

## France Graduates From Weasel To Enemy

Having lost the lucrative Saddam contract, France continues to grub about among the world's dwindling supply of fear regimes looking for customers for its weapons. Now the French Prime Minister has said that if China invades Taiwan under the new law it has passed 'authorising' this, France would consider that **only right and proper**:

French prime minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin has said Paris will continue to push for the lifting of the European Union's arms embargo on China.

Mr Raffarin was speaking at the start of a three-day visit to China.

He also said France had no objection to China's anti-secession law, authorising the use of force against Taiwan should it move to declare independence.

That is appalling enough as it stands, but as always with France, attributing their immoral international stance solely to venality and cynicism is giving them far too much credit. For there is rank, undisguised malevolence there as well. As their President Chirac **remarked** recently:

A "no" vote to the European Constitution would weaken the EU and benefit the United States, warned French President Jacques Chirac, Thursday.

That the core objective of French policy is to harm the United States has always been implicit. Now it is becoming increasingly explicit. Many Americans dismiss French policymakers as pathetic buffoons. This may be a mistake. They are not stupid, and they can do a great deal of harm.

**Update:** **InstaPundit** remarks, in this connection:

You know, we should have just bribed Chirac et al. It's clearly the way these things are done.

But in reality they would not have accepted such a bribe. So what InstaPundit intends as a stinging criticism of Chirac and of France is

really a free pass for the malevolence we spoke of. How do the

French get these free passes, again and again?

Thu, 04/21/2005 - 16:30 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

## You know, we should have just

*You know, we should have just bribed Chirac et al. It's clearly the way these things are done.*

*But in reality they would not have accepted such a bribe.*

Well, it looks like Chirac may in fact have **accepted bribes** in the oil for food program, which may be linked to his position regarding the Iraq war.

### Henry Sturman

by [Henry Sturman](#) on Sun, 04/24/2005 - 08:47 | [reply](#)

## Re: You know, we should have just

*Well, it looks like Chirac may in fact have accepted bribes in the oil for food program*

Yes, but our point is that he would not have accepted a bribe to do the right thing.

So his acceptance of that money was not so much corruption as accepting the natural benefits of a policy that he would have carried out anyway.

by [Editor](#) on Sun, 04/24/2005 - 09:04 | [reply](#)

## Legitimacy

Maybe Instapundit gives France a pass because it is easier to imagine elites have deceived a democracy than that so many free people knowingly support evil. Others who don't like Bush's policies do the same thing.

Because France is a democracy, it enjoys some presumed moral authority and then makes use of any more legitimacy it can find lying around. Now that France is an enemy, the US cannot afford to grant undeserved legitimacy to false principles for the sake of political expediency because France will exploit it in ways that dictatorships could not. This happened with the principle that the UN should decide which wars to fight.

It may be useful to placate China right now and Taiwan's DPP may be difficult, but I don't think Colin Powell should have said these things:

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/FJ30Ad03.html>

by [romr](#) on Mon, 04/25/2005 - 16:15 | [reply](#)

## A pass

Maybe even we gave them a pass, with the title of this post. Have they *graduated* to the status of enemy of the USA? The authors of this book think they already were: **Our Oldest Enemy : A History of America's Disastrous Relationship with France.**

by **Editor** on Mon, 04/25/2005 - 16:32 | [reply](#)

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