

Should the U.S. go to war?

War is a last resort, but the time for drastic measures is now

Portlanders and foreign nations agree: war is not the answer



Frank Jordan
News Editor

The Gulf War, Part Two is the story of a powerful country, not satisfied that a weak underling is complying with demands made on it, bound and determined to see that justice is done and the world becomes a better place. I think that it could be accurately described as an action/adventure story, without much romance and very little comedy.

The United States of America is gearing up to take on the all-powerful Iraqi war machine in what could be a rerun of a Grade-B movie. The lessons learned from the first foray some 12 years ago into the Middle East desert oasis known as Iraq have been lost on the latest George Bush to occupy the Oval Office.

Should the United States take this action? Yes, indeed. Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussein has continued to defy United Nations resolutions that have been spelled out to him over the last 12 years, 14 resolutions in all. Bush, Jr. should take a course of action to spare the world and the people of that region of the world more pain and heartache.

Many people around the world, including American citizens, do not want war to take place. Understandable, but their main concerns do not make sense. Those people would want you to believe that Iraq has done everything in its power to comply with the United Nations and that President Bush is just itching to finish what his father did not. If Hussein had cooperated fully from the beginning, none of this would be taking place in the present day.

Peace activists will tell you that the Iraqi people are content with Saddam and that America is to blame for the awful plight of the people of Iraq. The truth is, if Saddam had cooperated with the United Nations from the beginning, then economic sanctions would have ended a long time ago, but Saddam has been defiant. The time is now for the United States to take action.

No one in his or her right mind wants military conflict. War is and always should be the last resort in any disagreement. The last resort is upon us. American lives will be lost. That is a fact. Iraqi civilians will die. That is a fact. But if these events do not occur, a person who has used chemical weapons in war against his neighbors (Iran) and his own people (the Kurds), may turn and use them again and again, unless something is done. That time is now.



Megan Cobb
Staff Writer

Ever since the terrorist attacks on 9/11, America's population, along with the world, has grown more and more uptight and fearful of an all-out world war.

The president of the United States, however, has a different idea, and is seemingly ready to march thousands of innocent troops out into the unknown to get thrust into a bloody world of war.

As we grow closer to going to war with Iraq, Afghanistan, or whoever the current target happens to be, more people are realizing the rashness of Bush's plan. Not only are Americans joining together to rally against war, other countries such as France, Germany and China have recently developed views that oppose the Bush administration.

Several different administrations are noticing the unnecessary haste with which Bush is ready to annihilate a portion of the Middle East. All the countries that oppose the White House's plans for war believe, in accordance with the given information, that Iraq has completely complied with all weapons inspectors' requests.

Despite the recent findings of numerous, empty chemical warheads in Iraq, the U.N. still believes that a number of months are needed in order to solidify all information they've obtained about Iraq and let it take its due course. Our American government, of course, insists that Iraq is a threat and military action should be taken upon them immediately. In other words, although there is hardly any evidence at all, our government believes they have more than enough reason to crush anyone who opposes it.

"Although the [9/11] attacks were devastating, I believe we deserved it," stated an opinionated, anonymous student at Clackamas. "If I were in their situation," the student continued, "I'm sure I'd be just as mad as us."

Indeed, upon close examination, even people who want this war to happen may see that it was the U.S. bombing of certain Middle Eastern countries for years that motivated them to hate us in the first place. Therefore, if we continue to act so hastily violent it simply gives people on the outside a stronger disgust for our "immoral" and irrational actions.

Apparently, members of the Bush administration are the only people in the world, nearly, who actually want to go to war. Portlanders march for peace, the U.N. calls for more time, France says there's no need for war; I say, the world just isn't ready for that kind of unnecessary, thoughtless violence.

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A few thoughts on the impending war with Iraq



Trevor Coffee
"I definitely think something needs to be done about Iraq, but war just isn't the way to go."

"We definitely need to remove Saddam from power. America needs to be proactive about protecting freedom everywhere."
Jason Green



Hillary Ferguson
"I think it's kind of silly that we have severe budget cuts at schools, yet we have all these funds to go to war."

"I think we should just nuke the whole place. That's just my opinion, though."
Justin Conner



photos by PETE FORD Clackamas Print

Letters to the Editor

The Dark Side of Measure 28
Dear Editor,

I am writing you from the other side of Measure 28. I appreciate the passion your Opinion Editor put into his piece on Jan. 22, but I must say Mr. Egan is incredibly misinformed and is, like most young people, sucked into the emotional blackmail put forward by public employee unions.

Yes, \$114 doesn't seem like much, but \$114 is not the only tax I pay. As the owner of a small business I work 365 days a year. The first 185 days I work goes to pay taxes. I pay property taxes, Federal income taxes, State income taxes, Tri Met taxes, SICA taxes, A.P.F. taxes, Payroll taxes, Estimated taxes, City taxes, BMI taxes and ASCAP taxes.

I would imagine most college students have no idea what most of those taxes are.

For example, payroll taxes: did you know a business owner, by law, has to match the withholding tax

you pay on your paychecks? I pay taxes on the money you get paid.

Don't get me wrong, I support public education and services. I have good friends who are public employees, like Mike Caudle (go Beavers). You have to understand how hard it is for private citizens and business owners right now.

Answer this: give me one example, in the history of mankind, when a country or society has taxed itself into prosperity.

Measure 28 is not a solution. It is an excuse for the citizens and state government of Oregon to once again put away in the closet real tax

reform. Taxes are necessary, but everyone must pay them. The only fair, true tax is a sales tax. A citizen can control the tax they pay by the money they spend. The most important aspect of the sales tax is everyone pays it, not just small businesses and middle-class Oregon. Everyone is hurting, but when will we get the leadership in Salem to finally say enough is enough?

Sincerely,
Doug Williams
Oregon City Business Owner