



News & Views

February 27, 2003

The U.S., Israel, and the War on Iraq What Most Americans Do Not Know

Key Points in talk sponsored by the Muslim Student's Association at Temple University, Philadelphia, February 26, 2003 by Enver Masud, Chairman and CEO, The Wisdom Fund

If the reasons stated by President Bush for war with Iraq don't make sense—they don't—then examine the reasons not stated. These are:

- 1** Control of Europe and Asia by controlling the energy resources of the Middle East and the Caspian Sea region. This region contains 3/4 of the world's known energy reserves.
- 2** The continuing need to justify "defense" spending which is now equal to that of the next 20 countries combined (9–11 gave a boost which may not last).
- 3** An opportunity to invest surplus U.S. capital which is earning very little in the U.S.
- 4** Israel, which is in effect running U.S. Middle East policy, seeks to destroy rivals in the region: Iraq first, Iran next (see Wolfowitz's *Project for the New American Century*, and 1996 paper *A Clean Break* by Richard Perle and Douglas Feith for the then leader of Israel's Likud bloc, Binyamin Netanyahu).
- 5** Israel aims to cleanse the West Bank of Arabs while the media is focussed on the war in Iraq.
- 6** Israel seeks water from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in Iraq which it cannot have under the current Iraqi regime.
- 7** The U.S. seeks to avert oil exporting nations from dumping the U.S. dollar for the Euro for oil payments.
- 8** The president hopes to distract Americans from problems at home: the economy, corporate scandals, and expectations of better health care (first Gulf War distracted Americans from the economy, the S&L mess, and expectations of a peace dividend).
- 9** Dispensationalists (Evangelical Christians courted by the Bush administration), see war with Iraq as having the potential to bring about Armageddon during which they will ascend to Heaven.
- 10** A crusade to civilize the natives—like the Crusaders, the British Empire, and Osama bin Laden, President Bush believes "he's doing God's will."

Former president G H W Bush's administration enticed Iraq into invading Kuwait (ambassador April Glaspie, slant drilling), deceived Congress with false testimony regarding 300 babies tossed from incubators by Iraq troops (prepared by Hill and Knowlton), and top secret satellite photos showing 250,000 Iraqi troops, and 1500 tanks on the Saudi border (debunked by Soviet satellite photos obtained by the St. Petersburg Times).

The UN Security Council is bargaining for a piece of the Iraqi pie, and/or U.S. largesse.



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