

# There Be Wolves



We have all been crying wolf so many times over the past few years, about the possibility/likelihood/necessity/wisdom of an Israeli/Western attack against Iran, that readers would be justified if they went, “oh, for crying it loud ... Here he goes, ranting about *that* again ...”.

Yet one ought to remember that the important message the fairy tale was supposed to bring home is, there actually are wolves out there, and their intentions are all but friendly. And by the same token, we cannot feign to ignore that there are people and political forces out there that would see nothing better than launching yet another unnecessary and unjustified war of aggression, in the pursuit of their sick dreams of “regime change” and democracy at the tip of bayonets. And, these are not lunatics at the fringe of our societies. Rather, they hold positions of power and influence, and some of them even sit in our governments. They have not yet managed to put their hands on the levers of real decision-making – which basically reside in the Oval Office – but they are getting closer and closer.

In a chilling reproduction of the situation back in 1999 before the Kosovo War, and then again in 2002/early 2003 before “Operation Iraqi Freedom” (sic), most when not all Western media are incessantly beating the war drums about the “Iranian nuclear threat”, the need for the international community to “act before it is too late”, and so on and so on. Indeed, the tones are becoming even shriller than when there was question of Saddam Hussein and his “weapons of mass destruction”, which indeed figures. After Afghanistan and Iraq, the Western public has lost virtually all enthusiasm for the very idea of wars of choice and is becoming a little suspicious to “nuclear threat” cries, and an extra propaganda effort is thus needed to convince them that the only way to save our civilization and the whole world goes through bombing Iran.

Now I do realize that my position on this issue is likely to put myself in conflict with

quite a few people in the international defence community whom I would like to call friends, exactly as it happened when I used this page to criticise the war against Serbia and the invasion of Iraq. But I think I did already explain that I shave with a razor, and thus I need to see my face in the mirror every morning without feeling the irresistible urge to spit at it. I thus have no other choice than telling things as they are, or at least as I see them.

ALL known Iranian nuclear plants are under constant control by IAEA inspectors. ALL known Iranian uranium stocks have been tagged by the IAEA, which is thus constantly aware of the whereabouts of every single kilo of it, and what the Iranians are doing to or with it. ALL Iranian nuclear-related activities are monitored by the IAEA, which has certified and continues to certify that not the slightest quantity of uranium has been diverted away from civil programmes, and that no activity is underway that would not be consistent with the declared civil purposes. And, the 2007 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) document, which stated that Iran did abandon all nuclear weapon studies back in 2003 and did not resume it, still stands. This is it. All the rest is deliberate disinformation, war-mongering propaganda and increasingly flat lies, in the style of the infamous “Iraqi anthrax vial” being shown in front of the UN General Assembly.

Iran does not pose a “nuclear threat” to Israel, and most certainly not to Europe or the US. Iran does, however, sit on quite attractive oil reserves, and furthermore it lies straight across the maniacal vision of a “New Middle East” that appears having survived the disaster in Iraq and the increasingly difficult situation in Afghanistan. More in general – and this is what make much too many intelligent and considerate people only too receptive to the war drums – it is a given that we would certainly be all better off (including the Iranians themselves) with a different government in Teheran.

Talking about which, what passes for Iran’s leadership seems to derive a perverse pleasure in doing and saying the most stupid things as possible, as if they were deliberately trying to play in the war party’s hands and alienate whatever few remaining friends are left in the West. Teheran’s behaviour is increasingly reminiscent of a Chihuahua, that would bark its lungs away in the hope of scaring a Rottweiler. The fact that this behaviour is most probably governed by internal factors, and thus largely intended for internal consumption, does not make it less stupid and counterproductive.

But be this as it may, here it comes the bottom line. There is, and there could not possible be, any justification for an attack against Iraq under the current circumstances. Any such action from the part of Israel and/or the US, with or without the support or connivance of the European nations, would constitute an unprovoked war of aggression, and thus a war crime under international law. People were hanged in Nürnberg for committing such a crime.

George W. Bush and Tony Blair did, when in power, come to the conclusion that their actions and decisions would not be encumbered by considerations of this sort. We’ll see what Barack Obama’s position is.

PS: A note for all of those who would be annoyed by the above beyond the limits of their tolerance, and would thus consider writing to my publisher to demand for me to be fired or muzzled (as they did as regards Kosovo and Iraq): don’t. First it would not work, and second, I’ll hit 65 this year and that will take care of it.

  
Ezio Bonsignore