



The horrific terrorist strikes on our financial and military centers instantly transformed these symbols of power into metaphors for our anachronistic military structure.

New York's Twin Towers were like two of our current Army divisions, designed for fighting WWII—massive hierarchical structures, vulnerable to current threats, with personnel concentrated in a way that thwarts mobility.

Ironically, the strike on the Pentagon demolished the Army office in charge of streamlining bloated headquarters staffs.

Congratulations to TAE for the October/November 2001 issue explaining the need for military reorganization. Now that we've been shocked from our seductive sense of false security, perhaps the mass media will turn to salient voices like Colonel Douglas Macgregor's.

When civilians realize that the reorganization of their military is essential to ensure greater security against the widest range of possible threats, pressure may finally be brought against entrenched resistance to long-overdue reform.

Ruth Windsor  
Bedford, New York

As a long-time IBM employee, I resent Karl Zinsmeister's lumping us in with the ghosts of the likes of International Harvester and Pan Am (BIRD'S EYE, October/November 2001). Dell and Compaq hardly "overtook IBM."

We're the world's largest computer hardware company, as well as the largest information technology services company. We're second in software, where our portfolio boasts best sellers in the key technologies of the Internet age: databases, Web application servers, messaging, and development tools.

If Mr. Zinsmeister is looking for defunct computer companies, or ones on life support, there are plenty. IBM isn't one of them.

Kent Rebman  
Brownsburg, Indiana

*Mr. Rebman is right. Using IBM to illustrate an overtaken firm was stupid. IBM was, of course, overtaken in several high-profile consumer lines like desktop computers and operating systems (what I was generally referring to). But it has many other thriving lines, and the overall company is extraordinarily healthy. I should have picked a better example.*

—KZ

If Max Boot is correct about the growing unwillingness among the American public to tolerate casualties ("Imagining Clean Pushbutton Wars? Get Over It," October/November 2001), we're on our way to a socialist America.

Lack of will and fortitude are traits of socialism. That's what infects France, a loser of every engagement since Napoleon.

Toby Elster  
USAF (ret.)  
Wichita, Kansas

Hendrik Mills accurately portrays the travesty of federal jurisdiction over Indian reservations ("Helping Victims to Their Ruin," July/August 2001). Decades of government programs have resulted in denial of full citizenship rights and responsibilities to American Indians.

An existence entirely dependent on the state has crushed personal incentive, as one misguided program after the other perpetuates the cycle of dependency that leads to despair. Today, despite the pre-

sumed "helping hand" of the government, every conceivable social ill is found on the reservations in abundance.

American Indians have been misled. Mills sums it up well: "They have been badly damaged by the idea that they are 'owed' something and that the public purse is their route to prosperity."

Stan Stephens  
Governor of Montana (1989-1993)  
Kalispell, Montana

I hope with all the fervor and fiber I can muster that you were able to provide copies of your absolutely dynamite "Energy Crunch" issue (September 2001) to the entire U.S. Congress.

If these articles don't open their eyes and minds, America is doomed to mediocrity when it comes to energy and the economy.

Ray Gerhardt  
Las Vegas, Nevada

*After September 11, there is an even greater imperative to become energy self-sufficient (see "Fight Terror: Drill in America" on page 10 in this issue).*

—The editors

In this time of national disaster my beef is petty, but it must be said. I was disappointed to see "Gonna" above James Glassman's piece on Social Security reform (FORWARD OBSERVER, October/November 2001). What's next—"whatever"?

On the bright side, TAE, unlike *National Review*, has never published an article about Rosie.

Jim Cierzniak  
South Bend, Indiana

