

IRAQ: Irrevocably Regressed American Quandary

The American people believed when President Bush told them that the shores of the United States will be safe once the ruthless dictator Saddam Hussein was removed. They helped him create the mushroom cloud of fear over their heads and gave him extraordinary powers to embark upon an ill-conceived war plan that not only got out of hand and turned a sovereign country into a mammoth graveyard for its own citizens, but also fed well to the insatiable dislike for the already suspect American foreign policy in the Middle East. Consequently, in the past three and half years, Iraq has truly become *IRAQ: Irrevocably Regressed American Quandary*.

Occupation creates resistance. The world history is replete with incidents where the more violently a given power behaves, the more diverse and effective the resistance becomes. This is particularly true in the case of occupation. And the more violent the occupation, the further catalyzed is the resistance. There is no teacher greater than history, since it speaks eloquently, effectively and above all, truthfully. We can all relate to the examples ranging from the American war of independence against the British, to that of Algeria against the French, the resistance of pajama-clad Vietnamese against the US and not very long ago, that of the poppy-growing Afghans against mighty Soviet Republic.

The retaliation on the streets of Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq against our troops is mainly due to this occupation and only marginally due to '*they hate us*' syndrome. Let's not forget the words of the founding fathers of America: All men are created equal, which means no occupation lasts for ever. We love our freedom dearly; it turns out, others do too – *even* the people under years of occupation. It also turns out that this is a fundamental right God-given to everyone of us, a right that transcends land, race and religion all. But let the *Iraqis* seek and find that prized freedom for themselves.

As conscious Americans, we must ask ourselves: is the meaningless pursuit of a shallow glory that is written in the blood of our fine young men and women and that of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, really worth it?

Why? Because first, the very innocence, honor and security that was mauled on 9/11 on American soil is being victimized and tormented even today, albeit in a land thousands of miles away. And second, *only foolish draw lines in the blood*.