



The  
**Invisible  
Invasion**

**The Unknown Force**

**DEKE RIVERS**

# The Invisible Invasion

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Deke Rivers



Strategic Book Group

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# Preface

THIS BOOK IS A WORK OF FICTION, BASED LOOSELY on actual historical events over the past ten years. The references have been taken from articles on the Internet. The names of the characters selected and the applicable events are solely products of the author's imagination in the storyline. Locations have been arbitrarily picked from maps and are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

This story is about the United States, the corruption of its government, legal system, and correctional institutions, and their connections to Al-Qaeda.

**Just consider that this could really happen.**



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# Prologue

## A Brief History of Al-Qaeda

### 1989

Osama bin Laden founded an international group known as Al-Qaeda, which in Arabic means “the base.” It was formed primarily of Mujahedeen, meaning Holy Warriors, and others fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan. The three men, Osama bin Laden, Zawahiri, and Dr. Fadi, formed the group when they met in Peshawar in Pakistan. The creation of the group brought together extraordinary Saudi wealth, the experience of a lifetime of Egyptian militants, and the philosophical foundation for jihad from a Cairo intellectual.

### 1990

U.S. Forces arrive in Saudi Arabia in preparation for the Gulf War, angering bin Laden when he had offered the Saudi royalty his Mujahedeen to defend his kingdom from Iraq. The Saudis selected the U.S. Forces. Consequently, a rift developed between bin Laden and the Saudis.

### 1993

Osama bin Laden sets up militant training camps in Sudan and begins searching for nuclear materials and weapons.

A 500-kilogram bomb explodes in a garage under World Trade Center in New York, killing six and injuring 1,042. Osama bin Laden’s associate Ramz Yousef is sentenced to life without parole in February 1998 for orchestrating the bombing.



Al-Qaeda supporters attack U.N. Troops in Somalia, killing eighteen U.S. servicemen.

### **1995**

Al-Qaeda tries unsuccessfully to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Seven people, including five Americans, are killed when two bombs explode at a U.S. Saudi military facility in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. Osama bin Laden is blamed.

### **1996**

With Osama bin Laden expelled from Sudan, Al-Qaeda moves its operations to Afghanistan. Iran sponsors the reorganization of Al-Qaeda with Osama bin Laden as its leader.

Osama bin Laden followers bomb U.S. military base near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing nineteen American soldiers and wounding hundreds of Americans and Saudi Arabians.

### **1998**

Bombs explode at the U.S. Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing more than 220 people and injuring 5,000. The U.S. retaliates with air strikes against suspected training camps in Sudan and Afghanistan.

Osama bin Laden calls for attacks on American citizens.

A U.S. Federal grand jury indicts Osama bin Laden in the bombing of U.S. embassies in Africa.

### **2000**

Two suicide bombers, suspected to be associated with bin Laden, attack the navy destroyer *U.S.S Cole* in Aden, Yemen.

### **2001**

A U.S. district court jury finds four of Osama bin Laden's followers guilty of conspiring to kill Americans, including those killed in the U.S. bombings in Africa.

Osama bin Laden releases a taped message, which many believe are the orders that triggered the upcoming attack on the United States on September 11, 2001.

Osama bin Laden threatens attacks on U.S.

The September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, Washington, and Pennsylvania kill close to 3,000 people. Al-Qaeda is blamed within days of the attacks.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. launches air strikes in Afghanistan at Al-Qaeda training camps and Taliban bases. In a videotaped message, Osama bin Laden praises God for the September 11th attacks and swears America will never “dream of security” until “the infidels” armies leave the Land of Muhammad.

Al-Qaeda spokesman Suleiman Abu Ghaith issues a statement calling for a Holy War against the United States.

Shoe bomber Richard Reid tries to blow up an American Airlines jet over the Atlantic.

## **2002**

The United States ends its sweep through the mountains of Afghanistan, Operation Anaconda, but most of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda disappear.

## **2003**

Chechen rebels, believed to be loosely affiliated with Al-Qaeda, storm a theater in Moscow and take the audience, actors, and crew hostage. Russian Special Forces use gas to retake the theater and kill everyone, including the forty-one hostage takers.

Shoe bomber Richard Reid is sentenced to life in prison.

Pakistani and U.S. agents arrest Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, one of the suspected masterminds of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the United States attacks Iraq.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, U.S. President George W. Bush declares “mission accomplished” in Iraq.

## **2004**

Bin Laden releases an audiotape calling on Muslims to continue “the Jihad” to check the conspiracies launched against the Islamic Nation.

Bombs on commuter trains in Madrid kill 190 people and injure 1,800. More than a dozen suspects are later arrested. Many of them are from Morocco and are believed to have ties to Al-Qaeda.

An audiotape believed to be Ayman al-Zawahiri, No. 2 in Al-Qaeda, is broadcast on Al Jazeera, calling for the overthrow of the government in Pakistan.

## **2005**

Transit system in London attacked -- 52 People killed by British born Muslim suicide bombers trained in Pakistan

## **2006**

Jordanian militant Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, the leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, is killed in a U.S. military operation.

And so on . . .

## **Conclusion**

It is very apparent that any act of terrorism around the world is now being tied to Al-Qaeda; whether they were connected or not is now seemingly immaterial. This is the way that American intelligence now works: Blame Al-Qaeda for everything. Pretty soon, North Korea will be connected to Al-Qaeda and Kim Jong-Il will be a distant relative of Osama bin Laden.

## **The Prison System in the United States**

A host of experts was present at a Joint Economic Committee Hearing on October 4th, 2007, conducted by Senator Jim Webb. Entitled “Mass Incarceration in the United States: At What Cost?” it was to determine the reasons behind the growth of the prison population in the United States, comparing the results with the other countries in the world.

The questions that needed to be answered were:

Did it correlate with the increase in crime?

What were the economic costs of maintaining the prison system?

What were the social costs of mass incarceration?

What policy solution could alleviate this crisis while maintaining public safety?

The October report confirmed the following facts:

*1. The United States has the highest reported incarceration in the world*

United States: 756 Inmates per 100,000 of the U.S. populace

Russia: 611

New Zealand: 186

Every other country in the world: Below 148

The world average is 166. The level total is affected specifically by the United States and Russia. Compared to its democratic, advanced-market economy counterparts, the United States has more people in prison by several orders of magnitude. Although crime rates have decreased since 1990, the rate of imprisonment has continued to increase. Why?

*2. The United States prison system has enormous economic costs associated with prison construction and operations, productivity losses, and wage effects*

In 2006, the United States spent an estimated two billion dollars on prison construction, three times the amount they spent fifteen years earlier. The combined expenditure of local government, state governments, and the federal governments for law enforcement totaled over 200 billion dollars annually. In addition to these costs, the incarceration rate has significant costs associated with productivity of both prisoners and ex-offenders. The economic output of prisoners was mostly lost to society while they were imprisoned. Negative productivity

effects continue after release. This wage penalty grew with time, as previous imprisonment could reduce the wage growth of young men by some 30 percent.

*3. The prison system has a disproportionate impact on minority communities*

African-Americans, who are 12.4 percent of the population, are more than half of the prison inmates, compared to one-third twenty years ago. Although African-Americans constitute 14 percent of regular drug users, they are 37 percent of those arrested for drug offenses, and 56 percent of persons in state prisons for drug crimes.

*4. Much of the growth in the prison population is due to changing policy, not increased crime*

Many criminal justice experts have found that the increase in the incarceration rate is the product of the penal policy and practice, not changes in crime rates. Changes in sentencing, both in terms of time served and the range of offenses meriting incarceration, underlie the growth in prison population.

*5. Changes in drug policy have had the single greatest impact on Criminal Justice Policy*

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 created mandatory minimum sentences for possession of specific amounts of cocaine. The United States Sentencing Commission found that African-Americans were more likely to be convicted of crack cocaine offenses, while whites were more likely to be convicted of powder cocaine offenses. Mandatory minimum sentences for low-level crack cocaine offenders were comparable (and harsher, in certain cases) to sentences for major drug dealers.

*6. The composition of prison admissions has increasingly shifted toward less serious offenses, characterized by parole violations and drug offenses*

According to one study in 2005, highlighted in the Fed-CURE Report of October 2007, four out of five drug arrests were for possession while one out of five was for drug sales. The crime history for three-quarters of the drug offenders in state prisons involved non-violent or drug offenses.

*7. Prisons are housing many of the nation's mentally ill*

The number of mentally ill in prisons is nearly five times the number in inpatient mental hospitals. Large numbers of mentally ill inmates, as well as inmates with HIV, tuberculosis, and hepatitis, also raise serious questions regarding the costs and distribution of health-care resources.

*8. America faces an epic problem of reentry*

The number of ex-offenders reentering their communities from state and federal prisons increased fourfold in the past two decades. On average, however, two out of every three released prisoners will be rearrested, and one in two will return to prison with three years of release.

At this point in time, there are approximately two million inmates in prisons across the nation; approximately 270,000 inmates are released annually. Are they trained to reenter society? Of course not. Such training costs the Department of Corrections extra money and they are not prepared to spend money on what they consider a lost cause. The fact is, the Department of Corrections makes money on every prisoner they house, but the services that the funds are supposed to provide never happen. The would-be decision-makers spend the minimum on the inmates and keep the balance for their own salaries and bonuses.

Yet the state of Florida boasts on its web pages that its vision is “to utilize effective and innovative correctional strategies that make Florida’s Department of Corrections the “Best in the World.”

What a joke!

Further references can be found in the testimonies of Dr. Glen Lowry of Brown University and Dr. Bruce Western of Harvard University.

From Dr. Lowry:

*First, I wish to emphasize that with the advent of the mass incarceration policy we have witnessed an historic expansion of coercive state power, deployed internally on a massive scale. Violent crime peaked in the early 1990s and began what has proven to be a long, precipitous decline.*

*As a result of this policy, the American prison system has grown into a leviathan unmatched in human history. Never has a supposedly “free country” denied basic liberty to so many of its citizens.*

*As of December 2006, some two-and-one-quarter million persons were being held in nearly 5,000 prisons and jails scattered, like an archipelago, across America’s urban and rural landscapes.*

*Incarceration is now being used in the United States on an unprecedented scale. We imprison at a far higher rate than any other industrial democracy in the world. We imprison at a higher rate than Russia and China, and vastly more than any of the countries of Europe.*

*And it is costing us a veritable fortune. Spending on law enforcement and corrections at all levels of government now totals roughly a fifth of a trillion dollars per year. In constant dollars, this spending has more than quadrupled over the last quarter century.*

From Dr. Western:

*Three types of policies would help alleviate the social and economic effects of mass incarceration.*

*1. Congress should reexamine the large number of collateral consequences limiting the access of ex-felons to federal benefits and employment. Many restrictions, such as limitations on education, welfare, and housing benefits do not serve public safety, but impede the*

*reintegration of the formerly incarcerated and penalize family members.*

*While restrictions on benefits or employment might be justified if they are closely linked to particular crimes, such restrictions should be strictly time limited, given the strong pattern of criminal desistance with age.*

*2. Congress should support prisoner reentry programs that provide transitional employment and other services. Well-designed programs have been found to improve employment and reduce recidivism. Research suggests that community-based reentry programs should ideally be integrated with education and other programs in prison and also provide housing, drug treatment, and health care to improve the job readiness of released prisoners. Post-prison employment would be encouraged by passage of a Second Chance Act of 2007. Employer incentives can be promoted through expansions of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Federal Bonding Program. Taken together, these three measures would provide an important first step to a comprehensive federal reentry policy.*

*3. Congress should support the establishment of criminal justice social impact panels in local jurisdictions that can evaluate unwarranted disparities in juvenile and adult incarceration. By assessing the link between socioeconomic disparities in offending to disparities in incarceration, local, social impact panels could identify and take steps to eliminate disproportionate incarceration in poor and minority communities. Social impact panels could also be charged with assessing disparities that may arise under proposed sentencing reforms.*

Senator Casey called it a “human tragedy” and a “fiscal nightmare.” Yet, after the Conference on Mass Incarceration and the above-mentioned recommendations, has the government considered any of this?

Hell no!



The above report is really the basis of this story, and includes the real true-to-life facts that all our two million inmates have to endure in our sadistic correctional institutions. Many are falsely accused and sentenced by local county judges, based not on the articles or contents of our Constitution, but on their own theories and whims. After all, they are the “county gods” and they make the decisions.

But if you’ve got money, never fear—then all the rules change!

This report specifically also does make reference to what effects of being rich and famous or a sports hero or celebrity (all of whom are treated like some kind of royalty) have on the sentencing, and the concessions that are made to those with connections to powerful political friends, relatives, and those who have friends and relatives in high places.

In the United States, regretfully, money and power can free any criminal for whatever he or she has done, despite the Constitution and despite international agreements that we, as a nation, agreed to uphold. Then again, we are the Americans and rules and agreements are for all the other nations in the world, not us! You see, we are special. We can do what we want without any consequences. There are many examples that can be drawn upon.

Regretfully, the real problems facing America are the influences and the ambitions of the super-rich, the power in the hands of the leaders of the mega corporations and their right-hand messenger, corrupt Republican politicians in Washington D.C., and in the state governments that are the puppets to the corporations. Even the Supreme Court has now become a puppet to the corporations.

The other issue we still have is the white supremacy racism that is still very much alive in America. No matter what President Obama does, it is wrong; America just doesn’t want an African American President!

What the story does reiterate are the horrific conditions that the United States inmates have to endure during their incarceration in the hellholes we falsely call our correctional institutions.

Let's face the facts: There is nothing "correctional" in our institutions except a giant cover up on their web pages geared to the general public, and the truth is never disclosed. There are no educational programs, no training programs, and no reentry programs. Nothing!

If anyone followed the Constitution, one would assume that being locked away and separated from your family and loved ones was the penalty one was paying for the crime. This was the accepted world standard. .. but not in America. Oh, hell no, that's the furthest from the truth!

The staff at the institutions are selected from the untrained, uneducated, and those that can be brainwashed by sadistic wardens and staff to abuse and harass the inmates for the duration of their incarceration. So not only are they imprisoned for their crimes, they are also abused, cursed at, and treated like dirt for the duration of their terms. This is nothing like the world standards.

A typical quote from a guard at the Martin Correctional Institution in Florida as confirmed by an inmate, clearly defines their training, if you can call it that, and the direction the institutions lead them to: "Listen, you mother fucker, I don't give a fuck if you're in here for a year, five, ten, twenty years, or even life, my job is to make your life here as miserable as possible every day you are here. Understand, mother fucker?"

This is the atmosphere inmates have to live with every day. This is the mentality of the United States Correctional Institutions. Then the general public is amazed when a released inmate goes out looking for some kind of revenge, as happened in Seattle recently in 2010, (this is explained further on). Would you blame them?

Just for the record, there are 100,000 inmates in 137 facilities in Florida alone and over 2,000,000 inmates across the country. Every state is different, and the management obviously varies from one state to the other.

The October report confirms that all inmates, irrespective of how many years they have spent in these hellholes, are not prepared in any way to deal with society. The prisons, or "correc-

tional institutions” as they are falsely called, have no programs to assist the inmates on how to deal with and adjust to society when they are released, while most other countries do.

Many references in this book are made to the Florida Department of Corrections from information provided by the personal experiences of various inmates, and as written in the publication *Prison Legal News*. Florida’s correctional system, by reputation, is one of the worst in the country, with California, Louisiana, and Texas close behind. Interestingly the FDOC has just banned the *Prison Legal News* from the inmates. One wonders why? Texas is still one of the states that uphold the death penalty, and recently we found that an innocent inmate was put to death because the governor didn’t take the time to look at the applicable documents involved in the case. Ah, the power of life and death.

How the other states compare is not defined, but perhaps they were not quite as bad, but still miles from international world standards.

Ironically, our leadership, right from the top, has always worried about what others in the world are doing, completely ignoring the conditions of our own people: the poor, the homeless, the sick, and those falsely incarcerated.

In Florida, upon release, inmates are thrown back onto the streets with no friends, no help, and no funds. Many are without any family to turn to. Friends they had have all disappeared; they are alone. They cannot get jobs because the government has decided that a felon is not capable of doing any work and is a risk to society. They are the undesirables of society, not trustworthy souls. So what is left for them?

Yet the DOCFL web pages boast that their mission statement for reentry into society through their vision statement is “to utilize effective and innovative strategies that make Florida’s Department of Corrections the “ Best in the World.” Who wrote this farce and what planet did he come from?

In Florida, what is left for the felon? Being homeless, becoming a beggar? Returning to crime. No one, seeing the word ex-felon on a job application, would ever hire an ex-inmate, a felon.

So Florida punishes them with incarceration, then continues the punishment for all the time they spent in their facilities, and when they release them, they find out their lives have also been destroyed and taken away from them. This is U.S. justice!

This, regretfully, is the truth.

It is no wonder that statistics prove that two out of three will be rearrested and one in two will be back in jail within a two-year period.

Thus, the U.S. system not only victimizes these inmates throughout their terms, unlike the rest of the world, but they also destroy any futures they might have. On release, their careers are destroyed, their credentials unacceptable.

The sad truth is that perhaps death would be a better alternative, and more humane, than to force the ex-inmates to live in a society where they are thought of as lepers were in the old days and seen as dangerous, violent, killers. Besides, it would save the United States a lot of money. Think about it: Two million inmates are incarcerated at the present time.

The real sad part of this is that a large number of these inmates are first offenders and many have been falsely incarcerated for crimes they didn't even commit due to the corruption of our lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and police officers.

Don't for a minute think it doesn't exist. It does!

But this is America, the land of plenty. If you have money, it's easy. You pay the sum and walk away a free man. The fact is that money can buy you anything—specifically freedom, despite the crime. Murder, rape, kidnapping, sex offenses, extortion, anything, it doesn't matter—you got money, you're home free.

Look at Michael Jackson, for example; he paid twenty-three million to a family to drop the sexual abuse charges against him. There was no court case, no charges; he was a free man.

Look at Michael Vick, the football star. "The Dog Killer" was sentenced to a 30-year jail sentence and walked back onto the football field eighteen months later.

Money! Lawyers for large corporations and the NFL settle the deals.

Another football player, Donte Stallworth drove under the influence and killed a man. There was no charge and a thirty day sentence. He was suspended from football for a year! Justice? What about the dead man's family, what do they get? Oh yeah, Stallworth paid them off.

Look at the Catholic Church and all the molestation cases. Millions and millions have been paid out to victims of the church, but everything is kept quiet. It's interesting that the Irish Catholic Church just announced a payout to sexual abuse victims of fourteen billion dollars. How many priests or bishops do you see in correctional institutions? None? Right! Money

Yeah, it's American justice. Welcome to the "fourth world country," the world of corruption.

## The Invisible Invasion



## CHAPTER 1

# The Meeting

### *Hindu Kush Mountains*

THE SANDSTORM HAD BLOWN UP SUDDENLY, WHICH really wasn't that unusual in these rough, ragged, and totally desolate mountain ranges of the Hindu Kush. It was a regular occurrence, but it made life in the region miserable. It was ironic that both sides—the United States and their NATO allies (or forces against the Taliban and other Arab/Muslim insurgents who had joined the Jihad to rid the countries of the foreigners, specifically the Americans)—were now fighting over sections of land that was totally arid, barren, and virtually useless desert-like terrain, unsustainable for any crops or any type of crop or farming, yet soldiers were dying defending this land . . . for what purpose?

The gunfire and mortar fire never stopped around them. Each side had dug their way into small gullies amongst the rocks, moved other smaller boulders and rocks around to fortify their positions as much as they could amongst the barren landscape, and still tried to stay hidden from the enemy. Most of the random firing was just waste, as neither could see the opposition, but occasionally, with a lucky stray bullet, someone was hit. It could have been on either side and neither side would ever have even known it.

The sand from the storm blew into the roughly crafted enclosure through every crack, between the wooden frame and the canvas enclosure and the natural rock surface of the cave. The lanterns flickered as the wind blew into and around the naturally carved out space of the cave. Bottles of water were



passed around regularly to keep the participants as comfortable as possible in these dry and inhospitable spaces.

The meeting had been in full progress for many hours, when suddenly without warning, he got up from his seated position, up onto his legs, stretched his lanky body, his legs and arms then stood still. The room instantly fell silent. He took another mouthful of cool water to quench his dry mouth and throat. All eyes were on him. They could see that he was deep in thought. He didn't speak often, but when he did, everyone listened. That was the kind of respect and allegiance they all had for this man. He was quiet for quite some time as he reflected on the past.

After the Soviets evacuated from Afghanistan, the Taliban quickly moved in and took control. The Taliban's strict rule toward its own people and the degradation of women was condemned by most nations in the world, including the other surrounding Arab countries. Their extreme cruel treatment of their women was unbelievable. Their destruction of their holy monuments like the Buddha statues was unforgiveable.

Then without any warning, out of the Western sunset, a hero appeared on the scene, just like in the movies, in the form of President George W. Bush in the United States. With his political group, he managed to maneuver the United States into a war to liberate the Afghanistan people from the cruel Taliban. He also managed to convince the United Nations that the NATO forces, led by the United States Army, should intervene, free the people of Afghanistan, and introduce them to the world of democracy. Why? Nobody knew, but it sounded good.

So it came to be that the United States led the NATO allies on an invasion of Afghanistan and pushed the Taliban back into the Hindu Kush Mountains, and then set up a new government in Kabul to govern the country. All of this was done based on theory and not on reality or realistic conditions within the country itself.

The Kabul government leaders had no interest in saving the country, only looking after their own personal interests, and the money that flowed into Afghanistan ended up in their own pockets, the pockets of the Kabul elite politicians and certainly

not in the hands of the general population. The United States and its allies never really understood the culture of the country, and failed to understand what the British and the Soviets had experienced during their occupation of the land.

Not understanding the real country of Afghanistan and its multi-cultural entities, the Bush regime just kept pouring money into Kabul to the unofficial government. Did they really believe that suddenly overnight, lo and behold, a democracy would appear in the mist of the dust storms in Afghanistan and suddenly stabilize the entire Middle East?

The problem was more deeply rooted than that. The fact was that George W. Bush never really understood what democracy was in the first place, as America had become almost a dictatorship under his regime. But what business did the United States and the Bush regime have going into any country in the world and dictating how that country should be governed? Wasn't that really the responsibility of the people of that country to make their own choices, their own decisions?

But the "Lord Protector of Democracy in the World," George W. Bush, of course didn't agree! He was going to save the world!

With the Taliban back in the mountains and a government, if you can call it that, set up in Kabul, Bush declared "mission accomplished" and began to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, as did all the other NATO allies. Was Afghanistan ready to assume control of the country or would the Taliban just waltz back in and take over again as soon as the U.S. and NATO forces had left? That was the question.

The real fact was Kabul was as corrupt as could be and totally incapable of governing anything. If the U.S. and NATO forces pulled out, the now-wealthy politicians would move to a safe haven in another country, thereby allowing the Taliban back into power to rule over Afghanistan as they had done before.

The billions of U.S. tax dollars Bush sent to Afghanistan ended up in the pockets of the politicians; their army, if you could call it that, was still incapable of doing anything. They saw none of the money, and the people of Afghanistan saw nothing! So what had they achieved? Very little, except to make the

U.S. corporations working in Afghanistan richer and the local politicians richer.

Then September 11, 2001, occurred and a group calling themselves Al-Qaeda hijacked several United States commercial airlines and flew them into the two World Trade Center Towers—killing an estimated 3,000 people—and the Pentagon. The fourth plane never made its target, as the passengers sacrificed their own lives and brought the plane down in an open field.

The shocked nation couldn't believe what had happened. The terrorist group had made its first attack on the United States. Bush vowed to bring Al-Qaeda and bin Laden, their leader, to justice.

By this time, the paranoid George W Bush, the hero, now declared that Saddam Hussein—the same Iraqi leader his father George Bush Sr. had defeated along with NATO and allied forces during the Desert Storm campaign—had weapons of mass destruction. He stated that Hussein could attack Israel and the United States, and thus he should be taken out and a democratic government be placed in Iraq to rule that country.

The intelligence reports contradicted each other because they were all manipulated by the CIA under instructions from Bush and party. Thus, the United States intelligence confirmed that Saddam did, in fact, possess these weapons.

The United Nations inspectors disagreed!

But Bush was on a mission. They had to take out Saddam Hussein so they could set up a model democratic government in Iraq and bring complete stability to the Middle East, or at least that's what he told the American public.

Then, to further justify attacking Saddam Hussein, Bush tried, in vain, to convince everyone that Saddam Hussein was connected to Al-Qaeda, which, of course, was also false, like all his other ideas and lies. But, regrettably, the American people and Senate took his lies as truth and he invaded Iraq.

So Bush, almost unilaterally ignoring the United Nations and most of its NATO allies, attacked Iraq under false pretenses and consistent lies. Most of the U.S. forces in Afghanistan were relocated to Iraq to fight in their second war. Once

again, Bush and the Americans were totally unprepared for the consequences, and with no concept of the countries multiple cultures—the Shiites, the Sunnis, the Kurds, and so on. The invasion on Baghdad was quick, but it didn't just end there. Now the actual work began. The fighting was now only beginning.

Then the truth became known: The invasion of Iraq was to show the world the stockpile of Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. But, oops! There were no weapons of mass destruction. There never had been.

Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, the CIA, and all the intelligence agencies had manipulated the facts and had fabricated, lied, and misled the United States public and politicians into the war illegally.

Most allies refused to get involved except the British, Canada, the Australians, and some others. But, after years, years of unproductive fighting, and numerous losses of lives, they too withdrew.

The truth was that it was all about the oil, the massive construction contracts, and security agreements with independent organizations, like Black Water, who all had connections back to Bush, Cheney, and the other politicians back in the States. Also, it was to prove to the world what a great, powerful nation the United States really was.

In reality, it was money for the rich and powerful back in America.

The new temporary Iraqi government that was set up, and ended the same way as it did in Afghanistan with the politicians getting rich and the public dying with each suicide bomber. It was a disaster! The Americans unknowingly had walked into a civil war between the Shiites and the Sunnis.

So much for American intelligence.

Over 4,000 United States soldiers lost their lives in the continual fighting in a war the United States should never have started, specifically, without any justification. But Bush had this thing about bringing Saddam Hussein down at any cost, and the serious long-term consequences were irrelevant to Bush, Cheney, Rove, and Rumsfeld. Saddam had to be taken out!

The death toll of enlisted men and women now exceeded those that died on September 11, 2001. That does not count the dead Iraqi soldiers, police officers, and civilians.

For respect and dedication to the deceased soldiers, Bush vowed to give up playing golf. Yeah, that lasted for two weeks!

The soldiers who had been in Afghanistan were, of course, shipped to Iraq, leaving Afghanistan unprotected due to an inept corrupt and incapable government. As expected, the government slipped back into the hands of the drug lords and Taliban again. The government's own forces were totally incapable of doing anything, and the politicians in Kabul took the billions of American taxpayers' dollars and added it to their own coffers.

It was again all about . . . money and power.

The lives of the common people were irrelevant!

The true facts were that there was no victory in Iraq, and there certainly never was one in Afghanistan either. There were no weapons of mass destruction. The U.N. inspectors had confirmed that before the invasion. Yes, the invasion into Baghdad was quick but the quick "mission accomplished" declaration that Bush made was only another misguided pipedream. But now no one was listening to his lies, as the bodies of American soldiers were transported home for burial.

The war was a financial disaster for the United States for both Afghanistan and Iraq. Nothing was accomplished; the fighting between all the various factions continued for years. As the occupation continued, no stable governments were ever achieved in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, thousands of foreign troops, mostly American, were killed in the conflict. Thousands of local Iraqi and Afghan soldiers and innocent civilians were also killed, but no one counted them. Truth be known, the politicians could not have cared less. Oh yes, kind words were uttered when appropriate, but nothing changed. One by one, the allies deserted the Bush regime, leaving the Americans to clean up the mess. Meanwhile, a billion taxpayer dollars a month was forwarded to Iraq by the United States government, but not a cent was directed to the victims of Hurricane Katrina or America's sick, poor, and homeless.

With U.S. forces still engaged in Iraq, the reborn Taliban negotiated with Pakistan—another so-called ally and recipient of millions in foreign aid money—and came to certain arrangements in Afghanistan where the Taliban was again recruiting soldiers and more freedom fighters, the Muslim mujahedeen, to rid their land once again of foreign invaders. This time it was the Americans.

For them it was a Holy War (Jihad), as the Taliban guerillas regrouped in the mountains west of Kabul, ready to strike again to regain their land, just like they had done against the Soviets, and now the United States again.



*Almost ten years later, in the Hindu Kush Mountains*

Somewhere in the rugged mountains between Afghanistan and Pakistan, inside a makeshift cave, a prearranged meeting was taking place near Kanabad, in an area controlled by the Pashtuns, a group that had always protected Osama bin Laden and kept his whereabouts a secret. In fact, they moved him around from one hideout to another so no one ever knew where he was really located.

After almost ten years of occupation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and sections of Pakistan, with all the resources of the United States at his beck and call, George W. Bush, the incompetent U.S. President, and his self-righteous cronies, had failed their mission of bringing the leader of the group that was responsible for September 11, 2001, Osama bin Laden, to justice.

But hey, they had kept America “safe!” Oh, yeah!

Thousands of American soldiers were dead, more than had died on September 11, 2001.

Osama bin Laden was the same man that Bush had vowed to the American public to bring to justice. The fact was that Bush didn’t give a damn. He had caught Saddam Hussein, and that was all that mattered. Of course, the Iraqi war was putting millions of American taxpayers’ money into his own pocket and those in his regime and U.S. corporations.

Osama bin Laden. Oh, yeah. Who is he again?

In fact, history will record that George W. Bush was one of the worst and least popular presidents ever in the history of the United States. In fact, everything that George W. Bush undertook was misguided and questionable.

Money and power prevailed.

The truth was that Bush only worked—and the term “worked” can be taken very loosely—one-third of his eight-year term, with vacation the rest of the time. But this suited Cheney, Rove, and Rumsfeld to run wild and blame every Arab and every Muslim for the September 11, 2001, event.

Now if you wore a turban and had a beard, you were automatically assumed or classified as a terrorist, and all of a sudden all the Muslims across the country came under suspicion. Consequently, many were arrested to prove to the country that Donald Rumsfeld’s Homeland Security forces were at work protecting this country from all the terrorists.

This group meeting had been secretly planned with the Al-Qaeda leaders, including the elusive Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind Al-Qaeda, and the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center attack in New York City in the United States.

They had sat there for hours discussing a long list of issues but without any resolutions. Osama bin Laden sat there silently listening. The main purpose of the meeting was to come up with a solid, concrete plan that they could organize against the United States and its allies, basically to get all the unwanted foreigners out of their Arab lands: Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and all the others. Their attempts to push democracy down the throats of the Arabs were futile.

Why didn’t they try and force democracy to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia? That was the question, Money and power again.

Let’s face it. Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have never been democratic nations before. Why start now? Just because the disillusioned George W. Bush, United States President, or should we say dictator, thinks that every country in the world should be a democracy. Well, think again. It’s not going to happen. If we all were to become democracies we would all live happily ever after like in a fairytale. Ha! What a joke!

Finally, Osama bin Laden stood up, stretched his aching bones, and then slowly looked around at his compatriots and smiled. “My friends, we need a new plan, some new ideas, not another suicide bomber, but something substantial to make them again take notice and to confirm that we are not lost, but in fact they are.”

He took another drink of water to quench his dry mouth. All eyes were on him. After all, he was their undisputed and unequivocal leader. The soiled cloth wrapped around his head, his long, dirty hair that hadn't seen soap or water for days, his shaggy long beard that cascaded from his weatherworn chin and face were commonplace to many of his followers in the group, but it was his eyes that stood him apart from the others. The burning fire in his eyes was very clear, and his passionate hatred of the infidels, the non-believers, was very clearly written over his face. Whenever the names of Bush or Cheney were mentioned, you could see his face cringe almost automatically. Yes, they were the enemy that had sent foreign troops into many of the Muslim countries under false pretenses.

Power and money.

The Soviets had left, and now it was the Americans they had to deal with.

Over the years, many nations had tried to tame Afghanistan: the British, and next it was the Soviets who tried to conquer the land, and they failed, too. Now it was the Americans that were there, to ultimately fail as well. No one really understood the makeup of the Afghanistan nation or its cultures that interlaced the region.

Bush invaded Afghanistan supposedly on humanitarian grounds, due to the cruel and harsh oppression of the Taliban on the people of Afghanistan, especially the women. Perhaps one could argue that the invasion of Afghanistan was warranted to oust the Taliban for their cruelty and for their connections to Al-Qaeda. The intent was to push the cruel, barbaric Taliban, the seemingly ruling party, back into the Hindu Kush Mountains to the northeast adjacent to Pakistan. Then the plan was to set up a new democratic government with the standard elections, cre-



ate a new democracy for the people of Afghanistan, give them resemblance of a peaceful life, and give the people back their rights, especially the women.

The NATO forces led by the United States did achieve some degree of success, but the job was never completed. United States poured millions into Afghanistan, but as usual, the politicians located in Kabul became very wealthy and the common folk saw nothing.

The government left in Kabul was totally corrupt to the <sup>n</sup><sup>th</sup> degree with the financial foreign aid again going straight to the politicians and the U.S. corporations working in Afghanistan, and lining the pockets of Bush, Cheney, and numerous other United States politicians.

The losers were the United States citizens whose taxes went overseas and back into the pockets of the U.S. corporations, and the other losers were the people of Afghanistan who also got nothing from the financial windfall.

The major problem was that Bush had this thing, this passion to bring down the regime of Saddam Hussein. This overshadowed everything else. Besides, as far as Bush was concerned, the U.S. had plenty of money to spend on the wars, or so his regime reasoned. Or was it the corporations again looking for huge profits with an invasion of Iraq? Oh, yes, Bush and his compatriots would all benefit substantially from the U.S. corporations.

Finally, bin Laden spoke again.

“My friends, what right does this American President Bush have to invade any country, and then tell them how to rule their own land? It’s not his decision. Then to try and create a democratic government in that land, when he himself is almost a dictator in his own country and his own government is a complete failure? But still he has the nerve to stand up and say that a democratic society, a democratic nation, will bring stability to the Middle East. He doesn’t understand that his departure will bring stability back to the Middle East.

“To Bush and his regime there are only two things that matter: money and power.

The lives of the American people are totally irrelevant, and the lives of American soldiers are expendable without any remorse or feelings. In Iraq alone, over 4,000 American and NATO soldiers have lost their lives, all because of Bush's greed for more oil and money. The lives of the Iraqi and Afghan people are never even mentioned anywhere.

“Yes, our target is still the United States and Bush. As I said before, we need a new plan ‘The Revenge of the Tiger.’ That will be our new motto. This time it will be something they will never forget. Pass the word around to all our operatives around the world. Thank you again for coming today. We’ll meet again in a month’s time and look at our options again. Perhaps our next meeting will be more productive.”

“We hope so!”

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