

A SUMMER WAR

Whether it will come or not, the whole of the Middle East, - and by extension the world, - is gearing up for war this summer. Syria, Iran, Hezbollah, and the Hamas led Palestinians are the likely candidates on one side with Israel and the US on the other. Syria is massing troops, missiles and tanks on the Golan Heights from which it previously launched two invasions of Israel. The heights overlook a significant portion of the civilian Israeli population. It's the strategic high ground on Israel's northern border. Along with the military preparations, Damascus is beginning to psychologically acclimate its population to the possibility of war. Syrian media has been broadcasting warlike messages for the first time since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. President Assad acknowledges the possibility of an upcoming war with Israel.¹ And as a public sign that a conflict may be on the horizon, a delegation of 40 very high-ranking Syrian Generals showed up in Tehran for talks on cooperation in any future military confrontation with Israel.²

Syria has been updating its military hardware, acquiring an Iranian version of a Chinese anti-ship missile with a range of about 75miles.³ In addition there are about 300 SCUD missiles aimed at Israel from the Syrian part of Golan. According to the prestigious Jane's Foreign Report, as far back as 2003 about 100 of those had warheads loaded with VX nerve gas. Syria is now able to manufacture both missiles and chemical warheads in country.⁴ In addition they have taken on Russian made SAMs and Iranian advisors. This is not your grandfather's Syrian Army, - the one that managed to squander the support of multiple allies and numerical advantages, - turning both into humiliating defeat. This time around support is expected from the Palestinians, - who have also upgraded their rocket capabilities and Hezbollah, - who has rearmed to full strength after last summer's war.

SIGNS & LYING WONDERS

“The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish” (2Thessalonians 2:9-10)

To even consider the implications of this begs the limits of the imagination and blurs the line between reality and fiction. ‘What if’, asked the folks at the Pentagon, ‘we could mold people's perception of the truth to our own ends?’. As one writer put it, the powers-that-be, were considering the “use of digital technology to create false realities”. This all of course comes under the heading of “psyops”, or psychological warfare. All the major powers maintain such groups in the military. The American version is centered in Fort Bragg. It's been going on for years, but now its operatives were proposing, and preparing to enter the very molding of ‘truth’ itself.

To that end, the Pentagon entered a relationship with Hollywood's movie industry. That got going in the 90's but really took off after 9/11. Over time it has grown in scope, depth and technological capabilities. The US military immediately set about harnessing the expertise that Hollywood demonstrated in some of its most advanced movies. A 2005 Mustang commercial, featured actor Steve McQueen who had been dead for a quarter of a century. Years before, Woody Allen had convincingly inserted himself into all sorts of historical situations; -

with Hitler and Babe Ruth for instance, - in the movie Zelig. It seems just about any reality could be manufactured.⁵ Think of all the military possibilities for such an advanced disinformation capability.

The danger in all of this of course, is that instead of being used for just entertainment and advertising purposes, it could be used to actually ‘create the news’. In fact prior to the Iraqi war, the Pentagon considered faking videos that showed Saddam involved in sexual perversions and “crying like a baby”. One former military affairs analyst, William Arkin, revealed that a plan was even worked out to “project a huge holographic image of Allah into the skies over Baghdad, urging Iraqis to overthrow Hussein”. It was abandoned for logistical reasons only.⁶

This sort of technology is not even that out of the ordinary. One MIT publication describes how “Deleting people or objects from live video, or inserting prerecorded people or objects into live scenes, is only the beginning of the deceptions becoming possible”. This is not just a theory. It was demonstrated at an international conference on Satellite Imagery, when skater Katerina Witt was made to seamlessly disappear. Not even a shadow was visible. The audience of the world’s elite was stunned. What this all means is that video images could be beamed as live newscasts showing people spontaneously disappearing or being...raptured...perhaps. Presented as “news reports”, the video images would be amazingly convincing.⁷

Even the ‘Holographic Allah’ was not a particularly big deal. Now one way to create holograms is by projecting laser beams into space and then bouncing them off of orbiting satellites. They could easily be used to create the images of the world’s various “messiahs” required by New Age “prophecy”. According to Constance Cumbey, in her *Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow*, they could also be used “...in such a manner as to appear that flames are coming from the sky”, suggesting the fulfillment of Revelation 13:13. It is possible that one single image could be produced that would be able to be viewed by up to one-third of the world’s population. There is even technology “...to make the image speak in the language of the areas to which it is beamed”. Interestingly, New Ager David Spangler, has admitted that laser projectors have been installed on the roof of St. John the Divine Episcopal Cathedral, in New York; - a home of New Age thought and practice.⁸ Other New Age sources have ‘predicted’ a worldwide vision where the New Age Christ will appear across the world, - speaking to each area in its predominant native tongue. Such “**signs and wonders**” could threaten to “**seduce, if it were possible, even the elect**”. (Mark 13:22)

BIG BROTHERISMS

Chapter 13 of The Revelation of Jesus Christ is a fascinating and informative passage of Scripture. Though somewhat cryptic, - just because it deals with things future, - it lays out in detail much of what the world will be like during the End Times reign of Antichrist, the beast of “**seven heads and ten horns**”. It tells us that he will exercise absolute authority and power “**for forty two months**”, and that during that time he will “**make war with the saints and overcome them**”. But what we are most concerned about in this article is the scope of the control he will exercise. He will have authority “**over every tribe, tongue and nation**”. Later, through the good offices of the man that will serve as the False Prophet, that control will extend to “**all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except on who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name**”. (Revelation 13:1,5,7,16-17) Recently some remarkable progress has been made toward these goals. See below.

- American Express was recently caught designing a plan for full fledged spying on customers through the investigation of patent applications. The scheme was to place a radio-emitting chip in the American Express Blue Card that would be able to connect with RFID “readers” strategically placed in stores, schools, public transportation centers and hotels. Once the signal was picked up, customers would be identified, tracked and their behavior observed. The new technology would pretty much allow American Express to eventually follow every economic movement a consumer would make. Under pressure from consumer groups, the company eventually agreed to offer consumer’s a chip-free credit card to “consumers who ask for it”.⁹ But I guess you would have to know about it to ask for it. A Pyrrhic victory at best!
- In the UK, Science Minister Malcolm Wicks proposed tracking the elderly by using microchip technology hooked up to the worldwide GPS satellite system.¹⁰
- Washington State will begin issuing licenses with radio frequency identification (RFID) embedded in the document. If approved by the Federal Department of Homeland Security, the new licenses may be able to serve as a passport.¹¹
- Beginning this month, the US and the European Union will begin working on establishing a “single market between the two regions” by harmonizing “regulations, norms and technical standards” in a many as 40 different industries.¹²

THE OIL FACTOR

“When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.” (Revelation 6:5-6)

Despite what the old song says from the 60’s musical Carnival, it’s not love but oil that “makes the world go round”; - at least the modern version of it. It has been thus for at least a century. Lord Curzon credits oil for victory over Germany in WWI. “The Allies were carried to victory on a flood of oil”. Prior to that war, England had managed to win the important colonial battles in a way that limited Germany’s access to necessary petroleum. World War II was hardly different. America’s oil driven industrial economy made possible the grand mobilization that doomed both Japan and the Third Reich. Now however we are facing a new reality. According to ‘experts’ we are now facing something called Peak Oil. Petroleum reserves, if not running out, - are reaching a point where they will no longer expand; - this at a point in time when the demand in nations like China and India is exploding.¹³

So the economic forces are in place to send oil prices skyrocketing. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that the control of the commodity is increasingly passing from private oil companies into the hands of nationally run enterprises. Fourteen of the top twenty are state owned, controlling over three-quarters of global reserves. These nationally run enterprises are markedly more inefficient, being both more politicized and corrupt. One case in point is Venezuela. Right now, President Chavez is attempting to seize control of American / European oil projects in his country, - possibly by May 1st. The West is increasingly at the mercy of nations such as these, as

they pull out the oil weapon to advance their political agendas. The US imports about 60% of the petroleum required to keep the economy running.¹⁴

In addition, the Iraq war has significantly reduced the world's flow of oil. Iraqi production is down from about 4 million to 2.1 million barrels of oil per day.¹⁵ Relevant to all of this is a BBC report of a pre-Iraq war plan titled: "Options for a Sustainable Iraqi Oil Industry". The report was put out under the aegis of the US State Department, but was actually written by oil industry executives in Houston. It noted Baghdad's "destabilizing influence" on the "flow of oil to international markets from the Middle East". At the time, Saddam was threatening to manipulate the oil market for his own political gain. The solution the oil industry execs saw at the time: Have Iraq remain a loyal member of OPEC. 9/11 followed about a year later. Saddam's threats of hyper-production to drive down the price of oil, destabilizing the markets and striking a blow at the Western economies never occurred. In fact, the opposite happened. The war put a stop to that. A by-product of the war was seen in the sharp increase in oil company profits and the floor price of oil rising from \$18 to around \$57 per barrel.¹⁶

Another pressure point of course can be found in Iran's drive to build an atomic weapon of its own. Add to that, Iran's actions that feed the war in Iraq and most recently Afghanistan. Tehran is training insurgents, as well as funneling fighters and arms into Iraq. In fact now they are seemingly content to fuel total chaos, as they are arming both Sunnis and Shiites.¹⁷ Tehran's actions threaten Israel's existence and the American presence in the Middle East. Putative US ally Saudi Arabia as well as Egypt are taking steps toward a nuclear deterrent of their own. Any action against Iranian nuclear facilities would no doubt severely curtail, - at least temporarily, - the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf region, sending petroleum prices through the ceiling. Even without an air strike, one analyst is predicting a rise in gas prices to around \$5 per gallon this summer.

Exacerbating the entire situation is the movement by several Arab Gulf nations to move currency holdings out of the American dollar to the euro. Asian currencies are also showing an attractiveness due to the steady rise in the Chinese and Indian economies. Over the last several years, the American position in the world has been largely propped up by the fact that oil trading was conducted almost exclusively in dollars. These new developments have major economic effects on the US specifically and the world economy in general. Even the International Monetary Fund is pushing for exchange rate corrections as a response to the American debt and deficit.¹⁸ It just means bad news for the US dollar and the American consumer, putting more pressure on gas prices to rise. Seemingly in response, the euro has risen to a two-year high against the dollar.¹⁹ The end of the era of the dollar could signal the beginning of a new world order.

TERROR WARNING

According to British intelligence, a branch of al-Qaeda based in Iran is planning "large scale" attacks on Britain and other Western nations. The London Times said that one terrorist operative said the planned attack would be "on par with Hiroshima and Nagasaki", - the Japanese cities destroyed by the 2 American atomic bombs that ended World War II. According to British government sources, the al-Qaeda group in Iran was not believed to have any ties to President Ahmadinejad's government, - who likely was "turning a blind eye" to the situation.²⁰

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- ¹⁶ It's Still The Oil, Greg Palast, gregpalast.com, based on his original report on the BBC Newsnight Report
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