

Manifest Destiny and the True Motivation Behind America's New War

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President George W. Bush isn't wrong when he is constantly heard stating that his new campaign to rid the world of terrorism is a war like nothing ever experienced by the United States. Indeed, this campaign is unusual as it has already been observed, but its unconventionality is a factor that is certainly benefiting the imperialistic nature of the United States Government. During the Vietnam conflict, American expansionism was obvious due to that war's unpopularity among the American public, and therefore US propaganda and lies were easily recognized by the domestic vigil.

However in this campaign, whereby it was the United States who were attacked and thousands of civilians became targets of terrorist attacks; propaganda and lies are now easily consumed by not only the unsuspecting US public but the sympathetic people of the world due to amplitude of the devastation. Any human being who cherishes peace and life could not help but feel sympathy for those who died and those who suffered as well feel that justice must be served so that peace, freedom, and liberty may prevail. While this author does agree with military action against those responsible, I certainly question the US Government's motivations and interests in this campaign. Is President Bush truly interested in justice; or is it revenge? Or perhaps it is something deeper.

The notion must be entertained by the vigilant that the United States Government may be manipulating both domestic and international sympathy in order to reinstate an imperialist concept similar to Manifest Destiny. The concept of Manifest Destiny was first introduced in the 1840's by an American writer and diplomat named John L O'Sullivan. The doctrine ascertained that the expansion of the United States was both inevitably and divinely entitled to expansion over those who were considered politically inferior to the might of America. It further establishes a somewhat colonial and racist imperialist attitude of US superiority and an inherent right of dominance.

Is Manifest Destiny a reality in 2001? Although its practice may be somewhat unconscious now, the symptoms of American imperialist expansion are quite evident as indicated in President Bush's new foreign policy that challenges all nations of the world to be, "either with the United States or the terrorists". Furthermore President Bush has indicted his intent to militarily enter other countries under the guise of this sympathetic campaign to abolish terrorism. It now seems that any country, including nations that choose to be neutral, who do not agree with US foreign policy are subject to US aggression. Surely the president of Pakistan has only allowed the US its conditional support so that it may not be labeled and thus targeted as a "terrorist harboring country".

Such acts create a dangerous precedent for the concept of sovereignty, a socio-political model that ensures and stabilizes international non-interference and mutual co-existence. The sovereign integrity of every country in world that is not, "with the United States" is now threatened by these irresponsible proclamations. For example, if the United States Government decided that Canada's lumber policy was "hostile" towards their domestic industry, they could proclaim their right to suppress the threat; perhaps even in the name of Manifest Destiny. Furthermore, these proclamations totally harmonize with the US (among other leading industrialized countries) push for economic globalization; an act that already deteriorates the sovereignty of lesser-developed countries.

Justice is indeed a noble motivation for bending the rules a bit, but this author doesn't believe justice to be the motivation for President Bush and the United States Government "global assault on terrorism". For if they were truly interested in *infinite justice*, why is it that reparations, restitution, and, recognition have not been made to the indigenous people and nations of North America, who suffered countless massacres and acts of terrorism at the hands of the US Government? What is more criminal than massacring, displacing, and herding a race of people into postage stamp reservations in the name of greed? In fact indigenous writers such as, Annette Jaimes, have even compared the slaughter of the indigenous people in North America to the Holocaust.

"Hitler's conception of lebensraumpolitik - the idea that Germans were innately entitled by virtue of their racial and cultural superiority to land belonging to others, and that they were thus morally free to take it by aggressive military action - obviously had much in common with the 19th century American sense of 'Manifest Destiny.'"

Indeed, the United States Government isn't interested in freedom, peace, or justice, but rather its true motivation is to wield the ability to control and suppress hostility in order to protect its national interests; an ability that can be best executed through American expansionism. Nothing has been more terroristic in nature than this act of imperialism. From the slavery of African Americans to the plight of the indigenous people in their backyard, the US Government is responsible for committing acts of terror in most countries around the globe.

It has been said that the price of liberty is constant vigilance, and likewise we citizens of the world must be vigilant and see through the sensationalism and glorification of American propaganda in popular media. Moreover, those who truly believe in *infinite justice* must be consistent with their demands and hold the US Government, among other colonial superpowers, accountable for the atrocities they were responsible for creating no matter how long ago they have been committed. Infinite justice is timeless and so should its struggle.

Ever onward towards the good tidings of true peace and power!