Political Perspective: Wrong time, wrong war

When Iraq finally agreed to allow United Nations weapons inspectors back into Iraq, it was a moral victory, it was reported, because President Bush got what he wanted, he could finally stop cheerleading for a war with Iraq. However, instead of allowing inspectors to do their job and disarm Iraq, the Bush administration doubled down. They were only increased, leading us to the brink of war.

What continues to baffle me is that Iraq remains number one on our list of countries that threaten the United States. Why? While we are ready to wage war on mere suspicion that Iraq may be developing weapons of mass destruction, North Korea has outright admitted to having such weapons. Could it be that Iraq, a country that we still can’t even put on a map, holds the second largest oil supply in the world?

We all know that Middle Eastern oil is what fuels the world’s economy. That’s why everyone controls that global economy. The U.S. of course knows this, and is using its “war on terrorism” to its economical advantage. Let’s not forget that the U.S. was planning to invade Afghanistan before Sept. 11. The Taliban had refused to let the U.S. build an oil pipeline through Afghanistan, therefore they had to go. Sept. 11 just gave us the perfect reason to make our move, just as Saddam’s supposed “dirty weapons” will give us the justification to invade Iraq’s oil. Now let’s be serious; Saddam might well have “dirty weapons.” We all know that he has previously used chemical weapons (which the U.S. gave to him during the Iran-Iraq War) against his own people. The CIA has recently said that even if Saddam has weapons of mass destruction, there is no evidence he will use them, unless he is provoked by a U.S. attack. Let’s be reasonable, Hussein knows that attacking the U.S. would be suicidal.

However, if Saddam’s plan for fighting in the streets of Baghdad plays out, we can expect massive civilian as well as American casualties. Another serious problem which President Bush has continuously ignored is that if we are to go after Iraq unilaterally, we will have to fund the estimated $200 billion dollar adventure alone, which would completely devastate our already struggling economy.

Yes, Iraq is violating U.S. resolutions, but there are over 90 UN resolutions currently being violated, most of them by U.S. allies! Are we going to attack Israel because they continue to violate UN resolutions? Are we going to attack Iran because they have “dirty weapons.” We all know that he has previously used chemical weapons (which the U.S. gave to him during the Iran-Iraq War) against his own people. The CIA has recently said that even if Saddam has weapons of mass destruction, there is no evidence he will use them, unless he is provoked by a U.S. attack. Let’s be reasonable, Hussein knows that attacking the U.S. would be suicidal.

Baraka, the aftermath

Amiri Baraka, a.k.a. LeRoi Jones, a former Black Panther member and the poet laureate of New Jersey, spoke by invitation at Rider. Tom Paulin, a Rider professor who is also the Black Student Union president, invited Baraka to Rider so that Rider’s student body might benefit from the wisdom of a Black Student Union president, in the Saturday Dec. 7 issue of The Trenton Times.

Are you happy now, you who supposed Baraka’s right to stand before you and to tell you the truth? Did you like his speech? I was not there, my free, ticketed seat remaining empty along with 25 percent of the others for this “sold out” event. Only a few hundred students, faculty, staff, and administrators, including Associate Professor of Marketing Ralph Gallay, Ph.D., attended the event.

In the middle of his column, Professor Ruscinio paraphrases a famous passage about the nature of truth and inquiry. The passage he has in mind is from John Milton’s Amadis of Gaul, the originator of the term “truthful.” Milton writes: “Let Truth and falsehood grapple, who ever knew Truth put to the worse, in a free and open encounter? Her confuting is the best and surest suppressing.”

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