

Book Excerpts from [*America's Destruction of Iraq*](#)

[More about the book is available on the website and blog at http://www.warfare-inc.com/](http://www.warfare-inc.com/)

1. Page 57:

To invade a country without using all the forces at our disposal was a crime. We obviously didn't plan for the enemy we would be fighting against, or the fight itself. How could we have with the results we got?

We never went up against the Iraqi army. Instead, we were up against the insurgents from the first day of the war. Yet our leaders and military commanders never adapted to a situation they hadn't foreseen or planned for, and as a result they never changed their strategy. If they didn't plan for it, then it was treated as though it wasn't happening, as though it couldn't happen. Other than invading in the first place, this was the biggest mistake of the war. The entire administration from the President on down, including Rumsfeld, Powell, Tenet and Franks, thought it would be a pushover without taking the time to find out what they were getting our country into, or what would happen after we got there.

The United States failed for far too long to adapt to the changing situation on the ground once the fighting got underway. Getting the United States into the war on flimsy grounds was one thing, coming up with a flimsy invasion plan was another, but not adapting to the changing environment and the realities of the war on the battlefield was inexcusable.

2. Page 67:

Charged with all aspects of reconstruction and governance Paul Bremer proceeded to reinvent Iraq, in effect creating a new Iraq complete with a constitution, a rule of law, civil works, and something resembling a democracy. Bremer was placed in charge of the Coalition Provisional Authority, the CPA, to accomplish all this. Many of the steps Bremer took were well intentioned, did a lot of good, and helped a lot of Iraqi people. But everything he did went down the drain when he made two decisions. These decisions have led directly to the deaths of tens of thousands of Iraqis:

1. In the effort to cleanse Iraqi society of any vestiges of Saddam's regime, Bremer dissolved Saddam's personal political party, the Ba'ath Party. Anyone of consequence in Saddam's regime, and in Iraqi society, was a member of the Ba'ath Party, similar to being a member of the Communist Party in the former Soviet Union. A "Who's Who" of Iraqi society, one had to belong to the party to get ahead. To rid the country of this cancer, Bremer "de-Ba'athified" it. When he did so, he purged everyone in the country down to its lowest civilian ranks. This resulted in the firing of everyone who had any knowledge of the basic functions of government, e.g., the mid-level bureaucrats who ran the governmental institutions throughout the country, to include the provinces and towns.

2. But the other decision Bremer made was far more critical, making the one described above appear inconsequential by comparison. Without public notification, and in the face of overwhelming opposition from anyone aware of his plan, he dissolved the Iraqi Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior, the parent organizations of the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi National Police.

3. *Pages 146-147:*

J-7 [the DoD construction branch in Iraq] continued to build military installations for the Iraqi Ministry of Defense without any clear land title. Who knows how many individual projects have been signed for by MOD and MOI, of the thousands J-7 has constructed on their behalf over the past ten years? J-7 may have gotten the documents signed at some point, but about ten years late. Even if these documents have all been signed, what difference does it make if the projects never had clear title to the land they were built on? Everything J-7 did was a violation of Iraqi property law, and ran counter to the United States' intent of "transition" from the Coalition to Iraq's responsibility for its own destiny—under rules of law we were supposed to be following. It was also lousy accountability of U.S. Government funds on a grand scale.

About 10 months into my tour I was told by the first deputy chief of J-7, the Mississippi school teacher, that General Dempsey had received word of all the claims for land that had been illegally taken from its rightful owners, essentially by J-7. (There were 125,000 claims for the wrongful taking of privately owned land in Iraq.) According to the J-7 deputy, LTG Dempsey ordered a halt to all Ministry of Interior construction projects being done by J-7. When I heard this I was pleasantly surprised to hear that LTG Dempsey was finally taking action on this important issue. I assumed a similar order would be coming down from LTG Dempsey regarding Ministry of Defense construction projects too. But I never heard a thing about this. J-7 was doing the exact same thing regarding the illegal taking of land for both MOI and MOD projects, but a "cease work" order never came down regarding MOD. J-7 simply continued building camps for the Ministry of Defense like it always had. It was very likely a similar order would be coming down from LTG Dempsey regarding MOD, yet J-7 continued taking land from its rightful owners without any legal transfer or title documents. It was going to keep taking land illegally for the construction of MOD camps until it got caught and ordered to stop by LTG Dempsey.

4. *Pages 153-154:*

We convoyed to the camp at Ur, going straight to the camp commander's office for chi (tea), which is Iraqi custom. Then we set out to inspect the camp for the warehouse site. Afterward we were asked if we wanted to see the rest of the camp. We said fine and started our "tour." That's when I saw something I will never forget. The camp had been built by J-7 for the Iraqi army, using one of the four U.S. construction companies as the General Contractor, with local labor. This was how J-7 constructed all camps for the Iraqi army. The buildings were all made with white sheet metal skin on the outside, like a "Butler Building" in the States. The interiors were concrete stucco and tile, very typical in Iraq. But what got my attention was the condition of the buildings. I have mentioned how Iraqis trash their buildings, but the camp at Ur took this to another level. Urine and feces were all over the latrine floors. Holes in the floors used for commodes didn't work because they were so clogged up. The plumbing didn't work, water was leaking everywhere, tiles were popping off the floors and walls, and windows were falling out of their frames onto the ground outside. The lack of trash cleanup was one thing, but the physical condition of the facilities was another. The buildings were so poorly constructed they were completely falling apart. Cleanliness would have helped, but superficially at best. The construction of the buildings at Ur was the worst I've ever seen in my life. The condition of this camp was so incredible I took pictures, and have included them in this story. The camp and its buildings were a year and a half old.

J-7 never included facility maintenance in its budget for these camps, nor did it include training of the Base Engineer to keep the facilities under his charge running efficiently for any length of time. J-7 just went in and built these camps on land the Ministry of Defense didn't own, then walked away. Not only did it fail to get the Iraqis to accept and sign for the work, it failed to get any useful life out of the facilities it built by providing a budget for training and follow-on maintenance. Anyone who knows anything about commercial facilities knows this. What of the cost for these facilities at Ur? Based on the amount of construction and the

type, I thought the camp and its buildings might cost \$5 to \$10 million dollars. I asked the Project Manager from the U.S. construction company that did the work, and he gave me a very direct answer—\$118 million! Not only was this a huge absurd, it also pointed to the very real possibility of fraud. It was difficult to come to any other conclusion.

5. *Page 167:*

When I started working at MOD, I saw what the Iraqi people were going through as a result of the war. The hallway walls in the MOD building had photographs of MOD staff killed within the preceding weeks. There was once a picture of a very pretty young woman in her early 20's. I asked my translator about her. She said the girl had left the MOD building one afternoon at the end of the day, and walked down the street to the main gate for the IZ called "Assassins Gate." The girl went through the checkpoint and was standing on the sidewalk just outside. A shot was fired from a car driving by, and she was killed. There was no apparent reason for her killing. She wasn't involved with insurgents or other bad people. They probably just felt like killing someone leaving the IZ because they worked for the Coalition or the new Iraqi government. I wonder what the person who shot her was thinking. I doubt it was anything like, "Hey, she's pretty cute, I wonder if she's available for a date." Probably more like, "Kill the pig whore who works for the infidels." Nice guy.

One day my translator told me about her trip into work that morning. She and her father drove to the MOD together. They were turning a corner and there was a pile of dead bodies on the sidewalk. I asked how many there were and she said, "around 25 or 30." About a mile from the MOD building, just beyond the IZ wall, a house was discovered with 60 decapitated bodies. Yet the whole time he was MNF-I commander General Casey insisted everything was fine and the Iraqis could take over any time they wanted. General George Casey was incompetent. There's no other way to put it. All of this was happening right under his nose—for two and a half years.

6. *Page 209:*

The best example of this was the security contractors who protected United States military flag officers—generals and admirals. Every day I saw civilian security contractors guarding U.S. general officers. They were driven around in black up-armored Chevy Suburbans, with an entourage of plain clothes "security contractors" wherever they went, sunglasses and all. I think it made the officers feel like rock stars. There was no legitimate explanation for it. (Whenever a general in Iraq or Afghanistan was photographed he always had his helmet off so his face could be seen by the cameras. He was out of uniform, but a good photograph was more important. So much for setting the example to his troops by wearing his helmet.) If the governor of a state goes someplace he or she is protected by plain clothes state police. The President and Vice President are protected by the U.S. Secret Service. They aren't protected by civilian contractors. But U.S. general officers in Iraq were. This was absurd. If security contractors were doing this, which was clearly the job of a soldier, then they were doing what soldiers do, which means they were mercenaries. Today the U.S. employs mercenaries around the world.

The way our Government got around this was with semantics. Security contractors in Iraq were called PSDs, for Personal Security Detail. In the case of general officers, contractors were providing "personal security" protection for them. "Security contractor" made it sound like security guards protecting an office building so the American people wouldn't know what they really did for a living. PSDs like Blackwater, Triple Canopy and others, were fully equipped combat forces capable of engaging with any enemy in Iraq. The truck driver hauling fuel was there because the U.S. Army no longer has enough drivers. PSDs were protecting high-ranking officers because we didn't have enough soldiers to do it, which was their job. Only in rare cases did I see U.S. soldiers providing security for general officers, like they did for LTG Hunzeker.

We allowed PSDs in Iraq for two reasons: 1) our military is no longer big enough to do its job, and; 2) we continue to feed the military-industrial complex that President Eisenhower warned us about all those years ago. Well, here we are. If we didn't have PSDs, maybe we would have to increase the size of our military. But the private security companies wouldn't be making all that money. One would think they are indirectly responsible for limiting the size of our armed forces. We are hiring PSDs to cut corners and "privatize" how we fight our wars, just like a Federal agency hires private contractors to augment its lack of full-time employees. When you privatize warfare, you've got a mercenary force for hire. What is there not to understand?

7. *Page 219:*

I wanted to do something in Iraq, to get something done and serve a useful purpose. I went to Iraq for the adventure, but also to add more experience and accomplishment to my life. I wanted to make good money, who doesn't? But I really wanted to earn it. That was my first mistake. And I wanted to be treated with respect, which was my second. I was barking up the wrong tree from the day I got off the plane at Baghdad International Airport. The lowest private was a field marshal compared to the most experienced civilian contractor in Iraq. Because he was wearing a uniform, the private had more power than the highest paid contractor. At the PX (Post Exchange) in the IZ there were two lines at the checkout counter, one for soldiers and one for everyone else. There would be a couple of soldiers in their line, and 50 people in the other one. Whenever a register opened up, they would call for the next soldier to come up, while we stood there and watched. Our line moved only when the soldiers' line was empty, or when one of the people at the register felt sorry for us. We'd wait for 30 minutes while a soldier wouldn't wait at all, he'd just sail right through.

All the stuff we hear about the military "volunteering" to go to places like Iraq and Afghanistan is mostly nonsense. They might volunteer to join the military, but most of them have no desire whatsoever to go to Iraq. This is especially true of the Reserves and the National Guard. They volunteered, but this wasn't supposed to happen. They were just supposed to do a weekend a month and two weeks in the summertime, and get their monthly pay check. They weren't supposed to actually get deployed!

Contractors made good money in Iraq but didn't wear uniforms. That's all that mattered, but the psychology of it made sense. Because most of the military didn't want to be there, especially reservists, and because contractors got paid more than they did, they could use their uniforms to screw with us. It was their way of coping. We were their scapegoats. It was nothing more than petty jealousy and an outlet for their anger.

8. *Page 231:*

This complete lack of financial accountability started in 2004, because that's when MNSTC-I was created under the initial command of General David Petraeus, the same officer under whose command 190,000 weapons were lost. General Petraeus was the commander, and as such he was responsible for everything that occurred during, under, and within his command. Yet he was never held accountable for this little 'mistake.' If the loss of 190,000 weapons could be brushed aside and not impede his promotion to four-star general, what else has been brushed aside in Iraq that we don't know about? The things I experienced firsthand happened under the command of LTG Martin Dempsey. And like General Petraeus, he got his fourth star, and was eventually promoted to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the senior officer in the United States military.

Every month LTG Dempsey held a Transition Readiness Assessment (TRA) run by MNSTC- I, which he personally chaired. The TRA was "Death by PowerPoint." The PowerPoint slides would go on and on, in graphic splendor, and everyone's eyes would glaze over. The print was so small you couldn't read it,

and it covered the entire page of every slide, the worst use of this otherwise effective presentation tool. The purpose of the TRA was to track every aspect related to the “transition” from Coalition to Iraqi control at the Ministries of Defense and Interior—yet the Iraqis were not invited to the TRA by LTG Dempsey. I attended many of these TRA’s during the 14 months I spent in Iraq, and never saw an Iraqi officer or senior MOD civilian there. I was in Iraq for eight months of LTG Dempsey’s tour of command. Colleagues of mine who had been in Iraq the entire time LTG Dempsey was in command of MNSTC-I told me they had never seen any Iraqis at the TRA. The absence of Iraqis at the TRA was obvious enough to me and my colleagues that we talked about it frequently. How could the Iraqis play a role in their own transition if they weren’t at the TRA to see what the Coalition was doing for them, was planning for them, and what was about to be transitioned to them that they would soon be responsible for themselves? How could the TRA be held if the client wasn’t there to provide input? For that matter, how could General Casey continue telling President Bush the Iraqis were doing great and could take over any time they wanted, when they weren’t even invited to the TRA to discuss the transfer of responsibility from the Coalition over to them? In reality, nothing was being transitioned over to the Iraqi Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior, so maybe that’s why LTG Dempsey didn’t feel the need to invite them. That’s the way everything was done at MNSTC-I.

9. *Page 263:*

The United States invaded Iraq in March 2003 on the *assumption* that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction—WMD—and was ready to use these against us, and others. This deserves to be repeated:

The United States invaded Iraq in March 2003 based on the assumption—actually based on the hope—that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction, when in fact we had no solid evidence to support this at the time, and twisted what little information we had to justify the pre-determined decision to invade.

The threat that Saddam possessed, and was ready to use, WMD has been proven to be a fabrication by the President of the United States, who was driving a bandwagon his subordinates jumped on. As far back as 1997 it was known by the experts that Saddam did not possess WMD, nor had the capability to produce them in any usable amount: “There are no indications that there remains in Iraq any physical capability for the production of amounts of weapon-usable nuclear material of any practical significance.”¹⁰⁶ The lack of any proof supporting the WMD claim existed before we invaded Iraq. Hindsight has only served to confirm this, as this chapter will explain. The point needs to be made again: if there was no solid, verifiable proof that Saddam Hussein possessed WMD, that means the United States made up the ‘evidence,’ and sold it to the American people and the world, with the help of demigods like Colin Powell.

10. *Page 268:*

The CIA was used as a means to an end. It was used as a prop by the Bush administration to support the bogus claim that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction. And because he wanted to continue ‘sitting at the table,’ George Tenet sold his own agency, and many close friends, down the river. What Colin Powell did was worse. He sold our country down the river. Both men’s ego, arrogance, and cowardice allowed them to go along with a false invasion plan of a country they had no proof was a threat, and they lacked the courage to tell their boss how they felt, or how flimsy the evidence for invasion actually was.

Curveball was the main reason George W. Bush used to invade Iraq in March 2003. The Germans had him detained, so he was easily accessible. Yet, George Tenet made no attempt to get his own

interrogators to Germany to question Curveball in person prior to the invasion. The CIA made no attempt to verify Curveball's intelligence, allowing WINPAC to push it out of the way. Tyler Drumheller describes in detail how John McLaughlin, deputy CIA director, essentially blew smoke in the face of the Silverman-Robb Commission, just like George Tenet did. Cowardice and ego led both of these high ranking CIA officials to forsake their integrity, and allowed their country to get sucked into a meaningless war because that's what their boss wanted. How many lives have been lost as a result of their actions?

Time has a way of clearing the air, however. On February 16, 2010, Fox News filed a story about an Iraqi defector named Rafid Ahmed Alwan al-Janabi. Mr. al-Janabi was none other than "Curveball," the Iraqi who was our single source of intelligence on Saddam's WMP program. He was recanting his entire story, and admitted his claims that Iraq had biological weapons, a premise used to justify the 2003 U.S. invasion, were completely fabricated:

A defector whose claims that Iraq had biological weapons were used in justifying the 2003 U.S. invasion has admitted that he lied to help get rid of Saddam Hussein, The Guardian newspaper said Tuesday. "They gave me this chance. I had the chance to fabricate something to topple the regime."

11. Page 273:

David Cameron, the British Prime Minister, has called on the western democracies to prepare for a "terrorist caliphate" on the shores of the Mediterranean if the Islamic State isn't stopped. Yet, while he says airstrikes alone aren't sufficient, at the same time he refuses to commit ground forces, which makes no sense. But what does Mr. Cameron expect? In the spirit of goodwill, Britain has been allowing Muslims to enter the country by the thousands for decades. The most popular name given to newborn males in Britain is Mohammed.

Barack Hussein Obama has ordered airstrikes, which have been effective at the point they target, but are a pinprick compared to what is needed. The guy who promised he would not take vacations if elected president plays golf on Martha's Vineyard while Iraq explodes. As Obama opens the southern border of the United States to any alien who wants to walk in, does anyone think IS militants are not part of this wave? If Barack Hussein Obama swore to defend the Constitution of the United States, how does his violation of our national sovereignty square with that oath? It doesn't, but Congress will do nothing to stop him.

Attorney General Eric Holder wanted the Justice department to conduct a criminal investigation of the beheading by the Islamic State of American journalist James Foley. How on earth did he plan to accomplish this, or did it just fly out of his mouth like everything else he says? Did Holder think his FBI agents would be able to interview witnesses and press criminal charges? Where does Mr. Holder get the idea he can do anything he wants in a foreign country. But he's Eric Holder, and he works for Barack Hussein Obama. They can do whatever they want.

Such are the responses of the Obama administration to the growing threat posed by the Islamic State. David Cameron's point is clear: if the Islamic State isn't stopped very soon, before it starts growing legs, Britain and many other countries will be in serious trouble. Islam is taking over Western Europe. It only needs to make the leap across the Atlantic and it will be knocking on our door, if it hasn't already started infiltrating our country thanks to Barack Hussein Obama.