

Losing the War on Terror: America's next big blunder.
By Sebastian Roberts *
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Remember when America went into Iraq and Afghanistan after the attack on the Twin Towers in New York (Sep 11, 2001)? We were told by some people in Washington that this was a "War on Terror." We were told that other nations would need to make a choice and stand with us or against us. Others in Washington told us that this would be another quagmire much like Vietnam had been. Perhaps we should stop listening to Washington and think this through for ourselves.

First of all, it occurs to me that we might be playing soccer with a football, so to speak. America claims to be fighting a war on terror, but what is the enemy doing? Bombing each other, like they are doing in Baghdad, Egypt, Syria, Libya, and Iraq doesn't create terror in Peoria. Bombing a bus in India, England, or Dagestan doesn't create terror in Paducah. If the enemy was trying to terrorize Americans, they would not be killing us. They would be making us afraid. One must conclude that the enemy is not running about terrorizing each other and the west. The enemy is just plain fighting a war. They just want to kill us.

So what is America really doing? American soldiers are fighting for their lives every day, but are they fighting a war? Is there an identifiable enemy or just a bunch of people who want them dead? In the early days of the Iraq conflict, it looked a lot like a real war, but not since then. Our soldiers are not fighting against terror either. An improvised explosive device is not designed to terrorize the soldier. It is designed to kill him.

So, the fact that the enemy is trying to kill us is proof that the enemy is fighting a war. American soldiers are fighting in an almost gangland style conflict. It is violent and bloody, but it is not a war.

Where is the terror? I fear it comes from Washington itself. We are told that we are being terrorized. Personally, I don't get it. I am not afraid to go down the street and am not afraid to fly from here to California. But I am being told that I should be. The government is telling us that in order to be safe, we need to do this and that and succumb to searches and invasions of our world because the government says the next guy in line might possibly be a bad guy.

From all appearances, the government is fighting a public relations campaign, not a war. Any terror we Americans feel comes from being told we must be afraid by the government. With this in mind, the similarities between the last ten years and the ten years between 1964 and 1974 become clear. Our soldiers are fighting. Our citizens are being subjected to political theatrics. Our military leaders are hogtied by the political war being fought on the front page.

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