

What is also coming true is the degradation of the U.S. military, through slowing recruitment and the retirement of experienced officers. Congressman John Murtha, a decorated veteran, probably the figure more trusted by the military than anyone else in Congress, has been told for months that the Army is being broken in Iraq and that the longer the war goes on, the more serious and difficult repairing the damage will be.

There is no good way out—and certainly no path to victory. Iraqi ethnic militias will do battle whether we leave in six months or 10 years. The U.S. Army may well have to fight its way out, as the Israeli military historian Martin Van Creveld recently suggested, America's high-tech equipment being too valuable to be left to the Iraqis as aircraft and armor were left to the South Vietnamese 32 years ago. An American presence in the region will be necessary, perhaps, as the University of Pennsylvania's Ian Lustick has written, through the mechanism of the UN in conjunction with other great powers. Bush has so estranged America from the real world of diplomacy that many—even on Capitol Hill—have forgotten that no country has an interest in allowing Iraq to become a base for jihadism.

Bush's speech affirmed that his administration has not begun to contemplate such alternatives. The president offered no timetable for withdrawal, conveyed no hint of thinking of Iraq in any terms but as a "beacon of freedom." This rhetoric, rousing to a dwindling core of supporters, is detached from military and economic reality. It confirms that the Bush presidency is incapable of taking steps to limit the damage that it has caused. Only a president who can acknowledge that the invasion was a terrible mistake can formulate a new policy. Three years from now, the hole America has dug itself into will be that much deeper—and that much more difficult to escape. ■

The liberation of Iraq to end oppression of the Iraqi people has not been altogether successful.

Iraqi Deputy Human Rights Minister Aida Ussayran has courageously confirmed that Iraqi officials have been torturing and abusing prisoners in jails across the country. According to Ussayran, the Human Rights Ministry found that women were frequently being arrested without cause and then raped by male guards. One woman said she had been raped seven times on the top floor of the Interior Ministry, which is the location of the ministry's intelligence offices. Ussayran's comments came two weeks after 169 men who had been tortured were discovered by U.S. forces in a south-central Baghdad building also run by the Interior Ministry. The men, mostly Sunni Arabs, reportedly had been beaten with leather belts and steel rods, crammed into tiny rooms, and forced to sit in their own excrement. A senior U.S. military source reports that the abuse wasn't an isolated incident and is likely common in Iraqi-run prisons. On Dec. 4, U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Peter Pace publicly disputed Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's judgment that the U.S. could do nothing about abuses by the Iraqi government except file a written complaint. Pace disagreed, saying it was the obligation of U.S. military personnel to intervene and stop any torture that they witness. Rumsfeld was not pleased with Pace's comments.



The Bosnian police have determined that local Islamic militants were about to carry out a suicide bombing,

sparkling fears that the tactic will be used more extensively in Western Europe. Suicide vests and an arsenal of other weapons were seized during a raid on an apartment in the Ilidza suburb near the airport in Sarajevo, as well as homemade videos featuring several potential suicide bombers asking God for forgiveness for their impending "sacrifice." Two teenage would-be bombers, one a Bosnian Muslim living in Sweden and the other a Turk living in Denmark, were arrested. The police believe that Western European Muslims, who carry European Union passports enabling them to travel freely, are now being actively recruited and trained for suicide attacks.



Vice President Dick Cheney is orchestrating opposition to turning over to the Senate Intelligence Committee's investigators the CIA-produced Sept. 21, 2001 Presidential Daily Brief.

Cheney is citing security concerns in his attempt to stop the further dissemination of any and all intelligence reports that could embarrass the White House. The brief, which included the most up to date and reliable intelligence, explicitly denied any credible linkage between Saddam Hussein and either 9/11 or al-Qaeda. Even after receiving the CIA report, Cheney and the Pentagon publicly continued to insist that Saddam and al-Qaeda were connected and that Iraq might have played a role in 9/11. While the always compliant Senate Intelligence Chairman Pat Roberts is working to limit the political damage from his committee's investigation, much of the incriminating information will almost certainly be leaked by Democratic senators on the committee. Some Republican senators with presidential ambitions also could turn against the White House on this issue.

Philip Giraldi, a former CIA Officer, is a partner in Cannistraro Associates.

Painting the White House Red

Radical globalist ideology has possessed the occupant of the Oval Office and is bringing about the revolution Communism never could.

By John Laughland

IT IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED that George Orwell's *Animal Farm* predicted not only the horrors of communism but also the end of the Cold War. At the end of the fable, the farmer, who symbolizes the capitalist West, returns to the farm and plays cards with the pigs, who symbolize communism. The shivering creatures outside, symbolizing ordinary people, "looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which."

We normally think of the end of the Cold War as having marked the unambiguous victory of capitalism over communism. But has Orwell's prediction proved right, and has there instead been a convergence of the two? We hear much about how former communist states are Westernizing, but has this process been bought with the price of our own subjection to what used to be communist ideals?

Take revolution, for instance, a key Marxist concept. Fifteen years ago, it still carried—at least for conservatives—the negative connotations of "Bolshevik," "sexual," and "French." Now, by contrast, George W. Bush has elevated the promotion of "a global democratic revolution" to the central goal of U.S. foreign policy. In his second inaugural speech, he announced nothing less than a program of political emancipation for the whole planet—he said that America was pursuing "the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our

world." Trotsky would have been proud.

Revolution has now become a completely positive word in the Western political lexicon. Recent years have seen a spate of "people power" revolutions, especially in Eastern Europe. Perhaps authoritarian regimes, rather like the walls of Jericho, really are brought tumbling down by the chanting of a John Lennon song, but it often turns out that things were not as spontaneous as was claimed at the time. In the case of the Orange Revolution in Ukraine last year, it is now a matter of public record that the U.S. poured huge sums into the campaign of Viktor Yushchenko and that the Ukrainian KGB was also heavily involved on the Americans' side, playing a key role in stage-managing the whole charade. Nonetheless, the myth of revolution now wields such a strong hold over the Western mind that, with the compulsiveness of children who beg to be retold the same story, we regularly accept these fairy tales at face value.

Prior to the fall of communism, "revolution" and "people power" were considered just leftish propaganda. We dismissed the Soviet regime's appeal to its own founding event as grotesque political kitsch, masking the sinister reality of power machinations behind the scenes. Now we seem to have become more naïve and have started to take two-dimensional archetypes about "the people" seriously. This is because the West has fallen in love with the myth of

revolution. Chairman Mao once said, "Marxism consists of a thousand truths but they all boil down to one sentence: 'It is right to rebel.'" That sentiment now forms a central tenet of Western political orthodoxy and U.S. foreign policy.

George W. Bush is not, of course, a closet Marxist. But many of his closest advisors, especially the neoconservatives, do have post-Trotskyite backgrounds. The original Marxist plan was for the socialist revolution to engulf the whole planet, and this plan was embraced by Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky. It famously came up against the buffers of Stalin's alternative proposal to build socialism in one country first. In exile, Trotsky kept the idea of world revolution going by setting up the Fourth International in 1938. Within two years, Irving Kristol—the man who was later to be the founding father of the neoconservative movement that so dominates the Bush administration—joined it. Irving Kristol never renounced or condemned his Trotskyite past: in 1983, he wrote that he was still proud of it. Likewise, in 1996, Michael Ledeen of the American Enterprise Institute—one of the leading ideologues of the war on terror—coined the phrase "global democratic revolution" in the subtitle of a book in which he attacked Bill Clinton for being a "counter-revolutionary." The book's title, *Freedom Betrayed*, is an obvious allusion to Trotsky's own 1938 account of his break with Stalin, *The Revolution Betrayed*.