

THE WAR....A HYPOTHETICAL DEBATE

Senator McCain: Senator Obama(may I call you Barack)I was impressed with your campaign, eloquence, and demeanor. I take issue with many of your positions and most critically, the war. You are against the war(Iraq)but did support Afghanistan I would presume. As you know I whole-heartedly supported both the war operation in Afghanistan and Iraq, although in retrospect I believed we were naive and failed to properly prepare for the aftermath. Plan required double force level for security/occupation, concern of potential Sunni, Shiite, Kurd discord, a well-prepared military-civil government of Iraqis and supervision by Iraqi Armed forces and US/coalition. Winning hearts and minds, thoughts of a happy liberation movement and home by Christmas were the dreams of Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld policy with little input from Colin Powell and the State Department. I believed all along we made basic errors and that the Rumsfeld influence, civil strife among ethnic factions and insurgency with al-Qaeda fingerprints cried out for change, hence Rumsfeld departure, a new leader in General Petraeus, a Counter-insurgency expert, 'clear, hold, stay and build' with increased force-the so-called surge-was needed and I called for it when most were in opposition and contemplated failure. I was happy President Bush agreed. We need to complete this operation, and make no immediate plans to leave. The middle-east and environs bubbles with increasing Islam fanaticism. To abrogate this mission to stay, fight and win is the height of folly.

Senator Obama: May I call you John and I am in deep admiration for your service, the terrible ordeal of your capture, for you are a true war hero. But, sir, I must differ with your main premise. I was in general agreement with the Afghanistan operation but we got side-tracked when we had bin-Laden in our sights in Tora Bora, left the battle against this mastermind to deviate into Iraq, a new-war, with no

relationship to 9/11 and apparently a Bush-ego thing to compensate for criticism his father took for not following Saddam Hussein to Baghdad in Gulf One. Perhaps that is too harsh, but we found no weapons of mass destruction, Iraq was half the shell of its past posed no real threat to us, and all we have done is give credence to more would-be terrorists who think of this as another crusade against Islam. I was against this charade, still am, and we need to wrap it up, turn it over to the Iraqis, redeploy forces to other mid-east bases, bring the majority home and provide some help to the on-going Afghanistan insurgency. Sir, we should not be there for 100 years, how about one year if not sooner.

Senator McCain: For your edification, we had a strategy in WWII which was based on Unconditional Surrender and no insurgency arose. The German and the Japanese were beaten thoroughly. Perhaps this rationale should have been used in Iraq. Our forces remained and aided in real democracy in both places. President Bush needs credit for his quick and decisive move against those who attacked us. And we who criticize were not at the moment of truth. I have believed for some time, the War against Terror is a misnomer. We need to do what we said against those who have harbored the terrorists and take issue with the states involved, specifically in mosques, madrasas and those financing them. I would make priority one -a head to head meeting with moderate Islam nations, and put out specific warnings to Syria, Iran and those that sponsor terror groups. If we cannot get assurance from them (with us or agin us)we can consider a Declaration of War which may entail a reopening of the draft and universal military training to support such a move. A look at the uncompromising aspect of Islam, they must change or we will have to take necessary action. Some have called the fanatics: Islamo-fascists like the Saudis who made up the majority of the 9/11 attackers, led by an Egyptian. I am concerned about our Muslim citizens

as to loyalty to the United States, and moderates who tend to rationalize the way of Islam and their cause.

Senator Obama: This sounds like rather provocative rhetoric, doesn't history remind of religious wars going on forever? I thought we should all work to end this war, get our troops home and put our ideas on the sick economy, immigration, health and the great disparity between rich and poor. We need to talk to all of the states, open up the dialogue and ascertain a more rational approach to world relationships. The change I perceive is peace, good will towards each other yet carry the big stick if necessary. Let us end this preemptive war, reestablish relationships with our friends. I want to reiterate I am a Christian, yes with a Muslim name but I care about this country.

Senator McCain: I do not doubt your sincerity Barack but those who forget the lessons of history tend to repeat them. We almost moved too late against the German and Japanese, and later in the great battle (ideological as well as real) against the Soviet Union. We need to win this war against Islam.