

Editorial

Is Bush planning a new war?

The war against Iraq saved George Bush's *posterior*, to put it politely. From rightly being low in the popular estimation, he achieved a burst of popularity through his calculated brutality against a defenseless population. Bush rightly calculated on the degradation and stupidity of the American population, which is willing to buy into the myth that the Desert Storm *victory* shows the United States to be still a strong, thriving nation. Now there are signs that he is looking for a Desert Storm II.

He is known to model himself upon the disgusting President, Teddy Roosevelt, who believed that America and the British could, and should, bully the rest of the world into submission.

A new biography by Godfrey Hodgson of a Teddy Roosevelt protégé, Henry Stimson (who was defense secretary in the Taft and Franklin Roosevelt administrations, and secretary of state for Herbert Hoover), has a revealing quotation by Teddy Roosevelt on the value of little wars. Stimson himself—a member also of the secret society, Skull and Bones, to which Bush belongs—was a mentor of George Bush. Essentially, through his years in office, Stimson prepared the groundwork for Bush's fascist new world order.

It is worth quoting Hodgson because Roosevelt's nasty assumptions then are Bush's game-plan today. Hodgson writes: "In yet another respect, young Henry Stimson followed his hero Roosevelt. Like others of their generation they were fascinated and not at all repelled by war. 'If it wasn't wrong,' Roosevelt wrote in a private letter in 1896, 'I should say that personally I would rather welcome a foreign war,' and again next year, 'in strict confidence . . . I should welcome almost any war, for I think the country needs one.' "

The Spanish-American War, now widely admitted to have been deliberately engineered by the Roosevelt crowd, including the explosion on the *Maine* which was the pretext for the U.S. *retaliation*, was just such a convenient war. It was in fact pivotal in transforming the American cultural paradigm from the kind of genuine patriotism evoked by great leaders like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, into a nasty kind

of jingoism. Not coincidentally, the manifest destiny which Teddy Roosevelt intended the United States to live out, was in conjunction with British imperialism rather than—as in the case of Washington and Lincoln—in opposition to it.

So it is not surprising that George Bush is looking for a new war to keep his political momentum going, especially as his domestic problems on the economic front are assuming crisis proportions. This being the case, it would be wrong to dismiss signals that he may be following so closely in the footsteps of T.R., that he is actually planning a retake on the Spanish-American War.

On May 20, he made a statement, celebrating the anniversary of the liberation of Cuba, in which he asserted that the United States was committed to seeing a free Cuba. On the same day, the unofficial leakers, columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, mooted a new Cuban missile crisis.

According to them, on April 25, U.S. spy satellites discovered one or more SS-20 missiles located in Cuba. They also report intelligence findings that suggest Cuba may be developing a nuclear reactor capable of producing weapons-grade fuel.

This reminds one of the buildup to the Iraq war, in which unproven claims were made by the British that the Iraqis were building new super weapons and so on.

Another, earlier signal, came from former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick. She wrote a syndicated article in which she described Fidel Castro as so desperate because of his domestic problems that he might attack a nuclear power plant in Florida as a diversion. The scenario for a new Chernobyl, which she suggests, is certainly bizarre, but that is not the point.

John Stockwell, formerly high up in the CIA, agrees with our assessment. He has written a book, *The Praetorian Guard—The U.S. Role in the New World Order*, in which he warns that Bush is looking for a series of small wars to fight. Stockwell, like us, has a good record in anticipating Bush's moves. He too predicted the invasion of Panama.