

## **POLITICIAN AREN'T HELPING THE U.S. SITUATION IN IRAQ**

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Politicians are by nature very contentious and quick to seize any issue questionable enough to lend credence to their political philosophy, especially when they can place their spin on the true situation and get a biased media to promote it.

The Iraq War provides just such an issue. Korea, Vietnam and Bosnia were not exploited in the same manner to anywhere near the same extent, principally because the opposition party placed the interests of the nation above their own political and personal ambitions. Popular public outcry brought hostilities to a close in the spring of 1975 in Vietnam.

One of the main criticisms of the opposition to the present war is that the administration has no exit strategy in place. Correct me if I am wrong, but do we not have troops in both Korea and Bosnia some 50 and 10 years later, respectively? Was this all part of the withdrawal plans of the architects of those engagements:

It can be pointed out that none of the above actions were precipitated by the deaths of innocent civilians here at home. In the case of Korea and Vietnam many military personnel were not there voluntarily. All those involved in the present conflict are volunteers. Is it not a more fitting place to engage our enemies than here on the streets of our own country?

It is a sad fact that casualties occur in war. No one can mitigate the loss of life no matter what the reason. By the same token, no one should exploit the loss of life for political gain. Columnist Ann Coulter points this out in a recent article. She writes: "The U.S. Military has had considerably more success in turning Iraq around than liberals had in turning ghettos around with their 40 year War on Poverty."

So far fewer troops have been killed by hostile fire since the end of major combat in Iraq than civilians were murdered in Washington D.C. last year (239 deaths in Iraq compared to 262 murders in D.C.). She goes on to point out the opposition has no plan of it's own, unless "surrender" counts as a plan.

The war has generated much animosity among our neighbors abroad. Witness the protests it generated with the President's recent visit to London. The opposition has used this as one more reason to amend operations in that respect. Personally, I care not one whit what in most cases a segment of some other country's population thinks about us. They were not the recipients of the carnage visited on us on 9/11. In short, France, Germany, China and Russia have no business predicating our foreign policy based on our action in Iraq.

We have a tiger by the tail in Iraq. It would take a far smarter man than I am to come up with a solution. One thing I would not do, however, is abandon innocent Iraqi citizens to the mercy of remnants of Saddam Hussein's thugs for personal political gain.

While I admit I am skeptical of President Bush's plan to bring democracy to Iraq, the whole world has just skeptical of an earlier President's pronouncements in London years earlier. That President was Ronald Reagan who in 1982 declared, "Communism will soon be in the dustbin of history," referring of course to the Soviet Union. Who believe it at the time?

I sincerely believe in just one overriding conviction concerning the opposition's arguments pertaining to Iraq. They are more about socialism than Iraq.