

Iraq – A Son’s Revenge

Oedipus President

"The Iraqi people are looking at America and are saying are we going to cut and run again? We're not going to cut and run if I'm in the Oval Office. We will do our job,"

President George W. Bush Jr.

Although George W. Bush’s statement was meant to show America’s resolve to stay the course in Iraq, it also showed something else - an extraordinary insight into a son’s oedipal struggle to prove his father wrong.

George Jr.’s statement, “are we going to cut and run *again*? We’re not going to cut and run if I’m in the Oval Office.” was a direct slap at his father, former President George Bush, Sr.; because, if George Jr. is to be believed, Bush Sr. cut and ran in Iraq when he was President one decade before.

It was previously thought George Jr. invaded Iraq, in part, to avenge a failed assassination attempt on his father by Saddam’s secret police. It now appears George Jr.’s motive may be far different and much less benign.

It is said Bush Sr. favored George Jr.’s younger brother, Jeb, and hoped that Jeb, not George Jr., would follow in his political footsteps. If so, George Jr. has decided to make his father pay for his misplaced favoritism.

Peter and Rochelle Schweizer wrote in their book, “The Bushes, Portrait of a Dynasty”, that in 1994 when Jeb lost the governor’s race in Florida and George Jr. won in Texas, George Jr. talked to his father on the phone and afterward complained: "It sounds like Dad's only heard that Jeb lost. Not that I've won."

But George Jr., a willful man, is not one to be so easily denied his father’s love. Not only did he become the son that would become, as his father, President of the United States, he decided also he would be a better President.

Some believed George Sr. had made a fatal mistake by not removing Saddam from power when he had the chance. So, when George Jr. became President, he surrounded himself with the very men— Cheney, Rumsfeld, and Wolfowitz - who believed his father had erred.

George Jr., as President, would not make the mistake his father made. Instead, like the son he is, he made the mistake his father consciously chose not to make. George Jr. instead unleashed the ungodly forces of Muslim fundamentalism that his father’s advisors adamantly counseled George Sr. to keep contained by not removing Saddam from power.

It now appears George Sr. and his advisors may have been right and Cheney, Rumsfeld, and Wolfowitz wrong when George Sr. chose to let Saddam stay in power. This is not to say that George Sr. did not make any mistakes. In retrospect, I think we all wish George Sr. had hugged George Jr. a lot more when he was a child.

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