

TABOO OPINIONS #1

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3/17/2004 I found this today in a Doug Casey column in The Daily Reckoning:

'Recall that "Iraq" didn't even exist before the British invaded the area after World War I. Under the Ottomans, "Iraq" was three different provinces - Basra in the south, populated mainly by the 55% Shiite majority; Baghdad in the center, populated mainly by the 30% minority Sunnis; and Mosul in the north, populated mainly by the 15% minority Kurds. Before the British created "Iraq" out of thin air in 1920, everybody got along cordially, not least because they didn't have to deal with each other. The Kurds are ethnically a different people; the Sunnis and the Shiites might be compared to Irish Catholics and Protestants. The problems started when they were placed into one political entity, Iraq.

'Power was concentrated in the capital, Sunni Baghdad. Oil production, however, came mostly from the Kurdish north and the Shiite south. The situation only simmered while production and prices were relatively low; there didn't seem to be that much to fight over. The new monarchy under King Faisal was basically a puppet of the British. Faisal was deposed in 1958, however, by Abd al-Karim Qasim, who in turn was killed in 1963 when the Baath Party succeeded in a CIA-sponsored coup. The CIA thought that was a good idea because - even though the Baathists were notoriously violent, socialistic, and nationalistic - they were anti-Communist. Bloody coups brought in General Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr in 1968, and then Saddam Hussein in 1979. The latest regime change is actually the third we've been involved in there.'

I recall that during the Iraq-Iran war (which the U.S. govt. encouraged Saddam Hussein to begin) Saddam was 'our' dictator, perfectly acceptable, even when he used poison gas against the Iranians. the U.S. govt. even provided Saddam with satellite intelligence photos.

And I recall how President Bush began a propaganda campaign against Saddam soon after Bush was elected and began an arms build-up in the region which intensified as he pre-positioned an invasion army and air force.

Bush was hell-bent on invading Iraq and deposing/killing Saddam. For the oil? To get revenge on Saddam for trying to kill Bush's

father? To reorganize and 'democratize' the Middle East and follow a world empire agenda?

I'm not sure yet. But I do know he and his crew of arrogant Might-Makes-Right & The-End-Justifies-The-Means fellow-Christian thinkers bit off more than they knew and are now on the hook, trapped in Iraq, desperate to pull out, and are trying to use their War on Terror to squirm away from their blunder, using Patriotism to smear their political opposition.

But Iraq will remain an Albatross around Bush's neck, and the deteriorating, 'jobless', debt-strangling economy will be the fatal knife to the gut.

3/17/2004 Same-sex marriages are now front and center in Oregon as Benton County's commissioners have voted to issue marriage licenses to gays and lesbians.

Of some significance is the fact that the two women commissioners voted YES and the one (conservative) male voted NO.

Just as in Multnomah County where three women commissioners voted to authorize same-sex marriage licenses in a secret meeting to which the one male (conservative) commissioner was not invited.

Now Uproar has ensued in the state.

More Fun!

As for me, I agree that same-sex marriages should exist and be accepted by other states. I do not think gay & lesbian marriages 'disrespect' male-female marriage.

And there aren't ever going to be that many g&l marriages anyway. Get over it!

But consider the consequences of these county commissioner actions: if the state supreme court decides these marriages are illegal

we may see lawsuits filed against these counties and commissioners by gays and lesbians for big money damages---pain and suffering, legal problems, social consequences... Multnomah County especially could be bankrupted by thousands of such lawsuits.

And if the marriages are accepted as legal---welcome all you promiscuous gays and neurotic lesbians to the expensive and inevitable joys of legal divorce, legal alimony, legal child visitation rights, lawyers, lawyers, lawyers... There is a downside to going Straight.

END FIRST ISSUE