

Lies and War and Lies

Written by

Saturday, 20 January 2007 10:19 - Last Updated Saturday, 20 January 2007 10:19

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JMC - Jack Random - ?They blew up one of the holiest shrines in Shia Islam ? the Golden Mosque of Samarra ? in a calculated effort to provoke Iraq?s Shia population to retaliate. Their strategy worked. Radical Shia elements, some supported by Iran, formed death squads and the result was a vicious cycle of sectarian violence that continues today.?

- George W. Bush, Address to the Nation, 1/11/07

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THE GOLDEN DECEPTION & THE DRUMS OF WAR

Jack Random

THE JAZZMAN CHRONICLES:
DISSEMINATE FREELY

January 20, 2007

As we look back at the chain of events and circumstances that led us to the current disaster in Iraq, we should recall that it was not simply a deceitful and unscrupulous White House that made it possible; it was a widespread conspiracy (there is no other word) of deception, fear mongering and cowardly abdication enveloping a collaborative mainstream media, a rubber stamp congress and a spineless opposition.

As the full extent of the train wreck in Mesopotamia has unfolded, one by one our media and congressional leaders have stepped forward to accept responsibility for past lapses and to vow: Never again.

It has only been four short, bloodstained years and yet it is happening again.

The drums are pounding for war with Iran and Syria, war ships are poised in the Persian Gulf, bombs are flying in Somalia, emissaries if not diplomats are abducted in direct violation of Iraqi sovereignty, the Israeli government is purged after its horrific proxy war on Lebanon, yet few are the voices in government or media demanding to know: What is happening here?

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Even as its support evaporates like sweat under a desert sun, the Bush war machine is gearing up, its plans for a ?war of civilizations? proceeding apace, its propaganda army spewing misinformation, deception and lies, yet the corporate media fall silent.

In what can only be termed supreme audacity, the war president is at it again, the media is asleep at the wheel and congress cannot see beyond the Baghdad skyline.

Virtually unchallenged, the new propaganda campaign began with a clever rewriting of the history of the Iraq war. In this new rendering, the war turned on the bombing of the golden domed mosque in Samarra, February 2006. Nothing could be further removed from the truth yet the fanciful narrative allows the White House warlords to cleanse their hands of Iraqi blood: It is all the doing of Al Qaeda in Iraq. Never mind that the question of who bombed the Golden Mosque has never been settled, to suggest that a civil war was born of this singular event is like blaming Judy Miller for the decline of American journalism.

In early May 2005, I wrote:

?The march of death continues unabated, unaffected by the words of the president or the latest moves of the Iraqi government. The end of April and the beginning of May bring a torrent of violence, death and bloodshed. News stories roll out a daily death toll of mostly anonymous victims: 50, 70, 120, 140, 200, 245 dead and at least twice that many wounded. Occupation forces round up the usual suspects but indiscriminate mass arrests have no discernible effect. The violence continues. The civil war is on. A reporter reveals it now costs \$35,000 for a six-mile taxi ride to the airport. Lacking a small mercenary army, you cannot get in and you cannot get out.

?Welcome to Baghdad: The Gates of Hell are open for business.?

The Iraqi civil war did not begin in February 2006. Plainly stated, the bombing of the Golden Mosque takes its place in a long line of tragedies and acts of violence that have brought us to the horrific state that now exists and the Golden Mosque narrative takes its place in a long line of White House fabrications to evade responsibility and justify the annihilation of an innocent nation.

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Undaunted, even as he decries scapegoating, the president points to Iran and Syria: They are to blame for failing to support a criminal occupation on their borders by the most aggressive, belligerent and war mongering power on earth.

Defiantly, the president accuses Iran of arming the Sunni insurgents, the Shiite militias or both. Never mind that the "smoking gun" they once advertised as indisputable proof of Iranian engagement turned out to be a British designed IED (Improvised Explosive Device) from the old days of the Irish Republican Army, there is absolutely no evidence from which to draw that conclusion. The Iraqis have extensive experience in war, access to the internet, and no need of Iranian expertise.

The president points the finger of blame at Hezbollah and Hamas yet both have shown remarkable restraint in not attacking the sponsors of their Israeli enemies. Hezbollah has not attacked Americans or since Beirut circa 1983 and Hamas is strictly a Palestinian concern.

If there is any evidence to the contrary, real or invented, we have not seen it.

We have in fact heard it all before and we have learned to scoff whenever Vice President Dick Cheney prefaces a lie with "it's pretty well known."

It is time to call a spade a spade, a nightmare a nightmare, and a lie a lie.

Congress and the corporate media have gone to great lengths to dismiss their indefensible lapses on the rush to war with Iraq. Now we will see if they have learned anything at all from their failures. The same war hungry neocons that beat the drums for war in Iraq with a shallow package of smoke and mirrors are doing precisely the same for war in Iran and Syria. If they fail again, with the memory of their abdication still fresh and biting, what hope will remain?

The process of debunking this fresh round of neocon deceptions is already under way in the alternative media. Where are the voices of our congressional leaders? Where is the New York Times?

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It requires neither courage nor integrity to challenge administration policy after it has become a universally recognized catastrophe. The time for courage and the test of integrity comes before the next catastrophe.

This administration is preparing for war with Iran and Syria. There will be no debate. There will be no deliberations before the United Nations Security Council. They will either act directly (with a pretense of Iranian aggression) or they will use Israel as a proxy.

The time to stop them is now.

Was Iran or Syria responsible for the attack on this nation September 11, 2001?

Is Iran or Syria allied with Al Qaeda?

Is Iran an imminent threat to America or is America a real and imminent threat to Iran?

Absent the occupations of Iraq and Palestine, would there be a cause for war in the Middle East?

When the war in Iraq was launched in our names, we failed to ask the right questions. Moreover, we failed to demand the truth.

We must not make that mistake again.

Jazz. 1.18.07

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