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US Financial Collapse Will End Bush/Cheney Iraq War-And it won't be 'a time of our choosing'

By: Mike Whitney on: 20.04.2008 [00:39] (1630 reads)



"Come and see our overflowing morgues and find our little ones for us..."

You may find them in this corner or the other, a little hand poking out, pointing out at you...

Come and search for them in the rubble of your "surgical" air raids, you may find a little leg or a little head... pleading for your attention.

Come and see them amassed in the garbage dumps, scavenging morsels of food...

Come and see, come...~
 "Flying Kites," Layla Anwar

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Today

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The US Military has won every battle it has fought in Iraq, but it has lost the war.

Wars are won politically, not militarily. Bush doesn't understand this. He still clings to the belief that a political settlement can be imposed through force. But he is mistaken. The use of overwhelming force has only spread the violence and added to the political instability. Now Iraq is ungovernable. Was that the objective? Miles of concrete blast-walls snake through Baghdad to separate the warring parties; the country is fragmented into a hundred smaller pieces each ruled by local militia commanders. These are the signs of failure not success. That's why the American people no longer support the occupation. They're just being practical; they know Bush's plan won't work. As Nir Rosen says, "Iraq has become Somalia."

The administration still supports Iraqi President Nouri al Maliki, but al-Maliki is a meaningless figurehead who will have no effect on the country's future. He has no popular base of support and controls nothing beyond the walls of the Green Zone. The al-Maliki government is merely an Arab façade designed to convince the American people that political progress is being made, but there is no progress. It's a sham. The future is in the hands of the men with guns; they're the ones who have divided Iraq into locally-controlled fiefdoms and they are the one's who will ultimately decide who will rule the state. At present, the fighting between the factions is being described as "sectarian warfare," but the term is intentionally misleading. The fighting is political in nature; the various militias are competing with each other to see who will fill the vacuum left by the removal of Saddam. It's a power struggle. The media likes to portray the conflict as a clash between half-crazed Arabs – "dead-enders and terrorists" – who relish the idea killing their countrymen, but that's just a way of demonizing the enemy. In truth, the violence is entirely rational; it is the inevitable reaction to the dissolution of the state and the occupation by foreign troops. Many military experts predicted that there would be outbreaks of fighting after the initial invasion, but their warnings were shrugged off by clueless politicians and the cheerleading media. Now the violence has flared up again in Basra and Baghdad, and there is no end in sight. Only one thing seems certain, Iraq's future will not be decided at the ballot box. Bush has made sure of that.

The US military does not rule Iraq nor does it have the power to control events on the ground. It's just one of many militias vying for power in a state that is ruled by warlords. After the army conducts combat operations, it is forced to retreat to its camps and bases. This point needs to be emphasized in order to understand that there is no real future for the occupation. The US simply does not have the manpower to hold territory or to establish security. In fact, the presence of American troops incites violence because they are seen as forces of occupation, not liberators. Survey's show that the vast majority of the Iraqi people want US troops to leave. The military has destroyed too much of the country and slaughtered too many people to expect that these attitudes will change anytime soon. Iraqi poet and blogger Layla Anwar sums up the feelings of many of the

war's victims in a recent post on her web site "An Arab Woman's Blues":

"At the gates of Babylon the Great, you are still struggling, fighting away, chasing this or the other, detaining, bombing from above, filling up morgues, hospitals, graveyards and embassies and borders with queues for exit-visas.

Not one Iraqi wishes your presence. Not one Iraqi accepts your occupation.

Got news for you SOBs, you will never control Iraq, not in six years, not in ten years, not in 20 years....You have brought upon yourself the hate and the curse of all Iraqis, Arabs and the rest of the world...now face your agony." (Layla Anwar; "An Arab Woman's Blues: Reflections in a sealed bottle")

Is Bush hoping to change the mind of Layla or the millions of other Iraqis who have lost loved ones or been forced into exile or seen their country and culture crushed beneath the boot heel of foreign occupation? The hearts and minds campaign is lost. The US will never be welcome in Iraq.

According to a survey in the British Medical Journal Lancet more than a million Iraqis have been killed in the war. Another four million have been either internally displaced or have fled the country. But the figures tell us nothing about the magnitude of the disaster that Bush has caused by attacking Iraq. The invasion is the greatest human catastrophe in the Middle East since the Nakba in 1948. Living standards have declined precipitously in every area – infant mortality, clean water, food, security, medical supplies, education, electrical power, employment etc. Even oil production is still below pre-war levels. The invasion is the most comprehensive policy failure since Vietnam; everything has gone wrong. The heart of the Arab world has descended into chaos. The suffering is incalculable.

The main problem is the occupation; it is the primary catalyst for violence and an obstacle to political settlement. As long as the occupation persists, so will the fighting. The claims that the so-called surge has changed the political landscape are greatly exaggerated. Retired Lt. General William Odom commented on this point in an interview on the Jim Lehrer News Hour:

"The surge has sustained military instability and achieved nothing in political consolidation.... Things are much worse now. And I don't see them getting any better. This was foreseeable a year and a half ago. And to continue to put the cozy veneer of comfortable half-truths on this is to deceive the American public and to make them think it is not the charade it is.... When you say that the Lebanization of Iraq is taking place, yes, but not because of Iran, but because the U.S. went in and made this kind of fragmentation possible. And it has occurred over the last five years.... The al-Maliki government is worse off now... The notion that there's some kind of progress is absurd. The al-Maliki government uses its Ministry of Interior like a death squad militia. So to call Sadr an extremist and Maliki a good guy just overlooks the reality that there are no good guys." (Jim Lehrer News Hour)

The war in Iraq was lost before the first shot was fired. The conflict never had the support of the American people and Iraq never posed a threat to US national security. The whole pretext for the war was based on lies; it was a coup orchestrated by elites and the media to carry out a far-right agenda. Now the mission has failed, but no one wants to admit their mistakes by withdrawing; so the butchery continues without pause.

How Will It End?

The Bush administration has decided to pursue a strategy that is unprecedented in US history. It has decided to continue to prosecute a war that has already been lost morally, strategically, and militarily. But fighting a losing war has its costs. America is much weaker now than it was when Bush first took office in 2000; politically, economically and militarily. US power and prestige around the world will continue to deteriorate until the troops are withdrawn from Iraq. But that's unlikely to happen until all other options have been exhausted. Deteriorating economic conditions in the financial markets are putting enormous downward pressure on the dollar. The corporate bond and equities markets are in disarray; the banking system is collapsing, consumer spending is down, tax revenues are falling, and the country is headed into a painful and protracted recession. The US will leave Iraq sooner than many pundits believe, but it will not be at a time of our choosing. Rather, the conflict will end when the United States no longer has the capacity to wage war. That time is not far off.

The Iraq War signals the end of US interventionism for at least a generation; maybe longer. The ideological foundation for the war (preemption/regime change) has been exposed as a baseless justification for unprovoked aggression. Someone will have to be held accountable. There will have to be international tribunals to determine who is responsible in the deaths of over one million Iraqis.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=8730>

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That time is not far off.

by chestergimli on 20.04.2008 [17:14]

It can't be too soon for me.

yep not long now

by phil_s66 on 20.04.2008 [18:14]

until th baby killing/child raping/torturers/thieves/agressors/zionist led puppets from the west leave with no dignity/pride or honour. They will leave with the HUGE shame of what the whole world knows, they will leave as the paid killers/torturers/rapists and thieves they are.

Nothing now can ever and i mean EVER change the truth, it is burnt in the minds of all and history itself. Shame will last generations for the terrible war crimes committed by the occupying west and rightly so. And when reparations are to be paid it will take decades to pay for what was done.

I

by ILYANA_ROZUMOVA on 21.04.2008 [12:00]

do not undestand that nobody is dying from laugh. Bush says he is not going to "bail out" troubled houseowners because they acted irresponsibly borrowing and now not able to pay. What about the borowing (even for war) of the US government. Is it acting responsively? Owl is mockig a sparrow that it has big head.

Global liberation

by Throw_Off_The_Killer on 21.04.2008 [15:46]

If I spent the next thousand years of life contemplating, someone like Whitney still would not make any sense to me.

Does Whitney not realize that the collapse of the US is absolutely necessary if planet Earth is ever to know peace and justice?

These are the "liberals" and the "progressives" of the US. They spend their lives detailing all of the duplicitous murderous treachery of Amerika, one the one hand, and on the other hand they lament it's demise.

I do not even pretend to overstand them.

The US collapse couldn't come soon enough

by Econ on 21.04.2008 [16:02]

The US economic collapse couldn't come soon enough for the majority of Americans left impoverished with the failed US empire and costly US imperial wars.

The US has been defeated in all of its post WWII imperial wars leaving the American public with huge deficits and debt that future generations wouldn't even be able to afford.

Stiglitz estimates the failed jew war in Iraq will cost over \$2 trillion.

The ignorant dual loyal warmongering jews had billed the US war as a 'cakewalk' that has now turned into a major war and has been economically self-defeating for the US.

It is about time the US got rid of all of its useless military bases around the globe and foreign aid to the jewish parasities in Palestine.

Throw_Off_The_Killer

by hiles69@msn.com on 21.04.2008 [16:18]

Yes it is a paradox and we have a number of representatives of it in Iraqwar, e.g. bewailing the rising cost of oil (and blaming oil companies, or whomever) whilst also bewailing "the state of the world", or whatever.

George Orwell would have a field day with the amount of double-think that goes on here and elsewhere ...

a myriad people who want to have their cake and eat it too.

The irony with Whitney - and innumerable others - is that he can only make a name for himself for as long as the status quo exists.

The irony with any of us, but especially anyone trying to "preach some gospel", is that the necessary collapse of the US would probably take out the internet and deprive us of our soap boxes ... which would then thrust us back to the days in which one had to directly deal with ones neighbours.

Doesn't seem to be a bad thing to me, but it's gonna hurt like hell, even for those of us who have always regretted the destruction of truly social and cultural ties - the kinds of lives led by tribal people around the world, before that all got destroyed by colonial/empire expansion.

Hiles69

by Throw_Off_The_Killer on 21.04.2008 [17:46]

That is a good point, "he can only make a name for himself as long as the status quo exists." Quite right.

Now, as far as the necessary pain(gonna hurt like hell) which will accompany the US collapse, I would describe that pain this way.

It is like a person who has been kidnapped by some evil monster-creature and tethered to a stake in the dank dungeon of the beasts' lair. He eventually discovers an old, rusted knife blade in the dirt and struggles feverishly to cut the tether. In the process, his skin is ripped open and he bleeds....

So he has been both wounded and liberated.

The evil creature then dies of starvation and loneliness.

History speaks to the issue

by cosh on 21.04.2008 [19:41]

"I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land can never be purged away but by blood." --Last words of John Brown, in a note handed to a guard just before his hanging,1859

can't be too soon for me either

by eureka on 21.04.2008 [23:56]

these US thieves must be taught a lesson that they will never forget. You must negotiate if you want someone else's resources; lying on a country and bombing and killing its citizens in order to steal their resources will not be tolerated.

cosh

by Throw_Off_The_Killer on 21.04.2008 [23:59]

The John Brown reference is entirely appropriate. The status of Capatain Brown in the contemporary US historical perspective speaks volumes.

The man who conducts raids upon plantations - killing those who would attempt to stop him - and liberates the despised enslaved, via a twelve-hundred mile trek through two feet of snow, into Canada, eluding posses along the way; he who is fifty-seven years old and sick with the ague, eating insects and snakes to stay alive, the man who willingly walked right into the hangmans noose for the sake of sparking the greater fire, does not garner reverence. He is not heralded, as are the cradle-robbing psychopaths who impose the penis weapons upon the young girls. Who give their own seeds such glorious titles as "mulatto", "quadroon" and "octoroon" and leave their own children at the mercy of the auctioneers, and feel themselves superior in their debasement.

as I said be4

by eureka on 22.04.2008 [00:05]

""Miles of concrete blast-walls snake through Baghdad to separate the warring parties; the country is fragmented into a hundred smaller pieces each ruled by local militia commanders. These are the signs of failure not success.""

these walls are going to be the epitaph of the americans; the same walls that they are employing to fragment the Iraqis are going to entrap them. I can't wait to see these american killers getting back a dose of their own medicine.

Throw_Off_The_Killer

by hiles69@msn.com on 22.04.2008 [01:01]

Your analogy of the "dank dungeon" reminds me so much of Plato's Cave Analogy (see "The Republic", if you want the full version).

He likened us all to prisoners trapped and chained in a cave, so that we can only watch what are really only shadows cast on the cave wall, but which we take to be reality (because we know no different).

But sometimes, by some means, a person's chains may be loosened, so that he can start to look around and see things as they really are.

If he is lucky (or unlucky) enough to have more shackles removed, then he perceives a glimmer of bright light at what he realizes is the mouth of the cave.

The ascent is long, arduous and dangerous; but some might survive at at length emerge into "the full light of day" ... which would be too hard to take, all in one hit.

Time of their choosing?

by chattaway on 22.04.2008 [01:24]

Great speech by Mohammad Rafeeq on iamthewitness.com. I particularly like the analysis of JP Morgan which has lost 900 billion in 15 months. Just one bank with 30,000 employess and it pisses through nearly the net savings of china in in 15 months.

I particularly like this Telegraph article which makes you split up h
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?xml=/money/2008/04/22/cngilts122.xml>

It reminds you of those old government nuclear bomb preparation films that advised you to duct tape the windows when the hydrogen bomb landed.

chattaway

by hiles69@msn.com on 22.04.2008 [02:21]

I have lost the driver for my sound card on my computer, so I couldn't hear what Rafeeq had to say, but I did read the Telegraph article and, yeah, it does make you want to split up ... or else cry. It is so manic.

The Telegraph...

by stopwar on 22.04.2008 [06:22]

used to be right-wing, but quite "balanced" (if that is possible).

In the era that started 9/11 it has become overtly neocon and even more manically right-wing than "The Sun" (perhaps it's competing for their readers LOL!)

I post DT articles here mostly because they display double-think and such colonialist/Imperialist tendencies that you wouldn't think there could possibly be an alternative point of view... but also because they still give the most accurate representation of British military manouvres (DT always the preferred rag of the Generals - and armchair generals?).

The timing is simple.

by chattaway on 22.04.2008 [11:08]

The Bank of England has run out of money. This has taken about a year and can no longer print money to lend to the banks. Why? Because it doesn't want to be left with the bad debts.

Now Darling has put up treasury money not Bank of England money but borrowed money from the Bank of England. With this he will buy bad debts from the banks in the form of mortgages. Darling and the UK taxpayer will get the worst of the worst.

When the UK debt has run up to an unsupportable level perhaps 120% of GDP buying dead in the water loans the the crisis will start for real because at this point the country has to borrow from an international workout team and in real money gold or oil loans something like that. The timing on this is 6-12 months based on the rate at which the Bank Of England resources were exhausted.

But note how the timing works the sheeple have to have the crotch cut in the form of buying all this bad debt before the bankers lose a cent.

How stupid do people have to be before they can't understand what is happening. But stupid they are.

IAI just released big special regarding its ..

by Seele on 22.04.2008 [12:10]

.. operations against the evil contractor mercenaries in Iraq. (I m short of time and don t have time therefore to upload several links. You might visit their website to see more links.)

One link to video is here: 311 MB (english speech/arabic subtitle)

h http://www.archive.org/download/bloody_contracts_03/subti.avi

Enjoy !

chattaway off topic sorry

by phil_s66 on 22.04.2008 [16:32]

do you need help sorting a driver for your sound card? if so scouse.phil at gmail

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