

## YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

**"Yesterday, when we were young" -a Beatles song with a reminiscent touch, and some associate it with the Vietnam War. Younger still are those who remember songs of WWII and Korea: "When the lights go on again, all over the world, and the boys come home again.....Fly the ocean in a silver plane, see the jungle when its wet with rain, but darling till your home again, you belong to me...When I come home to you San Francisco, your golden dreams will wait for me...I'll be seeing you in all the old familiar places". Memories, and the songs we left behind....the way we were. Loneliness in war requires music.**

**Today we are engaged in something called "A War against Terror" essentially in Afghanistan and Iraq, but vestige lurks elsewhere as Militant Islam. With its vague strategic rationale, no Declaration of War against a targeted country-both war theaters have a sense of quasi-anarchy with party leaders on shaky ground-thus war (of sorts) is there but enemy is of shadowy mode, somewhere, nowhere, out there, causing havoc in the war theaters, Britain, and along the periphery between Afghanistan/Pakistan, and in spurts and starts between Israel/Palestinians. Hamas in control of Gaza leaves Fatah to displace in part to the West Bank seeking Western and Israel support. Meanwhile the Petraeus counter-insurgency plan is on-going in its quest to contain, secure and build in Baghdad despite a questionable Iraqi contribution and a nagging US Congress betwixt and between.**

**God Bless America was the song of moment, yet its stirring tribute seems muted, lost in the political and emotional abyss of a never-ending war.**

**The great paradox: can we pull-up stakes, redeploy our military, leave a residue, turn security and operations over to Iraqi as we did in Vietnam?**

**Some scholars speak: According to the Brookings Boys (Michael O'Hanlon: Senior Fellow; Kenneth Pollack: Director Saban Ctr/Mideast policy). "We are finally getting somewhere in Iraq, at least militarily". Accordingly, sudden change in American fortunes has been the outpouring of popular animus against al-Qaida and other Salafist groups, as well as (to a lesser extent) against Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi**

**Army. Groups have tried to impose Shariah law, brutalized average Iraqis to keep them in line, killed important leaders, and seized young women to marry off to their loyalists. Anbar province reveals the locals have turned against these groups and have turned to the Americans for security and help. Too, Ken Pollack is remembered for his prescient book: 'The Threatening Storm (case for invading Iraq) in 2002'.**

**"Could we lose the War on Terror?", best-selling author Mike Evans asks! His book: The Final Move, beyond Iraq, circa, this year, reveals research and information from Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israel Prime Minister, former CIA director James Woolsey, and former Chairman General Hugh Shelton among others that 'immediate withdrawal from Iraq' would be disastrous and embolden terrorists to attack America at home and that Iran is playing a major role in the current violence. Do we really care about any of this? What do we believe?**

**"I believe for every drop of rain that falls...a flower grows...I believe that somewhere in the darkest night, a candle glows...I believe for everyone who goes astray....someone will light the way.....I believe...I believe."**

**American naïveté with Christian overtones!**