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“SAFER FOR WHOM?”

A Response to the Reported Capture of Saddam Hussein

by

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PROLOGUE

A kind of madness has overtaken the world. It is not a new sort of madness; but it is a madness which has increased in intensity since the events of September 11th 2001 in the USA.

This madness had occasionally surfaced temporarily prior to those events, but that fateful date caused an acceleration which only a small, informed number of people could have foreseen.

The madness of which I am speaking is far more dangerous and bizarre even than what one would ordinarily call “madness”. For it is contagious — apparently striking anyone of any social class, level of intelligence or sophistication.

The madness of which I am speaking is completely irrational, making people believe things which are patently and provably untrue. As but one tiny example, a poll in the USA

“found that a third of the population actually believes that weapons [of mass destruction] have been discovered, even though [all that] the best investigators have come up with are a couple of vehicles some experts say might have been mobile bio-weapons laboratories”.^[1]

Another recent Gallup survey showed that “83 per cent of Americans believe Saddam was developing nuclear arms, despite no serious evidence to support that view”.^[2] To create such powerful illusions involves a kind of mass hypnosis; and it renders the person affected by it to regard those who are unaffected by it

as an enemy who must be suppressed, slandered and ultimately even snuffed out. That is a kind of madness. It is the kind of madness passionately loved by totalitarian governments.

This madness is akin to that which typically underlies a cult. Its victims are brainwashed. It believes that it is right, moral and just — even in the face of a mass of evidence which proves otherwise. It twists religious scriptures for its own purposes. It milks people of money and resources. It has one leader (or cohesive group of leaders) at its head who rules with a rod of iron. It utterly excoriates and defames anyone who dares to criticise or disagree with its activities and beliefs. It uses scare tactics to keep its adherents “faithful” (i.e. dependent). It relies on the gullibility of its members in order to survive.

The American Business-War Machine is an insidious cult, and its cult leaders are George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Richard Perle, James Baker, Paul Wolfowitz, Condoleeza Rice, Colin Powell and others. It is now plain for all to see that both the Bush and Blair administrations lied through their teeth in giving their pre-war reasons for invading and occupying Iraq. What we have been watching is a roadshow — a long-term, manipulated public relations event which evidences the worst case of governmental hypocrisy in decades and involves war crimes of the highest magnitude.

After eating lunch with President Festus Mogae of Botswana on 10th July 2003, George W. Bush said:

1. “The Independent” newspaper, UK, 22nd June 2003, <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/story.jsp?story=417787>

2. Ibid.

"We cry for the orphan, we care for the mom who is alone".[3] He was referring to the effects of AIDS in Africa. But these remarks — made on what was plainly but one cynical presidential electioneering event of many — ring hollow when seen against the backdrop of so many thousands of orphaned children and bereaved mothers in Iraq which were the result of an amoral two-week rampage with deadly bombs rained down on a helpless civilian population, and made possible by multiple deceptions on the part of Bush and his mendacious administration.[4]

On September 23rd 2003, Bush told the General Assembly of the United Nations:

"Events during the past two years have set before us the clearest of divides: between those who seek order and those who spread chaos; between those who work for peaceful change and those who adopt the methods of gangsters; between those who honor the rights of man and those who deliberately take the lives of women and children without mercy or shame".

However, as is always the case with outright hypocrites, this could have been addressed by Bush to himself and his colleagues in government. Bush and the other participants in his war machine are the very ones who spread chaos, use the methods of gangsters and deliberately take the lives of women and children without mercy or shame.

Frankly, I have been horrified at the attitude of so many of those who call themselves Christians concerning the illegal atrocity which has been (and which continues to be) perpetrated in Iraq. The rule of thumb thinking on the part of these people appears to be this: *"War as an activity is ordained by God, as clearly shown in the Bible, and is therefore permissible for us to wage as and when we see fit"* (a sentiment which will be devastatingly refuted in a forthcoming article from this office). Yet, the invasion and occupation of Iraq has been based not on any genuine moral considerations or on a deep care for humanity but on a vast, cynical public relations exercise with the stark aim of securing absolute power and in the interests of greed.

During the seventy-two hours since the reported capture of Saddam Hussein, I have been inundated with mails asking for my opinion. Here are some telling

extracts from a few of those mails:

"Would you agree with me that there is something strange about this... something which just doesn't add up?"

"I suppose you'll have some conspiratorial way of rationalising it all. But we did it. It's real. And we'll get every other two-bit dictator too".

"Where does this leave your speculative liberalism now that this animal has been put behind bars?"

"Here is one in the eye for you, Mr Morrison. While you sit at your computer churning out your fantasies, we have made the world a safer place in which for you to do it".

While it is certainly true that there is something strange which doesn't add up (until one does one's homework), we can see here how easily people can be seduced by a handful of carefully-conjured visual images. So dumbed down have we become that we will fall for anything presented to us by Fox News and CNN. Whether it is a President carrying a phony *Thanksgiving* turkey as an electioneering photo opportunity,[5] a Hollywood-style stunt staged to rescue a certain Private Lynch (who did not actually need rescuing),[6] or a President appearing in a dark suit and tie to announce the capture of an unkempt old man (apparently the greatest threat known to the universe) in a grubby underground chamber, it is all cheap imagery designed to seduce and deceive.

We need to go behind the words and events in order to appreciate what they signify. Whether or not the gentleman who has allegedly been captured is the real Saddam; whether or not he has only just been captured; whether or not he undergoes a trial; whether or not he is everything that people have said about him — the fact remains that the entire production has been stage managed from start to finish, beginning decades ago. The furor and feeding frenzy surrounding Saddam Hussein represents the height of hypocrisy and manipulation on the part of the U.S. government and its lackey media; yet the majority of the world's population meekly accept everything they are told on their television screens and in their newspapers.

Now is the time to reveal some facts about all this:

3. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2003/07/11/wbush11.xml&Sheet=/news/2003/07/11/ixworld.html>

4. See <http://www.iraqbodycount.net> for a very conservative, but nevertheless highly disturbing, estimate of the number of civilians killed during the invasion of Iraq (their figure is 8000-10,000). For an even more disturbing estimate (37,000+), see <http://villagevoice.com/issues/0336/mondo3.php>

5. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A33090-2003Dec3.html> & http://www.ananova.com/news/story/sm_844321.html

6. See the news reports on the BBC website at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/correspondent/3028585.stm> and on the Times of India website at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/cms.dll/xml/uncomp/articleshow?msid=46688937>.

I. SADDAM HUSSEIN AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT — TWO OF A KIND

It may come as a shock to many to discover that Saddam Hussein has been a CIA asset and useful tool of the USA for decades — a ruthless thug whom the U.S. intelligence services have used extensively in their dastardly work since 1959.[7] This idea that the USA is a wonderful fount of democracy and freedom cleaning up the world and making it a better place to live is one of the most successful illusions ever to be manufactured. Successive American administrations have supported Saddam Hussein from the outset and armed him to the hilt. They have courted him for business and influence. He has been their baby. It was only when he began to bite the hand which fed him that Washington turned against him and set about destroying what they had helped him to build up.

So please don't try to tell me that America is all about good guys cleaning up a bad world. That is just a cleverly-worked myth. America has been the source of many of the world's problems for decades, looting and plundering the earth's resources, destabilising elected governments which do not cooperate with it, launching more weapons of mass destruction than any other country in the world (Atomic bombs, Dioxin, Agent Orange, Napalm, Depleted Uranium-tipped warheads,[8] etc.) and killing many millions of people.

A while back, I sent out a piece called *"The Caped Crusader"*, a news item about an anonymous man in a little market town in the U.K. who dresses in a cape and mask and rescues little old ladies when their purses are being stolen by muggers and protects people being attacked by groups of marauding youths. What a hero! Just imagine if that same man had secretly trained the muggers and hooligans to do their work for various reasons of gain, and then he donned a cape to counteract them in order to be praised for his great rescue work and for making his town a safer place. You would think that this was somewhat hypocritical, to say the least. But this is exactly how the USA has behaved.

The U.S. government and security services engage in the useful tactic of actually creating their enemy so that they can later hector him and ultimately destroy him, when it suits their purpose. They put Saddam Hussein in power and used him as their own CIA-driven thug within Iraq and to pulverise Iran and the

Kurds. It is no wonder that the job of interrogation of Saddam Hussein has been given to the CIA. Like Osama bin Laden, he is one of their own creations!

When Saddam was at his worst, the USA propped him up and made numerous deals with him, selling him his dastardly weapons of mass destruction[9] Then when he moved in a direction which didn't fit in with their plan, and when he had outlived his usefulness financially and strategically, they fabricated reasons to topple the very man who they built up by lying about Hussein's threat to the American people and the world. Is this what we can call "liberation"? Is this really what is involved in "making the world a safer place"? Have we completely taken leave of our senses?

You may want to put the U.S. administration across as being a highly moral group of religious people implacably opposed to weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). But how will you then explain the fact that Donald Rumsfeld, for example, was perfectly happy to enjoy a friendly relationship with Saddam Hussein in the 1980s when Saddam was at the height of his powers as a dictator using WMDs?[10]

Surely the American war against Iraq and its vendetta against Saddam Hussein constitutes one of the most hypocritical episodes in recent history. Hussein and the U.S. government administration are two of a kind — peas from the same pod, chips off the same block. To choose between one and the other is simply a case of choosing your poison.

II. "AXIS OF EVIL" — THE POLITICS OF CONVENIENCE

The U.S. administration claims that it wants to cleanse the world of terrorism and human rights abuses. It claims to have identified an "axis of evil" consisting of a handful of countries upon which it has designs. It then forms a "coalition" with a few other nations in order to rid the world of these evil forces. But a significant number of the countries with which it has aligned itself are riddled with the worst abuses, including torture and extra-judicial execution — the very crimes of which it has accused Saddam Hussein!

Take **Turkey** for example. We do not see U.S. Delta Force troops and units of the SEALs parachuting into Istanbul. Yet, as Amnesty International revealed in October 2000:

7. Read the UPI report entitled "Saddam Was Key in Early CIA plot", <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article2849.htm>.

8. See <http://www.rediff.com/us/2003/mar/31iraq3.htm>.

9. listen to the U.S. documentary entitled "How The United States Illegally Armed Saddam Hussein", <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article1412.htm>.

10. You can see the evidence for this in the archives of the National Security Archive of George Washington University at <http://www.gwu.edu/%7EEnsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB82/press.htm>.

“Torture is apparently used routinely in Turkish police and gendarmerie stations, to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as unofficial punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods in Turkey documented by Amnesty International include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, suspending by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim’s back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault. Amnesty International has long been concerned at the Turkish authorities’ reluctance to investigate allegations of torture. Officers accused of torture are rarely suspended from duty, and have in some cases been promoted. Detainees are almost invariably blindfolded during interrogation, so they often cannot identify their torturers, and since custody records are often sloppy or nonexistent, they cannot establish who was on duty when they were detained.

“Any medical evidence of torture is frequently suppressed. Medical officers who falsify reports have been promoted, and doctors who scrupulously carry out their proper duties have been put on trial or imprisoned. Witness intimidation and a generalised climate of fear also contribute to impunity, as does prosecutors’ reluctance to investigate the work of security force officers. Judges often refuse to investigate allegations of torture, leading to unfair trials, with confessions extracted under torture frequently used as grounds for imprisonment”.[11]

To be interviewed in a Turkish police station is to take your life into your hands, as shown in a BBC report entitled *Turkey Torture Death Admission*”.[12] Why don’t the USA’s Depleted Uranium-tipped Cruise Missiles slam relentlessly across the Bosphorus into Old Constantinople if evil regimes are truly the target of the USA? Why is such a country as Turkey part of the USA’s coalition allegedly formed to neutralise nasty torturers like Saddam Hussein?

What about America’s new-found friend, **Pakistan**? Again, as Amnesty International reports in 2002, in Pakistan there are “*Systemic human rights violations — including torture, deaths in custody and*

extrajudicial killings”.[13] Again, these are the very human rights abuses and crimes of which the U.S. administration accused Saddam Hussein. When interviewed on ABC television after Saddam Hussein’s capture, George Bush said: “*He is a torturer, a murderer and they had rape rooms and this is a disgusting tyrant who deserves justice, the ultimate justice*”. Surely, logic must dictate that the USA’s Coalition partners also deserve the ultimate justice! Why single out Iraq — especially when they tolerated Iraq’s murders, torture chambers and rape-rooms for decades? It is sheer hypocrisy and manipulation.

Or how about **Spain**, one of America’s closest allies in the coalition? An April 2002 Amnesty International Press Release, entitled “*SPAIN Crisis of identity: Race-related Torture and Ill-treatment by State Agents*”, we read:

“Amnesty International has, for many years, expressed concern about the torture and ill-treatment both of Spanish and foreign nationals by public officials. This report examines the specific issue of race-related torture or ill-treatment by public officials in Spain during a seven-year period between 1995 and the beginning of 2002”.[14]

Again, another report in November 2002, entitled “*Spain: Government must Act Against Torture and Ill-Treatment*”, states in part:

“Regrettably, the [Spanish] government’s assertion in its report to the Committee against Torture that cases of torture or ill-treatment are ‘very isolated’ in Spain is far from true. [Amnesty] has documented a large number of detailed allegations of torture and ill-treatment...”.[15]

I don’t see any massed battalions of U.S. troops on Madrid’s leafy esplanades or in Barcelona’s Place de Catalunya. The truth of the matter is that the U.S. government couldn’t care less if people are being tortured and exterminated in a country with which it has dealings. America does business with whichever country is most advantageous to it, financially or strategically — regardless of the hideous practices which may take place there. This is not a question of merely turning a blind eye to such practices. America has actually financed and perpetrated them all over the world!

11. See <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR440552000?open&of=ENG-TUR>

12. See the December 2000 BBC report “*Turkey Torture Death Admission*”, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/1059255.stm> .

13. See <http://web.amnesty.org/report2003/pak-summary-eng> .

14. See <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/engeur410012002> .

15. See <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR410132002?open&of=ENG-ESP> .

Furthermore, one does not have to stray beyond U.S. frontiers to witness such brutality and rank disdain for human life. On October 6th 1998, Amnesty International issued a damning report condemning the widespread nature of unpunished police brutality in the USA.[16] In which country can National Guardsmen and state highway patrolmen publicly gun down and kill with impunity peaceful demonstrators?[17] In which country can the main intelligence agency set up by the President to combat external security issues systematically set about mass experimentation with hallucinogenic drugs by distributing them widely on the street and in illegal programmes with prisoners and prostitutes?[18] In which country can a President be assassinated and any subsequent inquiry officially covered up by a climate of fear and further assassinations? In which country can armed government personnel utterly destroy a peaceful sect's home and kill in cold blood most of the inhabitants — including women and children? Which country can set up a gulag concentration camp with no regard for any constraints of international law or the remit of the Geneva Convention?[19] The list could go on. The answer is not Iraq but the USA. The most appalling brutality — unchecked and unpunished — has been committed in Iraq by U.S. forces in the past nine months. Anything can be justified in the phony “war against terrorism”. And if it becomes awkward, the spin-machine whirrs into action.

III. ‘YOU’VE GOT ME IN A SPIN’ — PUBLIC RELATIONS U.S. STYLE

Anyone with any understanding of “spin” will know that the presentation of a captured Saddam Hussein (or one of his many doubles!) looking like a tramp or Robinson Crusoe at his worst is a perfectly-timed piece of PR occurring when troop morale is low (increasing suicides and desertions in the armed forces in Iraq), U.S. soldiers are dying left, right and centre, and the USA is looking increasingly like it has lost the plot.

You have to hand it to them; the present administration in America indulges in some exceptionally masterful manipulation and mind-control of the American public. This ability was very strongly illustrated during the run-up to the invasion of Iraq. During his Presidential Press Conference on Thursday 6th March 2003, George Bush said that the USA is “confronting

the threat posed to our nation and to peace by Saddam Hussein and his weapons of terror”. During the course of that speech Bush said:

“Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction are a direct threat to this country... I will not leave the American people at the mercy of the Iraqi dictator and his weapons... Saddam Hussein is a threat to our nation... It used to be that we could think that you could contain a person like Saddam Hussein, that oceans would protect us from his type of terror... I believe Saddam Hussein is a threat to the American people... He’s a murderer... He’s a master of deception... the American people know that Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction”.

Apart from the fact that these lies now sound hollow in retrospect, Bush’s style is a classic technique of mesmerising and conditioning. Using short phrases and words (“weapons”, “threat”, “terror”, “murderer”) which contain information designed to instill fear is a classic method of mind-control. Never has there been a population so prone to such control as the present inhabitants of the USA. Decades of mindless television and Hollywood programming have seen to that.

The spin-doctors themselves do not take kindly to dissent, exposure or opposition. When New York Magazine reporter Michael Wolff attended a Central Command news briefing during the invasion of Iraq and dared to ask what was the point of reporters being there as they were just being primed what to write, he was approached by U.S. military spin doctor, Jim Wilkinson, who said to him: “*This is war, ***hole. Don’t **** around with things you don’t understand*”. Wolff said that it was as if he was being told: “*No more questions for you, why don’t you just go home?*”[20] When important questions are suppressed, democracy dies and totalitarianism is born.

Everyone knows that governments spin stories like sweat-shops spin yarn. That never changes. What **has** changed is that to reveal the nature or content of that spin is likely to get one into life-threatening trouble.

While we’re on the subject of “spin”, let us examine the claims that thousands of jubilant Iraqis took to the streets whooping with delight when America took over Baghdad or when Saddam allegedly was captured.

16. See <http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/usa/document.do?id=05B865337AB5B9098025690000692C5F>.

17. See http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/rcah/html/ah_049800_kentstateinc.htm.

18. See <http://www.mindcontrolforums.com/lsd-mc-cia.htm> & http://www.historyhouse.com/in_history/lsd/ for starters.

19. See Gordon Thomas’s Globe-Intel August 14th 2003 intelligence report entitled “*America’s Gulag for Iraq’s VIP Prisoners*”. Available from <http://www.globe-intel.net/>.

20. From a BBC transcript to a programme on how information is spun to journalists in time of war. See the entire transcript at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/nol/shared/spl/hi/programmes/correspondent/transcripts/18.5.031.txt>

The U.S. news media knows instinctively how to create the required pose for any picture — how to snap the lie. So when we see a photograph of a crowd of jubilant souls cheering the arrival of the U.S. forces in Baghdad and pulling down a statue of Saddam in Fardus Square, we have to pull back to see what is really going on rather than merely accepting what is fed to us. Such discerning objectivity should be our golden rule.

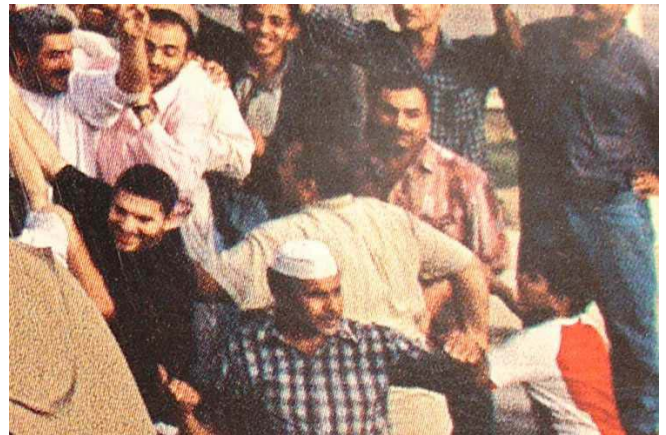
First, go to the Internet article "*The Photographs Tell the Story*", which you will find at this link <http://informationclearinghouse.info/article2842.htm>

The pictures show that the "throng" of jubilant Iraqis is very small indeed, considering that Baghdad contains many millions of people. But you will also see that it was really just a little "rent-a-crowd" mob organised by one of the main U.S. puppet leaders in Iraq, the corrupt businessman Ahmed Chalabi, [21] and his special armed militia. Take note especially of the Chalabi militia-man (also below) who is dressed in a khaki shirt and sporting designer-stubble on his chin.



To illustrate this further, see the photograph above taken by National Geographic Magazine contributor, Alexandra Boulat. This photograph was used in the publicity poster for the 2003 International Festival of

Photo Journalism held in Perpignan, France. I have reproduced it here and then enlarged a section to illustrate the point. Here one can see very clearly that the actual crowd in front of the statue is very small indeed and plainly orchestrated. Immediately behind the tank and to the left in the photograph, the group consists mainly of reporters and photographers. Note that the surrounding area in the square is mostly empty. Hardly a scene of jubilant celebration and a grand welcome to the "victors".



The orchestrated nature of that little crowd can be seen above in the blow-up of a section of that photograph of Fardus Square. Here one can see the same khaki-shirted Chalabi militiaman mentioned a couple of paragraphs above organising the group of supposedly jubilant greeters of the U.S. forces situated at the foot of the statue. For comparison, at the bottom of this page, you can see reproduced the photographs of this Chalabi militiaman from the Information Clearing House article, "*The Photographs Tell the Story*".

All this demonstrates the complete sham of so much of this American campaign to gain support for their illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq. Give me one reason why the Iraqi people should see the USA as



Photo at left: Chalabi and his "Free Iraqi Forces" militia are flown into southern city of Nasiriyah by the Pentagon on Sunday, April 6th. Photo below: Same militia member greets U.S. Marines in center of Baghdad moments before Saddam statue is pulled down on April 9th.

21. See <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,936196,00.html>.

their liberator when it was the USA who provided the necessary support and arms for Saddam to carry out his regime of oppression over the years — especially during the 1980s? There may have been relief that the previous regime had ended; but — like Afghanistan and Kosovo before it — Iraq has gone out of the frying-pan into the fire as the manipulated tool of the never-ending American Business-War machine.

EPILOGUE

“Keep out of politics, Alan, or you will ruin your objectivity”. So people have said to me. How many times do I have to say that when I write about these things, it is NOT the politics that I am really dealing with. I am not remotely interested in pushing any kind of politics in the conventional sense. As far as I am concerned politics stinketh. It is a fray fraught with horse-traders and snake-oil salesmen. When e.e. cummings wrote his superb two-line poem

**a politician is an arse upon
which everyone has sat except a man**

he hit the proverbial nail on its battered little head. Right wing... centrist... left wing... socialist... communist... conservative... liberal... they are almost all the same -- either money-grabbing (40% of the U.S. Senate is made up of multi-millionaires), game-playing, self-publicising egotists, or apparatchiks robotically enslaved to a party line. Those few politicians who don't fall into those categories are made by the media to look like cranky eccentrics and lost-cause Charleys. So I can assure you that pushing a political line is of no interest to me whatsoever. However, I am concerned about truth-twisting and mass manipulation — especially when that impinges on the Christian mind, as it most certainly has done in the case of 9/11 and its adopted child, the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Robert Scheer, writing in the Los Angeles Times on 8th July 2003, said: *“The world is outraged at this pattern of lies used to justify the Iraq invasion, but the U.S. public still seems numb to the dangers of government by deceit”.*[22] Herein lies the heart of the problem. The U.S. public is indeed broadly *“numb to the dangers of government by deceit”*. Yet, “Iraqgate” is every bit as explosive and amoral as “Watergate” or “Irangate”. However, the pride and arrogance of so many in the USA will prevent them from thinking this whole thing through. It is far easier to denounce critics of their war than to admit that their government is filled with liars and criminals of the highest order.

“You are just another anti-American, jealous of our power and prestige”, as others have said to me. There is nothing inherently “anti-American” about what I am saying. It is not my fault that this particular American government has chosen to believe and propagate lies. I am not anti-American; I have many friends in the USA. But I am anti-lies and pro-truth, as any true Christian should be.

Personally, I think that the government of the USA is far more of a threat to global order than Iraq ever was. I believe that the regime in the USA is, in a major sense, far worse than the regime in Iraq has ever been. Iraq never pretended to be anything other than what it was — a typical ruthless, brutal, despotic, Middle-Eastern hegemony, with much poverty, although falsely created and populated with an incompatible mixture of sects and parties. However, the USA paints itself as the squeaky-clean moral policeman of the planet but in reality has committed international war crimes and covered them all up.

Moreover, the USA is much more of a terrorist country than Iraq has ever been. If you want to know about the hidden American holocaust, try reading *“Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower”* by William Blum,[23] and that same author's other incriminating work *“Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II”*. [24]

I learned a great deal about why the collective mind of the USA has been so easily controlled by government when I met a retired professor of American Literature in one of the U.S. universities who was having a six-month break here in France. We talked at length about the invasion and occupation of Iraq. She was deeply upset by it all but had nevertheless analysed it in detail. Her conclusion was that there is a profound strain of anti-intellectualism which lies at the heart of the USA which makes it easy for the government to pull off atrocities without any real analysis from the population. This is an extremely shrewd analysis and explains so much of the behaviour of the American people as a whole.

Now that the Communists (“Reds under the bed”) are no longer held up to be the *bêtes noires* of American life, another enemy has had to be found. Externally, this role has been taken by the Arab peoples of the world (crudely referred to as “ragheads” in the same way that the Indochinese were called “gooks” during the Vietnam war) — with Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein currently playing the part of

22. Quoted from the article entitled *“A Diplomat's Undiplomatic Truth: They Lied”*, Los Angeles Times, 8th July 2003.

23. Published by Common Courage Press, 2000, 308pp.

24. Published by Common Courage Press, 1995, 457pp.

Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four" character, "Emmanuel Goldberg".[25] Internally, it is intellectuals who have become the new "Reds under the Bed" in the USA. The lingering suspicion is that anyone of intellectual stature — i.e. people who really think things through — are somehow politically and socially dangerous.

It is this distrust of the intellect and intellectuals in the USA which guarantees that any well-intentioned critics of the war in particular, or U.S. government policy in general, will receive no hearing. It is this distrust of the intellect and intellectuals in the USA which ensures that there is very little thought about anything of substance. It is this anti-intellectualism which has enabled the population to be so easily exploited and manipulated. To analyse or criticise any government policy is perceived as being "unpatriotic" and "unAmerican". Thus, intelligence and investigative intellectual thought is regarded as a threat. From there, the road to totalitarianism is an easy ride.

There is no genuine freedom of thought permitted in America today for, according to George W. Bush, one must either be on the side of the criminals who run the country or on the side of the terrorists. That demand alone is a real freedom-killer. If you really believe that the USA is a free country, try speaking out against its government and exposing its corruption openly with evidence. Either your name will be made into dirt or you will wind up at the bottom of a river in a concrete overcoat. To speak your mind against any U.S. government activity is considered to be flaky at the very least. Conformity to whatever the government says and does is absolutely demanded. That is totalitarianism.

The same has now become true in the U.K. The freedom to speak one's mind against bad government had always been a part of British culture. But since the Blair government came to power, those who do speak out against it will be derided and slandered by a host of spin-doctors. It is significant that the Blair government came to power on the basis of its imitation of the U.S. presidential election campaigns (especially that of Bill Clinton). Thus Blair has behaved more like a despotic President than a Prime Minister serving the realm and the people of his country.

Someone wrote to me recently: "*We fought this war so that you would have the freedom to write as you do*". This is utter nonsense! I am no more or less free to write now than I was prior to the invasion and

occupation of Iraq. In fact, if that correspondent had her own way, it is she who would prevent me from writing altogether, as she intimated towards the end of her mail when she said: "*It's disgraceful that people like you can be allowed to write the way you do*".

Moreover, in what way are the Iraqi people more free now than they were before the invasion? Let us just cast aside this entirely unfounded notion that in some way the invasion of Iraq was in order to bring about freedom. In actual fact, the attack on Iraq is part of a process which is designed to intimidate people and curtail their freedoms. Under the aegis of a "war on terrorism", freedoms are being quickly eroded — one example being the so-called "Patriot" Act of legislation in 2001. "Patriot" is an acronym for the formal title of the Act: "*Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001*". Who on earth dreamed up that Orwellian little sentence?

What people need to understand is that the invasion of the Persian Gulf and subsequent control of the entire area was planned well in advance of the events of September 11th 2001. Those events simply provided the pretext. A report which revealed all this was produced in September 2000 for the "neo-conservative" think tank "*Project for the New American Century*" (PNAC), "*whose goal is to promote American global leadership*" and which is immensely influential on the present U.S. administration — indeed, it represents its policy. The opening remark states:

"This report proceeds from the belief that America should seek to preserve and extend its position of global leadership by maintaining the preeminence of U.S. military forces".[26]

That plainly hegemonial statement sets the scene for the entire report, which continues:

"Indeed, the United States has for decades sought to play a more permanent role in Gulf regional security. While the unresolved conflict with Iraq provides the immediate justification, the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein".[27]

There we have it. The regime of Saddam Hussein was not really the issue and never was. The issue — spelled out in advance in September 2000 — was "*the need for a substantial American force presence in the*

25. In Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four", Emmanuel Goldberg was the 'hidden enemy' character specially created by Big Brother to be the hated object of the people, to hold them in the grip of fear and dependence on the state for protection.

26. See <http://www.newamericancentury.org/RebuildingAmericasDefenses.pdf>, p.iv.

27. *ibid.*, p.14.

Gulf” as part of the need to maintain “*the preeminence of U.S. military forces*” on a global level. It is all about power, not compassion.

Now all this has been enacted through deceptive means and the American people have supported it. Yet, in spite of all the talk about freedom and democracy being brought to Iraq, it is this military agenda which will lead to increasing totalitarianism and the erosion of freedoms and democracy the world over.

George Bush said in a speech to the United Nations that one is either for the USA or for the terrorists. This is a false either/or situation designed to demonise anyone who does not agree with the war policy of the USA. None of this is new. It is actually standard policy in the successful creation of a totalitarian regime:

- ❖ **First**, enter into a state of “perpetual war” against an invisible enemy which you have created.
- ❖ **Second**, rewrite history by sending the truth down the memory hole.
- ❖ **Third**, ridicule and ostracise the intellectuals and thinkers.
- ❖ **Fourth**, crush all opposition to governmental policy on the basis that such opposition is a terroristic threat to national security.

If you think that this policy would make a good book, it’s already been done. It’s called “*Nineteen Eighty-Four*”. In that masterwork by Orwell (compulsory reading for any thinking person), the slogan of the superpower was “*War is Peace - Freedom is Slavery - Ignorance is Strength*”. This mindless doublethink aphorism has apparently also become the slogan of the United States of America today.

It is this same doublethink which enables that correspondent to write to me “*While you sit at your computer churning out your fantasies, we have made the world a safer place in which for you to do it*”. Such thinking is the perfect product of the new totalitarianism. It is the political equivalent of the kind of religious self-righteousness and pharisaism which has always

enabled people to feel that they are doing God a favour when they persecute, imprison or kill good people.

In Fyodor Dostoevsky’s imaginary “Grand Inquisitor” scene in his book, “*The Brothers Karamazov*”, the Roman Catholic Inquisitor tells Christ, who has just “dropped in” on the Inquisition, that his services are not required. “*Why, then, have you come to meddle with us now?*” he says. The Inquisitor then reveals the dark secret that the Vatican has switched sides to Satan, saying to Christ:

“Exactly eight centuries ago we took from *him* what you rejected with scorn, the last gift he offered you, after having shown you all the kingdoms of the earth: we took from *him* Rome and the sword of Caesar and proclaimed ourselves the rulers of the earth, the sole rulers, though to this day we have not succeeded in bringing our work to total completion”. [28]

The impostors in the White House who feign Christianity have likewise proclaimed themselves as rulers of the earth, [29] using brute force to achieve worldly power and wrest hegemonial control wherever they roam. Far from being an influence for global democracy and freedom from terrorism, it is a Faustian kiss of gothic proportions and a portent of the darkness which is to come.

If the **real** Jesus Christ returned to earth today in a contemporary enactment of Dostoevsky’s “Grand Inquisitor” scene, the White House would soon dispatch a Delta Force squadron from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in an attempt to take Him out, for He would surely expose the hidden reality of their evil empire!

The awful truth is that when the ultimate **false** Christ comes in his own name — which is the next major item on the prophetic agenda — he will be welcomed by them with open arms and enthroned with garlands in a city which is only a stone’s throw from the western border of that modern Babylon, Iraq.

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was established in 1990 to acquaint believers with the importance of Christian apologetics, to provide commentary on topical, doctrinal and pastoral issues, and to hold out a hand of rescue to those who suffer psychological and spiritual manipulation in the religious scene.

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28. Fyodor Dostoyevshy, “*The Brothers Karamazov*”, (Penguin Books, 1958), pp.301-302. The section on “The Grand Inquisitor” is one of the most brilliant pieces of writing ever to fall from the human pen, and will have you sitting on the edge of your seat gasping with amazement at the author’s genius and insight into the sheer corruption of human power — especially that wielded by the ‘dignitaries’ of the church.

29. See footnotes 23 and 24.