

A Rant

by

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With all that is happening in the world, and with the brink of war looming, one must look inside the situation and see, why the world is at this point. Looking into this, one can see the different world that we live in, post 9/11. The U.N., the (new) French Resistance, Iraq, the hinted ties to oil and the United States' interest with Iraq, and Hollywood's voice all come into play.

The New Era:

Since the terrorist attacks on the pentagon in Washington D.C., the World Trade Center towers in New York City, and the downed plane in Pennsylvania, our look at the world has changed. As much as many in this country would like to live in a world, back to the way it was on September 10th, 2001 and before, we all must realize that we cannot. Americans must acknowledge that we are no longer a nation that is protected from terrorists by the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Protection for this country must now extend across all the corners of the globe. This global war on terrorism goes far beyond searching for terrorist cells in other counties. It goes far beyond fighting the war in Afghanistan and searching for Usama Bin Laden. – Which is still ongoing, although the media has turned its focus off of it. – We need to not only “go after” those cells, but also the countries that harbor, assist, and

promote those groups. This was expressed on September 20th, 2001 by President Bush, days after the attack on 9/11 (2001).

Although it may not be 'politically correct' to become a country that may strike first, in the wake of 9/11, it is in the interest of EVERY AMERICAN, and those working in close proximity of Americans, that we can not afford to wait until a terrorist attack to respond. Hindsight is always 20/20. Clear evidence of this is when, then, President Clinton had a chance to capture and eliminate Usama Bin Laden in 1995, but did nothing, mainly due to the U.S.'s stance on not striking first.

The U.N.:

In its heyday, the United Nations was a grand entity in preserving peace in *most* of the world. Since 9/11, the U.N has, for the most part, sat on its hands, concerning obvious acts leaning towards war and terrorist activities. But more importantly, the U.N. has already become as irrelevant as the League of Nations was before the onset of World War II.

During the time leading up to WWII, the League of Nations ignored the acts of Adolph Hitler. Hitler killed thousands of his own people, invaded other countries, and attempted genocide of Jews worldwide. Concentration camps, starvation, and gassing were some means to which Hitler did his deeds. The world stood by for the longest time and did nothing. The world did nothing for the most part because other countries were not 'immediately threatened' by Hitler's actions.

The United Nations, today, is leading down the same road of blindness. Right now, Libya, a known terrorist country, is in charge of human rights for the U.N. In less than a month, Iraq, of all countries, will be in charge of disarmament enforcement for the U.N. At the same time, the U.N. has yet to decide if it will get involved with the situation

in North Korea and the nuclear threat that has openly arisen since last fall. A blind eye?
Yes, I think the U.N. is getting two.

The U.N. thinks that if it votes on resolutions, enough is being done. Enforcement seems to not be necessary. This has been proven for the last 12 years. The U.S. and Great Britain, among many other countries, are working on another resolution on Iraq. But a few things must be remembered. This is NOT a second resolution on Iraq, but it will be the **18th** resolution dealing with Iraq in the past 12 years. This new resolution is technically not needed due to the fact that U.N. resolution #1441, which was voted with a unanimous decision by the U.N security Counsel, including France And Germany, gives the U.S., Britain, Australia, Japan, Italy, Spain, and many other countries not recognized by the media, permission to disarm Saddam Hussein, and liberate Iraq from his tyranny. Resolution upon resolution does not make the U.N relevant. After 12 years, and 17 resolutions, the U.N. must act.

The French Resistance:

The French, although it signed U.N. resolution #1441, has backtracked its stance on Iraq. Recently, France threatened Turkey that it would not let Turkey into European union, if Turkey backed and assisted the U.S. with the U.S.'s attempt to help protect Turkey against any aggression from Iraq. Turkey borders Iraq, but France did not want Turkey protected by the U.S. France was voted down by 16 of the 19 countries in NATO. Germany was one of the other countries that voted with France.

This is not the first time that France has tried to prove its own relevance in the world by saying no to anything the U.S. or Britain says. An example was made evident on 14APR86. Using carrier based fighter bombers and long range bombers from British bases, the U.S. attacked targets in Libya in response to Muammar Qadhafi's state

sponsored terrorism against Americans. Again, this terrorism took place while the U.N. did nothing. The U.S. response began in Britain, but because France did not approve, U.S. planes were not allowed to use France's air space. Because of this, the flights by the aviators were extended by more than 7 hours, due to flying around France. Even then, with all the proof the U.S. had, France turned up its nose to the U.S. Ironically, when the fighters and bombers struck their military and governmental targets in Libya, the only other building hit was the French Embassy. Then again, the defiant French, along with the U.N. did not support the actions taken by President Clinton when the U.S. went into Bosnia, Kosovo, or Yugoslavia in the late 1990's.

Iraq:

During Hussein's take over and Iron Fist rule of Iraq, he has invaded two countries. Had he not been forced back in 1991, he has admitted that his next objective was Saudi Arabia. He has used mustard and sarin gas on Iranians and his own countrymen in Northern Iraq. This is common knowledge. He has threatened his own people to follow him or family members would be tortured, and killed. Defectors have all said the same things about Hussein's rule. One can plainly see how the lines parallel Hitler's actions. Scientists that have defected have repeatedly admitted that Hussein still has biological and chemical weapons that are well hidden. Had these weapons been destroyed, as Hussein says, where is the evidence of that destruction? One *should* ask, "Where are these weapons, now?"

It is well documented that Hussein has paid the families of Palestinian homicide bombers, in total, more than 16 million dollars for their terrorist actions. The money roughly averages out to around \$25,000 per family.

Oil, Iraq, And the Interest:

Many of those against any type of action against Iraq claim that President Bush is only doing this for oil reasons. If the pending war was based on oil, why has the U.S. not forced its hand in Venezuela? With the government turmoil and citizen uprising there, it would be a prime opportunity for the U.S. to make its mark in this country. The U.S. gets close to 20% of its oil from Venezuela. On the other hand, the U.S., in conjunction with the Oil For Food Act, set up by the U.N. with Iraq, gets just over 3% (THREE) of its oil from Iraq. But if oil was a deciding factor on Iraq, please keep in mind that France gets close to 60% of its oil from Iraq. It seems that the interest of oil and the decisions based on Iraq falls more towards France, than the U.S.

Hollywood:

Where has it been written that an actor in Hollywood knows what is best for America? Please keep in mind, most in Hollywood cannot keep a marriage together, or a career going, let alone be in touch with most of us 'common people'. These "Limelight Activists" feel that they must speak their minds. They come out of their high fashion Hollywood, Bel Air, or Beverly Hills mansions – Most of which use more energy in a week than most houses in America use in a month – driving their overpriced cars, complaining about our SUV's, and get in front of microphones to speak their banter. Do you think any of these people are anywhere close to being in touch with us 'common folk'? Just because they have the advantage of being able to get media attention to view their opinion, does not mean that they are accurate. Many would love to tell the likes of Sheryl Crow, Tim Robbins, Sean Penn, Martin Sheen, Susan Surranden, Alec Baldwin, Jeaneane Gerafalo, the Dixie Chicks, or any other Hollywood talking head to get out of

the clouds and realize that most in America only want to see them act or sing; not what they can mutter in front of a news camera or a microphone.

No one can deny that we now live in a new era. We can no longer stand by, and wait to be attacked before we defend ourselves. Thanks to 9/11, we must become a country that will strike first to avert any innocent American lives from being lost. We cannot let the threat of any further terrorism bind us from preventing an end to it: To do so would be letting the terrorists have control.

The U.N. has let Iraq go on for more than twelve years and has done nothing: This, after 17, and closing in on another U.N resolution. The U.N. is on the verge of becoming as irrelevant as the League of Nations was after the 1930's. France is doing its best to keep its head in the same depth of water as a world leader as the U.S. and Britain. Iraq has become as dangerous to the world as Germany did in the '30's. Although the threat is not directly focused on U.S. soil, on the 10th of September, 2001, neither was a major threat from Bin Laden.

Sitting back and doing nothing has gotten us to where we are today: On high alert of a terrorist threat. Striking first is now an option in this world, not reliving the past. We need to learn to act, not ignore then react, to tyrants like Bin Laden and Hussein. Hollywood and other are demanding to "Give Peace A Chance". It is obvious that those who feel this way have not paid attention for the past twelve years, 17 resolutions, and the state that this country now lives in. Peace has been given a chance. The writing is on the wall. It didn't work.