

THE PRICE OF DEFEAT

Fox News recently summarized US intelligence estimates of what would likely happen in the event of a full American withdrawal from Iraq. Here are just some of the highlights of what might be expected:

- A marked increase in sectarian violence involving Shiites, Sunnis and al-Qaeda factions; - targeting each other and any remaining American presence.
- Increased suicide attacks on American forces 'redeployed' in Kuwait and Jordan.
- Iraqi government collapse within 18 months.
- Refugees flood into surrounding countries of Jordan, Kuwait, Syria, Iran, Turkey, - overwhelming international relief efforts.
- Perceiving US weakness, states such as Jordan, Kuwait etc demand American withdrawal from military and naval bases, - thereby threatening American naval operations in the region.
- The Kurds of northern Iraq try to set up an autonomous state. This results in likely military intervention from Turkey, Iran and possibly Syria.
- A civil war torn Iraq could likely be divided along sectarian lines, or dominated by Iran and its terror proxies.¹
- All this would result in another terror base for attacks against the US and the West.

Iran would be able to claim control of about 40% of Middle Eastern oil reserves. With that kind of economic power added to their growing regional military clout and an impending nuclear presence, Iran will become an intimidating force indeed. The so-called moderate Arab states such as Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia will have no choice but to acquiesce in a new regional order.² Anticipating an America soon to be in retreat, the Saudis and Egypt are already scrambling to provide their own nuclear cover, making the first stumbling steps toward their own national deterrents.

The Big Disconnect

But there is a giant disconnect that sets in at about this point. You see, the Left, and an increasing number of Americans, numbed by the daily reports of the slaughters in the region are taking the position that the War in Iraq, and the War on Terror are not worth any sacrifice whatsoever. To these Americans, whether it is redirected tax revenues, reordered social priorities or the life of one American soldier, - the price is not worth it. Tony Blankley writing in the Washington Times defines the "great divide" that has settled on America. Its all about how we see one proposition: Does or does not, Radical Islam pose an "existential threat to Western civilization?"³ If the threat is real, - from Iran & al-Qaeda & Hezbollah etc, - then we get one set of answers. If 9/11 was just an anomaly; - if Madrid & Bali & the Khobar Towers & the 1st World Trade Center Bombing & London & the USS Cole & the thwarted Trans-Atlantic Airlines plot - etc etc were just episodic freaks; - we get a different answer altogether.

The Left in this matter is driven by an overweening pacifism and self-loathing. In their eyes, we the West are guilty of all manner of depredations against the world at large. The US, the UK and Israel are seen as "repositories of evil". Daniel Pipes makes the case that the resultant pacifism is "lengthening the war against radical Islam" and actually increasing the casualties.⁴ I believe he is right. Name the great, negotiated peace settlements of history. I dare say you can't. But I can give you some colossal failures: Viet Nam, which led to the slaughter of millions there and in neighboring Cambodia. The Armistice in Korea has left the door open to the next (nuclear) war. On the other hand, the American Civil War reunited a country only when Grant & Sherman put a brutal end to Southern resistance. Germany was conquered and divided resulting in a peace that has lasted for 2 generations now. Japan was bombed, - saving some say 1 million American lives, - and producing a modernized, democratized resurgent nation.

We face an enemy with which there is no compromise. The Islamo-Fascists want an entire world subject to Sharia Law. They have no fallback position. They want us defeated, destroyed, in subjection or converted. There can be no negotiated settlement. This is a religious conflict. We are fighting Messianic, Islamic Fundamentalism. It clamors for, - and is convinced of, - the soon return of its Messiah, - who Islamic scripture tells them will lead the slaughter of Christians and Jews. This Movement has a champion in the growing power of Iran and hordes of followers organized under the banners of Hezbollah & Hamas & al-Qaeda. They are committed to victory at the cost of their lives or those of their children. And there is no value in the life of an unbeliever. Iran has threatened the annihilation of the Jewish State. And now Tehran is on the verge of gaining nuclear weapons. This is truly a War for Civilization!

ISRAEL'S CHOICE

Their earlier intelligence estimates were wrong. At least that's the conclusion of American intelligence services with regard to just how far Iran is on the road to being able to produce their own nuclear weapons. (It is already believed by many that Tehran may have acquired a small number of nuclear weapons from the arsenals of the former Soviet Union.) Previously American sources believed Iran would achieve her nuclear capability in 2015. Taking into consideration recent technological breakthroughs, Iran is now expected to have the bomb by 2010. Immediately upon release of the news, Pentagon experts were talking about the implied pressure this puts on the Israelis to carry out a preventive strike against Iranian nuclear facilities. Almost immediately following that, Israeli Prime Minister Olmert was ramping up the pressure on Tehran by discussing the details of a possible Israeli strike; - revealing that it may include the unleashing of 1,000 cruise missiles in a ten day blitz.⁵

Both the US and Israel have interests in preventing the Iranian regime from acquiring nuclear weapons. To America it's a matter of national interest effecting terrorism, the economy et al. To Israel it's an issue of its very survival. Some analysts believe that Israel would be willing to take on the Iranian threat alone under specific circumstances; - such as imminent danger of an Iranian missile attack. Micah Halpern, writing in Front Page Magazine, believes that an attack could occur as soon as Israel and Washington see eye to eye on the imminence of the Iranian threat. With this new intelligence estimate, we are now certainly much closer to that trigger point.

A preemptive Israeli attack would likely use as its model the 1982 assault on the Iraqi nuclear facility. It would however have to be much more comprehensive in order to achieve the minimum acceptable level of success. Any attack would have to take out as many nuclear targets as possible. A successful strike could set the Iranians back as long as a decade in their nuclear development. It would however force Israel into a "defensive posture" vis-à-vis the growing list of Tehran's clients and allies in the region.⁶ Arab attacks against Israel most surely would come.

We know that Iran's junior partner Syria is gearing up for an Israeli war over the Golan Heights. Hezbollah is rearmed and ready to go. Hamas has modernized its armaments, using the relatively successful Hezbollah model. Improved anti-tank weapons could spell trouble for Israeli armor. Despite a peace treaty, Egypt has never stopped preparing, - war gaming, - for the next war with Israel. Psalm 83 describes such a gathering of specifically named Arab nations. **"Come, they say, let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more."** (Psalm 83:4) Now the Bible seems fairly clear that these very nations face a devastating defeat by God at the hands of Israel in the last days. Isaiah 19:1 proclaims **"The burden against Egypt"**. Chapters 15 & 16 of that same prophet detail the destruction of Moab, (Jordan). Isaiah 17:1 declares: **"The burden against Damascus, Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap"**. The entire Book of Obadiah proclaims the destruction of the modern day Palestinians. Here are the hard words of Obadiah 1:18: **"The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau"**.

A Speculative Scenario

It is possible that an American supported Israeli attack against Iran could bring about the scenario of the prophetic war involving the inner ring of Arab states. You see, none of Israel's most committed enemies are mentioned in the more famous Gog / Magog invasion of Ezekiel 38. Instead those nations led by Iran, (and either Russia or some say Turkey⁷), attack a **“land of unwalled villages”**. (Ezekiel 38:11) This is an Israel at peace and feeling somewhat secure; - having vanquished their most committed enemies, that inner ring of Arab states, in a previous conflict. One could easily see that first war being set off by an Israeli strike against Iran, - which would inflame the Arab street, - which would send the likes of the Iranian proxies, - (Hezbollah, Hamas, Syria etc), - in waves against the Jewish state. And some speculation now; - A quickly escalating conflict could lead to miscalculation, - perhaps the launching of one of Syria's VX chemical warheads against Tel Aviv, or some suicidal Hezbollah or Palestinian attack. Israeli retaliation would be swift. A nuclear strike against Damascus, - the headquarters of so many terrorist groups, - could surely fulfill the destruction of Isaiah 17:1. And perhaps, Iran, crippled by the 1,000 or so cruise missiles, would pull back then, - lick her wounds and prepare for the next round, - the Magog Alliance. Whatever the case, the choice to strike the Iranian nuclear sites will have consequences; - perhaps taking us closer to World War and the very End of the Age.

TERROR SAVE

Saudi Arabia rounded up 172 militants, weapons and \$32 million in cash as they broke up a terror ring bent on wreaking mayhem on the Arab kingdom. The terrorists were plotting and training to attack “public figures, oil facilities, refineries” and military installations. In an imitation of 9/11 tactics, the terror group may have been ready to repeat the hijacking and use of passenger aircraft to target buildings in the course of their attacks.

TARGETING CHRISTIANS

The last several years have seen Biblically based beliefs increasingly become the target of the anti-Christian left, - especially the radical Gay rights movement. The phenomena is not limited to the United States but is manifesting itself across the Globe, -especially the West. This seems a banner month for such activity. Here are some examples:

- Hate Crimes Legislation – Bills are quickly moving forward in the House and the Senate that would criminalize speech, feelings, thoughts and beliefs. The government is getting in the business of punishing the motivation behind the crime rather than the crime itself. The legislation would increase penalties for expressing views that disagreed with the homosexual lifestyle, - even if based in Scripture.

In New Hampshire, one robber had his sentence increased by 26 years because he used an anti-gay epithet. In Philadelphia a number of Christians carrying signs at a pro –gay rally were attacked by gay activists, then arrested , facing 47 year sentences for their protests. In Canada, the remarks of a public official that described the lifestyle of a gay couple as “not normal and not natural” cost him \$1,000. In Saskatoon, a Christian Marriage Commissioner faces \$5,000 in fines for refusing to marry a homosexual couple.⁸ In Australia, 2 pastors were indicted for criticizing Islam. At Ohio State (Mansfield), the entire faculty declared the school librarian to be a threat because he suggested that four conservative books be put on the recommended reading list. The biggest objection was to David Kupelian's *The Marketing of Evil*, which exposes the organized agenda of the radical homosexual movement. All of this is the result of the hate speech mentality, that criminalizes thought, - and squelches any meaningful debate on any subject.

Now some are warning that pastors will be endangered by the new national legislation should it become law. Christian's using the literal words of the Bible, - describing homosexuality as an “abomination”, Leviticus 18:22, - could face prosecution: as would Churches that refused to hire gays for Church positions.⁹

- In California, legislation has been reintroduced that would require schools to promote homosexual, bisexual and transgender lifestyles as beneficial and normal during classroom instruction. According to World Net Daily, the terms “mom” and “dad” could be deemed *verboten*, - as anything that could “reflect adversely” on those lifestyles would be prohibited. Governor Schwarzeegger however vetoed a similar bill last year.¹⁰
- The European Parliament has made EU member Poland a target for daring to propose a law, - for their own nation only, - that would forbid “homosexual propaganda” in Polish schools. The resolution condemning Poland for “homophobia” and ordering a fact-finding group be sent to the country, passed the European legislature by a vote of 325 to 124 with 150 abstentions. In debate, the Polish actions were described as “repulsive” and “hateful”. The Polish Minister of Education defended his country’s actions as an attempt to prevent children from having an “improper view of family”. *Ooooh that’s bad.*¹¹

STRANGER THAN FICTION

The UN General Assembly will soon begin debate on “establishing diplomatic relations with advanced Extraterrestrial Civilizations that may now be visiting Earth”. This is not new for the United Nations, which first took official recognition of the UFO / ET situation back in 1978, at that time calling on countries to coordinate “research” and “investigation” into the matter. Now things seem to be going a step farther.¹² Recently France, Brazil and Great Britain have released previously classified UFO files. In 2005, former Canadian Defense Minister Paul Hellyer asked for Parliamentary hearings on the subject, warning that “The United States military are preparing weapons which could be used against the aliens”. Speaking of the impending UN debate, one NGO spokesman is predicting the “certain” imminent “official disclosure of an advanced Extraterrestrial presence”.¹³

There are two interesting and related tie-ins here. The first of course is the question of faith. Should the governments of the world reveal that ET / UFO threat is real, - or if further, the ETs themselves should claim as some believe, that mankind itself was created as part of an Alien experiment: Would that destroy faith on earth? Luke 18:18 asks that very question: **“However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”**.

The second is a related point. In *The Armageddon Script*, the Illuminati classic on the preparations in place to create and install the New World Order under the New Age Christ, Peter Lemesurier reveals the detailed steps to achieving that goal. Along with some very specific wars, a stock market crash and earthquakes, comes a reference to an ET invasion.¹⁴ It may sound crazy, - but its what they’re predicting and planning to use. The effects of a perceived alien invasion would devastate mankind. Fear would run rampant. Luke 21:26 tells us of **“men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth”**.

The Bible proclaims there is indeed coming a day when such purposeful delusion will be put in place and the faith of many will fail. Paul warns us however **“Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first and the man of sin is revealed*”**. (2Thessalonians 2:3) He goes on to give this very sobering warning concerning the commitment of our faith. **“The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”** (2Thess. 2:9-12) The delusions of that day will be so convincing, that if it were not for God’s sustaining grace, **“false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect”** (Matt 24:24)

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- ¹ Lt Col Oliver North, Military Responses..., FOX News, monitored 4/30, 2007
- ² Jan Willem van der Hoeven, Europe soon to sell her soul?, International Christian Zionist Center
- ³ Tony Blankley, Is there writing on the wall?, Washington Times, April 25, 2007
- ⁴ Daniel Pipes, How the West Could Lose, New York Sun, December 26, 2006
- ⁵ Orly Azoulay, Countdown has begun, Y-Net News, April 29, 2007
- ⁶ Micah Halpern, Will Israel Strike Iran, Front Page, April 26, 2007
- ⁷ While the majority of scholars believe that Magog refers to Russia, some like Walid Shoebat hold that Gog can be traced to Gygez or Gugu, - of Lydian origin, and therefore refers to Turkey. Shoebat quoted in a lecture at the International Prophecy Conference 2007
- ⁸ \$5,000 Fine Sought for Christian..., Life Site News, April 19, 2007
- ⁹ Christians in bull's-eye..., World Net Daily, April 26, 2007
- ¹⁰ Bob Unruh, Brave New Schools, World Net Daily, April 27, 2007
- ¹¹ John-Henry Westen, European Parliament Passes Resolution Vowing to Take 'Homophobic' Countries to Court, Life Site News, April 26, 2007
- ¹² U.N. to debate contact with extraterrestrial civilizations, UFO Digest, April 28, 2007
- ¹³ Billy Booth, Something They're Not Telling Us, About
- ¹⁴ Peter Lemesurier, The Armageddon Script, 1981, pg 222 and forward