from major provisions of the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Superfund law and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Though a similar measure was defeated last year, the Defense Department says the relaxed provisions are necessary to improve training across the country. Without the changes, military units are forced into "pretend" training, a disadvantage during a war on terrorism, the government contends.

At the 125,000-acre Camp Pendleton in California, for example, environmentalists' litigation may force the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate more than half of the base as critical habitat—an area considered necessary to the species survival. At the Goldwater Range in Arizona, the Air Force redirects or cancels 30 percent of live-drop missions every year to avoid jeopardizing an endangered antelope called the Sonoran pronghorn.

"With the many restrictions placed on military training and weapons testing in recent years, training is losing its realism," said a Defense Department statement. The initiative is aimed only at activities that relate to combat and military training and would not affect closed bases or requirements to clean up old sites, it said.

Environmental groups, who will also testify Thursday, say the proposal is part of the Bush administration's ongoing campaign to roll back environmental protections. The exemptions are hidden in the National Defense Authorization Act, a funding bill for the Defense Department that is unrelated to environmental law, said Michael Jasny of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Moreover, the legislation is unnecessary,

conservationists say, because federal law already allows case-by-case exemptions when environmental laws hurt troop readiness. And the secretary of defense has unilateral authority to waive one law, the Endangered Species Act.

"Training does go forward, and species get protected," said John Kostyack of the National Wildlife Federation. "The latest [claim] is that our troops have not learned to dig foxholes. We have 25 million acres of land, and only a tiny percent of land has endangered species. The attack [on existing laws] is unjustified. We have a successful model that we don't want to undermine."

Balancing a well-trained military with environmental protections has never been easy. The Defense Department owns approximately 25 million acres on more than 425 major military installations throughout the U.S. Most military lands contain rare species and critical native plant communities such as old growth forests, tallgrass prairie and vernal pool wetlands. More than 300 federally listed species live on department-managed land. ...

But even under existing law, the military is one of the nation's biggest polluters, environmental groups say, and a recent report from the General Accounting Office turned up few instances that showed environmental laws had hindered troop training. At Ft. Wainwright in Alaska, the Environmental Protection Agency has cited the Army for more than 450 violations in a single month.

Meanwhile, Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod is a Superfund site where contaminants leached into the aquifer that is the area's sole source of drinking water.

"The [Pentagon's] argument that conducting cleanups on ranges threatens readiness is extreme," said Aimee Houghton of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight.

Still, there are also success stories that show a precarious balance can be reached. At Florida's Eglin Air Force Base, the number of redcockaded woodpecker breeding groups has increased from 169 to 262 in seven years. At Camp Pendleton the population of a small migratory songbird, the least Bell's vireo, has increased from 90 nesting pairs in 1986 to more than 900 pairs in 1999. ...

"Can you imagine a more conflicting set of activities?" asked Bruce Eilerts, a former Defense Department natural resources manager, who sides with environmental groups and opposes the legislation. "It's sort of like Bambi vs. Godzilla and we've been doing it successfully."

[JR: The military too often violates existing environmental laws and would like nothing better than to have legislation that would give them carte blanche environmental exemptions during training. If farmers aren't exempt from losing their family farms because of some endangered field mouse habitat then the military certainly should not be exempt on their lands. Almost every closed military base requires "Superfund Law" intervention to clean up years of toxic waste disposal and hazardous materials before it is termed suitable for transfer to non-military status. The U.S. military is by far one of the world's worst polluters, especially with their new hardened, depleted-uranium bombs that may expose millions to cancer for tens of years. For the military to ask for environmental exemptions is a joke.]

GOLD WILL WIN "EURO VS. DOLLAR" WAR

By Alex Wallenwein, *gold-eagle.com* (Editorial), 4/9/03

The "Euro vs. Dollar" war is the most recent—and most defining—chapter in gold's 5,000-year history.

As a seasoned gold investor, you may already be aware of the euro's currency attack on the U.S. dollar. Even though the issue is ignored into oblivion, particularly by American news media, gold investors are usually Internet-savvy enough to have come across the subject online—especially readers of *GOLD-EAGLE.com*.

Nevertheless, few realize how profoundly this conflict will soon impact their lives and their future investment outcomes.

The "Euro War" Drives Future Gold Valuation

While the war in Iraq blazes across our TV screens, occupying the forefront of people's minds all over the world, the Euro vs. Dollar war is the most far-reaching conflict in today's world. Its origins and certain consequences go far deeper than anyone today imagines.

One could make a valid case that the Euro vs. Dollar war is the real reason behind the United States' invasion of Iraq.

If that sounds like a ridiculous exaggeration, just realize that in November of 2002, Saddam Hussein had opted to settle all Iraqi oil sales under the UN's "oil for food" program in euro rather than U.S. dollars.

Whether Saddam did this just to "get back" at President Bush for insisting that he disarm, or whether he felt that his financial goals were better served that way, is ultimately irrelevant.

The undeniable fact is that the United States, as the issuer of the world's sole reserve currency, cannot afford to have other OPEC nations follow Iraq's example. For, if that happens, the dollar's reserve-currency status with all of its benefits to the United States is—well, over!

And when it's "over" too suddenly, the economic consequences to the U.S. will be catastrophic.

Currently, over half of the world's central bank currency reserves are held in dollars. U.S. dollars have historically been the exclusive medium of settlement for international oil transactions.

More than half of the world's remaining international trade transactions are settled in dollars as well, and even private individuals, especially in developing countries or former east bloc states, hold dollars as a hedge against collapse of their home currency's value.

Once even a small number of OPEC member countries begin to shun the dollar and transact their business in euros, the already existing process toward the "euro-isation" of the world monetary system will become an unstoppable avalanche that could bury the United States under mountains of its own currency—just like a hapless ski vacationer under a cascading wall of snow and ice.

And that means hyper-inflation of a magnitude even post-WWI Germany has not seen.

No doubt, the need to stem the tide of WMD proliferation and Saddam's passion of supporting anti-U.S. terrorism constitute an important part of George W.'s reasons for removing him. But to deny the fact that the ongoing Euro vs. Dollar war has had an enormous bearing on his decision to invade Iraq would be foolish, to say the least.

Money rules the world. And the dollar has been the world's trade money and sole reserve currency for the past 58 years. America's superpower days would be over in a jiffy if the euro were to take the world by storm.

The Euro vs. Dollar war also explains very eloquently the reasons why France and Germany have broken ranks with their liberator and former ally, and are trying to go it alone these days. These two countries consider themselves to be the driving force of Europe, and they understand very well the role of their new currency.

In the same vein, the Euro vs. Dollar war also explains their obvious, some might say shameless, courting of terrorist-supporting OPEC nations. The French and Germans WANT oil-producing countries to switch to euros for oil, because they know that this will immensely accelerate the advance of the new currency to worldwide reserve status, which will make Europe, and thereby them they hope, the next "superpower".

Gold is Europe's "Secret Weapon"...

The euro's creators also know that the United States is dead-set against a rising gold price, as such

would undermine Americans' and the world's confidence in the dollar. They know that the U.S. economic and political leadership is forced to expend enormous capital to keep the price of gold under control.

So they cleverly set the euro up to not just peacefully coexist but actually benefit from a rising gold price.

During the Clinton administration the U.S. had walked so far down the slippery slope of covert gold price suppression (with a little help from Bill's friends in the upper echelons of the U.S. bullion-bank industry) that it couldn't suddenly change course and allow the price to rise.

... While being the U.S.' Achilles' Heel

If the United States did allow the price to rise according to market forces, the bullion banks' massive gold short-sales exposure would cause them to implode, setting off a chain-reaction that could devastate U.S. and world financial markets.

This is the U.S.' Achilles' heel—and the euro countries are aiming at it with all barrels blazing.

None of this has been breathed to the American public, even by the non-mainstream media. Americans are frightfully unaware of this enormous threat.

Decades of official, media, and financial "expert" conditioning have made the American public immune to even the slightest suggestion that gold might be a prudent investment, but the recent run-up in gold prices has begun to open at least a few eyes.

The sad result is that the United States now owns far less gold than official figures pretend. The official sector has covertly frittered its gold reserves away in illegal price-suppression schemes, while the private sector has frittered its paper-dollars away by chasing illusory stock-market gains. And despite the recently commenced (and still unbroken) secular bull market in gold, few Americans give the shiny metal its due regard.

But without gold, the United States cannot even stand up—much less fight back—in a world where the U.S. dollar becomes worthless while its enemies (declared and undeclared) make out like bandits. If the U.S. must first exchange fast depreciating dollars to euros before settling oil transactions, it will soon be unable to pay its debts—and we are the world's largest debtor nation.

For this reason, it is imperative that Americans realize the importance of gold—even if their government will not.

Europeans realize it. They already value their gold reserves according to market price, which boosts the euro's value as a reserve currency.

Muslims realize it. **They are about to launch their own 100% gold-bullion currency called the "gold dinar".**

Asians realize it. Asian and Indian private gold demand in the form of jewelry and ingots is legend.

Even Communist China has recently liberated its gold market, allowing the private trading and ownership of gold to take advantage of this crucial trend!

Only the U.S. government ostrich has buried its head deep in a pile of paper dollars and gold derivatives.

Can America Escape the Looming Disaster?

That must change, or this country, with all its military might and its powerful economic engine, will be history.

The antidote to this may be painful, but it is not nearly as painful as the hyper-inflation that will hit this country when all those international reserve and trade-dollar chickens will come home to roost.

Call me a dreamer, but the question simply boils down to this:

The U.S. government can either:

* Continue to covertly support the bullion banks' leasing/short-selling, price-rigging game under the conventional notion that they MUST be supported because they are "too big to fail"—and as a result suffer total economic breakdown from a hyper-inflation that will make that of post-WWI Germany pale in comparison—or

* Cut its losses and abandon its failed, decades-old anti-gold policies by

* Dumping the bullion banks (sorry, Friends of Bill)

* Valuing its gold reserves at market price (instead of the silly "official gold price" of \$42.00 per ounce), and

* Buying gold in the open market to replenish the official reserves frittered away in decades of surreptitious gold leasing, swapping, and shady ESF deals that were designed to prop up the failing dollar by "managing" the price of gold into oblivion.

If U.S. leaders should find the courage to do this, the formerly feared explosion in gold prices set off by the official purchases (and by the powerful signal this policy change will send) will actually give the dollar's value an enormous boost, since the reserves will then be "marked to market". Marking to market simply means that the U.S. has dropped its "raise the dollar at the expense of gold" idiocy and now allows the gold price to soar freely.

If this is done, it will utterly fend off any euro-attacks and put the dollar on a par with its currency foe, vastly decreasing any OPEC countries' temptations to dump the petro-dollar for "petro-euros". Never mind that the Euro Zone has more gold in its collective central bank vaults. Once the currency playing field is leveled, the U.S. will outperform them any day.

President Bush has already proven that he has the guts and the foresight to ditch stupid policies [sic]—like propping up various repressive dictatorships such as the Saudis (and formerly even Saddam) in the hopes of hemming in other, more dangerous regimes (like Iran). He has proven beyond doubt that he has the moral courage to dare bring even a chance of freedom to a region that was previously considered lost to repression and violence.

Sure, the jury is still out as to the after-effect of the Iraq attack, but it is undeniable that his war plan was an unmitigated success. Even his expectations of popular support and uprisings against Saddam's forces are beginning to manifest themselves in a way no media critic has previously thought possible.

The very same courage and foresight is now needed to protect the United States from the otherwise inevitable result of the euro's takeover of world reserve-currency status. For, if the President does not follow this new course of action, the terrorist-supporting oil countries (and their French and German buddies) will be the ones who laugh last, crushing the U.S. in the dust of economic—and eventual even military—humiliation after all, never mind this stunning victory.

But, however this may be, whether the Euro wins or whether America wins this currency war, the gold eagle will soar to heights never before imagined, no matter what. Gold WILL be freed from its fiat-dollar/paper-gold shackles, and it WILL become the number-one measure of true wealth again. That monetary tsunami has already been set in motion by sea-bottom seismic events, and has begun its inevitable path to landfall. It will not be stopped before running its course.

The only question is: Will America as a nation of free and prosperous people be there to ride out the coming ascent on the gold eagle's back—or die squirming in its talons?—awallenwein@houston.rr.com; www.a1-guide-to-gold-investments.com/euro-vs-dollar.html

ISRAEL WANTS U.S. TO ATTACK SYRIA

By Vasily Bubnov, *Pravda*—RU, 04/17/03

There is no way to settle the Mideast conflict today.

The collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime is not likely to initiate the resolution of the entire complex of problems in the Middle East. Iraq is just a part of this Gordian knot. One option, of course, is to try to cut this knot with a single movement, but this will not result in anything good either. Attempts to settle the Mideast crisis, which has already become a permanent one, will definitely lead to unpredictable consequences.

Israel is the only country in the region that gained some profit from the Americans' victory in Iraq. However, it is impossible to call it a strategic achievement: Israel only got a temporary break. Its Arab neighbors are currently in the state of a stupor—and it is obvious that the Israeli government is trying to get an advantage from this state of affairs.

For example, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has stated that Syria has stored a large number of chemical weapons. This was definitely a hint for Washington: It would be good to deal with Damascus. In addition, Israel has more problems with Syria than it had with Iraq, at least during the last years of Saddam's rule. Nevertheless, Sharon's statements are not yet enough to push the American administration into waging war against Syria.

However, neither Sharon nor his coterie wish to look like "hawks" to the world community who crave immediate punishment for their opponents. Sharon also said that Israel was ready to conduct serious negotiations with Palestinians in order to erase the contradiction, as if the crushing of Saddam's regime had raised new perspectives for dialogue.

It is not clear what Sharon was talking about. If he implied that the previous Iraqi leadership rendered help to Palestinians, Iraq did not play the main role in this respect. Other countries of the Persian Gulf rendered much more help to their Palestinian "brothers", although those states did not support the war in Iraq. Washington is not likely to sacrifice relations with those countries in order to help Israel settle its problems with the Palestinians. This is not going to happen, at least not in the near future, until the post-war situation in Iraq becomes more or less clear.

Moreover, Ariel Sharon recently stated at a conference of the Likud Party that there is a certain condition to starting negotiations with Palestine: Arabs are supposed to reject their right to return to within the border of the present Jewish state. Needless to say, there are many doubts whether the Palestinians will agree to negotiate with such a condition in place. There will most likely be absolutely no progress achieved in the settlement of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in the short term. The two nations will have to make serious concessions to each other for that. Are Arabs ready for this after such humiliation? Is Israel ready for this as a winner of the Iraqi war, although it did not play a direct role in it? Well, not now.

Even if the incumbent Palestinian leadership agreed to accept Israel's conditions, it would not be a start for peace in the Middle East. Radical groups are too strong in Palestine and neighboring countries. They should not be listed as losers either. Hamas, Hizbollah and Islamic Jihad (and dozens of other terrorist groups) will have many new members soon.

SCHOOLS NOT TEACHING PRO-ISRAEL VIEWS TO LOSE FUNDING

By Michael Collins Piper,
American Free Press, 4/21/03
(Website: www.americanfreepress.net)

Congress To Pass 'Ideological Diversity' Legislation

Republican members of the Senate are planning to introduce police-state-style "thought control" legislation designed to prohibit criticism of Israel on American college campuses.

The third-ranking Republican member of the U.S. Senate, conservative Rick Santorum (Pa.), plans to introduce so-called "ideological diversity" legislation that would cut federal funding for thousands of American colleges and universities if those institutions are found to be permitting professors, students and student organizations to openly criticize Israel, which Santorum considers to be an act of "anti-Semitism".

Santorum wants to rewrite the federal funding formula under Title IX of the Higher Education Act to include "ideological diversity" as well as sexual equality in education as a prerequisite for federal funding.

Joining Santorum is another Senate conservative GOP stalwart—and a leading pro-Israel ideologue—Sen. Sam Brownback (Kan.) who has his own scheme to call for a federal commission—critics call it a "tribunal" to be established under Title IX to "investigate" anti-Semitic incidents on American campuses.

This is no "conspiracy theory". It's a fact—but not one that is getting much attention except in a few high-level circles. Although the average American student or college professor has not heard of the Santorum-Brownback scheme, Wayne Firestone, director of the Center for Israel Affairs for the Hillel Foundation, says that "Everywhere I go, this is the lead topic. This is drawing a lot of interest."

In fact, it was Firestone's organization, Hillel—which has units on campuses across America—that first leaked word of Santorum's scheme. Further details appeared in a circumspect report on April 15 in the small-circulation *New York Sun*, a stridently pro-Israel "neo-conservative" daily published in Manhattan.

Hillel told its supporters that Santorum, along with several other members of the Senate, had invited representatives of a number of powerful Jewish organizations to attend a private meeting on Capitol Hill in order to discuss the senators' concerns about growing criticism of Israel on American college campuses.

The senators in question—all Republicans—were: Santorum, Robert Bennett (Utah), Sam Brownback (Kansas), and newly-elected Norm Coleman (Minnesota).

In addition, Senate Republican Majority Leader Bill Frist (Tenn.), and his GOP colleagues, Sens. Lindsey Graham (S.C.) and George Voinovich (Ohio) sent staff representatives.

Jewish organizations represented at the private meeting were the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith, the Zionist Organization of America, the American Jewish Committee and Hillel, represented by the aforementioned Firestone and his colleague Jay Rubin, Hillel's executive vice president. Louis Goldstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, represented the Bush administration.

During the private Senate session—of which there are no transcripts available to the taxpayers who footed the bill for the enterprise—an ADL representative reportedly claimed to the gathering that the ADL's "annual audit" of anti-Semitic activity in America had detected an increase by 24% of anti-Semitism on U.S. college campuses in the year 2002. That 24% increase—even by the ADL's own admission—constituted only 21 actions.

However, the ADL definition of "anti-Semitism" is so broad that it largely includes even the mildest criticism of Israel that doesn't happen to be framed in the particular parameters that the ADL determines to be acceptable. In the meantime, word of the Santorum-Brownback initiative is spreading among leaders of the educational community.

However, spokesmen for universities and educational organizations are being quite circumspect about commenting too quickly or too loudly, recognizing that they, too, could be accused of encouraging "anti-Semitism" if they dare to speak out against the thought-control mechanism that Santorum, Brownback and their allies want to set in place.

Santorum is rapidly emerging as one of Israel's leading Senate spokesmen. He is one of the chief co-sponsors of the so-called Syrian Accountability Act that accuses Syria of supporting terrorism and developing "weapons of mass destruction" and demands that Syria withdraw from Lebanon. Forces now clamoring for war against Syria are using these allegations as the foundation for launching a war against the Arab republic. [MM: To subscribe to *American Free Press* call 1-888-699-NEWS (6397) toll free—Visa or MasterCard accepted.]

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Budget's "Tip of the Week" #1:

NRS 78.105—Maintenance of Records at the Registered Office

According to *NRS 78.105* (restated, emphasis added): A corporation has a responsibility to maintain certain corporate records at its registered office *for inspection by stockholders*, including a State-certified copy of its Articles of Incorporation, a copy of the Bylaws and the stock ledger (or a statement naming the ledger's custodian, including the address at which the ledger is kept).

It is hard to see why such records should be maintained in any case where no stock has been issued, as the expressed intent of *NRS 78.105* appears to be to ensure that **stockholders** should have access to these corporate records. Of course, a court order may compel production of the corporate records and in that event, failure to produce them within a "reasonable" time could result in State penalties of \$25 per day for each day of refusal. In such an instance you would have up to five days to produce the records, which, of course, would be in perfect order.

If you choose to leave such records on file at the registered office of the corporation, you might want to take an extra measure of caution regarding privacy of those records and insist upon a **non-disclosure agreement** with the resident agent. Such an agreement should prevent the resident agent from casually identifying you with the corporation and from sharing the corporation's filed records with anyone other than the corporation's stockholders. (Otherwise, those records are potentially accessible by anyone making an inquiry.) And hopefully such an agreement would give the resident agent pause to consider additional security against those who might "snoop around".

Here is one more thing you can do to protect your privacy: Contact your resident agent and ensure that there are NO documents on file that connect YOUR NAME to the corporation. Have the resident agent expunge and shred any old memos, order forms and any other such information that could adversely impact your desire for privacy.

The next "Tip of the Week" will discuss Nevada's statutory sanctions against anyone who would even *attempt* to access the corporation's records for purposes contrary to those of its stockholders.

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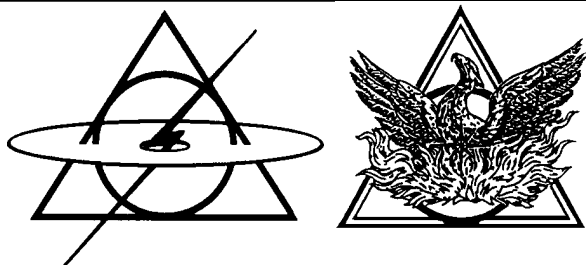
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I have never stopped writing for *CONTACT*—but I have NOT written, nor have my compatriots written for *Spectrum*. Tails wag a lot of dogs, my friends. Therefore, "or what" has no meaning.

January 6, 2001