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GOP congressmen: Everyone agrees Iraq war a 'horrible mistake'

By [Daniel Tencer](#)
Friday, March 19th, 2010 -- 2:27 pm

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Two GOP congressmen say most Republicans on the Hill now believe the Iraq war was a mistake, and "more than half the Republican caucus" believes the way in which the US entered the Afghanistan war was also a mistake.

Reps. Tom McClintock (R-CA) and Dana Rohrbacher (R-CA) made the comments at a discussion panel at the Cato Institute on Thursday.

Going into Iraq "was a mistake because I thought we had to finish the job in Afghanistan," Rohrbacher told the panel, echoing a popular Democratic talking point at the time.



"In retrospect, almost all of us think that was a horrible mistake," Rohrbacher said. "Now that we know that it cost a trillion dollars, and all of these years, and all of these lives, and all of this blood ... all I can say is everyone I know thinks it was a mistake to go in now."

Asked by panel moderator Grover Norquist what percentage of Republican congressmen agree with that view, McClintock said, "I think everyone [in Congress] would agree that Iraq was a mistake."

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McClintock added that he believed the Bush administration also made a mistake in the way it entered the Afghanistan war. "I think virtually everyone would agree going into Afghanistan the way we did was a mistake," he said.

It's worthwhile noting that McClintock and Rohrbacher were speaking at the Cato Institute, a

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libertarian-leaning conservative think tank. Libertarians have famously stood apart from their conservative brethren in opposing the Iraq war and other foreign wars.

The Republicans' remarks came a day before former national security adviser and state secretary Condoleezza Rice voiced regret at the bloody aftermath of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. But she said the Bush administration had in the end "got it right" in the country.

Rice was unrepentant about the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

"I would many times over liberate Iraq again from Saddam Hussein. I think he's a danger to the Middle East," she said in a speech at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, when asked what she thought she had got wrong.

"We should have worked with the tribes. We should have worked with the provinces. We should have smaller projects than the large ones that we had." Nonetheless, she insisted, the administration had "finally got it right" in 2006, the year before a new "surge" strategy was employed to bring down levels of unrest.

-- With AFP

The following video was uploaded to YouTube by the [Cato Institute](#).

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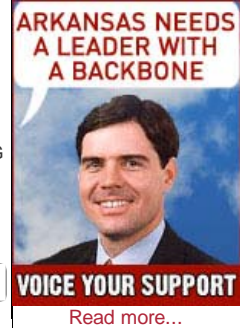


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godistwaddle 2 days ago

15 people liked this.

It was not a "mistake"; it was a criminal act, and until Bush and his buddies hang at Nuremberg for committing the same crimes those who hanged there previously committed, I don't see why any American needs to obey any law he finds uncongenial.

Flag



LIVE FREE OR DIE 2 days ago [in reply to godistwaddle](#)

3 people liked this.

I am totally amazed that it has taken these Rethugs this long to finally figure it out; much of America knew that it was wrong back in 03. There is an easy way to defund the criminal war machine of America: EVERYBODY STOP PAYING TAXES.

I haven't filled out a TAX RETURN in nearly 20 years. NO BLOOD ON MY HANDS. In the meantime, we as a nation and as a people need to PUSH OBAMA TO FILE TREASON CHARGES AGAINST BUSH AND CHENEY FOR THIS UNJUST AND ILLEGAL WAR. AFTER FINDING THEM GUILTY OF TREASON, LET'S EXECUTE THE F*CKING CRIMINALS. Personally, I think HANGING or THE FIRING SQUAD WOULD BE TOO EASY FOR THESE MOTHERF*CKERS; let's EXECUTE THEM the way TREASONISTS and TRAITORS are EXECUTED IN IRAQ OR THE MIDDLE EAST...OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!

Flag



Michael M 2 days ago [in reply to LIVE FREE OR DIE](#)

1 person liked this.

While I detest the Bush Admin and all that they did to this country in their 8 year reign of terror, your mindless chest thumping about how you haven't paid taxes is an absolute joke.

This isn't a country for anarchists and you can't run off making your own rules for whatever suits you like a spoiled little six year old brat which is exactly what you sound like.

If you are going to continue not paying your taxes, I hope you will take the money and donate to a worthy cause to help people in need, or invest in an education of some sort for yourself. If you don't do the former, you are a hypocrite. If you don't do the latter you will remain as ignorant, bitter and uneducated as you are now.

Flag



LIVE FREE OR DIE 2 days ago [in reply to Michael M](#)

1 person liked this.

Michael M, I am happy that you DETEST THE CRIMINAL BUSH ADMINISTRATION. You're on the right path. Still, you need to dig much deeper. Believe it or not, BEING FORCED TO PAY TAXES so that a CRIMINAL GOVERNMENT can GO AROUND THE WORLD KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE is AKIN TO TREASON. Read more, you'll be TOTALLY AMAZED at what you will find out. NO BLOOD ON MY HANDS...YES, I AM BITTER, but if you knew my entire STORY, you'd probably be MORE ANGRY THAN I AM...

Flag




PeterGrfx 2 days ago [in reply to LIVE FREE OR DIE](#)

1 person liked this.


Have you written your "entire story"? Where can I read it?

Flag

 **James_Marsh** 1 day ago [in reply to PeterGrfx](#)

I'd like to hear it too, we are all pissed off for different reasons, some good, some bad. We need the back history

Flag

 **Terrible** 2 days ago [in reply to Michael M](#)

1 person liked this.

Actually he didn't say he hadn't paid taxes. He said he hadn't filled a return. If he works as an employee he most likely has taxes withheld and is due refunds for the past 10 years. And if he's a typical teabagger he has no clue about that.


Myself I fill my return as required by law and include a letter explaining why I am withholding \$900 of the amount I owe. Because I'm not funding illegal war of aggression nor other crimes being committed. But I am happy to pay my share of government social services for the good of the country.

Flag

 **LIVE FREE OR DIE** 2 days ago [in reply to Terrible](#)

Hey TERRIBLE, YOU ARE RIGHT AND WRONG. YES, I HAVE NOT FILED A TAX RETURN SINCE THE EARLY 90'S. NO, I AM NOT OWED ANY REFUNDS SINCE WHEN I FILL OUT MY WITHHOLDING, I RECEIVE ALL OF MY MONEY SO THAT NO TAXES ARE WITHDRAWN FROM MY CHECK WHAT-SO-EVER. NO, I AM NOT A TEABAGGER, I AM A LIFELONG ANTI-WAR ACTIVIST WHO HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF THE ILLEGAL WIRETAPPING LAWS OF BUSH AND OBAMA SINCE 2003! FINALLY, YES, I AM DOING A GREAT SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY; I WILL NOT ALLOW THE CRIMINAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO COMPLETE THEIR MISSION OF TURNING THIS COUNTRY INTO A POLICE STATE...OVER MY DEAD BODY...YOU CAN THANK ME LATER...

Flag

 **Musk** 1 day ago [in reply to LIVE FREE OR DIE](#)

I'm sorry, LFoD ---- but can you speak up a bit. I can't quite make out what you're saying

Flag

 **Swift2** 1 day ago [in reply to LIVE FREE OR DIE](#)

Dude, find the letters on the computer that aren't capitals. And the emotions, too.


Flag

 **James_Marsh** 1 day ago [in reply to Terrible](#)

Yes that seems principled and brave, almost like integrity!

By the way have you seen Juan Cole's remarks today about how Iran under the (US sponsored) Shah and how it compares with the current regime ...

Flag

 **brain1** 1 day ago [in reply to Michael M](#)

The USA never had Income Tax until the Fed arrived in 1913. Abraham Lincoln Printed "Green Backs" that didn't have Gold behind them, but they were accepted by everyone.

The Bankers didn't like that, and criticized the process as illegal,an proclaimed that all money should have Gold backing it up!!
Look what we have today.A system of "Federal Reserve Notes"that dont have Gold or any thing of Value Backing them up at all.They just " Print em Up"

Why should we Pay Taxes when the Fed made our Money Worthless, and ...Hell they can make all the Money they want with their Printing Presses.
Why do they need our Money???

Flag

Mark Maze 2 days ago in reply to LIVE FREE OR DIE

Hey Live Free: Don't post when you're drunk. It's pretty pathetic.

Flag

farang 2 days ago in reply to Mark Maze

1 person liked this.

Yeah!!! Be sure to act sober and fund an illegal invasion and occupation, you slacker!!!!

"War Crimes?" Fiddlesticks, be a REAL American MAN and FUND KILL SOME BROWN PEOPLE*!!!! (* um, preferably with huge oil reserves, hehehehehe)

Flag

meowomon 2 days ago in reply to farang

Oops, I hit the wrong button. I don't like this. You are a hater and think that someone's skin color is the totality of their character. You are as bad as any other racially prejudiced person. A hater. I bet you are homophobic as well. You think you are a radical lefty fighting for power to the people, but you are just a bitter angry person who needs to find a little civility and humanity.

The lessons learned from the past is that violence and hate is never justified in a political movement. That is so old school and reminiscent of the Weather Underground and other violent movements of the sixties. Try to turn your anger and hatred into a positive movement or you risk becoming as relevant as the S.L.A.

Flag

LIVE FREE OR DIE 2 days ago in reply to Mark Maze

Hey Marky Maze, I haven't had a drink since 1993. Yeah, I'm an alcoholic, and I QUIT DRINKING. Wish that we could same about the CRIMINAL US GOVERNMENT WHO HAS AN ADDICTION TO KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE. They can't figure it out, though: THEY JUST KEEP ON KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE. When do people figure out a f*cking sh*t is a sh*t, no matter what color it is. OBAMA IS A WAR MONGER, JUST LIKE BUSH.

Flag

James Marsh 1 day ago in reply to LIVE FREE OR DIE

You are the first person who has come close to the way I see it, but I still think you are being far too lenient. As I am British I can only speak about our own administration, US citizens will need to extrapolate a little.

Let's try Blair, then after we find him guilty let's hand him over to somebody in Iraq (Moqtada al Sadr seems like a cool sort of guy) ask him to impose a suitable penalty and record it for us all to enjoy on Youtube. Nothing too lenient like boiling him in slowly hot oil though.

Flag

qwerty 2 days ago in reply to Mark Maze

You have him pegged.

Flag

meowomon 2 days ago [in reply to LIVE FREE OR DIE](#)

How nice for you. I hope you enjoy driving on the roads my taxes paid for. I hope you are enjoying the police department, the education, the fire department, health department and the national parks I paid for with my taxes just so you could sit on your fat ass and spout nonsense about killing other human beings.

Flag

farang 2 days ago [in reply to meowomon](#)

Sounds perfectly reasonable and sane to me to try in court (The Hague) the previous administration and current administration for War Crimes they have and are committing.

And even more reasonable and sane to HANG EVERY DAMN ONE OF THEM FOUND GUILTY from the Key Bridge.

I have said so since 2003. While you chide this patriot for not supporting the War Crimes like you.

YOU didn't pay for his government services: YOU voted Republican or Democrat and BORROWED OUR FUTURE away, didn'tja??? You haven't paid squat: all of your IRS taxes paid go to repay the Debt and the INTEREST on the Debt created by bankster criminals at The Fed. The criminals that control our government.

EVERYONE of the Congresscritters that voted for invading Iraq and Afghanistan need to stand trial. it isn't a case of "Oopsie, we made a boo-b

Have a nice day, Korp Khun Krab.

Flag

meowomon 2 days ago [in reply to farang](#)

1 person liked this.

I never said they shouldn't be tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity. I said he was spouting nonsense about killing other human beings while sitting on his ass and bragging about not paying taxes.

How the hell do you think roads are built and maintained without paying taxes? How do you think little kids meals are subsidized or their education is paid for? TAXES, not charity. It's not just wars that are paid for by the American people.

And if you have inferred that I am some kind of KKK supporter because I disagree hanging any human being no matter how guilty, then you are misinformed and a hater. Either that or you are a ten year old who is staying up later than your mommy allows. go to bed.

And FYI, the Hague is anti death penalty.

Flag

Boneman 2 days ago [in reply to meowomon](#)

I'm a hater. I hate that we invaded two countries based on a story put out by our government that is

1). Full of holes

AND

2). Was never investigated

Flag

ss71a 2 days ago [in reply to Boneman](#)

could have ended in Tora Bora 7 years ago....but we all know what happened.

Obama is now playing the hand he was dealt to him by the bush crime family, and he's working on cleaning up the shit....and now there is actually A MISSION.

Flag

Benway for the Nova Police 1 day ago in reply to [ss71a](#)

1 person liked this.

Too bad it's the wrong mission. The mission should be, "Go find the boats and sail home." There were no wmds and 911 was an inside job. Everything else is self-serving BS to aid them in stealing Iraqi oil and Afghan Caspian Sea right-of-way. If you ain't figured out by now it's about energy and money, you ain't got no brain at all.

Flag

ss71a 1 day ago in reply to [Benway for the Nova Police](#)

They are not stealing the oil, the oil is bought on the open market by the US and other countries from Iraqies and pipelined out to wherever or whomever they want to resell it to.

Obama did not invade Iraq- so why blame him...US Forces are packing up to leave Iraq by August as we speak...thanks to Obama.

Afganistan - remember- wtc, binladen, 911, alacada, terrorist country, hello?

Our presence there WITH NATO FORCES at our side...is basically a mop up operation and we are there to protect the citizens from the taliban, and they want us there to help them. mission will be over next year.

Flag

Sean 19 hours ago in reply to [ss71a](#)

Afghan mission will NOT be over in a year I can almost guarantee it. In the meantime we'll find some other country in the middle east to invade (Iran?)

Robert Gates as defense secretary was one of Obama's first appointments- how much change was going to come from that?

Flag

NavyBrat 19 hours ago in reply to [ss71a](#)

US Forces in Iraq will be packing up in August, and leaving for Iran

Flag

ss71a 18 hours ago in reply to [NavyBrat](#)

Only if it is justified and w/the help of other countries because of some major undeniable worldwide disaster- Obama and the Dems are not crazy ass neocon bloody thirsty freaks. like bushco was and still is.

Flag

GOP congressmen: Everyone agrees Ir...



NavyBrat 18 hours ago in reply to ss71a

You've been blind-sided by the MSM.
 Afghanistan did NOT attack us on 9-11. They offered to hand over Osama bin Laden if we gave them proof of his involvement (we refused and invaded instead). To this day, the FBI has no proof of his involvement, and has not filed any charges against him.
 Osama bin Laden a.k.a Tim Osman (died in 2002) was a CIA asset beginning in 1979 when he was funded to the tune of US\$9 billion to organize the Mujahadeen to fight the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.
 Al Qaeda (Arabic for "The Base" or "The Toilet") was a CIA creation. It was their data base of terrorists they were/are running. The Mossad runs it's own "Al Qaeda" cells, as does MI5 in the UK. Why do you think that all the court cases against "Al Qaeda" operatives eventually collapse when links to various intel agencies turn up
 For those who delude themselves into thinking they are depriving the US/NATO killing machine of its tax money - they don't need it. Their funding comes from the drug sales of captured Afghani opium. In other words, all the junkies in the world who buy their next fix.
 And if NATO is there to "protect" the civilian population from the Taliban, why are they killing so many women and young children while doing this? Collateral Damage you say?
 If it were your children blown to pieces, I guarantee you would be thinking in terms of revenge from that point forward - no matter how long it would take or how slim your chances for success.
 We used the same rationale while destroying Vietnamese villages (in order to save them of course) and ultimately the Vietnamese still won.
 Afghanistan (and Iraq) will be no different.

Flag



ss71a 18 hours ago in reply to NavyBrat

I already know all that- that's old news.

my point was Iraq sells their oil on the open market - because some fool here said the US is stealing all the oil. actually... Bush&company stole billions in cash while their buddies profiteered from the invasion of Iraq- plain and simple.

Flag



NavyBrat 19 hours ago in reply to Benway for the Nova Police

... and don't forget the OPIUM

Flag



gypski 1 day ago in reply to meowomon

Really, no better fitting punish then for them all to rot their asses the rest of their natural life in solitary confinement. Killing them doesn't make them suffer and would create martyrs for the right wing. There is plenty of room for them in our prisons. Even Gitmo would be the right place to house them. Let them live in their creation. Strange we ruin lives over marijuana, but ignore crimes as great as they have committed.

Flag



geo1671 2 days ago in reply to meowomon

Moowomen--

FY:I hate paying taxes to feed/house }sraelies, to come to America and kill us(Psss! Sept

11 /01 attacks) and fat cat kosher Bankers

Flag

raw PeterGrfx 2 days ago in reply to LIVE FREE OR DIE


It didn't take them this long "to figure it out." They knew it all along, but chose to keep their reservations quiet for political reasons. Their silence aided, abetted and enabled the war-makers - as did the pro-war Democrats, especially Hilary Clinton and John Kerry, who did so primarily to maintain their presidential viability.

Flag

raw brain1 1 day ago in reply to LIVE FREE OR DIE

Did you see the Video of those Arab Guys Cutting off that Contractors Head on ConsumptionJunction.com back in 2004??? Man that looked like it Hurt!!!...OOOOWWWWWW!!!! And, it was Highly Publicized on the News Media. It Made America Mad!!! And Bush, Cheney,Rumsfield used it as a People control Tool. The American People...We are all a Bunch of Dumbshits!!

Flag

 NavyBrat 18 hours ago in reply to brain1

Indeed! They should have got an Oscar for that performance

Flag

raw sanfordflorida 1 day ago in reply to LIVE FREE OR DIE

The Federal Government doesn't need to use traditional taxation to fund the Warfare State. As long as the Federal Reserve System exists, "money" can simply be printed in the quantities desired. Such an increase in the money/credit supply is inflation, a form of hidden taxation and confiscation. Before we can regain control over Big Brother, we must first replace the Federal Reserve System with a gold standard. End the Fed!

Flag

raw lovethyneighbor 2 days ago in reply to godistwaddle

1 person liked this.

i'm all for the hanging. but let us be civil about it.

Flag

raw Obi-jonKenobi 2 days ago in reply to lovethyneighbor

1 person liked this.

Yeah, give them a fair trial and THEN hang them!!

Flag

raw musashi1 2 days ago in reply to godistwaddle

GREAT POINT! UNTIL THE CRIMINALS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE BY THE CURRENT CRIMINALS IN THE WHITE HOUSE WHY SHOULD ANYONE PAY THEIR DAMN TAXES? THIS WAS PART OF A BIG PACK OF LIES TO ENRICH THE WAR PROFITEERS AND THE OILMEN! NOW THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION COMPLETES THE CONTROLLED DEMOLITION OF OUR ONCE GREAT COUNTRY!

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