



Our Values, Iraq's Freedom

Why Democrats should support regime change in Iraq.

By Stephen Solarz

Is a commitment to a regime change in Iraq compatible with the core values of the Democratic Party?

A majority of Democrats in the House and Senate voted against giving President Bush the military power to compel Saddam Hussein to relinquish his weapons of mass destruction and to respect the human rights of his own people. This would suggest that it is not.

But an honest assessment of the Democratic Party's role in shaping foreign policy indicates that the robust internationalism inherent in a dedication to regime change in Iraq is indeed consistent with the Party's principles. Perhaps the best way of determining the core foreign policy values of the two great political parties in the United States is to look at how the Presidents they put in the White House have conducted themselves while in residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Let's review the record:

It was, after all, the Princeton professor who first articulated a commitment to democracy and self-determination as one of the fundamental pillars of American foreign policy; the Hyde Park squire who put the prestige of the United States behind the establishment of the United Nations as the best way of creating a more peaceful world; the man from Missouri who enunciated the Truman doctrine pledging the United States to resist tyranny wherever it raised its ugly head; the New England aristocrat who made nuclear non-proliferation one of his primary objectives; the Texas rancher who committed American forces to the fight for freedom from Central America to Southeast Asia; the peanut farmer from Georgia who made human rights the centerpiece of American foreign policy; and the good ol' boy from Arkansas who signed the legislation making regime change in Iraq the official policy of the United States.

If democracy and self-determination are to have any chance of becoming a reality in Iraq, the removal of the Mesopotamian megalomaniac and his Ba'athist bully boys from their position of power in Baghdad is clearly a necessary, if not sufficient, condition. Put Woodrow Wilson, therefore, on the side of regime change in Iraq.

If the United Nations is going to avoid the fate of the League of Nations and its tragic slide into irrelevance, the relevant U.N. resolutions calling for the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction will have to be truly implemented. It should be clear by now that the only way to secure the destruction of these

demonic devices is through the removal of Saddam Hussein from power. Put Franklin Roosevelt, therefore, on the side of regime change in Iraq.

If Iraq, which has invaded both Iran and Kuwait in its unrelenting bid for regional hegemony, is going to be transformed into a force for peace rather than a platform for war, there is no viable alternative to removing the Tikriti tyrant from his position of power. Put Harry Truman, therefore, on the side of regime change in Iraq.

If Iraq, which has already used chemical and biological weapons against the Iranians and the Kurds, is going to be deprived of its weapons of mass destruction, and prevented from eventually obtaining nuclear weapons as well, Saddam will almost certainly have to be swept into the trashcan of history. It would be nice to think, after two decades of resisting sanctions and blandishments designed to induce him to give up his weapons of mass destruction, that Saddam will finally yield peacefully and voluntarily to the umpteenth U.N. resolution calling on him to do so as he said he will. But it is doubtful that anything short of a new government willing to abide by its international obligations will be able to accomplish this international imperative. Put John F. Kennedy, therefore, on the side of regime change in Iraq.

If the Iraqi people are ever to enjoy the fruits of freedom, which the Ba'ath Party has cruelly and consistently denied them, and if Iraq is going to cease being a threat to regional stability, a new government in Baghdad is an urgent and compelling requirement. The United States would have no quarrel with a democratic Iraq. Put Lyndon Baines Johnson, therefore, on the side of regime change in Iraq.

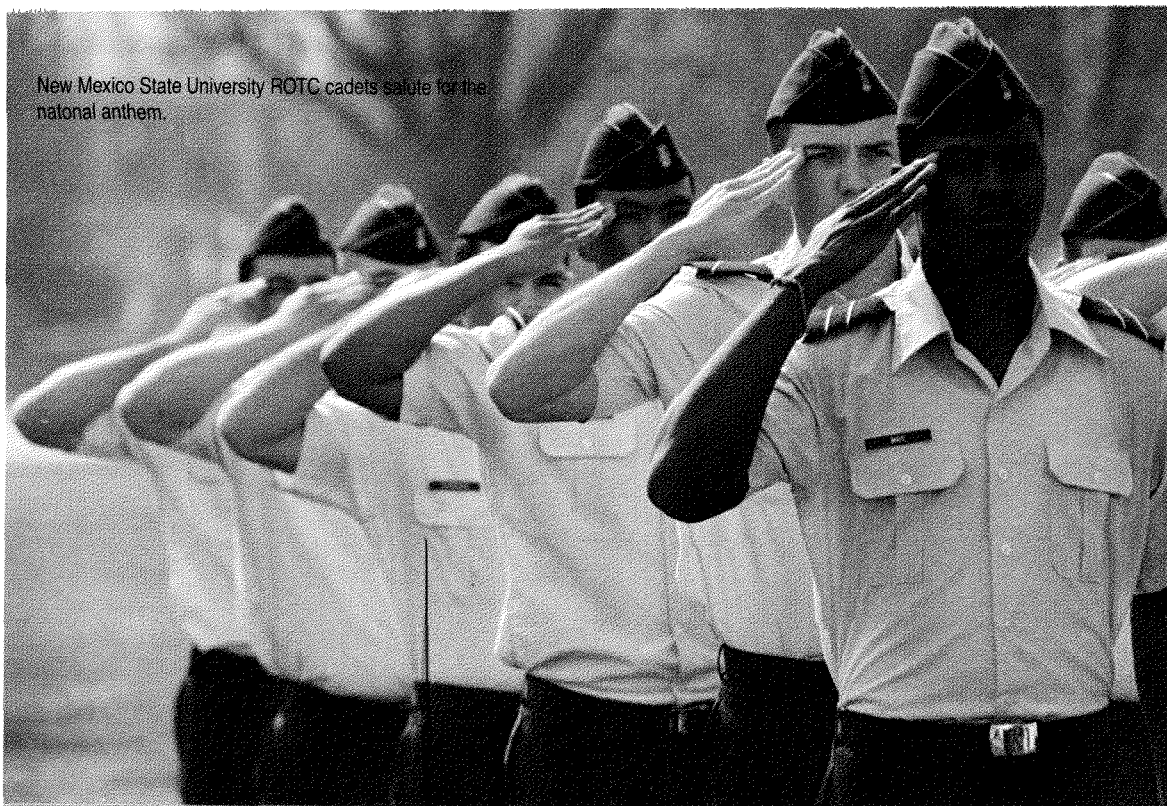
If there is to be any hope for a greater respect for human rights in Iraq, if the systemic repression which has been the hallmark of Saddam's rule is to end, there is no other way to do it than to change the government. If Jimmy Carter, who resisted the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan by providing arms to the *mujahedin*, were faithful to the principles that guided his Presidency, he, too, would be on the side of regime change in Iraq.

If the Iraq Liberation Act, passed almost unanimously by the Congress and signed into law by President Clinton in 1998, is ever to achieve its objective of liberating the Iraqi people from the clutches of one of the foulest tyrannies ever to blot the Middle East, the rule of Saddam Hussein has got to go. Put Bill Clinton, therefore, on the side of regime change in Iraq.

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Stephen Solarz, who served 18 years in Congress, where he was a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, led the fight for the adoption of the Gulf War Resolution in 1991.

New Mexico State University ROTC cadets salute for the national anthem.



Homeland Security: Restoring Civic Virtue

By Robert Cottrol

The September 11 terrorist attacks did more than bring a tragic end to over 3,000 American lives. They also helped shatter two long-cherished illusions. The first, that we live in a secure homeland, was shared by most Americans. Blessed by geography, twentieth-century Americans came to think of wars as unpleasant events that happened "over there." With the exception of those who witnessed Pearl Harbor, no living American can remember a time when civilians were under enemy attack on American soil. No more. September 11 was a searing indicator that warfare in the twenty-first century will be brutal, indiscriminate, and over here.

The second shattered illusion, that we can avoid violence by being passive, has gained widespread currency among our academic and professional elites. This illusion and its corollary, that the average citizen is too feckless to defend himself, much less participate in the defense of his community, must be shed quickly if American civil society is to survive this new and terrifying century. This will involve rediscovering, and re-defining, the venerable but badly eroded tradition of the citizen soldier. It also means revitalizing the role of the Reserve Officers Training Corps on the nation's campuses.

On the heels of the 9/11 attacks came a new concern for homeland security. As a nation, we present a virtually limitless number of targets for terrorists. We don't have the manpower to guard those targets and also secure our borders, coastlines, harbors, airports, and railway stations while allowing the nation's police forces to do their routine jobs of protecting public safety and allowing the armed forces to fulfill their traditional missions

of guarding the nation and its allies against conventional or nuclear attack.

Presuming the National Guard will always be available to augment police and military forces as it did immediately after 9/11 is also an illusion. Today's National Guard is so thoroughly integrated into Defense Department contingency planning that it would be impossible for the President to send significant forces into an overseas conflict without substantial deployment of the Guard. Under those circumstances, state and local police, whose ranks would also be depleted because many of their members are military reservists, would find that in addition to their already difficult mission of maintaining public safety, they would be charged with guarding large numbers of potential terrorist targets.

That's why we need a home guard, a group of citizens trained and organized to assist police and military forces in times of crisis, especially when the National Guard has been deployed overseas. This force, unlike the National Guard, should not be subject to long-term service in the armed forces. It should exist exclusively for domestic contingencies, and be used primarily at the local level. There are police auxiliary programs in many communities and some states have State Defense Forces designed to back up the National Guard, but they don't quite meet the need. Training for these forces varies widely. Even worse, there has been little effort to recruit large numbers of

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