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Are We Being Duped Into Another War?

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Donald Trump says his ban on immigrants and refugees from seven predominantly Muslim countries “is to keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the United States.”

Nonsense! Alex Nowrasteh, immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute, reports zero Americans were killed on U.S. soil between 1975 and 2015 by immigrants from any of the banned countries. Nowrasteh concludes the “measures taken here will have virtually no effect on improving U.S. national security.”

In contrast, 2,369 Americans were killed on U.S. soil by immigrants from Saudi Arabia, 314 by immigrants from the United Arab Emirates, and 162 by immigrants from Egypt between 1975 and 2015. These predominantly Muslim countries are not included in the ban. Is that because Trump has business interests in all of them (see the Daily News, Washington Examiner, Newsweek, etc.), but not in countries included in the ban? Perhaps the ban reflects the corrupting influence of the business interests from which Trump has refused to divest himself.

Or perhaps the rationale behind countries included in the ban is more pernicious. Iran responded with another missile test followed by the Trump administration call for a vigorous counter-response. Is the Trump administration looking for a fight?

In the 1970’s political scientist John Mueller theorized a “rally round the flag” effect; the tendency of the public to embrace their leader and his policies when war threatens. This concept was popularized in the 1997 satire “Wag the Dog.” Perhaps the ban is part of a plan to precipitate the specter of war and thereby rally the nation to the most unpopular person to ever become president, a man who lost the popular vote by almost 3 million?

Nazi Germany’s Reichsmarshal Hermann Goring said it best: “the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger.”

Prophetic?