Shams Ali

War, Terror and the Way to Peace

SECOND EDITION

Insights into the Global Violence of the Third Millennium

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Preface to the Second Edition

This book is a collection of articles, which started as correspondence with the main personalities of the present War on Terror (G.W. Bush, T. Blair, and Co.) at the time the War was proclaimed in 2001.

The war has provoked many books and articles. But while most of them look at the war from the standpoint of a group to which the author happens to belong and seek to explain the events by the 20th century political cliches of "right and left", or "East and West", this book takes a global view, seeing the events of today as just another link in the endless chain of the Man's Struggle with his greatest of enemies — Himself.

Each article has the date of when it was first published, and from this one can see that the articles were able to predict the events before they occured. And some of the ideas advanced in these articles have become part of the "political discourse" of the 21st Century.

In this edition the book has been expanded to include articles up to November 2007.

Truth and Justice Publications Ltd, November 2007

Preface to the First Edition

Proclamation by George W. Bush of the War on Terror following the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York on the 11th of September 2001, has unleashed an orgy of escalating global violence. The wars in Afghanistan and then Iraq. The escalation of the previously existing conflicts in Palestine, Chechnya and East Turkistan. The terror attacks in Bali, Turkey and Spain. The lawlessness of kidnappings, of imprisonments without trial, of murders of hostages and murders and torture of prisoners.

This book looks at the philosophy underlying the War on Terror and the issues involved in the various aspects of the conduct of that war.

What is "terrorism"? Why do terrorists kill people? How can be terrorism stopped? Where is the War on Terror leading the World? These and other questions are asked and answered in this book.

Truth and Justice Publications Ltd, May 2004

Contents

I	Th	e Rise of a New Ism	1
1	The	Origin of the War on Terror	3
	1.1	The Conception of the Doctrine of War on Terror	3
	1.2	The Birth of the Doctrine of War on Terror	6
	1.3	The New World Order	7
	1.4	The Band Wagon	8
	1.5	The Doctrine Grows in Strength and Scope	8
	1.6	The Netanyahu Brigades	11
	1.7	Implementing the Netanyahu Doctrine	11
	1.8	Is the Netanyahu Doctrine Workable?	12
	1.9	The Way to Peace and Security	13
2	Tur	ning the War from Inevitable to Avoidable	15
3	The	Aims of the US Foreign Policy	19
II	Te	errorism — What and Why?	21
4	Defi	nition of Terrorism	23
	4.1	On Definitions	23
	4.2	What is Terrorism?	24
	4.3	Legal or Illegal?	26
	4.4	Moral or Immoral?	26
	4.5	Terrorism, Wars, Policy	27
	4.6	From Terrorism to Government	27
	4.7	Why Kill Innocents?	27

	4.8 Terrorist Leaders	. 28
	4.9 Failures to Stop	29
	4.10 How to Stop	30
	4.11 How to Prevent	30
5	The Life and Death of Abu Nidal	31
6	Answering Difficult Questions about the 9/11	35
7	The Dead, the Alive, and the Immortal	39
8	Why Terrorists Die Smiling?	43
9	Lawlessness Begets Lawlessness	49
10	Sayings of a Modern Crusader and Educating America	53
11	Why London Bombs	55
II	Spinning Wars	59
	Spinning Wars Spinning Another War?	59 61
12	•	
12 13	Spinning Another War?	61
12 13 14	Spinning Another War? The Moscow Theater	61 73
12 13 14 15	Spinning Another War? The Moscow Theater Patterns of Crimes and Politics	61 73 79
12 13 14 15 IV	Spinning Another War? The Moscow Theater Patterns of Crimes and Politics Two Years of Wars and Terror and the Future Peace	61 73 79 85
12 13 14 15 IV 16	Spinning Another War? The Moscow Theater Patterns of Crimes and Politics Two Years of Wars and Terror and the Future Peace Democratizing Iraq and Iran?	61 73 79 85

CC	ONTENTS	vii
19	Who Will Govern Iraq and Does It Matter?	103
20	Justifying the War on Iraq	109
21	Governing Iraq and Governing the World	113
22	Is Iran Next?	115
23	The UN and the US Predicament in Iraq	121
24	The US Choices in Iraq	125
25	Who is Fighting the US in Iraq?	129
26	Can the UN Stabilize Iraq? Or can the US?	133
27	Iraq Handover — What Next?	137
28	US Iraq Opportunity	141
29	Can Iraq be Kept AIDS-Free?	143
30	The Secret of the Fallujah Resistance	147
31	Pacifying Iraq	151
32	The Arithmetic of the Afghan War	155
\mathbf{V}	Stopping Terror	157
33	The Lost Opportunity to Stop Terror	159
	33.1 How to Stop Terrorism	159
	33.2 What is Terrorism?	160
	33.3 Terrorism, Wars and Matters of Internal Policy	161
	33.4 The Authority of Terrorist Leaders	162
	33.5 Failed Attempts to Stop Terrorism	163
	33.6 Operations Infinite Justice and Enduring Freedom	165 166
	33.7 The Solution	100

34 Proclamation of George W. Bush (undelivered)	171
35 Proclamation of Osama bin Laden	177
36 Lessons of the War and Terror	181
37 Are the US Winning or Losing the Global War on Terror?	185
38 Turning the Other Cheek	209
39 Peace with Libya and War on Terror	217
40 Three Years of Wars and Terror — What Next?	219
41 Five Years of Wars and Terror and the Safety of Israel	225
VI The Victims	231
42 The Lessons of Bali	233
43 Should We Support Our Boys?	237
44 PoWs or Illegal Combatants?	243
45 Who protects tyrants and incites wars?	247
46 Understanding Protests	251
47 Use of Torture in the War on Terror	257
48 Police Suspect Detention Time	261
49 The Real Issue in the Forest Gate Case	265
50 The Real Issue in the de Menezes Case	269
51 Litvinenko — Another Victim of Politics	275

CONTENTS	ix
----------	----

VII The Criminals	277
52 Blair Apology and Punishment	279
53 Tyranny, Despotism, Democracy and Rule of Law	283
54 Freedom — Can Bush Deliver It?	287
55 Staying the Course in Iraq	293
56 London Bombs, Iraq War and Dr Shipman	299
57 Treason, Terrorism and Tony Blair	303
58 The Wig, the Shoe, and Mathematics	311
59 Is the Saddam Hussain Verdict Just?	315
VIII From War to Peace	319
60 Osama and Omar Speak Again	321
61 Liability of Heads of State for War Crimes 61.1 Definition of War	326
62 Crimes and War Crimes	329
63 The War for Peace?	333
64 Are Results of Wars Predictable?	339
65 Proclaiming Wars	343
Index	349

K	CO	NTEN	ITS

Our Publications 353

List of Tables

12.1	Analysis of War Spin	62
14.1	Patterns in the Afghan and Iraw Wars	81
37.1	Are the US Winning the War on Terror?	185
59.1	Saddam Hussain Verdict	315
55.1	Justifying the Falklands War	346

List of Figures

60.1 Greatest Danger to World Peace		322
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Part IV

Democratizing Iraq ... and Iran?

Chapter 26

Can the UN Stabilize Iraq? Or can the US?

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HOW THE US CAN LEGITIMIZE THEIR PRESENCE IN IRAQ AND STABILIZE IT.

Some people hope that the US predicament in Iraq can be helped by involving the UN.

But can the UN stabilize Iraq?

To answer that question we need to understand why the US cannot stabilize Iraq without the UN, and what could the UN provide that the US cannot provide itself.

Is it lack of material resources?

The US has more material resources than the UN.

Is it lack of military might?

The US has more military might than the UN.

Is it lack of legitimacy?

But would the involvement of the UN in Iraq legitimize the American presence there?

The true legitimacy does not lie in the names, labels, uniforms, or even "official capacity" of the parties. It lies in the actions of the parties and their motives for these actions.

Thus, the actions of a policeman in uniform braking into a shop, shooting dead the shopkeeper, raping his daughter and helping himself to the cash in the till would be just as illegitimate as the same actions performed by an ordinary criminal. Nor would these actions of the policeman be legitimate, if he tried to justify them by saying that the shopkeeper was a crook who used to overcharge his customers, so he had to "remove" him.

On the other hand, if an ordinary person would have overpowered that "rogue" policeman and handed him over to the police, he would have been acting legitimately, even though he was not wearing a police uniform, and was not acting in any "official capacity".

The only valid reasons for a war are: (1) self-defence, (2) enforcement of law and order.

The US have failed to establish a valid case for either self-defence or for enforcement of law and order. This is why the US war against Iraq has no legitimacy.

Had the UN attacked a country without a valid reason, such act would have been just as illegitimate as the American war against Iraq, or a rape by a policeman in uniform.

Having attacked Iraq without a valid reason, the US have bestowed upon any Iraqis the right of self-defence against an unjustified attack. This exercise by Iraqis of their right to self-defence found its expression in the present resistance to the American occupation.

Subsequent attempts by the US to suppress the resistance have resulted in further violence by the Americans against Iraqis, such as arrests, torture, killings and destruction of property. Which in its turn generates still more violence by the Iraqis against the Americans.

And it is this situation that some hope to remedy by the involvement of the UN.

But, if the UN were an effective means of supranational government, then it would have prevented the American war against Iraq in the first place.

Failure by the UN to prevent the US war against Iraq, as well as its failure to prevent the lawlessness of the so-called "Middle East Conflict" are clear proofs that the UN is not an effective instrument of global

government.

If the UN were an effective means of global government, it would have ruled the world by applying supranational laws, based on the principles of justice, rather then letting the world be ruled by nationalist politics of nation states which happen to have greater military power.

And as the UN is not an effective instrument of global government, then its involvement in Iraq will not help the US to stabilize the situation in Iraq, and the US will have to deal with this problem on its own.

So, how could the US stabilize the situation in Iraq without the UN? It has to begin with legitimizing its presence there.

How can the US legitimize its presence in Iraq, now that it had occupied Iraq without a valid reason?

Having committed illegitimate acts of invasion and occupation, the US cannot claim the right of self-defence. It is the Iraqis who have been invaded and occupied that have the right to defend themselves against the foreign invaders and occupiers, who in this case are the US.

The US can, however, legitimize its presence by assuming on itself the task of enforcement of supranational law and order.

The reason that they can do so, is precisely, because neither the UN, nor any other entity existing today can perform that task. And in a situation of anarchy, and this is the present state of the global law and order, anybody who can successfully perform the task of law enforcement will acquire legitimacy.

The key point in this case is that whoever takes upon himself the task of law enforcement must act with totally objectivity and impartiality. Because it is this objectivity and impartially that is the source of legitimacy of a law enforcer. A person (or a nation) who takes upon himself the task of law enforcement but fails to act objectively and impartially, will be seen as an unjust tyrant and will have no legitimacy. And those who will see themselves as victims of such tyrant will resist that tyrant and this will lead to violence and instability.

So what steps must the US take to legitimize their presence in Iraq? They must openly acknowledge all the crimes that they have com-

mitted against people and property under the slogan of "War on Terror" in Iraq, Afghanistan, and everywhere else in the world.

They must acknowledge that any form of politics is abuse of govern-

ment powers, condemn politics in any form and proclaim that they will abandon all politics and become honest and competent administrators rather than incompetent and dishonest politicians that they have been up to now.

They must proclaim that from now on they will limit their activities in Iraq and everywhere else in the world to protection of person and property and that they will value life, freedom and property of each and every Iraqi, Afghani, Palestinian, Chechen, or anybody else greater than they value their own life, freedom and property.

They must release all prisoners of the War on Terror and compensate them for all the mistreatment and humiliations caused to them by the Americans or those acting on their behalf.

They must compensate all Iraqis and any other victims of the War on Terror for any damage to person or property caused by the War on Terror warriors.

They should not seek to influence whatever government emerges in Iraq or anywhere else in the world, except as required by enforcement of supranational law and order, that is, protection of person and property.

If they succeed becoming such honest and competent impartial global administrators, then they will have greater legitimacy and respect than the UN ever had. If they fail, they will be hated and despised not only in Iraq, but all over the world, and no UN resolutions or involvement will change that.

Index

Bold page numbers indicate places where the meaning of words as used in this book is explained or defined.

abomination, 258	Chinese, 258
Abu Gharib, 257	corrupting
action	Iraqi prisoners, 258
forced	
not sin, 259	damage
Afghanistan, 257	to health, 259
alcohol, 258	destroying
before death, 259	property, 257
forced upon by enemy, 259	dogmas, 258
America, 258	dogmatic
American	religions, 258
torturers, 258	
Americans, 258	enduring
anal	pain, 257
sex, 258	enemies, 258
50A, 250	subduing, 257
Baghdad, 257	enemy
	without fear, 257
Chechen	Europe, 258
fighters, 258	Europeans, 258
Chechens, 258	executions, 258
Chechnya, 257	expectation, 257

350 Index

fanatics, 258 fighting terror, 257	liberators posturing as, 257 limitations, 257
foreign occupiers, 258 genocidal policies, 257 genocide, 257 Guantanamo, 258 Hell, 258 Holy War, 53 House of Saud, 53 humiliation by enemy, 259	martyr by torture, 259 martyrdom degree of, 259 Modern Western Culture, 257 Moscow Theater incident, 258 Muslims, 258
ideological assumptions, 258 ideology of War on Terror, 258 ignorance of Islam, 258 Iraq, 257, 258 Iraqi prisoners, 258 Iraqis, 258 Islam, 258 misunderstood religion, 259 Islamist fanaticism, 258 Israel, 53	oral sex, 258 organized crime, 53 Palestine, 257 Palestinians, 258 Paradise, 258 perverse sex, 258 sexual acts, 258 perverts, 258 pigs skins burying in, 258
Israelis, 258 killing people, 257	pigs skin buried in by enemy, 259 pork, 258

Index 351

eating	act
prohibited, 258	forced upon by enemy, 259
no sin to eat, 259	sodomization, 258
Prince Charles, 259	starving
prisoner	to death, 259
cages, 258	
prostitutes	terrorists, 53
parading, 258	torture
1 0	by Americans, 257
reason, 258	by enemy, 259
religion, 258	by sodomization, 259
religious	technique, 258
fanaticism, 258	
restrictions	understanding
removal of, 257	Islam, 259
Russians, 258	Uygurs, 258
sex	War
as pleasure, 258	on Terror, 257
perverse, 258	realities, 257
sinful	warriors, 257
acts, 258	warriors
socially	War on Terror, 258
acceptable, 258	wars
sodomitic	for no reasons, 257