

## ***Ranatakarías, the Town Destroyer***

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The word *Ranatakarías* is an Iroquoian title inherited by every United States President since George Washington and in 2002, this term proves relevant once again and easily describes the imperialist agenda of President George W. Bush. This word, translated as “town destroyer,” was given to Washington after ordering destructive raids on Haudenosaunee territory during the American Revolution.

Last week, US President Bush has proved his worthy succession to the title *Ranatakarías*, when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly in an attempt to rally support for another military campaign against Iraq. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan rebutted the President’s statement by asserting that the United States alleged proof of Iraqi possession of “weapons of mass destruction” was more rhetorical than genuine. Secretary-General Annan’s rebuttal angered the US President to ultimately challenge the UN to prove its “relevancy” by supporting the US initiative. What does this mean? Does the US Government feel it should better bear the burden of administering worldly affairs?

It’s sad to see that the majority of the US public, infected by a sense paranoia and fear stemming from 9/11, blindly support a president who makes such arrogant, irresponsible, and dangerous remarks on their behalf (while those who criticize Bush’s domestic and foreign policy are likely to be labeled as either terrorists or traitors). Like a bully who doesn’t get his way, it appears that President Bush will resort to an undemocratic method of warmongering since he has already made clear that regardless of UN support, they will go and take of business in Iraq.

While I truly understand the need to send in troops into Iraq based upon Saddam Hussein’s failure to comply with a number of UN resolutions since 1991, primarily his restriction of UN weapons inspectors responsible for ensuring that Iraq is free of weapons of mass destruction, I fail to see what distinguishes President Hussein from President Bush. Both have weapons of mass destruction (provided US proof is accurate) and as well as both have an irresponsible hand on the trigger. In fact it is more dangerous for the US to have such weapons due the extensiveness of their military industrial complex, not to mention that they were only country to actually use an atomic warhead against an enemy. Surely, Iraq can cause some damage against Israel and possibly even cities in the United States, but President Bush’s military industry certainly has the muscle control the entire world; or at least punish those who defy its interests. Make no mistake; both are warmongers and town destroyers.

Part of the US Government’s successful propaganda campaign is to continuously state that their fight is with Saddam Hussein and not Iraq, also that their primary intentions are to restore democracy to the Iraqi people and rid them of weapons of mass destruction. This is no doubt designed to turn the people of Iraq against its ruler, but more importantly the question should be asked; is the US Government really in a moral position to judge who acts democratically and who is worthy of weapons of mass destruction? Bullying

the world community to go to war is not a trait of democracy. Furthermore, it is well presumed that the Iraqi weapons cache is incomparable to the extensiveness of US weapons; both in numerical and technological superiority.

Bush's military capability combined with an arrogant and irresponsible sense of sheer imperialism, makes for a very plausible scenario of a US empire that could actually dissolve the UN and control the world. Why not? The US has already inflicted genocide upon the Indigenous Peoples of North America (and still to this day refuses to recognize them as "peoples") in order to control that continent and pity those who stand in the way of US economic interests; namely Iraq. Finally, after Bush's implications that the UN would be "irrelevant" if they did not see things his way only proves the potential of US supremacy. Some months ago, this author wrote a commentary on the US concept of manifest destiny and its applications in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Since the installation of this Republican envoy, it would be reasonable to say he is only validating the arguments articulated in the article.

The Congress of the United States should pull on their president's leash if they truly value and cherish ideals such as democracy, liberty, and freedom, because in Bush's world these elements are extremely limited and subject to his interpretation. Furthermore, he should be instructed to submit both confidence and adherence to the global community of the UN instead of trying to manipulate it. The UN is the only glimmer of hope in the eyes of many and without it many will suffer. Mr. President, Ranatakarías, the UN is ever the more relevant by not making decisions out of haste or fear of your bullying. The US Government feels that they set the standard of world integrity, but it is their wealth that sets the standard of their influence over the world; and wealth can't buy integrity.

Ever onward towards the good tidings of peace and power!