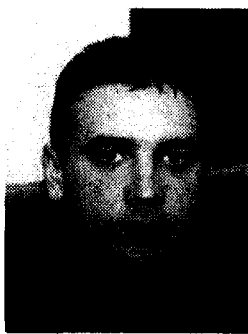


U.S. must not be portrayed as "Great Satan" in the inevitable war against Iraq

by Marco Primorac
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After absorbing what the "free" press has had to say here in the U.S., on T.V., radio, and the internet over the past few months, it seems that war with Iraq is inevitable. Hans Blix and the U.N. inspectors, who have yet to find a smoking gun, seem to be there just for the ride. This "inevitable" war will not only affect the U.S. and Iraq (especially U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians caught in the crossfire and those with the misfortune of becoming "collateral damage" by our bombs), but the entire globe. Europe, whose major supplier of oil is the Middle East (read: Iraq), will be hit with a massive increase in oil prices, which are already astronomically high during peace; this means the prices of their domestically consumed and exported goods will rise, as well as tariffs on American goods (which we can only expect to have the highest rise in price). This will lead for even more anti-American sentiment, and far-left and far-right parties will no doubt use this as an agenda for their radical platforms. Japan, our biggest economic and political ally in Asia, will also suffer even more economic woes since they are nearly totally dependent on Middle Eastern (read: Iraqi) oil.

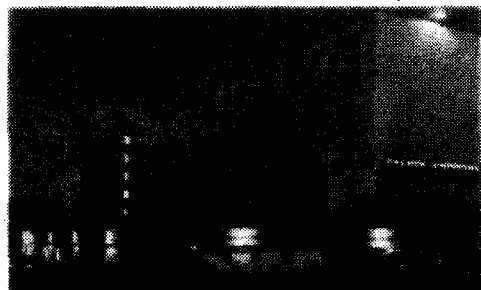
One must realize that the aforementioned items are our least of worries. Our troops on the ground will be shot at (possibly even being hit with chemical and biological weapons, if they do exist), and, unless we have a sweeping action as in 1991 (where nearly all of our troops' and our allies troops' deaths were due to "friendly fire"), the American public may be opening their national and local newspapers and seeing obituaries for young troops on a daily basis. According to the "free" press, Iraq is using a new strategy: concentrating forces in and around Baghdad and other urban areas to goad the U.S. (and our pet Britain) to engage in urban warfare; in which the attacker and the civilians in the urban areas suffer massive losses (estimated between 35% and 50% casualties for the attacker, no estimates ever made or considered for the civilians). High losses of civilian life would only strengthen Saddam and his cronies' position, "The American Infidels

are killing you," and would also help the anti-war effort here in the U.S. (as well as possible mounting U.S. losses).

Saddam Hussein is a very ruthless, calculating, and intelligent man. Our intelligence services built him up to fight the Ayatollah in Iran (two strikes for the CIA, we overthrew the democratically elected Socialist government and installed the Shah; the problem was that the Socialists were aligned with the U.S., not the Soviet Union). His opulent lifestyle and cult of personality aside (to his credit: if I was a Stalin-style dictator, I would have statues and pictures of me everywhere as well), one cannot deny that he knows the *Arab Street*. He knows that, if, let's say, Israel was brought into the war, that Arab opinion would be inflamed and that conspiracy theories of Israel running the U.S. would be proven "true" beyond a shadow of a doubt in radical and many borderline moderates' eyes. One S.C.U.D. fired by Iraq towards or hitting Tel Aviv or Israel would be catastrophic: Sharon, a rightist hawk, has already stated publicly that he would hit back (with God only knows what, since the Israelis have chemical, biological, and nuclear capabilities) if attacked; and might even use it as an excuse (and or orchestrate "ties" with the P.L.O.) to "deal" with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip once and for all (Sabra and Shatilla come to mind). Saddam wants this to be a war against Islam, and he will do anything in his power to portray it as such; any action by Israel would be "proof" of this. We would have dozens of Al Qaida's sprouting up around the globe.

Without any evidence to prove (to be more specific, Hans Blix and Mohammed El Bardi and the U.N. inspectors actually finding evidence to prove it) Saddam has weapons of mass destruction. We will be vilified in the world. Everyone loves the idea of America, every country has someone in America, but not everyone loves American foreign policy. If we are justified, then the propaganda spewed by these little and insignificant regimes around the globe holds no ground; but if we go in without just cause (Iraq is proven to be hiding chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons), then we will be considered "The Great Satan" by all. That's bad for politics, bad for economics, and bad for domestic and international security.

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