

There Are Very Few Natural Disasters Nowadays

A Reasonable Man makes an excellent point about military humanitarian aid:

I seem to recall a lot of people objecting to the US invasion of Iraq by saying that while they agree that Saddam was brutal and terrible, etc., it isn't appropriate to use and risk US military forces for humanitarian missions.

[...]

I don't hear many of these people complaining of the military assets used now to help tsunami victims

[...]

I can only conclude that [they believe] that helping people hit by a natural disaster is fine, but from a murderous regime is wrong.

It seems to me that many of them honor state power, even the worst sort, because it's something they respect and would like to be held sacred so that they can more easily use it to impose their visions on others.

Indeed. But the two types of disaster are not really that different. 'Natural' disasters are, fundamentally, caused by poverty, not by the various 'acts of God' that happen to deliver the coups de grace. (**Oliver Kamm** gets himself tangled in some rickety theology by missing this point.) And poverty, in this day and age, is fundamentally caused by bad government.

Fri, 01/07/2005 - 18:17 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

It appears that the "Reasonable Man"

and "**The World**" are from the "two wrongs make a right" school of ethics.

by a reader on Sat, 01/08/2005 - 13:59 | [reply](#)

Re: two wrongs

Could you tell us briefly what the two wrongs in question are?

by **Editor** on Sat, 01/08/2005 - 14:06 | [reply](#)

2 wrongs

they are 1) disaster 2) use of military

and they *do* make a right.

the problem is the military isn't wrong...

-- Elliot Temple

<http://www.curi.us/>

by **Elliot Temple** on Sat, 01/08/2005 - 16:43 | [reply](#)

Does the world advocate the u

Does **The World** advocate the use of our military for purely humanitarian purposes?

by **R** on Sat, 01/08/2005 - 18:44 | [reply](#)

No Other Purpose Is Legitimate

*Does **The World** advocate the use of our military for purely humanitarian purposes?*

Yes, **solely**.

by **Editor** on Sun, 01/09/2005 - 07:29 | [reply](#)

Thanks for the link

By the way, I agree with the point about bad government/natural disaster link as well; as indicated by my earlier link to [this post](#).

Gil (A Reasonable Man)

by **Gil** on Sun, 01/09/2005 - 21:30 | [reply](#)