

Panarticon

Discorder Magazine. April 2003.
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"Bush accused Iraq of engaging in a "willful charade" with U.N. inspectors by hiding weapons of mass destruction" –CNN, 07.03.03

...even if we don't find it, we know it's there—even if we know you don't have it: you've got it...just like the Primal Scene, God, and Jimmy Hoffa's body...Nevermind that we *do* know that the US *has* such weapons, and that the Bush Gov't is launching an unjust and dirty war without UN permission nor a formal declaration of war; that we *do* know that the US was convicted with war crimes in its invasion and interference with Nicaragua by the International Court of Justice in 1984, and that the US response was to *disobey and ignore international law* (RIP the withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol), and that Bush I used pressure techniques in pushing Nicaragua to drop the case in 1990 "in exchange for aid" (usually we call this bribery & blackmail); that Henry Kissinger has been indicted for *war crimes* by Chile (note the US attempts at persuading Chile have failed up to this point), and still sits as the primary investigator of 9-11; that the current US President, Bush II, by all accounts, was not voted into office but leveraged the polling system with the power of lawyers. <<http://www.gwu.edu/~jaysmith/Nicaragua.html>>

At the beginning of the 21st C, a global turf *slaughter*... Although as we go to print we are on the eve of further bloodshed, we are also witnessing the rise of the UN and the rebirth of a global peace movement. *Viva La France*. 250, 000 in Montréal, Saturday, March 15th and millions the world over—and the Bush Gov't is still trying to persuade a suspicious Homeland of the World with *forged documents* and DoubleSpeak name changes: *Freedom Tickler*, anyone? But who knows how this dangerous oil opera will play out its lethal game by the time these words grace the dirty ink of *Discorder*.
< <http://slate.msn.com/id/2080166/>>

Signs of the Times: Empire On the Rise

In *Empire*, Michael Hardt and Antonion Negri argue that US Imperialism cannot be equaled to "Empire"—the global, multinational order of power. The thesis has been hotly debated, although recent events seem to signify a split between the agents of corporate globalisation and Bush Gov't policy. When the March 24th edition of Businessweek.com offered a commentary by Bruce Nussbaum asserting that "The U.S. has already lost the prewar battle over Iraq," and that "The failure of the Bush Administration to manage its diplomacy is staggering, and the price paid, even if the war ends quickly, could be higher than anyone now anticipates," it was an open letter from the international business community to the US: War is Bad for the Bottom Line. A tactics of anti-war becomes a double-strategy: dissidents may find strange bedfellows in the business community. Perhaps this is an opportunity to attempt communication with such partners, although this shouldn't be bought at the expense of lessening the critique of unmonitored, inhumane and environmentally destructive capital-driven globalisation. Being antiwar does not mean being anti-American.

What If...?

What If the US falls? How would it happen? A violent twist—some anthrax here, a dirty suitcase nuke there, and then a retreat of forces to military bases and to Washington and the financial centres, leaving the peripheries to degenerate like East LA and Philly... Armed enclaves in the South turn trigger-happy and perfect the art of picking off overweight SUV-driving Consumers no longer able to find an operational McDonalds... Alaska melds into Canada while the military defends privately-held oil operations...Hawaii becomes closed to all civilian traffic while old ICBM missile silos and chemical research plants are abandoned in unsustainable parts of the continent..."Silo Thieves" make their way to the US to scavenge radioactive ores and biochemicals for "have not" countries and terrorist cells...Israel takes out Palestine; Palestine lets loose its own reserve and the region becomes uninhabitable for the next 10,000 years...Canada begins looking mighty attractive—acres upon acres of unused land, while the Mexican BorderZone becomes a private slave-labour factory-centre to sustain an elite economy...Meanwhile, US embassies and corporations become targets worldwide, and the EU consolidates itself as Fortress Europe.... Do we want this to happen? The Fall of the US? Apocalyptic or not, no one would desire such a scenario: it would spell the end of much more than problematic US Imperialism. Sustaining a *workable* capitalism, whatever socialist-enviro-direct democracy scenario one aims for, is the double-edge to any strategy of dissent. A double-edge that is playing itself out in the globalisation of peace rallies. The differentiation between peace rallies in the "West" and the "East" is evident. Whereas in the West the aim is a peaceful resolution, it is rarely pro-dictatorship. In the East, the same strategy is often used to *support* authoritarian structures. Although some would like to believe we are facing a "clash of civilizations," we must own up to the fact that theological structures *everywhere* must be undone with the greatest caution—including Bush's own pleas to God.

The Speaking Spectre of Nixon

All attempts of Hunter S. Thompson to bury Nixon to the contrary, his *spirit* lives on in the rhetoric of the US Gov't. After Dr. Hans Blix's careful and studied report on Iraq, Colin Powell's response was as intelligent as the anti-French sentiments hurled at French golfer Thomas Levet on the PGA green in Miami and against Francophone communities in Louisiana. All of which gestures to an ignorance of the outside world that is as dangerous as any fundamentalist religious group. Despite living in an often violent urban society, Westerners are sheltered to the realities of war and true bloodshed on a mass scale.

War Is An Acknowledgement of Failure

"There may be some who believe that these problems can be resolved by force, thereby creating a new order. But this is not what France believes. On the contrary, we believe that the use of force can arouse resentment and hatred, fuel a clash of identities and of cultures, something that our generation has a prime responsibility to avoid. [...] And force is certainly not the best way of bringing about democracy. Here and elsewhere it would encourage dangerous instability. [...] War is an acknowledgement of failure." – French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin

In Memorium Rachel Corrie.