



BOB DREIZLER, *CHARTERED FINANCIAL CONSULTANT*

*Specializing in socially conscious investors*



Welcome again to *Bob's Quarterly Update*. The 34<sup>th</sup> issue of my newsletter is not about financial issues, again. My website [www.bobdreizler.com](http://www.bobdreizler.com) contains updated financial data and commentaries, including "Oil and the *Casablanca* mentality."

Since transforming BQU into a political newsletter, I have been harvesting articles and quotes at an alarming rate. There have been so many great commentaries and passionate discourses since the start of Bush II's Iraq War that it's hard to use them sparingly. This issue will be composed largely of quotes. Any quotes in bold reflect my emphasis.

## CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

Dan Rather reported that President George W. Bush took an unauthorized sabbatical when he was assigned to National Guard duty while the Vietnam War raged. Rather is now gone; Bush is still President.

The administration shifted the "issue" from the real story to the source. This strategy was done with such success that it was used to blame *Newsweek* for reaction to the Quran stories. Later, after Amnesty International accused the United States of crimes similar to those used to justify the Iraq War, the issue became the use of the word "gulag." The compliant media is instrumental in deflecting focus from the important NEWS to stories such as the Michael Jackson trial and "runaway bride"-type stories.

The following quotes are comments on the *Newsweek*/Quran story. Do these strike anyone else as being a bit ironic?

“ People lost their lives. People are dead, and that's unfortunate. People need to be very careful about what they say, just as they need to be careful about what they do. ”

--DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD

“ People have lost their lives. Our image abroad has been damaged. ”

--WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY SCOTT McCLELLAN

“ It's puzzling that while the White House now acknowledged that they haven't found WMD or a link between Al Qaeda and Iraq, they have refused to retract their claims. I think there's a certain standard of governing that should be met and in this instance has not. The claims the administration used to send this nation to war have had serious consequences. People have lost their lives. The image of the United States abroad has been damaged. ”

--POLITICAL COMMENTATOR DAVID SIROTA  
[HTTP://WWW.DAVIDSIROTA.COM](http://www.davidsirota.com)

“ The actions of the Bush administration since the terror attacks of 9/11 have aroused hostility among Muslims everywhere. To understate the point, no one likes being invaded and occupied, whatever the circumstances. **Arguably the [Newsweek] magazine piece might have provoked a less hostile response absent U.S. actions in Iraq.**

The Administration's outrage [condemning Newsweek for the errant report], which surfaced only after riots began, would carry more weight had there not been repeated abuses at Guantánamo Bay, in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Indeed, allegations that U.S. guards have insulted Islam to provoke prisoners into talking have been made repeatedly by former detainees. U.S. officials dismissed those accounts, but the New York Times said Tuesday that one former U.S. interrogator at Guantánamo had corroborated a claim of mistreatment of the Quran by a Kuwaiti detainee. ”

--“NEWSWEEK GETS IT WRONG,” *THE SACRAMENTO BEE*, MAY 18, 2005, EDITORIAL PAGE.

“ Bill Moyers denounced on Sunday the right wing and top officials at the White House, saying they are trying to silence their critics by controlling the news media.

**He also took aim at reporters who become little more than willing government “stenographers.” And he said the public increasingly is content with just enough news to confirm its own biases. ”**

--MICHAEL SORKIN, *ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH*, MAY 16, 2005.  
[HTTP://WWW.COMMONDREAMS.ORG/HEADLINES05/0516-01.HTM](http://www.commondreams.org/headlines05/0516-01.htm)

“ So where does all this leave us? With a story that is not only true, but previously reported numerous times. So let's drop the “Lynch *Newsweek*” bull. Seventeen people have died in these riots. They didn't die because of anything *Newsweek* did -- the riots were caused by what our government has done.

Get your minds around it. Our country is guilty of torture. To quote myself once more: “What are you going to do about this? It's your country, your money, your government. You own this country, you run it, you are the board of directors. They are doing this in your name. The people we elected to public office do what you want them to. Perhaps you should get in touch with them.” ”

--MOLLY IVINS, *WORKING FOR CHANGE*, MAY 17, 2005.  
[HTTP://WWW.COMMONDREAMS.ORG/VIEWS05/0517-34.HTM](http://www.commondreams.org/views05/0517-34.htm)

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## THE SECRET DOWNING STREET MEMO

(Note: Bush's Iraq War began in March of 2003)

### IRAQ: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING, 23 JULY 2002

This record is extremely sensitive. No further copies should be made. It should be shown only to those with a genuine need to know its contents.

C reported on his recent talks in Washington. There was a perceptible shift in attitude. Military action was now seen as inevitable. Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. **But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy. The NSC had no patience with the UN route, and no enthusiasm for publishing material on the Iraqi regime's record. There was little discussion in Washington of the aftermath after military action.**

### SECOND MEMO

“ Ministers were warned in July 2002 that Britain was committed to taking part in an American-led invasion of Iraq and they had no choice but to find a way of making it legal.

The warning, in a leaked Cabinet Office briefing paper, said Tony Blair had already agreed to back military action to get rid of Saddam Hussein at a summit at the Texas ranch of President George W. Bush three months earlier.

The briefing paper, for participants at a meeting of Blair's inner circle on July 23, 2002, said that since regime change was illegal it was “necessary to create the conditions” which would make it legal.”

-- MICHAEL SMITH, *SUNDAY TIMES/UK*, JUNE 12, 2005.

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## QUOTES

“This is how liberty dies. With thunderous applause,” bemoans Padme Amidala as the galactic Senate cheers dictator-in-waiting Palpatine while he announces a crusade against the Jedi.

“If you’re not with me, then you’re my enemy,” Hayden Christensen’s Anakin — soon to become villain Darth Vader. ”

--DAVID GERMAIN, “‘STAR WARS’ RAISES QUESTIONS ON US POLICY,” ASSOCIATED PRESS, MAY 17, 2005. [HTTP://WWW.COMMONDREAMS.ORG/HEADLINES05/0517-07.HTM](http://www.commondreams.org/headlines05/0517-07.htm)

“Walter Jones, the Republican congressman for North Carolina who was also the brains behind French toast becoming freedom toast in Capitol Hill restaurants, told a local newspaper the US went to war “with no justification”.

Although he voted for the war, he has since become one of its most vociferous opponents on Capitol Hill, where the hallway outside his office is lined with photographs of the “faces of the fallen”.

“If we were given misinformation intentionally by people in this administration, to commit the authority to send boys, and in some instances girls, to go into Iraq, that is wrong,” he told the newspaper. “Congress must be told the truth.” ”

--JAMIE WILSON, GUARDIAN/UK, MAY 25, 2005. [HTTP://WWW.COMMONDREAMS.ORG/HEADLINES05/0525-08.HTM](http://www.commondreams.org/headlines05/0525-08.htm)

“People like myself--members of what one scornful Bush aide called the “reality-based community”--tend to attribute the right’s electoral victories to its success in distributing policy disinformation. ”

--PAUL KRUGMAN, THE SACRAMENTO BEE, FEBRUARY 28, 2005.

Also, check out “Drafting the Dead”, an editorial from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/opinion/226504\\_bushiraqed.asp](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/opinion/226504_bushiraqed.asp)

“By adamantly refusing to do anything to improve energy conservation in America the Bush team is — as others have noted — financing both sides of the war on terrorism. We are financing the U.S. armed forces with our tax dollars, and, through our profligate use of energy, we are generating huge windfall profits for Saudi Arabia, Iran and Sudan, where the cash is used to insulate the regimes from any pressure to open up their economies, liberate their women or modernize their schools, and where it ends up instead financing madrassas, mosques and militants fundamentally opposed to the progressive, pluralistic agenda America is trying to promote. Now how smart is that? ”

--THOMAS FRIEDMAN, NY TIMES OP-ED, FEBRUARY 13, 2005. [HTTP://WWW.NYTIMES.COM/2005/02/13/OPINION/13FRIEDMAN.HTML?EX=1113883200&EN=2D4C157469558149&EI=5070&OREF=LOGIN](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/13/opinion/13friedman.html?ex=1113883200&en=2d4c157469558149&ei=5070&oref=login)

## The “I” Word

“The impeachment of President Bush and Vice President Cheney, under Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution, should be part of mainstream political discourse.

Minutes from a summer 2002 meeting involving British Prime Minister Tony Blair reveal that the Bush administration was “fixing” the intelligence to justify invading Iraq. US intelligence used to justify the war demonstrates repeatedly the truth of the meeting minutes -- evidence was thin and needed fixing.

President Clinton was impeached for perjury about his sexual relationships. Comparing Clinton’s misbehavior to a destructive and costly war occupation launched in March 2003 under false pretenses in violation of domestic and international law certainly merits introduction of an impeachment resolution. ”

--RALPH NADER AND KEVIN ZEESE, “THE ‘I’ WORD: IMPEACHMENT,” BOSTON GLOBE, MAY 31, 2005. [HTTP://WWW.COMMONDREAMS.ORG/VIEWS05/0531-23.HTM](http://www.commondreams.org/views05/0531-23.htm)

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with your values

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## Visiting the WTC Site 2005

Stacey and I went to New York City for her birthday in early May. We experienced the usual tourist things: plays, museums and great food. The city was clean, safe and confident. Heightened security was discrete, but evident.

Our last visit was in 1998 with our teenage children. In one of my favorite pictures from that trip, Ross, age 14, stood smiling with his foot tilting up his skateboard. Behind him stood the Twin Towers, looking almost ghostly through the haze. Later, Sonya and I viewed New York City from the top of the World Trade Center.

During our first full day of this year's visit, we took a cruise that circled Manhattan. I kept looking for the Towers. Obviously, they weren't there, but that didn't stop me from looking at where the Towers had been.

One morning we took the E subway train to the site. What remains there is a sea of concrete--the foundations of once mighty skyscrapers. Manhattan is a densely populated island, but the enormous area inside the fence was nearly deserted.

The sidewalk was crowded, but eerily quiet for a New York City street. A few locals walked quickly by talking on their cell phones, but most visitors just whispered. Pictures on the chain-link fence showed the original construction project, the finished buildings, and photos from that awful day--September 11, 2001.

I saw no one crying. No one seemed angry. I thought I would feel strong emotions, like at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, but I felt only numbness. Later, when I talked to others who had visited the site, they expressed similar feelings.

Maybe the tragedy was too familiar, too horrible, too threatening. Possibly the current site is too antiseptic, and once a proper memorial is in place it will facilitate grieving. Until then, tourists just look through the space where 3000 innocent people died and feel the emptiness of something that isn't there.