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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 We are responsible for the governments now engaged in
2 this vicious war

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3 What were American troops doing in all of those foreign
4 countries when they were attacked by Iranian weaponry or allies?

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 MARK BERMAN’S litany of evil acts of Iran against America
7 left out significant pieces of history which would disrupt his
8 conclusions. To hear him tell it, Iran just arbitrarily decided that
9 they hate us and want to destroy us.

10 Let's take a closer look at what American troops were
11 doing in all of those foreign countries when they were attacked
12 by Iranian weaponry or allies.

13 We should start not at the beginning of the Iranian
14 revolution, but in 1952 when Iranians joyously welcomed their
15 first democratically elected leader, Mohammad Mosaddegh.

16 Determined to earn the country's trust and increase the
17 well-being of his people, Mosaddegh started the process of
18 nationalizing the oil industry in Iran, to the detriment of England,
19 which had been exploiting Iran's oil for its own wealth and
20 benefit.

21 This was unacceptable to the English and the Americans,
22 so they overthrew Mosaddegh in a violent coup that installed
23 Mohammad Reza Pahlavi as Shah. His 27-year rein was marked
24 by brutal suppression enforced by the SAVAK, secret police who
25 imprisoned, tortured, and murdered any opposition — all with
26 the full support of the American government. (After all, as we
27 love to point out, Iranian women were free to wear mini-skirts
28 under the Shah.)

29 America supported the Shah until the bitter end, when
30 he was deposed by a furious populace led by fanatic clerics who
31 had been able to build a power base in exile because of the
32 Shah's brutality and repression.

33 In 1980 Iraq and Iran went to war. While favoring Iraq,
34 America also provided aid and materiel to the Iranians, cynically
35 hoping that the two warring countries would further destroy each
36 other, keeping them both weak.

37 When the Iranians looked to be gaining the upper hand,
38 America quickly flooded Iraq with more material support and
39 ensured that Iran would not gain a victory.

40 So the Iranians had a variety of reasons to hate America
41 for what it had done to them and their fledgling democracy and
42 for putting our finger on the scale to support Iraq, the country that
43 started the hostilities.

44 * * *

45 BERMAN TALKS ABOUT attacks on Americans in Lebanon,
46 but why were they serving there?

47 As Israel cemented its land theft, driving Palestinians out
48 of their homes and villages in order to replace them with Israeli
49 homes and villages, many Palestinians ended up in Lebanon. The
50 Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was centered there and it
51 was from there that they would attack Israel in an attempt to
52 regain their stolen territory.

53 In 1980, Israel moved to clear out the border area with
54 Lebanon, to cleanse the area of hostile Palestinians, but ended
55 sending their army all the way to Beirut. While under Israeli
56 control, militia groups allied with it conducted two massacres of
57 Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, prompting
58 worldwide outcry, though not so much from the U.S.
59 government.

60 Hezbollah came to be as a response to the Israeli
61 invasion. Their resistance was tough and exacted a high price
62 from the Israelis.

63 America sent Marines into Beirut to help “keep the
64 peace” and take some of the heat off of our “ally,” Israel. Those
65 Marines were attacked by the Lebanese Hezbollah fighters
66 because the Marines were supporting the aggression of the Israeli
67 army on a foreign county's soil.

68 * * *

69 WHAT WERE Americans doing in Iraq that put them in
70 harm's way to Iranian hostilities?

71 They were there to nation-build after destroying Iraq in a
72 war built on the lies of George W. Bush and Colin Powell. If
73 Russia was bent on controlling Mexico, would America sit by
74 quietly, or would we take action to prevent Russia from
75 succeeding?

76 And why were American troops in Syria, another
77 neighbor of Iran? Because of ISIS, which grew out of the chaos
78 and power vacuum caused by our invasion of Iraq. Once again,
79 fallout from American aggression put our troops in harm's way.

80 Just like the governments of many of our historical allies,
81 in Central America, in the Middle East, in Asia, Iran is a brutal
82 dictatorship that represses its people. But, as our alliances with
83 those other dictatorships shows, it is not their brutality that we
84 abhor, it is their refusal to be controlled by us and our allies to
85 our satisfaction that puts them into our enemy category.

86 Throughout his political career, Israeli Prime Minister
87 Benjamin Netanyahu has made crystal clear his desire to destroy
88 Iran. Israel has the only arsenal of nuclear weapons in the Middle
89 East. But we demand that Iran forsake any efforts to arm itself to
90 defend foreign attacks.

91 * * *

92 ISRAELIS AND AMERICANS have enjoyed the freedom to
93 elect our leaders. We are responsible for the governments that are
94 now engaged in this vicious war.

95 The Iranians haven't had a chance to decide who their
96 leaders are ever since the English/American coup that
97 decapitated their democracy. But we expect the Iranian people to
98 be the ones to suffer death and destruction by bombs and
99 missiles, so that we can sit in safety as we allow our government
100 to spew death and destruction throughout the world, unchecked
101 and unhindered.

102 Iran is a threat to us only to the extent that it is reacting
103 to the last 70 years of steadfast American hostility.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

104 **DAN DEWALT**, a frequent contributor to these pages and
105 one of the founders of this newspaper, writes that if he didn't love
106 his country, he "wouldn't spend so much time trying to get it to
107 live up to its purported principles."

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

This piece is in response to "The threat from Iran is real"
[Response, March 18].

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