

# The Passy Press®

## Letter to the Editor

**From:** John Allen <[springny@undisclosed.com](mailto:springny@undisclosed.com)>  
**Subject: Re: The Passy Press and Jim Webb essay**  
**Date:** June 4, 2013 5:19:38 AM GMT+02:00  
**To:** Gardiner Nicholas <[enpg@thepassypress.com](mailto:enpg@thepassypress.com)>

Dear Sir,

Although I am no expert on the U.S. political process, I find Jim Webb's essay off base. I'm not sure what he was trying to achieve by writing it. It just sounds like whining to me.

First, he implies that the decision to support a no-fly zone in Libya was like a declaration of war requiring congressional approval. I think current U.S. policy distinguishes between action that involves having "boots on the ground" which would require congressional approval, and just air support at the request of other allies, like NATO and the Arab League. Also, there are other occasions, such as the Bay of Pigs invasion, where no congressional approval was sought or obtained although Jim says this has never happened before.

Kofi Annan established a more important precedent when he was Secretary General of the UN. In his book, "Interventions: A Life in War and Peace" he presents himself as a champion of the "legitimacy and necessity of intervention in the case of gross violations of human rights". He supports interventions, such as that in Kosovo, that occur without UN Security Council sanction. This is a direct violation of the UN Charter, which says that the UN should only get involved when requested by a member state.

I think both the U.S. and world are evolving to a point where when there are clear-cut violations of human rights, leaders take action to prevent more bloodshed. To wait until a dysfunctional U.S. Congress or UN Security Council makes a decision is a very poor and cowardly excuse for not taking action. "Better to take action and ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission and never receive it, or receive it after the damage has been done."

I also feel we need to construct a better system of global governance that defines when intervention can and should be taken. In fact, my passion is to facilitate "the peaceful transition from the nation state to the global state" and I have given a number of talks and am involved with several initiatives in this regard. My inspiration in this regard was Tivadar Soros, father of George Soros, who in the 1960's wrote in his book "Maskerado"

*- "In my view, international life will never be healthy until we change current notions of national sovereignty. Given the extraordinary technological advances now going on, we must recognize that such concepts are out of date and morally indefensible: we must place limits on the absolute power of the individual state. Not only does every state have a right to intervene in the internal affairs of another state if that state violates fundamental human rights, but it has a moral responsibility to do so. And what is true of states is true of individuals, too."*

Thanks again for staying in touch. I look forward to continuing our communication and to getting together. All the best,

John

John Allen is an international investment banker whose passion is to facilitate the peaceful transition from the nation state to the global state