

Newspoem 2003-11-14

When you occupy a country and depose its government you assume responsibility for its crimes

Iraq's worst humanitarian crime, using weapons of mass destruction against Iran, was committed as America's ally. If the US believed Iraq had chemical and biological weapons in 2003, why did it knowingly expose its soldiers to them?

US soldiers captured and tortured during the first Gulf War successfully sued the government of Iraq for damages. But the United States, now the government of Iraq, won't compensate its own soldiers for having tortured them.

On NPR an expert said that guerilla insurgency and terrorism in Iraq (a phrase that here means resistance to an occupying army) would not be solved by increased air strikes, it needed to be solved from within but he did not mean by trying to understand or negotiate with Iraqis

If the US government faked that news story about Iraqi troops murdering Kuwaiti infants in incubators, in order to gain support for the first Gulf War, the US government still has to compensate the babies.

The US government now has to pay reparations to Iran, Kuwait, and the Kurds. But the US doesn't pay reparations. The US government can now be sued for Hussein's crimes. But the US government doesn't recognize international law.

Until minimum wage and child labor laws are repealed, America will not be an attractive country for investors. Once her government is plundered, the only thing she has left to offer business is police: troops and prison labor.

To be honest, I can't see much of an objectivity here - your concern is US. So I sense a bit of patriotism underneath - a concealed one - maybe you're not even aware of it. Even if US did all that, (paying reparations, recognizing int'l law etc) how would that explain the occupation as a legitimate act? Why should it?

If you're not trying to be sarcastic in this piece, - you said you don't like sarcasm - that's how I read it - Reminds me more of a "democrat", rather than a Marxist. Hope this was not a harsh one - Or else, you might as well say - "ah she knows nothing about poetry - what she's written is trash" - --- With a smug face : F.

ok, but I find this vantage point problematic. What gives you the right to 'occupy and depose a gov't in the first place? Why should you even assume responsibility when you start from scratch? - this is not a good argument - ok, the soldiers are also of concern here. But going to war = risk to the lives of your soldiers. Is there sth special that makes US soldiers precious? If your concern is about the human life as a general concept, another phrase might do good -

if they did that would that legitimize the current situation/occupation would that put US in a better position?

paying reparations won't ameliorate the current situation -

ok