

# Remember Pearl Harbor

*Americans And Others In The World Who Fail To Heed The Lessons Of Pearl Harbor May Do So At Their Own Peril. Those Who Are So Naïve As To Believe That Our Country And Very Existence—And The Survival Of Other Western Nations—Are Not At Stake, Need To Wake Up Now*

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by **Timothy D. Naegele**

It is December 7, 2005, the 64th anniversary of Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. However, there is scant mention of it in the press today. Instead, the media seems preoccupied if not obsessed with proving that we are losing in Iraq, and reporting that our objectives there were misguided if not a total fraud from day one; and playing up the latest courtroom antics by Saddam Hussein. He revered Stalin and is himself one of the greatest mass murderers of all time, yet he is trying to make a mockery of the trial in Baghdad.

Also, the media seems riveted on American cruelty to detainees abroad, and this country's secret detention camps for them in "New Europe" and elsewhere around the globe. Yet, it is clear that if we had not gone into Afghanistan and Iraq, the Middle East would be quite different today; and "kindness" toward the enemy is not on their agenda for us. If the Bush Doctrine of preemptive strikes had not been pursued, Libya would not have sought peace with the West; Syria would not have withdrawn from Lebanon; free elections would not have occurred in both Afghanistan and Iraq; and women in both countries would not be enjoying the freedoms that they are exercising now.

Are there problems? Sure there are. Might things have been handled better at times? Yes, to that question too. Have Americans died in Iraq? Yes, and each one was and is important to this country and precious to his or her loved ones, in ways that most of us will never know. Yet, by definition, war is hell; and put into perspective, more than 50,000 brave Americans died in Vietnam, and brave Iraqis and those from other nations are serving with us, and yes dying too. In our own Civil War, it was not uncommon for even more staggering casualties to occur in a single battle or on a single day, such as at Gettysburg where American casualties exceeded 50,000 in three days, and at Antietam where the number of casualties exceeded 25,000 in one day of fighting.

Perhaps the single factor that overrides all of the nattering by critics of the Bush Administration's foreign and military policies is the fact that 50 million people are free!

One need only look at the former Soviet-bloc countries of Eastern Europe—our newest partners in NATO, and the “New Europe” of the EU—to realize that progress does not occur overnight. This is especially true when there are insurgent elements that are bent on killing the innocent and turning back the clock of Freedom and Democracy’s bold advances.

The attacks of 9/11 were a clarion call to arms, which seems to have been forgotten by members of the media and political classes who seem bent on portraying America’s actions in terms of defeat instead of victory. 9/11 was a wake-up call, thank God, instead of a nation-threatening event like Pearl Harbor. If the Japanese had the wherewithal to invade the American mainland, or to launch preemptive, deadly strikes—using nuclear weaponry or the like—against American cities, the course of history might have been decidedly different.

Today, the attack on Pearl Harbor stands as a sacred reminder of what can happen when we naively stick our heads in the sand and say (and believe) that it can never happen here again. It can, and according to the 9/11 commission and other similar groups, it is only a matter of time before it does. For example, in an editorial last year entitled the “Mother of All Blackouts,” the Wall Street Journal opined on the findings of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the U.S. from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack.

The commission was created in 2000 to examine the possibility of EMP attack and its aftermath, and it had just delivered a report to Congress. As the Journal’s editors wrote, “An EMP attack occurs when an enemy sets off a nuclear explosion high in the Earth’s atmosphere. The electromagnetic pulse generated by the blast destroys the electronics and satellites in its field of vision. For a detonation above the Midwest, that could mean the entire continental U.S.”

The Journal continued: “The pulse would wipe out most electronics and telecommunications, including the power grid. Millions could die for want of modern medical care or even of starvation since farmers wouldn’t be able to harvest crops and distributors wouldn’t be able to get food to supermarkets. Commissioner Lowell Wood calls EMP attack a ‘giant continental time machine’ that would move us back more than a century in technology to the late 1800s.”

“The Commission notes that little in the private sector is hardened to withstand EMP attack and that the military has only limited protection. After an EMP assault, the nation would be highly vulnerable to secondary attack by conventional forces or a biological weapon.”

“China and Russia have the capability to launch an EMP weapon—and have let us know it. . . . But it’s a relatively unsophisticated EMP weapon in the hands of terrorists that really scares the Commission. All it would take is one nuclear warhead attached to a Scud missile launched from a barge off the U.S. coast to shut down much of the country.”

Whether it is an EMP or biological attack or some other heinous crime against this country and mankind, it is time for the American people—who are certainly wiser than the nattering nabobs of negativism in the media and seemingly most elected officials—to wake up and spurn those who would preach defeat and negativism and “kindness” to our enemies. Many of us were not enthusiastic about invading Iraq for a variety of reasons, but they are behind us now and we are at war on a worldwide scale.

We have changed the face of the Middle East, and we are moving to achieve a brighter future for all who revere democracy and freedom everywhere; however, we cannot forget the lessons of Pearl Harbor because it can happen again on American soil or that of our allies. The next time may have much more far-reaching consequences for this country and the course of history.

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