

ALAN BARNETT

## ***HOW TO IMPEACH***

*THE COUP-CONSPIRATORS*

Fri Jun 27 02:19:37 2003

208.152.73.183

**IMPEACH THE COUP-CONSPIRATORS**

**BUSH & CHENEY**

**ALAN BARNETT**

**MARIN PEACE AND JUSTICE COALITION**

**JUNE, 2003**

**IMPEACHMENT IS POSSIBLE.**

**Until a few weeks ago the impeachment of President Bush and Vice-President Cheney, as deserving as it was, seemed impossible because of the Republican control of Congress. Today Senate and House Committees are investigating whether the President was properly informed by the intelligence agencies as to whether Saddam Hussein presented an imminent threat to the U.S. because he possessed weapons of mass destruction. This was the chief reason Bush gave for going to war. The implicit question of these investigations is whether Bush lied to the public and Americans and Iraqis died for a lie.**

**A closely related charge that Bush gave for going to war was that Hussein and the Al Queda terrorist network had been working together, implying that Iraq was involved in the attack of Sept. 11. The President has also charged that Hussein's alleged weapons of mass destruction could be targeted by Al Queda against the U.S. without risk of retaliation since its forces are not confined to any state.**

**No evidence to support any of these allegations against Iraq have stood scrutiny, but President Bush still makes them. Not only has all the evidence his administration offered turned out to be bogus and based on forged, outdated and plagiarized documents, the President made charges that his staff knew were false.**

**The Congressional investigations are occurring because the press has exposed these deceptions and because the public is increasingly demanding to know the truth.**

**There is good reason to believe that the President was deliberately lying, but even if he was deceived by his staff, he must take responsibility for listening to them and sending thousands of soldiers and civilians to their death. If he is found only to have failed to exercise due diligence in securing correct information, the charge is manslaughter, second-degree murder. Such neglect is a high crime, grounds under the Constitution for impeachment.**

**For Bush to have been persuaded beyond a reasonable doubt that Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction, convinced sufficiently to justify an attack that he knew would take thousands of lives, he would have had to know where the weapons were and that they were poised for attack. He obviously did not or our troops would have made them the first target of their attacks so as to disarm them. That was the President's announced purpose. Having refused to permit the U.N. inspectors the time they sought to determine if Iraq still possessed weapons of mass destruction, Bush took our country to war and now wants the time he refused to the U.N. inspectors for his own to verify his accusations that Iraq possessed them.**

**The ease with which Hussein's forces were overcome by the U.S. indicates that it posed no imminent threat to either Iraq's neighbors or our country. Indeed, it suggests that Bush attacked Iraq because its forces were weak, expecting that the U.S. could thereby readily gain control of Iraqi oil and secure permanent bases in a strategic part of the world.**

**To have pursued this unilateral, arbitrary course of action the President violated the United Nations' Charter, which specifically forbids warfare except in self-defense during an attack by an adversary and requires the victim to bring the issue of retaliation to the Security Council before it is undertaken. The US violated its treaty obligation to the U.N. which is against American law, and also acted against the will of close allies, isolating this country as it has not been isolated for decades.**

**The President tries to legitimize this unilateral preventative warfare by the National Security Strategy, which he promulgated in Sept. 2002. It calls for the U.S. to establish its military and economic supremacy around the world, a global empire. This flies in**

**the face of continually reaffirmed U.S. goals of peace and collective security goals, to be sure, frequently violated by our country in the past. But never before has a president announced publicly the abrogating of these goals and pursued a foreign policy explicitly committed to world domination.**

**Meanwhile, under the pretext of terrorist threats to this country, the President and his administration have undertaken police-state measures to whip up fear throughout the public, suppress dissent and persecute scapegoats. It has rushed through Congress the so-called USA Patriot Act, issued decrees and pressed for further repressive legislation, all of which assault the civil liberties of Americans. It has arbitrarily detained, interrogated and held persons for indefinite periods without charges, denied them legal counsel and deported hundreds for minor violations or none at all. It has embraced racial profiling contrary to law, which will not make Americans more secure. All of these measures violate the U.S. Constitution, especially its Bill of Rights.**

#### **IMPEACHMENT IS NECESSARY TO CUT SHORT THE BUSH REGIME'S HIJACKING OF THE PRESIDENCY AND SEIZURE OF ILLEGAL POWER.**

**If we have not noticed, a coup against democracy, a seizure of national power, was perpetrated by the so-called election of 2000 when over 90,000 African-Americans, most of them likely to have voted Democratic, were purged from the rolls by Gov. Jebb Bush, brother to the Republican candidate, after which the Supreme Court selected George. The illegal appropriation of power in Washington is now entrenched by the illegal war against Iraq and the prospect of more. The attack of Sept. 11 generated the nationwide panic that made it possible for the Bush regime to pursue its pre-existing goals. These included invading Central Asia and the Middle East for their resources and strategic value, building up the military, expanding the power of US-based transnational corporations and hobbling dissent. The military buildup has provided the excuse for cutting social services, which the Republicans have always wanted to do so as to reduce taxes on the wealthy while the military buildup increases their dividends.**

**The combination of rampant nationalism, military aggression abroad, police-state measures at home and collusion with big business for global monopoly bears the mark of incipient fascism.**

**Neither the prospect of fascism nor the committing of the most**

**serious crimes can be dealt with by the election of 2004. Elections are not a substitute for prosecution of crime and restoring democracy. Would-be dictators in the past have sought to legitimize their seizures of power by elections or plebiscites. The Bush Administration has demonstrated that it has the will and the means to manipulate elections. Another election, which there is every reason to believe will be high-jacked like the last, offers little hope as a means to taking back our government. The leverage of incumbency now gives the Bush machine even greater access than before to the levers of power, massive campaign contributions and the corporate-owned media.**

**Electing a Democratic president in 2004 will not automatically put the country back on the right track. The Democrats did not resist the Republican coup of the 2000 election because they did not have the will and there is not that much difference between the two parties. Clinton by maintaining sanctions on Iraq that denied food, medicines, water purification and sanitation equipment to its people for eight years killed more Iraqi children than Bush Sr. and Jr. did together in their wars. Both parties caved in to Bush's attack on Afghanistan which sought to negotiate the release of Osama bin Laden. Both granted the administration extraordinary police power at home and gave away the constitutional power of Congress to declare war to Bush to invade Iraq.**

**We cannot simply trust to an election that is certain to be manipulated to set matters straight. Only impeachment can. There must be no impunity for deceptively taking America to war. If the Bush conspiracy goes unprosecuted, it will continue on its imperial course, and it will be that much harder to stop it.**

**Impeachment will send a message to both parties that there are millions of Americans who reject the Democrats' as well as Republicans' willingness to kill civilians for political ends, that is, their state terrorism. It will tell members of Congress that their constituents are developing a new political consciousness that rejects empire and imperial globalization, whether by military or economic coercion. It will tell them that the two-party system, perhaps even government by parties, in this country is in jeopardy because there is a social movement of citizens that is forming to restore constitutional government and strengthen the initiative of the electorate.**

**HOW TO IMPEACH.**

**Although millions of Americans mobilized in organizations and marched against the war on Iraq, when it came, they were dismayed and after initial protests fell into disarray. We must not do as the Democrats did after the election of 2000, mourn our loss and then continue business as usual. The campaign for impeachment would be a means of reviving and strengthening the peace and justice movement, giving it new political power.**

**Although Congress has initiated investigations into the issue of weapons of mass destruction and alleged Al Queda ties to Hussein, much of these will be handled in secret and stymied because the Bush regime wants to short-circuit them. These congressional hearings must be forced open to the public. It is after all the public's safety that is at stake, and so far the politicians have failed them. These hearings are a key step to bringing articles of impeachment to the House Judiciary Committee.**

**Public pressure is absolutely essential for a thorough-going investigation by Congress' intelligence committees that can lead to impeachment. So far a majority of the public is prepared to give the President the benefit of the doubt because we "won" and removed a brutal dictator. But it is important to remind them that the first Bush administration provided him the means to gas the Iranians and Kurds, never criticizing him for it. Also we must remind ourselves of the danger of Presidents lying to citizens especially when it comes to going to war. The most imminent threat to Americans is not foreign terrorists but an administration that is bent on empire at home and abroad, an empire that provokes terrorist reprisals.**

**To persuade a reluctant Congress to do a thorough investigation of government intelligence and the President's Iraq policy, the anti-war and justice movement must return to life. Local peace groups are pressing for impeachment, and the big peace coalitions are beginning to press forward by taking up impeachment as an umbrella for the issues of recovering democracy, resisting U.S. imperialism and restoring civil liberties. To succeed we must focus our activism on the single target of impeachment, making clear these motives. Members of Congress must be overwhelmed by pressure from their constituents to impeach and know that their re-election is in jeopardy if they do not. Writing, e-mailing, meeting with members of Congress, speaking out on the airwaves and in marches all will be necessary and on a larger scale than ever. The next big national demonstrations are in September. These should be impeachment marches. They should now include not only the old peace marchers but millions more outraged by**

**Bush's lying to lead us to war.**

**This is not only a matter of insuring that there can be no impunity in leading the U.S. into war on fraudulent claims. It is a matter of stopping fascism before it becomes inextricably entrenched. Every time the people consent to being lied to by their government, it will be that much harder to take it back.**

- **[The move to impeach Bush](#)**

— Don Stacey, Wed Jun 25 15:33

- ***HOW TO IMPEACH***

***THE COUP-CONSPIRATORS — ALAN BARNETT, Fri Jun 27 02:19***

- **[impeachment](#) — arzella kay, Fri Jun 27 11:49**