

## Patriot (Yeah, Right) Refuses to Celebrate

Jeez, when are these idiotarians going to get it? In a recent **article**, Howard Zinn writes:

Our government has declared a military victory in Iraq. As a patriot, I will not celebrate. I will mourn the dead -- the American GIs, and also the Iraqi dead, of which there have been many, many more.

Does he think people who take a different view on the war do not mourn the dead?

I will mourn the Iraqi children, not just those who are dead, but those who have been blinded, crippled, disfigured, or traumatized, like the bombed children of Afghanistan who, as reported by American visitors, lost their power of speech. The American media has not given us a full picture of the human suffering caused by our bombing; for that, we need to read the foreign press.

Clearly he does not celebrate the lives of those who would still be being blinded, crippled, disfigured, or traumatized at this moment and for untold years to come, had they not been rescued against his will.

Nor does he mourn those who were blinded, crippled, disfigured, or traumatized by the regime that was removed despite his shrieking opposition. In our name, but not in his.

What are his perverted criteria for celebrating and mourning, then? Not whether innocents are saved or die, not whether right or wrong is done, but whether America is involved or not:

I suggest that a patriotic American who cares for his country might act on behalf of a different vision. Instead of being feared for our military prowess, we should want to be respected for our dedication to human rights.

Well duh. The fact that barking mad idiotarians are unable to see that this is ultimately what this whole war was about, doesn't mean **others** can't.

Should we not begin to redefine patriotism? We need to

expand it beyond that narrow nationalism which has caused so much death and suffering. If national boundaries should not be obstacles to trade -- we call it globalization -- should they also not be obstacles to compassion and generosity?

Exactly! That's what we've been **saying** all along!

Should we not begin to consider all children, everywhere, as our own? In that case, war, which in our time is always an assault on children, would be unacceptable as a solution to the problems of the world. Human ingenuity would have to search for other ways.

Tell that to the millions of children who would have been tortured or murdered or enslaved but for the defeat of the tyrannies under which their parents lived. Tell that to the millions of American and British children who would likewise have died, or had their lives ruined by tyranny, had the American and British people not (at last!) stood up and made it known that WE WILL DEFEND OURSELVES. **Lord Palmerston** was right.

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## Question about Lord Palmerston

Who was Lord Palmerston and what did he say? There was a connection error when I clicked on the link in your last line.

by **Trace Element** on Wed, 05/14/2003 - 11:50 | [reply](#)

## Lord Palmerston

From the page linked:

Palmerston understood something the State Department has yet to grasp: In a dangerous world, you want to make sure your passport counts for something.

In an 1850 House of Commons speech defending his decision to blockade Greece after an Athenian mob had burned down the home of a British citizen, Palmerston put it this way: "As the Roman in days of old held himself free from indignity when he could say 'Civis Romanus Sum' ['I am a Roman citizen'], so also a British subject, in whatever land he may be, shall feel confident that the watchful eye and the strong arm of England will protect him against injustice and wrong."

You might also be interested in the War of Jenkins's Ear. In 1738, while in the Caribbean, the ship of Captain Jenkins had been boarded by the Spanish Guarda Costa, his crew had been maltreated, and the Spaniards had cut off one of his ears. This caused outrage, and war was declared on October 19 1739.

And then there was "Mad King Theodore" of Abyssinia, who held the

British consul and a small group of westerners hostage in 1867. The response? A grand punitive expedition equipped with elephants was sent to capture his fort, and King Theodore eventually shot himself.

by [Sarah Fitz-Claridge](#) on Wed, 05/14/2003 - 15:20 | [reply](#)

## The Long Arm Of The American Military

Time was, I was reflexively opposed to the exercise of American military power for any reason except the defense of the homeland. I felt war for any other reason was unjustified, and worse, fattened the Omnipotent State more rapidly than any other kind of event.

Time was.

Whether it will always be this way or not, today we live under conditions in which **only** judicious exertions of American arms in distant places can 1) protect us against further atrocities such as Black Tuesday, and 2) bring the taste of freedom -- or even a prospect of survival -- to the subjects of bloody-handed dictators such as Saddam Hussein.

Perhaps not everyone is happy to pay for it. I sympathize; there are innumerable things Washington does that I'm not happy to pay for. But I'm more than happy to pay for American power to open children's jails, and shut down torture centers, and put an end to the reign of one of the worst regimes in the world, run by one of the worst men in the world. So, for the nonce, I'll pretend that all my tax money went to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the anti-war types can pretend that all their tax money went to teaching brain-damaged welders how to speak Ameslan, and we can all be happy.

No perversion of arithmetic can make Operation Iraqi Freedom into anything but an immense gain for the cause of liberty and justice -- in Iraq, in the Middle East, and in the world.

Curmudgeon Emeritus, Palace Of Reason

by [fporretto](#) on Wed, 05/14/2003 - 22:01 | [reply](#)

## The Long Arm Of The American Military

Hear hear!

One of the few pleasant side-effects of war is that from the point of view of good people, it decreases the coerciveness of taxation.

by [Editor](#) on Wed, 05/14/2003 - 22:26 | [reply](#)