

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Crusade

**"THIS CRUSADE, THIS WAR ON TERRORISM, IS GOING TO TAKE AWHILE.
AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MUST BE PATIENT." ¹**

GEORGE W. BUSH — SEPTEMBER 17, 2001

The Call to Battle—God Wills It!

George W. Bush first invoked the language of Crusade to describe the task before him and his government when the World Trade Center site was a mountain of freshly smoking rubble. International outrage at the use of the term was immediate, so Washington quickly smothered the reference, but the message had been sent, loud and clear. Over the past two years it's become increasingly apparent that George Bush considers himself divinely chosen to lead the United States in a global Crusade against any nation it chooses, with terrorism as foil and pretext. "God told me to strike at Al Qaeda," he said to Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas in June 2003, "and I struck them, and then he instructed me to strike at Saddam, which I did."² Bush's Crusade is not the first, and his Crusading Christian predecessors felt they were similarly instructed from on high. Pope Urban II launched the very first Crusade in 1095, exhorting the people of France to do battle with the Muslims by proclaiming: "I, or rather the Lord, beseech you as Christ's heralds to...destroy that vile race from the lands of our friends." The cry of that first Crusade became: "DIEU LI VOLT!" (God wills it!)³

Pax Americana

While it might be difficult to predict exactly where (or at whom) God might tell George Bush to strike next—Syria? Iran? North Korea?—the Crusade for a Pax Americana, an American-designed global "peace," already has an earthly blueprint. It's called the National Security Strategy Report (NSSR), presented to Congress in September 2002. The "Strategy" amounts to an enormously presumptuous agenda for world domination—which assumes the president of the United States and his lieutenants are morally entitled to run the planet.⁴ Recent articles promoting Bush's evangelical faith as the moral center of the administration have primed the public to accept the inevitability of this "morally entitled" American destiny—a destiny Bush and his chief lieutenants, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Ashcroft, et al., believe in. They were hard at work on this New World Order long before George Jr. was given the White House. Back in 1992, then-Defense Secretary Dick Cheney began outlining a new doctrine that called for U.S. power in the twentieth century to be aggressive and unilateral, securing dominance of world affairs by force if necessary—an Orwellian "peace through strength." Over time, this evolved into the Project for the New American Century (PNAC), with members Cheney, Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz at the helm.⁵ PNAC's Pax Americana agenda has been unfolding from the day Bush took office, finally codified in the NSSR where the Bush Doctrine of pre-emptive war is blatantly spelled out: "While the United States will constantly strive to enlist the support of the international community, we will not hesitate to act alone, if necessary, to exercise our right of self-defense by acting preemptively against such terrorists."⁶ Bush and his fellow Crusaders had been waiting to mount up and ride—September 11th provided the perfect, biblical call to arms.

Apocalypse Now

Like the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse in the New Testament book of Revelations, unleashed upon the world to bring conquest, war, famine and death, George Bush and his lieutenants, Rumsfeld, Cheney and Ashcroft, ride forth in their divinely inspired Pax Americana vision of permanent war, an unending Crusade against the evil-doers of the world. The military actions taken in Afghanistan and now Iraq have resulted in the destruction of lives and the destabilization of the entire Middle East region. Under the banner of revenging 9/11, these Horsemen have spurred the charge to war, trampling over peacemaking attempts despite appeals from the world community. This has isolated the United States, created hostile feelings toward us everywhere, and engendered a whole new wave of terrorist recruits. To date, approximately 8,500 innocent Iraqi civilians and 336 American soldiers have died (172 of them since Bush declared an end to hostilities)^{7/8}, along with an unknown number of Iraqi soldiers. The war is costing America 1 billion dollars a week. These Horsemen show no sign of being appeased by the current war in Iraq, they're busy clanging their swords at those next on the list of evil-doers.

On September 17th, 2001, when George W. Bush first summoned us to this Crusade he cautioned that it would "take awhile" and that "the American people must be patient." We can't afford to be patient. Those who oppose this Apocalypse Crusade can no longer afford to confuse peace-ability with passivity. Authentic peace is no more passive than war. Like war, it calls for discipline and intelligence and strength of character, though it also calls for higher principles and aims. If we are serious about peace, then we must work for it as ardently, seriously, continuously, carefully, and bravely as our government now perpetrates war.⁹

1. The Associated Press 9/17/01

2. Chris Floyd for Counterpunch <http://www.counterpunch.org/floyd06302003>

3. Tom Rees Medieval Study Ring, www.brighton73.freeserve.co.uk/firstcrusade/overview

4. Robert Higgs, AlterNet, 2/18/2003

5. Mary Louise http://www.prisonplanet.com/analysis_louise_010603_pnac

6. www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss/html, p. 6

7. www.iraqbodycount.net

8. www.informationclearinghouse.info/article5039.htm

9. Wendell Berry, Orion Magazine, 2/10/03