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OPINION BLOG



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The Big Story: Drawing down in Iraq, as doubts rise on Afghanistan



7:35 AM Tue, Aug 03, 2010 | Permalink
Mike Hashimoto/ Editor Bio E-mail Suggest a blog topic

Two countries, two missions, one war president. Even as Barack Obama announced the on-schedule end of combat operations in Iraq, a USA Today/Gallup poll showed sharp decline in public support for his Afghanistan policies.

At Politics Daily, Sarah Wildman writes why the nominal end to the Iraq war has been met with such apathy. For his part, Time.com's Joe Klein says there is no such thing as "victory" in Iraq -- and never will be.

At The New York Post, Ralph Peters wonders whether Obama still can lose Iraq. The Huffington Post's Chris Weigant says coverage of Obama's address Monday in Atlanta to the Disabled Veterans of America left out some very important context.

On the Afghanistan front, The Washington Post's Eugene Robinson is finding the administration's statements tougher and tougher to swallow. At the Cato Institute blog, Malou Innocent also picks at the president's "fairly modest" description of American goals in that troubled nation.

Also worth reading:

- Chicago Tribune: Out of Iraq
- Stephen Kinzer: Why Iraq vets' fate is worse than that of Vietnam vets
- Bob Herbert: Death toll grinds on with our war misadventures
- Room for Debate: Getting the troops out of Iraq

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2 comments Sort:

Artie

11:00 AM on August 3, 2010

Obama wasn't on an aircraft carrier in flight gear, but the honesty of his declaration of "end of combat operations" is comparable to Bush's. So now we'll have 50,000 fully armed troops in Iraq - and God knows how many mercenary goons - instead of the 65,000. Mission accomplished.

Score: 0

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Melvin Rose

10:51 AM on August 3, 2010

The problem with our current war is that we entered them seeking only revenge.

Score: 0

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Celebrate free speech
- Potholes cause pricy punctures
- Probe Dem donors, too
- On Parkland investigative series: Something's right
- Cellphone search justified
- Maybe we're all interlopers
- A question of irresponsibility
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 - 10 Drops in the Bucket
 - Blog: Southern Dallas
- Points Summer Book Club:** Are suburbs the new downtown? Join the discussion
 - The Next Hundred Million

FEATURED COLUMNISTS

- Mark Davis**

Mark Davis: How much is that puppy in the (shelter) window?
- William McKenzie**

William McKenzie: What Rick Perry should say

[Blog entries](#)

TRANSPORTATION BLOG


There was no other goal.

We did not enter into war with Afghanistan to aid the Afghani people. We did not invade Iraq to make that country safe for democracy. We went to war to extract revenge for 9-11.

After 9-10 years of trying to make these countries say they were sorry for 9-11, we are nowhere near any sort of resolution. And no one can tell me what a successful resolution would look like. Occupying foreign nations is not our goal. Nation building is not our goal. The safety of the Afghani and Iraqi people is not the goal. The only goal is to punish those responsible.

No amount of military might will make the people of these countries see America as their friends and allies. And since it is antithetical to American values to kill and cleanse the native populations of these nations, all we can do now is declare victory and leave.

Or we could keep our troops there forever and keep spending \$10 billion a month expecting everything to suddenly change. I say declare victory and give the troops home.

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If you are using Internet Explorer 8, make sure InPrivate Filtering is turned off and InPrivate Filtering data has been cleared. To turn off InPrivate Filtering go to Tools / InPrivate Filtering Settings, select the "off" button and click "OK".

To clear InPrivate Filtering data

- Go to Tools / Internet Options.
- Click the "Delete" button under "Browsing history" on the General tab.
- Make sure "Preserve Favorites website data" is unchecked.
- Make sure "InPrivate Filtering data" is checked.
- Click the "Delete" button.
- Click the "OK" button to exit the Internet Options window.
- Refresh the page.

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Corps: Seepage threat, sand issues have made Trinity project more expensive
Dallas County set to name new NTTA director, replacing sole minority on board; Trinity toll road foe could become only woman on board

TEXAS DEATH PENALTY BLOG

Keller appeals, argues that warning is unconstitutional
We know enough about Bruce Webster to execute him

SOUTHERN DALLAS CATEGORY

Racial profiling and drug laws
At last, Congress narrows the gap in cocaine sentences

THE EDUCATION FRONT BLOG

A family engagement primer
How would Perry and White get more Texans to graduate from college?

TEXAS ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT BLOG

EFH electricity sales volume, revenue rises
NRG cuts spending on Texas nuclear expansion

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