

## *DEADLY BETRAYAL*

*The Truth About Why the United States Invaded Iraq*

Dennis Fritz

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### **Robin Ramsay**

Of course, the first thing I did was google the author's name. Currently he is director of the Eisenhower Media Network, a dissenting group of ex-US military.<sup>1</sup> He served in the Air Force and the book says he was 'command chief master sergeant' who 'held two of the Department of Defense's highest enlisted positions' – apparently top of the tree of the non-officer personnel. On his bio for the Eisenhower Media Network he writes he was 'Principal senior advisor to 4-Star Commanders at . . . Pacific Air Forces and Space Command'<sup>2</sup> and the book contains many references to him talking to the most senior officers and politicians. Even so, precisely what Fritz's position was remains unclear to me.

Centrally, Fritz has written a critique of the misuse of the US military by a section of the American political system – the neocons of the first decade of the 21st century. In part this was motivated by the notion of 'credibility'

For example, on July 27, 2001, Rumsfeld sent a memo to National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice titled 'Iraq.' The memo stated that 'A major success in Iraq would enhance U.S. credibility and influence throughout the region. If Saddam's regime were ousted, we would have a much-improved position in the region and elsewhere.' Rumsfeld says nothing here about our national security, only emphasizing 'credibility.' (p. 34)

However, in Fritz's view the US invasion of Iraq was done largely on behalf of Israel. 'The Iraq War was part of the neocon plan to dominate the Middle East in support of Israel.' (p. 57) It doesn't get much more blunt – or more timely – than this.

The second reason why we invaded Iraq was to start a proxy war on

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<sup>1</sup> <<https://eisenhowermedianetwork.org/about/>>

<sup>2</sup> <<https://eisenhowermedianetwork.org/staff/dennis-fritz/>>

behalf of Israel by eliminating its enemies, Hamas and Hezbollah . . . Benjamin Netanyahu has always wanted to take Hamas on in Gaza with street-to-street, house-to-house fighting, regardless of the loss of innocent Palestinians. However, we would not give them the green light because Israel or the US would not be able to overcome the outrage of the international community. Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz had the answer: go after the so-called state sponsors of terrorism, namely Iraq, Syria, and Iran.

A cabal headed by Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, Doug Feith, and [Newt] Gingrich formulated a strategy to crush Hamas's and Hezbollah's military and financial support networks in Iraq, Syria, and Iran. Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz believed that these groups' hostilities toward Israel prevented peace between Israel and Palestine. A memo Feith prepared for Rumsfeld to send to Condoleezza Rice noted, 'in order to have peace we must change the status quo of the culture and the leaders'. Basically, they wanted to destroy Hamas and Hezbollah by dissolving the governments that backed them. (pp. 36/7)

There is intermittent but substantial redaction in this book. Part of the text – and one of the footnotes attached to the quoted section above – are given the badge of honour of being blacked-out. Griffiths continues just below the redacted text

The documents I found that discussed going on the offensive for Israel surprised me. I understood that Israel was our ally, but I couldn't comprehend why some officials felt the need to initiate a war on behalf of another country—a war that could negatively affect our national security and set the Middle East on fire. Why were we invading Iraq on behalf of Israel? How was Israel driving our foreign policy in the Middle East?

The answer he offers is the influence of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the neocon American Enterprise Institute (AEI).

The premier neocon think tank [AEI], counted Dick Cheney as a former Senior Fellow. When he was chosen to lead President George W. Bush's transition team, he surrounded Bush with fellow AEI members, placing them in key positions: Scooter Libby, Elliott Abrams, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, Newt Gingrich, Doug Feith, Peter Rodman, and Abe Shulsky, who was to Feith what Karl Rove was to Bush, the strategizing brain behind many of Feith's manipulative talking points. In fact, approximately twenty members of Bush's cabinet came from AEI

Many of our elected officials, including members of Congress, are highly influenced by the pro-Israel lobby, of which American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) which is the largest and most powerful. (p. 39)

The name which recurs most is the relatively obscure Douglas Feith.

I place a lot of the war's blame squarely on Doug Feith's shoulders. Most of the deceit was devised by him and his immediate—and secretive—inner circle: Peter Rodman, Abe Shulsky, William Luti, and Paul Wolfowitz, who was probably the biggest war hawk at the Pentagon. This circle ran a special intelligence unit that undermined the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the CIA, and the State Department's efforts to find links between Iraq and Al-Qaeda, and to confirm that Iraq had WMD. There was always a question as to whether the Pentagon created this special unit or if it was a covert, unauthorized operation. Regardless, this unit definitely existed, Feith was behind it, and Rumsfeld allowed it to conduct its business. It seems to me as though they were breaking the law, since Congress funds the CIA to do that sort of intelligence business, not the Department of Defense.

Feith has strong ties to the pro-Israel lobby, as well as to Israel's right-wing Likud Party, which doesn't support a Palestinian state. In fact, I saw a note that Feith wrote where he proudly said that he was a good friend of Benjamin Netanyahu, and had made personal phone calls to him during the buildup to the Iraq War. Feith was the designated coordinator and point man to Israel. It concerns me when such a high-ranking individual in the American government is that close to the inner workings of another country, working as possible lobbyist for this country without disclosing his double allegiance. Condoleezza Rice even chastised Feith on several occasions for 'carrying the mail' for Netanyahu's Likud Party. (pp. 87/8)<sup>3</sup>

There is much more than the Iraq story in his account of the politics of the American military. Particularly notable is the extreme reluctance of the senior

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<sup>3</sup> Another former USAF officer, Karen Kwiatkowsky, is also now associated with the Eisenhower Media Network. See <<https://eisenhowermedianetwork.org/staff/karen-kwiatkowski>>. She wrote about Feith many years ago. I noted in *Lobster* 48:

'Among the most prominent whistle-blowers has been retired American Lt.-Colonel Karen Kwiatkowsky, whose views on the role of the Pentagon's Office of Special Plans, a unit within the Pentagon created to find or manufacture intelligence which would provide the pretext for invasion, were quoted in *Lobster* 47.' The Office of Special Plans was Feith's operation. However, in the long interview she did in 2004 she did not mention the Israelis.

officers to go against the politicians, even when they profoundly disagree with the policies. But it is the Iraq section which resonates at the moment.