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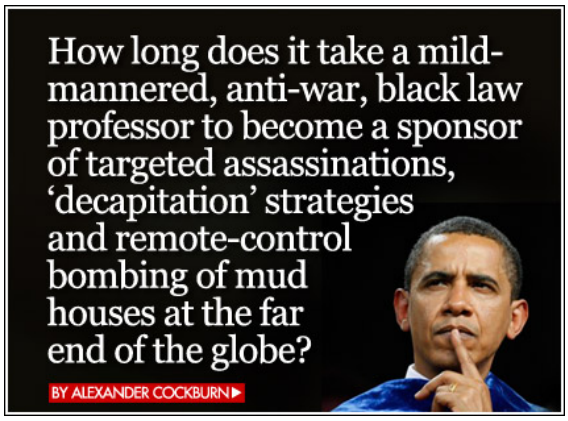
:: ONU - XX Assemblea Generale (1965):

La XX Assemblea Generale dell□ONU (1965) dichiara "la legittimit□ della lotta da parte dei popoli sotto oppressione coloniale, per esercitare il loro diritto all' autodeter-minazione e all'indipendenza". Inoltre, l'Assemblea invita "tutti gli Stati a fornire assistenza morale e materiale ai movimenti di

Obama: From anti-war law professor to warmonger in 100 days

Alexander Cockburn



May 21, 2009

How long does it take a mild-mannered, anti-war, black professor of constitutional law, trained as a community organiser on the South Side of Chicago, to become an enthusiastic sponsor of targeted assassinations, 'decapitation' strategies and remote-control bombing of mud houses at the far end of the globe?

There's nothing surprising here. As far back as President Woodrow Wilson, in the early 20th century, American liberalism has been swift to flex its imperial muscle and whistle up the Marines. High-explosive has always been in the hormone shot.

The nearest parallel to Obama in eager deference to the bloodthirsty counsels of his counter-insurgency advisors is John F. Kennedy. It is not surprising that bright young presidents relish quick-fix, 'outside the box' scenarios for victory.

Obama□s course is set and his presidency is already stained the familiar blood-red

Whether in Vietnam or Afghanistan the counsel of regular Army generals tends to be drear and unappetising: vast, costly deployments of troops by the hundreds of thousands, mounting casualties, uncertain prospects for any long-term success □ all adding up to dismaying political costs on the home front.

Amid Camelot's dawn in 1961, Kennedy swiftly bent an ear to the advice of men like Ed Lansdale, a special ops man who wore rakishly the halo of victory over the Communist guerillas in the Philippines and who promised results in Vietnam.

By the time he himself had become the victim of Lee Harvey Oswald's 'decapitation' strategy, brought to successful conclusion in Dealey Plaza, Dallas, on November 22, 1963, Kennedy had set in motion the secret counter-insurgency operations, complete with programs of assassination and torture, that turned South-East Asia and Latin America into charnel houses for the next 20 years.

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liberazione nazionale nei territori coloniali".

:: ONU - Risoluzione 1514

"L'Assemblea Generale dichiara che: la soggezione dei popoli a dominio straniero, conquista e asservimento costituisce una negazione dei diritti umani fondamentali, □ contraria alla Carta delle Nazioni Unite ed □ un impedimento alla promozione della pace e della cooperazione mondiali.
Tutti i popoli hanno diritto all' autodeter-minazione; in virtù di tale diritto essi devono liberamente determinare il loro status politico e liberamente perseguire il loro sviluppo economico, sociale e culturale".

:: Convenzione di Ginevra, Protocollo Addizionale I (1977):

La lotta armata pu□ essere usata, come ultima risorsa, come mezzo per esercitare il diritto all' autodeter-minazione.

:: Tribunale penale internazionale

In base allo Statuto del Tribunale penale internazionale, sono definiti □crimini di guerra□:
(1) attacchi lanciati intenzionalmente contro popolazione civili in quanto tali o contro civili che non prendano direttamente parte alle ostilit□;
(4) attacchi lanciati intenzionalmente nella consapevolezza che gli stessi avranno come conseguenza la perdita di vite umane tra la popolazione civile, e lesioni a civili o danni a propriet□ civili ovvero danni diffusi duraturi e gravi all□ambiente naturale che siano manifestamente eccessivi rispetto all□insieme dei concreti e diretti i vantaggi militari previsti.

:: Iraq anthem (click to listen)

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Another Democrat who strode into the White House with the word 'peace' springing from his lips was Jimmy Carter. It was he who first decreed that 'freedom' and the war on terror required a $3.5bn investment in a secret CIA-led war in Afghanistan, plus the deployment of Argentinian torturers to advise US military teams in counter-insurgency ops in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Obama campaigned on a pledge to 'decapitate' al-Qaeda, meaning the assassination of its leaders. It was his short-hand way of advertising that he had the right stuff. Now, like Kennedy, he's summoned the exponents of unconventional, short-cut paths to success in that mission.

Lt. Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal now replaces General David McKiernan as Commander of US Forces in Afghanistan. McChrystal's expertise is precisely in assassination and 'decapitation'. As commander of the military's Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) for nearly five years starting in 2003, McChrystal was in charge of death squad ops, his best advertised success being the killing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, head of al-Qaeda in Iraq.

The phrase 'sophisticated networks' tends to crop up in assessments of McChrystal's Iraq years. Actually there's nothing fresh or sophisticated in what he did. Programmes of targeted assassination aren't new in counter-insurgency. The most infamous and best known was the Phoenix Program in Vietnam, designed to identify and eliminate cadres of Vietnam's National Liberation Front, informally known as the Viet Cong, of whom, on some estimates, at least 40,000 were duly assassinated.

In such enterprises two outcomes are inevitable. Identification of the human targets requires either voluntary informants or captives. In the latter instance torture is certain, whatever rhetorical pledges are proclaimed back home. There may be intelligence officers who rely on patient, non-violent interrogation, as the US officer who elicited the whereabouts of al-Zarqawi claims he did.

But there will be others who will reach for the garden hose and the face towel. (McChrystal, not uncoincidentally, was involved in the prisoner abuse scandal at Baghdad's Camp Nama. He also played a sordid role in the cover-up of the friendly-fire death of ex-NFL star and Army Ranger Pat Tillman.)

Whatever the technique, a second certainty is the killing of large numbers of civilians in the final 'targeted assassination'. At one point in the first war on Saddam Hussein in the early 1990s, a huge component of US air sorties was devoted each day to bombing places where US intelligence had concluded Saddam might be hiding. Time after time, after the mangled bodies of men, women and children had been scrutinised, came the crestfallen tidings that Saddam was not among them.

Already in Afghanistan public opinion has been inflamed by the weekly bulletins of deadly bombardments either by drones or manned bombers. Still in the headlines is the US bombardment of Bala Boluk in Farah province, which yielded 140 dead villagers torn apart by high explosives, including 93 children. Only 22 were male and over 18.

Perhaps 'sophisticated intelligence' had identified one of these as an al-Qaeda man, or a Taliban captain, or maybe someone an Afghan informant to the US military just didn't care for. Maybe electronic eavesdropping simply screwed up the coordinates. If we ever know, it won't be for a very long time. Obama has managed a terse apology, even as he installs McChrystal, thus ensuring more of the same.

Obama is bidding to be as sure-footed as Bush in trampling on constitutional rights

The logic of targeted assassinations was on display in Gaza even as Obama worked on the uplifting phrases of his inaugural address in January. The Israelis claimed they were targeting only Hamas even as the body counts of women and children methodically refuted these claims and finally extorted from Obama a terse phrase of regret.

He may soon weary of uttering them. His course is set and his presidency already permanently stained the ever-familiar blood-red tint. There's no short-cut in counter-insurgency. A targeted bombing yields up Bala Boluk, and the incandescent enmity of most Afghans. The war on al-Qaeda mutates into the war on the Taliban, and 850,000 refugees in the Swat Valley in Pakistan.

L'Impero si è fermato a Bahgdad, by Valeria Poletti

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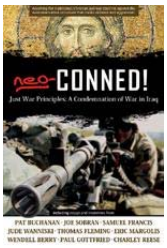

"Neoconned" and "Neoconned Again", two new collections of essays

America's "War on Terrorism", book by Michel Chossudovsky

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The mild-mannered professor is bidding to be as sure-footed as Bush and Cheney in trampling on constitutional rights. He's planning to restore Bush's kangaroo courts for prisoners at Guantanamo who've never even been formally charged with a crime! He's threatening to hold some prisoners indefinitely in the US without trial.

He's even been awarded a hearty editorial clap on the back from the Wall Street Journal: "Mr. Obama deserves credit for accepting that civilians courts are largely unsuited for the realities of the war on terror. He has now decided to preserve a tribunal process that will be identical in every material way to the one favoured by Dick Cheney."

It didn't take long. But it's what we've got for the rest of Obama-time

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Comment by layla anwar - 22 May 2009 - 02:35 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

Another lousy article by A.Cockburn, must run in the family...
The insinuated implicit message here is the following:
Targeting Saddam, targeting the Taliban Chiefs, targeting God knows who else (wh o am sure A.Cockburn deeply believes that they are "bad" guys") is costing civil ian life...
Basta - this is the message.

But the FACT that the fucking US had/has no fucking Business either in Iraq unde r Saddam, or in Afghanistan under the Taliban is not even broached.

It's as if this guy is saying - okay let's target them coz after all "they are r eally deep down part of the axis of evil" but please let's do it in a civilized way and spare innocent lives.

But then that does not surprise from the cockburn duo. Mother England all the wa y.....!!!!!!

Comment by obombaton is an asshole! - 23 May 2009 - 03:00 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

It wouldn't be so inane and stupid if the guy were an uneducated turd like his p redecessor, meathead, who never flew any airplane other than the one in his mind ...back seat rider that he was.

so now you have the Obombaton. Constitutional Scholar, Professor of Law, mass m urderer of innocent women and children of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Blood splat tered tyrant and liar.

It wouldn't be so bad if it truly were about national security, which it is not. It's always been about stealing energy or controlling energy output in the Midd le East. It never was about tracking down the 'american invented' Taliban, eith er. Nor was it about Bin Laden, who neither attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001., or could be proven to have participated in the U.S.S. Cole attack, though that was also hung on him. He was always a near blood brother to the Bush bastards, and the Bush bastard made damned sure every Bin Laden got their flight out of the U.S. when nobody else could fly after Sept. 11th.

So, the hard thing to accept about this is that Obombaton is just spilling blood for Israel, and the puppeteers who have their hands up his ass. He's not doing this to make anyone in Amerika safer. He's not doing it to get retribution or p ayback from a man who's been dead since 2002, that had nothing to do with Sept. 11th., either. He says it's about a 'terror war' but the only terror war I see being waged is the one the U.S. is waging, more or less 'unilaterally' against the rest of the free world, for it's resources (OIL) and that's the only terror war I see.

So when I see an Afghani or a Pakistani carrying the dead child that Obombaton m urdered, I think; "god damned you for what the fuck you are doing for Israel, yo u miserable bastard..", and that's what I think. I also think that if that was my kid he just murdered, I wouldn't rest until I had his fucking head on a pike.

So, the Obombaton is a mass murderer, a deceitful, spineless, cowardly "uses mil itary to get his blood lust for him" kind of killer who tells others to do his d irty work for him, his ALL MERCENARY ARMY.

"Be All You Can BE!", the U.S. Army commercial says; "mass murderer, child rapis t, torturer, cold blooded assassin" is what it really means. Do it for your bos s, Obombaton. Be proud you murder women and children who never harmed you, inte nded to harm you, or posed a threat to you and yours.

Obombaton is scum. He is vermin. He is a war criminal for what he is doing in Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, and should be tried in the Hague for this if an yone has the balls to indict him for the continued murder that Bush bastard star ted there.

It's time to turn this killing machine OFF, world peoples!

Comment by kak - 23 May 2009 - 17:01 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

We the American people are NOT Israel□s BITCH□ Obama, Congress and the Media are !

F**K Israel
Israel is NO Friend to America or the World..!!

Congressional members with dual American / Israeli Citizenships are TRAITORS, th ey need to be lined up against a wall and SHOT□!!

Israel / Zionist Jews are the Blood Sucking Parasites of the World. They are not hing more then Leeches feeding on Humanity and sucking the life out of Mankind.
The sooner this World is rid of them the better we all will be.

□What□s the difference between an Israeli and a Catfish□?
One□s a Scum Sucking Bottom Feeder and the other is a Fish□

"Die You Scum Bastards, Die"

Comment by nicolae - 25 May 2009 - 05:55 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

if the Nazis in Congress have their way:

H.R. 1966: Megan Meier Cyberbullying Prevention Act

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o a person, using electronic means to support severe, repeated, and hostile beha vior, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both."

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