

TO SEEK A COMMANDER IN CHIEF

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

This credo has guided us in peace and war despite our sins and imperfections and our new President must live it and rekindle the spirit of what we are or should be. A daunting task: a never-ending war, a sick-economy, a cultural malaise, Congressional impasse and inertia, and fractured hope and faith. The real dilemma appears to be what must be his(or her)priorities, something called 'real change' and the undiminished hope for success.

Though the madding crowd seems of diverse and often extremely emotional opinions of whether it should be the first woman, the first black man or the storied old timer, this observer believes that time and circumstance argues for the old war hero whose mission cries out for a new strategy that defines the enemy not as a non-descript 'terrorist' but Islamofas-

cism and its core ideology. As Samuel Huntington has warned us, "we are in a 'War of Civilizations' and should say so and prevail."

Arguably, Colin Po-

well's military influence was thwarted, apparently by the Bush-Rumsfeld strategy. So be it. It is what it is

despite military gains of late. To support this claim

we ask, do we really know our enemy?

Historically, after Muhammed, came a here-

idity line, the Shi-ahs, a family connection and those

who would be classed as the religious authority line

(Sunna) citing the ideas of Muhammed and the Qu-

ran. Like a second coming the Mahdi 'one who is guided' would become the symbol of Muhammed

for the Shi-ah, mostly in Persia/Iran and in Iraq. One

could argue that their conflict with each other could

be resolved since they cross lines and have much in

common, like believing in one God. Irony, too, Iraq

is the place of the biblical Garden of Eden, and later

reached prominence(over 500 years)of perhaps the

greatest worldly center of art, learning and culture.

In this time it was the seizure of Jerusalem, holy to

all three monotheistic faiths by the Crusaders in re-

action to occupying Moslems only to be recaptured

by Saladin, a Kurd from Tikrit a- restore to Islam. Mongol hordes under Hulaga Khan struck caliph's

armies and sacked Baghdad in 1258.

Subsequent to

this came Arab decline, and the influx of Ottoman

Turks separating Sunnis in the north and Shi-ahs in

the south. Ottoman defeat in WWI and territory di-

vision by the victorious British and French exacer-

bated the continuing decline of Islam hegemony

WWI mandates established the control of

Pa-

lestine, Lebanon, Trans-Jordan, and parts of Arabia.

Much of the return of Arab honor and commitment was aided by Lawrence of Arabia, a British officer

who inspired an arab uprising against the Turks. In

the interim, Palestine became the arena for conflict

between Arab and Jew with British overtones.

Bal-

four -seed of Jewish homeland there, discovery of

oil with American help in Saudi-Arabia , onset of

WWII played havoc on rivals and friends. Arabs saw hope in a German victory in the mideast but again hopes were dashed by events, culminating in the advent of Israel in 1948 supported by the US and the Soviet Union under UN auspices.

Refusing UN partitioning of Palestine for them as well as Israel, surrounding Arab countries struck from all sides, though uncoordinated. Responding Israel employed small-mobile fire teams to thwart incursions as they developed culminating in the surrender of an Egyptian army. This foretold the ineptness of Arab unity and military prowess in subsequent wars all won by Israel. Intifada(a guerrilla mode)became the Arab strategy.

Mahdi revival seemed personified by the revolution in Iran, circa 1979 with the return of Ayatollah Khomeini, a Shiite, and the fall of the Shah.. US Embassy was occupied and 52 Americans were imprisoned for over 400 days, released in the twilight of the Carter/Reagan turnover. The eighties seemed afire with US/Soviet clash over Afghanistan

after the coup and invasion by the Soviets with im-plied threats over the mideast. Surfacing in the Afghan fight was a Saudi named Osama bin-laden who became the symbol of new Islam insurgence aiding the fadayeen fighting the giant ogre, the Russian. Then Iraq attacked Iran over oil rights as well as an inherent fear of Khomeini's revolution (Shi-ahs) may infuse Shi-ahs in Iraq.

Iraq-Iran war ended in a bloody stalemate while Iraq and the new Saladin (Saddam Hussein) the dominating force in the region seemed intent on continuing its argument over oil rights in the area abutting Kuwait, claiming Kuwait had long ago absorbed rightful Iraqi territory. Their invasion led to Gulf War I and a US coalition victory in 1991. Kuwait was freed and the war ended with reservations.

Bin-Laden fingerprints appeared on Africa embassy attacks, the USS Kolb, World Trade Center as Clinton was in a tizzy between crime or terror often hesitant. He often bit his lip and perhaps worried about his nose growing as al-Qaeda planned 9/11. A response by Bush, though worthy has now been compromised by an inability to define the enemy.....Islam.