

which he contrives to expose the fraudulence of the anti-rent Indians' claim to represent the legacy of the aboriginal possessors of the land. As Reeve Huston suggests, the anti-rent tribes drew heavily on the popular mythology of the "vanishing Indian" who had been unjustly robbed of his homeland. By appropriating Indian costume, the anti-rent Indians were able to propagate a fictitious but popular claim that their "title" to possession of the land was somehow superior to the landlords', and that they were simply "returning" to reclaim their ancient home from those who had dispossessed them. This fiction is stripped of its power to persuade when Cooper introduces into the novel a band of real Indians, a group of venerable chiefs of the Six Nations who have trekked a thousand miles from their exile on the prairie to pay homage to the ancient Susquesus, an Indian who has been attached to the Littlepage family for over 70 years. Susquesus's great secret, we learn, is that he was once a respected Onondaga chief who had left his tribe after refusing honorably to abrogate the rights of one of his warriors when he could easily have done so. The warrior in question had captured a young and beautiful squaw, and, by tribal custom, she was his property. But she favored Susquesus, who longed to bring her into his own wigwam. His popularity and authority ensured that he could have served his selfish interest without interference, but, in the end, he chose to uphold the law of possession.

Susquesus's story is revealed in one of the novel's final scenes with great oratorical flourish, as the Littlepages and a band of some 200 anti-rent Indians who have besieged their property listen in rapt attention. The reader is to understand that, when the pseudo-Indians abandon their intentions of doing some further violence to the property (having already burnt down the barn), it is out of shame. Though hiding their dishonest faces in "calico bags," even they are not so debased as to fail to recognize the moral superiority of the ancient Susquesus, who refuses to recognize them as warriors: "When they take a scalp," he proclaims, "it is because they are a hundred, and their enemies one." However implausible the *mise en scène*, the moral point is transparent. These false Indians have not kept their word; they have, in good faith, entered into agreements with their paleface landlords but now wish to violate their oaths and take the land for themselves. Susquesus recalls with anguish how the red men were driven off the land that, "far and near, was ours." The same "wicked spirit" that dispossessed the Indian now seeks to "drive off the pale face chiefs." But there is, he admits, a difference. The original dispossession was accomplished by superior strength, a rough justice that the red man can accept. This second dispossession is being effected by the weak, whose dishonesty "dishonor[s] the red men."

It is quite true, of course, that, in this denouement, Cooper cleverly exploits the same myth of the "noble savage" that served his anti-rent opponents so well. However, the myth makes for an effective literary device, and the underlying moral has its force. Unfortunately, Cooper's fictitious victory over the forces of anti-rentism was not to be realized in reality. In 1847, the Whig candidate John Young was elected governor of New York with substantial anti-rent support. Although, in order to appease party moderates, he had promised not to pardon a group of anti-rent Indians who had been jailed on charges ranging from murder to crimes against property, he quickly succumbed to the "tyranny of numbers" (after anti-rent mili-

tants sent him petitions bearing some 11,000 signatures) and issued the pardons. Shortly thereafter, he pushed for a resolution in the state legislature that would allow the attorney general to "inquire" into the legality of the landlords' titles if he were presented with any "just doubt" of their validity. While this resolution prevented any wholesale seizure of properties, it did open the way to years of litigation that bankrupted the landlords and forced them to sell off their estates. And in most cases, it was not tenant farmers who then took possession of the land, but high-risk speculators who, in turn, sold it to those same farmers at prices (and rates of interest) well above what their former landlords had demanded.

The Intrepid Traveller by Sara Hill

X-rays of the heart
In nuclear winter
Reveal no embolism.

The numbness beyond pain,
The pulse beyond loss
So tranquilly comes

That in the heart's
Forsaken chambers is a harmony
Beyond the quaver

Of violin strings,
And colours of such saturation,
They cease to bleed.

The heart starts —
But as a maiden in a strange space
Leaps at mirrored-image.

If winter wastes what's left
Of the blood-bypassed heart,
And the foot that at leaf fall too swiftly turned,

Foot no more can heed
What heart no more commands;
But both ride the frozen currents

Of summer memory and blessed habit
Back to the well-worn path.
Hell is the intrepid traveller

That never seems to lead,
But follows quietly along,
Carrying your suitcase.

The New Plan for Iraq

War With Iran?

by Joseph E. Fallon

When President Bush announced, in a televised speech, that he was planning to deploy 21,500 additional troops to Iraq, he added an ominous aside:

Succeeding in Iraq also requires defending its territorial integrity and stabilizing the region in the face of extremist challenges. This begins with addressing Iran and Syria. These two regimes are allowing terrorists and insurgents to use their territory to move in and out of Iraq. Iran is providing material support for attacks on American troops. We will disrupt the attacks on our forces. We'll interrupt the flow of support from Iran and Syria. And we will seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq.

In light of the provocative actions the Bush administration has taken over the past year, these words cannot easily be dismissed as mere saber-rattling.

In March 2006, the State Department created an Office of Iranian Affairs, which, along with the Pentagon's new Iranian Directorate, is tasked with aggressively promoting regime change in Iran. Among those advising the Iranian Directorate are three former associates of the Pentagon's defunct Office of Special Plans—the same group that promoted the Iraq war on the basis of false or misleading information: Abram N. Shulsky, the OSP's former director; John Trigilio, a Defense Intelligence Agency analyst; and Ladan Archin, an Iran specialist.

In the April 17, 2006, issue of the *New Yorker*, in an article entitled "The Iran Plans: Would President Bush go to war to stop Tehran from getting the bomb?" Seymour Hersh wrote that U.S. troops are already in Iran and are "in position to mark the critical targets with laser beams, to insure bombing accuracy and to minimize civilian casualties." His source in the Pentagon also claimed that we had already begun "working with minority groups in Iran . . . to 'encourage ethnic tensions' and undermine the regime."

Plans continued apace through the end of last year. On September 30, 2006, the Iran Freedom Support Act, which provides financing for activities that promote regime change in Iran, was signed into law. Then, in late 2006, President Bush changed security policy in Iraq from a "catch and release" program (whereby U.S. forces would secretly capture Iranian "agents" in the country and detain them for a few days) to ordering that Iranian "agents" in Iraq be captured and held indefinitely, or killed.

In an effort to disrupt Iran's economy, on January 9 of this year, the Bush administration imposed sanctions on Bank Sepah, Iran's fifth-largest state-owned financial institution, alleging it

"is the financial linchpin of Iran's missile procurement network and has actively assisted Iran's pursuit of missiles capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction." Two days later, on January 11, U.S. troops violated international law protecting the immunity of diplomatic compounds, by storming Iran's consulate in Arbil in Iraqi Kurdistan and detaining five of its staff while confiscating computers and official documents.

In addition, significant military sea and air operations are now under way. To Iran's northwest, at the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, the Pentagon has deployed F-16s that can deliver B61-11 nuclear bunker busters, which are theoretically capable of destroying Iran's underground nuclear facilities. To Iran's south, Patriot Air and Missile Defense Systems are now in place in Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain (where the U.S. Fifth Fleet, the naval arm of U.S. Central Command, is headquartered). The USS *Eisenhower* Strike Group is in the Persian Gulf, comprising the nuclear aircraft carrier *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, its Carrier Air Wing 7, Destroyer Squadron 28, the guided-missile cruiser USS *Anzio*, the guided-missile destroyers USS *Ramage* and USS *Mason*, and the attack submarine USS *Newport News*.

They are now being joined by the USS *Stennis* Carrier Strike Group, which consists of the nuclear aircraft carrier *John C. Stennis*, its Carrier Air Wing 9, Destroyer Squadron 21, the guided-missile cruiser USS *Antietam*, and the guided-missile destroyers USS *O'Kane*, USS *Preble*, and USS *Paul Hamilton*. The combined Carrier Air Wings of the two carrier strike groups allow air operations over a continuous 24-hour cycle. According to Flynt Leverett, former senior official in the CIA and the National Security Council, stationing two carrier strike groups in the Persian Gulf "provide[s] the necessary numbers and variety of tactical aircraft" for an attack against Iran.

In addition, the USS *Bataan* Expeditionary Strike Group, which consists of seven ships and includes helicopters and Harrier fighter jets, has been deployed to the Persian Gulf. A fourth flotilla of eight ships, the USS *Boxer* Expeditionary Strike Group, is nearby, in the Indian Ocean. Currently at sea and available for deployment to the Persian Gulf are USS *Nimitz* and three additional carrier strike groups: USS *Ronald Reagan*, USS *Harry S. Truman*, and USS *Theodore Roosevelt*.

Coordinating this military activity is the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM), one of the Pentagon's five geographically demarcated unified commands. Spanning 3,600 miles east-west and 4,600 miles north-south, its Area of Responsibility is larger than the continental United States. Of particular note, therefore, is President Bush's decision to pass over highly qualified U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps Combat Arms officers and appoint Adm. William J. Fallon to head USCENTCOM. Over its 24-year history, USCENTCOM has always been commanded by a general from either the Army or the

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