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The average Australian, hearing the official government version through the media that serves as propagandist, and being ill-equipped to challenge the vilifying assumptions against an enemy of choice, will be inclined to embrace or tolerate a rationale for the next war. Fear and ignorance, not countered by a rational presentation of historical fact. become the basis of any future attitude.

Imagine Saddam Hussein creating mushroom clouds over Manhattan or obliterating a million Israelis with WMD. Yellow cake from Niger for uranium enrichment, Iraqi agents meeting AI-Qaeda operatives in Eastern Europe, dossiers (doctored to suit) are all examples

of disinformation and deception cleverly used to frame the public's attitudes. These sorts of claims, even if later disproved, can effectively set up targets for attack.

Take the following facts for example. Many Australians are ignorant of the fact that Hezbollah, which represents the Shia in Lebanon, is a popular political party (with no record of "terrorism", by the way). It is highly valued for its efficient dispensing of myriad social services to all Lebanese. As a resistance movement it was instrumental in evicting the Israelis from the south, more than once.

The media has conditioned us to perceive Muslim hostility towards Israel as religious animosity, anti-Semitism and intolerance rather than justifiable anger at the occupa-

ratiner than justifiable angle tion, annexation, abuse, displacement and oppression of Palestinians. Atrocities are committed against Palestinians in order to provoke revenge attacks termed as "suicide terror", which ostensibly



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justifies perpetuation of coercion and lack of diplomacy.

Hamas, widely acknowledged as pious, capable and honest in contrast to the corrupt, inefficient but secular Palestinian Authority is portrayed as "terrorist" although it won a democratic election conducted fairly and reflecting the aspirations of the Palestinian people. Do we question the refusal by Western governments, to recognise a democratically elected party while preaching about democracy?

Australian media informed us that Iran was enriching uranium (somehow an 'evil' act) but do the people know that all countries have this right? Even Non-nuclear states like Germany, Brazil and Japan have enriched it without US protests. Unlike Pakistan, Israel or India who have nuclear weapons, Iran and North Korea have both submitted to IAEA inspections until things became too political. So, why do non-signatory nations like Israel and Pakistan enjoy such close relations with the US?

Iran, an "axis-of-evil" terror nation is a progressive, modern, highly intelligent and sophisticated society with female intellectuals in influential positions. Does the media tell us that they hotly contest elections,



within a democratic process albeit constrained by religious supervision? Instead, we are encouraged to see them as threatening and vile! Compared to Israel, where any immigrating Jew from any country gets citizenship and the right to vote, while exiled Palestinians are barred! Again, in the US, the people who used democracy in a clear protest against the Iraq war were helpless despite it!

"Israel must be wiped off the map" -Ahmadinejad. The media would love to have us believe he said that. Many Western language scholars have unequivocally concluded that instead, in poetic Persian quoting Ayatollah Khomeini he said that "the occupation of (Jerusalem) will be erased from the pages of time" But right-wing US and Israeli big-wigs screamed murder, claiming breathlessly that he wanted to exterminate all Jews. (ie Genocide, 2nd Holocaust etc)

To this sensationally alarmist deception, the US leadership, in tandem with the media adds the charges that Iran harboured Al-Qaeda operatives while supplying armour piercing improvised explosive devices to Iraqi insurgents, used to kill innocent American soldiers. (Who are there by invitation, unarmed and with no intention or record of killing anyone). So, rather than ponder the murder of millions of evil Iraqi civilians at the hands of the US military, we shudder at the fate of a few hundred brave young men "in harm's way"!

Iran is an evil, radical, Islamist state that sponsors terror and conceals an illegal nuclear weapons program that threatens the very existence of Israel, not to mention the US. The media will not allow us to realise that it would be ludicrous to even imagine Iran menacing a country with twice as many nuclear weapons as the rest of the world combined, and a military presence in half the countries around the globe. It is OK that Israel, the only nuclear weapons state in the region, invades and destroys Lebanon looking for a cabured soldier!

The mantra about terror could not be further from the truth. The reality is that Western troops are not defending our freedoms with their actions overseas. In fact, it is the exact opposite. Their actions overseas are placing our freedoms here at home in ever-greater jeopardy.

Consider their occupation of Iraq, a country that, as you know, never attacked the United States, making it the defender in the war and the United States the aggressor. Every single person that the troops have killed, maimed, or tortured in Iraq had absolutely nothing to

do with the 9/11 attacks.

Yet, the countless victims of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq have friends and relatives, many of whom have become filled with anger and rage and who now would stop at nothing to retaliate with terrorist attacks against Americans. How does that constitute defending our freedoms?

It was no different prior to 9/11. At the end of the Persian Gulf War, the troops intentionally destroyed Iraq's water and sewage facilities after a Pentagon study showed that this would help spread infectious illnesses among the Iraqi people.



The truth is that 9/11 furnished U.S. officials with the excuse to do what their sanctions (and the deaths of all those Iraqi children) had failed to accomplish: ridding Iraq of Saddam Hussein and replacing him with a U.S-approved regime.

The expected slaughter of Iranians, after a blood feast of Iraqis is justified by none other than representatives of the very party given control of the US senate and congress, by

the manipulatively disenfranchised American peoplel God's chosen people, drunk on colonial self-indulgence and ignorance while resting on an assumption of cultural superiority, need a guarantee of immunity as the media strips any legitimacy from Muslim states to set them up for attack.

In the coming months, expect to be told that Iran (or any oil-rich Muslim country) is not only killing innocent American troops, but threatening our very existence, while fanatics in those parts plan a caliphate stretching from Indonesia to Spain! Now that should put the heckles up any fair dinkum Aussie!



