



More Wars Without End Under Trump?

Will the Trump era end up being merely an extension of the endless “Wars on Terror” that have been the hallmark of the Bush and Obama eras? It is certainly starting out that way. Stylistically, the Trump approach to war has the same suicidal quagmire-of-empire look. Candidate Trump rightfully blasted President Obama’s penchant for publicly announcing to the world (including the enemy) U.S. military plans in advance, including force levels, deployments, and planned timelines for withdrawals. That gives away huge advantages to our enemies — to our detriment, of course. In regard to this element of warfare, President Trump is operationally different. On March 8, stories began to appear in the media reporting that President Trump had deployed Marines attached to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and soldiers from the U.S. Army’s 75th Ranger Regiment to Syria to intensify the assault of the American-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on Raqqa, the capital city of the Islamic State (ISIS). The deployments had begun in secret weeks earlier; even after news of the operation leaked out, few details were available. Similar secrecy surrounded the January 29 U.S. commando raid into Yemen, barely one week into the new Trump administration. Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William Ryan Owens was killed in that operation, which was directed against al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

During his Joint Address to Congress on February 28, 2017, President Trump honored Owens’ widow, Carryn Owens (who was in attendance), and effectively used his touching tribute to her fallen husband to sell his planned “war on terrorism.” The president declared in his address: “As promised, I directed the Department of Defense to develop a plan to demolish and destroy ISIS — a network of lawless savages that have slaughtered Muslims and Christians, and men, women, and children of all faiths and beliefs. We will work with our allies, including our friends and allies in the Muslim world, to extinguish this vile enemy from our planet.”

Yes, ISIS, like AQAP, is indeed a vile enemy. However, President Trump should be made to answer some very important questions concerning this latest deployment of U.S. military forces to a far-flung corner of the globe. Questions, President Trump, such as:

Did you ask for and receive a declaration of war from Congress, as the Constitution requires? The question is rhetorical, in that we know no such congressional declaration was made. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives to Congress — not the president — the power “To declare war.” And even though Congress has been criminally remiss in allowing presidents to usurp this power, President Trump is still bound by this crucial constitutional restraint.

Did you provide any evidence that, in lieu of a congressional declaration of war, there exists a dire immediate threat from ISIS to America to justify this action? In the debates of the Federal Convention of 1787, as well as in the Federalist Papers, the Founders agreed that the president may act by executive authority to repel an invasion without seeking permission from Congress. However, we have been offered no argument or evidence that the deployment of troops to Syria is aimed at averting any immediate threat to Americans.

Is the charge that ISIS is “a network of lawless savages” sufficient to engage in an undeclared, undefined, open-ended war? What about equally vile and violent terrorist groups, such as al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, Hizb ut-Tahrir, Hezbollah, Hamas, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Quds Force, etc.?



Written by [William F. Jasper](#) on April 3, 2017

Published in the April 3, 2017 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 33, No. 07

Will this “temporary” involvement in Syria become another permanent quagmire? As you yourself pointed out, we have spent \$5 trillion and thousands of lives in these fruitless, destructive ventures. We are worse than broke; we are trillions of dollars in debt. Thousands of American troops, advisors, special operators, pilots, and other military personnel remain in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait. However, you, President Trump, rather than pulling our troops out of Afghanistan and Iraq, are increasing our troop levels in those quagmires. How much longer will this go on?

Will the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) we are supporting in Syria prove any better than the false “allies” we supported in Egypt, Libya, Iraq, and Afghanistan? The SDF coalition is dominated by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which for many years has been designated a terrorist group by the United States, NATO, and the European Union. The other dominant force in the SDF is the People’s Protection Units (YPG), which is merely a militia adjunct to the communist/terrorist PKK. The PKK/YPG are hardcore Marxist-Leninists who for decades called for the establishment of a Marxist-Leninist state and emblazoned the communist hammer and sickle on their red flag. Are these really the “freedom fighters” that are going to save us from ISIS? Will we end up fighting them, as we have many of our other false allies?



Written by [William F. Jasper](#) on April 3, 2017

Published in the April 3, 2017 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 33, No. 07

Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.