

NEWSPEAK

Orwell revisited in 2007

- Support the troops
- Complete the mission
- Mission accomplished
- The enemy
- The terrorists
- War on Terrorism
- Shock & awe
- Stay the course
- New strategy
- New plan
- The Axis of Evil

We hear “support the troops” from an administration that has sent many units, including National Guard and Reserve units, back into combat zones for three consecutive tours of duty while cutting veterans’ benefits. Personal equipment and vehicle armor has been lacking for the troops, due either to mismanagement or lack of funding while tax cuts have reduced the government’s ability to pay for what the military really needs.

Complete the mission- What is the mission? It was never defined, or rather it has been defined and redefined so many times that nobody can remember what it was supposed to be in the first place.

Mission accomplished- Again, what was the mission? To eliminate the threat of WMD in Iraq? That dubious mission was accomplished in about two weeks, since there were none. Why are we there four years later?

The enemy- The attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon were carried out by Al Qaeda, under the leadership of Osama bin Laden. However, we hear about “the enemy” in generalized terms suggesting that the speakers have no idea who the enemy really is. Bin Laden is a Wahabi fundamentalist Sunni Muslim sworn to defeat the “infidel”, starting with corrupt Muslim leaders who do not impose Sharia. So naturally, we attacked Saddam’s Iraq, the most secular of all Arab states. The Sunnis and the Shiites hate each other and are killing each other. Our administration now seeks to provoke a war with Iran, a Shiite country under a theocratic regime, which it accuses of supporting the terrorists. Does anyone in the Bush Administration have a clue—about anything? We don’t seem to have learned from the old Arab saying: “my enemy’s enemy is my friend”. We just consider everyone an enemy and figure that fear and envy will transform them into friends.

The terrorists- Which terrorists? The old Stern Gang? Baader Meinhof? Maybe the IRA? Anybody who doesn’t blindly accept the Word of God as related by George W. Bush?

War on Terrorism- Well, what’s the problem? We’ve had wars on drugs, on crime, on hate-crimes, on poverty. The War on Cartoonists was just a little Grenada type operation but the Wars on Sarcasm/Satire and Disobedience may go on longer than the Occupation of Iraq.

Shock and Awe- The feelings we have when we discern the pandering of the media to the propaganda of the administration. Also feelings engendered by the activities of virtually all Bush political appointees.

Stay the course- If the mission was never coherently defined, is it any wonder that no one knows on what course we're staying. We have blundered into a secular Arab country, turning it into a failed state and a hotbed of terrorists. The course appears to be to provide targets of opportunity for the increasing hoards of the desperate and the deranged, while dispersing billions of dollars into a black hole.

New Strategy- This phrase implies that there ever was an old strategy. God may have had a plan but although George Bush claims to have a direct line to our heavenly Father, the son seems to have learned no more from his Heavenly Father than he did from his earthly father.

The Axis of Evil- The lynchpin of Bushian diplomacy- Take three unrelated countries whose policies you don't like and which seem to harbor hostility toward the US; link them by a phrase labeling them as evil; then proceed to invade one of them and transport it back to the stone age. Next, complain that the other two on your hit list are trying to produce "nuclear" weapons. They may be evil but they aren't necessarily stupid.