



## Kautilya's Overt & Covert Propaganda: Letter from U.S. Soldier; Rabshakeh's Propaganda Objectives 1 & 2: Erode Faith in Establishment & the Word of God

- 15) This principle has been confirmed by our nation's continued involvement in a self-persecution modus vivendi which inspires a guilt complex, or the "blame America first" syndrome.
- 16) This is a disposition that is the direct result of a weakness of soul and fear of death combined with the idea that our culture is too authoritarian and to atone for this sin we must become egalitarian in all things.
- 17) Such an attitude is ripe for propaganda. Even the Buddhists are able to understand this:

**Encyclopaedia Britannica: Macropaedia. 15th ed. (Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1979), 15:38:**

**Propaganda.** Toward 300 B.C. in India, Kautilya \kaw-til'-ya\, a Brahmin believed to have been chief minister to the emperor Candragupta Maurya \kan-dra-gup' ta mawr' ya\, reputedly wrote the *Principles of Politics (Arthashastra)*, a book of advice for rulers that has often been compared with Plato's *Republic* and Machiavelli's much later work *The Prince*. Kautilya discussed, in some detail, the use of psychological warfare, both overt and clandestine. Overtly, he said, the propagandists of a king should proclaim that he can do magic, that God and the wisest men are on his side, and that all who support his war aims will reap benefits. Covertly, his agents should infiltrate his enemies' and potential enemies' kingdoms, spreading defeatism and misleading news among their people, especially in capital cities, among leaders, and among the armed forces.

- 18) We will see many of these same ideas utilized by the Rabshakeh as he propagandizes Hezekiah's delegation.

**Isaiah 36:4 -** Then the Rabshakeh said to them, "Now you tell this to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria,' "What is this confidence that you have?""

- 1) This official is schooled in the tactics of intimidation and doesn't waste any time using it. His first comment is an imperative mood directed toward Hezekiah's representatives, "You tell this to Hezekiah!"
- 2) The Rabshakeh thinks he has the Israelites right where he wants them. He is on Hezekiah's turf and wants to overcome this disadvantage as quickly as possible.
- 3) The Jews are in a very compromised position. Their alliance with Egypt is moot following the Battle of Eltekeh and the Assyrian army is poised at Lachish prepared to besiege Jerusalem.
- 4) **PRINCIPLE:** Once you have your enemy in a compromised position there is no longer any need for diplomacy.
- 5) Under President George W. Bush, the United States played the coalition game with the United Nations. But outside of cooperation with certain European countries the U.S. pretty much prosecuted Iraqi War II unilaterally. Iraq was in a compromised position and further diplomacy was unnecessary.
- 6) The obvious weakness of the current stress on diplomacy at all cost is that our enemies know if they join the discussion they can buy years of time during which they prepare for war, or hide their weapons of mass destruction, or prevaricate, or simply get out of Dodge.



- 7) The Rabshakeh doesn't bother with political niceties. He starts out not only with an intimidating imperative mood but also insults Hezekiah.
- 8) He does this by refusing to recognize Hezekiah as king while at the same time referring to Sennacherib as not just the king of Assyria but the "great king" of Assyria.
- 9) What Kautilya recommends as a covert tactic, the Rabshakeh utilizes very overtly. Kautilya wrote that covertly the king's agents should "infiltrate his enemies' and potential enemies' kingdoms, spreading defeatism and misleading news among their people, especially in capital cities, among leaders, and among the armed forces." (See letter from American soldier in Iraq.)

**Date:** Tue, 22 Jul 2003 10:16:44 -0700 (PDT)  
**From:** "Dr. Baker"  
**Subject:** The truth in Iraq

Hey Guys, sorry it's been so long since I've sent anything but a quick note to you individually. Things have been pretty hectic since the end of hostilities and the start of the real war. Despite what the airheads in the press like to say over and over:

- 1) We did expect some armed resistance from the Ba'ath Party and Feydaheen;
- 2) It isn't any worse than expected;
- 3) Things are getting better each day, and
- 4) The morale of the troops is A-1, except for the normal bitching and griping.

My brief love affair with the press, especially the guys who had the cajones [*sic*] to be embedded with the troops during the fighting, is probably over, especially since we are back being criticized by the same types that used to hang around the Palestine Hotel drinking Baghdad Bob's whiskey and parroting his ridiculous B.S.

I'm in Baghdad now, since Sp Op Com 5 relocated here from Qatar. It looks, sounds, and smells about the same. We came up in mid-June to help set up operation Scorpion and Sidewinder. It represents a major (and long overdue) shift in tactics. Instead of being sitting ducks for the guerillas we now are going after the worthless cards in the deck.

I'm no longer baby-sitting the pukes from CNN and the canned hams from the networks, but have a combat mission coordinating a bunch of A teams, seeking, finding and rooting out the mostly non-Iraqis that are well-armed, well-paid (in U.S. dollars) and always waiting to wail for the press and then shoot some GI in the back in the midst of a crowd.

The only reason the GIs are aggravated but not demoralized is that they cannot touch, must less waste, those taunting bags of gas that scream in their faces and riot on cue when they spot a cameraman from ABC, BBC, CBS, CNN or NBC. If they did, then they know the next nightly news will be about how chaotic things are and how much the Iraqi people hate us.

Some do. But the vast majority don't and more and more see that the GIs don't start anything, are by-and-large friendly, and very, compassionate, especially to kids and old people. I saw a bunch of 19 year-olds from the 82nd Airborne not return fire coming from a mosque until they got a group of elderly civilians out of harm's way. So did the Iraqis.



A bunch of bad guys used a group of women and children as human shields. The GIs surrounded them and negotiated their surrender fifteen hours later and when they discovered a three year-old girl had been injured by the big tough guys throwing her down a flight of stairs, the GIs called in a MedVac helicopter to take her and her mother to the nearest field hospital. The Iraqis watched it all, and there hasn't been a problem in that neighborhood since. How many such stories, and there are hundreds of them, ever get reported in the fair and balanced press? You know: nada.

The civilians who have figured it out faster than anyone are the local teenagers. They watch the GIs and try to talk to them and ask questions about America and now wear wrap-around sunglasses, GAP T-shirts, Dockers (or, even better, Levis with the red tags) and Nikes (or Egyptian knock-offs, but with the "swoosh") and love to listen to Armed Forces Network when the GIs play it on their radios. They participate less and less in the demonstrations and help keep us informed when a wannabe bad guy shows up in the neighborhood. The younger kids are going back to school again, don't have to listen to some mullah rant about the Koran ten hours a day, and they get a hot meal. They see the same GIs who man the corner checkpoint helping clear the playground, install new swing sets, and create soccer fields. I watched a bunch of kids playing baseball in one playground, under the supervision of a couple of GIs from Oklahoma. They weren't very good but were having fun, probably more than most Little Leaguers.

The place is still a mess but most of it has been for years. But the Hospitals are open and are in the process of being brought into the 21st Century. The Medical Officers and visiting surgeons from home are teaching their doctors new techniques and one American pharmaceutical company (you know, the kind that all the hippies like to scream about as greedy) donated enough medicine to stock 45 hospital pharmacies for a year.

Safe water is more available. Electricity has been restored to pre-war levels but saboteurs keep cutting the lines. And the old Ba'ath big shots are upset because they can't get fuel for their private generators. One actually complained to General McKeirnan, who told him it was a rough world.

The MPs are screening the 80,000 Iraqi police force and rehabbing the ones that weren't goons, shake-down artists, or torturers like they did in East Berlin, Kosovo and Afghanistan. There are dual patrols of Iraqi cops and U.S.-U.K.-Polish MPs now in most of the larger cities. Basra \BAS-ra\ has 3.5 million inhabitants. Mosul \MO-sool is a city of 2 million. Kirkuk \keer-KOOK\ has 1 million. How many and hundreds of other small towns have not had riots or shootings? The vast majority.

Six U.K. cops were killed in a small Shiite town by the ex-cops they were rehabbing. According to a Royal Marine colonel I talked to, the town now has about twenty permanent vacancies in its police force.

I heard one dufus on MSNBC the other night talk about how "nearly 60" GIs have been killed since 01 May. The truth is that 21 GIs have been killed in combat, mostly from ambush, from 01 May through 30 June, another 29 have been killed by accidents or other causes (two drowned while swimming in the Tigris).

The [MSNBC nerd] is the same jerk who reported on the air that "dozens of GIs" were badly burned when two RPGs hit a truck belonging to an Engineer Battalion that was parked by a construction site. The truck was hit and burned, three GIs received minor injuries (including the driver who burnt his hand) and three warriors of Allah were promptly sent to enjoy their 72 slave girls in Paradise. Hell of a way to procreate.

A mosque in that slime pit Fallujah \fal-LOO-jah\ blew up this morning while the local imam, a creep named Fahlil (who was one of the biggest local loudmouths that frequently appeared on CNN) was helping a Syrian Hamas member teach eight teenagers how to make belt bombs. Right away the local Feyhadeen propaganda group started wailing that the Americans hit it with a TOW missile (If they had there wouldn't have been any mosque left!) and the usual suspects took to the streets for CNN and BBC.



One fool was dragging around a piece of tin with blood on it, claiming it was part of the missile. The cameras rolled and the idiot started repeating his story, then one of my guys asked him in Arabic where he had left the rag he usually wore around his face that made him look like a girl. He was a local leader of the Feyhadeen. We took the clown in custody and were asked rather indignantly by the twit from BBC if we were trying to shut up "the poor man who had seen his mosque and friends blown up."

I told the airy-fairy who the raghead was and if he knew Arabic (which he obviously didn't) he'd know he was a Palestinian. I suggested we take him down to the local jail and we'd lock him and his cameraman in a cell with the "poor man" and they could interview him until we took him to headquarters. They declined the invitation. Guess what played on the British Broadcasting System that evening? Did the Americans blow up a mosque? See the poor man who is still in a state of shock over losing his mosque and relatives? Yep. Our friend the Palestinian.

Our search and destroy missions are largely at night, free of reporters and generally terrifying to those brave warriors of Allah. The only thing that frightens them more is hearing the word "Gitmo". The word is out that a trip to Guantanamo Bay is not a Caribbean vacation and they usually start squealing like the little mice they are, when an interrogator mentions "Gitmo". No wonder the International Red Cross, the National Council of Churches, and the French keep protesting about the place. They know it has proven to be very effective in keeping several hundred real fanatical psychopaths in check and very frankly would rather see them cut loose to go kill some more GIs or innocent Americans, just to make W. look bad.

We have about 200 really bad guys in custody now and probably will park them in the desert behind a triple roll of razor wire, backed up by a couple of Bradleys pointed their way, if they decide to riot. Maybe a few will get to Gitmo but most are human garbage that wouldn't take on your five-year old grandson face-to-face. The more we go after them and not vice-versa I think we will see the sniper attacks go down. Yeah, they'll get lucky now and then, but it's show time, fellows.

Our first objective is to get the die-hards off the street (or make them too scared to come out in them) and destroy their caches of weapons (we have collected more than 227,000 A-47s and that is only the tip of the iceberg; Curly bought nearly a million of them from our pal Vladimir), then cut off their money supply, mostly from Syria and Lebanon. We must continue to get public services up and running, so the local families can get water, sewage, and garbage service; electricity, public transportation; oil fields, and refineries working and a dinar \di-NAR\ that won't halve in value every month.

It's going to be a long haul (remember it took 10-15 years in Japan and West Germany) but if we don't stick with it, nobody else will, and we'll have some other loony running the place again.

My tour is over at the end of August. I will charge my batteries before I end up back in some other interesting and challenging location. I hope to see most of you and ask for some advice, not support. I know I've had that all along.

Thanks.

Dr. Baker

- 10) The people of Jerusalem, who have gathered on the walls to hear the discourse between the two groups of men, are aware that the Assyrians are bivouacked at Lachish which is just 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem.
- 11) They know that this army is renowned for its brutality, terrorism, and wanton cruelty. They also know that the army of Judah is no match for it.
- 12) By refusing to refer to Hezekiah as king but applying the title to Sennacherib, the Rabshakeh intends for the people to conclude that the Assyrian ruler is for all practical purposes already their king.



- 13) The message is that Hezekiah's days as king of Judah are numbered and the great and powerful king of Assyria is about to depose him.
- 14) The Rabshakeh is counting on the fact that the people of Judah will lose faith in their leaders. Next he attempts to have them lose faith in their God.

**Isaiah 36:5** - "I say, 'Are empty words the strategy and power for war? On whom have you trusted that you have rebelled against me?'"

- 1) The Rabshakeh is using a very condescending tone to Hezekiah's delegation. He is deriding the king's motivational speech to the people as noting more than the hot air of a pep talk. He is referring to his speech in:

**2 Chronicles 32:7** - "Be strong and courageous, do not fear or be dismayed because of the king of Assyria, nor because of all the multitude which is with him; for the One with us is greater than the one with him.

**2 Chronicles 32:8** - "With him is only an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people relied on the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

- 2) The intent here is to erode the confidence of the people in their government and their God. Hezekiah had encouraged the people to place their faith in the God of Israel and the power of His Word.
- 3) Hezekiah had recovered from his reversionism. He had sought forgiveness and a second chance from God and had received it. He had implored the people to join him as one behind *YHWH Elohim* as their first line of defense.
- 4) The only true source of security for a client nation is for the believers within its borders to place their total faith in God's power and His grace to defend and deliver them.
- 5) **PROPAGANDA OBJECTIVE #1:** Break down public confidence in all duly-appointed establishment authority and in the immutability of the Word of God.

**Ebon, Martin. *The Soviet Propaganda Machine*. (St. Louis: McGraw-Hill Book C., 1987), 408:**

Harold Lassell, in *World Politics and Personal Insecurity*, made this observation: "Revolutionary propaganda selects symbols which are calculated to detach the affection of the masses from the existing symbols of authority and to attach their affections to challenging symbols (of authority and then) to direct hostilities toward existing symbols of authority."

**Isaiah 36:6** - "Behold, you have trusted in a crutch that is a crushed reed, even on Egypt, a crutch if on which any man leans it will skewer his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to all who depend on him."

- 1) The reed is used by the Rabshakeh to illustrate how foolish it was for Judah to depend on Egypt for help. We learn how apropos this illustration is from:

**Young, Edward J. *The Book of Isaiah*. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1969), 2:461:**

Rabshakeh characterizes Egypt as a staff which is a broken reed. What is in mind is the *arundo donax*. To trust in a reed is foolish for it cannot support one; but to rely upon a reed that is bruised is more foolish, for it is no support at all. Such was Egypt and Pharaoh. Such a reed would only go into one's hand and pierce it, so that the one who trusted in Egypt would come off worse than before.



- 2) The technique the Rabshakeh employs here is to use the truth to set up a lie. It is true that the Egyptian army has been neutralized. However, the Rabshakeh knows that Hezekiah has given an inspirational speech to the people and that many of them are now placing their trust in the God of Israel.
- 3) However, he is counting on a large number of the population remaining in reversionism and thus susceptible to fear.
- 4) He hopes that by reminding them of Egypt's defeat they will consider it a harbinger of the fall of Judah. Using the reed *arundo donax* to illustrate is excellent since it grows in abundance throughout the Jordan Valley.
- 5) These Jews use them to make walking canes but are familiar with what happens when it is bent. A bent reed loses all its supportive strength and if you lean your weight upon a "crushed reed" it will puncher your palm and be no support at all.
- 6) **PROPAGANDA OBJECTIVE #2:** "We have defeated your allies, we thus can defeat you. Faith in some religious system is nonsense in the face of historical reality. It is, therefore, better to submit to Assyrian might than court certain death."