

Payback Time



Writing of Imperial Germany in his fine book, *The Pity of War*, historian Niall Ferguson said “the combination of a relatively decentralized

federal system with a democratic national parliament made it more or less impossible for the Reich government to match the defense expenditure of its more centralized neighbors. ... German objectives, had Britain remained out, would not in fact have posed a direct threat to the Empire; the reduction of Russian power in Eastern Europe, the creation of a Central European Customs Union and acquisition of French colonies—there were all goals which were complementary to British interests.”

So much then for the British, French, and American propaganda of the time, which justified the millions of deaths with hysterical talk of German militarism, German imperialism, German quest for world domination, German bestiality. Millions of lives lost, millions maimed for no reason at all. And then one considers the other catastrophic consequences of that unnecessary war: economic depression in Europe, the Bolshevik revolution, Hitler, Stalin, World War II, the Holocaust. Here was a war that achieved no objective and from which no one derived any benefits except for Lenin, who otherwise would have ended his days in obscurity engaged in frenetic polemics with fellow exiles.

Selling a war is a serious business, and no one did it better than the Brits back then. Our present neocons are no slouches either, except they lack the British style of lying. They tend to need lots of makeup on TV because they sweat, and many of them are far too overweight. Never mind. So far only

hundreds of thousands have died in the war on Iraq (655,000 according to the Johns Hopkins study).

Like World War I, this was a war sold on a very big lie. The source of these lies, and thus the people responsible for this catastrophe, are easily identifiable. A small coterie of people ensconced themselves in the Pentagon and seized on the 9/11 terrorist attacks to foist a war on the United States, from which the American people would derive nothing but lost lives and mounting debts and whose only beneficiary was to be Israel.

This coterie set up a secretive group, the Office of Special Plans, whose aim was to frighten Americans into waging war on Iraq. It was overseen by Douglas Feith, then undersecretary of defense, and Feith’s researchers, David Wurmser and Michael Maloof, both protégés of the arch-neocon and war hawk Richard Perle. Paul Wolfowitz, the deputy defense secretary, liked what they showed him, in fact he “was bowled over.”

Knowing that genuine intelligence agencies like the CIA were bound to find out that Saddam had nothing to do with the 9/11 attacks, that he was a sworn enemy of al-Qaeda, and that he had ended his weapons of mass destruction programs more than ten years earlier, this little group set out to falsify the intelligence on the basis of which an unnecessary war could be sold to the American people. These conspirators—there is no better word to describe them—had longstanding ties to the Israeli military, the political

establishment, and particularly Benjamin Netanyahu.

In order for history not to repeat itself, some people have to be held responsible. The corruption in postwar Iraq is a major scandal in itself: \$800 million given to the Iraqi government in order to purchase weaponry has gone missing, and not a single person has been held to account. The fact that the Iraqi architect of the war against Saddam, Ahmad Chalabi, was a convicted mega-crook seems to have been forgotten by the administration. If the Democrats prevail in the House of Representatives, a congressional investigation has to be the first priority.

Kevin Tillman, the brother of slain Army Ranger and NFL star Pat Tillman, put it perfectly only last week. He too was an Army Ranger. “Somehow those afraid to fight an illegal invasion [Vietnam] decades ago are allowed to send soldiers to die for an illegal invasion they started.” Hear, hear! Every time I hear of a brave Marine losing his life or his limbs, I think of those smirking neocons on TV who managed to sell the war as if it were snake oil, and I’m compelled to demand justice. These conspirators are as responsible for the horrendous loss of life and the debt that will burden Americans for decades to come as Hitler’s madness was responsible for World War II, as Sir Edward Grey’s Germanophobia for World War I, as William Randolph Hearst’s yellow journalism for the Spanish-American War, as the Kennedy New Frontiersmen’s folly in toppling and assassinating South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem for the American debacle in Vietnam.

It’s payback time, with jail time for those who knowingly lied, and the sooner the better. ■

A Humane Society Starts with You

Join us,
and make
a difference.

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100 • www.hsus.org

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED