

Homework for summer 2006

This will be a two question partly multiple choice quiz.

The premise: The following is a hypothetical future scenario. While its likelihood is remote, you are to assume that this is the real state of the country and the world. It is now summer, 2008. Over the past two years, violence in Iraq has continued to escalate and repressive measures have grown ever more severe. Meanwhile, the price of oil has gone to \$180/barrel and Americans are beginning to riot. China has decided to suspend further financing of the American debt and the dollar has plunged to half of its 2006 value against other leading currencies. Consumer spending has withered, sending the stock market into its greatest decline since 1929. Desertion has become widespread in the Armed Services with entire units deserting en masse. A state of an emergency has been declared and the President has claimed absolute authority over all aspects of the government. Extreme measures have been taken; the government is rounding up and jailing its most vociferous critics, torturing those it believes to be potential terrorists to extract useful information.

Meanwhile, with ballooning oil prices, the producer states have become awash with cash as the Islamic states among them have become enraged over what they see as hateful and sacrilegious US policies carried out by an imperialist regime. With the surreptitious help of China and Russia they have assembled a large, well equipped army. While the Dept of Homeland Security concentrates on airports and bus station security, no one notices a large flotilla of troop ships disguised as oil tankers approaching the coast of Eastern Shore Maryland until the troops have landed, on their way to Washington to overthrow the infidels and establish a more just Islamic regime in place of the corrupt heathen. Aided by a small cadre of homegrown Muslim militants, the army quickly overruns Washington and Baltimore and heads for New York, smashing the infrastructure and destroying most of the government buildings. Widespread looting breaks out and the capitol is reduced to ruins. The President is captured to await a show trial, and members of his cabinet are caught and beheaded. The invading army announces that a new Islamic regime will be set up now that the Americans are free of their repressive regime. All government workers are immediately fired, and some in policy making positions are arrested or shot dead on the spot. Prior to the attack, the cities of Miami, Detroit, Houston, Las Vegas and LA have been rendered comatose by vast and unprecedented infusions of heroin from Afghanistan and AIDS-infected hookers from Somalia. Meanwhile, with all government funding halted, the military dissolves and the troops wander off base to get home as best they can, carrying all the weapons they can get their hands on. You are at home in suburban Maryland. While you've seen some invader activity, for the most part the invading army hasn't bothered much with the suburbs, heading directly for the institutional centers in Washington and a few other major cities. Radio and TV have been taken over by the invaders and transmit a steady stream of propaganda urging the acceptance of the new godly regime. Food supplies and electricity have been reduced to 25% of normal and there is widespread black marketeering. Public transportation has mostly been shut down and the roads have been made extremely dangerous by both the invading army and out of control local vandals.

Question: Which of the following best describes the way you will deal with this turn of events and what course your life will take:

- A. You will hoard whatever food, money and supplies you can get, and stay in the house in the hope that they won't bother you and that things will somehow get better.
- B. You will go out to meet the liberating troops with candy bars and other treats, thanking them for removing the corrupt regime. You and your neighbors will do what you can to make them feel welcome and to overcome their loneliness so far from home, even learning some words in Arabic to break through the communications barrier.
- C. When you heard of the attack, you went to the local armory, and with the help of a reservist friend, liberated a machine gun and some other small arms. You start organizing a plan to harrass and repel the invaders, but when you attempt a stand to protect the neighborhood, you and your neighbors are quickly run over by an invading tank.
- D. You will try to stay out of sight as much as possible and just get through one day at a time, but when you start seeing some of your neighbors collaborating with the invaders, you quietly kill them, and let it be known that the same fate will befall other collaborators. Meanwhile, if the invaders appear in small enough vulnerable groups, you will stealthily kill those you can without giving away your own position.
- E. You decide that there's no way out of this so you'll take as many of the liberators with you as you can. You load up your SUV with cans of gasoline and improvised explosives and roar down the road into a convoy of the invading army, taking your leave of this world along with about 30 jihadis.
- F. Carrying what you can, you try by whatever means, hitchhiking, walking, bicycling, driving, to first get out of the area, and then get out of the country, in the hope that the madness will end, or at least not spread to other countries. Maybe there's a chance that someday you can return.

If your answer to the above question was:

- A. Do you think you can learn to love the new regime?
- B. How do you think your neighbors see you, and is it of importance to you?
- C. If you had it to do over again, what other answer would you try?
- D. Do statements by the Islamic press to the effect that people like you are cowardly terrorists bother you or tempt you to lay down your arms?
- E. Do you think you'll find any willing virgins awaiting you in the next world?
- F. Do you think you'd really ever want to go back?