Why They Might Hate America!

President Bush and the corporate mass media seem to agree on why the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were targets of terrorism: some people just hate the US and the values for which it stands. The values it is agreed are freedom, equality, democracy, and respect for human life. Most Americans agree, as they know little or nothing about US foreign policy, or the history of the United States and its involvement with other countries.

I do agree that some countries and their people hate the US, and it is for those values for which the US stands; it is just that they are not freedom, equality, democracy, and respect for human life. Remember we all say that actions speak louder than words; let us look at US actions, past and present. As one person said, "a few shreds of historical awareness might help us understand what has just happened (the terrorist attacks of 9/11), and what may continue to happen."

Guatemala

The US, using the CIA and mercenaries, overthrew the democratically elected government of Guatemala in 1954. From that time until the mid-90s, the US supported a series of military dictatorships that killed 200,000 Guatemalans. This was confirmed by a special UN-sponsored Commission for Historical Clarification, which specifically sighted US complicity in the mass murder of Guatemalans. After the release of the report, Bill Clinton, President at the time, apologized and said that we will never do it again. (Under international law the mass murders constituted both crimes against humanity and genocide –because a particular ethnic group was a central target, Mayan Indians.).

Nicaragua

The US invaded Nicaragua in early 1900s, wrote their constitution, which gave the US perpetual right to build a canal through their country. Also the US set up the Somoza dictatorship (and its “national guard”) which it supported until it was overthrown in the late 70s. The US then created a mercenary force, the "Contras” (formerly “national guard”), who were ordered by the US to avoid the Nicaraguan military and attack "soft targets” (agricultural collectives, schools ). In a related attempt to undermine the new government, the US mined harbors. The US was found guilty in World Court for "unlawful use of force" (fulfills US definition of terrorism). Also contras funded their activity by selling cocaine in US with help of CIA. US Congress banned help to Contras because of human rights violations, but the Reagan administration sold weapons to our enemy (Iran) and used the money for the Contras. This was the Irangate scandal.

El Salvador

The US trained, financed, provided weapons for the Salvadoran military and "death squads" that killed over 75,000 Salvadorans (confirmed by UN Truth Commission). US tried to cover up the El Mozote massacre (killed the men, raped and killed the women, strangle children) by Salvadoran- US backed forces. Death squads killed American nuns and Archbishop Oscar Romero, who spoke out against US military aid. One death squad slogan, "Be patriotic kill a priest." Many in the death squads including those who killed the nuns trained in U.S. Army School of the Americas.

Honduras

U.S. supported overthrow of Honduran government by United Fruit. US used Honduras as base for operations against Nicaragua and El Salvador, referred to as U.S.S. Honduras because it was so crammed with US bases and weapons. US created infamous death squad Battalion 316, the Cobras, who engaged in torture, kidnapping, and assassination. Mass grave discovered at El Aguate airbase, the training camp for Battalion 316 and the Contras. Just recently, U.S. was first country to recognize the government established by the military after the overthrow of the democratically elected president of Honduras

Bolivia

US supported 1970 overthrow of Pres Juan Jose Torres. The new US supported government shut down schools, 2000 people arrested and tortured without trial. Indigenous people were forced from their land in order to create a "white Bolivia."

In 1980 the CIA helped overthrow the democratically elected government and install a military junta in power. This was called the "cocaine coup" because of junta's ties to drug dealers.

Panama

U.S. organized and supported militarily the secession of Panama from Colombia, and then occupied Panama for almost 100 years because of its strategic importance. In 1989 the US invaded Panama in search of drug kingpin and former CIA operative Manuel Noriega who worked for GHW Bush and trained in SOA. During invasion, US turned Panama into a "free fire zone," killing hundreds of civilians. The U.S. placed political control into the hands of a financial elite supportive of America interests.

Chile

In 1973 US, CIA, and ITT overthrew the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende and put in power the military dictatorship of Augosto Pinochet, who is now being sought by other countries for crimes against humanity (torture, murder, and disappearance of 4,000). CIA and US state Department colluded with the dictatorships of Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay in Operation Condor- the assassination of dissidents who had sought safety in other countries. Henry Kissinger is now being sought by other countries for questioning regarding his knowledge and complicity in these extralegal assassinations.

CIA memo: "It is firm and continuing policy that Allende be overthrown by coup ... We are to continue to generate maximum pressure towards this end utilizing every appropriate resource. **It is imperative that these actions be implemented clandestinely and securely so that US Government and American hand be well hidden.”**

Colombia

The worst record of human rights violations in the hemisphere and the US has supported it consistently, making possible the military and paramilitary war against unions, community leaders, and church leaders. Now US has given $1.3 billion in military aid to fight the drug trade-- money has gone to poison crops and kill union organizers and whole villages and to guard the oil pipeline under the guise of fighting a left-wing guerilla movement. The Colombian government also uses right wing paramilitary groups to carry out its war against its own people. The US now

(2004) wants to increase the number of military personnel and private military contractors (historically called mercenaries) it has in Colombia. Just recently, Colombia has granted U.S. military access to several military bases on the border with Venezuela.

Argentina

US supported the military coup of 1976. The military regime initiated Argentina's "dirty war." US trained and supported the "war" - torture and disappearance of 15,000 Argentineans. This regime also trained "contras" for US terrorist supported activity in Nicaragua. The overthrow created the conditions for Argentina having to accept IMF loans and “structural adjustment” which has destroyed their economy. In 2005 after following neo-liberal policy, the economy collapsed completely.

Brazil

US supported the overthrow of the democratically elected government by the military (1960s). This government banned unions, criticism, and stole land from the indigenous people. It arrested and tortured thousands of its people, including children.

US media/government celebrate the Brazil economic miracle. Millions are hungry, land owned by 2% of population, cutting down rainforests at even faster rate, slave labor, child labor, and fifteen death squads "cleansing" the seven million street children.

Paraguay

US provided $146 million in aid to the "neo-Nazi" government of Alfredo Stroessner between 1962-75, as that government hunted down, placed in reservations, killed, and sold into slavery Ache Indians. Joining the hunt and heading the "reservations" were Christian fundamentalist missionaries. Documents recently found in Paraguay connect US directly with Operation Condor (see Chile).

Haiti

US invaded in 1915 and occupied for 20 years killing thousands of Haitians, one Marine memo referred to the killings as like hunting pigs. This led to the dictatorship of Papa Doc Duvalier and his son. During their 30 year rule, they killed 60,000 of their own people and tortured countless more. They became wealthy by personally appropriating continued US aid. The US in 2004 forced the popularly elected leader out creating a political vacuum which has allowed remnants of Duvalier’s death squads to return.

Cuba

After defeating the Spanish, the US ignored the Cuban democratic resistance that had fought the Spanish for years and set up a US satellite state which turned Cuba into a resource for the US corporations. US corporations and organized crime controlled Cuba's economy creating the conditions for the Cuban revolution. The US now imposes sanctions on Cuba which has only had the effect of increasing the suffering of the Cuban people. The sanctions have been condemned by UN resolution for 10 years in a row as a violation of international law.

The US continues to harbor anti-Castro Cuban terrorists, one who was found guilty of blowing up a passenger airliner.

South Africa

US supported the racist white apartheid regime of P.W. Botha which killed during one period over 1.5 million people in South Africa, Namibia, and Angola. Nelson Mandela was on US state department list as a terrorist, and his organization, the African National Congress, was on the U.S. State Department list as a terrorist organization.

Rwanda

US government refused to call the genocide in Rwanda genocide. They called it genocidal-like acts, thereby allowing the US to avoid fulfilling its obligation under international treaty. The US also worked through the UN to delay international intervention. Clinton acknowledged this on his visit and apologized. As of 2001 the US continued to harbor one of the perpetrators of the genocide

Mozambique and Angola

US continued to support Portugal's colonial interests in these two countries through the 1960s and early 70s. Then US supported the terrorist Jonas Savimbi in Angola who shot down a civilian airliner and killed and tortured thousands.

Ethiopia

US supported post-WWII rule of the dictator Haile Selassie and during his rule gave Ethiopia more aid than any other African country and bought him a $2 million yacht. US sent advisers and weapons to help him put down revolt in Eritrea. He took 50% of peasants’ crops and fed beef to pet Great Danes while 200,000 of his people starved in 1973. When he was overthrown, US shifted support to neighboring Somalia and its warlord, dictator Barre.

Iraq

US supported the military dictatorship of Saddam Hussein during the 80s, even knowing at the time that he was gassing the Kurdish minority and using chemical weapons in the war against Iran (war crime/genocide). At the end of Gulf War I, the US told the Shiites to rise up and overthrow Saddam, and then US commanders were ordered to do nothing as Saddam massacred them. The U.S. invasion of Iraq has led to the death of one million Iraqis, the displacement of million, starvation among the children, ethnic cleansing, a broken political and economic system, literally the destruction of a country.

Saudi Arabia

US supports dictatorship which commits major human rights violations against its dissident citizens and women (as reactionary as the Taliban), and harbored Idi Amin who murdered hundreds of thousands of Ugandans. Saudi Arabia is the major source of funding for Islamic fundamentalists. US kept up to 35,000 soldiers there until recently when it was forced out..

Turkey

US supported the recent dictatorship and terrorist regime which killed its Kurdish minorities. In 90s this regime killed 35,000 Kurds and destroyed 3,000 villages. One of top five recipients of US aid. According to AI and HRW, Turkey has tortured one million prisoners since 1980. They are our allies in war against terrorism. US used air base at Incirlik to bomb Iraq in Gulf war I. The US is less supportive of Turkey since the new government sided with its people in Gulf War II (90% against) and refused the US the use of Incirlik base to bomb Iraq.

Iran

US through CIA overthrew the democratically elected government of Iran in 1953 and set up the terrorist dictatorship Mohammed Rez Pahvevi and his infamous secret police, the Savak. CIA trained the Savak and supervised the torture of thousands of Iranians. In one election the Shah received 100% of the vote which totaled more ballots than people.

After the Iranian revolution overthrew the Shah, the US began supporting Iraq. However, the US sold weapons to the Islamic fundamentalist government to finance the illegal Contra war in Nicaragua.

Pakistan

During 1980s Pakistan was fifth largest recipient of US aid( 1/2 military) despite the fact that it was a military dictatorship that had executed its democratically elected leader and was providing 70% of the world's high grade heroin. Kissinger: "frontline state" defending "free people everywhere." Subsequently it acquired and tested nuclear weapons in violation of international treaties. It also has been implicated in selling

both hi-tech knowledge and weapons grade material to other countries.

They are currently our ally in the war on terror. Government and media refer to General Musharaf as President even though he took power through a military coup. Just recently held "elections" where everyone voted for him, and now he has revised the constitution giving him power to disband the legislature and extend his presidency. His secret service the ISS has trained and funded both the Taliban and Al Queda

Israel

Receives more US aid than any other country, much of it military aid that is used for attacks on Palestinians. Of the over 800 people that have been killed recently most are Palestinian citizens in their own land. US news only reports other forms of terrorism. The rest of the world condemns the Israelis, who continue to occupy illegally, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, since 1967. See UN Resolutions, Geneva Convention, international law.

In 1982 Israel saturation bombed West Beirut. Then Ariel Sharon allowed mercenary Phalangist to enter the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps and kill 2000 Palestinians. He was found guilty by an independent Israeli Commission.

U.S. provides $3 billion in aid to Israel every year, without the aid Israel could not continue building its illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Philippines

US conquered the Philippines. During the invasion at the turn of the century, US forces killed thousands of Filipinos who had first resisted Spanish colonialism and then tried to resist US imperialism. In two cases the US engaged in search and destroy missions where they killed everyone in villages over the age of ten

US supported the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, Nazi sympathizer and convicted murderer, economically and militarily. Despite the fact that 60,000 people had been arrested and tortured under Marcos, George H. W. Bush praised him for "adherence to democratic principles.

Indonesia

US supported overthrow of President Sukarno by General Suharto as the CIA directed the subsequent 1965 slaughter of one million of the Indonesian opposition. US media applauded, "a positive achievement." US continues to support through aid and the JCET continue to train Kopassus, rape, murder, disappeard Aceh, and Chinese in Kristallnact May 14,1998. The Indonesian military is now committing atrocities against the indigenous people of Papua New Guinea who are fighting to stop the destruction of their environment by the U.S. company Freeport McRoMan.

E. Timor

US military training, weapons, and political support (through UN) made possible the Indonesian invasion and slaughter of 200,000 people in East Timor in 1976. After the Timorese overwhelmingly voted for independence in 1999, the Indonesian backed paramilitaries began slaughtering them again. This time the US did nothing, other countries, Australia, intervened to save the people. US now seeking to reestablish friendly relations with Indonesian military, subject to no war crimes or human rights consideration. And as they reenter the Aceh province to pacify it for Exxon-Mobil.

Vietnam

US supported the French reentry into Vietnam after WWII, provided weapons and financing. US killed approximately 2-3 million people in Vietnam war, majority women and children, poisoned the land and water. Right now, it is estimated 500,000 Vietnamese children suffer birth defects caused by war related chemicals. Millions of land mines left, killing people every day. According to the Pentagon Papers, the real reason for the U.S. invasion was to send a message to other countries not to step out of line.

Cambodia

US secret and illegal bombing of Cambodia killed 600,000 and created 1.5 million refugees. The bombing destroyed the entire fabric of Cambodian society, creating the social context for the Khmer Rouge to take over and begin its genocide. US supported the representative of the Khmer Rouge seeking to be seated at the UN. Millions of land mines left. The US has been trying to limit scope of possible Tribunal which would try leaders of Khmer Rouge in order to exclude from public testimony the years it cooperated with Khmer Rouge.

Laos

US secret and illegal bombing destroyed the Plain of Jars and obliterated every standing building on it. This bombing killed tens of thousands. The people of the area lived underground or in caves for years. The CIA tried to organize a mercenary army to undermine the Pathet Lao government of Laos and its villages. Millions of land mines.

Afghanistan

US supported the mujihadeen against the Soviets in 1980s, which became Taliban and included Osama bin Laden, a Saudi. US support included economic aid, military training and weapons, including Stinger missiles that can shoot down planes. In early 90s US and Saudi Arabia financed the terrorist government of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who shelled his own people (killing 50,000), cut off water and power of civilians, and stole their food.

A former US national security advisor is taking credit for drawing the Soviet Union into Afghanistan, and indirectly for their Vietnam-like defeat. He says US support of "freedom fighters" brought Soviets in. The 10 million land mines left, the Taliban and Al Qaeda armed with sophisticated US weapons, the 5 million starving, the 1 in 4 children dying before age five was all provoked by the US desire to see the Soviet Union humiliated.

South Korea

US set up dictatorship after WWII and has occupied since WWII. Says it will not leave even if there is rapproachment between North and South. In 1948 when US military command was still in charge, South Korean forces killed 30,000 people on Cheju, then forced marriage to steal land.

Japan

After WWII the US asked Japanese to rewrite their Constitution. The US found the revisions insufficient, so the US rewrote the Japanese Constitution, Article 9 limited Japan”s ability to defend itself, thereby justifying the US’s continuing military occupation of Japan (largest popular protest in Japanese history against continued US occupation). The US also made the process of revision through amendment virtually impossible.

By as early as 1947, the US had conspired with former fascists to eliminate groups and individuals who had opposed the Japanese war machine and would, the US rightly assumed, oppose a US installed conservative party which ruled for 40 years. At one time, the government was run by war criminal Nobusuke Kishi.

The above purges were also directed at the labor unions who were considered to sympathetic to communism and socialism. George Kennan: “US had moral right to intervene … in order to put the former industrial and commercial leaders of Japan” in the positions of power.

Chalmers Johnson in his book Blowback says that the Japanese form of government is “soft authoritarian.” The will of the people (now known as public opinion) does not shape foreign or domestic policy but can have some effect on modifying its most (un) democratic effects.

Okinawa

Under occupation from Japan since 17th century, US since WWII. There are now 39 US bases on 20% of prime agricultural land. Ruled by US military between 1945-72. Japanese US Security Treaty: leave Japan you can have Okinawa, however US bases still in Japan proper.

a. US forcibly seized Okinawan land, and sent several thousand to Bolivia

b. US military and crime 1972-95 4716 "extraterritoriality,"

not subject to domestic justice.

c. One thousand auto accidents by US military a year tied to alcohol

d. Noise pollution 52,000 take-offs and landings per year in

residential areas near homes and schools

e. Environmental damage: MT Onna firing range, jet fuel runoff

toxic chemicals, 1520 depleted uranium

f. Economically negative, accounts for only 5% of GNP

Germany, Italy and Greece

Immediately after WWII, the U.S. intervened directly and/or covertly in the internal affairs of these three countries. In all three it worked to put fascists in positions of power and eliminate socialists and communists.

What values are affirmed by this history of state sponsored terrorism? Pundits keep saying the world changed on Sep 11, 2001. But really the only thing that changed was that the innocent people killed were US citizens.