I. American Empire and Middle East

A. Importance

1. oil

2. strategic value

B. early policy: two pillars

1. Saudi Arabia

a. oil

b. friendly relationship

c. ensure no other power interferes

d. “defense of Saudi Arabia vital to the defense of the U.S.”

2. Iran

a. oil

b. overthrow (CIA)

c. beneficiaries:

i. BP, Royal Dutch Shell and U.S. cos

ii. sha Mohammed Reza Pahlavi

3. new pillar: Iraq

a. overthrow (CIA)

b. Ba’ath Party

c. Saddam Hussein (“a CIA asset”)

d. war with Iran

i. weapons

ii. loans

iii. technology

iv. intelligence

v. “the handshake”

e. blowback: Iraq invasion of Kuwait

f. Iraq War I: new bases

C. current policy

1. War and empire of bases

a. overthrow Saddam establish puppet government

b. establish permanent military presence (Iraq and ME, Central Asia)

i. Project for a New American Century (1997,1998)

ii. Joint Chiefs of Staff: Strategic Assessment 1999

eliminate Saddam

permanent bases

iii Rebuilding America’s Defenses: Strategy, Forces, and Resources for a New Century 2000

(catastrophic and catalyzing event-like a new Pearl Harbor)

iv. Cheney Energy Report 2001

c. “Case” for War: from 9-11 to WMDs to Al Qaeda to democracy

d. “No Exit” Strategy

i. permanent presence

ii. permanent bases

2. empire of bases

a. Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, United Arab Emirates.

b. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kyrgyzastan, Uzbekistan

c Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Djibouti

3. Plus

a. navy: five carrier battle groups in region

b. air force

c. supplies and weapons

II. Sorrows of Empire

A. Iraq War

1. Western alliance of democracies fractured

2. Iraq is more a failed state than a client state

3. International law undermined

4. Increase in global terrorism

B. Four Sorrows

1. perpetual war

a. more terrorism directed at U.S.

b. proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

2. loss of democracy and constitutional rights

1. imperial presidency

i. Commander in Chief v ex parte Milligan

ii. sovereign immunity

iii. enemy combatants

b. Congress as rubber stamp for executive branch

i. Article I Sec 8

ii. Madison “more wisdom”

iii. Oct 3-10 2002

open ended power to wage war

“appropriate” use nuclear weapons

1. Constitutional Rights

i. Great Writ

ii. USA Patriot Act

iii. FISA Court

iv. NSA

3. “lying world”

a. propaganda and disinformation

i. Office of Strategic Influence

ii. Information warfare

iii. PR: Committee for the Liberation of Iraq

iv. corporate media as propaganda

1. glorification of war, power and military

c. patriots vs internal enemies

4. financial ruin

“Nemesis, the goddess of retribution and vengeance, the punisher of pride and hubris, waits impatiently for her meeting with us.”