

- [Home](#)
- [Activism»](#)
- [Commentary/Analysis](#)
- [Hello Debbie](#)
- [Israel»](#)
- [News/Politics»](#)
- [Palestine»](#)
- [USA»](#)

## Neocons Hope Israel Will Start a Fire the U.S. Will Be Forced to Put Out

- 08. Aug, 2010 in [Commentary/Analysis](#), [Iran](#), [Israel](#), [News/Politics](#), [U.S. Foreign Policy](#) -

4

**By Gareth Porter**

**Posted by : Michael Leon -- [Veterans Today](#)**



Reuel Marc Gerecht - Weekly Standard

**Neocons are supporting an Israeli attack on Iran in the hope that the U.S. would be drawn into the ensuing conflict. “If the Israelis bomb now, American public opinion will probably be with them,” writes neocon Reuel Marc Gerecht.**

**“Perhaps decisively so.” [Reuel Marc Gerecht’s screed](#) justifying an Israeli bombing attack on Iran coincides with the opening of the new Israel lobby campaign marked by the introduction of [House resolution 1553](#) expressing full support for such an Israeli attack.**

What is important to understand about this campaign is that the aim of [Gerecht](#) and of the right-wing government of Benjamin Netanyahu is to support an attack by Israel so that the United States can be drawn into direct, full-scale war with Iran.

That has long been the Israeli strategy for Iran, because Israel cannot fight a war with Iran without full U.S. involvement. Israel needs to know that the United States will finish the war that Israel wants to start.

Gerecht openly expresses the hope that any Iranian response to the Israeli attack would trigger full-scale U.S. war against Iran. “If Khamenei has a death-wish, he’ll let the Revolutionary Guards mine the strait, the entrance to the Persian Gulf,” writes Gerecht. “It might be the only thing that would push President Obama to strike Iran militarily....”

Gerecht suggest that the same logic would apply to any Iranian “terrorism against the United States after an Israeli strike,” by which he really means any attack on a U.S. target in the Middle East. Gerecht writes that Obama might be “obliged” to threaten major retaliation “immediately after an Israeli surprise attack.”

That’s the key sentence in this very long Gerecht argument. Obama is not going to be “obliged” to join an Israeli aggression against Iran unless he feels that domestic political pressures to do so are too strong to resist. That’s why the Israelis are determined to line up a strong majority in Congress and public opinion for war to foreclose Obama’s options.

In the absence of confidence that Obama would be ready to come into the war fully behind Israel, there cannot be an Israeli strike.

Gerecht's argument for war relies on a **fanciful nightmare scenario** of Iran doling out nuclear weapons to Islamic extremists all over the Middle East. But the real concern of the Israelis and their lobbyists, as Gerecht's past writing has explicitly stated, is to destroy Iran's Islamic regime in a paroxysm of U.S. military violence.

Gerecht first revealed this Israeli-neocon fantasy as early as 2000, before the Iranian nuclear program was even taken seriously, in an essay written for a book published by the Project for a New American Century. Gerecht argued that, if Iran could be caught in a "terrorist act," the U.S. Navy should "retaliate with fury". The purpose of such a military response, he wrote, should be to "strike with truly devastating effect against the ruling mullahs and the repressive institutions that maintain them."

And lest anyone fail to understand what he meant by that, Gerecht was more explicit: "That is, no cruise missiles at midnight to minimize the body count. The clerics will almost certainly strike back unless Washington uses overwhelming, paralyzing force."



David Wurmser

In 2006-07, the Israeli war party had reason to believe that it could hijack U.S. policy long enough to get the war it wanted, because it had placed one of its most militant agents, David Wurmser, in a strategic position to influence that policy.

We now know that Wurmser, formerly a close adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu and during that period Vice President Dick Cheney's main adviser on the Middle East, urged a policy of overwhelming U.S. military force against Iran. After leaving the administration in 2007, Wurmser **revealed** that he had advocated a U.S. war on Iran, not to set back the nuclear program but to achieve regime change.

"Only if what we do is placed in the framework of a fundamental assault on the survival of the regime will it have a pick-up among ordinary Iranians," Wurmser told *The Telegraph*. The U.S. attack was not to be limited to nuclear targets but was to be quite thorough and massively destructive. "If we start shooting, we must be prepared to fire the last shot. Don't shoot a bear if you're not going to kill it."

Of course, that kind of war could not be launched out of the blue. It would have required a casus belli to justify a limited initial attack that would then allow a rapid escalation of U.S. military force. In 2007, Cheney acted on Wurmser's advice and tried to get Bush to provoke a war with Iran over Iraq, but it was **foiled by the Pentagon**.

As Wurmser was beginning to whisper that advice in Cheney's ear in 2006, Gerecht was making **the same argument** in *The Weekly Standard*:

"Bombing the nuclear facilities once would mean we were declaring war on the clerical regime. We shouldn't have any illusions about that. We could not stand idly by and watch the mullahs build other sites. If the ruling mullahs were to go forward with rebuilding what they'd lost—and it would be surprising to discover the clerical regime knuckling after an initial bombing run—we'd have to strike until they stopped. And if we had any doubt about where their new facilities were (and it's a good bet the clerical regime would try to bury new sites deep under heavily populated areas), and we were reasonably suspicious they were building again, we'd have to consider, at a minimum, using special-operations forces to penetrate suspected sites."

The idea of waging a U.S. war of destruction against Iran is obvious lunacy, which is why U.S. military leaders have strongly resisted it both during the Bush and Obama administrations. But Gerecht makes it clear that Israel believes it can use its control of Congress to pound Obama into submission. Democrats in Congress, **he boasts**, "are mentally in a different galaxy than they were under President Bush." Even though Israel has increasingly been regarded around the world as a rogue state after its Gaza atrocities and the commando killings of unarmed civilians on board the Mavi Marmara, its grip on the U.S. Congress **appears as strong as ever**.

Moreover, **polling data** for 2010 show that a majority of Americans have already been manipulated into supporting war against Iran – in large part because more than two-thirds of those polled have gotten the impression that Iran already has

nuclear weapons. The Israelis are apparently hoping to exploit that advantage. "If the Israelis bomb now, American public opinion will probably be with them," writes Gerecht. "Perhaps decisively so."

Netanyahu must be feeling good about the prospects for pressuring Barack Obama to join an Israeli war of aggression against Iran. It was Netanyahu, after all, who [declared in 2001](#), "I know what America is. America is a thing you can move very easily, move it in the right direction. They won't get in the way."



**Gareth Porter** is an American historian, veteran investigative journalist and policy analyst on U.S. foreign and military policy. A strong opponent of U.S. wars in South Asia, and the Middle East, he has also written on the potential for diplomatic compromise to end or avoid wars in Korea, Cambodia, Philippines, [Iraq] and Iran. He is the author of a history of the origins of the Vietnam war, *Perils of Dominance: Imbalance of Power and the Road to War in Vietnam*.

[Prev](#)

[Next](#)

#### 4 Comments

1.



Earlaiman on the 08. Aug, 2010 remarked #

"If the Israelis bomb now, American public opinion will probably be with them," writes neocon Reuel Marc Gerecht.

Perhaps so!

But, even so, it will take more than public opinion, the American version of which is about as constant and consistent, as true, and manipulable as an overpriced two dollar waterfront street whore in Brooklyn to "win" such a war, if "win" is even a term which can be applied to such a "war," as a suicidal move such as this is sure to become.

Such a war might be fought and brought to an end.... most wars, prolong sufficiently, do eventually "run down," if not for lack of momentum and support, then simply because they no longer become profitable and become liably and excessively expensive, both in moral credit, fiscal, human resources and goods, as well a overwhelming and disgustingly bloody and alienating of all human sensibilities and responsibility.

But, there is and there will be no element of "victory" in such a war.

Over the years, the US has taken the measure of this kind of debacle in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and now they want to try Iran?

Sucking infanity, that's what it is, sucking Israeli infanity!

Earlaiman

2.



ZIONIST JEWS ARE DELUSIONAL PILES OF PUTRIFIED HYENA CRAP on the 08. Aug, 2010 remarked #

Regarding the 'overwhelming support' for this coming war with Iran, I have a few words of wisdom for the ZIONIST mass murderers in the U.S. Government, and I want you to heed these words well, because they're not a threat, they are a PROMISE!

First, boys n gurlz of zionist ilk, let's say you stupidly draw the U.S. into a protracted war in Iran that YOU HAVE STARTED using a FALSE FLAG ATTACK like the one you did in NYC on Sept. 11, 2001...the tide will turn on your sorry butts and you'll wonder where the fork the yellow went when public opinion shifts and people suddenly realize what the hell you have all done.

And then, I have to tell you, it won't be pleasant. A whole lot of dying here is going to happen. And the reason for it, will be a CIVIL WAR in the U.S., triggered by your bullshit and your war mongering, and your blood lusting. American's will turn on their fellow citizens who started this crap, and the retribution will be quite ugly and terrible. It means that about 250 million of us will have to chase down the sixty or seventy million arseholes who took this country

down the toilet, ZIONISTS at the TOP OF THE HEAP, and begin to make sure you don't ever, ever get a chance to do this ever again. You can take it for what it's worth that a whole lot of 13 inch thick gravemarkers will be needed in the aftermath of that mistake you're about to make.

Holocaust? We'll show you what Holocaust means. If you further destroy this nation, well drive every last one of you into the ocean, or the dirt, and we won't stop until every last zionist pile of crap is totally non-existent except on some mass grave markers left behind after the ensuing civil war is over with.

Just push your luck, boyz n gurlz, and I can promise you that the end result will leave your fannies very very very blackened and cold in the ensuing backlash here.

Wanna sacrifice more American blood? Go for it, but remember, there'll be a big price to pay and if you can't afford it, I suggest you not push your luck further.

it's about to RUN OUT.



3. G Street on the 09. Aug, 2010 remarked #

The next words from the "I know what America is" Netanyahu quote refers to 80% approval in the polls, about which he says, "It's absurd."

I agree that it is absurd. It is absurd that you could convince a majority of Americans to start ANOTHER war when they don't approve of the two current official ones. Television propaganda like CNN's that repeatedly showed red BREAKING NEWS headlines about Iran that were then quietly withdrawn without any admissions of error are why US citizens get these strange ideas. Otherwise, think about it, how would we know whether Iran has a nuclear program? Does anyone ever poll on questions like: "How the hell would you know whether Iran is developing nuclear weapons?????" Why "ask" us when we don't know. The answers are supplied and the test is dumbed down until eventually 60% will get it "right" and then we can have another illegal, immoral and incredibly stupid war which will destroy our country and later on the same 60% can wonder how it ever went so wrong.

And the thing that Netanyahu moves so easily, "our" congress will go along. But both congress and its owners make a big mistake assuming that war-weary America will go along with this latest disaster in the ongoing destruction of our country. I know I won't.

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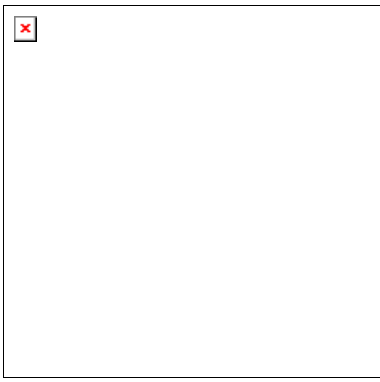
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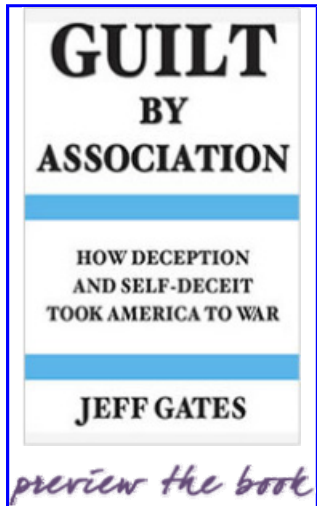
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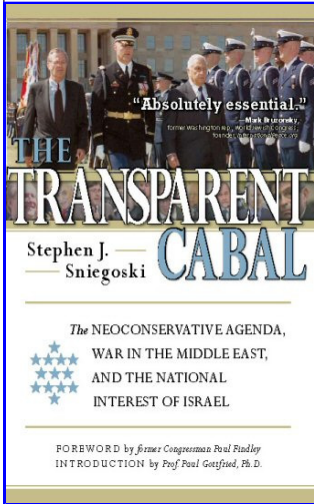


Editor's Pick



**Norman Finkelstein has just published an important new book on the Gaza**

# conflict of 2008-2009, 'This Time We Went Too Far.' Go to [orbooks.com](http://orbooks.com) to get it.



**“There is no book that better exposes the oft-obscured fact that Israeli interests are primarily driving America's wars in the Middle East than Stephen J. Sniegoski’s The Transparent Cabal” ~ Maidhc Ó Cathail**

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