

Who Do They Think Joe Lieberman Is?

In a sad op-ed entitled **Joe Lieberman: A lonely voice of moderation**, (via **InstaPundit**), James Kirchick ponders the change in the stance of the Democratic Party since the last election (part of a wider a change that we, too, have **commented** on):

It was only four years ago that Lieberman was his party's vice-presidential candidate. Now, following a war that he strongly supported but was unpopular with the base, Lieberman has lost his luster within the Democratic Party. Slighted by Al Gore, upstaged by Howard Dean and largely ignored by the delegates, Lieberman is truly now a man without a party.

[...]

One would have thought that American victories in Afghanistan and Iraq, specifically the liberation of some 50 million once-terrorized people, would be a source of pride for the party of Wilson, Roosevelt and Kennedy. True, this administration made mistakes in pressing the case for war, but at the end of the day, citizens of this country can be unequivocally proud of the fact that we are attempting to impart, however imperfectly, liberal democracy to nations that up until recently squirmed under the dual jackboots of religious fascism and Stalinist terror.

Lieberman told the Democrats in Boston that they should appreciate the magnitude of what our military has accomplished, and there is little doubt that the Republicans will use American victories in Afghanistan and Iraq to portray President Bush as liberator. But Democrats should not forget that an admirable tradition of liberal internationalism exists within their party. It's a shame that the standard bearer of this legacy would be so spurned by the party that asked him to help lead it a mere four years ago.

Our question is: if Lieberman is a man without a party, what does his party think he is? Not 'a lonely voice of moderation', surely, for most people do not think of themselves as lunatic extremists. So

what is Lieberman, to his party? The lone voice of the Bush-Hitler

administration? The lone dupe of the neo-con conspiracy? A madman who still believes in liberal international values? Or what?

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