

## Obama's Libya War: In Nixon's Footsteps

*President Barack Obama's defiance of his oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution, by violating both the War Power Clause (Article I, Section 8, Clause 11), and the War Powers Resolution of 1973, has drawn a broad range of opposition in Congress, both from anti-war Democrats and conservative Republicans, and from media commentators as well. Among them, is veteran journalist George F. Will.*

*On June 17, Will's column, titled, "Libya and the Potemkin alliance," in the Washington Post, drew the parallels between Obama's perfidy and that of President Richard Nixon, who chose to resign, rather than face impeachment. While pulling his punches on the impeachability of Obama's crimes, Will's reference to Nixon points in that direction:*

"...Recently, one-third of the House of Representatives—87 Republicans and 61 Democrats—unavailingly but honorably voted to end American involvement in Libya in 15 days. Were Barack Obama not taking a Nixonian approach to the law—the War Powers Resolution—his intervention would have ended last month. The WPR requires interventions to end after 60 days, absent congressional approval."

Will then knocks down the theory, espoused by some, that the WPR, "passed over Richard Nixon's veto," is "somehow a 'dead letter.' Their theory is that any law a president considers annoying, or Congress considers inconvenient, or some commentators consider unwise, is for those reasons nullified.

"Obama, a novel kind of commander in chief, explained in passive syntax that 'it is our military

that is being volunteered by others to carry out missions'....

"Disgust with this debacle has been darkly described as a recrudescence of 'isolationism,' as though people opposing this absurdly disproportionate and patently illegal war are akin to those who, after 1938, opposed resisting Germany and Japan. Such slovenly thinking is a byproduct of shabby behavior...."

### Obama Flaunted the Law

In an earlier column, dated May 28, Will wrote that President Obama is violating the War Powers Resolution by continuing military action in Libya:

"Enacted in 1973 over President Nixon's veto, the WPR may or may not be wise. It is, however, unquestionably a law, and Barack Obama certainly is violating it." Will notes that Obama did recognize the WPR in complying with its 48-hour reporting requirement, when he notified Congress on March 21 of the U.S. military action, while promising that it would be a "limited and well-defined mission."

But then, Obama flaunted the law, when, on the 60th day, rather than terminating the action as would be required by the WPR absent Congressional approval, he sent a letter to Congress with what Will calls the "meretricious" claim that the U.S. is "no longer in the lead" and is only providing "non-kinetic support." Will comments that "NATO would not act without us, and absent U.S. assets the Libya campaign would not continue."

Sen. Richard Lugar, the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, who Will says is "normally as placid as an Indiana meadow," was aroused, telling Obama that the WPR requirements have not been fulfilled.

Will reminds us that Obama initially promised that the war against Libya would be a matter of "days, not weeks."