

Punishment, Retribution and Reform

Thoughts after the American Terrorist attacksSept 2001

By: Jeremy Norman

The USA needs to exact punishment and retribution for the deadful acts committed against it. The country needs to feel potent and in control, but above all public shock and horror demands a swift and powerful, preferably military, response. What form should this take? What it must not do is to react against all Muslims or Arabs by bombing defenseless civilians thereby exacerbating the situation and fuelling the hatred and mistrust. Its response must be measured and just.

America and her allies need to take a lead and initiate a new policy against terrorism world wide. This outrage should serve as a warning of possible worse outrages to come, in future we may have to face a nuclear or chemical threat. We need concerted political action now to forestall such a possibility. The other priority is to show that the dominant World Power, the USA, is capable of enforcing justice in an even-handed way: it must make a new start in the Middle East.

The best way of achieving these objectives would be for The Western Allies to occupy the oil fields of Southern Iraq. An area of massive potential wealth and relatively small population. The humiliation for Saddam Hussein would be massive as would be his loss of prestige and potential oil revenues. Revenge and retribution would be seen to be swift and public. The stability of the world oil markets would be achieved.

The Territory should be placed in Trust with the following objectives: full compensation for the victims of terrorism; to pay for an international anti-terrorist police force or army with new world powers and lastly to finance a properly constituted unarmed Palestinian State. The Trustees of the new trust territory in Southern Iraq should include moderate Arabs from Saudi, Jordan and Kuwait and representatives of moderate Palestinian opinion.

This new State would comprise the whole of the West Bank and Gaza strip, joined by a secure highway across the Negev desert so as to create a viable unitary state with territorial integrity. It would be well constituted and funded with good housing and infra structure paid for from the oil revenues. Jewish settlements would remain only if unarmed and at their own risk. Jerusalem should be declared an international demilitarised holy city under international protection. The State of Israel should be forced by America to accept this new reality. In return it would receive security and peace guaranteed by the USA and by the new anti-terrorist police force. The new Palestinian State would be neutral and disarmed, anti-terrorist policing would be in the hands of the new international body referred to above.

The USA should convene an international symposium to draw up a new code of anti-terrorist measures. The USA needs to examine its own conscience over its past tacit support for Israel's own Irgun terrorists headed, lest we forget, by the former Israeli Prime Minister Begin. If terrorism is unacceptable then former terrorists should be barred from holding any political office. The USA has allowed itself to be swayed by the domestic vote into supporting both Israeli and Irish terrorism by acceptance of their leaders and by permlitting fund raising for

Punishment, Retribution and Reform

Thoughts after the American Terrorist attacksSept 2001

By: Jeremy Norman

terrorist organisations on its territory, for example by Noraid in the 70's and 80's for the IRA. All nations who wish to be part of the new order must agree that terrorism is an unacceptable way of solving political problems and all states should sign up to a strict new anti-terrorist code which would ban fund raising for either terrorists or their political wings and ban all former terrorists or political parties which have terrorist wings from any participation in the political process at least until the use of force is forsworn and all arms given up for destruction without condition or qualification.

The new Trust territory of Southern Iraq would make an excellent site for a prison for international terrorists and war criminals who could be put to useful manual employment in the oil fields.

It is also to be hoped that these tragic events will lead all fundamentalists, including Christian ones, to examine their consciences and to realise that all extreme religious convictions are anti-libertarian and essentially totalitarian and have no place in a free and just society, they also preach hatred and demonisation of others who are non-believers. It is time for the voice of the great agnostic, liberal majority to be heard.

A RESPONSE TO THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF 11.9.01

If there is anything to be gained from the tragic events of 11.9 it must be the loudest possible call to the responsible and loving world's peoples and world's leaders that changes must be made if we are together to be spared further and even more terrible horrors, perhaps even partial or complete self annihilation. The future, as always, is in our own hands. There is the possibility of a loving world order and it's creation is only in our own hands.

We must learn from the principles of good parenting and apply it even more rigorously to the parenting of our own world. These principles are based on love.

Our response to 11.9 must be those of a parent who looks at it's most unruly children with love and takes action accordingly. The most powerful, and democratic nations of the world, the most privileged and mature must take on the role of fearless world patriarchs. We must take more control of our world in the mature spirit of benevolence and love - this demands the highest altruistic moral standards of ourselves. This is an enormous role which transcends only national needs and boundaries - we must move toward being truly a world people who truly care for each other.

True loving means taking great risks and making bold decisions. The time has come to take radical steps. We must impose new orders. Antagonists must be held apart. Dangerous toys must be taken away and destroyed. Punishments need to be wisely and firmly imposed. Terrorist must be disarmed. Hate must be reduced. Acceptance of difference must be welcomed. World resources can no longer be considered the property of only one nation. Our great riches must be more generously shared. Divides must be dismantled. Good behaviour must be rewarded. Increased understanding and education must be applauded. Outsiders must be welcomed and included.

Take care, the imposition of such disciplines risks becoming dictatorship without the essential ingredient of love.

Adopting such a high handed role will only be acceptable if we are able to make decisions which truly rise above our individual and national needs, decisions which have in the past often contributed to the rise in the level of world hate.

We must always care passionately about our world and all it's peoples as we would our own children.

DNF Response 11.9.01