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What Parenti means when he calls his Chapter in Superpatriotism “Messianic Nation” is that America treats itself like a leader, or a savior. Messianic means relating to the Messiah. Furthermore, Messiah means a leader or savior of a particular group or cause. So a Messianic Nation only means a nation of a leader or savior status. Parenti is trying to convey that Americans as a culture will always try to be a leader or a savior. This is why they have the “Number One Syndrome.” To be a leader, they need to be the best. A good example of this Messianic Nation was the involvement in the Korean and Vietnam War. America was trying to be a savior of these nations by fending off the ‘evil’ communism and trying to prevail ‘democracy.’ Parenti says “The messianic impulse is compounded when national virtue is wedded to extraordinary military power. The superpatriots see evidence of their divine calling in the very power that enables them to thrust themselves into every corner of the world. The contention that “we must mobilize our power in order to lead” soon becomes “we must lead because we are so powerful.”” He is stating the thought of Americans and their way of thinking in the sense of their increasing military power and messianic thinking. What Parenti means when he says nationalistic morality is that it differs from an individual’s morality. He is trying to say that it is the exact opposite. That individual morality needs “self-reliance and self-sacrifice”. While nationalistic morality is selfish and is allowed to put itself as the absolute priority, and make itself the center of everyone else’s world. He critiques the term “national security” and “national interest” as justification of the nationalistic morality. It allows the nation to be selfish and ask as the messianic nation it believes it is.

The problem with the usurpation of presidential war powers is it gives too much power to the presidents. Usurpation means the taking of powers by force. Congress fails in its oversight of presidential war power, because they don’t usually stop the president from starting wars that are unnecessary. In Article I section IIX; it says “Congress shall have power to ... declare War.” This however is not being used because as commander in chief, many presidents think they can declare war due to their title. This, however, is not stated in the Constitution. And yet, Congress does not do anything, due to their thinking of “follow the leader.” If a president were to declare war without Congress’ approval, they could impeach the president, but instead they just follow the leader. George W. Bush in 2003 announced on television “At this hour, American and coalition forces are in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger.” Bush took charge as the commander in chief, and made the bold decision to engage America’s military in a war in which they had nothing to do with. This was extremely illegal to be making a decision like that without congress’ approval. He decided to publicly televise this address and hope that everyone would “follow the leader.” This in fact worked out to his liking and even kept him well enough to get elected twice. Americans will always follow the leader because they as a country want to be the leader. They want to be the messianic nation, and violations like engaging in an illegal war against Iraq are prime examples of Americans wanting to ‘save’ everyone. They can also justify this crazy thinking as the ‘national interest’ to do so. America will always simply follow the leader and keep thinking that they are the leader.