

TABOO OPINIONS #19

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9-12-04 To return to Iraq after my vacation to the seductive state of Sloth and its neighbor Enui...

A U.S. general said in print a few days ago that unless we manage to clear out the 'insurgents' and keep them from effective control of large sections of Iraq, the January elections to create a true Iraq government will not be possible.

We observe, every week, a worsening of the security situation, more attacks, more bombings, more assassinations...while our forces and our Iraqi mercenaries can do little more than bomb and strafe buildings in the areas of insurgent control. We kill a dozen people here and there, but seem to have given up on street-by-street and house-by-house attack operations.

We have agreed not to enter these areas and cities apparently to keep our casualty counts low.

Soon, I fear, U.S. forces will be effectively restricted to their fortified bases, and the insurgents will be in virtual control of the country, fighting among themselves for ultimate control of the geographic area known as Iraq (as set up by the British way-back-when) and which can only be held together by a Sunni dictatorship as under Saddam Hussein or by a Shiite dictatorship perhaps under Al Sadr or someone like him. The Kurds in the north will fight any force trying to rule them.

The United States is getting burned and humiliated in Iraq (and in Afghanistan as will be obvious when we have to postpone---again!---the national election to create a "legitimate" government) and will face ever-greater resistance to our presence there----from Americans.

Anyway, that's my current read of the situation and its future.

The U.S. economy continues to worsen, as every week the majority of economic indicators sink. Nevertheless, delusional, must-show-profits fund managers and some private investors continue to pour money into stocks. Never mind the current and imminent bankruptcy

of several big airlines and an emerging pattern of mass layoffs scheduled in other industries. Never mind the personal, corporate (pensions), and state debt crises...

Thank God for the hurricanes, umm? All that destruction will spur recovery due to reconstruction and enormous additional deficit spending. A marvelous way to kick-start the economy!

And the hurricanes take national attention away from the disaster in Iraq and the creeping rot in the economy, thus benefiting George W. Bush's re-election chances.

Of course there are people who believe the Republicans started the hurricanes in the eastern Atlantic for just this purpose! Fiendishly clever!

For those who read my Taboo fiction: I'm getting back to work on ONE IMMORTAL MAN chapters after a flirtation with doing art. Sketching, anyway, which has again convinced me I'm no artist. I have the yen but not the talent. So it goes.

END TABOO OPINIONS #19