Mr. Speaker, in January 1991, we went to war in the Middle

East against Saddam Hussein, Iraq's dictator who was our ally during

the Iran-Iraq war. A border dispute between Kuwait and Iraq broke out

after our State Department gave a green light to Hussein's invasion.

After Iraq's successful invasion of Kuwait, we reacted with gusto and

have been militarily involved in the entire region 6,000 miles from our

shores ever since. This has included Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan,

Yemen, and Somalia. After 20 years of killing and a couple trillion

dollars wasted, not only does the fighting continue with no end in

sight, but our leaders threaten to spread our bombs of benevolence on

Iran.

For most Americans, we are at war, at war against a tactic called

terrorism, not a country. This allows our military to go anyplace in

the world without limits as to time or place. But how can we be at war?

Congress has not declared war, as required by the Constitution, that is

true. But our Presidents have, and Congress and the people have not

objected. Congress obediently provides all the money requested for the

war.

People are dying. Bombs are dropped. Our soldiers are shot at and

killed. Our soldiers wear a uniform; our enemies do not. They are not

part of any government. They have no planes, no tanks, no ships, no

missiles, and no modern technology. What kind of a war is this anyway,

if it really is one? If it was a real war, we would have won it by now.

Our stated goal since 9/11 has been to destroy al Qaeda.

Was al Qaeda in Iraq? Not under Saddam Hussein. Our leaders lied us

into

invading Iraq and deceived us into occupying Afghanistan. There is

still really no al Qaeda in Iraq and only 100 or so in Afghanistan, and

yet there is no end in sight to the war. Could there have been other

reasons for this war that is not a war? A military victory in

Afghanistan is illusive. Does anyone really know who we are fighting

and why?

Why has the war not ended? Nine years, and it continues to spread.

Some claim it is to keep America safe, that our soldiers are fighting

and dying for our freedom, defending our Constitution. Are we being

lied to in order to keep us in this spreading war, just as we were lied

to in the 1960s to keep us in Vietnam?

We own the Iraq Government, as we do Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, we

are fighting the Taliban, those dangerous people with guns defending

their homeland. Once they were called the Mujahideen, our old allies,

along with bin Laden, in the fight to oust the Soviets from Afghanistan

in the 1980s. In that effort, our CIA funded radical jihad against that

nasty foreign occupier, the Russians. What gratitude. Those same people

now resent our benevolent occupation, with a little violence thrown in.

The resistance to our presence grows as our perseverance wanes. Our

people are waking up, but our officials refuse to recognize the longer

we stay, the greater is the support for those dedicated to the

principle that Afghanistan is for Afghans who resent all foreign

occupation.

The harder we fight a war that is not a war, the weaker we get and

the stronger becomes our enemy. When an enemy without weapons can

respect an army of great strength, the most powerful of all history,

one should ask, who has the moral high ground?

Military failure in Afghanistan is to be our destiny. Changing

generals without changing our policies or our policymakers perpetuates

our agony and delays the inevitable.

This is not a war that our generals have been trained for. Nation

building, police work, social engineering is never a job for foreign

occupiers and never an appropriate job for soldiers trained to win

wars.

A military victory is no longer even a stated goal of our military

leaders or our politicians, as they know that type of victory is

impossible.

The sad story is, this war is against ourselves, our values, our

Constitution, our financial well-being and common sense. And at the

rate we're going, it's going to end badly.

What we need are honest leaders with character and a new foreign

policy.