

## Why so many wars?

### THE ENTRENCHMENT OF HEGEMONY

by Bo Filter

Michael Moore brings down hard the hammer of class warfare in the final moments of his latest film, *Fahrenheit 9-11*. He reminds viewers that the pretext of staging an attack on one's own country to reaffirm hegemony is nothing new in history, but worse, a perpetual practice of entrenched aristocracies. In case anyone fails to understand which side of the fence Bush sits, Moore shows televised footage of Bush bragging amongst the elite that he is proud to be one of them. Lewis Lapham, editor of *Harpers*, has weighed-in on the billionaire club: "The American oligarchy increasingly has less in common with the American people than it does with the equivalent oligarchies in Germany or Mexico or Japan."

Throughout history, aristocracies have used all form of guile to maintain their position of privilege. Pretexts, by definition, galvanize public support, and they work specifically because the masses are unwilling to forego their blind faith in their leaders, rejecting the idea, as preposterous, that they, themselves, could be tricked into waging a war of aggression. To this day, most people disbelieve that the sinking of the *Lusitania* in 1916 was used to galvanize public support to enter World War I. Nor do they believe that Pearl Harbor was put deliberately in danger by an act of war, the prior blockading of the Strait of Malacca, cutting off Japan from its crucial supply of oil. Hitler burned down the Reichstag in a move to declare Marshall law and close down democracy, what the new Patriot Act is positioned to do in America.

People tragically forget that democracy is anathema to aristocracy. Rulers need followers and whipping the masses into war fever for imperial purposes is as old as Caesar:

Beware the leader who bangs the drums of war in order to whip the citizenry into a patriotic fervor, for patriotism is indeed a double-edged sword. It both emboldens the blood, just as it narrows the mind. And when the drums of war have reached a fever pitch and the blood boils with hate and the mind has closed, the leader will have no need in seizing the rights of the citizenry. Rather, the citizenry, infused with fear and blinded by patriotism, will offer up all of their rights unto the leader and gladly so. How do I know? For this is what I have done. And I am Caesar.

In the recent past, leaders still bragged about the success of

their manipulations. At the Nuremberg Trials, Hermann Goering explained: "... the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger."

Detractors want us to believe that such trickery is all in the past. Instead, stealth has gone underground. With today's billion dollar a year media spin corporations, no one can admit to this, like the \$10 million sell-job of the Gulf War to the American public by faking the event of Iraqi soldiers taking children out of incubators and leaving them on the floor to die, spun so convincingly by the tearful daughter of a Kuwaiti ambassador, and sponsored by the Republican Party who gave the "public relations" contract to Hill and Knowlton, who is headquartered just one floor up in the same building in Washington.

With 9/11, Bush could play a trump card, "You're either with us or you're with the terrorists." Quickly, the "Patriot Act" memorializes this affront on open democratic discussion. For follow-up, the corporate media spin constantly conditions the public to equate dissent with treason, creating two distinct camps of "good versus evil" in America. According to ancient class warfare, the elite must divide the people against each other, arming the right-wing supporters of monarchy to suppress the masses. The historical record of the American aristocracy is no different. In every American elite-sponsored totalitarian controlled country, critics and protesters are massacred, but first a national emergency is customarily declared with a clause that elections be postponed indefinitely. Ongoing attacks blamed on Al Qaeda readies Americans for martial law. If Kerry gets too close in the polls, only a small event, finely timed, like a few anthrax letters (9-11 anthrax traced to a military depot in Iowa) could be enough to declare code red. This is why media spin alleges that another Bin Laden attack in America is eminent. A finely tuned pretext will see Bush in the White House come January. The one thing that could stop him is that the public somehow starts to draw the connections between Bush, the Saudi elite and Al Qaeda. Hats off to Michael Moore for trying to do his part.

*Bo Filter is author of a newly released book:*

*The Cause of Wars and Aggression*

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