

Speak Your Peace

by Leonard Burkhardt



When an individual steals, it is generally considered a punishable crime. When a whole country steals (commonly for the advantages of major industrialists, and paid for by suffering taxpayers and with sacrificed soldiers lives); it is said to be a "war" that is "in the national interest", and a patriotic duty to fully support.

This kind of illogical, compartmentalized thinking seems schizophrenic in nature, and is both dishonest and deconstructive. Why should double standards exist among civilized men?

Since the start of our last war, what was heard daily through the media has been devastating for advocates of non violence. We continually "learned" that in order to remove Iraq's former government it might be necessary to kill and maim many thousands of trapped civilians. We heard it would cost us perhaps \$100 billion dollars for starters, but were never told just what we would get in return.

We heard torture had become quite acceptable to Americans. We were also expected to

practically forget about the deteriorating conditions in Afghanistan and about our undaunted enemy, bin Laden. We were expected to disregard North Korea, and the opinion of millions of people world wide who were actively protesting this war.

We were likewise expected to disregard the Pope's advice as well as the most rational concepts of religious ethics. We were told (by realistic people) that this poorly conceived blunder and the series of conflicts that could very well spin off

from this unpopular starter, might go on for years with no real end in sight. We were told that

Americans can, nevertheless afford to go it alone despite an amateurish lack of solid advance planning, and against much of the world's opinion, when it comes to the vital issue of war and peace, and global environment.

We were supposed to believe we could forget our deteriorating economy, that we're able to cut taxes (for the rich) and American jobs, and develop what amounts to a police state, and to still emerge from an impending disaster smelling like Bush-roses.

The above was written prior to the Iranian

threat which now compounds all our previous concerns. As of tax-day in April 2006, the war in Iraq alone had cost Americans close to \$245 billion, with an additional reconstruction allocation of \$18 billion (while America's infrastructures continue to languish). Furthermore (assuming the expanding conflict would somehow cease) just a three year military occupation is expected to cost us an additional \$216 billion, and much, much more to reconstruct what we are still continuing to demolish.

By mid April over 2,300 US soldiers, and over 100,00 Iraqi lives had been wasted as well. Our pitiful national government has never been more out of control, while confidence in our Commander in Chief has never been lower. The very least each of us must do is to actively associate ourselves with at least one of the more successful anti-war anti-establishment groups and work diligently to save our once proud country from unprecedented disaster.

There is an old riddle about what it is that causes most auto accidents, and the answer is: Such accidents can generally be attributed to the nut behind the steering wheel. I think the same can be said about monumental mishaps that stem from Washington. They have been caused in considerable measure by the elected nut behind the wheel that steers the crooked course of our national government.

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