

# Bush's Preposterous New Doctrine

*From "The National Security Strategy of the United States of America," issued by the White House over the Presidential seal, September 2002.*

From the **Preface**: "The United States will use this moment of opportunity to extend the benefits of freedom across the globe. We will actively work to bring the hope of democracy, development, free markets, and free trade to every corner of the world."

From the **Overview**: "The United States possesses unprecedented—and unequaled—strength and influence in the world. . . . America is now threatened less by conquering states than we are by failing ones. We are menaced less by fleets and armies than by catastrophic technologies in the hands of the embittered few."

From **Section III—Presidential speech Sept. 14 in Washington, D.C.**: "We will disrupt and destroy terrorist organizations by: . . . defending the United States, the American people, and our interests at home and abroad by identifying and destroying the threat before it reaches our borders. While the United States will constantly strive to enlist the support of the international community, we will never hesitate to act alone, if necessary, to exercise our right of self-defense by acting preemptively. . . .

[We will] compel states to accept their sovereign responsibilities."

From ((Section V—Presidential speech of June 1 at West Point: "We must be prepared to stop rogue states and

their terrorist clients before they are able to threaten or use weapons of mass destruction against the United States and our allies and friends. . . . [T]he United States

has long maintained the option of preemptive actions to counter a sufficient threat to our national security. The greater the threat, the more compelling the case

for taking anticipatory action to defend ourselves, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy's attack. To forestall or prevent such hostile acts by our adversaries, the United States will, if necessary, act preemptively."

From **Section IX—Presidential presentation to Congress, Sept. 20**: "To contend with uncertainty and to meet the many security challenges we face, the United States will require bases and stations within and beyond Western Europe and Northeast Asia. . . . Our forces will be strong enough to dissuade potential adversaries from pursuing a military build-up in hopes of surpassing, or equaling, the power of the United States.

"In exercising our leadership, we will respect the values, judgment, and interests of our friends and partners. Still, we will be prepared to act apart when our interests and unique responsibilities require."

## THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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