DAYS OF INFAMY

As the colors were being raised on ships at anchor, naval personnel stopped their fatigue duties and mess hall requirements to pay homage to the stars and stripes when the peaceful qualm was interrupted by the sound of aircraft; it was Sunday, the7th of December, 1941 at Pearl Harbor- an American Naval Base in Hawaii…. a day that would live in Infamy…..and ten years ago on a nice sunny morning, September eleven, 2001 an aircraft hit the World Trade Center, a second craft, determined as commercial jet hit another tower, soon the Pentagon was targeted and hit and a fourth aircraft crashed in Pennsylvania via a passenger revolt…another day of Infamy. Similarities, and differences, yes!

Surprise, an act of war, unprovoked, perhaps inspired by ideology, hatred and a kind of religious fervor; the difference was the first initiated a Declaration of War by the United States against the Empire of Japan whose pilots had nearly destroyed the American fleet, while the second involved the commandeering of commercial aircraft by nineteen men of Arabic background- an act of terrorism or Islamic jihad? At Pearl, the cost: 2400 died, 1400 wounded, 18 warships sunk or disabled, over 188 aircraft destroyed and many inoperable; 9/11 cost 3000 lives, the collapse of the twin towers, other damage to buildings and people; A plan aimed at the terrorists or those who harbored them.

History reminds that WWII was settled by the uncompromising strategy of 'unconditional surrender' and today the protagonists and antagonists live in a quasi-democratic culture, while the spin-off of attacks have gone on in Afghanistan and Iraq in a 'never ending war' scenario. Man-made disasters, terror and even militant Islam, an uncompromising religion, ideology and nation (caliphate) all get credit with no real resolution on the table. War of Civilizations argued- with something called al-Qaeda (the base) and the Taliban (pure Islam) the culprits. Osama bin-Laden told us "Russia was defeated and America will leave our lands, too. Islam will prevail under Allah's guidance."

Al-Qaeda's challenge from 9/11 onward has been altered by the promise of the Arab Spring and the peril to the cause by the killing of bin-Laden. In the former the promise comes from the fall of dictators in Sudan and Egypt, but peril resides in the on-going turmoil in Assad's Syria where the protesters are being found, imprisoned or killed or both. Help from Iran is seen. One has only to recall that Stalin came to power with others in violent revolution over the Romanoff Czars, but then there was only one. Hitler, came to power via the ballot box, in Germany, and joined war hero, Hindenburg in joint rule, but at the General's

death there was only one. It is said the Muslim Brotherhood who supported and encouraged the revolt in Egypt remains a force and plans to become part of the democratic process at election time. Their leaders, and the always presumed commitment: total Islam, Sharia and the rest still part of the lexicon. Remember, too, the No. two (Ayman al-Zawahiri) to bin-Laden, and perhaps still titular head of al-Qaeda, had been a long time member of Islamic activities in Egypt, jailed by Hosni Mubarrak, fled and joined bin-Laden in Saudi Arabia.

Battle cry is still the Jewish-Crusader external enemy. Muslim Brotherhood appears still in driver's seat.

Many in the Bush inner-circle (Rumsfeld and Cheney) did not invent pre-emptive and preventive war. There is a long history of this as part of America's policy, Wilson, Roosevelt, Truman, and includes our latest leaders. Rumsfeld believed that one of our failures was an inability to meet with those in the land of Islam, ask them to take action against the Islamic fanatics, and include it in our mission of 'A War against Terror'…a real misnomer.

In the silence of my lonely room, and in most of my articles, 'Militant Islam (ideology, religion and nation (Caliphate)) is the problem, exacerbated by attempt to integrate Sharia (law and moral tenets) into the American arena and apply like our Constitution.