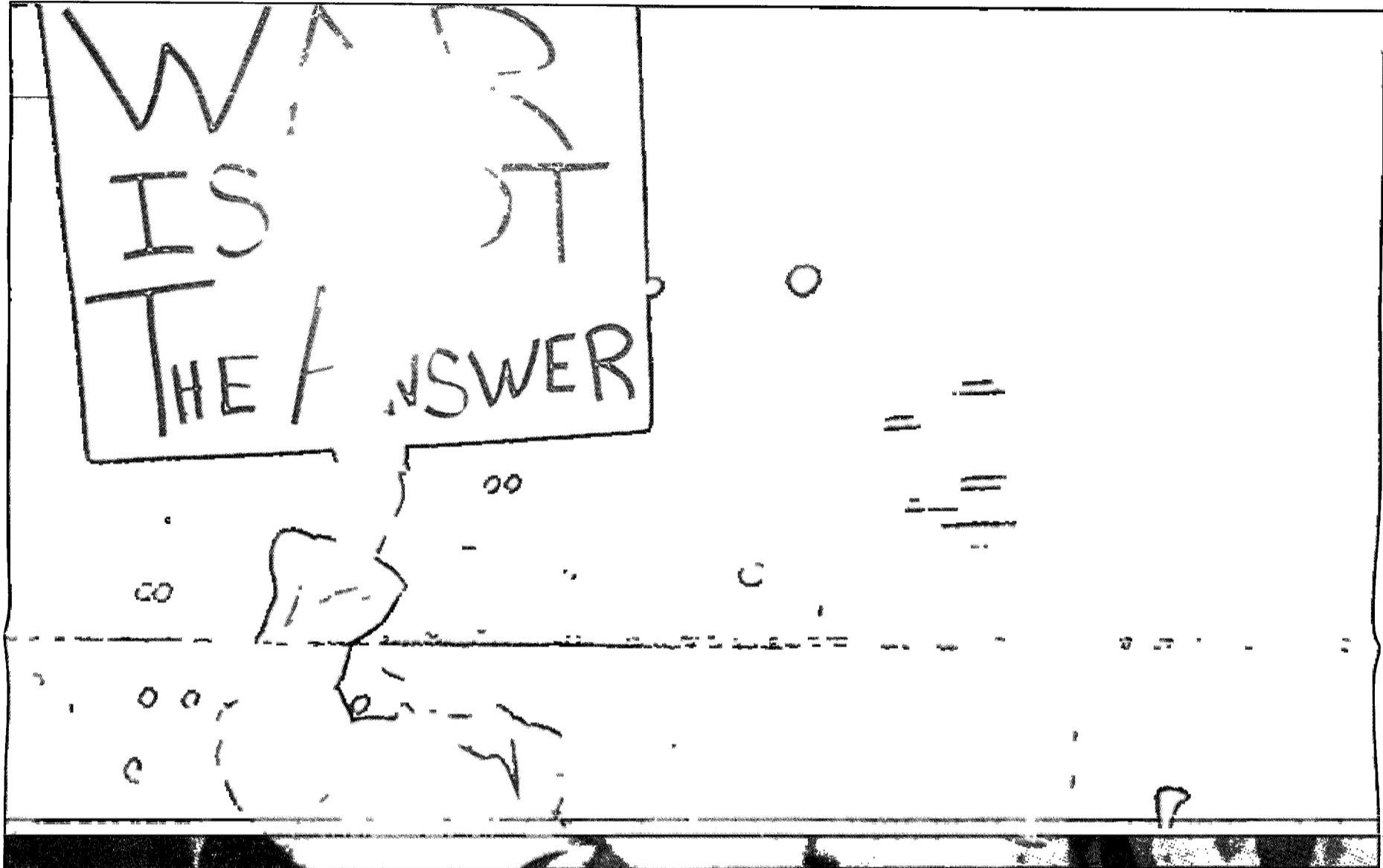


ART ADVOCATE

QUARTERMASTER

OCTOBER 2001



PHIL HAN

War or Peace?

Americans Contemplate Whether Military Action is the Right Response to Recent Attacks



Art Historians Do Their PART for Online Journal, p. 8

ON THE PRECIPICE OF WORLD WAR 3

OPPOSE THE "JIHAD" AND THE "CRUSADE"

By Louise Ammentorp

The terror, horror, and confusion that was visited upon the American people as a result of the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center is being manipulated to drive the population into a racist war frenzy.

The television pundits are bracing us for the elimination of the "open society" and our few remaining civil liberties. Reagan's Secretary of State Alexander Haig announced on CNN "We cannot let social justice and civil liberties stand in the way of security."

What the talking heads have not said is the obvious: Osama bin Laden (if he is the perpetrator; we haven't seen any evidence) is a creation of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and therefore the CIA is part of the problem not the solution. Bin Laden was recruited by the CIA and trained in terror tactics to fight on the side of "freedom" in the Cold War.

The CIA cannot protect us, it will only create the next Osama bin Ladens. Intensifying America's imperial war machine is not the answer either, actually it is the root cause of this problem. Terrorism is an act of extreme desperation that thrives in conditions of poverty, exploitation, oppression and despair. Most Americans are baffled as to the possible reasons that so many people in the world dislike us. There is a single word answer that requires explanation: Imperialism.

The word is often dismissed in popular discourse, that has something to do with why so many are baffled. First, most Americans don't directly benefit from US foreign policy (in fact, American workers are exploited by the very same people who are served by American Imperial policy). Most people don't even know what is entailed in US foreign policy. US foreign policy serves the interests of the wealthiest minority of the country.

The US is known as the world's only "superpower," but what does that mean for the rest of the world? For one, the US military budget is more than 22 times as large as that of the seven "rogue" states (Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, Syria) combined. The US spends more than the combined military budget of the rest of G-7 (Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada, England, France).

Bush 1 baited Iraq into invading Kuwait and then refused all diplomatic solutions/negotiations. Bush insisted on war. The point of which was to keep Iraqi oil off the market, a goal achieved by the vicious sanctions that have led to the deaths of a million Iraqis.

The goal of Bush 2 is to finish what Bush 1 started—turn the Middle East into an oil plantation. While government officials talk about a "coalition of the world in a war against terrorism" out of one side, on the other they say the US must

be prepared to "go it alone." The Europeans are already backing away from the war frenzied rhetoric of Bush. They are calling for a United Nations led military/political solution but Bush's demand is for a US led coalition, whose members are in the end, immaterial. He is attempting to use the tragedy to establish total US military hegemony over the world. He is on the brink of reviving the old imperialist rivalries that had subsided in the "anti-Communist coalition" of the cold war. These rivalries gave rise to the first two world wars.

The terror that attacked the World Trade Center is the mirror of the imperialist terror that reigns over much of the world. Bush's declaration of a "Crusade" is a mirror image of bin Laden's call for "Jihad." At this time young Americans, most of them from working-class backgrounds, are preparing to fight a war they believe is to protect their country. Unfortunately, they haven't been told who the real enemy is.

We must unite in a united front for peace and against war, and within that context build an anti-imperialist united front. We must build a movement to impeach Bush who came to power as the antithesis of any possible conception of democracy. We must struggle to end the conditions that give rise to the terror of the "Jihad" and the terror of the "Crusade."

ADVOCATE

CUNY GRAD CENTER 10/2001

365 5TH AVENUE 5TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10016
212.817.7882
CUNYADVOCATE@HOTMAIL.COM

PUBLISHED 6 TIMES ANNUALLY
SUBSIDIZED BY:
THE DOCTORAL STUDENTS' COUNCIL

EDITOR
MARK PETRAS

MANAGING EDITOR
NASSIMA ABDELLI

DESIGN
ANATOLY KHARKHURIN

CONTRIBUTORS
JOSH LITTLE PHIL HAN
ANDREW KENNIS PATRICIA SISKA
LOUISE AMMENTORP CATERINA PIERRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR MUST BE SUBMITTED ON DISKETTE AND ACCOMPANIED BY A SIGNED HARD COPY. ALL ARTICLES IN THE ADVOCATE PRESENT THE OPINIONS AND VIEWS OF THE WRITERS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OPINIONS AND VIEWS OF THE ADVOCATE STAFF OR DSC.

Your Ad Here

Learn to speak
FOREIGN LANGUAGES
with a professional linguist
French, Russian, German
call (212) 817 7885 for further information

WRITE FOR THE ADVOCATE

Submit articles to room 5396
on the Fifth Floor

Articles should be on diskette in MS Word format

Call 212-817 7882 with any questions
Or e-mail cunyadvocate@hotmail.com

WHY WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER

By Josh Little

(For article references, contact the editor)

The only way to prevent more attacks and to punish the guilty is to work with other countries to put power behind diplomacy and politics. History shows that teaching someone a lesson is a way to start war, but it's a lousy way to end it. Justice is created by protecting human rights, not by frightening people into submission. It is better to take away someone's reasons or excuses for violence.

Some who lost loved ones in this attack are saying the U.S. must not retaliate in a way that hurts more innocent people. They are right. In the process of trying to fight a hard-to-find enemy, we would end up killing innocent people no matter how "surgical" our attack.

Plus, a U.S. attack would give other nations more reasons to hate us. The people who attacked the WTC gambled that anger and desperation among the poor of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Pakistan, and other such nations would be inflamed by a U.S. attack, leading to Islamic uprisings and more countries ruled by fundamentalism.

Trying to scare people who are willing to die for their cause won't work. British and Russian officers

are already warning us we would not be able to subdue Afghanistan. Furthermore, killing whoever did this will only create more terrorists. The reason that, as Bush Sr. put it, "there can be great hostility in the Arab world" is that the U.S. has been abusing its power there for half a century, often hurting innocent people. For example: the U.S. blockade and bombing of schools, hospitals, and water sources, leading to the deaths of at least half a million children. These actions will not make it easier for us to reduce terrorism.

WAR NOT FOR WORKING PEOPLE OR SECURITY

We must not let the U.S. super-rich tell us who our friends and enemies are. Eight out of 10 of us have been getting nowhere or sliding backwards economically for 30 years. The top 1% of U.S. households have 40% of the wealth. While American workers kill Afghani peasants, the stock portfolios of the rich would grow because their investments in oil and gas would be kept profitable

by the tyrannical governments supported by the U.S.

Moreover, the tyrants Noriega, Hussein and Bin Laden got U.S. money or weapons when they helped the U.S. businesses increase their power. When they challenged U.S. power, the U.S. noticed they were evil. Since 1945, the U.S. has tried at least 35 times to kill foreign leaders, and at least 67 times has invaded or manipulated other countries.

Instead of eliminating threats, U.S. aggression created dictators: Noriega, Marcos, Sukarno, the Shah, Amin, Mobuto, the Contras, Pinochet, d'Aubuisson, Somoza, Batista, Stroessner and others - the list is long and represents the obliteration of hundreds of thousands of civilian lives. In Panama 2,000, in Nicaragua 30,000, in El Salvador 75,000, in Guatemala over 150,000, in Indonesia 300,000.

Some desperately poor people think of men like bin Laden as a Robin Hood. He may not be, but they need a Robin Hood. The war against terrorism can only be truly won when we also declare war on the roots which cause such acts of barbarity: poverty, illiteracy, injustice, and disease. Terrorism does not arise in a vacuum but has its roots in historical, political, social and economic violence.

MARTYRS

Anonymous Author

While New York mourns and the world learns to move along, while the government contemplates strategy and while believers seek meaning in a Jobian tragedy six thousand-fold, where will you be? While we are reconciling tragedy with humanity, recognizing individuality, celebrating uniqueness, there are those on the other side of our planet saying "six million, six thousand, all for a good cause."

How do we answer the dead who call us from their glass and steel grave? There are those among us who tell us to blame ourselves. The guilty capitalists. Counting their dirty money, exploiting Mother Earth, starving Biafra's infants. The stone-cold Republicans, in fancy western suits, imposing their dress code.

We must send an army of hugs to the Taliban. We must tell them that it is not their fault. Their hearts were in the right place, but you can't kill, sweetie. We know that we baptized you in your own blood, and the historical stain of the West doesn't wash out so easily. We will do better next time. We will let you invade our allies, and make evil globalization perish. We shall help you kill our enemies and vanquish our culture.

The towers were here by the grace of your God, and now they are gone. We can't punish a man for the work of God. Where will you be when they pull out the last broken arm from under the rubble? What will you tell your government? Is the arm of the unknown janitor worth the price of complacency?

What do we tell the children? We explain to them - peace! Daddy was crushed so we can all learn

a lesson in turning our collective cheeks. Daddy is now in forty pieces to show us the value of freedom.

But children are not as stupid as graduate students. They seem to have some wisdom we lack.

In a desert seven thousand miles away, in a poor village with dirty running water, there is a father, as human as you and I, huddled in bed, reading to his own son from their sacred text: "How many cities were mightier than your own city, which cast you out!" he asks his son. "We destroyed them all and there was none to help them. Can he who follows the guidance of his Lord be compared to him who is led by his desires and whose foul deeds seem fair to him? ... Those that disbelieve and debar others from God's path and in the end die unbelievers shall not be shown forgiveness by God. Therefore do not falter or sue for peace when you have gained the upper hand. God is on your side and will not grudge you the reward or your labors."

And another suicide bomber is molded by the village that raised him.

Do we divert all the cards, all the cookies, all the money, and all the love sent to the rescue workers to our enemies? Do we tell little Suzy, age 6, that the bad men who knocked down our towers need her love more than the Americans who were in them? Do we say that they are all in Heaven, playing together?

No!

Peace, love, liberalism and lollipops are luxuries. When all the masses who yearned to be free went from a huddle on Liberty Island to a pile of corpses just a mile away, even we, the enlightened one, cease to be in a position where we can recog-

nize the essential humanity in everyone. Humanity becomes a privilege reserved for those who see it in others.

Do we march to Union Square and tell America that we have no God and no idea why our friends, our sisters, our lovers all died? Do we ramble about foreign policy and say that there is nothing we should do? Do we say that America ought to have no military option at its disposal?

Do we sign petitions telling Bush that we are so close to the Empire State Building and we should be allowed the luxury of being the next victims if our ideology so dictates? Do we believe that terrorists would never hurt a leftist?

Many of us are native New Yorkers. We are some of the finest minds New York produced. We are the educated of the city. We are, many of us, committed to New York and all she stands for. All the learning, all the culture, all the life. We understand that kisses will not make our wounds go away, and kissing up will not make terrorism go away. Our country must do whatever it takes to eradicate those who seek to harm us and harm our liberties. We cannot convert people who would sooner die than engage in dialogue. Communication takes two. Hopefully their children, now wedged in a warm desert bed between a loving father and a cold Kalashnikov will one day have the wisdom to ask their widowed mothers if dying in battle is their only hope for a better world as well.