A New Beginning

The Two Sides of Evil

Our Perceived Enemy and Our Real Enemy

In a recent interview with Candy Crowley on CNN's State of the Union Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) declared that the "Taliban are pure evil", "we should follow the money", and "failure is not an option" in Afghanistan. She also claimed to know an "irreversible truth" about the Taliban. She stated that the Taliban "are on a march" and that if Afghanistan were to fall, so would Pakistan.

On the same show appeared Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), Ranking Member, US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. When asked by his hostess how he would define success in Afghanistan he stated that "we have never gotten to that point". Senator Lugar is the author of the Lugar Doctrine: "The United States is engaged in a global war against Muslim religious extremists who seek to reorder the world by destroying our country and various other nations allied with us." 1

Senator Feinstein is the Chairperson of the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and she sits on the US Senate Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Defense Subcommittee.² The US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on which Senator Lugar sits is chaired by Senator John F. Kerry (D-MA). None of the aforementioned Senators signed onto the Boxer-Isakson letter sent to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in support of Israel earlier this year.³ So, we can feel

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The notion that we must destroy or reconstruct entire nations, oceans away from our blessed homeland, in order to root out Muslim extremists that target us is simply absurd.

Although we and our allies are surely under attack, neither *our existence* as a nation, nor *our existence* as a community of nations is threatened. This is not to say that any of us is immune from attack, for surely any of us could fall victim. On the other hand, who of us is immune from dying in a plane or car crash, drowning in our own bathtub, or being murdered on our way home from work? For the dangers of these latter occurring is far greater than being killed or maimed by a terrorist bomb.⁵

Many even believe that the September 11, 2001 attack was conducted by our own or the Israeli government. Whether this is true or not, I have no idea, but there are people who are making a very serious effort to find out. Certainly, a careful look at the evidence suggests that our own government has not told us the truth about what happened on September 11, 2001.

1 Senator Richard Lugar, US Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. [online document | reserve] (Downloaded on 22 June 2010).

- 2 Senator Dianne Feinstein, Committee Assignments. US Senate. [online document | reserve] (Downloaded on 22 June 2010).
- 3 AIPAC. Reaffirming the US-Israeli alliance. Signatories to Boxer-Isakson letter. [online-document | reserve (includes letter)] (Down-

loaded on 22 June 2010).

- 4 Joseph Biden, US Vice President. 2010. The Enduring Partnership Between the United States and Israel. [online document | reserve] (Downloaded 22 June 2010).
- 5 Ronald Bailey. 2006. "Don't be terrorized". Reason Magazine. August. [online document | reserve] (Downloaded on 22 June 2010).
- 6 A&E 911 Truth. http://www.ae911truth.org/

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No matter, fighting global terrorism is a poor rationalization for something far more criminal than the internationally publicized, highly sensationalized criminal attacks that populate our television screens today. Rather, it is the continued notion that one nation or people should have the right to impose its will on another nation or people against its will.

To put it otherwise, the age of empires is behind us, and in today's world we should be more concerned about the increasing ability of our world's multinational corporations to control our national armies, than about our national armies controlling other nations.⁷

We need only look at the recent financial crisis and the Gulf oil-spill to see from whence the real threats to our existence arise. The *real threat* to our existence is not Muslim extremists; rather it is the fact that democratically elected governments around the world are controlled by corporate enterprises, and that democracy today has become a system by which the few are served in the name of the many.

The next time Senator Dianne Feinstein claims that the Taliban are evil, I would only hope that she looks in the mirror and asks herself on what side of evil she stands. On the side that is resisting global corporate domination through terrorist destruction, or on the side that is perpetrating the domination. For neither side represents any good that I know.

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⁷ There are, of course, exceptions to this claim, but on a world scale they are relatively minor. Israel's imposition on non-Israeli citizens in Israeli-controlled Palestine is a case in point. Israel is one the West's few remaining colonial outposts.