

The Passy Press

Letters to the Editor

From: Richard Collier collier.rt@undisclosed.com
To: Gardiner Nick enpg@thepassypress.com
Date: October 6, 2015 at 5:36:26 PM GMT+2
Subject: Re: New Passy Press Essay – October 2015

Dear Sir,

Clearly, my qualifications to comment on the Simpson piece are limited. There is one point that he fails to make, or misconstrues, and that is why the US attacked Iraq. Acknowledging that Saddam Hussein did everything he could to make the world think he had nuclear capability, and fooling the intelligence arms of many nations in addition to the US, rather than be able to run as a "war president", I remain convinced that an overriding personal conviction of Bush's was revenge for Saddam's deliberate but fortunately inept attempt to take out his father.

The most compelling point Simpson makes is not eliminating one leader/government, no matter how odious, without a known replacement. And it's not just in the Middle East that Western nations have done this repeatedly. Can one honestly say that many of the African nations today, with corrupt and venal leaders, are truly better off than as part of a benevolent if often rapacious Western power? These people remain poor, but lack the stability and security that the colonial powers brought. Zimbabwe was the breadbasket of Africa; today they starve. This story has been repeated over and over again.

I posit that a bad dictator is better than the anarchy that pervades the ME today. These peoples are not suited to self-rule. They have never known it and in many cases incapable of understanding it. One may disagree with some of what the current government in Egypt is doing, but the place is a lot more stable and peaceful and the populous much more supportive than when the country was close to anarchy. Egypt, had we interfered, today could look like Libya. Instead, we kept our hands off and allowed another strongman to rule. In the ME, that should be the rule. Jordan is another example where democracy is a fiction and it is generally stable. Ditto for the Kuwait and the Trucial States, which I have visited (on business) several times. No democracy and US hands off is working fine there.

The partition of the Middle East was flawed. These now failed states should be thrown out and the boundaries redrawn to respect tribal and religious character, with hopefully reasonably benevolent rulers along the lines of Kuwait and its neighbors. The US should bend its effort in this direction and away from violence. Finally, history has taught us that air power alone will not eliminate or even effectively nullify ISIS. If we are really serious, then another UN-sanctioned international force needs to put boots on the ground in a blitzkrieg-like effort to eliminate the "Caliphate". But only if the above program is ready to be put in place, with international (yes, perhaps even Russia in this case as it could leave Assad in place in a much smaller tribally/religiously cohesive state) support.

Obama today is totally discredited and seen to be inept in this theater. Someone else would have to step forward, and not Donald Trump. Someone with credibility and the respect of nations. George C. Marshall, the world needs you.

Sincerely,

Dick

Retired from, first, 32 years in virtually every aspect of the real estate industry, and then 15 years as a founding principal of an alternative investment management firm. Currently he is active in homebuilding, citrus farming, property investment and historic motorsports.