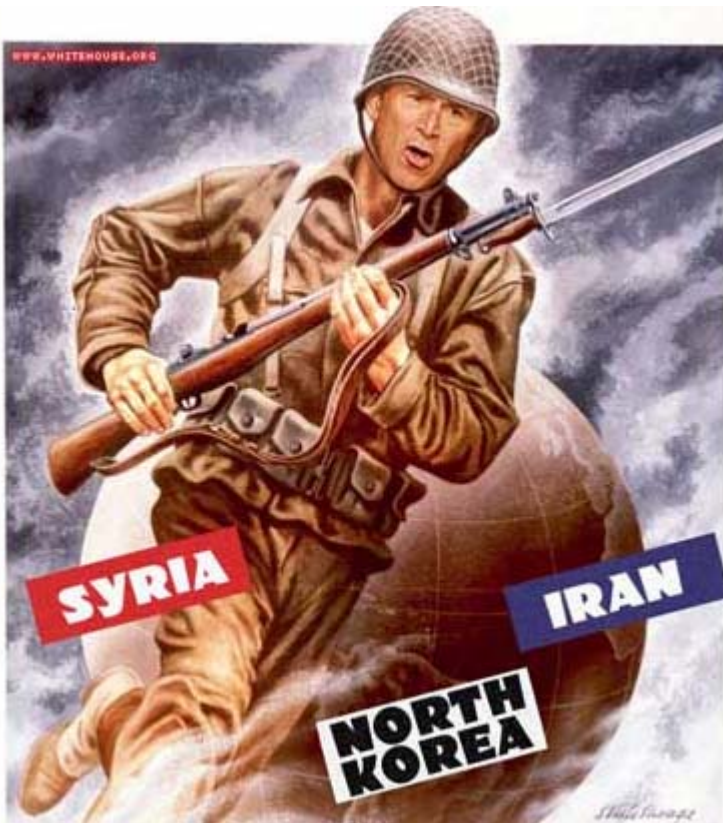


CHAPTER 3

“THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS CATALYST FOR THE GOG-MAGOG WAR

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MOSUL ATTACK HIGHLIGHTS SYRIAN CONNECTION

As the full report of American casualties came in from Mosul’s al-Ghizlani military camp (a.k.a. [Forward Operating Base Marez](#)) on Dec. 21, 2004—with the death toll now at 22 and figures of the wounded soaring—resemblance of Israel’s trauma stalked the American military: **SUICIDE BOMBER! SHADES OF THE SUICIDE**

BOMBING BY HEZBOLLAH IN LEBANON (the Marine Barracks, 1983)!

The Taliban-style/linked terrorist group, Ansar al-Sunnah—the same fundamentalist group responsible for beheading 12 Nepalese hostages—claimed responsibility. But the dirty little story behind all this is Syrian involvement—alleged or otherwise, SYRIA WILL TAKE THE RAP!

Bush, Rumsfeld, Rice, and every neocon “out there” (and, of course, the Israelis) have been decrying Syria’s funding, training, “warehousing,” and coddling of the Iraqi insurgents, Iraqi Baathist leadership, and, most certainly, every Osama, [Abu](#), and Yassir terrorist clique in the world! The “Road to Damascus” is paved with terror—and America will not easily forget the source from whence it flows:

“The people of the region will receive [America] with rifles, blood, arms, martyrdom and martyrdom operations,’ [Nasrallah](#) (Shiite Hezbollah leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah) said in a speech delivered a week before the war (in Iraq) began. His remarks were broadcast on *Al Manar*, the group's Beirut-based satellite television station.

“In the past, when the Marines were in Beirut we screamed, ‘Death to America!’ Nasrallah said. ‘Today, when the region is being filled with hundreds of thousands of American soldiers, ‘Death to America!’ was, is and will stay our slogan.’

“Hezbollah's renewed focus on America has sharpened the long-standing debate among U.S. officials over whether the United States can, and should, go after the group. Some believe that a showdown has been overdue since 1983, when the group blew up the U.S. Embassy and a Marine barracks in Beirut. The attacks killed more than 300 people (Note: Hezbollah is based in Syrian-occupied Lebanon and is supported “officially” by both the [Shiite Mullahs of Iran and Syrian largess](#).)”

Sooner, rather than later, SYRIAN STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM must be stopped—so why not NOW? These two articles will unravel—from a geo-political construct and an eschatological paradigm—the Gordian knot of Syria’s entanglements and how the West (primarily the USA and her anxious ally, Israel) intend to—once and for all—free the Middle East from Islamic terrorism’s grip! Also, we will examine just why the US deems such an immediate endeavor plausible and why Israel’s enthusiasm—along with her neocon/Christian Right allies—demand it.

IRAQ = SYRIA = GOG-MAGOG = “TREATY WITH DEATH AND HELL” – A Biblical backdrop . . .

Note: These series of articles will confirm that *Syria has and will become the catalyst that will set off the Gog-Magog multinational conflagration.* Syrian's complicity in allegedly harboring, training and funding the Iraqi insurgency will be the reason used by both the Bush Administration and the Sharon Government as the next step in DEMOCRATIZING THE MIDDLE EAST (i.e., "Subduing Syria").

Israeli/USA outrage over Syria's tolerance and support for virtually all major [terrorist organizations](#) in the region (Including: Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, Al Fatah, AMAL, and scores of other terrorist cells/orgs. like Ansar al-Sunnah, who receive training, refuge, funding, directly or indirectly through Syrian "official complicity") can no longer be tolerated by "the civilized world."

In particular, Israel will play a MAJOR ROLE in eliminating Syria's military and, *ipso facto*, the elaborate network of terror organizations through Lebanon and Syria. The "Palestinian Authority" will be consigned, as a result of the collapse of Syrian "resistance" against Israel, to irrelevance and possible expulsion from Israeli "territory" or face humiliating compliance to all Israeli political aspirations in the region.

A cacophony of "incidents" and "confirmations" against Syria will enflame anti-Syrian rhetoric until THE SYRIAN CARD DROPS! Once Syria is "democratized," the US will formalize a DEFENSE PACT with Israel, guaranteeing her security in the event of further "efforts to destabilize the region." This AGREEMENT will act as a MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING whereby nations who concur with its principals and procedures will be invited to initial THE ACCORD, thereby supporting a new status quo for the Greater Middle East.

This will immediately exacerbate Islamic passions throughout the Middle East. A "Northern Alliance," headed by Iran (including Turkey), and a "Southern Alliance," headed by Egypt (and known in the Bible in the north as Gog-Magog ("King of the North") and in the south as the "King of the South")), will "come up against" US forces in Iraq, as well as the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) primarily in Israel (although both USA/IDF forces by then, will virtually be under joint command and scattered throughout Syria/Lebanon (i.e., the whole of the Levant)).

Furthermore, the United States of America, in accordance with Isaiah 17 and 18, as well as Daniel 11, will lead the primary assault against these Islamic nations/armies in a stunning military CAMPAIGN that will decisively altar the geo-political equation throughout the Greater Middle East (cf. Ezekiel 38 and 39). This spectacular victory for “The West” will demand an OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT for the region, akin to the Yalta Agreement for all of Europe. This agreement will be heralded by the “Free World” (and, in particular Israelis) as the greatest achievement for World Peace for the Modern Era. It will be BASED UPON THE ORIGINAL ACCORD signed after the “Syrian Engagement.”

However, its implementation will be fraught with considerable unrest and continued violence, as other Islamic nations throughout the world continue to explode in “rebellion” against the West’s “democratic designs,” and as China and other Asian nations manifest their concern for American hegemony throughout the world.

Now . . . bear with us . . . this is NOT as farfetched as you might think. We’ve been saying most of this for years now . . . and we affirm that the Bible’s been declaring it for millennia; but, we’ll get to the Biblical aspects of the “Syrian Card” a little later, but first, let’s take you on the “Road to Damascus.”

THE PLOT THICKENS—“AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING” “Conflict of Civilizations”

The “democratic takeover” of the Middle East began in earnest (in so far as a deliberate geo-political reshuffling of the region is concerned) in the early ‘90s. Its ideological raison d’être, oddly enough, was propounded by Harvard Prof. Samuel Huntington’s published essay, “[*The Clash of Civilizations*](#).” Here, he contended that conflicts around the globe would no longer be waged over “ideology,” but over culture (Israeli correspondent Aluf Benn, *Ha’aretz*, November 14, 2002).

Huntington subscribed “bloody borders” to Islam. For example, “fault lines of conflict” run through Kashmir, Bosnia, Nigeria, Sudan, Mindanao in the Philippines, etc., and Israel is lumped with the West (i.e., a “Western creation”) and centered on the fault line.

The Israeli “right” took to Huntington’s analysis, but so did Ehud Barak’s “left”, who described Israel as a “[Western fortress](#)” in the region. Israeli’s Aluf Been in the cited *Ha’aretz* article postulated: “*Israel is the only country to absolutely support the American decision (to go to war with Iraq), and has urged it to act, and quickly . . . the tangible result of the change in consciousness has been deepening Israel’s dependence on American defense and economic support . . . Sharon led that policy.*”

THE ROAD TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE RUNS THROUGH BAGHDAD—THEN TO DAMASCUS!

Former CIA political analysts, [Bill and Kathleen Christison](#), point out that the pro-Israel neo-conservative policymakers in the Bush administration make little effort to hide their real intentions in going to war with Iraq (“and later perhaps against Syria, Iran, Hezbollah, and the Palestinians”). Likewise they point out that the hypocritical “left” denies Israel’s complicity in US “domination of the Middle East” or “*the U.S. drive to assure global domination and guarantee security for Israel.*” Christisons said:

“Some leftists who otherwise oppose going to war against Iraq will trot out charges of promoting the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, the old czarist forgery that asserted a Jewish plan for world domination.”

But is there Israeli complicity for the US war in Iraq? Sure seems that way—listen to former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in mid-1996 through Israel’s “[Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies](#)” (and, remember, our little friend, [The Scaife Foundation](#), ([Richard Mellon Scaife](#)), et al, has contributed over \$584,000 to this “Israeli Think Tank” in helping to formulate and propagate this policy):

“Since Iraq’s future could affect the strategic balance in the Middle East profoundly, it would be understandable that Israel has an interest in supporting the Hashemites in their efforts to redefine Iraq. Israel’s new agenda can signal a clean break by abandoning a policy which allowed strategic retreat, by reestablishing the principle of *preemption*, rather than retaliation alone and by ceasing to absorb

blows to the nation without response. Israel's new strategic agenda can shape the regional environment in ways that grant Israel the room to refocus its energies back to where they are most needed: to rejuvenate its national idea. Ultimately, Israel can do more than simply manage the Arab-Israeli conflict; *it will transcend it*. As a senior Iraqi opposition leader said recently: 'Israel must rejuvenate and revitalize its moral and intellectual leadership'. It is an important, if not the most important, element in the history of the Middle East.' Israel—proud, wealthy, solid, and strong—would be the basis of a truly new and peaceful Middle East.' (Written *for* Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, mid-1996, by the Scaife-funded Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies.).

Scaife's think tank implicates Syria in the mix—after the Iraqi vacuum is “formulated” (i.e., Saddam is removed, and regime change takes place); to wit:

“The vacuum tempts Iraq's neighbors to intervene, especially Syria, which is also driven to control the region. Iraq's chaos and Syria's efforts simultaneously provide opportunities for the Jordanian monarchy. Jordan is best suited to manage the tribal politics that will define the Levant in the wake of failed secular-Arab nationalism. If Jordan wins, then Syria would be isolated and surrounded by a new pro-Western Jordanian-*Israeli*-Iraqi-Turkish bloc. It would be prudent for *the United States and Israel* to abandon the quest for 'comprehensive peace,' including its 'land for peace' provision with Syria, since it locks the United States into futile attempts to prop-up local tyrants and the unnatural states underneath them. Instead, the *United States and Israel* can use this competition over Iraq to *improve the regional balance of power* in favor of regional friends like Jordan.” ([“Coping with Crumbling States: A Western and Israeli Balance of Power Strategy for the Levant”](#) 1996)

The “Syrian Card” was analyzed by Ben Lynfield of the Christian Science Monitor (nearly seven years after the aforementioned Israeli think tank proposed as much); to wit:

“The installation of a pro-American government in Iraq would help Israel vis-à-vis another enemy: **SYRIA**. **‘After Iraq is taken by US troops and we see a new regime installed as in Afghanistan, and**

Iraqi bases become American bases, it will be very easy to pressure Syria to stop supporting terrorist organizations like Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, to allow the Lebanese army to dismantle Hezbollah, and maybe to put an end to the Syrian occupation in Lebanon,' he says. 'If this happens we will really see a new Middle East. ***It might be enough not to invade Syria but just to have an American or UN blockade so that no one can ship weapons to it,***' Steinitz adds. Mr. Ezra predicts a US strike would 'calm down the entire region' by eliminating 'the extremism of Saddam.'" (Note: Deputy Interior Minister Gideon Ezra of Israel and Yuval Steinitz, a Likud party member of the Israeli Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee; Christian Science Monitor, August 2002). (All highlighting my emphasis.)

The BAGHDAD-DAMASCUS NEXUS was laid out by the administrations neocons as elucidated by the Boston Globe's John Donnelly and Anthony Shadid on September 10, 2002:

"As the Bush administration debates going to war against Iraq, its most hawkish members are pushing a sweeping vision for the Middle East that sees the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq as merely a first step in the region's transformation. The argument for reshaping the political landscape in the Mideast has been pushed for years by some Washington think tanks and in hawkish circles. It is now being considered as a possible US policy with the ascent of key hard-liners in the administration, from Paul Wolfowitz and Douglas Feith in the Pentagon to John Hannah and Lewis Libby on the vice president's staff and John Bolton in the State Department, analysts and officials say. Iraq, the hawks argue, is just the first piece of the puzzle. ***After an ouster of Hussein, they say, the United States will have more leverage to act against Syria and Iran,*** will be in a better position to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and will be able to rely less on Saudi oil" (John Donnelly and Anthony Shadid, Boston Globe, September 10, 2002).

Yes, so ends the old "Soviet sphere of influence" and Baathist Socialism (i.e., Arab Nationalism). And, in its place, Islamic Radical Fundamentalism—take your pick!

OIL FOR PEACE—NOT “LAND FOR PEACE”

The reconfiguration of the Mideast and the thick fog which enshrouded the actual intent of this Administration’s policies surrounding the war in Iraq—is now becoming quite clear:

- The main objective of the American economy (and therefore of American policy) is the oil of the Caspian Sea.
- The existence of a secure American base in the heart of the Arab world will also enable Washington to bully all the Arab regimes, lest they stray from the straight and narrow.
- The new situation will destroy the last remnants of Arab independence. Even today, almost all the Arab countries are dependent on America ([Uri Avnery, September 10, 2002](#))

UC Berkeley journalism professor Sandy Tolan, in a Los Angeles Times piece on December 1, 2002 (“[Beyond Regime Change](#)”) took elevated notice of the Oil/Israeli link (and, consequently, the ultimate ROAD TO DAMASCUS; to wit:

“The new map would be drawn with an eye to two main objectives: controlling the flow of oil and ensuring Israel’s continued regional military superiority. (Patrick Clawson, policy analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy) . . . quoted during a Capitol Hill forum on a post-Hussein Iraq in 1999: ‘U.S. oil companies would have an opportunity to make significant profits,’ he said. ‘We should not be embarrassed about the commercial advantages that would come from a re-integration of Iraq into the world economy.’ But taking over Iraq and remaking the global oil market is not necessarily the endgame. **The next steps, favored by hard-liners determined to elevate Israeli security above all other U.S. foreign policy goals, would be to destroy any remaining perceived threat to the Jewish state: namely, the regimes in Syria and Iran.”**

The Tolan piece is rather up to date, wouldn’t you say? Arch-Neocon [Michael Ledeen](#) puts it right out front in so far as focusing on Mideast terror networks after the Iraqi incursion ([April 2002](#)):

“This is the head of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Commission (going after Brent Scowcroft)? Doesn't he read the newspapers? He doesn't seem to realize that Saddam is actively supporting al Qaeda, and Abu Nidal, and Hezbollah.

“However, nobody is perfect, and Scowcroft has managed to get one thing half right, even though he misdescribes it. He fears that if we attack Iraq ‘I think we could have an explosion in the Middle East. It could turn the whole region into a caldron and destroy the War on Terror.’

“One can only hope that we turn the region into a cauldron, and faster, please. If ever there were a region that richly deserved being cauldronized, it is the Middle East today. If we wage the war effectively, we will bring down the terror regimes in Iraq, Iran, and Syria, (my emphasis) and either bring down the Saudi monarchy or force it to abandon its global assembly line to indoctrinate young terrorists.

“That's our mission in the war against terror.”

ENTER CONDOLEEZZA RICE—ARCHFIEND OF HEZBOLLAH . . . THE ADMINISTRATION'S CURRENT PUSH AGAINST SYRIA . . . building its case . . .

Timing is everything. Just when Secretary of State Colin Powell vanishes from the scene and the Syrian Card is about to drop, enter the likes of Condi Rice. As Rice enters the arena of international diplomacy, she does so with a background in Soviet expertise on how the Evil Empire once clawed away at the Middle East. She is well aware of the Bear's incursions into the region and those who still remind her of that influence.

Again, reaching into the past and bringing us into the immediate, Robert Novak, in a Washington Post piece on December 26, 2002 picked Rice to “go after Syria” by going after Hezbollah:

“National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice has insisted that Hezbollah, not al Qaeda, is the world's most dangerous terrorist organization. How could that be, considering al Qaeda's global record of mass carnage? In truth, Hezbollah is the world's most

dangerous terrorist organization from Israel's standpoint. They are viciously anti-American in rhetoric; and, the Lebanon-based (Syrian supported) Hezbollah is focused on the destruction of Israel. Thus, Rice's comments suggest that the U.S. war against terrorism, accused of being Iraq-centric, actually is Israel-centric. That ties George W. Bush to Arik Sharon. What is widely perceived as an indissoluble Bush-Sharon bond creates tension throughout Islam. On balance, war with Iraq may not be inevitable but is highly probable (well, that's happened!)" (Novak, [Washington Post, Dec. 2002](#)).

Imagine, Condi to the rescue and in the nick of time—just as the following takes place on the Road to Damascus via this [Washington report](#):

"Iraqi interim president Ghazi al-Yawar said officials suspect that Syria is harboring the insurgents who are fomenting unrest in Iraq . . . 'I think we're having insurgents coming from Syria,' Yawar told CNN television . . . the insurgents 'have a lot of cash, which they stole from the Iraqi Central Bank before the collapse of the old regime,' he said. 'They're using their own money.'

"The [Washington Post](#) reported Wednesday, citing US military intelligence officials, that Iraqi insurgents are being directed to a greater degree than previously suspected by loyalists of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein living in Syria . . . the sources told the daily that a handful of senior Iraqi Baathists are collecting money from private sources in Saudi Arabia and Europe for the insurgents and are managing some of their operations from Syria . . . in separate interviews with the [Washington Post](#), Yawar and Jordan's King Abdullah II (interesting?) also raised concerns about Syria's role in Iraq . . . Abdullah, meanwhile, noted that the governments of both the United States and Iraq believe that 'foreign fighters are coming across the Syrian border that have been trained in Syria.' 'There is a sinister campaign to create an atmosphere of hostility against Syria,' he told the daily (i.e., Imad Moustapha, Syrian ambassador to the US)."

And, from the President himself prior to the Mosul attack on Sunday, December 19, 2004:

"Hinting at another possible showdown in the Middle East, President Bush warned Syria on Sunday it could face serious consequences for

harboring fleeing members of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime. His threat came as Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said there was new evidence that some top Hussein deputies had escaped across the border into Syria. 'The Syrian government needs to cooperate with the United States and our coalition partners and not harbor any Baathists, any military officials, any people who need to be held to account,' Bush said."

But, it gets better . . .

"Bush would not say whether he was prepared to take military action if the Damascus government refuses to turn over top Iraqi officials (and, of course, they won't because they claim they don't have any) seeking safe haven in the country. But he leveled a new charge at Syria: ***POSSESSION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.*** The allegations, contained in a recent CIA report, have been vociferously denied by the Syrian government. However, Bush said, he believes the country has chemical weapons, ***and U.S. officials are weighing how to respond.***"

And, in conclusion . . .

"The Bush administration has long viewed Syria as a threat to American interests in the region and to staunch U.S. ally Israel. Syria has become a permanent fixture on the State Department's list of countries that sponsor terrorism because it has given sanctuary to groups such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, all of which have staged terrorist attacks on Israel . . . on Sunday (Dec. 19, 2004 and before the Mosul attack) Rumsfeld said there was evidence the Syrian government might be paying fighters to kill U.S. and British troops in Iraq."

Rumsfeld said in this same [Washington \(AFP\) report](#):

"'On one of the buses, they found something like several hundred thousand dollars and a number of leaflets that suggested that people would be rewarded if they killed Americans,' Rumsfeld said on CBS' 'Face the Nation.'"

“The materials were found after what the defense secretary described as a fierce firefight with U.S. troops in which a number of the Syrian-backed fighters were killed. Rumsfeld said some fighters had been sent back to Syria, while others had been taken captive as prisoners of war. Rumsfeld said it would be up to Bush and Congress to decide what action to take against Syria, but added that the Damascus government had already damaged its reputation by intervening in the conflict in Iraq.”

“Rummie” piles on more “evidence” to wit:

“Rumsfeld said Sunday that some (Iraqi Baathist officials) were most likely staying in Syria while others had traveled to other countries. One of Saddam Hussein’s half brothers was captured in northern Iraq on Sunday (December 19, 2004); U. S. officials believe he was planning to cross the border into Syria. Asked what the United States would do if it learned Hussein (half brother of Saddam) had taken refuge in Syria, Rumsfeld said: ‘I think Syria would have made an even bigger mistake.’”

“White House and Pentagon officials believe the U.S. war in Iraq could help persuade other U.S. adversaries—from North Korea to Syria to Iran—to limit their links to terrorist groups and their development of weapons of mass destruction to avoid being next on Bush’s hit list . . . the President was asked by a reporter: **‘Now that there’s a vacancy on the axis of evil (Iraq is “off the list”), is Syria a good candidate?’** Bush replied: **‘We will deal with each situation as it arises.’**”

ROMANS STAND TOGETHER AS ONE!

The last spat of information on our Road to Damascus came as a result of a rambling series of exchanges between the President and the media during the week of December 20, 2004. Some of these exchanges took place in the presence of Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, America’s staunchest “Old European” ally.

President Bush enumerated a litany of charges against both Syria and Iran in the War on Terrorism at a joint news conference with Berlusconi. The PM

had recently regained some credibility, having been exonerated by the [Italian courts](#) on charges of corruption (Note: The wheels of Italian justice move exceedingly slow.).

Al Jazeera spelled out the “Roman Empire” identification that PM Berlusconi exhibited during the press conference with President Bush; to wit:

“Berlusconi, Washington’s closest ally in Europe, pledged wide-ranging support for a second-term Bush agenda that calls on all European nations to back the U.S. position in Iraq.

“I wanted to reassure President Bush that I will do any possible effort to strengthen the relationship between the United States of America and Europe, because I agree with him: **THE WEST IS ONLY ONE,**’ Berlusconi said.” (my emphasis)

On December 22, 2004 the US Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, warned Syria that Washington was prepared to impose stiffer sanctions if she failed to clamp down on fugitive Iraqi officials and end its involvement in Lebanon.

On [May 11, 2004](#) the U.S. imposed sanctions on Syria for its support of militant groups including Hamas and Hezbollah. These sanctions called for freezing assets of certain Syrian individuals and the launching of an investigation into the Commercial Bank of Syria as a “money laundering institution.”