

## Editorial

### *The war that wasn't won*

Iraq lost the Gulf war, but so too did the United States—although President Bush and much of the American population are too stupid to realize this.

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf's victory can be compared with that of Chief Crazy Horse. General Custer lost the battle, but the Indians lost everything.

Another name that might be mentioned in this connection, is General Wallenstein. He set out in the first half of the 17th century to conquer Germany for the Hapsburgs. After an initial series of so-called brilliant, or devastating, victories, he and his armies were destroyed, together with much of Germany, in what became the Thirty Years' War.

This is what we are already seeing unfolding in West Asia: a Thirty Years' War scenario, which is spreading to Turkey, and back into Iran, whose culpability in entering into this situation, will mean a new round of destruction of Iran itself.

This is beginning to be sensed in Europe.

The awful truth is that, despite the deliberate brutality of George Bush, James Baker, Norman Schwarzkopf, et al., even this evil crowd has not got the slightest idea of what they are really unleashing. Certainly they lack the mental and moral capacities to draw from the lessons of history. In that sense, the raw stupidity of the Washington elites is even more dangerous than the more cynical moral bankruptcy of the British.

Sinclair Lewis wrote a devastatingly accurate profile of this American phenomenon in his 1922 novel *Babbitt*. George Follansbee Babbitt, the anti-hero of the story, is the prototypical free-marketeer. He is a total conformist and opportunist, justifying his brutality with cheap rationalizations and sentimentality.

This is America today, a nation of cultural boors. A gang of Babbitts is running the United States—bunglers with too much power.

They're worse than the British on this account. The British, at least, have some brains, whereas the modern-day leading American has none at all. The British are evil, in general—at least the leading ones—

but they do have brains when it comes to doing their dirty work.

In Washington, there is a special kind of American populist-tinged stupidity and bungling. This is the weakness upon which toads like a Babbitt feed. And, we have Babbitry all over the Americas; we have it in the trade union movement; we have it in the parties; we have it in government. The way these parties, these organizations were destroyed, was by the Babbitry of these leading cynical so-called practical men who led them.

What is being unleashed in the Middle East now, by the United States, with aid of certain of its allies around Hashemi Rafsanjani in Iran, is very much like what was unleashed against the Abbasids and Fatimids by the followers of Al-Ashari and, later, Al-Ghazali.

We in the West owe a great debt to the Arab renaissance, which was a center of culture that linked up with a struggling Europe to help bring it out of the dark age of the domination of the Roman Empire. By 1111, when Al-Ghazali died, this great period had been brought to an end.

The result was the destruction of the Arab world, bringing it down from the level of high civilization it had attained, to barbarism, in a manner adequately symbolized by the destruction of the Library of Alexandria, under the influence of the crazy Turkish agent Al-Ghazali, who destroyed the Arabs for the Ottoman Turks, paving the way later for the emergence of the Turkish Empire in collaboration with the later Mamelukes.

We see a repeat of this history today. It began in the 1970s, when Henry Kissinger orchestrated the dismemberment of Lebanon. Now Iraq has been destroyed, and Syrian assassins are being paid by the slave-holding Kuwaiti royal family to exterminate Palestinians living in Kuwait and others of their opposition. We are truly seeing the beginnings of a new Thirty Years' War.

This is no victory for Bush. It's merely a defeat for civilization.