

Slouching Toward Bethlehem — The Empire Staggeres On

by
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(12/12/06 www.mountainsentinel.com) It has become quite clear to everyone who has eyes that the invasion of Iraq is turning into a debacle. Even staunch Republican supporters of Bush and the war are beginning to realize that this invasion is criminal, and that the Bush administration is guilty of high crimes against the United States and the world. Yet, despite all the criticisms and condemnations, it seems that the US and Great Britain will stay the course, even if it means the death of thousands more civilians and soldiers.

On the surface, Bush is trying to save face. He simply will not admit he is wrong. And what sociopath ever will? He is also locked into an oedipal fight with his father. This obscene war must go on so that Dubya does not have to give in to his dad.

But what are the critics in the government and other powerful circles really saying? Are they saying that we should never have invaded Iraq in the first place and that we need to pull out entirely? No, they are simply saying that the White House strategy for fighting this war is failing.

At best, they are seeking a partial withdrawal of troops, and a change of tactics. The Baker report sees nothing fundamentally wrong with the war in Iraq. They simply want a change in tactics to resolve the bloody civil war which has already engulfed much of the country.

This is the frame currently being debated. No one in authority is questioning whether we should have invaded Iraq in the first place. They are simply discussing how best to subdue the country so that our conquest can succeed.

Bush is protecting his ego, and avoiding the discipline his father is trying to administer to him. But that is not the main reason why he wants to stay the course. And the Baker report does not advise to end the invasion for fear that the country will descend into chaos. The country is already in chaos.

Though they are really not interested in ending the invasion, I do have to hand it to the Baker commission for at least being honest about the reason for the invasion. Bush won't say it, and Congress won't say it, but the Baker report is very clear that the Iraq invasion is all about empire and oil.

The US forces in Iraq have become a corner stone of the US dominance of the Middle East. If we abandon Iraq now, as James Baker and his bipartisan colleagues well know, the US will lose control of the Middle East. And if we cut this strand, the entire US Empire will likely unravel in the blink of an eye.

To preserve our economic empire, we will condemn more soldiers and civilians to die in Iraq. To secure Iraq's oil wealth for private corporations, we will continue to torture, maim and humiliate the people of Iraq. And we will consider extending our conquest to Iran.

The Democrat controlled Congress will not end the war because Israel does not want to see that happen. Our congresspeople are well paid by AIPAC — the Israeli lobby — to place Israeli interests above US interests. And in this case, where the interests of Israel and big oil coincide, it would take a miracle for Congress to buck its handlers.

This is why Pelosi will not consider impeaching Bush. Bush is the Israelis' golden boy, and they will not see him rebuked so long as he continues to serve their interests. While I salute Rep. McKinney's effort to impeach Bush, I am very doubtful that anything will come of it. Rep. McKinney herself recognizes it as a final gesture before she is dismissed from Congress.

McKinney's gesture is as much a blow to the Democrats as to the Republicans. It puts the lie to their opposition to Bush and the invasion of Iraq. Not only are the powers that be against impeachment, but impeaching Bush for the invasion of Iraq would open up the possibility of war crime charges against every politician who supported this illegal war, be they Republicans or Democrats.

No, we will stay in Iraq, at least until we have secured the oil. That is what really matters here. Oil is far more precious than blood. The US is struggling to control the world's energy resources and to protect its empire as the dusk of the oil age approaches.

In the end, their efforts will fail. The empire is doomed. It is already decaying. This entire invasion is a sign of that decay. Eventually, rising oil prices will crush the global economic empire. The question we really need to ask is: what sort of world do we want to leave in the wake of this global empire?

Do we want a world of inequality and injustice, where the rich hoard the scraps of what is left while the poor fight for crumbs? We still have an opportunity to make this world a better place, but we must act very soon to do so. To make a future worth living, we must start by humbling ourselves right now. We must give up our imperialistic desires, and admit our culpability for the many environmental and social crises that are now converging. Neither Bush, nor Baker, nor the Democrat led Congress have an interest in pursuing this strategy.