I. News/Democracy/War

A. Democracy and War

1. Government is acting “in our name”

2. Citizens are responsible

3. Citizens need to be informed

B. Function of press

1. inform

2. separate truth from falsehood

3. advocate for the people

C. Function of Corporate News: Profit

1. Militainment

2. Entertainment

3. Propaganda

D. Pre War “Militainment”

1. “News” Shows: “Showdown with Saddam,” “The War Room,” “The War on Terror”

2. Headlines: press releases, press conferences, photo ops, interviews

a. “Smoking gun . . . mushroom cloud”

b. “Saddam definitely has WMD”

c. “Iraq and Al Qaeda/9-11”

d. “ Quick victory”

e. “Greeted as liberators”

f. “No cost $, or lives”

g. “Saddam is Hitler”

h. “Bringing democracy”

3. “experts”

a. 75% current or former government

or military officials

b. only one expressed skepticism

c. experts and Pentagon

d. conflicts of interest

4. What we needed to know?

a. truth

i. WMD

ii. Iraq, Al Qaeda and 9/11

iii. Saddam is evil

b. International Law

i. justification for war

ii. Nuremberg Tribunal

c. U.S. Constitution and War

d. Cost: lives

i. U.S. soldiers

ii. civilians

iii. post-war care

iv. polls

e. Cost $

f. Other reasons and goals?

i. National Security Strategy

ii. Cheney Energy Policy

iii. Historical context US-Middle East

g. problems

i. National Defense University: “Post-Saddam”

ii. Army War College: “Winning the War, but Losing the Peace”

iii. Lt. General Anthony Zinni, Centcom Commander pre-invasion

iv. increase in terrorism

E. War: “Militainment”

1. New Season, New Show: “Operation Iraqi Freedom”

a. new look: set, music, video

b. Team, experts, embedded reporters

2. Centcom Briefings: Hollywood set

F. War stories

1. “shock and awe”

2. “racing to Baghdad”

3. smart bombs, include smart cluster munitions

4. Saving Private Lynch

5. Down with Saddam

6. We love our troops

G. Not for commercial media “War Stories”

1. Looting

2. Civilian casualties

3. “Dumb bombs” 15,000 10%

4. Cluster bombs: 2 + million

5. Depleted uranium: cancer clusters and birth defects

6. Napalm and white phosphorous: birth defects

7. Saving Private Lynch: Wag the dog I

8. Down with Sadam: Wag the dog II

a. Internal US Army Study

b. one of many psychological ops

9. CPA Order 39

10. Permanent bases/embassy/”withdrawal”

11. Torture

12. Privatization: Blackwater, KBR

13. The Surge

a. Ethnic Cleansing

b.. Refugees

c. The “Awakening”

14. The Election

15. embedded reporters

16. Do we really love our troops?

H. New Show, New Title: Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen

1. War stories

a. “New Surge”

b. “The Battle of Marjah”

c. “Capturing High Level Taliban”

d. “Cautious Bombing”

e. “Training an Afghan Army”

2. Not such good stories

* 1. destabilizing countries
  2. killing civilians
  3. creating terrorists
  4. army of what?
  5. corruption
  6. war lords
  7. poverty and hunger

h. women and children last

i. U.S. military and ISI