

issues, except in the circumstance of a truly massive and widely perceived direct external threat.”<sup>146</sup>

Long-standing U.S. aims to establish hegemony—the “decisive arbitration role” of “America’s primacy”—over “Eurasia” through control of Central Asia thus entailed the use of “sustained and directed American involvement,” justified through the manufacture of “a truly massive and widely perceived direct external threat.” This should also be understood in context with his earlier assertion that: “The attitude of the American public toward the external projection of American power has been much more ambivalent. The public supported America’s engagement in World War II largely because of the shock effect of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.”<sup>147</sup>

Brzezinski clearly envisaged that the establishment, consolidation and expansion of U.S. military hegemony over Eurasia through Central Asia would require the unprecedented, open-ended militarisation of foreign policy, coupled with an unprecedented manufacture of domestic support and consensus on this militarisation campaign.

He also recognised that this would require the perception of an external threat of hitherto unprecedented proportions.

Given that Afghanistan constitutes the principal opening into Central Asia, it is clear that the CFR’s strategic planning for the expansion and consolidation of U.S. global hegemony via control of Eurasia—itsself secured through control of Central Asia—would of necessity be initiated through the establishment of U.S. hegemony in Afghanistan.

### **The Irrelevance of Bin Laden**

All this clearly establishes the broad economic and strategic agenda behind the military plans that were in place long before 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001. This agenda was re-confirmed in February 1998 in U.S. House of Representative hearings held by the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific (a subcommittee of the House Committee on International Relations). These meetings revealed the fundamental strategic and economic U.S. interests in Central Asia, and Afghanistan’s crucial role in providing a vehicle by which to secure these interests (see Appendix A).

Even in the aftermath of 11<sup>th</sup> September, contrary to what the public was told, the U.S. General and head of U.S. Central Command directing the operation in Afghanistan revealed that finding Osama bin Laden was not actually a mission objective. *USA Today* reported that: “The U.S. combat commander in Afghanistan said Thursday that apprehending Osama bin Laden isn’t one of the missions of Operation Enduring Storm...

## **Backword: Where would we be without our Wars?**

*A Perspective, by John Leonard*

The Most Dreaded Enemy of Liberty, James Madison, August 1793

“Of all the enemies to public liberty war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded, because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes; and armies, and debts, and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few. In war, too, the discretionary power of the Executive is extended; its influence in dealing out offices, honors, and emoluments is multiplied; and all the means of seducing the minds, are added to those of subduing the force, of the people... [There is also an] inequality of fortunes, and the opportunities of fraud, growing out of a state of war, and... degeneracy of manners and of morals... No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare...

The powers proposed to be surrendered to the Executive were those which the Constitution has most jealously appropriated to the Legislature...

The Constitution expressly and exclusively vests in the Legislature the power of declaring a state of war... the power of raising armies... the power of creating offices...<sup>593</sup>

Wars are started by deliberate provocation much more often than people think. Even without the mass of evidence assembled by Ahmed, it is clear that military actions by a strong country against a weak one require a provocation to appear acceptable. Yet weaker nations avoid provoking conflict, in order to survive. Thus, to instigate an unequal battle, an attack scenario has to be arranged by the strong country elite against its own people in a deliberate, clandestine way, in order to mobilize them. It is a formula of: *provocation, invocation, retribution, and redistribution.*

Far from being an unprecedented shocker, suspected government complicity in 9/11 builds on an august and cynical tradition. “It’s the oldest trick in the book, dating back to Roman times; creating the enemies you

### **Notes**

<sup>593</sup> Thanks to Gore Vidal for contributing this perfect quotation. Online text from [www.sumeria.net/politics/dreaded.html](http://www.sumeria.net/politics/dreaded.html).