

# Al Qaeda Is Now Stronger Because Of Iraq War

The failed Neocon policy of occupying Iraq has cost America thousands of lives, billions of dollars, loss of international prestige and weakened influence in the Middle East. It has also resulted in making Al Qaeda and international terrorism stronger.

A National Intelligence Estimate issued in July 2007, the most in-depth assessment of terrorist threats facing the United States since the Sept. 11 attacks, concludes that the United States is losing ground in the fight against Al Qaeda, and describes the terrorist organization as having significantly

strengthened over the past two years.

It asserts that Al Qaeda has re-established its central organization, training infrastructure and lines of global communication over the past two years, putting the United States in a "heightened threat environment."

The intelligence report represents the consensus view of all 16 agencies that make up the American intelligence community. The report concluded that the United States would face a "persistent and evolving terrorist threat over the next three years."

Al Qaeda is now a much more dangerous enemy than ever before. The terrorist network has been dealt some setbacks since September 11, 2001, such as losing its safe haven in Afghanistan, having a few of its to operative killed and failing to destabilize the governments of Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. But because of the Neocon's reckless obsession to go into Iraq rather than hunting down Al Qaeda's leaders, the organization now has an entrenched base of operations in the mountain regions of Pakistan and a dangerous forward base in

Iraq. Its reach has spread throughout the Muslim world and Europe. Osama bin Laden is still on the loose and is establishing himself and his movement as the embodiment of worldwide Islamic resistance.

**Bin Laden's goals and his basic strategy remain the same. He intends, as he has said, "to provoke and bait" America into "bleeding wars" throughout the Islamic world.** He will attempt to bankrupt the United States, much as he claims he accomplished with the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980s. The

demoralized "Great Satan" would then go home, enabling Al Qaeda to destroy its real enemies, Israel and the U. S. puppet regimes of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Pakistan. The U.S. occupation of Iraq has facilitated his plan.

By recklessly invading and occupying Iraq instead of hunting down Osama bin Laden and other terrorist leaders, the Neocons have foolishly helped our enemies. Al Qaeda now has more bases, more allies and more followers than it did before 9/11.

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## Neocons and Media Downplay Iraq

### Modern Day Carpetbaggers Seek Permanent Occupation

While our Neocon dominated government and their cronies in the corporate media scheme to turn Americans' attention away from the failed policy in Iraq, the current administration has entered into a "declaration of principles" with the nearly non-functional Iraqi government. This agreement sets the stage for formalizing a permanent American military presence in Iraq and American corporate control over Iraqi oil production.

Since the defeat of the Iraqi military and the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003, the Neocons have been spending billions of dollars building permanent bases in strategic areas of the occupied country. The agreement, signed on November 26, calls for negotiations that will establish a "long-term" military relationship, even though a large majority of Americans want

U.S. combat troops out of Iraq.

The administration has also claimed that the formal agreement to be negotiated next year will not constitute a treaty, but an executive branch initiative that will not need Congressional ratification. It will only require the approval of the Iraqi parliament.

So as the corporate media diminishes its coverage of the debacle in Iraq, the Neocons in the government and the Republican candidates for president are speaking less and less about our military occupation and the deteriorating political situation there. Only Ron Paul has shown real Republican leadership by calling for an end to the occupation.

In Maryland's 1st congressional district Republican primary, a similar situation exists. The four Neocons seeking the seat have little or

nothing to say about the occupation, the American lives lost or the billions of dollars spent. Only Dr. Joe Arminio has offered a responsible solution to the Iraq situation that will end the occupation and preserve our national interest.

Arminio is also on record calling on the president to submit the proposed permanent occupation of Iraq to the Senate for its advice and consent. He is adamant that the Constitution must be upheld in this case as in all others.

#### What contempt for the Constitution! Joe Arminio asks, Where is the outrage?!

- 1) **The government went to war without constitutional authority.**
- 2) **The Patriot Act was passed sight unseen by Congress and breeches the Bill of Rights.**

**Now the Neocons would initiate a treaty (permanent occupation of Iraq) without the advice and consent of the Senate.**

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## Neocons Build Fortress Iraq

Since just after the invasion of Iraq in 2003, the Neocons in the executive branch have been planning for a permanent U. S. military presence in Iraq. Just weeks after Baghdad fell, American military officials spoke of maintaining perhaps four "enduring" bases in Iraq that could be used in the future. Since 2004, the administration has spent about \$1 billion a year on construction of a vast military infrastructure.

This huge outlay of taxpayer money does not include the cost of

the gigantic U.S. embassy, a fortified compound under construction in the Green Zone in Baghdad. The embassy, when completed, will consist of twenty-one buildings on 104 acres and cost over a billion dollars.

Earlier this year the Neocon's plan for perpetual occupation was publicly revealed when the White House spoke of a long-term U.S. troop presence in Iraq similar to the one in South Korea, where American forces have been deployed for more than 50 years.

The Congressional Budget Office has said that the cost of a long-term U.S. military presence in Iraq similar to the Korean model would range from \$10 billion to \$25 billion a year.

The recent agreement between the current administration and the dysfunctional Iraqi government, setting up negotiations for a long-term military relationship, will formalize the Neocon scheme to establish a colossal staging area for endless war and perpetual empire building in the oil-rich Middle East.

### Anti-US, World-wide Coalition Forming

As a result of US policy to garrison Iraq and turn that country into an American colony, a gigantic, world-wide backlash has begun.

Russia, Red China, Iran, Venezuela and North Korea have formed an anti-US bloc. Some other

countries in South America and Africa are tilting toward that bloc. The relationship between the US and the European Union is becoming ominously cool. Anti-American factions are on the rise even in England and Saudi Arabia.

In 1956, the U.S. vetoed the British-led invasion of Egypt, by threatening to dump the British pound. Could an anti-US coalition punish this country by dumping dollars or by taking other action?

The Neocon fantasy of empire building, instead of earning our daily keep by honest labor, is doomed. Will the public shake up the national leadership before a terrible calamity engulfs us all?

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