

Impending Holocaust Watch

Mere Rhetoric comments on the alliance between the genocidal terrorists of Hamas and the genocidal government of Iran:

The nightmare scenario has now become a reality that could happen in half a year: Iran will get a nuke, and they will give it Hamas. Hamas will smuggle it into Gaza, then into the West Bank, and then into Tel Aviv.

Of course, that is only one of several modes of attack open to Iran. Defences exist, but none is even remotely reliable enough to risk millions of lives on. A determined nuclear attack will succeed.

Millions of people will die. No doubt, the State Department and European diplomats will express their "concern" and "shock" about the "unacceptability" of this act. Who knows – maybe they'll even threaten to impose sanctions on Iran.

Actually, they won't, because at that point, two things will have changed from the present situation. One is that Iran will both possess nuclear weapons and have demonstrated a propensity to use them in a way that neither the best defences nor the most resolute deterrence could prevent. Hence half-measures will no longer seem plausible. Only the most abject appeasement or all-out war will have any supporters. The other is that the world will no longer be able to hide behind Israel. Jews – the world's perennial canary in the coal mine – will have duly died in vast numbers in order to deliver a final warning to civilisation. Civilisation will heed it, or not. Either way, the estimate of 'millions' dead in the aftermath is absurdly optimistic.

Today, before all that happens, there are still some other options left. Unfortunately, none of them can be guaranteed to be entirely peaceful. Unfortunately, too, the pathetic British Foreign Minister has ruled them all out in a single sweeping remark: **Straw rules out threat of military action against Iran**. Fortunately, the **people** and **government** of the United States are not that stupid.

Sun, 01/29/2006 - 16:37 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

Stephen M. Walt

In my opinion we are being played, and rather effectively at this

point. The Iranian president is skilfully prodding the U.S. with the nuclear power stick, using Israel as an unwilling shill and winking at other countries that would like to see us as fools exposed. The U.S.A. is the big bad Goliath of nuclear power who holds all the weapons and all the peaceful means of uranium production according to this scenario. Taunts and goads and sniggers, wink wink.

Effectively done to the peril of the entire world, Iran is playing its cards as would David with the deadly slingshot.

For a perceptive view of our stumbling response, playing Goliath all too well, and to add some deft ideas of nimbleness for big feet, you might read "Taming American Power: The Global Response to U.S. Primacy". It helps to see our scripts through the eyes and agile danger play of the little guys.

by a reader on Sun, 01/29/2006 - 21:31 | [reply](#)

We are being played rather effectively

So, the Iranian leaders are just pretending to be genocidal lunatics even though they are not, in order to provoke a stumbling response and expose 'us' (not including you, presumably) as fools. Is that correct?

by [Editor](#) on Sun, 01/29/2006 - 22:56 | [reply](#)

We are being played

Genocidal lunatic or not, and I think not, the president of Iran is playing this card rather effectively. All of us, including me, are fools if we do not study in some depth what this man is trying to do with his rhetoric and his actions. He has managed to capture a world audience on our media dime and the english speaking world among us is only some of his audience. Remember too this might be one of the student captors of the U.S. hostages during the 1979 fiasco that suddenly resolved itself after the presidential election.

Fool me once. I do take the political maneuvers of these language games seriously. The point is to read carefully all the public statements and the internal histories to see the strategies which are definitely diplomatic ones, crazy and dangerous as they may be. Watch the players, including Russia, China, as well as the muslim world. Remember that David was the little guy, not unlike the role this guy would scheme to play.

by a reader on Mon, 01/30/2006 - 02:11 | [reply](#)

Re: We are being played

Genocidal lunatic or not ...

So you say he has fooled us (possibly including you) into believing X about him, whereas in reality, X is not true of him and Y is. Could you clarify? What are X and Y?

by **Editor** on Mon, 01/30/2006 - 04:02 | [reply](#)

You misunderstand?

It is not about him but rather the questions of where he seeks, gleans and gains his rising power from. I do not know what you believe about him or if that is directly relevant to this discussion, though genocidal lunatic sounds like too easy a label to me. Nor is it that we are fools. You may have misunderstood my point.

This is about hearing fully the intents of the rhetoric which obviously have several different audiences and how to deftly blunt and parry those effects. There is a long history to this and especially various turns of power, religion, and secular influence over the last 35 years within Iran, not the least of these the devastating war with Iraq. Iraq is no longer a threat to Iran, and the current Iranian regime sees an opportunity to gain regional power and influence, perhaps be the leader of the Shia Muslim world and a broadened Arab power base.

If we are to better understand these shifts and factions and influence them to our own best interests we must not let the current regime, as represented by this so-called genocidal lunatic, play their best hands. David unto David, or several Davids with Israel among them will need to take skilful action.

We all need to take a new and careful look at strategies, military action and diplomatic alliances among them. The U.S. and in this case Israel must not stand alone or appear to act alone. Read the book for at least one different perspective, and definitely study the events and influences of the last 35 years within the region and Iran. As to rhetoric, read it at face value but also look for the layers of power broking and multiple intents within.

This is not about fools, it is about perceiving unified strategies and evolving skilful actions which are directly suited to these rapidly changing and therefore dangerous and opportune times.

by a reader on Mon, 01/30/2006 - 17:09 | [reply](#)

Re: We are being played

You have said that we are being 'played'. Does that not entail our being deceived by the player?

by **Editor** on Mon, 01/30/2006 - 19:26 | [reply](#)

Still a Threat

The Iranian leader is likely trying to strut about on the world stage in order to enhance his credibility. Yes, when the US takes his bellicosity seriously, it enhances his credibility amongst fanatics.

But this motive of the Iranian leader does not preclude Iranian

production of a nuclear weapon which can be smuggled into Tel Aviv. Whether fanatics are more drawn to Iranian leaders or not because of US condemnation, the United States, Israel, and all free peoples must prevent the explosion of a nuclear weapon in Tel Aviv, at virtually any cost.

Western Europe and the United States are next.

by a reader on Mon, 01/30/2006 - 23:14 | [reply](#)

Straw's an ass

What he should have said is, "We are trying to negotiate a peaceful end to this dilemma so that the Americans don't settle it for us." I have no problem with my country being used as the stick to get someone to accept the carrot. We call it "negotiating from strength" and it's been successful in the past. To bad one idiot took it upon himself to piss it away.

by a reader on Fri, 02/10/2006 - 14:42 | [reply](#)