



the **WHOLE** Truth **A B O U T** the U.S. War on Terror

**Answers to every question
you never knew to ask**



MIKE GREEN



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ABOUT
the U.S. War on Terror

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Dedication

There are so many who have positively impacted my life and influenced me to ask questions, seek answers, and listen closely to God when He whispers. The central voices and personalities that contributed to this work are:

My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who paved the path of truth down which I must walk, and who provided me the personal gift of insight in order that I might see the path.

My grandmother, Ethel Johnson, who was the first to teach me the power inherent in the question, “Why?”

My friend and editor, Mike Feller, with whom I spent countless hours debating the issues, and who held me accountable for every position I’ve taken a stand on in this book.

My friend Mason Weaver, who inspired me to believe that what I had to say was important enough to share with the world.

My friend Julie Reeder, who taught, nurtured and loved me as a member of her own family, and who provided an opportunity through which my small voice was heard crying out in the wilderness.

My friend Star Parker, who without knowing it, gave me invaluable experience and knowledge for which I will always be grateful.

I would like to thank my children, Rhonisha, Michael, and Ismael — through whose love and patience I learned much about being a father. I also want to acknowledge my brothers and sisters, as well as my mother, whose support and encouragement allowed me to persevere through many hardships.

And I offer thanks to my beautiful wife Emily for her undying support, and to my Savior who sent her to me. Through God’s divine intervention in my life, the lemons I’ve grown have been made into sweet lemonade.

Introduction

All of us are against allowing terrorists to have the ability to create chaos, havoc, and fear in our communities. Although we have been conditioned to fear weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), chemical attacks, and the contamination of our natural resources by enemies from abroad, most terrorists (in the absolute sense) are homegrown and come in the guise of gangbangers, serial killers, rapists, drunk drivers, etc.

Today, the American public maintains an irrational fear of the Islamic people perpetuated by government and media reports of suicide bombings and horrendous acts of violence occurring in a variety of countries. The common thread linking many of these atrocities point to Islam and devout Muslims. But the public's fear of Islam is truly motivated primarily by the fact that most people do not understand the motivating factors behind so many well-coordinated attacks that seemingly have no other purpose than to kill for the sake of killing.

The War on Terror has been framed as the good versus the bad, by both sides. And the propaganda war in the west has been won by the western powers while the propaganda war in the Middle East has been won by Islamic powers.

Who is telling the truth? And what is the truth?

That is what this book is about. The complete truth reveals a picture that becomes crystal clear as one comes to know the whole truth, rather than bits and pieces and distortions of it.

It isn't always a pretty picture. And often it annihilates our current perceptions and offers us an epiphany, which for some, can be difficult to accept. Nevertheless, the truth must be told and that is what I aim to do.

Despite the consistent news of suicide bombings in Iraq, Lebanon, Israel, Spain and even the United Kingdom, I believe the so-called foreign "terrorists" targeted by our government — with both a derogatory label and a military death warrant — are not necessarily the type of indiscriminately violent people portrayed by the current "terrorist" image.

Before my assertion is dismissed as a "radical" notion that should immediately be squashed ... I suggest that if each of us would take the time to suppress the emotions that naturally well up at the memory of seeing 2,996 innocent Americans die in a single coordinated attack on this nation, we would find that there is far more to what we saw on September 11, 2001 than the destruction of a couple of skyscrapers in New York City by "religious fanatics who hate our way of life."

The one question Americans were asking themselves after 9-11, Spaniards asked themselves after the Madrid bombings and Britons pondered after the coordinated bombings of trains and buses in the U.K., is simply, "Why?"

Yet, instead of merely accepting the first explanation provided by anonymous sources in the government, I did my own digging, investigating and research in an

effort to discover the one thing that has heretofore remained elusive throughout the escalation of fear and panic in various societies around the globe. The one thing I remained focused on discovering is simply the truth. But one has to embrace courage to face the truth, no matter how devastating it may be to one's own beliefs...if one desires to know the truth.

In the following pages of this book, I will reveal to you the unadulterated, unabashed, raw, naked truth regarding the United States' War on Terror. I will not cloud the truth or confuse the issues with double-talk. I will, however, test the loyalties of each reader to the truth. You should ask yourself whether you are adhering to something you have been told by voices in the media and the White House...or standing firm upon a foundation of knowledge gained through careful research and the analyzing of a variety of informative resources.

Finally, ask yourself if you care to even know the truth. Then delve into these pages, where everything you supposedly "knew" about governments, countries, and the society in which we live will be turned upside down.

THE PREMISE

The rationale for declaring war on Islam (a.k.a. The War on Terror) that has been provided to us by our trusted leaders in the federal government is fallacious and insidious. The very notion that the United States was, and is, the target of an irrational people whose goal is to murder Americans solely for the sake of jealousy or the advancement of the Islamic religion is preposterous. But this is precisely the propaganda being promoted by the United States government, and is the accepted reasoning behind the widespread support for U.S. military troops invading countries in the Middle East.

It is apparent that the American and British people have little knowledge about the principal "terrorist" characters in the so-called War on Terror. It is equally apparent that those who blindly support America's decision to send its men and women to fight and die in the Middle East do so for one simple reason ... they believe the lies they have been told and blindly support the decisions made by elected and non-elected individuals who sit in the seats of power within our government structure.

Many believe America has a right and duty to kill whomever our government claims is an enemy and a threat to this nation. Our government has done a terrific job of promoting the falsehood that the attacks on September 11, 2001 were *unprovoked* attacks on the civilian population of the United States. The problem is that millions of Americans have fallen victim to a massive lie perpetrated by liars who sit in the seats of power in our government. These propagandized victims (on both sides of the political aisle) have given their support to expanding the power of the federal government, expanding the debt of this country, paving the road for federal encroachment upon our civil liberties and offering up the brave men and women of our military as sacrifices upon the altar of blind loyalty to a corrupt government institution.

It would be nice if we could trust our leaders.

Unfortunately, many of our government leaders have been discredited and their words found to be mere lies and distortions of fact. I find it difficult to understand why millions of Americans not only lend their support to these leaders (with money and votes), but also willingly send innocent, brave men and women in our nation's military to their deaths based upon blind trust of the decisions of those whom we all know cannot be trusted. It is not my intention to chronicle the various lies and distortions of truth told by members of congress, leaders in the White House and appointees of the president, but rather to lay down the premise that the American public is aware of the fact that we are lied to on a fairly regular basis, yet continue to believe the liars when we are told it is a matter of "national security" or "security" of any kind.

Benjamin Franklin once said that those who sacrifice liberty for a little security deserve neither. Today, the American public has sacrificed not only liberty, but also the lives of those who would willingly die fighting in our defense, for reasons most Americans cannot articulate.

Some say that the United States and Great Britain are justified in our actions against the Islamic people in both Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as any other country in the Middle East or elsewhere around the globe that our leaders propose invading. These folks also claim that the attacks on September 11, 2001 were unprovoked, and were only a small portion of the *impending doom* that awaits this country unless we first kill those who would kill us.

I respectfully disagree.

In my opinion, these people are wrong.

I believe these folks unwittingly regurgitate propaganda they have swallowed from our government leaders and unknown media sources within the government.

Our leaders lie and we forget.

Our leaders steal and we forget.

Even our media cannot be fully trusted, as it has continually been found to have misreported, understated, overstated, recanted previous reports, ignored information due to political alliances and distorted the truth to serve its own political views and exercise power over leaders. Therefore, its reports must be carefully analyzed with the scrutiny of a skeptic, and compared to other media reports from both this and other countries that report on the same events.

Meanwhile, our leaders sacrifice our sons and daughters on foreign battlefields (Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Russia, Bosnia, Yugoslavia, Iran, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and other places) for reasons we do not fully understand, much less embrace.

And again...we forget.

Now, these same leaders say we must use our military to attack any nation at which the finger of "terrorism" is pointed. It seems to me that we should know by now what the Founding Fathers of this country knew: The government isn't to be trusted.

If one were to put into a book all of the known lies of our leaders to the American

people — as well as those appointed within the government structure — it would take up many volumes.

It is time for Americans to know the truth.

Typically, truth can be found by careful analysis and close scrutiny of historical facts. By ignoring history, we are doomed to repeat it. I chose to do the research and uncover the reasons why our leaders tell us that Islamic doctors, lawyers, psychologists, engineers, architects, and so many other educated and devoutly religious people have attacked this nation and its citizens for seemingly no legitimate reason or rationale.

I checked history for clues and answers to a debate that has been waged in this country since 1990. I chose to know the truth. And before I disclose the truth to you, I offer this one disclaimer: my research has led me to what I believe is an accurate understanding of the role the United States has taken on in the world. I present this research to you not as an indisputable set of facts and figures, but rather as a compilation of information I gathered from numerous sources that offer an illuminating perspective of the current dialogue and propaganda regarding the U.S. War on Terror.

You must make up your own mind and decide what you wish to believe.

The information contained within this book is what *I* believe. However, I have provided the sources of my information and the historical knowledge I have gained as a backdrop for my conclusion that the United States did not declare war against an unknown enemy defined as “terrorism,” but rather has *declared war on Islam itself*. And unfortunately, I do not believe we will win this war.

SYNOPSIS

In this book I will provide information that puts together the pieces of the puzzle that paint a clear picture that the U.S. Government undermined the democratic government of Iran in 1953 after being persuaded by Great Britain to assist in a covert operation that would bring Iran’s massive oil reserves under control of the two western powers.

After losing control of Iran (which America controlled for 26 years) to a revolution in 1979, the U.S. Government moved next door and cultivated a friendship with Saddam Hussein of Iraq, convincing him to invade Iran within months of the U.S. losing control of the oil flow.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Government was simultaneously busy in Afghanistan helping an unknown character by the name of Osama bin Laden, who was leading Muslim warriors in defense of Afghanistan against an invasion by the Soviet Union (1979). In effect, the U.S. Government was assisting Muslims to defend themselves against an invasion by Communists, while instigating a war between two Muslim countries (Iraq and Iran) that would last eight years and cause the deaths of over one million people.

During the involvement of the U.S. Government in Middle East affairs, it was discovered that the U.S. was playing both sides of the fence in its support of both

Iraq and Iran, which fueled massive hatred for America throughout the Middle East. We were seen as the “Great Satan” that spoke with a forked tongue.

Our relations with Iraq suffered after the public disclosure of our (and Israel’s) treacherous augmentation and continuation of a war between two Muslim countries and we turned to Saudi Arabia to pick up the pace of oil that we lost from both Iran and Iraq. Saudi Arabia, being the very seat of Islam (its headquarters so to speak), was under tremendous pressure from within to distance itself from the United States in 1990.

Yet, only two years after our fallout with Saddam, we were courting both Saddam and Saudi Arabia, even as Iraqi troops lined the Kuwaiti border due to a dispute over oil.

After Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait (with our government’s tacit permission), the U.S. convinced the Saudi government to allow hundreds of thousands of U.S.-led troops into Saudi Arabia’s holy lands in preparation to battle Iraq, a neighboring Muslim nation.

This action by Saudi Arabia’s ruling family touched off massive protests within the country and positioned the government of Saudi Arabia as the enemy of Islamic devotees such as Osama bin Laden, who had returned from Afghanistan after the war to find his own country being used by a western power to attack another Muslim nation.

Osama bin Laden at that time (1991) became the enemy of the United States as well as Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Government, undeterred by its trampling over religious grounds and use of the Islamic headquarters to attack a Muslim nation, forced Saddam out of Kuwait and then promptly established military control over both the southern and northern areas of Iraq in 1991 ... areas it would never relinquish.

During the 90s, the U.S. Government would be attacked time and again by those fighting to remove the U.S. Government from the Middle East. These attacks originated from within Saudi Arabia itself.

And despite the pretext that the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are allies in the War on Terror, our government is well aware that the leadership of the battle that rages to remove the U.S. military from the Middle East is of Saudi origin. After all, Saudi Arabia was created as a protectorate of Islam itself. And if the government of Saudi Arabia has sold the religion for the going price of crude (which is the perspective of many in the Islamic world), the people themselves have risen up (led by a worldwide organization known as the Muslim Brotherhood) to protect what they see as an infiltration by Satan himself.

Thus, the U.S. has created for itself a quagmire in its all-out pursuit of oil in the Middle East.

It is seen as being responsible for creating and supporting brutal dictators in two Muslim countries, Iran and Iraq.

It is viewed as the perpetrator of a Muslim versus Muslim war that killed more than one million people and left millions more injured and homeless.

Osama bin Laden, on the other hand, who left a life of wealth and luxury to fight in Afghanistan as a Muslim Brother, is viewed as a hero. And while the U.S. does its

best to rewrite history in the minds of the youth of the Middle East, it is losing the debate over which side is good and bad.

History favors the Muslims. And so do the facts.

In this book, I will provide the history and the facts in order to establish in the minds of Americans and others who read these words how the current War on Terror came to be.

The questions the media will not ask, I will.

The answers you seek to know, regarding all aspects of the War on Terror, are provided in these pages.

In the final analysis, the U.S. Government has a lot for which to answer. But if no one holds it accountable, then it can continue unabated, endangering the lives and welfare of peoples worldwide, as well as sacrificing the lives of courageous and innocent Americans who fight because they are told to fight.

It is *our* job as a conscientious public to ensure our military fights for the *right* reasons. And in this case, there are far too many questions that our government has created, and answers our government has skirted, for a single American life to be sacrificed in a war that for all intents and purposes was started specifically from an all-out pursuit of control over oil.

That pursuit has, unfortunately, escalated into a battle against Islam itself, using primarily Christian American men and women as unwitting accomplices in a war of cultures, religion and political ideals between a secular government and a devoutly religious region of the world.

It is a war that America will not win.

I do not proclaim that America will not win this war merely because I believe the reason and rationale for the U.S. Government instigating the current War on Terror is flawed. I offer this final conclusion after careful analysis and understanding of the various factors involved in this war. The greatest of which is the fact that my perspective is from a Christian viewpoint and the history of Christianity is as much a history of the relationship between the Jews and God. That history is filled with examples of how God allowed the Jews to be delivered into the hands of their enemies whenever the Jews abandoned their devotion to God.

Since I believe God is a part of the history of the world and plays a part in the rise and fall of all nations and principalities, I am prone to believing that God isn't likely to support a country that denies His existence, declares itself a *secular* power, and uses immoral and unethical means by which to undermine other nations in pursuit of wealth and power.

America has turned its back on the God it once revered; the same God that helped guide us through tumultuous times and opened the doors of freedom and opportunity even in the face of many unscrupulous political tactics and laws that God helped us to overcome in order to rise as a world power.

A nation that has turned its back on God cannot then presume God will be on its side as it pursues mammon.

I am reminded of the words of Jesus, whose name receives shivers of revulsion when used in America's public domain today. Jesus told us point blank that we cannot serve two masters; we will love one and hate the other.

Those who have declared Americans enemies of Islam readily admit who they serve and worship. The question no one dares ask of the U.S. Government is simply, whom does *it* serve and what principles and morals guide *its* decision-making process?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I am certain there are those who will seek to discredit me, call me names, and assert that I am unpatriotic or "un-American" simply because they disagree with my viewpoints. I assure you that I am more "American," patriotic, and loyal to this country than those who choose to try and undermine rather than understand my position and then determine their own.

My parents served in the military, as did my uncles and cousins, two of whom are currently serving as I write this book. I served in the enlisted ranks in the U.S. Navy for 12 years aboard two ships: the USS Anchorage and the USS Sterett. I was awarded "Sailor of the Year" aboard the USS Anchorage along with numerous other awards, and also received a meritorious advancement in rank to E-6 during a successful four-year tour of duty as a recruiter in Texas during the U.S. Gulf War under president George H. W. Bush.

I began my naval career under President Ronald Reagan and requested a discharge during Bill Clinton's presidency, which I received honorably in March 1994.

I care enormously about the lives of every single man and woman in our great military that faces danger every day and night so that you and I can enjoy relative freedom in a country whose citizens often take freedom for granted.

While the men and women of our armed forces must follow orders and go where they are told-and fight when they are told to fight-you and I have a responsibility for their lives. You and I are responsible for keeping a watchful eye on the decision-makers who send our children into battle. And if you and I trust those who will lie in order to get our votes; who employ public relations experts to take our temperature and advise them on what to say; and who keep secret the true motivations behind sending our kids to their deaths ... then those who would die to protect you and I have died in vain for a population of ignorant and arrogant people who don't realize that the men and women of the military depend on you and me to ensure that when they do fight, they are fighting for the right reasons.

Please take the time to seek the truth behind the façade of the federal government's propaganda by reading the information contained in this book. Whether you agree or disagree with my assertions and conclusions, one constant remains: the truth changes us all in ways we cannot foresee. And once we know the truth, none of us can crawl back underneath the protective shell of ignorance.

Conspiracy theories have long been cast into the spotlight as ridiculous, outlandish, and kooky. But those doing the casting choose to ignore history, which is replete with

actual and proven conspiracies of every kind. Americans cannot continue to remain naïve about the processes of governance and stay trusting of the very politicians who lie to gain our votes and our support without suffering the repercussions of the decisions these leaders make on our behalf.

PERSPECTIVE

The infamous 9-11 attacks were coordinated over a long period of time by organized enemies of our *government*. They struck a blow at our *government* precisely because the American people (you and me) allowed our *government* to make horrific decisions on our behalf without adequate accountability or a legitimate moral foundation upon which to base such decisions. Long before you and I became guinea pigs for the government's public relations campaign on terror, our federal *government* was in the business of conspiring against other nations for reasons other than what they chose to reveal to the American public.

In this book, you will learn about two conspiracies that culminated (after one specific action taken by our government that broke the proverbial camel's back) in what you and I witnessed on September 11, 2001. Additionally, there is a "timeline of terror" associated with our government's actions that is indisputable. This is based primarily upon the fact that these events actually occurred and were widely reported in the media.

Condoleezza Rice, President George W. Bush's National Security Advisor during his first term in office, and current Secretary of State, testified on April 8, 2004 before the 9-11 Commission and provided an accounting of nearly every one of the "terrorist" attacks discussed in this book. She offered confirmation of the timeline of terror about which I wrote on the first anniversary of the September 11th attack.

PREDICTION

My article, which appeared in its entirety in the Village News (Fallbrook, CA, September 12, 2002), spoke of the timeline most Americans had never known about until Ms. Rice mentioned it on national television in front of an investigative panel of so-called "experts." It also warned of our government becoming bogged down in a quagmire in the Middle East, notably Iraq ... long before anyone talked openly about invading Iraq.

My article also predicted that the U.S. plans to go to war with Iran, and will eventually find a reason that resonates with the American public to invade that country, which we once ruled for 26 years.

In the timeline laid out in this book, I provide the dates and places of a series of attacks on the United States government (not its citizenry) that occurred right before the eyes of the American public — and the world — yet most of us failed to notice. In this timeline, you will see proof that America was at war with Islam long before the American public knew we were. And the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001 not only was not the first attack; it wasn't an attack on the civilian populace at all!

Unfortunately, the facts also reveal that Islam did not start this war with the United States.

America attacked Islam and declared its resources “vital U.S. interests” over which we would invade any country...and over which we would willingly sacrifice our military volunteers to maintain control.

STRIKING BACK AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

The simultaneous strikes against our government on September 11, 2001 were carried out in an effort to hit three *government* targets: defense headquarters (the Pentagon); economic headquarters (the World Trade Center Towers); and political headquarters (the Capitol/White House). When Americans hear about our military hitting thousands of targets in countries like Yugoslavia (NATO bombing campaign from March to June 1999), we turn a deaf ear to the intentional deaths of innocent journalists, diplomats, and civilians in those countries and embrace terms like “unintended casualties” and “collateral damage.”

But when the tallest buildings in North America — which, not coincidentally, were home to many strong financial and communications operations — became the target of our government’s enemies, the rhetoric immediately focused on the civilian casualties: innocent people killed at the hands of “terrorists” who hate us for no good reason.

Despite all of the “terrorist attack” rhetoric that was propagandized immediately after and since 9-11, we have not seen a single attack on a civilian target in the United States as was forecast by our leaders (i.e., California’s bridges, Times Square, the Super Bowl, etc.). In fact, we have never seen an attack against this country by the so-called “terrorists” — with whom this nation has been at war since 1980 — that was random and indiscriminate.

The attacks leading up to and including 9-11 were all coordinated, deliberate strikes against our *government*. Certainly this question should be asked: How do I know when this country became a target of terrorists, and how can I distinguish between the Arab that blows himself up in a bus or restaurant in Israel ... and those men who hijacked four planes on September 11, 2001?

The answer is revealed within the pages of this book. It is no secret. And once you know the truth, you too will be able to distinguish between the lies and propaganda told for the benefit of securing the public trust ... and the truth behind the façade.

THE RATIONALE FOR “PRE-EMPTIVE” STRIKES IN IRAQ

You and I have been told that Iraq’s former leader, Saddam Hussein, was a madman who needed to be stopped before he became another Hitler. We were told that he either possessed weapons of mass destruction or was in the process of acquiring them. We were informed that Hussein’s power threatened the peace and security of the United States. We were led to believe that the number one threat to the United States was the ever-increasing power of Hussein. And we were told Hussein must be stopped, at all costs, from acquiring “weapons of mass destruction.”

As the propaganda reached a crescendo, we were constantly told that Hussein was a threat, not only to his neighbors and the United States, but also to the entire world.

American citizens had become convinced that “Hussein must be stopped!” Our government was determined to use force to take over the nation that rests between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The rationale seemed logical. Kill the enemy before the enemy kills us.

And the enemy was Saddam Hussein — and he was trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction, presumably for a strike against the citizenry of the United States, so the rhetoric informed us all. Our government would protect us by hitting Hussein first.

But, as our government claimed, it would first try to secure the support of the rest of the world. If, however, the rest of the world would not act, we would ... alone, if necessary.

Was any of this true?

After 9-11, the American government sought to destroy the group responsible for the attacks; a group we were told was led by Osama bin Laden, a native of Saudi Arabia. But after dispensing with the Taliban in Afghanistan, where bin Laden was last known to reside, our leaders made the decision to utilize the military force we had built up in Iraq during our “military occupation” of that country since the end of the first Gulf War in 1991.

It is difficult to accept the U.S. government’s rationale regarding Saddam’s so-called *Hitler-esque* image even without research, simply due to the fact that the U.S. military controlled much of Iraq for more than 12 years prior to invading it again in 2003!

In 1991, the United States and Great Britain set up shop militarily (with help from Saudi Arabia) and controlled large portions of Iraq from that day forward. Additional forces were then mobilized for an all-out invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

OCCUPYING IRAQ

Eventually, we, the American public, were told that our government’s invasion of Iraq was to “liberate the Iraqi people.” But after much political and media debate, it was finally agreed that no term other than “occupiers” sufficiently defined our role in Iraq.

On April 30, 2004 USA Today published the results of a USA Today / CNN / Gallup Poll of 3,500 Iraqis from a wide variety of faiths and ethnic groups. The poll showed that an overwhelming majority of average Iraqi citizens did not support the United States’ presence in Iraq. When asked if they viewed the U.S. military as either “liberators” or “occupiers,” 71% stated the latter. USA Today admitted that if the Kurdish people of Northern Iraq — who had been allies of the U.S. — were removed from the survey, the numbers that said America is an “occupier” of Iraq would jump to 81% of the entire country!

WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

We have witnessed the ever-evolving, ever-changing rhetoric that attempted to convince the American public to continue to support the U.S. invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq. We have heard accusations that promoted the notion that “radical” Muslims want us all dead. We have heard the propaganda about the existence of WMDs and the “threat to neighboring countries and the world” that sought to justify our choice of Iraq as the logical “pre-emption” point to ensure against future attacks on this country.

However, when we peel back the veneer of the history of the United States’ involvement in the Middle East, we are provided with ample insights and answers that require us to set aside our prejudices and dismiss the propaganda with which we have been inundated over the years ... and allow truth to penetrate.

And that is what I aim to do in this book: to bring you the truth in hope that it will help to dispel the lies, eliminate the hate, and offer Americans the one thing we currently have failed to receive from our government: *a solid solution to ending terrorism.*

Project Ajax and the Creation of Mid-East Terrorists

The two most diabolical names in modern-day America are arguably Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden: an Iraqi dictator and a Saudi Arabian “freedom fighter” who were both once regarded as allies by our government for nearly a decade. Dictator and freedom fighter are not my characterizations, but rather the labels placed on these two men by the United States government before they were presented to the American public as “terrorists.”

In order to understand why and how both men came to be the so-called “terrorists” we know today, we must revisit history to learn about our relationship with each and how those relationships deteriorated.

In order to fully understand why our nation is under the constant threat of an urban guerilla warfare attack, we must come to know the two-part history of how the United States became an ally of both Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden for nearly an entire decade (1979-1989). The two stories are separate and distinct, one having virtually nothing to do with the other except for one common thread: The presence of the United States military in — and our governmental control over — any Arab Muslim country in the Middle East is, and has been, the catalyst for problems within that region that continue to affect our nation today.

IN THE BEGINNING...

The roots of the U.S. invasion of Iraq (beginning in 1991), and the United States’ dispute with Osama bin Laden’s organization, al-Qaeda (initiated in 1991), began with the 1953 covert takeover of Iran by the United States.

During WWII, Iran became an ally of Adolph Hitler and Nazi Germany. The Shah of Iran, Reza Shah Pahlavi (Reza Khan), was a military general who had seized power and declared himself Shah in 1925, years prior to the war. He was not only a fan of Hitler and a believer in Hitler’s vision of a perfect race of people called Aryans, but both the Iranian Shah and the German Chancellor considered the Iranians to be Aryan people as well, even though they did not fit the blond hair/blue-eyed Aryan prototype envisioned by Hitler. (But then again, neither did Hitler and his top leadership. Hess, Goering, Goebbels, and Himmler were hardly representative of the Aryan ideal.)

Iran was a country divided into two ruling factions.

The Shah ruled the government and the military, while a religious Muslim leader known as an “Imam” (similar to the Catholic Pope in power and prestige) ruled the people themselves and maintained a vast influence over them.

In 1941, Iran was invaded by Great Britain and the then-Soviet Union. The two Allied countries sought to use Iran as a means by which to move logistical and military support to the front lines of the war against Germany. The Soviet Union,

at that time, shared a 1000-mile-long border with Iran. As a neighboring country that had aligned itself with Hitler, Iran had made itself a target of the WWII Allied nations that were fighting Germany.

After the successful takeover of Iran by the Allies, Reza Shah Pahlavi was exiled to Mauritius, an island in the Persian Gulf. According to the Library of Congress history archives:

The occupation of Iran proved of vital importance to the Allied cause and brought Iran closer to the Western powers. Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States together managed to move over 5 million tons of munitions and other war matériel across Iran to the Soviet Union. In addition, in January 1942 Iran signed a tripartite treaty of alliance with Britain and the Soviet Union under which Iran agreed to extend nonmilitary assistance to the war effort. The two Allied powers, in turn, agreed to respect Iran's independence and territorial integrity and to withdraw their troops from Iran within six months of the end of hostilities.

In September 1943, Iran declared war on Germany, thus qualifying for membership in the United Nations (UN). In November at the Tehran Conference, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Prime Minister Josef Stalin reaffirmed a commitment to Iran's independence and territorial integrity and a willingness to extend economic assistance to Iran.

Eventually, collusion between the Tudeh (Socialist political party in the Iranian parliament) and the Soviet Union brought further disintegration to Iran. In September 1944, while American companies were negotiating for oil concessions in Iran, the Soviets requested an oil concession in the five northern provinces. In December, however, the Majlis (Iranian parliament, similar to U.S. Congress) passed a law forbidding the government to discuss oil concessions before the end of the war.

This led to fierce Soviet propaganda attacks on the government and agitation by the Tudeh in favor of a Soviet oil concession.

In December 1945, the Azarbaijan Democratic Party, which had close links with the Tudeh and was led by Jafar Pishevari, announced the establishment of an autonomous republic. In a similar move, activists in neighboring Kordestan established the Kurdish Republic of Mahabad. Both autonomous republics enjoyed the support of the Soviets. Soviet pressure on Iran continued as British and American troops evacuated in keeping with their treaty undertakings.

Soviet troops remained in the country. Prime Minister Ahmad Qavam (in 1946) had to persuade Stalin to withdraw his troops by agreeing to submit a Soviet oil concession to the Majlis and to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the Azarbaijan crisis with the Pishevari government.

In April the government signed an oil agreement with the Soviet Union; in May, partly as a result of United States, British, and UN pressure, Soviet troops withdrew from Iranian territory. In the new Majlis, a strong bloc of

deputies, organized in the National Front and led by Mohammad Mossadeq, helped defeat the Soviet oil concession agreement by 102 votes to 2.

The Majlis also passed a bill forbidding any further foreign oil concessions and requiring the government to exploit oil resources directly. Soviet influence diminished further in 1947, when Iran and the United States signed an agreement providing for military aid and for a United States military advisory mission to help train the Iranian army. In February 1949, the Tudeh was blamed for an abortive attempt on the Shah's life, and its leaders fled abroad or were arrested.

The party was banned.

When the Soviet Union eventually went home in May 1946, Iran was under the control of a democratically elected parliament. The British, who had contracted with the Iranians in 1933 for significant control of the oil flowing from the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, soon found themselves embroiled in a dispute with the Iranian parliament, which did not approve of Great Britain's reluctance to release its powerful grip on Iran's precious resource.

By 1947, the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) had grown resentful of the British controlling their oil and their country, and was tired of having to respond to riots by the people in Abadan, a major area for Anglo-Iranian Oil Company operations.

The new Iranian prime minister, Mohammed Mossadeq (also spelled Mossadeq, and Mossaddegh), campaigned to restructure the contract of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in order to nationalize the company and gain control over the company's oil and profits.

Great Britain was not amused.

According to *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror* (John Wiley and Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey, 2003, 258 pp.):

In 1947 it (Majlis) passed a bold law forbidding the grant of any further concession to foreign companies and directing the government to renegotiate the one under which Anglo-Iranian was operating. This law was the first blow in a long battle. It set Iran on the course of cataclysmic confrontation with Britain. The deputy who wrote it and pushed it through the Majlis had been an active nationalist in the early years of the century but was forced out of politics by Reza Shah and had lived in obscurity for twenty years. Now he was back, as fervent a defender of Iranian interests as ever. His name was Mohammed Mossadegh. Two central beliefs shaped Mossadegh's political consciousness. The first was a passionate faith in the rule of law, which made him an enemy of autocracy and, in particular, Reza Shah. The second was a conviction that Iranians must rule themselves and not submit to the will of foreigners. That made him the nemesis, the tormentor, the implacable foe of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. After negotiations for higher royalties from the British failed, on March 15, 1951 the Iranian parliament voted to nationalize their oil resources.

The British, led by Winston Churchill, were so angry that they began to contemplate going to war against Iran.

The British would not even consider any agreement with Iran concerning a more suitable and fair agreement regarding control of the Iranian oil and profits that would diminish the jurisdictional power Britain had enjoyed since 1933. Instead, Great Britain announced it would not allow Mossadegh's government to directly export any oil produced by the Iranian oil industry.

The British then amassed the largest naval armada since WWII off the coast of Iran in an effort to prevent any ship from leaving port with a cargo of Iranian oil. Mossadegh countered by refusing to allow any British involvement in Iran's oil industry.

Since Great Britain was the primary buyer of Iranian oil, the impact on Iran's economy was immediate. A profitable \$100-million-a-year export business had been rapidly reduced to a nearly \$10-million-a-month debt!

Still, the British weren't finished.

Great Britain appealed its case to a worldwide judicial system, the International Court of Justice, which is seated in The Hague and is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. But even while they were fighting it out with Iran in an international court and imposing sanctions on the country through a military blockade, the Brits approached American president Harry Truman in 1951 with the proposition of going to war with Iran: the prize being split control over the oil in that region. And the acquisition of Iran by the United States would make a grand prize indeed!

After all, Iran had close proximity to the Soviet Union and offered the largest oil reserves in the world (at that time).

Yet, despite America's fear of Communism and our constant pursuit of wealth and the confiscation of much of the world's natural resources, the British could not lure the United States into an invasion and takeover of Iran.

President Truman declined.

That was just the beginning of imperialistic woes for the British.

On July 22, 1952 the International Court of Justice ruled against the British government's claim to Iranian oil, citing support for the Iranian premise that the British lacked jurisdiction over the sovereign resources of Iran.

In a judgment of nine to five in support of Iran, the court ruled on this question: *"...did the settlement of the dispute between Iran and the United Kingdom, effected in 1933 through the mediation of the League of Nations, result in an agreement between the two governments which may be regarded as a treaty or convention?"*

The Court explained their ruling:

The United Kingdom maintains that it did. It claims that the agreement signed in 1933 between the United Kingdom and the Company had a double character: being at once a concessionary contract and a treaty between the two States.

In the view of the Court, that is not the case. The United Kingdom is not a party to the contract, which does not constitute a link between the two governments or in any way regulate the relations between them. Under the contract, Iran

cannot claim from the United Kingdom any rights, which it may claim from the Company, nor can it be called upon to perform towards the United Kingdom any obligations which it is bound to perform towards the Company.

This juridical situation is not altered by the fact that the concessionary contract was negotiated through the good offices of the Council of the League of Nations, acting through its rapporteur. The United Kingdom in submitting its dispute with Iran to the League Council, was only exercising its right of diplomatic protection in favour of one of its nationals. Thus the Court arrives at the conclusion that it lacks jurisdiction.

The International Court basically told the Brits what you and I already know. Any of us who own a business in the United States must subject our business (and profits) to the ever-changing laws of this country. In some years, under some administrations, that can be good news. But under other administrations, that can mean disaster. It is no small wonder why large and small businesses contribute to both political parties and lobby politicians on a regular basis. One law attacking the American businessman can put thousands of businesses out of business. And the government is always seeking a means by which it can confiscate more revenues, either from businesses, the citizenry itself, or both.

Great Britain simply became too comfortable with its Iranian booty, and was a tad peeved when the Iranians decided they would do the very same thing Americans and the British have always done ... maintain control over its own natural resources.

Even while the Court was deliberating over the Iran-British oil dispute, TIME magazine (January 7, 1952) named Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh its "Man of the Year" for 1951. But in the article that accompanied this "honor," Mossadegh was lambasted, ridiculed, and roasted by the magazine. He was portrayed as a bumbling fool who had plunged his country into turmoil, economic debt, and further down the political road toward embracing Communism.

We must keep in mind, however, that only a mere five years prior to this article, Iran had successfully rid itself of the Soviet threat and attempts at controlling its oil. The threat to Iran was not Communism, as was the propaganda of the day, but rather *British imperialism*.

In one of its kinder sentiments toward the Iranian leader, TIME magazine stated:

He was Mohammed Mossadegh, Premier of Iran in the year 1951. He was the Man of the Year.

He put Scheherazade in the petroleum business and oiled the wheels of chaos. His acid tears dissolved one of the remaining pillars of a once great empire. In his plaintive, singsong voice he gabbled a defiant challenge that sprang out of a hatred and envy almost incomprehensible to the West. Mossadegh, by Western standards an appalling caricature of a statesman, was a fair sample of what the West would have to work with in the Middle East.

To sit back and deplore him was to run away from the issue.

For a long time, relations with the Middle East would mean relations with men such as Mossadegh, some better, some much worse.

When Mossadegh pushed through the nationalization of Iranian oil, not only were the British incensed, apparently so was TIME magazine! In its “Man of the Year” article TIME continued its assault on Mossadegh:

Nobody in the West heard him. They heard him in 1951, however.

On March 8, the day after Ali Razmara, Iran’s able, pro-Western premier was assassinated Mossadegh submitted to the Iranian Majilis his proposal to nationalize Iran’s oil. In a few weeks a wave of anti-foreign feeling, assisted by organized terrorism, swept him into the premiership. The Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., most of whose stock is owned by the British government, had been paying Iran much less than the British government took from the company in taxes. The U.S. State Department warned Britain that Iran might explode unless it got a better deal, but the U.S. did not press the issue firmly enough to make London listen. Mossadegh’s nationalization bill scared the company into concessions that were made too late.

The Premier, whose mind runs in a deep single track, was committed to nationalization-and much to the surprise of the British, he went through with it, right down to the expulsion of the British technicians without whom the Iranians cannot run the Abadan refinery.

Results:

- 1) The West lost the Iranian oil supply.
- 2) The Iranian government lost the oil payments.
- 3) This loss stopped all hope of economic progress in Iran and disrupted the political life of the country.
- 4) In the ensuing confusion, Iran’s Tudeh (Communist) Party made great gains which it hoped to see reflected in the national elections, due to begin this week.

Mossadegh does not promise his country a way out of this nearly hopeless situation. He would rather see the ruin of Iran than give in to the British, who, in his opinion, corrupted and exploited his country. He is not in any sense pro-Russian, but he intends to stick to his policies even though he knows they might lead to control of Iran by the Kremlin.

The TIME magazine “Man of the Year” article at least provides us with an insight into the biased views of the publishers of TIME, which, I admit, represented the overall feelings of a vast number of educated, informed people in this country, even if not entirely representative of the majority opinion in any given era or time. The 1952 article looked at the Iranian situation through the prism of that time period, which provides Americans today with the opportunity to understand what the United States had to consider when it was approached by Great Britain with the idea of taking over Iran.

TIME continued:

Since Mossadegh’s rise, U.S. correspondents have been swarming over the Near and Middle East. Their general consensus is that:

1) The British position in the whole area is hopeless. They are hated and distrusted almost everywhere. The old colonial relationship is finished, and no other power can replace Britain.

2) If left to “work out their own destiny” without help, the countries of the Middle East will disintegrate. The living standard will drop and political life become even more chaotic. (Half a dozen important political leaders in the Near and Middle East were assassinated during 1951.)

3) Left to themselves, these countries will reach the point where they will welcome Communism.

4) The U.S., which will have to make the West’s policy in the Middle East, whether it wants to or not, as yet has no policy there. The U.S. pants along behind each crisis, tossing a handful of money here, a political concession there. At the height of the Egyptian crisis (the worst possible moment), the U.S., Britain, France and Turkey invited Egypt to join a defense pact. The invitation was promptly rejected.

5) Americans and Britons in the Near and Middle East spend a large part of their energies fighting each other. No effective Western policy is possible without Western unity. The word “American” no longer has a good sound in that part of the world. To catch the Jewish vote in the U.S., President Truman in 1946 demanded that the British admit 100,000 Jewish refugees to Palestine, in violation of British promises to the Arabs. Since then, the Arab nations surrounding Israel have regarded that state as a U.S. creation, and the U.S., therefore, as an enemy.

The Israeli-Arab war created nearly a million Arab refugees, who have been huddled for three years in wretched camps. These refugees, for whom neither the U.S. nor Israel will take the slightest responsibility, keep alive the hatred of U.S. perfidy.

No enmity for the Arabs, no selfish national design motivated the clumsy U.S. support of Israel. The American crime was not to help the Jews, but to help them at the expense of the Arabs. Today, the Arab world fears and expects a further Israeli expansion. The Arabs are well aware that Alben Barkley, Vice President of the U.S., tours his country making speeches for the half-billion-dollar Israeli bond issue, the largest ever offered to the U.S. public. Nobody, they note bitterly, is raising that kind of money for them.

THE ARROGANT WEST

It must be pointed out that U.S. arrogance, as displayed in TIME magazine, suggests that without help from Western powers, the Middle East would disintegrate. As the center of hope for all the world through the births of the world’s foremost religions (Islam, Christianity, Judaism), these same lands and peoples — which had managed to survive and thrive and become the seat of civilization — were regarded by TIME magazine (in 1952) as helpless and in need of intervention from the West. This is part of the rationale that fueled support for American military and governmental intervention in the Middle East. These weren’t “people,” per se, but rather pawns to

be captured in a huge global game of chess with the Soviet Union.

We have played the game in such a way that today we find ourselves facing disastrous situations that are of our own creation, and are now caught in traps we set long ago. It should be noted that TIME admitted that the United States in 1951 was losing its once *favorable* image in the Middle East. Some of America's leaders today would have us believe that we have become the target of a radical, out-of-control religious march toward world domination by Islamic extremists that has been occurring for centuries. Yet the historical facts show America apparently enjoyed a favorable image at some point in time throughout the Middle East — an image that allowed us to secure commercial agreements and military alliances with Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab nations during times when the Soviets could not.

Yet today we hear rhetoric that says the United States' citizenry is the target of Islamic extremists who also target Israelis. But is this true?

The Israeli-Arab conflict, as also noted by TIME, is a separate and distinct situation from the problems of Iran. But tying all of the Middle East's problems together and bombarding the American public with claims that they are simply "terrorists who hate America" is an old public relations propaganda ploy that I will expose in this book.

These people do not hate America. TIME admitted as much when it suggested that America's name is "no longer" good in the Middle East, implying that at one time it was. But the justification for the decline of America's good name in the Middle East is logical and legitimate. We've been playing games with peoples' lives, but regarding it as merely a game.

As TIME noted, America requested that the British admit 100,000 Jews into Palestine in 1946. War broke out shortly thereafter. The movement to create an Israeli state in the land of Palestine was apparently a legitimate fear of the Arabs. Furthermore, the trust Arabs had placed in the British, as well as the U.S., was eroded through the support of the establishment of the state of Israel. And as TIME pointed out, at the expense of the Palestinian Arabs who lived there.

At this point in history, it doesn't seem to me that the Arabs were intending to dominate the world through expansion of power. In fact, quite the opposite occurred. The Arabs, while trying to negotiate their own sovereignty and prevent the land of Palestine from becoming a front for western powers through the establishment of the nation of Israel, were double-crossed. They were led to believe one thing and instead found themselves facing their greatest fear.

Nevertheless, the Arab-Israeli conflict, while helping to early on establish a distrust of the west, is a distinct historical event that has little to do with the current crisis America faces in its War on Terror.

CRITICAL DECISIONS

In the early going of American involvement in the Middle East, it was President Harry Truman who had to make crucial decisions on behalf of our nation. He

declined the British war request in 1951, and was reluctant to get the United States involved with the United Kingdom in a takeover of Iran.

The International Court ruling that allowed Iran to maintain control over its own oil caused British anger to reach a peak, and the United Kingdom continued to maintain its massive naval blockade of Iran...in preparation for war.

In 1952 the British once again approached President Truman with the proposal to go to war against Iran.

The U.S. was already bogged down in the Korean War, and Truman declined this overture as well. But while he was against overt, outright war with Iran through a military invasion, he was not totally against covert tactics and operations that could bring about the same desired result.

The National Security Council (now the National Security Agency-NSA) was developed in the Truman era, and according to its declassified archives the very first policy drawn up by the organization was a covert operation to undermine and influence elections in the independent and democratic nation of *Italy*.

These papers claimed that it was necessary for the U.S. to get involved in undermining Italy's government because of the fear of a Communist victory...in a free ELECTION!

While America certainly had a fear of the Communists around the globe, our government was well informed about Iran's evolving independence, its condemnation of the Tudeh (Communist) Party, and the overwhelming defeat of a bill the Tudeh Party had introduced to offer oil concessions to the Soviet Union. The notion that our government was deluded into believing Iran was moving toward Communism is preposterous! And even if it were, isn't it the right of every nation and peoples to decide freely how best to govern themselves? We apparently think so here in this country.

Iran, if anything, was moving rapidly toward divorcing itself from both Western and Communist powers in a struggle by Premier Mossadegh to ensure that the country would maintain its independence.

SORE LOSERS

The United States and Great Britain viewed Mossadegh's deliberate disobedience of their demands and his outright rejection of Western ideology as part of the rationalization for taking over the country by covertly deposing him and installing our own guy. This is ironic, after all, because independence and democracy — which were being exercised in Iran under Mossadegh — embody the presumption that a country may choose its own direction; yet, in the case of a democratic Iran, much to the chagrin of Communists and Westerners.

The greatest irony and hypocrisy of the era was the fact that the United States and Great Britain, both of which were assumed to be *democratic* nations and therefore pro-democracy, undermined the government of another *democratic* nation, removed its *democratically* elected leader...and replaced him with a brutal dictator.

All of this was done purely and simply for the sake of controlling the oil in Iran.

After all, since Great Britain lost control over the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, it had declared war on Iran — both economically and militarily.

However, chasing after oil and catering to the interests of the very wealthy was not an endeavor that engendered much popular support, and therefore a more acceptable pretext was offered. The desire to undermine Communist aggression was an easily identifiable popular sentiment among the general public in both Great Britain and the United States. It would be the umbrella under which both governments would spend the next several decades dividing countries, governments and peoples in an effort to gain control over the wealth of the world.

COMMUNISM: A CONVENIENT SCAPEGOAT

According to the NSA archives, the Middle East wasn't the only place in which the United States had decided to intervene:

During the Truman and Eisenhower administrations, the NSC's main products were policy papers. The papers might start by specifying policy options and recommendations and proceed after several revisions, to announce policy decisions. The first policy paper known, after several revisions, as NSC 1/3, authorized covert U.S. involvement in Italian politics to prevent a Communist victory in upcoming elections.

The NSC policy paper series continued throughout the Truman and Eisenhower administrations, although with a change in the numbering format in 1954. Most of the papers produced in those years have now been declassified and include some which were of great importance in setting the tone for U.S. participation in the Cold War from 1947 to 1961 as well as policy toward the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Truman administration policy papers approved a variety of covert action programs, established U.S. policy concerning Japan, and set U.S. atomic weapons and strategic policy.

While Americans today are sharply divided along the policy lines of the War on Terror, it has been the American citizenry's ignorance of, and apathetic attitude toward, public policies decided by numerous presidential administrations that has led us to a government that says one thing and does another — yet somehow maintains a majority of the support of the people.

Did anyone outside of the “inner circle” of leadership in 1951 and 1952 know that the U.S. president was entertaining discussions of invading a country that was not a threat to the United States or any of its allies? None of the public knew ... and that leads us right into the trust factor.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Although President Truman declined to participate in an overt military attack on Iran, there was discussion of alternative means. The British withdrew their Navy and

concentrated on convincing the United States to move forward with an alternative plan to take over Iran.

In 1953, Truman was replaced by newly-elected president Dwight D. Eisenhower — a former military general and Supreme Allied Commander during WWII. The British had found their man, and the plan to invade and take over Iran was put into action.

According to Dr. Donald Wilber, a CIA official and principal planner of the mission that undermined Iran's government (Project TP-AJAX), this plan was being discussed prior to Eisenhower's ascension to the presidency ... during the Truman administration. Dr. Wilber's report, which consists of 200 pages, can be found in the CIA Clandestine Service History, "Overthrow of Premier Mossadegh of Iran, November 1952 - August 1953," written in March 1954 by Dr. Donald Wilber. This is found in the National Security Archive, Electronic Briefing Book No. 28 on the Internet at: <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB28/>.

According to the NSA archives:

NSC-68 concluded that the United States could afford to increase defense spending and conventional forces, and it examined the economic and political circumstances of various regions, particularly of Western Europe. It also concluded that the Soviet Union's objective was world domination and her leaders were prepared to use military force to achieve that goal. NSC-68 stated that the United States had a moral obligation to meet the Soviet threat where it occurred.

Negotiations with the Soviets should be continued, the paper said, as a means of communicating Western concepts of freedom. A key aspect of NSC-68 was its focus on the notion of Cold War psychology and its emphasis on the need to preserve Western morale. It called for American military and non-military support for anti-Communist governments around the world.

Significant Eisenhower-era papers covered the U.S.-Soviet conflict (NSC-153/1), covert operations (NSC-5412), U.S. policy toward a variety of regions and countries (NSC-5413/1 on the Philippines, 5402/1 on Iran), possible U.S. intervention in Indochina (NSC-5421), and such emerging issues as the use of outer space (NSC-5918).

In the last year of the Eisenhower administration NSC-6010, "U.S. Policy Toward Iran," provided policy guidance concerning U.S. relations with the Shah. U.S. policy, the directive concluded, should encourage, and in some cases press, the Shah to adopt meaningful political, social, and economic reforms designed to increase support for his regime. At the same time, the U.S. should develop contacts with any emerging non-Communist opposition groups in case the Shah could not prevent "the overthrow of his regime or prevent his relegation to the position of figurehead."

The once-secret policy of the United States Government was to ensure the support of the Shah, but also to ensure the U.S. maintained some measure of control over the country in the case of a successful coup against the Shah. This indicates the U.S. Government was well aware that the Shah was not a popular figure in Iranian politics and that our government was a friend to the Shah only to the degree that he

was able to ensure control over U.S. interests ... namely oil.

Given that the Shah had one foot on a banana peel during his entire reign, the policy of the United States was to find another regime (non-Communist) with which it could align itself in case of the fall of the Shah. Later on, we will see just how quickly the U.S. Government was to become best buds with Saddam Hussein of Iraq after the Shah of Iran had to make a hasty retreat from Tehran.

Meanwhile, though Truman was slow to get involved militarily (overtly or covertly) with the takeover of Iran, President Eisenhower had no such reservations. The NSA archives show that it was Eisenhower who authorized the covert action that would cause the deaths of hundreds of innocent people in an effort to topple an elected ruler and install the Shah of Iran.

No one can argue that Iran actually posed a threat to the U.S. in 1953.

Furthermore, the facts show clearly that Great Britain's lobbying efforts for more than two years led directly to the decision made by the U.S. government to undermine the government of Iran, take control of the country, and split control of the oil in that region.

It is ironic that NSC policy 68 stated that the United States had a "moral obligation" to undermine other governments militarily through both covert and overt means in order to subdue the Communist threat of world domination. The irony is how the United States government — which was oppressing women and minority ethnic groups in this country at the very time it adopted its "moral obligation" toward halting the spread of Communism — could, with any sense of reason or rationale, take a MORAL stance on anything!

Nevertheless, the U.S. government, in its twisted logic of right and wrong and moral principle, moved ahead with a covert operation that would plague succeeding presidents and haunt this country to the present day.

The secret Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) mission designed to take over Iran was "Ground Zero" for the explosive turmoil that currently exists in the Middle East—because of our nation's meddling in the affairs of Arab nations. The fallout from this secret mission provides insight into the true reason America is regarded as "The Great Satan" in the Middle East.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright came as close as any U.S. official ever has to acknowledging and apologizing for the overthrow of the Iranian government.

"The Eisenhower administration believed its actions were justified for strategic reasons," Albright said. "But the coup was clearly a setback for Iran's political development. And it is easy to see now why many Iranians continue to resent this intervention by America in their internal affairs." To which "coup" is Albright referring?

PROJECT AJAX: THE BIRTH OF AMERICAN TERRORISM

Kermit Roosevelt (grandson of Teddy, cousin of FDR) was put in charge of a CIA military venture known as Project Ajax (also known as TP-AJAX; the TP representing

Iran). He would later write a book titled, *War in the Garden of Eden*, about how the United States acquired control of Iran through this project.

Additionally, New York Times correspondent Stephen Kinzer wrote extensively about the United States' takeover of Iran with the assistance of British intelligence in his book *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror*. Kinzer appeared on a public television program hosted by Amy Goodman, and spoke about his book — specifically about the operation that initially failed, then succeeded due to the resourcefulness and ruthlessness of Kermit Roosevelt.

According to Kinzer:

Kermit Roosevelt, Teddy Roosevelt's grandson, was the Near East director for the CIA. He slipped clandestinely into Iran just around the end of July 1953. He spent a total of less than three weeks in Iran — that's only how long it took him to overthrow the government of Mossadegh. And one thing that I did realize as I was piecing together this story is how easy it is for a rich, powerful country to throw a poor, weak country into chaos.

So what did Roosevelt do?

The first thing he did was he wanted to set Tehran on fire. He wanted to make Iran fall into chaos. So he bribed a whole number of politicians, members of Parliament, religious leaders, newspaper editors and reporters, to begin a very intense campaign against Mossadegh. This campaign was full of denunciatory speeches and lies about Mossadegh, dated and passed.

Then, Roosevelt also went out and bribed leaders of street gangs. You had a kind of "Mobs 'R' Us," mobs-for-hire kind of situation existing in Iran that that time. Roosevelt got in touch with the leaders of these mobs.

Finally, he also bribed a number of military officers who would be willing to bring their troops in on his side at the appropriate moment. So when that moment came, the fig leaf of the coup was, as you said, this document that the Shah had signed, rejecting the prime ministership of Mossadegh, essentially firing him from office.

Now, this was a decree that was of very dubious legality since in democratic Iran only the Parliament could hire and fire prime ministers. Nonetheless, the idea was that this decree would be delivered to Mossadegh at his house at midnight one night and then, when he refused to obey it, as he probably would, he would be arrested.

That was the plot.

But what happened was that the officer that Kermit Roosevelt had chosen to go to Mossadegh's house at midnight, presented the decree firing Mossadegh and was preparing to arrest him, but other, loyal soldiers stepped out of the shadows and arrested him (Roosevelt's chosen servant).

The coup had been betrayed. The plot failed.

The man who was supposed to arrest Mossadegh was himself arrested.

And Kermit Roosevelt woke up the next day with a cable from his superiors in the CIA telling him, “My God, you failed, you better get out of there right away before they find you and kill you.”

But Kermit Roosevelt, on his own, decided that he would stay.

He figured, “I can still do this, I was sent here to overthrow this government, I’m going to make up my own plan.” There’s a fantastic cast of characters in this story and one of them is Norman Schwarzkopf, who had been the head of the investigation into the Lindbergh kidnapping while with the New Jersey state police, had spent many years in Iran during the 1940s, and was a very flamboyant figure with great influence on the Shah. He was one of the people that Kermit Roosevelt brought in to pressure the timid Shah into signing this fateful decree.

Now, the decree finally failed to have its desired effect, as I said. And then Roosevelt on his own devised this plan where, first of all, he sent rioters out into the streets to pretend that they were pro-Mossadegh. They were supposed to yell “I love Mossadegh and Communism. I want a people’s republic!” and then loot stores, shoot into mosques, break windows, and generally make themselves repugnant to good citizens.

Then he hired another mob to attack his first mob, thereby creating the impression that Iran was falling into anarchy. And finally on the climactic day, August 19, 1953, he brought all his mobs together, mobilized all of his military units, stormed a number of government buildings and then, in the climactic gunbattle at Mossadegh’s house, a hundred people were killed until finally the coup succeeded.

Mossadegh had to flee and was later arrested, and the Shah, who had fled in panic at the first sign of trouble a few days earlier, returned in triumph to Tehran and began what became 25 years of increasingly brutal and repressive rule.

The Shah whom we brought back to power became a harsh dictator. His repression set off the revolution of 1979, and that revolution brought to power a group of fanatic anti-Western, religious clerics whose government-sponsored acts of terror against American targets, and that government also inspired fundamentalists in other countries including next door, Afghanistan, where the Taliban came to power and gave sanctuary to al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.

So, I think you can — while it’s always difficult to draw direct cause and effect lines in history — see that this episode has had shattering effects for the United States.

And let’s consider one other of the many negative affects this has had. When we overthrew a democratic government in Iran 50 years ago, we sent a message, not only to Iran, but throughout the entire Middle East. That message was that the United States does not support democratic governments and the United States prefers strongman rule that will guarantee us access to oil. And that pushed an entire generation of leaders in the Middle East away from democracy.

We sent the opposite message than we should have sent.

Instead of sending the message that we wanted democracy, we sent a message that we wanted dictatorship in the Middle East, and a lot of people in the Middle East got that message very clearly and that helped to lead to the political trouble we face there today.

A commentary by Dan De Luce on the American coup in Iran was published in the United Kingdom's Guardian newspaper on August 20, 2003. An excerpt from the Tehran Correspondent's report is provided below:

Fifty years ago this week, the CIA and the British SIS orchestrated a coup d'état that toppled the democratically elected government of Mohammed Mossadegh. The prime minister and his nationalist supporters in parliament roused Britain's ire when they nationalized the oil industry in 1951, which had previously been exclusively controlled by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Mossadegh argued that Iran should begin profiting from its vast oil reserves.

Britain accused him of violating the company's legal rights and orchestrated a worldwide boycott of Iran's oil that plunged the country into financial crisis. The British government tried to enlist the Americans in planning a coup, an idea originally rebuffed by President Truman. But when Dwight Eisenhower took over the White House, cold war ideologues — determined to prevent the possibility of a Soviet takeover-ordered the CIA to embark on its first covert operation against a foreign government.

CHAIN REACTION

As I provide the BIG PICTURE as to how the problems in the Middle East impact the United States, it is essential to give an overview of the methods used and the reasons why our nation became so entangled in the conflicts of that region.

America is responsible for beginning a chain reaction of "terrorism" that, we are told, now targets *all* Americans.

What fails to be stated is that the British wanted to overthrow the Iranian government in a coup but their plans were discovered and the Iranians tossed them out — including all of their diplomats — and shut down the British embassy. It was the United States, at the behest of Great Britain (Eisenhower responding to Churchill), that initiated the CIA operation which would eventually kill several hundred (estimates hover around 300) Iranians and become the catalyst for a steady stream of events that has led to the "U.S. War on Terror" today.

Let's ask a major question everyone seems to ask regarding the War on Terror:

IS THIS ALL ABOUT OIL?

The answer is unequivocally...yes. While some maintain that the Soviet threat during the Cold War was imminent, and our use of less powerful countries was *justifiable* to stop the spread of Communism, I do not accept that this was the

legitimate basis for our actions, nor a legitimate reason to disregard the sanctity of the lives of people living in other countries that we were using as political pawns in a planetary chess match.

THE GOAL: IRANIAN OIL

The underlying factor of oil is evident from the very beginning. When the British came to Truman in both 1951 and 1952, there was no discussion of Soviet aggression. It was purely and simply about helping Great Britain regain control over the oil in Iran.

When Iran's Soviet-backed Tudeh Party tried to garner support for oil concessions to the Soviet Union, the democratically elected Iranian Parliament voted them down 102-2.

The problem the British encountered in Iran was not Communism, but NATIONALISM (or as we call it in the United States...*patriotism*). It was the notion that the Iranians would dare to see themselves not only as autonomous, but independent of Great Britain, and therefore free to control their own natural resources. That became the major problem.

That independence cut into the wallet of the West ... and it was that independence that would eventually be squashed and replaced by a brutal dictatorship under the regime of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi...appointed by the United States and Great Britain.

The opening line of Wilber's summary of the CIA mission states:

“By the end of 1952, it had become clear that the Mossadeq government in Iran was incapable of reaching an oil settlement with Western countries.”

Keep in mind that America had nothing to do with the British claim of control over the oil reserves in Iran. An international court had ruled the British were out of bounds and lacked the jurisdiction to lay claim to a sovereign nation's oil. And yet, here was the CIA planning a coup for the express purpose of stealing oil from another nation.

Ask yourself why the United States would have any reason to send its young men serving in the most secret organizations of “national security” into harm's way in 1953 ... into Iran?

The history leading up to the decision is clear ... oil was the goal.

The U.S. government claimed it had other reasons as well. After listing seven reasons to support the planning of the coup, the CIA summary suggested that these reasons were legitimate enough to move in and take over. Let's examine these seven reasons in detail:

1. *Mossadegh (spelled several different ways: Mossadeq, Mossadegh, Mosaddeq) government “was incapable of reaching an oil settlement with Western countries.”*

Actually, this wasn't true at all. According to the January 7, 1952 TIME magazine “Man of the Year” article on Mossadegh:

“The Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., most of whose stock is owned by the British government, had been paying Iran much less than the British government took from the company in taxes. The U.S. State Department warned Britain

that Iran might explode unless it got a better deal, but the U.S. did not press the issue firmly enough to make London listen.”

The bottom line here is that Dwight Eisenhower and Winston Churchill were on a collaborative course headed toward the black gold in the desert. Great Britain was paying Iran a paltry 16% for control of its oil, and there was no concession Mossadegh could have made — short of giving the oil away as had been done prior to his rise to power — that would have prevented the inevitable occupation of his country by the U.S. and Great Britain. Yet, he did make a firm decision regarding the concessions he was willing to make with the British.

It was the arrogant Brits who couldn’t even garner the support of the U.S., much less the Iranians who they were dealing with in the most unethical manner. It was the British who could not come to an agreement, yet the U.S. government had no intentions of toppling the government of Great Britain, which, under the pretext provided by the CIA for undermining Iran, seemingly would be sufficient reason to undermine the U.K. as well.

2. *Iran “was reaching a dangerous and advanced stage of illegal deficit financing.”*

This illegitimate accusation was yet another trumped-up reason to justify undermining the Mossadegh government. If a country is moving toward a profoundly high deficit, does another country have the legal authority — not to mention the moral authority — to invade, undermine, or destroy that country’s government?

Secondly, the reason Iran was in economic turmoil in 1952 was because it **COULD NOT SELL ITS OIL DUE TO THE BRITISH NAVAL BLOCKADE**. And yet another point to be made here is that if one country can use high deficits as a rationale to overthrow the government of another country, the United States should definitely be on the lookout for foreign operatives seeking to overthrow our government.

3. *The Iranian Parliament “was disregarding the Iranian constitution in prolonging Premier Mohammed Mossadeq’s tenure of office.”*

This reason really stinks. I can hardly believe my government processed the reasoning behind the plot to overthrow another nation’s elected leader by stating that the representative body of political officials was *ignoring their own constitution*.

So this justifies the United States’ plan to go in and take over the country?

This is simply appalling stuff to read! By this definition, other countries should be lined up at the borders of the United States, ready to invade us! Neither our courts nor Congress abide by our own Constitution. It is ignored on a regular basis. Yet, I don’t see Communists on the horizon threatening to take us over because they claim we don’t know what we’re doing!

4. *The “Mossadeq government...was motivated mainly by Mossadeq’s desire for personal power.”*

Okay, I get it. We didn’t like this guy. We thought he was motivated solely by his own quest for power ... so we overthrew him and installed the worst dictator in Iran’s history?

This sounded reasonable to somebody in 1952 at the highest levels of power in our government. And that's scary. No wonder the CIA fought a court battle in this nation to keep all of this stuff secret. Not only does it incriminate our government and reveal the danger to which they have exposed the American public, it also shows how they used the flimsiest of rationales to justify the outright theft of power in a sovereign nation and the confiscation of its natural resources.

The fact is the CIA didn't want *any* guy in power unless he was willing to capitulate to the demands of the West regarding control of Iran's oil.

5. Mossadeq "was governed by irresponsible policies based on emotion."

Well, forgive me if I sound a bit cynical, but this surely doesn't justify the overthrow of a government by another country, does it? This reasoning is outrageous! But I also take issue with the notion that the U.S. is claiming Mossadegh's governance was irresponsible. Who determines that? The United States?

In 1952, the people of Iran re-elected Mossadegh to office. Doesn't that make a statement? We do the exact same thing here in the United States!

In fact, we elect and re-elect known liars, thieves, and criminals all the time! And for some reason nobody comes in under cover of darkness and steals away the Oval Office, dumps Congress, and installs a brutal dictator to teach us a lesson while they enjoy the bounty of our harvests.

6. "Mossadeq's government ... had weakened the Shah and the Iranian Army to a dangerous degree."

Well, this is pretty silly, isn't it? The United States is "concerned" about the weakness of the Iranian Army?

Ironically, if the Iranians had possessed a military of any strength, the coup could very well have not taken place at all! And the U.S. government is claiming that we needed to invade because the Iranian Premier was weakening the Shah?

Well, the fact is that the Shah HAD NO POWER! He was merely a figurehead, much like the Queen of England; whereas Mossadegh had been *democratically elected*.

And besides, if Mossadegh had weakened the Shah politically, isn't it true — even in our own country — that part of the political game is to try and weaken your opponent?

So, the U.S. is trying to paint Mossadegh as a bumbling idiot; yet he had *successfully weakened* the guy with whom we wanted to replace him? Again, this is the rationale our secret government operatives and our elected leaders used in order to justify aggression against a sovereign nation — with the result being that America has been plunged into a perpetual conflict with many countries in the Middle East for generations!

7. Mossadeq's government "had cooperated closely with the Tudeh (Communist) Party of Iran."

The very last reason stated, in a laundry list of bogus reasons, was in regard to the Tudeh Communist Party. This is the same party that had virtually no power in the Iranian Parliament and wound up being banned from existence in 1949! Our own

Library of Congress files discuss the diminished support for the Tudeh Party in 1949 and its eventual “ban.” (I provided this information earlier.)

Despite the hypocrisies inherent in the reasoning and rationale employed by the CIA and those to whom the CIA reports, after arriving at the decision to overthrow a government in the Middle East as our first step toward “building bridges” with the people there, a plan was devised and the go-ahead given by Eisenhower.

In 1953 the CIA (Project Ajax, headed by Kermit Roosevelt) covertly undermined the Iranian government and installed Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the son of the former Shah (Reza Khan), as the leader of the country. The new Shah of Iran promised the people democracy, freedom of the press, equal rights for women, and “modernization” of the country. This new Shah was basically a puppet of the United States and allowed our government to use his country at will over the next two-and-a-half decades.

Of course, at the same time that the Shah was promising equality, freedom, and economic prosperity to the people of Iran, women and racial minorities in the United States were still fighting our own government for equal rights under the U.S. Constitution. America was going through her own civil rights struggle. The claim that the Shah — with the support of the United States government — would offer the very same civil rights to Iranians that were being denied to citizens of the United States at that very same period in time, was not only a preposterous notion, it was also hypocritical.

THE HYPOCRISY OF THE WEST

What actually happened during the 26-year reign of the Shah, which came to an abrupt end in 1979?

- He bankrupted the country in an attempt to build more modern structures.
- He alienated the people and enforced governmental control over the press.
- He created a secret police force called the “SAVAK,” which was trained by U.S. forces. This police force was used in similar fashion to Hitler’s Gestapo. They terrorized the people and tortured and killed political enemies of the Shah.
- He ruled the country with an iron fist, and women’s rights took a back seat to other “reforms” amidst numerous violations of human rights.
- Human rights organizations considered Iran the world’s worst offender in the category of human rights, citing numerous charges against the Shah.
- The Iranian people grew closer to the religious leaders, particularly a new popular Imam, Ayatollah Khomeini.

The Shah arrested and eventually banished the Ayatollah because of his influence over the people and his opposition to the Shah’s brutal ways. The Shah also pleaded with Saddam Hussein (who was rising to leadership in Iraq) to have Khomeini killed after Khomeini moved from Turkey to Iraq. Instead, Saddam exiled the Ayatollah to France, where he remained until his return to Tehran in 1979.

The Iranian people refused to believe the national press, which was under the influence

of the Shah, and instead received information about the Shah's atrocities against the people from newsletters written by the Ayatollah in France and circulated by the people.

Meanwhile, the United States and Great Britain enjoyed an equal split in the control of, and the profits of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (40%-40% of exports, with only 20% control retained by the Iranians). The United States set up secret military "listening posts" along the Iranian-Soviet border to spy on the Soviet Union and helped build Iran's military into a great force in the Middle East region.

The people of Iran were angry about the manner in which the country was being run, and that anger was intensified by regular news reports that detailed the flamboyant and hypocritical lifestyle of the Shah — lavish parties, abuses of women, violence perpetrated against citizens, etc.—that defiled their customs and religious beliefs.

Slowly, the Shah began to lose power while his enemies gained more control. The loss of U.S. governmental control in Iran during the late '70s (and consequently the loss over control of the oil exported by Iran) coincided with America's great gas shortage.

By 1979, the Shah had lost control over the military, which stood idly by as the people raided weapons garrisons and stormed buildings in an effort to overthrow the Shah. The Shah's pleas to the United States for help fell on deaf ears in Jimmy Carter's administration. But the Shah was eventually allowed by Carter (under the pretext of medical treatment) to enter the U.S. after he fell from power.

A NEW BEGINNING

After the Shah fled the country, the people of Iran welcomed the returning Ayatollah Khomeini back from France with great fanfare at Tehran's airport in February 1979. Nine months later, in November of that same year, Iranian students stormed the United States Embassy, capturing those inside and holding them hostage for 444 days.

The U.S. media, in reporting the incident, largely ignored the fact that the U.S. coup that overthrew Iran's democratic government in 1953 had been plotted and carried out from within that very building where the hostages were being held...but the students knew. This was widely known among the Iranian population.

The students demanded that the U.S. government leave the entire Middle East region. (This was the first such demand made on America...but wouldn't be the last). The Ayatollah also gave speeches in this regard, but warned the military against targeting American civilians residing in Iran. He even cautioned his people about hurting the American Embassy personnel.

But Americans have never heard the Ayatollah Khomeini speak. Most of us know nothing of his life, his struggles, and altercations with the Shah that ultimately led to his exile. We do not know because we have placed our trust in our government. It is time for the truth.

As long as the Shah was in power, the United States government had no problem with Iran. The key to the diplomatic relationship America shared with a nation comprised primarily of Shiite Muslims was that the U.S. ruled the country through the leadership of the Shah, and controlled the oil exports of Iran.

Once the power of the Shah was crushed, the U.S. government began a radical propaganda campaign against the entire country, naming the Ayatollah Khomeini as the newest “bogeyman” Americans were supposed to hate. With the ushering in of the Ayatollah came a new perspective for America in looking at Iran as a nation. Americans were told that the country was now a “radical,” “extremist” nation of “terrorists” who hated America for no particularly good reason.

The burning of American flags in Iran (shown on television) seemed to support the notion that these folks were just a bit off their rockers. The Ayatollah, in stark contrast to the propaganda played against him, offered to the people of Iran the notion that Americans living within the borders of that country should not be harmed.

There is no doubt that the U.S. government heard every word of this clergyman’s speech that was given in February of 1979 upon his arrival in Tehran. This so-called radical extremist who is purported to have hated America and all who reside here, commanded the Iranians to be respectful of the lives of those working and residing within foreign embassies. And they were. That doesn’t sound like the kind of speech a terrorist would make on a day when the balance of power in Iran shifted into his hands.

The following is the speech given by the Ayatollah Khomeini after the departure of the Shah, who left Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in charge when the Imam Khomeini returned:

The Speech of Ayatollah Khomeini at Beheshteh Zahra

“I must tell you that Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (Shah of Iran), that evil traitor, has gone. He fled and plundered everything. He destroyed our country and filled our cemeteries. He ruined our country’s economy. Even the projects he carried out in the name of “progress,” pushed the country towards decadence. He suppressed our culture, annihilated people and destroyed all our manpower resources.

We are saying this man, his government, his Majlis are all illegal. If they were to continue to stay in power, we would treat them as criminals and would try them as criminals.

I shall appoint my own government. I shall slap this government in the mouth. I shall determine the government with the backing of this nation, because this nation accepts me. “This government represents a regime, whose leader and his father were illegally in power. This government is therefore illegal. The deputies appointed to work in the Majlis are there illegally. The Majlis itself and the Senate are illegal. How can anyone appointed by the Shah be legal?

We are telling all of them that they are illegal and they should go.

We hereby announce that this government, which has presented itself as a legal government is in fact illegal. Even the members of this government before accepting to be ministers, were considering the whole establishment to be illegal. What has happened now, that they are claiming to be legitimate?

This gentleman, Dr. Bakhtiar, does not accept himself, and his friends do not accept him either. The nation does not accept him and the army does

not accept him. Only America is backing him and has ordered the army to support him. Britain has backed him too and had said that he must be supported. If one were to search among the nation, one would not find a single person among all strata of the nation, who accepts this man, but he is saying that one country cannot have two governments.

Well of course, it is clear that this country does not have two governments and in any case, the illegal government should go. You are illegal. The government of our choice relies on the nation's backing and enjoys the backing of God. If you claim that your government is legal, you must necessarily be denying God and the will of the nation. Someone must put this man in his place.

We want our army to be independent. You army commanders, you generals and major generals, do you not wish to be independent? What is our reward for saying that we would like our army to be independent? Is it right to punish us by killing our young men in the street just because we wish you to be your own master rather than taking orders from foreign powers?

At this point I would like to thank those units of the army, which have joined the ranks of the nation. We praise the NCOs, the air force, and officers of the air force, who are already with us and call upon the rest of you to join. Abandon your foreign masters and do not fear that if you abandon them, we will come and hang you. Such rumours are spread by your enemies. Can you not see your other comrades, the officers, the NCOs and the pilots, who have joined us? We love them, we respect them and we want to keep our strong army intact. We want to have a powerful country. We want to preserve the structure of the army, but for the service of the nation.

Now that the armed forces have stepped back, have declared their neutrality in the face of political affairs and have expressed support for the nation, the dear and courageous nation is expected to maintain law and order when the troops return to barracks. You should stop saboteurs, who may try to create catastrophe and instruct them of their religious and humanitarian obligations.

Do not allow anyone to attack foreign embassies. If, God forbid, the army were to enter the arena again, you must defend yourselves with all your might. I hereby inform senior army officers that if they were to stop the army's aggression, and instruct them to join the nation and its legal Islamic government, we would regard the army as part of the nation and vice versa.

Signed: Ruhollah al-Mousavi al-Khomeini

GOVERNING CHRISTIANS, JEWS AND MUSLIMS

It is difficult for me to accept the idea that a people who strongly believe in their religion and desired to be governed by laws and leaders that strongly adhered to the same religion should be considered radicals, extremists, and basically lunatics. But this is the premise put forth to the American people by our own government.

Is it radical for Christians to want to have Christian laws and be governed by

leaders who strongly believe in Christianity and its virtues, values, and principles?

Is it extreme for Jews to desire to be governed by laws handed down by Moses, and leaders who adhere to the Jewish laws?

Is it crazy for Jews to want a government that not only respects their religion, but is a product of their religion?

If it isn't crazy for Christians and Jews to want to be governed by Christian and Jewish laws, and have Christian and Jewish leaders, why is it "radical" and "extreme" for Muslims to want to live under Islamic laws and be governed by Islamic leaders who respect the religion and its laws?

As Iran tried to regain its footing after 26 years of tyranny under the brutal regime of a U.S.-installed Shah, Americans were amazed at the chaos brewing in the area we call the Middle East.

Without knowledge of these independent countries, their histories, and their peoples, we lump them all together and marvel at what we consider fanaticism and radical religion. It is unfortunate that we consider people to be radical and fanatics who take their religion so seriously that it governs every aspect of their lives, including the decisions made by the government leaders.

We, on the other hand, do not embrace Judaism and Christianity with the same fervor and incorporate it as having complete and total governance over every decision we make in our lives, including those decisions made in political support as well as decisions made by elected officials.

Americans have come to believe, as the Socialists believe, that our government and our schools are, and should be, governed separately from our religious beliefs and practices. While this is a part of the Russian Constitution of 1918 (article II, section 13), it is not, and never has been a part of the U.S. Constitution. Yet, as a society we have come to accept this falsehood. We have also accepted the notion that the Iranian people hate us because of our lifestyle, religion, and wealth.

CASTING ASPERSIONS

While many of us laugh and mock the people of Iran for believing everything their government says, most of us haven't a clue about the numerous upheavals, uprisings, and revolts against the Iranian government under the 26-year reign of the United States through the Iranian Shah that threatened the Shah's throne every few years until he was finally ousted.

While we Americans nurse at the nipple of mainstream media propaganda in this country and continue to be fed government-sponsored lies on a daily basis, serious events are occurring worldwide with our government at the helm orchestrating, influencing, and instigating events.

The United States government's treachery and the illegal installation of the Shah in 1953 is as much a part of the dark history of Iran as the illegal takeover of his father, the first Shah, in the early '20s. The culmination of more than two decades

of proxy rule, in effect, by the United States had taken its toll on a deeply religious and devout people.

In 1979, the Iranian people finally erupted in revolt.

But contrary to the understanding and common knowledge of the average American citizen, Iran didn't attack the American Embassy when the balance of power shifted to the Ayatollah. His return in February of 1979 allowed the country to display its anti-American sentiment, but it wasn't until November of 1979 that the American Embassy was overrun. And the event that touched off that assault on the American Embassy by Iranian students (not the military) was the admittance of the former Shah of Iran into the United States by then-president Jimmy Carter.

AMERICA ATTACKED?

Meanwhile, the people of the United States were stunned that our embassy in Iran was seized. Our media reported the incident in such a way that the public was persuaded to believe the embassy had been taken over by radical religious extremists who were set on destroying America simply due to our decadent lifestyle and our Judeo-Christian faith, with which they disagreed. A self-serving, sanitized account of the incident is recorded in the historical files of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, which painted the Iranian students as "militants" and provided inaccurate information regarding the succession of the Shah to the throne in an effort to ignore the truth and revise history for those who seek to use this information as their sole resource.

The Carter Library recounts the Iranian Hostage Crisis below. (Pay special attention to the paragraph that admits the Shah prevented nationalization of Iran's oil, and in return for a "steady supply of oil," the Shah received "economic and military aid from eight American presidents going all the way back to 1941.") According to the Carter Library:

The Hostage Crisis in Iran On November 4, 1979, Iranian militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran and took approximately seventy Americans captive. This terrorist act triggered the most profound crisis of the Carter presidency and began a personal ordeal for Jimmy Carter and the American people that lasted 444 days.

President Carter committed himself to the safe return of the hostages while protecting America's interests and prestige. He pursued a policy of restraint that put a higher value on the lives of the hostages than on American retaliatory power or protecting his own political future. The toll of patient diplomacy was great, but President Carter's actions brought freedom for the hostages with America's honor preserved. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran, began his reign in 1941, succeeding his father, Reza Khan, to the throne.

In a 1953 power struggle with his prime minister [instigated by the United States in an undercover CIA operation], the Shah gained American support to prevent nationalization of Iran's oil industry. *In return for assuring the U.S. a steady supply of oil, the Shah received economic and military aid from eight American presidents.*

Early in the 1960s, the Shah announced social and economic reforms but refused to grant broad political freedom. Iranian nationalists condemned his U.S. supported regime and his “westernizing” of Iran [This point is key to understanding the mindset of those who battle against the U.S. government today in the Middle East].

During rioting in 1963, the Shah cracked down, suppressing his opposition. Among those arrested and exiled was a popular religious nationalist and bitter foe of the United States, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Between 1963 and 1979, the Shah spent billions of oil dollars on military weapons. The real price of military strength was the loss of popular support. Unable to sustain economic progress and unwilling to expand democratic freedoms, the Shah’s regime collapsed in revolution.

On January 16, 1979, the Shah fled Iran, never to return.

The exiled Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Tehran in February 1979 and whipped popular discontent into rabid anti-Americanism. When the Shah came to America for cancer treatment in October, the Ayatollah incited Iranian militants to attack the U.S.

On November 4, the American Embassy in Tehran was overrun and its employees taken captive. The hostage crisis had begun. (emphasis mine)
<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org/documents/hostages.phtml>

The preponderance of evidence pointing to oil as the catalyst for the chaos in Iran is overwhelming.

It is undeniable that the United States and Great Britain targeted Iran with aggressive covert action solely for the purpose of gaining control of Iran’s oil reserves.

After the overthrow of the Shah in a revolt by the Iranian people, America found itself in a quandary as how to explain the ensuing crisis to the nation, while omitting the fact that our government was the cause for endangering the lives of Americans, all for the cause of controlling oil in the Middle East.

In the above account, we are told that about 70 “Iranian militants” were responsible for the takeover of the American Embassy. We know the takeover was orchestrated and carried out by students, however “militant” they may be described, who were angry with the United States government for the abuse of their homeland. They not only expressed this to the Carter Administration, they also gave very specific instructions on what they wanted in order to release the hostages.

Contrary to the embellishments and lies perpetrated by the U.S. government in the American media, these students had no argument with the American people ... only our government.

A senior diplomat who was taken hostage during the raid, Robert Ode, kept a diary during the encounter. He admitted in his diary that he was told by the students they did not have anything against the American people. Their beef was with Washington, D.C.

A portion of Ode’s recollection of the Iranian hostage crisis is below:

Robert C. Ode Diary, *November 4 - 5, 1979*

Nov. 4, 1979

Since I wasn't sure whether we were expected to work at the Consular Section, in view of what the Chargé had told me last evening, I went to the office just the same at 7:30 as I had quite a bit of work to do anyway. When I got there, however, I found that everyone was coming to work as usual but we were not open to the general public. About 9:00 I was in my office when a young American woman, apparently the wife of an Iranian, was shown into my office as she wanted to obtain her mother-in-law's Iranian passport that had been left at the Consular Section a day or so before for a non-immigrant visa. Just as I was talking to her in an attempt to find out to whom the passport had been issued, when it was left with us, etc., we were told by the Consul General to drop everything and get up to the second floor of the Consular Section. I really didn't know what was happening but was told that a mob had managed to get into the Embassy Compound and, for our own protection, everyone had to go upstairs immediately.

I noticed that the Consul General was removing the visa plates and locking the visa stamping machines. I went upstairs with the American woman and could see a number of young men in the area between the rear of the Consular Section and the Embassy CO-OP store. We were told to sit on the floor in the outer hallway offices. A Marine Security Guard was present and was in contact with the main Embassy building (Chancery) by walkie-talkie.

After an hour or so we could hear that the mob, which turned out to be student revolutionaries, were also on the walkie-talkie. The Marine Guard then advised that we were going to evacuate the Consular Section. There were some visitors on the second floor in the Immigrant Visa Unit and the American Services Unit. I was asked to assist an elderly gentleman, either an American of Iranian origin or an Iranian citizen, I don't know, since he was almost blind and was completely terrified, and to be the first one out of the building.

When we got outside, he was met by a relative who took him away in his car. The students outside the Consular Section appeared to be somewhat confused at that point and the Consul General and about four other American members of the Consular Section, of which I was one, started up the street with the intention of going to his residence. When we were about 1 1/2 blocks from the Consular Section, we were surrounded by a group of the students, who were armed, and told to return to the Compound.

When we protested, a shot was fired into the air above our heads. It was raining moderately at the time. We were taken back to the Compound, being pushed and hurried along the way and forced to put our hands above our heads and then marched to the Embassy residence.

After arriving at the residence I had my hands tied behind my back so tightly with nylon cord that circulation was cut off. I was taken upstairs and put alone in a rear bedroom and after a short time was blindfolded. After

protesting strongly that the cord was too tight the cord was removed and the blindfold taken off when they tried to feed me some dates and I refused to eat anything I couldn't see. I strongly protested the violation of my diplomatic immunity, but these protests were ignored. I then was required to sit in a chair facing the bedroom wall. Then another older student came in and when I again protested the violation of my diplomatic immunity he confiscated my U.S. Mission Tehran I.D. card.

My hands were again tied and I was taken to the Embassy living room on the ground floor where a number of other hostages were gathered. Some students attempted to talk with us, stating how they didn't hate Americans — only our U.S. government, President Carter, etc.

We were given sandwiches and that night I slept on the living room floor. We were not permitted to talk to our fellow hostages and from then on our hands were tied day and night and only removed while we were eating or had to go to the bathroom.

Nov. 5, 1979:

After remaining in the living room the next morning I was taken into the Embassy dining room and forced to sit on a dining room chair around the table with about twelve or so other hostages. Our hands were tied to each side of the chair. We could only rest by leaning on to the dining table and resting our head on a small cushion. The drapes were drawn and we were not permitted to talk with the other hostages.

At one point my captors also tried to make me face the wall but I objected since I had no way to rest my head and after considerable objections I was permitted to continue facing the table. Our captors always conversed in stage whispers. We were untied and taken to the toilet as necessary as well as into a small dining room adjacent for meals, then returned to our chairs and again tied to the chair. I slept that night on the floor under the dining table with a piece of drapery for a cover.

http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org/documents/r_ode/ode_nov79.phtml.

Yet another account of the hostage crisis was recorded as follows:

Iranian Hostage Crisis On November 4, 1979, 3,000 militants overran the U.S. Embassy in Teheran and captured 54 embassy staff members. Religious extremist and Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini praised their actions.

The militants demanded that: the Shah, who ruled Iran for decades and was now seeking medical treatment in the West, be turned over to them for trial; the United States apologize for crimes against the Iranian people; and the Shah's assets be paid to them.

Background

Under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Iran had been a longtime ally of the United States. The Shah's secret police, the Savak, were notorious abusers

of human rights, however. President Carter writes in his biography, *Keeping the Faith*, that he asked the Shah whether he could curb the human rights abuses in Iran. The Shah answered, “No, there is nothing I can do. I must enforce the Iranian laws, which are designed to combat communism.”

The Shah declared martial law in September 1977. A bloody confrontation between police and Muslims killed several hundred people. Muslims called for the Shah’s abdication. The Shah tried to pacify them by granting amnesty to several opposition leaders, including Muslim leader Ayatollah Khomeini, who had been living in exile in France.

The Shah also appointed a prime minister, who once in power called for the Shah to leave and disband his secret police. On January 19, 1979 millions of marchers rallied to back Khomeini, who announced from France that he was forming a new government. Khomeini flew into Teheran, the capital of Iran, on February 1, 1979.

Meanwhile, the United States was evacuating Americans from Iran. The Shah fled to Morocco.

In April 1980, a U.S. rescue mission failed. The hostages were released in 1981, 444 days after they were taken.

http://www.super70s.com/Super70s/News/1979/November/4Iranian_Hostage_Crisis.asp

In almost every account of the Iranian Hostage Crisis the story changes, depending on who is telling the story.

We can clearly see from accurate accounts of the dates of events that the return of the Ayatollah Khomeini was NOT the catalyst for the seizure of the U.S. embassy. The Ayatollah returned on February 1, 1979 and the hostage crisis began on November 4, 1979.

Furthermore, the Ayatollah had cautioned AGAINST any seizure of the embassy or harming of the Americans in Iran. The event that set off the hostage crisis was yet ANOTHER decision made by the United States: to allow the deposed Shah admittance to this country, reportedly for medical treatment.

Here is yet another account of the hostage crisis:

Iran Hostage Crisis ... in U.S. history, events following the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran by Iranian students on Nov. 4, 1979. The overthrow of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi of Iran by an Islamic revolutionary government earlier in the year had led to a steady deterioration in Iran-U.S. relations.

In response to the exiled shah’s admission (Sept., 1979) to the United States for medical treatment, a crowd of about 500 seized the embassy. Of the approximately 90 people inside the embassy, 52 remained in captivity until the end of the crisis. President Carter applied economic pressure by halting oil imports from Iran and freezing Iranian assets in the United States.

At the same time, he began several diplomatic initiatives to free the hostages, all of which proved fruitless. On Apr. 24, 1980, the United States attempted a rescue mission that failed. After three of eight helicopters were damaged in a sandstorm, the operation was aborted; eight persons were killed during the evacuation. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who had opposed the action, resigned after the mission's failure.

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/I/Iranhost.asp>

And here is another account of the crisis:

Iran Hostage Crisis

From Wikipedia (online encyclopedia). The Iran hostage crisis was a 444-day period during which the new government of Iran held hostage 66 citizens of the United States. It caused President Jimmy Carter of the United States to lose his re-election attempt, and punctuated the first fundamentalist Islamic revolution of modern times. It began on November 4, 1979 and lasted until January 20, 1981.

General Information

Iran's new leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, instigated the crisis on November 1, 1979 when he urged his people to demonstrate and expand attacks on United States and Israeli interests on November 4. The U.S. embassy was seized by a mob of around 500 Iranian students (although reported numbers vary from 300 to 2000) calling themselves the Imam's Disciples. Part of a crowd of thousands gathered around the embassy in protest.

The 90 occupants of the embassy were held and the 66 Americans were made prisoners. The hostages were often shown blindfolded to local crowds and television cameras. During the riot, six Americans escaped in the confusion and fled to the Canadian Embassy in Iran, under the hospitality of Canadian Ambassador Ken Taylor. Mark Lijek, Cora Amburn Lijek, Joseph Stafford, Kathleen Stafford, Robert Anders and Henry Lee Schatz were then given fake Canadian passports so they were able to leave the Canadian Embassy, without being identified as Americans, after it had closed.

Thirteen of the hostages were released on November 19 and 20 (the women and African-Americans amongst the group) but the remaining 52 continued to be held (one further hostage was released because of illness on July 11, 1980). The students justified taking the hostages by claiming that it was a retaliation for the admission of Iran's deposed Shah, Pahlavi, into the United States for cancer treatments back in October.

However, in actuality, the hostage-taking was less based around one specific event and was instead an act of demonstrating that the new Iranian government was well capable of opposing the Americans. It was also an act of retaliation against the United States' years of support of the Shah's totalitarian rule.

Ruhollah Khomeini was viciously anti-American in his rhetoric, denouncing the American government as the "Great Satan" and "enemies of Islam."

The embassy had in fact been briefly seized once before during the revolution. I provided the text, on earlier pages, of the Ayatollah's remarks upon his arrival in Tehran. The military did not seize the embassy. Students did. The military was told by the Shah to try and prevent such occurrences, and from February through November 1979, there was no problem for the American embassy despite the anti-American sentiment in Iran.

But some of the American press was, and still is, unwilling to print stories revealing *both* sides of the coin, preferring to regurgitate government propaganda and collaborate with government operatives in deceiving the American public into thinking that everything America does is right ... and every battle we engage in is justified.

The notion that Khomeine was "viciously" anti-American is purely propaganda. The media does not (in fair terminology) state that we are "viciously" anti-Iranian.

Furthermore, the idea that the Ayatollah Khomeini instigated the hostage crisis is unsubstantiated. While some sources lay the blame for the riotous reaction of the students in Tehran squarely at the feet of Khomeini, I would assert that any media that fosters such a claim should provide evidence to support it.

The TRUTH is that we have no evidence to proclaim definitively that Khomeini instigated the riots. If that were the truth, the hostage crisis could easily have taken place upon his arrival NINE MONTHS EARLIER.

Additionally, the military was not the perpetrator of the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran. It was conducted by an angry mob of students who knew the history of U.S. involvement in the undermining of their government in 1953, and of our continued support for a brutal dictator.

It is apparent that armed students must have collaborated to some degree with those who would arm them. But given the previous revolution by the citizenry, and the subsequent arming of the citizenry, the sources of weaponry were numerous. And the ability to organize non-militaristic protests has been evident throughout the modern-day history of several countries in the Middle East. The students who stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran were actual university students, despite the attempts to depict their image as the ever-popular term "militants."

The students apparently decided after learning of the Shah's admittance into the United States by Jimmy Carter that drastic measures had to be taken. It was the students who overruled the Ayatollah's February proclamation and conducted the raid.

In fairness, it can be said that Khomeini had control of the military and the law enforcement of the country, which does place the blame at his feet for the continued occupation of the embassy and the apparent nationally sanctioned "hostage crisis."

Still, many American media reports were so conflicting, off base, and confusing that one can only speculate on whether they were meant to confuse the American public. Only with careful research could anyone find the pattern of facts under the cloud of propaganda.

UNWILLING TO CONCEDE

The truth was that the United States and *not-so*-Great Britain had lost their power broker, the Iranian Shah, and therefore lost control over the oil, the military, and the country of Iran as a whole. And once the 26-year reign of the Western powers had come to an end in the Islamic region, the United States was told in no uncertain terms to leave the Middle East.

Iran had had enough of us meddling Americans who had forced our way into their country, taken over their natural resources, installed a brutal dictator over their DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED LEADER IN THE MAJLIS, and stood in support of numerous atrocities imposed by a monstrous ruler, whom we installed, that devastated the country.

The United States government became known as an enemy of Islam and “The Great Satan.” Iran wanted us out of that region of the world.

But the U.S. government had no intentions of leaving the Middle East.

Not only did we lose power in a key country that had close proximity to the then-Soviet Union, but we had also lost control over the oil coming out of Iran.

Do you remember the long lines at the gas pumps under the Carter administration in the late ‘70s? We were being told there was a gas shortage, but we were never told why.

According to reports, Carter cut off the oil flow from Iran in response to the Iranian Hostage Crisis, when he should have simply turned over the Shah, who was accountable and responsible for the previous 26 years of abuses of the country and its people. After turning over the Shah, our government should have taken our citizens, our military, our diplomats, and every facet of our governmental presence out of that country. That action would have saved the lives of those who died in the botched rescue attempt of the hostages, and may have saved the lives of 241 Marines stationed in Beirut who would later die in a suicide bombing at the hands of an Iranian in 1983 (events covered later in these pages).

Unfortunately, the United States had far too much invested in the Middle East pertaining to oil. And the sad fact of the matter is that this claim to oil benefited wealthy Americans with holdings in oil stocks and in positions of power and leadership within oil companies. While the argument can be made that the subsequent success of these oil companies allowed for expansion and the hiring of hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions of Americans, that is not the argument that was made in support of the decision to undermine Iran.

In any case, it is a dangerous argument to make, since it allows for America to use any method we desire — without respect to life, liberty, law, or moral principle in order for the ends to justify the means.

THE CARTER DOCTRINE: AMERICA JUSTIFIES AGGRESSION

Two months following the Iranian Hostage Crisis, president Jimmy Carter created what is known as the “Carter Doctrine,” which ostensibly characterized the entire

Middle East region of the world as vital “*United States interests.*” According to Dr. Lawrence Grinter (Professor of National Security Affairs at Air Command and Staff College, Air University):

23 January 1980, in his State of the Union Address, President Jimmy Carter announced a new American policy that came to be called the Carter Doctrine. Referring to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Mr. Carter warned that, “An attempt by an outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force.”

Although precipitated by the Soviet invasion, Mr. Carter’s policy also followed eighteen months of turmoil in Iran, as the Shah’s government, ambivalently supported by the Carter administration, collapsed and the radical Khomeini regime took power, eventually imprisoning 53 United States personnel in the American embassy in Teheran.

Throughout the middle and late 1970s, the West’s security position in critical Third World areas had gradually deteriorated. From 1974 onward, there were Marxist takeovers in Angola, Mozambique, Guinea, Ethiopia, South Yemen, South Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Rhodesia, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua; attempted coups in Sudan, Somalia, and Egypt; Khomeini’s revolution in Iran; the deterioration of Lebanon’s security; two failed secessions in Zaire; and the spread of Libyan and Cuban extremism under Soviet support.

The Carter Doctrine, which took many foreign capitals by surprise, came at the conclusion of these developments.

In his statement, the President sought to persuade the world that American interests in and around the Persian Gulf were so vital that the United States would fight if necessary. Concurrent with Mr. Carter’s pronouncement came an intensified search by Defense and State Department officials for new military arrangements with Kenya, Somalia, Oman, Egypt, and Pakistan.

Diego Garcia, the British territory in the Indian Ocean, also received new attention.

On 1 March 1980, the United States Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force (RDJTF) was formally established by Secretary of Defense Harold Brown at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. Its primary mission was subsequently focused exclusively on deployment to the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

By early 1981, when Ronald Reagan took office as President, the RDJTF was estimated to have grown to more than 200,000 CONUS-based forces, including 100,000 Army troops, 50,000 Marines, and additional Air Force and Navy personnel.

The Carter Doctrine would prove to be yet another blunder by the “peaceloving” president. But this debacle would take years to unfold. And it would become the principal foundation upon which American presidents — beginning with Ronald

Reagan and continuing through every administration to the present day — would base sending Americans to die in the foreign lands of the Middle East and elsewhere.

Despite the radical rhetoric of those who purport to believe “American-hating Muslims” want all of us dead, and who offer patriotic, flag-waving, heart-wrenching, tear-jerking support for our military when it marches off to destroy and kill (as well as be killed), the truth remains clear: Americans instigated the problems with Iran and then refused to concede, even when faced with an unrelenting opposition that was willing to die to defend their homeland against yet another invasion by the United States.

But the problems with Iran were compounded when America declared the entire Middle Eastern region as American “VITAL INTERESTS” in an effort to maintain control of oil and strategic land masses during a global chess match with the Soviet Union.

To this day we see the effect of the U.S. Government’s twisted double-talk and treacherous activities overseas.

Iran continues to pursue nuclear weaponry as a means by which to deter future invasions by the United States or its allies. North Korea has flatly stated that the only reason it is determined to obtain nuclear weapons is precisely due to U.S. Government policies. Meanwhile, The Associated Press publishes polls that show that many Americans believe the use of nuclear weapons in some cases is justified.

It is difficult to reconcile how America can maintain that the use of nuclear weaponry is justified for us, but the pursuit of nuclear technology by other countries who subscribe to the exact same thinking is tantamount to a declaration of war against the United States.

PROVIDING AID AND COMFORT TO THE ENEMY

In 1979, Iran posed no challenge to America’s freedom. There was no attack on our liberties or our nation in 1980 in the immediate aftermath of the ousting of the Shah. Americans were simply witnessing the unruly and emotional response of students seizing our embassy after the United States had provided aid and comfort to their enemy ... the Shah. He had initially tried to come to the United States immediately upon his departure from Iran, but was not allowed access precisely because the Carter administration understood the backlash it would likely cause in Iran.

Yet, Carter eventually relented. Why?

Since Carter understood the true history of the Shah’s rise to power and the illegal involvement of America in destroying the sovereignty and democracy of Iran back in 1953, what would prompt him to grant the Shah and his family permission to reside in the United States when so much was at stake and the bubbling cauldron of anti-American sentiment was seething and ready to explode in Iran?

In a book by James A. Bill, *The Eagle and the Lion: The Tragedy of American-Iranian Relations* (New Haven CT: Yale University Press, 1988. 520 pages), Bill explains how major players such as Henry Kissinger and Nelson Rockefeller apparently managed to confiscate billions of dollars in Iranian holdings.

The author explains how Chase Manhattan Bank, which feared that the new Iranian government might withdraw their funds and disavow loans made to the Shah, lobbied the Carter administration to admit the Shah into the country. This change in policy by Carter resulted in the takeover of our embassy, the freezing of Iranian assets, and a declaration of default by Chase Manhattan Bank that allowed American bank leaders (such as Rockefeller) to seize Iranian assets to offset the loans.

According to Bill, “In the end, the resolution of the crisis clearly benefited the American banking community” (page 344).

But when Jimmy Carter declared to the world that we were prepared to fight for control of the entire Middle East, the table was set for a two-prong strategy that culminated in the catastrophic events occurring today in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as in other unseen places around the globe, such as Africa.

THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS MY FRIEND ... FOR NOW

While the events in Iran held America’s attention, in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabian citizen and “freedom fighter” Osama bin Laden was helping to defend his Muslim “brothers” against an invasion by the Soviet Union (1979 – 1989). He would receive assistance from the United States (through the auspices of the CIA working through Pakistan) in a bloody war that lasted nearly a decade.

In Iraq, ruthless dictator Saddam Hussein would also receive assistance from the United States to instigate a war against its neighbor ... Iran (1980 – 1988).

Because of president Jimmy Carter, the United States embarked upon a mission to control the Middle East, beginning with two strategies in 1980:

- *Defend Afghanistan against invasion by the Soviets.*
- *Regain control of Iran and its oil through an alliance with Iraq.*

These two strategies, launched under the administration of Jimmy Carter, would prove to be the basis upon which succeeding presidents would make decisions of global impact that would send our military men and women off to war ... and subsequently for some, to their deaths.

Defense of our homeland and the freedoms we enjoy is a noble cause for the military. But that is not why they were sent to Afghanistan in 2003, nor why our armed forces were dispatched to Iraq in 1991 or 2003.

But the entire picture is not yet clear.

I have given you the history of Iran because it is necessary to understand how the United States’ involvement in the Middle East began and the truth behind the terms of that involvement. It is upon that foundation we will now delve into the two triangular approaches used by the United States that point us in the direction of going *back* to Iran.

The two definitive lines directing our path are Iraq (which borders both Saudi Arabia and Iran, and is the launching point from which the U.S. Government will eventually attempt to regain control of Iran), and Afghanistan. These two lines can

also be interchangeably identified as Saddam Hussein (former leader of Iraq) and Osama bin Laden (leader of al-Qaeda).

If there is any doubt that our focus is Iran, consider this report published by the Middle East Newsline (www.menewslines.com) entitled, “Quietly, U.S. prepares for Israeli strike on Iran.” This news report stated:

The issue of Iran’s nuclear weapons program was discussed by President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon during the latter’s visit to the White House on April 14 (2004). The sources said the two men were alone during the brief discussion in an effort by the president to gauge a likely Israeli response to the completion of an Iranian nuclear bomb. “It would be intolerable for the Middle East if they [Iran] get a nuclear weapon,” Bush said after meeting Sharon.

INFORMATION IS POWER

Americans cannot sit back and blame the so-called “terrorists” for the loss of American lives — both civilian and military — when, in fact, the course of world events is strategically designed, instigated, and manipulated by our *own* government; a government you and I are supposed to control.

Our ignorance of the conflicts in countries around the globe and the involvement of our military and government in foreign affairs has resulted in a government gone berserk and that has made decisions and implemented policies that have put the lives of our children at risk. This tyranny by the U.S. government will continue until you and I decide to put an end to it.

In this nation where the balance of power lies within the will of the American people, those leaders who would place U.S. citizens at risk through the continual pursuit of commercial gain and unethical, immoral, and illegal confiscation of power in foreign lands should receive a resounding note of disapproval from the public through the democratic process that enables our voices to be heard.

I hope to provide the wakeup call necessary for the American public to begin transforming our government with the rest of the information in this book. Let’s take a look at how our government befriended both Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden—and why they are both regarded as enemies today.

Befriending the Enemies: Saddam and Osama

By 1980, the U.S. had lost its control over the enormous oil reserves coming out of Iran because the Shah had lost power. It then turned to Iran's neighbor Iraq, and with reckless disregard for the moral implications of its decision or long-term effects of U.S. involvement in initiating war between Arab nations, the U.S. government befriended Saddam Hussein — a known madman and brutal murderer — and assisted Iraq in an unprecedented and unprovoked assault on the people of Iran, a nation still undergoing transition from puppet ruler under the auspices of the Shah to strict religious law under the leadership of the Ayatollah Khomeini.

After Ronald Reagan replaced Jimmy Carter as president, it became Reagan's duty to find a way to regain a foothold in the Middle East; primarily due to the *Carter Doctrine*, which had labeled regaining control over the oil flow from the Middle East as a "vital interest" to the American people.

Reagan's biggest headache as he assumed office was in regard to the intense foreign difficulties created during, and prior to, the Carter era. Fortunately for Reagan, the hostages in Iran were released upon his inauguration. One less headache.

But there was still the matter of war in the Middle East.

The former Governor of California was immediately besieged with foreign difficulties left over from the Carter administration from the very day of his inauguration — with the Middle East war between Iraq and Iran leading the pack. Reagan would have to move quickly to get a full grasp on the history of the situation he was now facing ... and the cast of dubious characters with whom the United States had jumped into bed.

The two most influential names high on the Middle East friendship list of the U.S. government — names that would eventually become the most notorious in modern-day American history — were Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and a Saudi Arabian freedom fighter and Muslim mercenary ... Osama bin Laden.

At this point in history, the U.S. doesn't look like the staunch Israel supporter it pretends to be.

After all, most of the involvement of the U.S. government in the Middle East was uplifting, improving, and training Arab military forces — which completely undermines the pretense that the American government was involved in the Middle East peace process because of its concern for Israel. And in 1980, the U.S. government decided to befriend two men who would eventually become notorious in American history.

Again, these friendships had nothing to do with Israel and everything to do with establishing American power and control in the Middle East for one specific purpose ... control of oil in the region. Until Reagan had his first NSA briefing, he, like many

Americans, had likely never heard of Hussein and bin Laden because they meant little to the American press and nothing to the American people.

But in the “need-to-know” circles, it was common knowledge that these two men wielded tremendous influence over the balance of power in the Middle East.

Osama bin Laden — working to prevent the Soviet Union from taking over Afghanistan — was recruited by the Saudi *Muslim Brotherhood*, an international organization based in Egypt with strong connections throughout the Arab world. The men of this organization would go anywhere and fight anyone for the sake of defending Arab Muslim countries.

To the Muslim Brotherhood, and Osama bin Laden, Islam was under attack whenever any of the Muslim countries were attacked. For the Muslim Brotherhood, Islam had no borders; and for Osama, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was the same as if Saudi Arabia itself had been attacked. His connections yielded enormous funding for the training and development of armies for the defense of Muslim countries.

It is crucial to understand that at this point in history (1980), there was no such outfit or organization called “Al Qaeda.” The foundation for the formation of that organization had yet to be laid.

The other historical figure in the Middle East was Saddam.

Since the story of Saddam and Osama are separate and distinct — except for both having distant connections to Iran — we will look at each separately in order to get a clear view of the relationship the United States had with each of these two men, and discover who was responsible for the attacks made on the United States ... and why.

Let’s start with Saddam, the man who waged war on Iran in 1980.

WHO IS SADDAM HUSSEIN?

This undoubtedly was the question Reagan asked upon being elected president of the United States. After all, Carter’s decision to allow the former Iranian Shah entry into the United States to reside here touched off a powder keg of explosive emotions in Iran that led to the hostage crisis; which, fortunately for Reagan, ended the day he set foot into the Oval Office.

But there was no relief in sight because there was bad blood and bad history between the countries of Iran and Iraq. With the onset of a new Islamic regime in Iran — led by the Ayatollah Khomeini, who had once resided in Iraq until he was sent to France by Saddam Hussein — the foundation was laid for a large-scale war.

This war between Iraq and Iran, which began in 1980 while Carter was in office, would last through Reagan’s presidency and become the principal problem that threatened his legacy as an American president.

Yet it was a problem he inherited.

The same cannot be said of President Carter. Still, while he did indeed inherit control over Iran while the Shah was in power, Carter cannot be totally faulted for

the *continued* support of the Shah after presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford passed the buck that began with Eisenhower.

But it was this Nobel Peace Prize laureate/president who should have recognized the fateful situation that would occur by allowing the Shah into America. He allowed the Shah access, nonetheless. The hostage crisis occurred in the wake of that fateful decision. Carter then refused to turn over the Shah to the Iranian people.

A few months later, Iraq took advantage of the turmoil in Iran ... and attacked.

So much for the integrity of the Nobel Peace Prize board members. Carter's version of peace was to ignite a powder keg of hostility within Iran, then run next door to Saddam Hussein, the man we now accuse of atrocities, and assist him in killing hundreds of thousands of Iranians, and even a few thousand Kurds in his own backyard.

But why did Iraq attack Iran?

What did it hope to accomplish?

And what motivated Iraq to make such an attack?

WWIII: THE SILENT WAR

This war, which would eventually kill more than one million Arabs and involve nearly all of the world's major military powers, would become one of the largest modern-day conflicts the world had seen since WWII, yet the American people knew nothing about it.

This war, which I consider to be WWIII, has escaped the pages of world history books used in America's government-funded schools, and has been relatively ignored by elected leaders in this country. Yet this war has had a profound impact on the lives of Americans and the future of America herself. It is crucial that Americans take the time to learn about this war and Saddam Hussein, the man with whom America created a friendship ... and whom we would eventually call our enemy.

FROM IRAQI CHICKEN THIEF TO AMERICAN SCAPEGOAT: THE HISTORY OF SADDAM HUSSEIN

Saddam Hussein was born on April 28, 1937 in the small village of al- Auja near the town of Tikrit. It is unclear whether Saddam's father, Hussein al-Majid, either died or abandoned the family; nevertheless, his mother, Subha, took a second husband, Ibrahim Hassan. It is widely believed that Hassan was a shepherd by profession and forced Saddam to learn to steal sheep and chickens to sell. It is also believed that Hassan was quite brutal toward Saddam until the age of ten, when Saddam was allowed to move in with his mother's brother.

In 1947 Saddam began living with his uncle, Khayrallah Tulfah, in Baghdad. The relationship Saddam developed with his uncle would prove to be the beginning of what forged him into a ruthless dictator. Khayrallah was once a part of the Iraqi army

but was removed when his participation in a failed coup attempt was discovered. Khayrallah despised the British and their imperialist control over Iraq. Khayrallah's political views soon became the perspective adopted by the young Saddam (who would later appoint his uncle Khayrallah as Mayor of Baghdad).

SADDAM THE TEENAGER

At the age of sixteen, Saddam applied for admission to the prestigious Baghdad Military Academy, but at that time he had only completed what is considered the equivalent of a ninth-grade education in the United States. His application was denied.

In 1956, only nine years after moving in with his uncle in Baghdad, Saddam participated in an unsuccessful coup attempt against the monarchy of King Faisal II when he was only 19 years old. The very next year, in 1957, he joined the Ba'ath Party, a relatively new nationalist movement that was pushing for an independent Iraq.

At this point it is essential to recognize that once again we find an Arab country ruled by a Western power (in this case Great Britain) fighting for its independence. While it is unfair to compare Iraq to the United States, it should be noted that *we also* fought a war against the imperialist British in order to obtain our own independence.

The notion that Iraq would, in a matter of a few decades, rise up from the gutter of chaos and political upheaval to become the world's foremost threat is preposterous—but that is the theory the U.S. government sold the American people prior to its invasion of Iraq in 2003. So, let's continue on and discover how Saddam Hussein transformed himself from chicken thief to a Hitler-like figure on the world stage.

IGNORANT AND VIOLENT

In 1958, after he married his first cousin, Sajida, Saddam was arrested and imprisoned for six months for killing his brother-in-law. That same year, a non-Ba'athist group of army officers succeeded in overthrowing the King. The group was led by General Abdul Qassim. Iraq was in political turmoil and Qassim's new position as leader would not last long.

In October 1959 Saddam, along with other Ba'ath Party supporters, attempted to assassinate General Qassim. The attack was unsuccessful, but it helped to place Hussein in a leadership position in the Ba'ath Party. Saddam was shot in the leg by one of the general's bodyguards in the failed coup attempt and he fled to Syria. From Syria, he went to Cairo, Egypt where he would spend the next four years studying and obtaining his high school education. Meanwhile, in 1960 Qassim sentenced Saddam to death, should he return to Iraq.

BORN TO BE WILD

But even while Saddam was in Egypt, he could not stay out of trouble. He was arrested on two occasions: for threatening fellow students, and for chasing a student down the street with a knife. Both incidents were over political differences.

This incendiary approach to political differences would become entrenched in the methods Saddam would eventually use for the “resolution” of all disputes. In 1961, Saddam entered Cairo University School of Law, but did not finish his studies there. In 1963, a group of Ba’ath Party members tortured and assassinated General Qassim on Iraqi television. They also mutilated many of Qassim’s close followers and showed their bodies on the news. This was known as the “Ramadan Revolution.”

After the death of Qassim, Saddam immediately returned to Iraq and became involved in the revolution of the Ba’ath Party. His role was as an interrogator and torturer at the infamous “Palace of the End,” which is what people called the basement of the former palace of King Faisal II. The Ba’ath Party split that same year (1963). Saddam had supported the winning side in a struggle for power within the party.

Because of his loyalty, he was appointed a member of the Ba’ath Regional Command.

However, in October 1964 Saddam was imprisoned when opposing political influences had gained strength and rounded up Ba’ath Party Regional Command members like Saddam. He remained imprisoned until 1966.

A RESOURCEFUL SADDAM

Yet, even while in prison, Saddam was able to make political headway. He was elected to the Ba’ath Party’s Pan-Arab National Leadership in 1965 while still behind bars. In September 1966, he was elected Deputy-Secretary General of the Ba’ath Party Leadership in Iraq, mostly through the political influence of his older cousin, General Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr.

In either 1966 or 67, depending on conflicting reports, Hussein escaped from prison and set up a Ba’ath Party security system known as the “Jihaz Haneen.” This security apparatus would prove valuable in his later rise to the top of the party. In 1968, Saddam completed his College of Law education. Meanwhile, his cousin, General al-Bakr, and the Ba’ath Party seized control of the government in a military raid on the presidential palace on July 17. Saddam was given the position of Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, and placed in charge of internal security.

He was just 31 years old.

SADDAM’S RISE TO RULER

In March 1970, the new government made a pact with the Kurds living in northern Iraq, a people who desired to remain autonomous and would wage war with any regime unwilling to negotiate with them. Like Iraq, the Kurds desired independence from outside rule, although they lived in a region that covered portions of Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey.

General Qassim’s regime learned that lesson the hard way and was weakened considerably by a war with the Kurds that contributed to Qassim’s downfall. General al-Bakr did not wish to go the way of General Qassim and ordered a cease-fire and offered autonomy to the Kurds. This agreement would not last long, however.

Meanwhile, within just a few months of the takeover, Saddam had “purged” the government of any opponents to the Ba’ath Party’s rule.

In his new role, Saddam created an elaborate system of spies throughout Iraq and other Arab regions. In 1972 he played a major role in pushing the country toward nationalizing the oil companies in Iraq that were controlled by the Western powers (reminiscent of Iran’s move that led to the covert takeover by the United States in 1953).

The Ba’ath Party’s Nationalist movement had succeeded.

There are some accounts that paint the Ba’ath Party as a Socialist movement. However, there is no evidence that the Ba’ath Party supported Socialist parties, ideology, or countries. It was, and continued to be, a Nationalist regime working solely for the advancement of the party, its leaders, and its independent control over a sovereign Iraq.

On July 1, 1973 Saddam was awarded the rank of Lieutenant General and the Rafadain Order, First Class. In 1974 he played a key role in formulating and implementing the Kurdish Autonomy Law, which forced the Kurds living in Northern Iraq into parts of Iran. This new law—which overruled the previous contract between the Kurds and Saddam’s cousin, General al- Bakr—would plunge the new government into war. This dispute over control of the Kurds and the areas they called home in parts of Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Iraq would prove to be a continual problem for all four countries.

WHO ARE THE KURDS?

At the time, the Kurds were a population of more than 20 million people who once resided in a region called Kurdistan, according to a map presented at the San Francisco Conference by the Kurdish League Delegation on March 30, 1945.

Because of British interference in the Middle East after WWI, the entire region was carved up and renamed. Places like Persia became Iran, and areas like Kurdistan and Palestine became non-existent. The people, however, continued to exist, living in the same areas they had resided in for generations, although those areas were reestablished under different names and rulers by Great Britain.

The story of Saddam Hussein would not be complete without an understanding of how he and other leaders in the region viewed the Kurdish people. Like the Palestinians, these people once had a place they called home. They did not move their home, but rather the boundaries around them changed. Jurisdiction over the boundaries, which had been based upon British influence and control, fluctuated with a variety of coups and power changes in Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Iraq through the years.

The Kurds were a democratic people who refused to be ruled by the government of any country in which they resided. They desired to remain an autonomous people. According to www.onwar.com the problems Saddam had with the Kurds began primarily when he decided to control them with his Kurdish Autonomy Law.

In 1973-74, negotiations with al-Barzani (leader of the Kurds) and the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) to implement the “March Manifesto” failed. The March Manifesto promised a census that had not yet been taken, and al-Barzani and the

KDP refused to accept the borders of the Kurdish area that had been determined by the Ba'ath Party and which excluded the oil-rich Kirkuk province.

Nevertheless, on March 11, 1974 the Ba'ath Party (now in authority and fully functioning as the government of Iraq) proceeded to implement its own plan for Kurdish self-rule, establishing a provincial council and an assembly in cooperation with Kurdish leaders that were opposed to al-Barzani. This move by Iraq's governing powers precipitated a war between Iraq and the Kurds.

THE WAR BETWEEN IRAQ AND THE KURDS

The Kurdish War started in March 1974 soon after Saddam began implementing the Kurdish Autonomy Law.

Al-Barzani's decision to go to war with the Iraqi government was supported by the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who sought to pressure Iraq into altering the water frontier in the Shatt al-'Arab River, which divides the nations of Iran and Iraq. Iran's interest (as well as the interest of the United States) in the Kurdish- Iraqi conflict was merely to augment the forces of the Kurds in order to threaten the government of Iraq, hoping it would yield to Iran's desire to expand a portion of the border it shared with Iraq which would allow Iran access to the river that separated the two countries. That river was a necessary transportation route for oil barges headed down to the Persian Gulf from some of Iran's inland oil cities. Basically, Iran wanted the boundary to be changed from the shores of the river to the "thalweg," or median line of the riverbed.

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RIVER SHATT AL-'ARAB?

The Shatt Al-'Arab, or "Shatt River" (as I call it), is the narrow waterway formed by the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers at Al-Qurnah, Iraq, and runs south about 120 miles to the Persian Gulf. The southern 50 miles of the Shatt River forms the international border between the countries of Iraq and Iran. For centuries, both Iran and Iraq have wanted to control it.

In 1847, Iran (Persia) was pressured by the Ottoman Empire (which included what is now Iraq) to sign the "Treaty of Erzerum," which gave control of the entire waterway to the Empire. All access to the Persian Gulf via this river could only be reached through waters controlled by the Ottomans (Turks).

After the defeat of the Turks in World War I and the subsequent breakup of the Ottoman Empire, the League of Nations granted Great Britain control of the area that is now Israel, Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait.

The British drew the current borders and granted Iraq its independence in 1932. This included granting Iraq full control over the Shatt River. Iran appealed to the League of Nations to no avail.

In 1937, however, the two countries did agree to some slight modifications of the sovereignty line to allow unimpeded Iranian access to the loading areas at their oil refineries in Abadan and the port of Khorramshahr. However, under the terms of the

1937 treaty, the boundary was set at the low-water mark on the Iranian side, giving Iraq control of the shipping channel.

In 1974, because the Shah of Iran had been unsuccessful in convincing Iraq to agree to a middle-of-the-riverbed boundary between the two nations, he found the Iraqi dispute with the Kurds and the impending war between them as an opportunity to support the Kurds against Saddam. “The Kurdish Revolt” lasted from 1974-75. There were an estimated 21,000 casualties, with Iraq sustaining approximately 6,000.

ABANDONING THE TROOPS

The Shah abruptly stopped his assistance to the Kurdish leader, al- Barzani, when Iraq agreed to negotiate with him in regard to the Shatt River boundary.

The Shah and Saddam Hussein met in Algiers in March 1975, and they quickly came to an agreement. Saddam agreed that the thalweg would be the boundary in the Shatt al-‘Arab, and the Shah promised to stop his assistance to the Kurds.

On the basis of the Algiers Accord, the foreign ministers of Iraq and Iran met in Baghdad on June 13, 1975 and signed an elaborate treaty encompassing the settlement of all disputes relating to frontiers between the two countries. This agreement virtually ended the Kurdish war.

The Kurds could not sustain any reasonable resistance against Iraq without the assistance of Iran, and once the Shah received what he wanted, he abandoned support for the Kurdish effort. The Kurds have consistently fought against all of the various countries that have laid claim to their lands since the British left them homeless in the 1920s.

The problem the Kurds create, especially in Iraq, is that when they rise up, they weaken any government in power at the time and make it vulnerable to a hostile takeover by opposing forces. This is what happened with General Qassim, who was executed on Iraqi television after his government failed to come to terms with the Kurds and forced them from the oil-rich region of Iraq known as Kirkuk.

Once again, we see in this story of Middle Eastern conflict that the underlying factor is a willingness to sacrifice people over the pursuit of oil.

STREET-SMART SADDAM

Saddam was a street-smart guy with a crude understanding of politics. Yet, he realized that the longer the war with the Kurds continued, the more susceptible Iraq would become to hostilities both internal and external. Saddam believed, correctly, that his enemies were waiting in the wings for an opportunity to strike. Settling an old boundary dispute with the Iranian Shah on a “temporary” basis was good old-fashioned common sense for Saddam. And with the Algiers Accord signed, things settled down with the Kurds as Iraq took control of the region.

It should not be overlooked that when the Shah decided to provide assistance to the Kurds in 1974, the United States was *also* involved. Since the Shah was a mere

puppet of the U.S., anything he did that could potentially jeopardize the power and control of the U.S. in the region had to be supported by the United States.

In a speech to the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in Ankara, Turkey on March 20, 2000, the Iraqi Kurdistan representative, Safeen Dizayee — who became the official KDP representative in Turkey in 1992 — stated the following in regards to the situation the Kurds faced in Iraq:

The [Iraqi] government was hesitant to leave control over the economically vital region of Kirkuk and Khanaqin to the Kurds. The Arabization policy was aimed to change the demography in favour of the Arab population before a census was held.

However, the 1970-74 period also witnessed a large number of real achievements. Many Kurdish schools were opened, houses that had been destroyed in the war were rebuilt and hospitals, roads and other public services were provided. As the Ba'ath government was weak at this time, it proposed the formation of a Progressive National Front together with the KDP and the influential Iraqi Communist Party (ICP) in 1971.

The KDP refused this proposal unlike the ICP. In the interval between the autonomy agreement and the implementation, the Ba'ath government grew much stronger economically and militarily. It nationalized oil production in 1972 and it received support from USSR.

Consequently, in 1974, Baghdad unilaterally imposed a far less generous autonomy law than it had promised in 1970.

War broke out almost immediately.

The Kurds received some assistance from Iran and indirectly from USA. Large number of civilians became displaced and refugees in Iran. In 1975, Baghdad reached an agreement with the Shah of Iran in what is known as the Algiers Accord.

Iran cut off his assistance and aid to the Kurds.

The Kurdish leadership faced with the difficult choice of either abandoning armed struggle and take refuge in Iran or continue with the war but cut from all sides and to an unknown destiny. The first option was seen as the only choice to avoid further massacres and bloodshed. Tens of thousands of Kurdish civilians sought refuge in Iran and comparable numbers were deported to southern parts of Iraq after their surrender and their villages razed to the ground.

The KDP Leader Mustafa Barzani briefly lived in Iran and later went to USA for his cancer treatment and later died on March 1, 1979 at the age 76. The Iraqi government had its hand free for the political and physical elimination of opponents within and prominent communists, by end of 1970s; ICP was completely removed from the political scene.

If Saddam is anything, he is consistent. He befriended the Communists in an effort to nationalize all resources in the country, which the Communists applauded. This

took power and control of Iraqi oil away from the West (Great Britain and America).

However, Saddam had no intention of granting power, access, or control of Iraqi resources to any other power either. Eventually, he got rid of the ICP and purged the country of Communist influence.

Saddam's goal was to ensure complete power for his Ba'ath Party in Iraq.

All agreements made with Saddam that were not in his total best interest and control became merely "temporary" agreements. Not unlike the governments of both the United States and Great Britain, Saddam used people, policies, treaties, and influence as tools with which he created a world where he controlled everything.

In 1978, while the Shah of Iran was fighting to retain his political control over a population that was slowly rising to a boiling point of opposition against his brutal reign, Saddam Hussein was a rising star, secure in his power as second-in-command of the country behind his cousin, General al-Bakr.

Saddam had been working together with other Arab nations to ostracize and oppose Egypt for its diplomatic attempts to find a solution to the conflict with Israel. President Hafez al-Assad of Syria was supportive of Saddam's idea. But Saddam soon learned that it was al-Assad of Syria, not Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who would ascend to the pinnacle of leadership in the Arab world if a Syrian-Iraqi coalition were formed.

Iraqi leader General al-Bakr would head the coalition initially, with al-Assad as second-in-command. Saddam would find himself third-man-down and likely involved in another political struggle to retain power at that level. Saddam could not allow that to happen and began to urge his cousin to vacate the presidency.

"Suddenly," Saddam's cousin al-Bakr began to feel ill and thought it best to vacate his presidency. On July 16, 1979 Saddam Hussein assumed the position as president of Iraq.

STREET-WISE HUSTLER TAKES OVER IRAQ

It should be noted at this point that Saddam, although a tyrant, liar, cheater, murderer, and overall bad guy, had nothing in his personal history that was remotely close to indicating the problems he would soon have with the biggest kid on the block ... the United States.

If Saddam thought he had influence, could make good use of propaganda, and possessed the ability to undermine a government and take it over ... he hadn't seen anything yet. He was headed for a showdown with the masters of propaganda, regime change, takeover, and control ... the Wizards of the West: Great Britain, and the all-time undisputed champion of regime change, The United States of America.

This tag-team combination had a history of takeover and control that employed methods Saddam couldn't dream of ... all with the support of a nation of people "under the influence."

While Saddam was basically a brute, the finesse and subtleties of the West would prove to be his undoing. While he found favor for a time with the Western powers

(ironically reminiscent of Saddam's earlier "temporary" friendships with others), Saddam would soon face ridicule, blame, Arab and global disfavor, and the eventual disgraceful downfall of his presidency, for daring to believe that he and his repressive government could match wits with the Western powers, who are the experts in global warfare and political propaganda.

Upon assuming total leadership of the country, Saddam wasted no time in once again purging the government. Within days he had read off a list of names of people who were taken into custody and executed. Saddam personally killed some of them.

By the time the "cleansing" was completed, 450 people had lost their lives.

On September 4, 1980, Iraq, now under the complete leadership of Saddam Hussein, suddenly launched a full-scale war against neighboring Iran.

It should be noted at this point that I have given minimal discussion to religious points of view or differences. The situation between the Palestinians and the Israelis has also been left out, because neither of these two topics (religious differences or Palestinian claims to their homeland) is relevant or integral to the truth behind the motivations of both the United States and Great Britain in the Middle East.

With the exception of the Kurdish problem — since it directly affects the Iraq-Iran conflict — "religious differences" and "homeland disputes" have been factored into the public explanations given by the West in order to justify its meddling in the Middle East. This is merely propaganda that has been used to confuse those of us who are far removed from the situation, and to garner public support for the governments of Great Britain and the United States that will enable them to continue to instigate, manipulate, take over, and control regions of the Middle East and the world.

With that being said, let's move on to the reasons why Iraq invaded Iran in 1980.

WORLD WAR III: IRAQ versus IRAN 8-YEAR WAR

(1980-88: included all of the world's superpowers. Result: more than 1 million dead, 1.7 million wounded, millions of refugees)

I asked myself a few questions regarding Saddam's possible motivations for invading Iran; a neighboring country with a larger population, a strong army, and a history of adequately repelling Iraqi attacks along the border.

Why would Saddam, after brokering a peace treaty with Iran a mere five years earlier, decide to invade it?

Why would Saddam, knowing the history of the region and understanding the threat of a Kurdish revolt if he were to get bogged down in Iran, decide to invade anyway?

Why would Saddam, knowing his political leadership could potentially be weakened and his oil reserves threatened, decide to invade Iran anyway?

Why would Saddam, with no history of invading other countries, feel compelled to move into Iran?

What was Saddam's goal?

What was his motivation?

These were some of the questions on my mind when I delved into WWII, the Iraq-Iran war, which is also known by other names.

An online encyclopedia (Wikipedia.org) provides an explanation of its reasons for the war:

The Iraq-Iran War (also called the First Persian Gulf War, or the Imposed War in Iran) was a war between Iran and Iraq, lasting from September 22, 1980 until August 20, 1988. The origins of the war are disputed, but was fundamentally a war over dominance in the Persian Gulf region.

Rulers in both countries hoped to reduce the power of the other in order to bolster their own domestic and international power.

The war began with an Iraqi invasion of Iran which advanced quickly, then stabilized into a defensive position for the bulk of the war, and then advanced again later in the war. It was commonly referred to as the Persian Gulf War until the Iraq- Kuwait Conflict (1990-91), which became known as the Second Gulf War and later simply the Gulf War.

One of the factors contributing to hostility between the two powers was Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's desire to regain full control of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway at the head of the Persian Gulf, an important channel for the oil exports of both countries. In 1975, United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had sanctioned the Shah of Iran to attack Iraq over the waterway, which was under Iraqi control at the time. Iran had also been supporting a Kurdish rebellion in Iraq.

In 1975 Iran and Iraq signed the Algiers Accord in which Iraq made territorial concessions, including the waterway, in exchange for normalized relations between the two countries.

Following the February 1979 Islamic Revolution which overthrew the Shah, Iraq and some other Arab countries also feared the possible spread of the Islamic Revolution to their countries, which would put an end to their secular or Sunni-dominated regimes. The Iranian regime disliked the secular Ba'athist regime in Iraq and did try to eliminate it. They funded Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq, and Shi'ite leaders in the rest of Iraq, hoping to cause a civil war, allowing the Shi'ite majority in Iraq to revolt against Hussein's Sunni dominated government.

Iraq also had designs on the Iranian province of Khuzestan, which is the main oil area in Iran. Saddam had recently come to power and was interested in elevating Iraq to a regional superpower. A successful invasion of western Iran would make Iraq the sole dominating force in the Gulf region and its lucrative oil trade. Such lofty ambitions were not that farfetched. Severe officer purges and spare part shortages for Iran's American-made equipment had crippled Iran's once mighty military.

The bulk of the Iranian military was made up of poorly armed, but committed militias. To top it off, Iran had minimal defenses in the Arvand river (Shatt al-‘Arab) area.

On September 22, 1980, Iraq seized the opportunity and invaded, using the so-called Iran-backed assassination attempt aimed at then-Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz as a pretext for the attack.

It is important to note that the encyclopedia rightly presents the notion that the reasons behind this war are in dispute. This is because no one truly knows the actual reasons and there were none officially stated.

It did not make sense for Saddam to risk his regime’s control over Iraq, open himself up to Kurdish attack, and allow his political enemies an opportunity to gain a foothold by causing a full-scale war. Even though the source above states that Saddam had designs on complete control of the Shatt River, this alone does not seem to me to be worth the risk.

Furthermore, Iraq had signed a treaty in 1975 conceding the mid-point of the river as the boundary between the two nations. That treaty was to stop the conflict with Iran and the Kurds, yet a mere five years later Saddam supposedly would embark on an even larger conflict with Iran itself?

I don’t buy it. But, that is one theory, and it may have some credence.

However, the notion that Saddam and the Ayatollah Khomeini had individual designs on international rule is preposterous. This is something I regard as purely propaganda.

The fear of world domination by other countries is produced primarily by the world’s dominators. Neither Iraq nor Iran had ventured outside of its own borders as predators in the region. If either had decided to do so, other countries possessed sufficient resources to make the political lives of both leaders tenuous. And history provides no proof that this speculation has any credibility.

The source does provide an insight into the earlier difficulties Saddam had with the Kurds in the northern region. We already know these people had declared war when Iraq reneged on its promise of autonomy and to take an accurate census. Saddam provided the impetus for this conflict with his 1974 Kurdish Autonomy Law, basically outlawing any such autonomous condition for the people. That’s when the Kurds sought the assistance of the Shah of Iran.

THE KISSINGER CONUNDRUM

I speculated earlier that the Shah, being a puppet of the U.S., could not put U.S. control in the region at risk without authority from Washington. We now discover (through the above source) that Henry Kissinger provided that authority.

A quick review of Kissinger’s history reveals that this German-born U.S. secretary of state and 1973 Nobel Peace Prize recipient (for the Vietnam War, ironically), served under both Nixon and Ford and is suspected of being the source of the approvals for conflicts in several countries: Laos, Cambodia, Chile, East Timor, and Iraq.

It is also interesting to note that the U.S. was behind the Iranian-supported conflict against Saddam Hussein in 1974. This would not be the last time the U.S. would support Iran against Saddam as we shall discover later.

IRAQ THREATENS THE WORLD ... UM, WELL OK, REALLY?

When one thinks of world domination, countries like Great Britain, the United States, Russia, and Germany come to mind. There is no trepidation in the minds of the overwhelming majority of leaders in the world when someone mentions Iran or Iraq.

Both of these countries sit on a wealth of the world's oil resources ... and both are manipulated by greater powers outside of each of those countries.

One of the reasons given that may have motivated Saddam to attack Iran is to regain control over the Shatt River. I believe this reason has some credibility because Saddam has a history of conceding and then renegeing on his earlier concessions. He befriends people and then kills them when they are no longer useful to him, or if he views them as obstacles or potential opponents ... or even merely non-supporters.

According to the Iran Chamber Society:

Phebe Marr, a noted analyst of Iraqi affairs, stated that, "the war was more immediately the result of poor political judgment and miscalculation on the part of Saddam Hussein," and "the decision to invade, taken at a moment of Iranian weakness, was Saddam's."

Another possible reason for the war is the notion that the Ayatollah Khomeini desired to spread Islamic Fundamentalism throughout the Middle East. While there may be some legitimacy to this idea, it is folly to believe that Khomeini had the ability, the military strength, the knowledge, or the strategy to pull off such a feat.

In fact, Khomeini did not even conduct the coup against the Shah that helped bring him into power. He was an Imam, a religious cleric ... not a sadistic, egotistical, maniacal leader like Saddam.

Khomeini rose to power because he was on the right side of the truth in his country and the people supported him. Additionally, Khomeini arrived in Iran in February of 1979. The likelihood that an Imam was able to coordinate a military strategy to threaten the region in such a short period of time after assuming power is yet another ridiculous piece of propaganda.

Once in power, however, Khomeini began to abuse his power and ordered the deaths of many of those suspected of being an enemy. Some of those deaths are suspected as having been instigated by U.S. operatives who provided false and misleading information to the Imam in an effort to once again undermine the government of Iran and create chaos in the country.

Khomeini was most certainly not in any position to spread his power or influence throughout the Middle East. After all, he had just walked into the seat of power in Iran. It is inconceivable that he would have even been thinking of securing control over any place other than his own country.

The Iran Chamber Society lays the blame for the Iraq-Iran War squarely on Saddam's shoulders:

The Iraq-Iran War permanently altered the course of Iraqi history. It strained Iraqi political and social life, and led to severe economic dislocations.

Viewed from a historical perspective, the outbreak of hostilities in 1980 was, in part, just another phase of the ancient Persian-Arab conflict that had been fueled by twentieth-century border disputes.

Many observers, however, believe that Saddam Hussein's decision to invade Iran was a personal miscalculation based on ambition and a sense of vulnerability. Saddam Hussein, despite having made significant strides in forging an Iraqi nation-state, feared that Iran's new revolutionary leadership would threaten Iraq's delicate Sunni-Shia balance and would exploit Iraq's geo strategic vulnerabilities — Iraq's minimal access to the Persian Gulf.

This information has historical precedence. Despite the American speculation about a continued ancient rivalry — which holds no real credence due to the fact that not a shred of evidence has been presented to show that either side engaged in battle over any ancient pretext — the notion that Saddam invaded due to his belief that Iran was vulnerable is supported by two historical motivations:

1. The Ayatollah Khomeini had lived a short while in Iraq during his exile and commanded tremendous influence over Shiite Muslims in Iran, which also affected and influenced Shiites living in Iraq. These people were fundamentalist Muslims who disapproved of the manner in which the Shah brutally ruled Iran. They would therefore *also* despise the brutality of Saddam's regime. This opposition posed a threat to Saddam's supremacy in his own country, and that threat would have to be quelled if Saddam's regime were to continue its reign.

Saddam eventually kicked the Ayatollah out of Iraq and sent him to France, but he certainly understood the Ayatollah's widespread support among Shiite Muslims, which he viewed as a threat to his control over Iraq. An opportunity to overthrow Khomeini's rule in Iran — much like Saddam had been doing (and attempted to do) to other leaders in Iraq since he was a teenager — would be viewed as a welcome opportunity.

2. Oil is the lifeblood of the region, and many of the Middle Eastern countries depend upon oil for their economies. The battle between Saddam and the Shah over the boundary in the Shatt River was precisely due to its use in shipping goods into and out of Iran ... including, and most importantly, oil.

Iran had an important refinery located at Abadan along the Shatt River. It also had other important shipping ports, and if Saddam could secure them, he would be enormously powerful as a player in the world oil market. With Saddam's lust for power, it is not inconceivable to believe that this may have been one of the motivating factors driving him to launch an attack on a weakened Iran. After all, Saddam was a man of opportunity and action, and each time he saw an opportunity to strike in the past, he did so ... with mixed results.

Nevertheless, his strategy remained unchanged through the years.

With the Shah removed, much of the Iranian army in disarray, and the government changing hands, Saddam may have viewed this opportunity as “now or never.” Certainly it cannot be disputed that the opportunity was there for Saddam.

GEARING UP FOR WAR

While there is question regarding the motivations of Saddam in going to war with Iran, given its vulnerability to attack by the Kurds as well as the potential loss of the war to Iran, there is no question that the U.S. government was diligently working behind the scenes in the Middle East to find a way to reestablish its control over Iranian oil.

An alliance with Iraq, initiation of war with Iran (while it was in a vulnerable state) and subsequent assistance to Saddam Hussein that would win the war for Iraq, would have been beneficial to the United States if it were able to ensure control over the oil in Iran.

According to the Iran Chamber Society:

Baghdad became more confident, however, as it watched the once invincible Imperial Iranian Army disintegrate, as most of its highest-ranking officers were executed.

In Khouzesan (Arabistan to the Iraqis), Iraqi intelligence officers incited riots over labor disputes, and in the Kurdish region, a new rebellion caused the Khomeini government severe troubles. As the Ba’athists planned their military campaign, they had every reason to be confident. Not only did the Iranians lack cohesive leadership, but the Iranian armed forces, according to Iraqi intelligence estimates, also lacked spare parts for their American-made equipment. (Was America assisting the Iraqi intelligence to obtain such information?)

Baghdad, on the other hand, possessed fully equipped and trained forces. Morale was running high.

Against Iran’s armed forces, including the Pasdaran Revolutionary Guard troops, led by religious mullahs with little or no military experience, the Iraqis could muster twelve complete mechanized divisions equipped with the latest Soviet matériel.

With the Iraqi military build-up in the late 1970s, Saddam Hussein had assembled an army of 190,000 men, augmented by 2,200 tanks and 450 aircraft.

In addition, the area across the Arvand-Roud (Shatt al-‘Arab) posed no major obstacles, particularly for an army equipped with Soviet river-crossing equipment. Iraqi commanders correctly assumed that crossing sites on the Kharkheh and Karoun rivers were lightly defended against their mechanized armor divisions; moreover, Iraqi intelligence sources reported that Iranian forces in Khouzesan, which had formerly included two divisions distributed

among Ahvaz, Dezful, and Abadan, now consisted of only a number of ill-equipped battalion-sized formations.

Tehran was further disadvantaged because the area was locally controlled by the Regional 1st Corps, headquartered at Bakhtaran (formerly Kermanshah), whereas operational control was directed from the capital.

In the year following the Shah's overthrow, only a handful of company-sized tank units had been operative, and the rest of the armored equipment had been poorly maintained. For Iraqi planners, the only uncertainty was the fighting ability of the Iranian air force, equipped with some of the most sophisticated American-made aircraft. Despite the execution of key air force commanders and pilots, the Iranian air force had displayed its might during local riots and demonstrations.

The air force was also active in the wake of the failed United States attempt to rescue American hostages in April 1980. This show of force had impressed Iraqi decision makers to such an extent that they decided to launch a massive pre-emptive air strike on Iranian air bases in an effort similar to the one that Israel employed during the June 1967 Arab-Israeli War.

But then the question arises...

WAS SADDAM'S DECISION TO ATTACK IRAN MADE SOLO?

The events leading up to the breakdown in relations between the two countries are highly suspicious, and like the riots in the streets of Tehran in 1953, which were orchestrated and devised, some of the events leading these two nations toward war also seem a bit contrived.

The overthrow of the Shah of Iran occurred in February 1979 with the return of the Ayatollah Khomeini. Despite the problems Iraq had with the influence Khomeini exercised over Shiite Muslims in Iraq during his residence, then-Iraqi president al-Bakr sent a personal message to Khomeini offering "his best wishes for the friendly Iranian people on the occasion of the establishment of the Islamic Republic."

Then, prior to the November 1979 U.S. Hostage Crisis in Iran, Iraq extended an invitation to Mehdi Bazargan, the first prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to visit Iraq with the aim of improving bilateral relations (August 1979). These indicators suggest Iraq, under the leadership of al-Bakr, was amenable to respecting its new Islamic Republic neighbor.

But the timing of the August invitation causes suspicion.

After all, Saddam officially took over leadership of Iraq in July 1979, and we have learned through history that when Saddam extends an invitation, it is usually a prelude to something sinister.

In 1980, in the midst of the U.S. Hostage Crisis, relations between Iraq and Iran took a strange twist. The congenial diplomatic approaches were abandoned and the events throughout the year foreshadowed the inevitable war.

The Iran Chamber Society kept a record of these events:

The principal events that touched off the rapid deterioration in relations occurred during the spring of 1980.

In April the Iranian-supported Ad Dawah attempted to assassinate Iraqi foreign minister Tariq Aziz. Shortly after the failed grenade attack on Tariq Aziz, Ad Dawah was suspected of attempting to assassinate another Iraqi leader, Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nayyif Jasim.

In response, the Iraqis immediately rounded up members and supporters of Ad Dawah and deported to Iran thousands of Shias of Iranian origin.

In the summer of 1980, Saddam Hussein ordered the executions of presumed Ad Dawah leader Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqr al Sadr and his sister.

In September 1980, border skirmishes erupted in the central sector near Qasr-e Shirin, with an exchange of artillery fire by both sides.

A few weeks later, Saddam Hussein officially abrogated the 1975 treaty between Iraq and Iran and announced that the Arvand-Roud (Shatt al-'Arab) was returning to Iraqi sovereignty. Iran rejected this action and hostilities escalated as the two sides exchanged bombing raids deep into each other's territory, beginning what was to be a protracted and extremely costly war. Baghdad originally planned a quick victory over Tehran. Saddam expected the invasion of the Arabic-speaking, oil-rich area of Khouzistan to result in an Arab uprising against Khomeini's fundamentalist Islamic regime. This revolt did not materialize, however, and the Arab minority remained loyal to Tehran.

There are some who believe Saddam used the *pretense* of outrage over the supposed "assassination attempt" of Tariq Aziz as reason for attacking Iran. I find this position incongruent with Saddam's position, personality and power. Saddam was a principal character in his government. He was an island. A dictator. The supposed attempt to kill his prime minister would have an effect on Saddam's rule similar to the effect one would have on a king if one were to kill the king's dog. There is no effect on the reign of the king, or weakening of his control over his kingdom by killing his dog ... but it serves solely to enrage the king.

For all intents and purposes, Aziz was to Saddam what a dog is to a king. And there was nothing to be gained by killing Aziz other than to enrage Saddam against defenseless Iranian citizens whom he would slaughter like sheep. There is no evidence Ad Dawah made any attempt on the life of Aziz, nor had any intentions of doing so. They were merely saddled with the allegation, which came from Saddam ... the last person anyone should trust with such an allegation. Still, the blame was laid at the doorstep of Ad Dawah.

WHO OR WHAT IS AD DAWAH?

The religious opposition to Saddam's Ba'ath Party was primarily concentrated among the Shiite Muslims (Shias). The most important opposition party was "Ad Dawah al Islamiyah" (The Islamic Call), popularly known as Ad Dawah, which

originally had been established by Shia clergy in the early 1960s and functioned as a political party among the Shiite Muslims. After the Ba'ath Party came to power in 1968, Ad Dawah opposed the regime's secular policies, and consequently many prominent Shiite clergy associated with the Ba'ath Party, as well as some others who had no connections to Ad Dawah, were persecuted.

In 1980, Saddam arrested and subsequently executed Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqr al Sadr, the country's most respected Shia leader. No one knows what connection Sadr had to Ad Dawah, but his death ignited widespread, violent demonstrations and acts of sabotage.

THE SUBTLE PREPARATION FOR ATTACK

Saddam banned Ad Dawah in 1980, and membership in the organization was made a capital offense. In the spring of 1980, it appears that Saddam was making plans to invade Iran by rounding up and deporting thousands of Shias to Iran, where support for Shiite Muslims was strong. He used the supposed "assassination attempt" of Tariq Aziz as justification for the deportation.

Apparently, the deportation of the Shias was to ensure there would not be an uprising among the Shiite Muslims in Iraq who had connections to Iran (once the planned invasion began).

The execution of the Shia leader al Sadr in the summer, shortly before the invasion of Iran, seems to have been yet another of Saddam's heavy-handed, sadistic methods for controlling the populace. This apparently was a fear tactic employed to paralyze the people. Saddam used the supposed attempt on his prime minister as the reason for each subsequent move against the Shias.

These religiously conservative people did not approve of a secular body of minority Sunnis governing them. They most certainly did not approve of Saddam's regime. It seems improbable that these people, who held such devout beliefs against the secular governments, would attempt to undermine and weaken such a government by attempting to kill its dog. It makes no sense.

Therefore, I completely reject the notion that Shias were behind an attempt on Tariq Aziz's life.

However, it does make sense that Saddam may have fabricated the entire scenario.

He could have easily had someone carry out a supposed botched attempt on the life of Aziz, with or without Aziz knowing it. Saddam had the capability and the mindset to do such things. The Shias would likely not have made such a silly plan, considering the potential repercussions. They certainly possessed the capability to take out Aziz if they had sought to do so, and likely would not have botched the attempt given their willingness to conduct suicide missions.

It appears that Saddam orchestrated events in an effort to escalate tensions to justify his impending attack. But why did Saddam make such a decision in 1980 when just the year before, Iraq (through al-Bakr) had extended congenial greetings to the new government of Iran?

TIMELINE:
**BETWEEN THE IRANIAN HOSTAGE CRISIS
 AND THE ONSET OF WWII**

What events occurred BETWEEN the time Iraq and Iran were shaking hands and smiling, and the fateful invasion the following year ... only months later?

First, in November of 1979, after President Jimmy Carter allowed the deposed Shah of Iran into the United States “for cancer treatments,” outraged Iranian students seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, and 66 Americans were held hostage for 444 days.

The second event occurred on April 24 - 25, 1980.

It was a failed rescue attempt of the hostages that had been ordered by President Jimmy Carter. The following are the brave military members who gave their lives following orders from their Commander-in-Chief: Marines-Sgt. John D. Harvey, 21; Cpl. George N. Holmes, 22; SSgt. Dewey L. Johnson, 31; Air Force-Maj. Richard F. Bakke, 33; Maj. Harold L. Lewis, 35; TSgt. Joel C. Mayo, 34; Capt. Lyn D. McIntosh, 33; and Capt. Charles T. McMillan.

I salute these awesome Americans who sacrificed their lives dutifully for a nation of people, who far too often place trust in leaders that willingly send courageous men like these to their deaths for unknown agendas that are contrary to the propaganda presented to the public.

Later that year (1980), Iraq launched an air raid on Iran.

According to the Iran Chamber Society:

On September 22, 1980 formations of Iraqi MiG-23s and MiG- 21s attacked Iran’s air bases at Mehrabad and Doshen-Tappen (both near Tehran), as well as Tabriz, Bakhtaran, Ahvaz, Dezful, Uromiyeh, Hamadan, Sanandaj, and Abadan. Their aim was to destroy the Iranian air force on the ground — a lesson learned from the Arab-Israeli June 1967 War.

They succeeded in destroying runways and fuel and ammunition depots, but much of Iran’s aircraft inventory was left intact. Iranian defenses were caught by surprise, but the Iraqi raids failed because Iranian jets were protected in specially strengthened hangars and because bombs designed to destroy runways did not totally incapacitate Iran’s very large airfields. Within hours, Iranian F-4 Phantoms (U.S. military warplanes) took off from the same bases, successfully attacked strategically important targets close to major Iraqi cities, and returned home with very few losses.

If the scenario of air raids followed by ground troops sounds familiar to you, it should. This was the tactic used by the U.S. military in the invasion of Iraq during the first American-Gulf War. Except the air raid didn’t come from Air Force or Navy jets, but rather from highly sophisticated Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from Navy ships far out at sea.

When the Iraq-Iran war broke out, the United States initially took an official publicly *neutral* position. But the subsequent military and economic assistance the U.S. had provided to Saddam by 1982 require us to take a look at the involvement of the U.S. prior to our *official* support status.

AMERICA'S ALLIANCE WITH EVIL

When we look at who stood to gain, clearly Saddam stood to gain everything if he could defeat Iran. But how likely was it that both the United States and Great Britain, which have had controlled “interests” in that region, would allow a bumbling dictator like Saddam to gain control over all of the oil? Not likely.

Let's step back and get a full view of the picture.

The U.S. lost its guy in Iran, thereby losing control over the oil coming from Iran. Keep in mind that the U.S. government undermined the government of Iran in 1953 at the behest of Great Britain solely to steal the oil in that region.

The subsequent mistake by Carter to allow the Shah access into the U.S. exacerbated an already bad situation in Iran. The failed rescue mission demonstrated that the U.S. could not launch a successful military campaign that would be supported by the American people, and that left only one avenue of recovery left for the U.S. if it were to regain control of its “vital interests” in the Middle East. The U.S. would have to support Saddam.

FLIP-FLOPPING MILITARY AND POLITICAL POLICY

Five years earlier, the U.S. had supported an attack on *Iraq* by Iran and the Iraqi Kurds.

Now, only five years later, the U.S. was adopting the distasteful strategy of supporting the *Iraqi* government in attacks on the Kurds and the Iranians.

The clarity of the U.S. government's flip-flopping positions lies only in the fact that it is willing to sacrifice the people of any country, including its own, in pursuit of economic power, which the oil in the Middle East represented.

CONSPIRACY: SADDAM AND THE UNITED STATES

After the failed rescue attempt in the spring of 1980, there was a massive deportation of Shias from Iraq to Iran. It is conceivable that this Iraqi plan was already hatched and ready to go after the U.S. Embassy had been taken over a few months earlier. The deportation necessitated the supposed attempt on Aziz's life because it would become the cover story and the “justifiable” reason to deport thousands of Muslims who were supportive of the Ayatollah Khomeini.

The U.S. had intimate knowledge of every facet of the Iranian government, its military, and its infrastructure. This information would prove invaluable to Saddam. Iraqi intelligence had learned about the total disarray of the Iranian military, yet failed to have any knowledge about the fortified storage areas of the Iranian Air Force, which were crucial to the defense of Iran.

What military leader in his right mind would launch an offensive attack knowing it would prove to be fruitless? Obviously, Iraq was *unaware* of the defense capabilities of Iran — even though the very nation that helped build the Iranian defenses was its ally. It seems apparent that the Iraqi military was being cajoled into a major conflict

with Iran ... with the U.S. knowing the Iraqis could not overrun Iran due to the strength of the Iranian Air Force.

Yet, if both countries could be pushed into outright warfare, both would be weakened and U.S. leverage in the region would be strengthened.

If Iran eventually lost the war, the U.S. would stand to gain because of its assistance to Saddam. And there would be a need to rebuild both countries, a task at which the United States is well suited. For the United States, the pursuit of control of the oil was worth the “loss” of Iran if Iraq could be gained in the process.

The problem, of course, was that Saddam was a maniac and uncontrollable.

In fact, he was listed on the U.S. list of “terrorist” nations. The key word is “was.” It would be necessary to remove Iraq from our list of enemies. And yet, we enlisted Saddam as an ally while listing him as an enemy.

THE CASE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

I do not believe Saddam’s decision to go to war with Iran was one made solo.

The case can be made that shows the United States had both motive and opportunity. Furthermore, there is abundant circumstantial evidence that the U.S. government was willing to sacrifice as many lives as necessary (Iranian, Iraqi, and American) in order to regain control of the oil in the Middle East.

After all, our CIA enlisted the services of Iranian street thugs and pitted them against one another, in favor of, and against, the government leader in 1953 in order to give the impression that the country was in chaos. More than 300 Iranians died in that chaos, proving that America’s government would do whatever was necessary to regain control of the oil.

We had no intention of leaving that region to its own devices.

Carter could have ended the hostage crisis by acceding to Iranian demands and leaving the Middle East. Instead, we sent troops in to die in a rescue attempt. We then began to ship arms to Iran through Israel and also to support Saddam in overthrowing a newly positioned Iranian leader.

The U.S. government had chosen the path of war when faced with the opportunity to cut our losses over the stolen oil in Iran.

Additionally, we decided to support BOTH sides in that war. America is not innocent.

The attacks made on our nation since 1983 have been made in retaliation for continued unwanted U.S. military involvement in the Arab countries. And these attacks will continue, as our government has publicly stated on several occasions. But the reason they will continue is one our government will never admit ... because the U.S. government is resolved to continue a war it initiated and the chaos it created until it has conquered the people it targets and assumed the power and control it desires.

Every man, woman, and child — whether Iranian, Iraqi, or American — should be aware of the decisions made by our government that put so many people’s lives at risk.

CHAPTER 3

To the Victor go the Spoils

With so much at stake in the Middle East regarding the control of oil reserves, the world's top military powers officially began to get involved in the war between Iraq and Iran, each choosing the side they believed would likely win. After all, no one wants to be on the losing side of any war, much less one where the winner receives the world's oil lottery!

Nations lined up to beseech the friendship of Saddam Hussein; who, by U.S. accounts, would likely be the victor after a bloody battle with huge losses on both sides.

But Saddam was a mere tyrant and murderer, not a military genius. And he needed help ... lots of it.

Iraq received the support of most of the world's military powers, beginning with the United States. We sent military advisors (who understandably knew everything about Iran since we built their military and controlled it for 26 years). China, France, and Russia (Russia, after an initial holdout and position of opposition to the war) were also involved in an alliance with Iraq.

If this sounds like the makings of yet another World War ... it should.

However, it should also be noted that the Soviet Union did not approve of Iraq's invasion of Iran and turned back military shipments bound for Baghdad. For the first year or more, the Soviet Union remained against the war. Despite the lack of full support from the Soviets, Iraq fared well against Iran during the first two years of the war (1980-82), successfully invading a great portion of the country.

But the tables turned in 1982.

From out of nowhere, Iran began making a fierce comeback, successfully pushing the Iraqi military completely back to within its original borders and setting up an impenetrable defense. It was around this time that the world discovered that Iran had a powerful ally in the Middle East ... ISRAEL.

ISRAELI INTERVENTION

In a 1986 article by Jane Hunter (editor and publisher of Israeli Foreign Affairs, published online by the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs), Hunter stated, "The London Observer estimated that Israel's arms sales to Iran total \$500 million annually."

During the time the Shah was in power and selling as much oil to the U.S. as the demand warranted, he was also the world's largest purchaser of military weaponry from Israel. According to Hunter:

In 1980 ... when the Iraq-Iran war began, Iranian representatives met in Paris with Israel's deputy defense minister and worked out a "Jews for arms" deal. Iran permitted Jews to emigrate and Israel sold Iran ammunition and spare parts for Chieftain tanks and U.S.-made F-4 Phantom aircraft.

Channeled through a private Israeli arms dealer, this particular agreement appropriately ended in 1984, when Iran was slow in paying its bills.

In 1981 Ya'acov Nimrodi, an intimate of leaders across the Israeli political spectrum, sold the Iranian defense ministry \$135,842,000 worth of Hawk anti-aircraft missiles, 155 mm. mortars, ammunition, and other weapons through his Tel Aviv-based company, International Desalination Equipment, Ltd. From 1955 to 1979 Nimrodi had been Israel's military attaché in Tehran.

On July 24, 1984 Radio Luxembourg reported that Nimrodi had met in Zurich with the deputy defense minister and the top intelligence officer of Iran, and with Rif'at al-Assad, the brother of Syrian President Hafez al-Assad.

Swiss government sources said that the meeting resulted in a deal to ship 40 truckloads of weapons a day from Israel to Iran, via Syria and Turkey. On September 15, 1985 a DC-8 cargo plane returning from Iran and supposedly bound for Malaga, Spain, made an emergency landing in Tel Aviv. Investigation revealed that the plane — recently acquired from an obscure Miami firm by a shadowy Brussels-based “Nigerian” company — had been flying Hawk missiles from the U.S. to Iran via Israel. A Boeing 707 registered to the company had been carrying loads of 1,250 TOW missiles from Israel to Iran via Malaga.

At about the same time the London Observer reported that a ship carrying 25,000 tons of Israeli matériel was making a rush delivery, sailing directly to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas rather than first going to Zaire where the Iranian buyers would inspect the cargo.

Re-selling without permission arms acquired from the U.S. and the sale of U.S. weapons to Iran are both prohibited by U.S. law. In separate incidents involving sales negotiated within the U.S., federal authorities have arrested two Israeli military reservists and a Yugoslav-American, Paul Cutter.

Cutter, who has connections to Israeli Minister of Trade and Industry Ariel Sharon [now prime minister], and who also told co-workers he was authorized to sell arms Israel captured in Lebanon in 1982, has been convicted and jailed. The Israeli government disassociated itself from these men.

Now, however, a federal “sting” operation has cracked the biggest arms deal yet. U.S. Customs Service agents drew retired Israeli army general Avraham Bar-Am and 12 co-conspirators (three of them Israelis) into a carefully-laid trap last April. Tapes made by the Customs Service reveal Israeli government involvement in a \$2.6 billion conspiracy to sell U.S.-made arms to Iran through third countries.

On recordings made available to the Chicago Tribune, Samuel Evans, a London-based American lawyer who coordinated two separate conspiracies to offer sophisticated aircraft, missiles, and ordnance to Iran, is heard to say that he would be discussing the deal with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin [a future prime minister] and that the authority for the transaction went “right through to (Prime Minister Shimon) Peres.”

The case is particularly serious because federal authorities presented evidence in their indictment that the deal included phony re-export certificates attesting that Israel was re-selling surplus arms to Turkey, which is legal, rather than to Iran, which is not.

The U.S. government has avoided dealing head-on in public with the Israeli government over this issue.

From 1980 - 1986 Washington had several times expressed its disapproval of arms sales to Iran. During the 1979 - 1981 hostage crisis, Israel was specifically asked to stop deliveries while Iran was holding U.S. hostages and it is possible that Israel complied.

At an October 1, 1986 luncheon he hosted, Secretary of State George Shultz assured diplomats from the Arab states of the Gulf that Israel had told U.S. officials it had stopped selling arms to Iran in 1983.

Shultz, in fact, accused the Soviet Union of not clamping down on sales by its allies to Iran! During the Reagan administration, U.S. policy has swung through various levels of support for Iraq. Israel's often-stated policy on the Iraq-Iran War was to keep it going as long as possible because the dreadful carnage ties up the combatants and prevents either from attacking Israel.

In 1983, then-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon blurted out during a U.S. speaking engagement that, "Israel sold arms to Iran because it regarded Iraq as the greater enemy, and that the sales had been thoroughly discussed with U.S. officials." U.S. officials acknowledged such discussions but denied that Israel had U.S. permission.

But the surprises wouldn't end with the discovery that Israel was supporting Iran.

THE FAÇADE: U.S.-ARAB-ISRAELI ALLIANCES

If the chaos in the Middle East seems confusing, consider that the United States and Israel both aligned themselves with the very nations both claim were its enemies.

In fact, both Israel and the U.S. have sold tons of munitions, military equipment, technologies, and advanced weaponry to Arab nations even during the times when the official statements from the U.S. and Israeli governments were condemning Arab governments!

The Middle East and the world would be stunned when news reports were released regarding what became known as the "Iran-Contra Affair." Explicit in that news was the revelation that Israel was acting as an operative of the United States, aligning itself with Iran and funneling weapons and military support to Iran from the United States.

Furthermore, the United States — which had been posturing for the world that it would not negotiate with "terrorists" (as it considered those holding the hostages in Iran) — was suddenly on trial for selling arms to Iran in an effort to fund a war in which our government was involved in Nicaragua, where U.S. laws prohibited any involvement.

While covert support for Nicaragua was just another disclosure of U.S. involvement in a regional conflict, it told the entire world that the U.S. had lied through its teeth when it aligned itself with Iraq, while selling arms to Iran at the same time.

With a “friend” like the United States, why would a country need enemies?

REAGAN CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR THE CARTER DOCTRINE

When the Iraq-Iran war broke out in September of 1980, the hostage crisis had been grinding along for more than ten months. By the time Ronald Reagan was inaugurated in 1981, the crisis was over. But it was during that time frame and throughout the first years of Reagan’s presidency that the United States was arming Iran.

Subsequently, Iran was able to ward off the Iraqi invasion, which had crippled the country in the first year ... and by 1982 the tide had turned in favor of the Iranians.

News of the Iran-Contra Affair here in the U.S. was received with a “politics-as-usual” cynicism. However, in the areas of the world where information was not being filtered through the American propaganda machine (commonly known as the “mainstream media”), people were alarmed to discover that the United States and Israel were arming both sides in the Iraq-Iran war, apparently in the hope that they would annihilate one another.

Perhaps the goal was for each side to be weakened to the point where they needed the money as badly as we wanted the oil; which would then provide us with the leverage to obtain a sweetheart contract for control of oil in the region. Israel’s Ariel Sharon provided insight into the true reasons both the U.S. and Israel were involved in arming both Iraq and Iran.

Again...it’s all about oil.

Keep in mind that neither Iraq nor Iran were a threat to the United States. On the contrary, both were subject to manipulation by the U.S. Government ... much to the chagrin of both nations.

THE COST OF MIDDLE EAST OIL: THE DEATH OF ONE MILLION ARABS

Leaders in the Middle East region understood that the United States AND Israel were BOTH in collusion to support Iran. This was viewed as an unjustifiable prolonging of the war ... a war that eventually killed more than ONE MILLION Arabs.

That’s more than 10,000 casualties a month throughout the duration of the eight-year war!

To gain a greater understanding of how much this impacted the Arab world, just look at the number of casualties suffered by this country in the Vietnam War: 58,000. That was the worst defeat in our history.

The Arabs sustained more than ONE MILLION (1,000,000) casualties in the 8-

year war (1980-88) between Iraq and Iran.

This casualty figure pertains to just the number of dead. It is not indicative of the numbers of wounded and those who became refugees of the war due to the loss of homes, land, and family.

Any prolonging of the war was viewed with great disdain throughout the entire Middle East. And when it was discovered that Israel and the United States were helping Iran, two things occurred:

1. The red-hot hatred of Israel by the Arabs increased.

2. The United States, which was openly and actively supporting Iraq during that time, became known throughout the Middle East as “The Great Satan,” because we spoke with a forked tongue and could not be trusted.

But even with a change of leaders in the U.S., America’s role in the Middle East was set in stone. It was Jimmy Carter who cemented it. In February of 1979 when the Ayatollah returned to Iran, President Carter gave a speech at Georgia Tech University in which he outlined many of the conflicts and difficulties occurring worldwide — and specifically within the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia. He saw that America was facing a global crisis.

GLOBAL CHESS: PLAYING GAMES WITH OSAMA AND SADDAM

Two days after Christmas, on December 27, 1979, the Soviets invaded Afghanistan and installed Babrak Karmal as the puppet leader. Although the U.S. was not opposed to countries of lesser military strength having puppet dictators who answered to the United States, we strongly opposed puppet dictators who answered to the Soviet Union.

The U.S. plan to militarily engage the fledgling Communist government in Afghanistan began with talks with Saudi Arabia. Those talks eventually evolved into military and financial support for the indigenous Muslims who were defending Afghanistan against the Communist invaders. One of the leaders and financiers of the resistance was a man by the name of Osama bin Laden. The CIA would seek to support his efforts. We will address more of this issue later.

While it is necessary to understand Osama’s role in this conflict and just exactly when our government became allied with him, it is critical to realize that his fight against the Communists had nothing to do with the Iraq-Iran War.

Osama was interested solely in defending Muslim countries against *outside* invaders (considered infidels) from anywhere. Osama was not interested in changing the course of Communism or democracy, but rather in maintaining the sovereignty of the Muslim nations.

However, the Soviet Union — like the U.S. and Great Britain — was equally interested in the oil of the Middle East and in gaining a foothold in the region by propping up a dictator in one of the areas of greatest interest in the Middle East.

AFGHANISTAN: ESTABLISHING POSITION IN A GLOBAL CHESS MATCH

In 1979, with the U.S. controlling Iran, Saddam controlling Iraq, and the Saud Family controlling Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan was the closest spot that was in turmoil, and ripe for a Soviet takeover. President Jimmy Carter's policies, or lack thereof, were critical in determining our country's course in the Middle East for decades to come.

Our support of Osama in Afghanistan and the subsequent transfer of U.S. troops into Saudi Arabia would eventually play a crucial role throughout the 1990s (and all the way up to the present-day battles being fought against al-Qaeda). Meanwhile, Carter was making moves on the global chessboard that other presidents would have to contend with later.

The Carter Doctrine, which targeted the Middle East as "vital U.S. interests," would solidify our resolve to remain militarily involved in that area of the globe until either: 1) we regained control of the oil; 2) one or more governments capitulated; or 3) until we wiped out all resistance in the region ... even if that meant killing every man, woman, and child (Arab men, women and children, of course).

OSAMA BIN LADEN: SEPARATE STORY

We will deal with Osama bin Laden's critical role in the Afghanistan conflict in a later chapter. It is the second part of the two-tier system of the U.S. invasion of the Middle East, and should not be discussed in conjunction with Iran and Iraq.

It is a completely separate storyline that has been deliberately linked to other conflicts in the Middle East by propaganda experts in an effort to justify a U.S. incursion into Iraq ... and eventually back into Iran. For now, let's continue with the Iraq-Iran War.

IRAN FIGHTS BACK

Once Iran began to turn the tide against Saddam in 1982, it succeeded in pushing Iraqi troops completely out of the Iranian borders. Iran then began a counter-offensive, forcing Iraq to defend its own territory. The U.S., knowing it could not allow Iran to actually defeat Iraq, took Iraq off its list of terrorist nations and beefed up its support of Saddam and his military regime in unprecedented fashion.

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In a February 1990 article that was published in *Z Magazine* entitled, "*The United States and the Gulf War*," Shalom summed up the period of time between the start of the war in 1980 and the removal of Iraq from the U.S. list of terrorist nations in 1982:

In March 1981 the Iraqi Communist Party, repressed by Saddam Hussein, beamed broadcasts from the Soviet Union calling for an end to the war and the withdrawal of Iraqi troops. That same month U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he saw the possibility of improved ties with Baghdad and approvingly noted that Iraq was concerned by “the behavior of Soviet imperialism in the Middle Eastern area.”

The U.S. then approved the sale to Iraq of five Boeing jetliners, and sent a deputy assistant secretary of state to Baghdad for talks. The U.S. removed Iraq from its notoriously selective list of nations supporting international terrorism (despite the fact that terrorist Abu Nidal was based in the country) and Washington extended a \$400 million credit guarantee for U.S. exports to Iraq. In November 1984, the U.S. and Iraq restored diplomatic relations, which had been ruptured in 1967.

AMERICA’S PRETEXT: THE THREAT OF COMMUNISM

Stephen Shalom, and many others who have studied the relationships between the U.S. and countries in the Middle East, duly noted that the threat of Communism has consistently been the cover story for U.S. aggression. In the case of Iraq, the cover is blown because the entire world, including all U.S. presidents since Dwight Eisenhower, have known that the Communists failed to find a home in Iraq, and have merely done much the same as the U.S.: cultivated friendly relations with brutal dictators in order to gain access to Iraq’s natural resources (oil) and geographic location for strategic military control.

U.S. SUPPORT OF SADDAM: THE USE OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

From nearly the beginning of the war, Iran complained consistently to anyone who would listen that Saddam Hussein was using chemical weapons, which have become commonly referred to as “weapons of mass destruction.” The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) conducted an investigation into the allegations made by the Iranians during the war. Below is an excerpt of the charges:

Allegations

There have been reports of chemical warfare from the Gulf War since the early months of Iraq’s invasion of Iran.

In November 1980, Tehran Radio was broadcasting allegations of Iraqi chemical bombing at Susangerd. Three and a quarter years later, by which time the outside world was listening more seriously to such charges, the Iranian Foreign Minister told the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that there had been at least 49 instances of Iraqi chemical-warfare attack in 40 border regions, and that the documented dead totaled 109 people, with hundreds more wounded.

He made this statement on 16 February 1984, the day on which Iran launched a major offensive on the central front, and one week before the start of offensives and counter-offensives further south, in the border marshlands to the immediate north of Basra where, at Majnoon Islands, Iraq has vast untapped oil reserves.

According to official Iranian statements during the 31 days following the Foreign Minister's allegation, Iraq used chemical weapons on at least 14 further occasions, adding more than 2,200 to the total number of people wounded by poison gas.

SIPRI verified the allegations and filed a report. An excerpt is included below:

Verification

One of the chemical-warfare instances reported by Iran, at Hoorul-Huzwaizeh on 13 March 1984, has since been conclusively verified by an international team of specialists dispatched to Iran by the United Nations Secretary General. The evidence adduced in the report by the U.N. team lends substantial credence to Iranian allegations of Iraqi chemical warfare on at least six other occasions during the period from 26 February to 17 March.

Iraq was found to have used chemical weapons from its arsenal on numerous occasions. SIPRI identified the primary chemicals as mustard gas and tabun (a nerve agent). However, reports by SIPRI show that Iraq also possessed and used other chemical agents including: tears gas, choking agents, arsenic, nitrogen mustard, bacterial germ warfare agents, and an unidentified agent that produced a death where victims were thought to merely be asleep.

SIPRI also attempted to identify the possible origins of these weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). In its report, SIPRI added this warning:

A major caveat must be entered: chemical warfare is such an emotive subject that it lends itself very readily to campaigns of disinformation and black propaganda, campaigns which the politics both of the Gulf War and of the current chemical weapons negotiations have unquestionably stimulated to no small degree.

SIPRI was justifiably skeptical of the various accusations flying around with fingers pointing at a plethora of countries as the supplier of Baghdad's chemical arsenal. The United States accused the Soviet Union of supplying biological agents such as mycotoxins, which were listed far down in the SIPRI report as agents that had been reported and investigated.

The investigation had mixed results, with Swedish authorities denying any findings of such an agent, while U.N. and other sources claim they found traces in some cadavers they examined. The rumors in regard to who supplied Saddam with chemicals were widespread and without any substantiated evidence — and every country denying involvement.

The investigators reported receiving intelligence from the United States that pointed to the Soviet Union. Additionally, a number of western countries were

fingered in the investigation, while the United States seemed to be sitting on the sidelines completely innocent.

An excerpt from SIPRI's report follows:

For its part, the USSR has expressly denied supplying Iraq with toxic weapons. Reports of Soviet supply attributed to U.S. and other intelligence sources have nonetheless recurred. The earliest predate reports of Iraqi use of chemical weapons in the Gulf War.

Official Iranian commentaries, too, have pointed to the USSR as a supplier of the Iraqi weapons. These sources have also accused Brazil, France, and, most conspicuously, Britain of supplying the weapons. No basis for any of these Iranian accusations has been disclosed. France, alongside Czechoslovakia and both Germanies, is reportedly also rumored, among "foreign military and diplomatic sources" in Baghdad, to have supplied Iraq with chemical precursors needed for an indigenous production effort. Unofficial published sources have cited Egypt as a possible supplier of actual chemical weapons.

None of these rumors are surprising. Neither is the denial by every country. None of these kids want to get caught with their hand in the cookie jar and risk world condemnation. But there is surprising news in the use of chemical weapons by Iraq.

SIPRI published its report of the technological ability of Iraq to produce such weapons on its own. And yet again, we see a familiar name popping up over and over as a source of information:

Increasingly persuasive evidence is now emerging in published sources that, whether Iraq has or has not been receiving chemical weapons from abroad, it has been acquiring a development and production capability for them of its own.

An official Iranian commentary dates the beginning of this effort back to 1976, claiming that information to that effect had been provided to Iran by West German intelligence officials.

Unidentified U.S. intelligence sources have been quoted as saying that Iraq began making mustard gas in the early 1970s. Such sources have been quoted as believing that Iraq is now attempting to produce Sarin nerve gas. Associated with this belief is the assessment, it was reported in the U.S. press at the end of March, that, while Iraq has already been using nerve gas in the Gulf War, this has been on an experimental scale using stocks accumulated during the development program; supplies of nerve gas from large-scale production facilities were expected — the reporting continued — to be available within a matter of months, even weeks.

Further, the press has reported U.S. government sources as having identified three, possibly five, chemical-agent production sites in Iraq. The locations that have been specified in the press are Samawa, Ramadi, Samarra and Akashat. The last of these has, however, been toured by foreign correspondents, including a British journalist who has reported finding only contraindicative evidence of a nerve gas plant being there.

Although SIPRI seemed to be reporting information derived from a number of unidentified U.S. sources, its report also suggested that Iraq was accumulating massive quantities of chemicals through private industries in the United States, under the guise of pesticides.

SIPRI's report goes into detail as to what these chemicals were and how they could be used. But there is no mistake that their investigative links caused them to suspect the United States and Great Britain as well, despite the intense propaganda campaign targeting any nation *other* than the U.S. and Great Britain.

SIPRI stated:

There is strong public evidence (but by no means conclusive yet) that Iraq has been endeavoring to acquire these or related technologies from private corporations in the USA, Britain, FR [Federal Republic of] Germany, and Italy since 1975; and that it has been dissembling these endeavors under the guise of acquiring production capacity for organophosphorus pesticides.

WORLD INVESTIGATION: TARGETING THE WEST

After SIPRI began to get suspicious that Western sources were providing Iraq with the means to create chemical warfare, a barrage of finger-pointing began as governments claimed they were going to clamp down on private distributions of dual-use chemicals that were being shipped to Iraq.

SIPRI's report continued:

On 30 March, the U.S. government announced the imposition of "foreign policy controls" on the export to the Gulf-War belligerents of five chemicals that could be used in the production of mustard and nerve gases.

U.S. officials told the press that this had been done in response to an unexpected volume of recent orders from Iraq for those chemicals. They also said that Japan, FR Germany and other unspecified European countries had been exporting the chemicals to Iraq.

The British government took action similar to that of Washington on 12 April, adding three more chemicals to the control list. Since then, other European governments have also announced embargoes of varying scope, and on 15 May the Foreign Ministers of the European Community agreed in principle on a common and complementary policy.

There are Western press reports of suspicions in Western diplomatic circles in the Middle East that the USSR is shipping intermediates to Iraq through Jordan.

These world leaders were acting like children after being caught. Denials, then finger-pointing: It wasn't US, look at THEM!

While worldwide accusations and denials flew about as to who was Saddam's secret supplier, two major surprises occurred:

1. It was determined that since Iraq had indeed used chemical weapons against the Iranians between 1981 and 1984, Iran had the LEGITIMATE and JUSTIFIED ability to retaliate in kind. Iran refused, claiming that it would not do so on the grounds of humanitarianism.

2. In 1982 the United States unequivocally defended Saddam and put forth the claim that he had *never* used chemical weapons in war ... well, as far as we knew, of course.

Additionally, the U.S. claimed Iraq did not have deadly chemical weapons of any kind.

It has already been noted that the United States stepped UP its military support of Saddam in 1984, well *after* the entire world was aware of Saddam's use of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

In SIPRI's report, it explained that Iran could have retaliated with chemical weapons against Iraq, since the world had discovered solid evidence of Saddam's use of several agents against the Iranians.

The Iranians, however, refused to stoop to the level of Saddam, according to SIPRI's report:

Neither the U.N. group of experts, which has established the fact of use of chemical weapons in the war between Iraq and Iran, nor the U.N. Security Council, which has condemned such use, have specified the party guilty of violation.

However, the Geneva Protocol does not require that violators be internationally identified.

Iran could thus claim the right to reprisal in kind on the basis of its own findings. In other words, there is a danger of an escalating chemical warfare. Indeed, there can be no guarantee that the weapons banned by the Geneva Protocol will not be resorted to as long as there is no absolute prohibition on their very possession, subject to international control.

However, at the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva, Iran has declared that, due to humanitarian considerations, it would not embark on retaliatory action with chemical weapons against Iraq.

U.S. DEFENDS SADDAM: NO WMDS

The United States, in addition to consistently pointing its finger at the Soviet Union while fully engaged in arming Saddam, claimed it was "*confident*" that Iraq had no chemical warfare weaponry.

SIPRI reported:

In August 1982, U.S. officials were quoted in the press as being "*confident*" that the Iraqis did not possess any "deadly chemical weapons," only tear gas.

SIPRI reported that Iraq had been searching for chemical "intermediates" which could have a dual purpose for domestic use as well as critical ingredients in chemical warfare agents. Iraq was concentrating its search for these chemical intermediates in

America. Surprised? You shouldn't be. SIPRI reported in 1984:

Any need to import special chemical-process plant and associated know-how could be lessened by importing, instead, some of the chemical intermediates needed to produce chemical warfare agents, rather than attempting to manufacture those intermediates from indigenous raw materials (of which the Iraqi mining, petroleum, and related industries appear to provide the full range needed for mustard and nerve gases, with the possible exception for some of the latter of fluoride minerals).

Certain intermediates can be identified which could reduce the requirements for chemical plant to processing equipments of standard off-the-shelf or easily improvised types. Iraq has not concealed the fact that it is in the market for chemicals which do indeed fall within this category. This has been most conspicuous in Iraq's search in America for supplies of methylphosphonous dichloride and dimethyl methylphosphonate. These two chemicals do, however, have certain civil applications. But at least in the former case they are not ones which, in the normal course of events, Iraq might obviously be expected to exploit.

Even while SIPRI was conducting an investigation on the use of chemical weapons in the Iraq-Iran War, the United States had removed Iraq from its list of terrorist nations and began an unprecedented buildup of Saddam's forces.

Apparently, the U.S. leadership:

- 1) wasn't aware of the SIPRI report;
- 2) did not care about the report;
- 3) perhaps believed Saddam was truly a likable character and the world had misjudged him; or
- 4) simply didn't care about moral principles and the human sacrifices inherent in building up a brutal tyrant/dictator in the Middle East...as long as the monster continued to allow the oil to flow to the West.

Whatever the reason or rationale, there is no disputing the fact that the United States has followed a tradition, begun by Dwight D. Eisenhower, of intervening in the governments of the Middle East, undermining them, and then propping up brutal dictators like the Shah of Iran and Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

DEFENDING SADDAM HUSSEIN: U.S. GOVERNMENT RATIONALE

None of the decisions to support Middle East Arab dictators were made with respect to the defense of America, but rather (more simply) to defend the interests of the American oil industry's wealthy and elite, whose theft of oil in the Middle East had become of "vital interest" to the nation, according to our government.

And it is the sons and daughters of the poor and the middle class who willingly give their lives today invading Iraq (and soon Iran), believing they are doing something honorable

for their country while the country's leadership is merely sending them to die in a scheme to gain control in the Middle East and continue the theft of oil from the region.

In an article appearing in the August 28, 2002 online edition of Green Left Weekly entitled, "*How the U.S. Armed Saddam Hussein with Chemical Weapons*," writer Norm Dixon states the following:

In 1982 the Reagan administration removed Iraq from the State Department's list of countries that allegedly supported terrorism.

On December 19-20, 1983 Reagan dispatched his Middle East envoy — none other than [current Secretary of Defense] Donald Rumsfeld — to Baghdad with a hand-written offer of a resumption of diplomatic relations, which had been severed during the 1967 Arab-Israel war.

On March 24, 1984 Rumsfeld was again in Baghdad. On that same day, the UPI wire service reported from the U.N.: "Mustard gas laced with a nerve agent has been used on Iranian soldiers ... a team of U.N. experts has concluded"

Meanwhile, in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld held talks with foreign minister Tariq Aziz. The day before, Iran had accused Iraq of poisoning 600 of its soldiers with mustard gas and tabun nerve gas. There is no doubt that the U.S. government knew Iraq was using chemical weapons.

On March 5, 1984 the State Department had stated that, "available evidence indicates that Iraq has used lethal chemical weapons." The March 30, 1984 NYT (New York Times) reported that U.S. intelligence officials have "what they believe to be incontrovertible evidence that Iraq has used nerve gas in its war with Iran and has almost finished extensive sites for mass producing the lethal chemical warfare agent."

The March 29, 1984 NYT, reporting on the aftermath of Rumsfeld's talks in Baghdad, stated that U.S. officials had pronounced "themselves satisfied with relations between Iraq and the U.S. and suggest that normal diplomatic ties have been restored in all but name."

In November 1984 the U.S. and Iraq officially restored diplomatic relations.

According to Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward in a December 15, 1986 article:

The CIA began to secretly supply Iraq with intelligence in 1984 that was used to "calibrate" mustard gas attacks on Iranian troops. Beginning in early 1985, the CIA provided Iraq with "data from sensitive U.S. satellite reconnaissance photography ... to assist Iraqi bombing raids."

Iraqi chemical attacks on Iranian troops — and U.S. assistance to Iraq — continued throughout the Iraq-Iran War.

In a parallel program, the U.S. defense department also provided intelligence and battle-planning assistance to Iraq.

The August 17, 2002 NYT reported that, according to “senior military officers with direct knowledge of the program,” even though “senior officials of the Reagan administration publicly condemned Iraq’s employment of mustard gas, sarin, VX and other poisonous agents ... President Reagan, Vice President George H. W. Bush, and senior national security aides never withdrew their support for the highly classified program in which more than 60 officers of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) were secretly providing detailed information on Iranian deployments, tactical planning for battles, plans for air strikes, and bomb-damage assessments for Iraq.”

Retired DIA officer Rick Francona told the NYT that Iraq’s chemical weapons were used in the war’s final battle in early 1988, in which Iraqi forces retook the Fao Peninsula from the Iranian army. Another retired DIA officer, Walter Lang, told the NYT that “the use of gas on the battlefield by the Iraqis was not a matter of deep strategic concern.”

C’MON! IS THIS REALLY JUST ABOUT OIL?

Shalom quotes then-Secretary of Defense Harold Brown in his February 1990 article, “*The United States and the Gulf War*”:

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown released his military posture statement. Brown indicated that the greatest threat was not Soviet expansionism but uncontrolled turbulence in the Third World. “In a world of disputes and violence, we cannot afford to go abroad unarmed,” he warned. “The particular manner in which our economy has expanded means that we have come to depend to no small degree on imports, exports, and the earnings from overseas investments for our material well-being.” Specifically, Brown identified the “protection of the oil flow from the Middle East” as “clearly part of our vital interest,” in defense of which “we’ll take any action that’s appropriate, including the use of military force.”

HOW MUCH SUPPORT HAS THE U.S. PROVIDED TO SADDAM?

In his article, “*How the U.S. Armed Saddam Hussein with Chemical Weapons*,” Dixon discloses information about taxpayer-funded schemes to provide Saddam with a blank check to build up his army. Additionally, it is believed the United States imposed its will upon allied nations coercing them to funnel U.S. equipment to Iraq through their countries, thereby implicating those nations in trade with a tyrant, while the U.S. can claim it provided minimal support. Dixon writes:

Using its allies in the Middle East, Washington funneled huge supplies of arms to Iraq. Classified State Department cables uncovered by Frantz and Waas [Douglas Frantz and Murray Waas were authors of an article published in the February 23, 1992 Los Angeles Times headlined, “*Bush secret effort helped Iraq build its war machine*”] described covert transfers of howitzers, helicopters, bombs, and other weapons to Baghdad in 1982-83 from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Kuwait.

Howard Teicher, who monitored Middle East policy at the U.S. National Security Council during the Reagan administration, told the February 23, 1992 LA Times: “There was a conscious effort to encourage third countries to ship U.S. arms or acquiesce in shipments after the fact. It was a policy of nods and winks.”

According to Mark Phythian’s 1997 book, *Arming Iraq: How the U.S. and Britain Secretly Built Saddam’s War Machine* (Northeastern University Press), in 1983 Reagan asked Italy’s Prime Minister Guilo Andreotti to channel arms to Iraq. Soon after, the U.S. agriculture department’s Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) guaranteed to repay loans — in the event of defaults by Baghdad — banks had made to Iraq to buy U.S.-grown commodities such as wheat and rice.

Under this scheme, Iraq had three years to repay the loans, and if it could not the U.S. taxpayers would have to cough up. By the end of 1983, \$402 million in agriculture department loan guarantees for Iraq were approved.

In 1984 this increased to \$503 million and reached \$1.1 billion in 1988. Between 1983 and 1990, CCC loan guarantees freed up more than \$5 billion. Some \$2 billion in bad loans, plus interest, ended up having to be covered by U.S. taxpayers. Export-Import Bank loan guarantees grew from \$35 million in 1985 to \$267 million by 1990.

WHAT IS THE FINAL ANALYSIS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

The bottom line in the Iraq-Iran War is simply this: The United States, after losing its controlling grip on Iran, moved next door to Iraq and befriended a known tyrant, Saddam Hussein. Without respect to life or liberty, morals or principles, the U.S. initiated a systematic buildup of Iraq’s armed forces through overt and covert means, coercing assistance from allied nations to hide the transfer of enormous amounts of weaponry, technology, money, and illegal chemical weapons in an all-out effort to ensure that Iraq did not lose the war to Iran.

During that same time period, the United States lied about its knowledge of Hussein’s possession of chemical weapons and use of chemical weapons (WMDs).

Additionally, the United States sold helicopters to Iraq that were *specialty equipped* for the deployment of chemical agents.

Meanwhile, more than ONE MILLION people died in the Iraq-Iran war, and millions more were directly and indirectly impacted by injuries and the loss of homes, family members, etc.

MORE U.S. SUPPORT: ADDING INSULT TO INJURY

The United States maintained its innocence even though the world had searched for the truth and concluded that Saddam did indeed use chemical weapons on the Iranians. But to add insult to injury, Saddam then proceeded to use chemical weapons again in 1988 — this time on the Kurds in Northern Iraq; years after the U.S. claimed

to SIPRI that it knew nothing about Saddam's possession of chemical weapons!

As recent as *one year* prior to Gulf War I that expelled Saddam from Kuwait (1991), the United States was actively involved in the export of military technology to Saddam, including chemical and biological warfare agents, *despite knowing* Saddam had used such measures throughout the war against Iran.

Dixon writes:

According to William Blum, writing in the August 1998 issue of the *Progressive*, Sam Gejdenson, chairperson of a Congressional subcommittee investigating U.S. exports to Iraq, disclosed that from 1985 until 1990 "the U.S. government approved 771 licenses [only 39 were rejected] for the export to Iraq of \$1.5 billion worth of biological agents and high-tech equipment with military application...."

"The U.S. spent virtually an entire decade making sure that Saddam Hussein had almost whatever he wanted U.S. export control policy was directed by U.S. foreign policy as formulated by the State Department, and it was U.S. foreign policy to assist the regime of Saddam Hussein."

A 1994 U.S. Senate report revealed that U.S. companies were licensed by the Commerce Department to export a "witch's brew" of biological and chemical materials, including bacillus anthracis (which causes anthrax) and clostridium botulinum (the source of botulism). The American Type Culture Collection made 70 shipments of the anthrax bug and other pathogenic agents.

The report also noted that U.S. exports to Iraq included the precursors to chemical warfare agents, plans for chemical and biological warfare facilities, and chemical warhead filling equipment. U.S. firms supplied advanced and specialized computers, lasers, testing and analyzing equipment. Among the better-known companies were Hewlett Packard, Unisys, Data General, and Honeywell. Billions of dollars worth of raw materials, machinery and equipment, missile technology and other "dual-use" items were also supplied by West German, French, Italian, British, Swiss, and Austrian corporations with the approval of their governments (German firms even sold Iraq entire factories capable of mass-producing poison gas).

Much of this was purchased with funds freed by the U.S. CCC credits.

The destination of much of this equipment was Saad 16, near Mosul in northern Iraq. Western intelligence agencies had long known that the sprawling complex was Iraq's main ballistic missile development center.

Blum reported that Washington was fully aware of the likely use of this material.

In 1992 a U.S. Senate committee learned that the Commerce Department had deleted references to military end-use from information it sent to Congress about 68 export licenses, worth more than \$1 billion.

In 1986 the U.S. Defense Department's deputy undersecretary for trade security, Stephen Bryen, had objected to the export of an advanced computer,

similar to those used in the U.S. missile program, to Saad 16 because “of the high likelihood of military end-use.” The State and Commerce Departments approved the sale without conditions.

For those who continue to maintain that the United States is an innocent victim of Islamic rage, there is no amount of truth that will change their minds. Even as the U.S. was proclaiming to the rest of the world it knew nothing of WMDs, chemical weapons used by Saddam Hussein and the impact of that use on Iran, it knew everything.

SOMEBODY’S LYING: A POLICY OF DECEIVING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

In conflicting statements, one government official would reveal that the U.S. government knew about Saddam’s possession of chemical weapons, his ability and willingness to use chemical weapons, and his subsequent deployment of chemical weapons in warfare that resulted in mass casualties.

Meanwhile, another government official would claim ignorance.

The problem with the ignorance position is that if ONE guy in the government knew, then the *entire* government cannot lay claim to having a *lack of knowledge*. The details about shipments of high-level military equipment to a warring nation ruled by a brutal dictator doesn’t completely skip the entire top echelon of the chain of command as information flows down to a level where leaks are prevalent.

The most frustrating part of assembling this complicated jigsaw puzzle is convincing the American public that our government not only lies on a scale unfathomable by most people, but to convince them that our government has been following a POLICY of deceit, plunder, murder, theft, and the overall spread of evil throughout the Middle East under the guise of “democracy and freedom.”

It is preposterous for the United States government to justify its current invasion of Iraq based on the premise that Saddam used chemical weapons (that we had given him) on his own people. That is absurd.

First of all, the Kurds are not Iraqis, but rather an autonomous people whose communities span across several nations (it is ironic that today the leader of Iraq is a Kurd, thanks to the rigged election posed by the United States in January 2005).

Secondly, if the sadistic monster our government befriended did something the U.S. didn’t like, our government could have easily had him eliminated. It did not. In fact, if the U.S. had not supported Saddam in the manner it did, there would be no talk today of Iraq’s use of chemical weapons.

There is no doubt that Iraq *did not* possess the military power to successfully invade and conquer Iran. It was the U.S. that convinced a dangerous and naïve Saddam Hussein that he could win ... with our help.

The U.S. is as culpable and complicit in the murder of the Kurds (as well as Iranians) as Saddam himself, yet it is the United States that points its holier-than-thou finger at Hussein. We supported Saddam’s murderous WMD pastimes from the

time it began to the time it was last known to occur in 1988.

A congressional subcommittee has confirmed that our support of Saddam through shipments of dual-use chemicals continued until 1990!

In fact, had Saddam *not* invaded Kuwait, the likelihood is that he would have gotten away with *everything* he did. And should he stand trial, the world will be privy to hearing stories of the United States' decade-long involvement with Saddam's tyranny ... if indeed the U.S. will allow Saddam to have legal representation, a fair hearing and trial and public access to the entire process. The likelihood of that occurring is not high.

THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA

The U.S. mainstream media, in a complete failure in its role as the political watchdog on behalf of the citizenry, allowed President(s) Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Clinton, and now George W. Bush to systematically abuse the powers of the White House.

Our government has supported tyrannical leaders in Iran and Iraq both economically and militarily. Our leaders have initiated conflicts, undermined governments, and then sent our men and women off to die in an effort to absolve themselves of the mess they have created ... all under the guise of protecting American freedom and democracy.

Meanwhile, the mainstream media has regurgitated information from unknown sources, squashed information with which it did not agree, suppressed information until it met specific time frames for release, distorted truth, provided partial pieces of the entire truth to the public, and jumped in bed with political leaders and operatives in order to garner greater access to "inner circles" and military war zones.

In other words, the mainstream media, for all intents and purposes, has assisted the government in deceiving the American public by becoming a political mouthpiece, rather than representing the American public through intense investigations, research, and continued vigilance of our government with a healthy skepticism. I, for one, am appalled! But the question many Americans have been asking in regard to our current foray into Iraq is...

WAS IRAQ INVOLVED IN THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001?

The answer is simple. There exists no evidence to support the notion that Iraq was involved to any degree in the attacks of 9-11. The U.S. military controlled both the Southern and Northern parts of Iraq for a decade leading up to the 9-11 attacks. Iraq was a weak nation struggling to feed its people, with a maniacal leader struggling to remain in power while two superpower nations were sitting inside of its borders watching every move ... every day.

Saddam was under house arrest, for lack of a better international term. On the

contrary, the majority of those participating in the attacks were Saudis ... the home, the headquarters and the protectorate of Islam itself. The U.S. Government wasted no time in pointing toward the Muslim Brotherhood's most notorious modern-day hero, Osama bin Laden, precisely because it knew the attacks were part and parcel of an ongoing number of attacks that have originated out of the continuing battle between the U.S. Government and devout Muslims intent on defending Islam against infiltration by America's secular regime.

WHAT IS THE U.S. GOAL IN ACQUIRING CONTROL OVER IRAQ?

It is essential to understand the role the United States played in both Iran and Iraq in order to understand the reason we are currently there. The 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq was the *prelude* to the "recovery" of Iran. The U.S. Government stole Iran in 1953 and it got away from us, as did its oil. We aim to recover what we lost.

Capturing Saddam was merely a means to an end. He foolishly supplied the opening for America to get our proverbial foot in the door again when he crossed the border of Kuwait in 1990. And there were far too many compelling reasons that created an impetus for our government to risk thousands of American lives and sacrifice the lives of more than a million Arabs ... literally billions of compelling reasons!

AMERICA'S SUPREME LEADERS AND GLOBAL POLICIES

Unfortunately, the American public is caught up in the illusion that if the guy we elect to sit in the Oval Office says the country should send the military to go kill and break things, then everyone who doesn't agree is branded as a bonehead Communist at worst, and unpatriotic at best.

I may be a lot of things, but a Socialist or Communist is clearly not on the list. And I am most definitely an American patriot. But most importantly, I am a follower of Jesus Christ and a devout believer that nations that renounce God and proceed as "secular" are doomed to the pursuit of secular passions like greed.

America has pronounced greed as a legitimate and justifiable reason to invade and conquer other nations (see Carter Doctrine). I disagree with that ideology and offer you the notion that all Americans should be outraged that our own tyrannical government has created a global situation that places all of us at risk. And the method our government has chosen to employ as a measure to escape this volatile predicament — which threatens the lives of all Americans — is the exact same policy of "obliterate and confiscate" that got us into this mess in the first place.

AMERICAN PATRIOTISM

The true patriots are those who recognize that our government is not to be trusted, and should always be watched, scrutinized, and investigated with relentless vigor. It is, after all, a secular entity that bases its decisions upon secular foundations ... not moral.

CHAPTER 4

America's Friend/Enemy: Introducing Osama bin Laden

In 1979, Americans were reeling from what our media portrayed as the outrageous audacity of so-called Iranian “militants” in overrunning the U.S. Embassy in Iran and capturing Americans as hostages. Meanwhile Afghanistan, another Muslim country, had come under attack. The Soviet Union had waged war against the smaller, nearly defenseless nation.

The United States, in its global chess match played against the Soviet Union for world domination, needed to find a way to interfere with the Soviet Union's attempt to take over Afghanistan. When Reagan came into office in 1981, he was facing the huge loss of a strategic military area (Iran) and the possible expansion of the Soviet Union into Afghanistan. For the ex-California governor, this was a daunting task.

CAPITALISM VS. COMMUNISM

It was the Cold War (the West's attempt to contain Communist aggression and advance the ideals of Capitalism through overt and covert aggression) that prompted the U.S. government to get involved in the defense of Afghanistan. By the time Reagan had taken off his coat and sat comfortably behind his desk in the Oval Office, international relationships had already been forged with both Saddam Hussein and some unknown Muslim guy named Osama bin Laden.

When Reagan entered office in 1981, plans were already underway to support Iraq's aggression against its neighbor, Iran, and assist in the defense of Afghanistan against the aggression of the Soviet Union. But in order to help the Afghans defend their homeland, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jimmy Carter would have to find an ally through which the U.S. could funnel weapons and money to that region, and help train personnel to effectively resist the Soviets.

That ally would be Pakistan, specifically Pakistani Intelligence.

That relationship would lead the CIA into an unholy alliance with the “Muslim holy warriors” known as the mujahideen ... and its most infamous leader.

ENTER OSAMA BIN LADEN

Osama Bin Laden was a citizen of Saudi Arabia and a Shi'ite Muslim. In order to understand who Bin Laden was, and is, we must understand what he believed instead of merely accepting that which is propagated about him. Rather than delve into a complete history of Osama as a child and his experiences growing up in what we consider a “backward” society, I believe it is crucial to come to an understanding of the mindset of bin Laden and those who revere him. This is no small task, because the default reaction in America is to express what *we* believe, rather than learn what *others* believe.

Chapter 5

America in Afghanistan: Alliance with Allah and Osama

The people of the United States offered concerns about Osama bin Laden in the aftermath of the tragedies that took place on a day in America's history that will forever be known as "9-11."

It was then that a very naïve and gullible American public learned that Osama was in Afghanistan. There are some crucial questions that must be answered in order to further our understanding of both Osama and those like him who our government regards as enemy "terrorists:"

Why was Osama, a wealthy Saudi national, residing in Afghanistan?

Where is this country and why should we care anything about it?

The answer to the second question will lead directly to answering the first. We must care about Afghanistan, its people, its region, its resources, and its governance if we are to come to an understanding of why both the U.S. government and Osama bin Laden walked on the same side of history for a decade.

AFGHANISTAN

In getting to know more about Afghanistan and the people who reside there, I turned to the writings of a man who grew up and lived in Afghanistan during the time of the invasion by the Soviet Union (1979-89). His name is Hassan M. Kakar. According to his book, *Afghanistan: The Soviet Invasion and the Afghan Response, 1979-1982*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, c1995, <http://ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ft7b69p12h/>):

In 1989, after I had fled from Kabul in late 1987, the American Center in Peshawar, Pakistan, provided me with a Fulbright grant to write my prison memoirs at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Before doing so, I went through the journal that I kept from 1979 until the Kabul regime arrested me in 1982.

By reviving the events of the period in my mind, the journal proved so impressive that I decided to write instead a political history of the period. The result is this work, the first draft of which I composed during the six months of my fellowship with the center. Landlocked Afghanistan links Central Asia with South Asia and, to some extent, with West Asia or the Middle East. The latter is also connected through Afghanistan to China.

In this important crossroads have lived from ancient times many ethnic groups, known in recent times as Afghans. They speak about thirty languages and dialects belonging to four main linguistic groups: Indo-Aryan, Turkic-Mongolian, Semitic, and Dravidian. The Indo-Aryan languages Pashto and Dari

Chapter 6

The Muslim Brotherhood

With the British controlling and influencing much of the Middle East throughout the nineteenth century, Islamic beliefs for many Muslims were relegated to merely a matter of religious ideology rather than actually encompassing one's way of life ... similar to the lifestyles of many modern-day Christians in America. The notion of living one's life in strict adherence to ancient texts is perceived by some Muslims to be a bit "backward."

America today holds that same attitude, with those holding to God's moral laws considered "old-fashioned" and "conservative," while those who change and adapt with the times are perceived as "modern" and "liberal."

These perceptions played a major role in the establishment of political organizations and social movements, not only in America, but also around the globe.

In the Middle East, western ideas of modern living clashed heavily with religious beliefs in a region of indigenous peoples who have had most of the world's prophets walk their lands, live in their cities, and teach in their temples, synagogues, and mosques.

In Egypt, during the 1920s, where high society living was not uncommon and religion took a backseat to the ways of "modern" times, an organization would be born that would elevate the tension between religious beliefs and modern living to a new level.

Hassan al-Banna, a schoolteacher in Egypt, founded the group known as "Al-Ikhwan Al-Moslemoon" (*Muslim Brotherhood*) in 1928.

Hassan was a Wahabbi Sunni Muslim. Wahabbism is an extremely strict form of Islam, closely related to the ideology adhered to by the Taliban in Afghanistan. Al-Ikhwan, from its inception, began to spread the principal Islamic ideology of "Creed and state, book and sword, and a way of life."

In its early years the Muslim Brotherhood focused on religious preaching, education, and social programs. It began a political movement in the '30s and garnered some support due to its positions on social and moral reforms that were based on Islamic beliefs.

The organization, however, was at one point banned by the Egyptian government because it clashed with the modern living style of Egyptians and had used violence to get its points across. After the collapse of the Wafdist government in 1944, which had basically been a puppet regime of the British, there was a political vacuum that the Muslim Brotherhood and another upstart organization, Young Egypt, tried to fill, and succeeded, in some respects, by gaining a political foothold.

The leader of Young Egypt had ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, and it was thought that the Brotherhood, by dividing itself and forming what appeared to be two separate entities, could garner more public support. The Brotherhood, which had been banned, was eventually legalized again in Egypt after the formation of Israel in 1948.

OSAMA BIN LADEN AND AL-QAEDA

The story of the Muslim Brotherhood is overall one of a movement that was originally initiated to restore religious order in societies of the Middle East that had acquiesced to rule and influence by evil tyrants in the Arab world and western powers that exercised enormous influence over governments and societies. While many Americans may not agree with the religion of Islam, to view it through the eyes of those who are corrupt is equal to viewing Christianity through the eyes of corrupt individuals who represent it.

The Muslim Brotherhood is the organization that set as its goal the ideal of reviving Islamic governance over Islamic peoples. To that end, we find the paths of leaders within this movement crossing with the path of one very influential Islamic devotee.

Although we see that Azzam and Zawahiri were far more influential than Osama, no one should consider Bin Laden a dupe or someone naïve about what he was doing. In fact, Osama, at a point somewhere in 1986, decided to take a more proactive lead role in the war. Up to that point, he had been primarily a financier. That was to change in a big way. According to the PBS organization “Frontline,” in a published document they received from an unidentified source that “Frontline” said was close to Bin Laden:

In 1986 Osama decided to have his own camps inside Afghanistan and within two years he built more than six camps. Some were mobilized more than once. He decided to have his own front and to run his own battles with his own command.

Among the Arab fighters he had, there were senior Arab exmilitary men from Syria and Egypt with good military experience. The story of the guesthouse and the camps was very attractive for more Arab mujahedeen to come and there was a significant surge in their numbers at that period.

In addition to many exchanges of fire and small operations, the first major battle he had face to face with the Soviet army with pure Arab personnel was the battle of Jaji in the province of Baktia 200 kilometers away from Khost. From then until 1989 he had more than five major battles with hundreds of small operations and exchanges of fire.

During the period 1984-1989 he was staying more in Afghanistan than Saudi Arabia. He would spend a total of eight months a year or more in Afghanistan.

Contrary to popular belief, Osama Bin Laden did not immediately turn his attention to the United States at the end of the Afghan war with the Soviet Union in 1989. He formed the organization with which we are all familiar today for a completely different reason than to launch attacks on the United States ... then he went home.

“Frontline” offers us insight:

In 1988 he noticed that he was backward in his documentation and was not able to give answers to some families asking about their loved ones gone missing in Afghanistan. He decided to make the matter much more organized

OSAMA AND THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD SPEAK

In 1998, Osama Bin Laden, who was now a target of three countries (United States, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan), issued his second Fatwa in declaration of war upon the U.S. government. The Fatwa, published by Al- Quds al-‘Arabi on February 23, 1998, received far more news coverage than the first one in 1996, primarily because of the statement to “kill Americans and their allies-civilian and military” as well as the coalition of Muslim Brotherhood groups that signed it.

Text of the 1998 Fatwa follows:

Statement signed by Sheikh Usamah Bin-Muhammad Bin-Ladin; Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the Jihad Group in Egypt; Abu- Yasir Rifa’i Ahmad Taha, a leader of the Islamic Group; Sheikh Mir Hamzah, secretary of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Pakistan; and Fazlul Rahman, leader of the Jihad Movement in Bangladesh.

Praise be to God, who revealed the Book, controls the clouds, defeats factionalism, and says in His Book “But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them, seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war)”; and peace be upon our Prophet, Muhammad Bin-‘Abdallah, who said, “I have been sent with the sword between my hands to ensure that no one but God is worshipped, God who put my livelihood under the shadow of my spear and who inflicts humiliation and scorn on those who disobey my orders.” The Arabian Peninsula has never — since God made it flat, created its desert, and encircled it with seas — been stormed by any forces like the crusader armies now spreading in it like locusts, consuming its riches and destroying its plantations. All this is happening at a time when nations are attacking Muslims like people fighting over a plate of food.

In the light of the grave situation and the lack of support, we and you are obliged to discuss current events, and we should all agree on how to settle the matter. No one argues today about three facts that are known to everyone; we will list them, in order to remind everyone:

First, for over seven years the United States has been occupying the lands of Islam in the holiest of places, the Arabian Peninsula, plundering its riches, dictating to its rulers, humiliating its people, terrorizing its neighbors, and turning its bases in the Peninsula into a spearhead through which to fight the neighboring Muslim peoples. If some people have formerly debated the fact of the occupation, all the people of the Peninsula have now acknowledged it. The best proof of this is the Americans’ continuing aggression against the Iraqi people using the Peninsula as a staging post, even though all its rulers are against their territories being used to that end, still they are helpless.

Second, despite the great devastation inflicted on the Iraqi people by the crusader-Zionist alliance, and despite the huge number of those killed, in excess of 1 million ... despite all this, the Americans are once again trying to repeat the horrific massacres, as though they are not content with the

ULTIMATE GOAL: DEMOCRATIZATION (CONTROL) OF THE WORLD

The goal of the U.S. government is to gain control of the oil in the Middle East. It sees fundamentalist Islam as a supreme enemy precisely because it will remove the U.S. government from the Middle East completely if it is able to gain a foothold. When the U.S. government was able to take over Iran, it alienated the Iranian people, pirated the country's resources, abandoned the so-called principles of democracy in Iran and created an enemy that would eventually cause the worst oil crisis this country has ever known.

The U.S. government's policies directed toward Iran impacted America's economy to such a degree that all subsequent economic problems have been compared to that one huge economic blip on our historical radar. That blip cost an American president re-election. Our government has continued the fight against Islam itself from that point in history. And it has called upon the support of all Americans to rally around killing the Muslims and forcibly injecting "democracy" and the secular (evil) culture it brings with it, into Islam.

Muslims believe that, in similar fashion to America, if our culture and our governmental influence is accepted by even one country in the Middle East, it will cause the destruction of all of Islam, as they believe it has done to Christianity in America.

They have resolved to fight to the death of every last man, woman and child ... for the life of their religion. The U.S. government, on the other hand, has recognized the power inherent in money and has used its economic and military might to persuade many Muslims, through bribery, fear and coercion to back away from opposing the United States, accept bribes of power and wealth or cower in fear remaining paralyzed to do anything at all.

FIGHTING FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

I would like to see Christians here in America take a stand against supporting the evils of our government policies across the board. I would like to see the tolerators of evil and reasoners with the goddess lose in the courts, and the acknowledgement of God and reverence toward God continue throughout our society, including within our government structure, as it was from the very beginning in the formation of this nation.

In an effort to be clear, I want to be sure to convey the message that I don't condone the suppression or oppression of those who prefer to live without God. Indeed, we are all sinners and in need of forgiveness. I do not support any unkind treatment of people on the basis of disagreement over lifestyles, religion, politics or philosophies. It is the notion that Christians ought to direct and mold this society in which we are an overwhelming majority that I support. Christian laws are not reflected in the archaic and abominable legal structure that supported and protected slavery, oppressed women and offered men and women unequal opportunities and justice based upon race and socio-economic status. Those laws were an egregious abuse of

LO AND BEHOLD

I take no credit for that which inspired me to write this book of warning. I owe all I am and all I have and all I know to God. And it is because of the insight God has provided that I offer the readers of this book yet another opportunity to turn to God, for these are truly the times the Bible speaks of, in which mankind is nearing the Day of Judgment and God's wrath will be poured out upon the world.

Look at Jerusalem and see today how the world is focused on that great city.

Look at the United States, which dominates the planet, and see how it exalts itself and lambastes many countries of the world, proclaiming peoples and lands as insignificant, secondary and lower on the scale of humanity, on the basis of a lack of resources and monetary wealth.

Look at the pride and evil that exists throughout our society.

Look at the world of Christianity and see how Christians have divided over issues about which Jesus and the early churches never wavered.

Look at how the church itself has engaged in the support of evil men and governments here and abroad.

Look at how the church has mocked Jesus' birth and sacrifice with its adoption of pagan rituals.

Look at our society and see how we mock God in our fashionable dress, our musical tastes, our artistry and filmmaking.

Look at how we ignore God in American society in our acceptance and reverence of evil lifestyles that place a premium on sex outside of the boundaries that God set in place.

Look at how America looks down from its lofty perch with disdain and contempt at the rest of the world.

As the world's most powerful nation, we have turned our back on the very God that we claim to trust. We mock that same God by using the power of the dollar (upon which is written the phrase "In God We Trust") for evil purposes.

It is time for Christian Americans to repent of our ways, and replace our elected leaders and appointed judges who abandon God outside the doors of the political and judicial decision-making processes, and beg God for forgiveness.

It is time for Christian Americans to reform our public educational system, returning God's moral values and principles to the classroom in replacement of the secular and humanistic evil that has transformed millions of our nation's youth into soulless, Godless wanderers who spend their young lives seeking meaning in the things of this world that are worthless ... while wreaking havoc upon society, their individual lives and the lives of those who love them.

It is time for the citizens of the United States to determine if we wish be led by a secular government or a government of the people that is led by a divine King. I

pray that Americans will come to a realization that those in power in the most secret places in our government do not worship or revere the God of Abraham or Jesus Christ. The decisions they make on our behalf, without our knowledge, stem from a place where God does not exist. The consequences of the decisions made by those who sit in the seats of power, both known and unknown, impact our lives and the lives of our children.

It is time for Christians to stand firm upon our faith and convictions.

It is time for courage to be shown in the face of a firestorm of controversy and world danger.

And it is time for Christians to face the fact that Satan has infiltrated the church, turned it against itself and now attempts to lead us all, as many of us willingly support secularism, humanism and a variety of evil philosophies that defy our own faith and offer homage to the enemies of God. The battles initiated and fueled in the Middle East by the U.S. government are just the precursor to the full-fledged war on God that will soon be evident to all believers.

For those of us who have eyes to see and ears to hear; let us first look at who we have become here in our own homeland, and then see what we have done to those in nations far away. If there is still time, it is my fervent prayer that we will repent of what we have become, pull back our forces from the places they have been sent around the globe, and turn to God for the answers we desperately need in America today ... in order to make us the great nation we truly could be, if we would only follow the right leader, God Almighty.

And I pray that Jesus Christ will restore His communion with America and bless us with His everlasting love, guide us with His wisdom, and save us all who believe in Him in the Day of Judgment.

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Read Mike's weekly column, *From the RIGHT Side*, online at:

www.dailytidings.com

"Those who sacrifice liberty for a little security deserve neither."

Benjamin Franklin

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001 a dazed and shocked public offered the U.S. government a mandate to target and kill with vengeance anyone it deemed to be an enemy of the United States.



Each "enemy" of the U.S. government was once an ally:

- The U.S. supported the Taliban regime in Afghanistan before declaring it an enemy.
- The U.S. supported Osama bin Laden for nearly a decade before declaring him and his recently formed organization, al Qaeda, an enemy.
- The U.S. supported Saddam Hussein from 1980 – 1990, before, during and after his use of chemical weapons on the Kurds and Iranians, much of which was received from the United States.
- The U.S. supported Iran for more than two decades, built its military, trained its secret police force, and freely shared our nuclear technology.

In this book, the WHOLE truth is revealed regarding the so-called War on Terror.

The entire big picture is laid out, from the CIA covert operation in 1953 that undermined a Muslim government to the secret decisions that led to WWII ... and much more. The propaganda war that has kept the American and British citizenry in the dark was shifted to a new level after 9/11, when the U.S. government could no longer continue to wage war with Muslim nations and secure the flow of oil from the deserts of the Middle East in secret.

This book reveals the WHOLE truth about the U.S. war on terror ... and offers the only definitive solution to ending it ... before the American public finds itself declared an enemy of the state.

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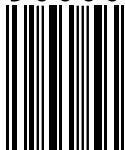
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