

## Three Myths of the Bush/Cheney Administration

Critics of the of the current U.S. administration are hampered by a misreading of both recent international events and of the motivations underlying US actions, and this has led to three key myths concerning the administration. To understand why these are myths, one needs to understand the ultimate strategy of the Rumsfeld-Cheney-Neocon group that is managing the administration.

### **Myth #1.** “Afghanistan is a quagmire”.

The *real* story. It was the intention of the government since well before 9/11 in 2001 to invade the Middle East and create a destabilized region in which the US could dominate. This was to be accomplished not by a massive land invasion and occupation, but by the new concepts associated with “network-centric” warfare, involving advanced electronic technology. Under this scheme the US does not commit large-scale troop deployments for invasion and occupation, but instead uses high-technology weaponry to “decapitate” and neutralize targeted groupings in various regions. The goal is to keep a region in a continuously weakened and unstable state. There is no material motivation to have a stable Afghanistan, as long as the instability does not affect other areas in the region. If a local “strong man” does emerge who becomes a nuisance, he is to be forcibly removed by tactical strikes. This is what was accomplished by removing the Taliban and Al Qaeda training camps. With Afghanistan continually weak and chaotic, a US military presence will always be required. Since such a strategy does not involve a large commitment of US soldiers, it is considered to be sustainable. The US is now completing the construction of a \$100 million fortress-embassy for Afghanistan, which suggests that they have no intention of completely withdrawing any time soon.

From this perspective Afghanistan has not turned into a quagmire, but is in precisely the state that was predicted and desired. Thus the US administration has successfully achieved what it set out to do

### **Myth # 2.** “Iraq is a quagmire”.

The *real* story. As with myth #1, the intention to invade Iraq was part of a regional strategy to create a destabilized Middle East in which the US could remain dominant. Given the ethnic divisions in Iraq, the goal has been to maintain a weak and divided country that is dependent on continual US military presence. A complete breakup of Iraq into more ethnically unified fragments would be less desirable, since such fragments could individually be more effective and troublesome. With the importance of Iraqi and nearby petroleum resources, the US has no intention of withdrawing – they are now completing the construction of a \$600 million fortress-embassy, the largest embassy in the world. They intend to reduce their troop commitments in the coming year, leading to even greater internal instability, but this is part of the overall plan.

Again, the US has achieved what it set out to do.

### **Myth #3.** “Bush’s ‘Mission Accomplished’ landing on the USS Abraham Lincoln in 2003 revealed the government’s naivete concerning when the conflict would end.”.

The *real* story. The overall strategy of the US is to maintain US military dominance over the world and ensure full access to principal resources, such as Mid-East oil. To ensure this, the US has the intention of being in a constant state of low-level, network-centric war. The War on Terrorism is actually a never-ending war against all potential enemies that might emerge (the

“Long War”). Of course, the principal long-term concern is China, but in connection with that conflict, the US must maintain dominance over Mid-East oil. The invasion of Iraq was, in fact, just one “mission” of that Long War. George Bush’s ceremonial landing on the aircraft carrier was a correct reading of that accomplishment, not a mistake.

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Until these myths are dispelled, criticism of current US administration policies and activities will miss the mark, and an appropriate discourse concerning national priorities will not take place.

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