

## Editorial

# *Bush in Europe: He Came, He Saw, He Didn't Conquer*

An astute editorial cartoonist might sum up the just-concluded George Bush tour of Europe by drawing a perplexed European, waving goodbye to Air Force One, musing, "What was that all about?" A more honest cartoon might also have a sign affixed to Air Force One: "White Trash Removal." That probably comes closer to the real thinking among leading Europeans, in the wake of the Bush visit.

Yes, the President made at least a passing gesture at superficial cordiality towards his Iraq war political adversaries, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and French President Jacques Chirac, in his one-on-one meetings. And Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld had delivered a scripted comment, on the eve of the Bush visit, when asked about his vicious earlier attacks on "Old Europe," that that was "Old Rumsfeld."

But looking past the superficiality, what really happened? In Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's advance visit to European capitals, she made it clear that the United States is not prepared to join the Europeans and Russians in the negotiations with Iran over its nuclear energy program. And the President, using the very best Bushspeak, told one inquiring reporter, in the same breath, that the United States is interested in a diplomatic solution to the so-called Iran crisis, but, having said that, "no option is off the table." And in the meantime, American Air Force drones and combat jets continue to violate Iranian air space, and U.S. Special Forces teams, perhaps joined by Israeli commandos, are preparing sabotage operations, targetting a score of purported Iranian military research sites.

In his summit meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Bush clearly angered some of his right-wing and neo-conservative friends, when he failed to really confront the Russian leader on "the democracy thing." But again, it was all atmospheric, and a total evasion of the issues really on the mind of the Russian leader, such as the string of Anglo-American backed "rainbow revolu-

tions," targetting Russia's "near abroad," from Georgia, to Ukraine, to the next string of states encircling Russia, such as Moldova, Armenia, and Belarus.

The problem, overall, is that it is actually impossible to derive any clear notion of the policy goals of the second Bush Administration from the words that come out of the mouth of George W. Bush. Despite the President's New England patrician family pedigree, his Yale and Harvard educations, the fact is: George Bush has adopted the personality traits of a Southern white trash sadist. It came out a few times, visibly, during his European tour.

George Bush is playing a scripted role. He is managed by handlers. If you want to know about Bush Administration policy intentions, ask George Shultz or ask Dick Cheney. Don't expect them to tell you the truth either. But above all else, don't attempt to burden George Bush with any accountability for what comes out of his mouth.

Instead of trying to derive a coherent evaluation from Bush's utterings, attempt to engage in what Leibniz called *analysis situs*. By the best estimates, the United States dollar is propped up by a net inflow from abroad of nearly \$4 billion a day. These funds go into the purchase of stocks and bonds, and do not contribute one iota to real economic expansion, job creation, etc. But if those funds dry up, then the whole dollar-based floating-exchange-rate system collapses.

People like George Shultz and Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan know this. Shultz, the "Hjalmar Schacht" of the late 20th-early 21st Century, has a simple solution: Spread war and chaos around the globe. For the time being, George Bush is Shultz's perfect instrument for this policy, from Iran and Syria in the Southwest Asia, to North Korea and China in the Far East. As the system comes close to the explosion point, the impulse to war provocations grows exponentially.

That is the reality of the world, at the close of Bush's European adventure.