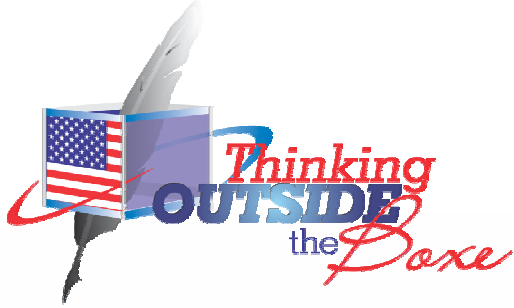


Better the Devil You Know

Thinking Outside the Boxe supported the U.S. decision to go to war in Iraq last year, and we continue to be troubled by the seemingly endless violence that has claimed many military and civilian lives from coalition forces since the end of combat. Though much progress has been made in the name of democracy, the recent escalation of violence in Fallujah has brought great attention to the future of the country—particularly with respect to relations with the Shia majority. The support for Moqtada al-Sadr now seems to jeopardize the timetable for transferring power to a new Iraqi government. The civil unrest has continued to prompt criticism from many nations and individuals opposed to the military action that deposed Saddam Hussein and resulted in U.S. control of Iraq. As a result of these factors, we believe that there is only one solution to end the violence and satisfy those who have been opposed to the war in Iraq—return Saddam Hussein to power.

Whilst this may initially seem a radical idea, we believe there are a number of benefits to doing so. We suspect that his fall from power and subsequent capture would serve to humble and reform Saddam Hussein in some small way. His removal from power is analogous to a brief expulsion of an unruly child from school. The expulsion is intended to garner behavioural reform for the child's eventual return to studies. Saddam Hussein's expulsion from Iraq should have provided him first hand experience of the consequences of his actions with respect to defiance of many United Nations' resolutions and efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction. We believe that a reformed Saddam Hussein would be much more cooperative with the United States and United Nations in the future if he were returned to power. Knowing that he could be removed with little ease should keep him in check—particularly if the terms of restoring him to power included the continued presence of coalition forces in Iraq. Of course, his return to power should be predicated on normal, friendly relations between Iraq and the United States.

Returning Saddam Hussein should also help heal divisive wounds between the United States and countries such as France, Germany, and Russia (all of whom opposed the military action that led to his removal but whose intelligence communities all

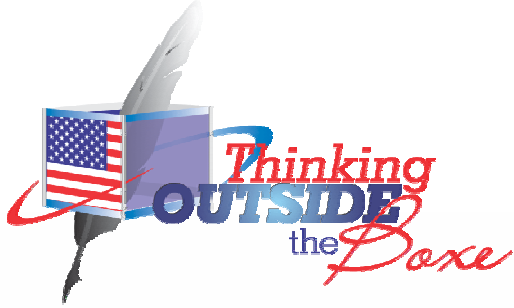


suspected that he possessed programs to develop weapons of mass destruction). With a more cooperative and friendly Saddam Hussein regime in place in Iraq, the country's oil industry may flourish as a result of increased foreign direct investment—perhaps leading to some downward pressure on oil prices in the long-term. In addition, countries such as France, Germany, and Russia could resume their previous business ties to Iraq and Saddam Hussein. As a result of restoring a reformed Saddam Hussein as president of Iraq, world opinion of the United States may actually improve along with relations between nations divided by the war in Iraq as well as the United Nations which also opposed the U.S.-led military action.

Those who are rioting against the U.S. presence in Iraq along with those who are killing military personnel and innocent civilians must prefer the old, oppressive dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein over the prospects offered by U.S. efforts to install a democratic government. Returning Saddam Hussein to power should be giving the people of Iraq what they apparently want—a strong, unifying dictator known for human rights abuses. Perhaps the people of Iraq also believe that their former leader has been reformed by his removal from power and subsequent incarceration.

Finally, we can only surmise that the violence that has gripped the streets of Iraq in recent months would end. The actions in recent weeks and months with respect to civil violence has prompted fears of a civil war in Iraq. It is likely that returning Saddam Hussein to power would eradicate the possibility of civil war in the country and suppress any civil unrest—either willingly or unwillingly. This should not only end the killing of coalition military personnel and innocent civilians but should enable many troops to return home to their families. Incoming United Nations' peacekeepers should be able to handle much lesser responsibilities in Iraq if Saddam Hussein and his followers were returned to power. Further, this should squash any talk in the United States by political figures of a Vietnam quagmire.

We believe that everyone deserves a second chance. Perhaps it is time to give Saddam Hussein a second chance. All evidence indicates that what Iraq needs right now is a strong leader who is able to unify and keep the people under control. Saddam Hussein—the reformed evil, oppressive dictator—is the likely person to accomplish this. Besides, the world runs the risk of



Iraq coming under the control of radical factions and leaders.
We say: Better the devil you know than the devil you don't.

