

So It Begins

The Second Gulf War, the Liberation of Iraq, begins. These are somber times. The loss of one life – American, Ally, or Iraqi – from violence is a tragedy. Such tragedy is the way of the world. There will be wars and rumors of wars until the end of time. So it goes, even though good-hearted, wonderful, loving, kind, and often Christian, people protest that peace can triumph if we just close our eyes, say “there’s no place like home” and click the heels of our ruby red slippers three times. Seriously, I have heard the lament of people who believe pacifism or appeasements bring peace. I wish their wishful thinking actually worked. The tears of their humanity are precious because they express so much hope.

I understand our neighbors’ emotional ‘anti-this-war’ views and I disagree respectfully – and completely.

The tragedy of war’s violence is less than the tragedy of surrender and defeat. We are engaged in a war of national survival against the Islamist Terrorists and every state which supports them. You are either for us or against us. It’s just like the island of Melos in the Peloponnesian War (see Thucydides). It’s the nature of man to commit evil (see the Holy Bible). Presently, at least 150 million evil Islamists want you to die just because you are American. That is roughly equal to the population of Germany and Japan in WWII. The subtle surrender of appeasement is morally bankrupt.

The moral blathering of President Jimmy Carter, too many Democrats and most Liberals lacks intellectual weight and moral clarity. They apply St. Augustine’s Just War doctrine as a moral cookie cutter of political convenience. Where were they when President Bill Clinton bombed over 2300 Serbian civilians to death to have a regime change – without the permission of the U.N.? Would they have attacked the terrorist cells on September 10th, 2001 if they could? The apostles of Just and Unjust War are Christian legalists interpreting the writings of a man for their own self-righteousness. All wars are evil, sinful and terrible. Some wars are just necessary. There is a time of war and time of peace. Thank goodness 70% of Americans understand.

This short war will be followed by a long, hard peace in Iraq. Three mutually hostile Muslim populations and a subjugated Christian minority will not become liberal (in the wonderful classic political sense of the word) democrats (small D) any time soon. It’s unlikely that democracy can take root in Muslim soil as it is. The only Muslim democracy in the world, Turkey, is kept a democracy because the Turkish Army demands it. How can a religion that demands the unity of mosque and state co-exist with the separation of religion and state – and the freedom of religious thought, speech and conversion? Islamists will sow seeds of discontent in every patch of democratic soil we spread. Hopefully, whatever government grows of the occupation will at least be fearful enough to not harbor terrorists.

So begins this conflict of a certain outcome and peace of uncertain ends. It is the necessary next phase of WW-T. It’s happening in the Middle East so nothing else can be predicted. It’s more important how we react to what happens than the intricacies of a place confounded by Byzantine, Babylonian, and Persian intrigues and Biblical war and hatreds. Will we support the American legions or call for their recall? Will we damn soldiers’ actions as Unjust when they just bled for us? Will we elect persons of the 70% who understand what must be done to defend our freedom or support politicians of the 30% who blame America first?

Pray that *all* loss of life will be minimal. May God bless our Troops.

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