

THE FACE OF EVIL

"Americans do not yet have the distance of history...our responsibility to history is already clear: to answer these attacks and rid the world of evil." So said President Bush just 3 days after the attack of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon killing almost 3000 persons. National Security Strategy was soon described: "the enemy is terrorism premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated at innocents." Not Islamic terrorism or Middle Eastern terrorism against the United States: terrorism itself.

As one military strategist said, "declaring war on terrorism is like declaring war on air power." Soon it was more nebulous as Bush launched a "global war on terror."

This was then, now some 4 years later we face ongoing 'war' undeclared against a resurging Taliban in Afghanistan and perhaps a last gasp attempt to pacify and secure Baghdad -beset with insurgent and sectarian violence-and Anbar environs. What then even the amateur military thinker asks? Despite a shaky structure of democratic government, seeming pacification in the northern Kurdish area as well as in the Basrah environs -first British elements are leaving- will Sunni and Shi'ah lay down their arms, disguise their hatred towards each other and acquiesce to the 'clear, hold and build' strategy.

Assuming the Petraeus counter-insurgency plan is successful, terror/evil will surface some place else with Islamic overtones.

Famous rhetoric: 'we will fight the terrorists wherever they are and those who harbor them; the enemy is not a single political regime or person or religion or ideology; people and regimes are with us or against us.' Put up or shut up! Evidence belies as those who harbor terrorists (and actually initiate terrorism) include: Syria, Iran and even the so-called moderate Arab regimes: Saudi-Arabia, Jordan and Egypt are in part, guilty. Leverage is there to remind those we economically/militarily prop-up to cease and desist or suffer consequences. Too, a reader of the Koran (Qu'ran) can recognize the peace and influence of Allah as well as the 'elimination' of unbelievers (infidels) inherently arguing against a turning of the cheek, as Jesus would do. We have an insoluble mess with no end in sight.

Imagine a high-level strategy session: Once Baghdad and Anbar are secure we need to inform the Iraqi government, "now that these areas are secure, it is your responsibility to remain and build. We will redeploy our troops in country and consider a timetable for a troop withdrawal." Phase-out in sequence will be by increments over a year with plans to retain a sizeable force in the Emirates/Kuwait, if approved. These for back-up/return and to monitor Iranian/Syrian moves. UN sanctions/economic problems especially oil export shortfall/high uses will impede Iran's appetites in the area. All Islamic regions should be alerted to a Declaration of War potential if terrorists continue to be harbored therein.

Nuclear weapon process will not be tolerated in Iran and a combined Israel/US force response optional. Madrassas and Mosques used for hate ideologies, terrorist planning and tactical locales will be targeted unless curtailed and monitored by nations concerned. Terror organizations (Hezbollah, Hamas and others) will be reminded they are targets and all relations between Fatah/Hamas will be evaluated.

Evil has touched the many faces of Islam.