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Tears for the Constitution, not Qaddafi

By Doug Bandow on 10.30.11 @ 5:51AM

It took the greatest military alliance in history about 7 months to finish off Libya's Moammar Qaddafi. Comandante Obama is posing as one of history's great conquerors, but his war was ostentatiously illegal. After all, he claimed, bombing and killing the armed forces of another government really wasn't hostilities. Rather, it was a special Hawaiian greeting--with a Chicago twist. At least President George Bush went to Congress. The former lecturer in constitutional law at the University of Chicago law school couldn't be bothered to do so.

No one should shed any tears for Qaddafi's passing. While his regime posed no threat to the U.S, he received his just desserts, even if on the street rather than in a courtroom. Civilized people might not want to endorse exactly how he was killed--especially the apparent special use made of a knife--Charles Krauthammer is right to note the potential salutary precedent of "a Libyan state funeral. That's when you lie on public view for four days, half-naked in a meat locker."

However, it remains worth noting that President Obama started his non-war war under false pretenses. Qaddafi was a nasty guy. But there were no civilian massacres. The entire humanitarian claim was a fraud, a PR gloss for a slow-motion attempt at regime change which actually lengthened the Libyan civil war and made it much more deadly. That is, the administration's policy killed more Libyans.

Explained Alan Kuperman at the University of Texas:

EVIDENCE IS now in that President Barack Obama grossly exaggerated the humanitarian threat to justify military action in Libya. The president claimed that intervention was necessary to prevent a "bloodbath" in Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city and last rebel stronghold.

But Human Rights Watch has released data on Misurata, the next-biggest city in Libya and scene of protracted fighting, revealing that Moammar Khadafy is not deliberately massacring civilians but rather narrowly targeting the armed rebels who fight against his government.

So President Obama's most successful foreign policy has been an illegal war started on a lie which may end up creating an unstable Islamist-oriented state with

jihadists in positions of power. Along the way, noted Kuperman, U.S. intervention "prolonged Libya's civil war and the resultant suffering of innocents." Truly an extraordinary achievement!

About the Author

Doug Bandow is a Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute and the Senior Fellow in International Religious Persecution at the Institute on Religion and Public Policy. A former Special Assistant to President Ronald Reagan, he is author of *Beyond Good Intentions: A Biblical View of Politics* (Crossway).

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