



JULY - AUG 2008

STRAIGHT TALK

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed, and thus clamorous to be led to safety, by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." (H.L. Mencken)

HAD ENOUGH YET?

HOW BAD IS IT?

You know the story of the slow-boiled frog. Drop a frog into hot water and he jumps out right away. But put a frog in cool water and heat it slowly, and the frog will stay there until he boils. This depicts the way people tolerate the intolerable as long as it comes upon them slowly.

Well, America is boiled! No doubt about it. We've been cooked, thanks to our stupidity and the government's unrelenting gradualism.

This time there's no easy way out. The summer and fall of 2008 may be remembered as the beginning of the end. We are in a state of flux and our world is tipping over. The only question is how severe, and how long?

I've been telling you to get prepared. I'm telling you again. Don't sit idly and hope things aren't as bad as I'm saying. They're worse!

The upcoming election is not likely to provide any relief, although I confess that I'll be happy to see Bush leave the White House. It probably won't be much benefit to us, but at least there's a chance that the poor nations ravaged by Bush's war machine may get a rest. For their sake I hope so. But for America ... well, America is still under judgment ... and the politicians have more wicked plans for us.

TARGET IRAN

As stupid as it sounds, the US Government intends to bomb Iran ... and it will unless something drastic occurs to discourage it. The US and Israel are gearing up right now to attack Iran. The Bush people have admitted that if it looks like Obama is going to be elected they will probably hit Iran before Bush leaves office.

Americans are just too stupid to understand that the psychopaths in government don't care how many people die, or how many cities get blown up, or how many soldiers are turned into crazy killers or dead corpses. They don't care! Henry Kissinger, the brain behind US foreign policy in America for over two decades, said "*Military men are just dumb stupid animals, to be used as pawns in foreign policy,*" as quoted in "Kiss the Boys Goodbye: How the

United States Betrayed Its Own P.O.W.s in Vietnam."

On March 18, 2003, Barbara Bush (wife of George Bush Sr. & mother of the current President) appeared on Good Morning America. The nation's First Mother told Diane Sawyer, "*Why should we hear about body bags and death and how many? Oh, I mean, its not relevant. So why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?*"

Kissinger and Mrs. Bush both verify that they don't care one whit about soldiers, or the dumb-animal-citizens. They are the elite and they do what they want. And sadly, Americans are always ready to run, waving the US flag, ready to worship the psychopaths in government and send their children off to be sacrificed in the military.

Frankly, I just cannot get over how eager Americans are to bomb other nations. Its not just Bush and Cheney. Americans as a whole are fond of blowing up other people's cities and families. Lately they've even been blowing up American cities (Oklahoma City in 1995, and World Trade Center in 2001). No, these weren't done by radical Muslims.

I don't get it! How can Americans be cheer leaders for the government's military blowing people to bits, and at the same time claim to be good people? How can they ignore the suffering of the innocents over seas who live in the US-made hell, with the smell of blood and gore from their own families spattered all over their walls. How can it be entertaining for Americans to watch beautiful, innocent little kids and grandmas dismembered and blown apart? How can Americans watch what the bombs are doing to apartment houses with scores of people inside? What is wrong with Americans who sit and enjoy all this ... or at least tolerate it? And they're still "Proud To Be An American."

Oh yeah, America is where slave owners came to be free? Right? I don't know. What can I say? So many Americans call themselves Christians in one breath, and then in the next breath encourage preemptive bombing upon innocent civilians in distant countries! I don't get it!

Bush didn't need to destroy Baghdad to get Saddam, and he knew it. But he destroyed Baghdad for the fun of it, and so he could be remembered as a "war president." He

doesn't care how many die for his personal gratification. He's playing god. He wants to level Baghdad and rebuild Iraq as another monument to him. Its sick! Sick! Sick! And billions of dollars are being funneled into the pockets of a few bankers and corporations.

War is unbelievably expensive, and unbelievably destructive. It hurts everyone other than the conscienceless profiteers. And it looks more and more like Bush is going to go ahead and hit Iran.

HOW MUCH WAR IS ENOUGH?

How much will it take before people tire of murdering people with our military?

Governments and states cannot exist without war. For them, there is never enough war, because war is what they use to trick us into thinking we need them. Plus, war is what they use to amass wealth to themselves.

If the psychopaths in Washington go ahead and attack Iran, it won't be like it was in Iraq. Iran will fight back. The Iraq government simply walked away. They didn't even put up a fight. But Iran has capability to defend itself. It has a good air force, submarines, and missiles. Iran also has best access to the Persian Gulf, including the Straights of Ormuz where they can close off the Gulf and trap the US ships that are there. Iran has missiles that can sink an aircraft carrier, and others that can reach Israel. So does Syria.

Meanwhile, if all this happens oil could go above \$200 a barrel, and Americans could be paying \$8 per gallon at the gas pump. This, on top of escalating war costs, will effectively shut down the economy in America. Our generation doesn't know what hard times are ... but we may find out.

Americans are really not ready for this scenario. And the bad news is that it may be too late to avoid it.

We are probably beyond the point of no return. The only variable now is ... JUST HOW BAD WILL IT GET. It is already bad, but it could get REAL bad. When oil and gas goes up in price, EVERYTHING goes up in price.

If Bush goes after Iran, this economy will shut down. We will not be able to afford gas to go to work. Truckers will pull their big rigs to the side of the road and simply walk away. Food, medicine and other critical products will not get to stores. Gas and electricity (what is left of the short supply) will be too expensive for most people to afford. Children, the sick and elderly will die from lack of air-conditioned homes and hospitals in the summer. Children, the sick and elderly will die in the winter for lack of heat. There will be food riots across the country. Civil unrest will be rampant.

Americans, typically, just won't know why this is all happening. Well, war is expensive, and just who do you think is paying for it? So, once again I'm warning everyone ... do what you can to get ready. Its not pretty out there, and its going to get worse.

THE STATE = THE ULTIMATE EVIL

(excerpts from Robert Higgs', "*The Song That Is Irresistible: How the State Leads People to Their Own Destruction*"

Margaret Atwood's poem "Siren Song" begins:

This is the one song everyone
would like to learn: the song
that is irresistible:
the song that forces men
to leap overboard in squadrons
even though they see the bleached skulls.

Our rulers know how to sing that song, and they sing it day and night. The bleached skulls are those of our fathers and our sons, our friends and our neighbors, for whom the song proved not only irresistible, but fatal.

The state is the most destructive institution human beings have ever devised – a fire that, at best, can be controlled for only a short time before it o'erleaps its improvised confinements and spreads its flames far and wide.

Whatever promotes the growth of the state also weakens the capacity of individuals in civil society to fend off the state's depredations, and therefore augments the public's victimization at the hands of state functionaries. Nothing promotes the growth of the state as much as national emergency – war and other crises comparable to war in the threats they pose.

States, by their very nature, are perpetually at war – not always against foreign foes, of course, but always against their own subjects. The state's most fundamental purpose, the activity without which it cannot even exist, is robbery. The state gains its very sustenance from robbery, which it pretties up ideologically by giving it a different name (taxation) and by striving to sanctify its intrinsic crime as permissible and socially necessary. State propaganda, statist ideologies, and long-established routine combine to convince many people that they have a legitimate obligation, even a moral duty, to pay taxes to the state.

They fall into such erroneous moral reasoning because they are told incessantly that the tribute they fork over is actually a kind of price paid for essential services received, and that in the case of certain services, such as protection from foreign and domestic aggressors, only the government can provide the service effectively. They are not permitted to test this claim, however, because the government enforces a monopoly over the production and distribution of its alleged "services" and brings violence to bear against would-be competitors. In so doing, it reveals the fraud at the heart of its impudent claims and gives sufficient proof that it is not a genuine protector, but a mere protection racket.

All governments are, as they must be, oligarchies: only a relatively small number of people have substantial effective discretion to make critical decisions about how the state's power will be brought to bear. Beyond the oligarchy itself and the police and military forces that compose its Praetorian Guard, somewhat larger groups constitute a supporting coalition. These groups provide important financial and other support to the oligarchs and look to them for compensating rewards – legal privileges, subsidies, jobs, exclusive franchises and licenses, transfers of financial income and wealth, goods and services in kind, and other

booty – channeled to them at the expense of the mass of the people. Thus, the political class in general – that is, the oligarchs, the Praetorian Guards, and the supporting coalition – uses government power (which means ultimately the police and the armed forces) to exploit everyone outside this class by wielding, or threatening to wield, violence against all who fail to pay the tribute the oligarchs demand or to obey the rules they dictate.

Democratic political forms and rituals, such as elections and formal administrative proceedings, disguise this class exploitation and trick the masses into the false belief that the government's operation yields them net benefits. In the most extreme form of misapprehension, the people at large become convinced that, owing to democracy, they themselves (the common people) “are the government – an absurdity that is accepted by the people because their thinking ability has been compromised.

War is the ultimate tool to perpetuate the state. Virtually any war will serve, at least for a while, because in modern nation-states the outbreak of war invariably leads the masses to “rally ‘round the flag,” regardless of their previous preferences and leanings.

Recall the situation in 1941, for example, when public-opinion polls and other evidence indicated that a great majority of the American people (approximately 80 percent as late as autumn) opposed US engagement in the world war, an engagement that Franklin D. Roosevelt and his administration had been seeking relentlessly by hook and by crook from the very beginning. When news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor reached the public, mass opposition to war dissolved overnight almost completely. No wonder the neocon intriguers, in a September 2000 report of the Project for the New American Century, expressed their yearning for “*some catastrophic and catalyzing event — like a new Pearl Harbor.*”

The lesson is clear: if the president conducts foreign policy so as to antagonize foreigners and provoke them to launch massively destructive attacks on this country (even if it is staged by the US Government itself), the American public will respond with an enormous outpouring of approval of his actions, as if to prove that in our political system no failure goes unrewarded.

Bertrand Russell long ago stated the underlying condition for this sort of perverse public reaction when he remarked that “*neither a man nor a crowd nor a nation can be trusted to act humanely or to think sanely under the influence of a great fear.*” Indeed, the fundamental condition of the entire process by which the government leads people to their own destruction is widespread public fear, which causes people to put aside their normal distrust of the state and to turn to it, especially to its chief, as a child turns to a parent, for security and reassurance that everything will be okay if only people do as they are told.

Once the sheep are sufficiently scared, in desperation they look to the wolves for protection. And anyone who keeps his head and listens to what is being said, can actually hear it from the “leaders.” They think of us as idiots – useless except as tax-payers and fodder for their wars.

Fascism is stronger in America today than it was in Nazi Germany in the 40's – and they actually admit it ... if we are listening:

“We look upon authority too often and focus over and over again, for 30 or 40 or 50 years, as if there is something wrong with authority. We see only the oppressive side of authority. Maybe it comes out of our history and our background. What we don't see is that freedom is not a concept in which people can do anything they want, be anything they can be. Freedom is about authority. Freedom is about the willingness of every single human being to cede to lawful authority a great deal of discretion about what you do.”

Rudy Giuliani

In searching for the cause of this tremendous, rationally unjustified “rallying ‘round the flag,” we do not have far to go. Such public reactions are always driven by a combination of fear, ignorance, and uncertainty against a background of intense jingoistic nationalism, a popular culture predisposed toward violence, and a general inability to distinguish between the state and the people at large.

Because the government ceaselessly sings the siren song, relentlessly propagandizing the public to look upon it as our protector – such alleged protection being the excuse for its routinely robbing them and violating their natural rights – and because the mass media incessantly magnifies and spreads the government's propaganda, we can scarcely be surprised if that propaganda turns out to have entered deeply into the people's thinking, especially when they are in a state of near-panic. Unable to think clearly in an informed way, most people fall back on a childlike us-against-them style of understanding the perceived threat and what should be done about it.

If any resistance should arise to the rulers' war-making, the state has a time-tested means of disposing of the resisters. Perhaps the classic description of this tactic was given by the Nazi bigwig Hermann Göring when he was being held in prison during the trials at Nuremberg in 1946. This account comes to us from Gustave M. Gilbert, the German-speaking prison psychologist who had free access to all of the prisoners during the trials and talked to them frequently in private. On the evening of April 18, 1946, Gilbert visited Göring in his cell, and he later described their conversation as follows:

“We got around to the subject of war again and I said that, contrary to his attitude, I did not think that the common people are very thankful for leaders who bring them war and destruction.”

“*Why, of course, the people don't want war,*” Göring shrugged. “*Why would some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best that he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece. Naturally, the common people don't want war; neither in Russia nor in England nor in America, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood. But, after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple*

matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy or a fascist dictatorship or a Parliament or a Communist dictatorship.”

“There is one difference,” I pointed out. “In a democracy the people have some say in the matter through their elected representatives, and in the United States only Congress can declare war.”

“Oh, that is all well and good, but, voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country.” (Nuremberg Diary, pp. 278–79)

So long as the people continue to be consumed by fear and to fall for the age-old swindle that the government seeks only to protect them, these abuses will never end.

The state cannot refrain from crime because it is an inherently criminal enterprise, living by robbery (which it relabels taxation) and retaining its turf by mass murder (which it relabels war). Constantly singing the siren song, it seduces the people by giving back to them a portion of what it has previously extorted from them and by ceaselessly claiming to protect them from all manner of threats to their lives, liberties, property, and even their self-esteem. If it protects them at all, however, it does so only as a cattleman protects his captive herd: not because he recognizes and respects the natural rights of his animals, but only to keep them unmolested in his sole possession and control until he finds it expedient to sell or slaughter them.

A peaceful state is an impossibility. Even a state that refrains from fighting foreigners goes on fighting its own subjects continuously, to keep them under its control and to suppress competitors who might try to break into the protection racket. The people cry out for security, yet they will not take responsibility for their own protection, and like the mariners of Greek mythology, they leap overboard immediately in response to the state's siren song.

When the Israelites had fled from their captivity in Egypt, they made do for centuries with only judges, yet they were not satisfied, and eventually they demanded a king, crying out:

“... we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.” (1 Samuel 8:19–20)

Well, they got a king all right, just as we Americans have embraced one of our own, though we call ours a president. The Israelites, as the prophet Samuel had warned, were worse off for having a king: King Saul only led them from one slaughter to another (1 Samuel 14: 47–48). Likewise, our rulers have led us from one unnecessary slaughter to the next; and, to make matters worse, they have exploited each occasion to fasten their chains around us more tightly. Like the ancient Israelites, we Americans shall never have real, lasting peace so long as we give our allegiance to a king — that is, in our case, to the whole conglomeration of institutionalized exploiters and murderers

we know as “the state.” The US is comprised of over 80,000 government entities (federal, state, county, townships, cities, authorities, etc.), and over 60,000 have the power to tax ... all dedicated to controlling us and exploiting us.

TRUST THE STATE? YOU GOT TO BE KIDDING!

Bush recently told the press that he had no operations in Iran. Yeah, we believe him don't we?

The US Government (military, CIA, etc.) is already in Iran, conducting terrorist attacks and disinformation campaigns attempting to disrupt, undermine, and create fear among the populace to push the government toward war. Bush and Cheney want war with Iran. They are dangerous psychopaths with criminal minds ... and absolutely no regard for human life, except their own.

The US Congress just recently authorized a huge military spending bill to enable Bush to continue his rampaging in and around the Persian Gulf. Remember the democratically led congress that was “elected” to end the war? They are ALL criminals and war mongers! They are politicians ... and that equates to CRIMINAL and MAFIA.

But as long as Americans continue to love criminals and crime, politicians and the state will have free rein.

“I do not blame those who yearn for power, but those who are willing to submit to them.”

—Thucydides (460 - 395 BC), *The Histories*

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Pray that Americans will open their eyes!

