

No More Mogadishus

by Earl P. Holt III

When his reelection campaign stalled in August of 1992, President George Bush Senior sent the U.S. Army into the east African nation of Somalia in a desperate attempt to garner black electoral support for his languishing candidacy. With a cluelessness that's nearly unique to the GOP's *donor class*, Bush failed to realize that most American blacks couldn't care less about Somalia, and only about *one-in-a-million* could successfully find that nation on a map.

After vowing never to raise taxes in two years of campaigning -- "***read my lips, no new taxes***" -- Bush was a goner the day he betrayed that promise. Sending troops to Somalia for "*humanitarian relief*" typified the kind of symbolic but emptyheaded leadership the "*Uni-Party*" has provided for decades. The only thing Bush accomplished was to get America pinned down in a Somalian civil war that sacrificed the lives of dozens of heroic American warriors, while exposing nothing but weakness and incompetence among our civilian "*leadership.*"



George Bush Senior Posing for a "Selfie"

Ostensibly, Bush's relief efforts in Somalia were intended to relieve its starving civilian population, caught in the middle of a power struggle between several clans in that hopelessly ungovernable nation of black savages. It was intended to be a nation-building mission, and a gesture toward what Bush had earlier termed the "***New World Order***" during his inaugural address in January of 1989. In reality, he foolishly assumed that he could attract desperately-needed black electoral support in return for his obvious *virtue signaling*.

American forces soon became embroiled in skirmishes with Somali clansmen after unwittingly and unintentionally uniting the latter in a unified effort to expel American interlopers. By December of 1992, we were deeply embedded in a Somalian civil war that made it difficult to successfully extricate America's military. Thus, the newly-elected president, Bill Clinton, found this mess when he assumed office, and probably felt obligated to continue this debacle.



Black Savages Celebrate on Downed *Blackhawks*

Eventually, what began as a humanitarian relief effort regressed into a war between the U.S. Army and numerous, unified Somalian clans. By early October of 1993, America was shocked and horrified at the spectacle of dead and naked U.S. soldiers being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu by cheering crowds consisting of the very people those dead warriors had helped to save from starvation.



A similar disaster involved our invasion of Iraq: following 9-11, our mission to eliminate the sources and sponsors of terrorism in the Middle East morphed into installing pluralistic democracies in predominately Islamic nations. The failure of such a ridiculous policy was inevitable, and even predicted by those of us with little expertise involving either Islam or U.S. foreign policy. As Reagan's U.N. Ambassador, Jeane Kirkpatrick earlier argued in a famous essay, ***“...it is not within the United States’***

power to democratize the world. (Jeane Kirkpatrick. "A Normal Country in a Normal Time." ***THE NATIONAL INTEREST***, Fall, 1990.) For Islamic states to evolve into pluralistic democracies would require a miracle rivaling *The Virgin Birth*, with or without America's help.



Jeane Kirkpatrick

For far too many decades, American politicians have used unrest in remote locales as an excuse to flex American military muscle as a virtue signal. Safely ensconced in the *Presidential Emergency Operations Center* under the White House, they were only too willing to sacrifice American blood and treasure to further their own political ambitions or to enhance their legacies.

The unwillingness of the second Trump Administration to fund Ukraine's hopeless war against Russia signals a wiser and more selective use of the U.S. Military. Likewise -- as Jeane Kirkpatrick advised -- it should be limited to those situations in which we have a vital, national interest.