

## Chapter 11d – National Defense: part 4

Nuclear weapons, CIA, coercive interrogation, homosexuals in military, women in combat

### A. Nuclear Weapons

- In Japan: Hiroshima (90-150,000 killed / 340,000 pop.) & Nagasaki (80,000 killed / 212,000 population) —Aug 6 & 9, 1945. 1 mile complete destruction, 2 mile radius for related fires.
- Purpose & Result: Surrender of Japan.
- 200,000 lives v. potentially 500,000 U.S. lives plus 100s of thousands Japanese lives if continued conventional warfare.
- Since '45 despite proliferation of nukes no others have been used. Why- overwhelming possession by peace loving nations

#### a. Which Nations have Nuclear Weapons Today?

1. U.S.- 5113 operational Nuclear Weapons (13,000 dismantled since '88), Russia- 5,200, + United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, N. Korea, & likely Israel. Iran aggressively seeking. Iraq stopped by Israel '88. al-Qaeda currently seeking.
2. Reasons to retain large numbers of Nukes. Destruction in wartime, launch failure, target failure. Others needed as a failsafe.

#### b. Can the world successfully abolish nuclear weapons?

1. Mere presence the primary danger? Disarmament? History shows – once a weapons is developed it never disappears. 1139 AD: Second Lateran Council abolished crossbows. 1899: Hague Convention banished bombing from airplanes.
2. Disarmament = Irrational defense policy. Would require a complete reversal of the course of all human history.

#### c. How can we effectively reduce the risk of using nuclear weapons?

- Deterrence by the credible threat of a superior nuclear force
  - Anti-missile defense system that will prevent nuclear weapons from reaching their targets
1. U.S. has a responsibility to maintain a clearly superior nuclear force that can defeat any potential attacker
    - 1a. To protect its own people (Rom. 13:1-4)
    - 1b. To protect its non-nuclear allies (also so that its non-nuclear allies do not feel compelled to attempt proliferation)
  2. Anti-missile defense systems could stop the need for immediate nuclear retaliation & stop nuclear explosions to begin with.
    - 2a. Conceived of by Pres. Reagan (“Star Wars”), effectively tested anti-missile systems now exist.
  3. Superior Nuclear force & Anti-missile systems, together, deter aggressor nations from engaging in nuclear warfare with the U.S. (due to our superior capability for offense & defense) & deter aggressor nations from overtly hostile arms races.
  4. U.S. disarmament would lead to a nuclear arms race for other nations.
  5. Obama nuclear weapons policy: wants 1,000 warhead maximum, killed Reliable Replacement Warhead program, CTBT, abandoned missile defense agreement w/ Poland & the Czech Republic, cancelled Kinetic Energy Interceptor project.

### B. The CIA – the primary organization that gathers and analyzes info. about other countries, especially enemies.

- a. The CIA coordinates America’s spy network abroad.
- b. To know about potential enemies and attacks prior to execution is a necessity. CIA has likely prevented immense harm to U.S.
- c. Spies in the Bible: Josh. 2:1, 1 Sam 26:4, 2 Sam. 15:32–37; 16:15–19; 17:5–22.
  - a. Despite the effectiveness of the CIA in preventing harm, it is treated with hostility and criticism by the media and Hollywood.
  - b. Members of the CIA operate at great personal risk. Honorable members far outweigh any breaches of conduct or unwise decisions.
  - c. Anti-CIA sentiment causes low morale for agency employees and hinders recruitment.
  - d. Opposition to the CIA as a *general attitude of mind* or a general policy position runs contrary to the national security of the U.S.
  - e. Congressional oversight is necessary, but has often been harmful and caused damaging leaks,
  - f. Christians who believe Rom. 13 and 1 Pet 2 should be supportive of the CIA rather than being instantly critical.

### C. Coercive Interrogation of Prisoners

- “Torture”? The word has too many meanings to too many different people. Just confuses the discussion.
- McCain’s amendment (had no exception language, though McCain believed there were exceptions)= current policy
- McCain’s position is contradictory and could be vindictive against those who are most responsible for protecting the nation.

#### a. Standard Policy – should be one of humane treatment in accord with the Geneva Conventions of 1949

1. Confinement is acceptable, not as punishment but as prevention (no laws broken by serving one’s nation in the military).

#### b. Exceptions

1. Terrorists forfeit POW status. 1) attack civilians, 2) disguised as civilians / out of uniform. = no Geneva Conv. Protection
2. Treatment of captured terrorist who has knowledge of or is currently complicit in an attack. “Ticking Time Bomb” Problem.
3. Moral obligation *within specified limits* to use compulsion under threat of immanent terrorist attack. (Ps. 82:4, Rom. 13:1-4).
4. Greg Boyd – but the terrorist thinks he/she is morally justified in his/her act.
  - 4a. Ans: terrorists 1) act contrary to historic standards for just war, 2) deliberately attack civilians= blatantly immoral acts
5. US image in terms of world opinions?
  - 5a. Terrorist enemies do not respect mercy, they respect superior strength.
  - 5b. Allies respect and depend on the U.S. to stop terrorist attacks.

#### c. Inherently evil actions should be prohibited in all circumstances, without exceptions

1. To commit actions that are in themselves always immoral, such as raping a prisoner, or cutting off fingers, toes
2. To deny medical treatment
3. To carry out acts of sadistic humiliation
4. To attempt to force a prisoner to violate religious convictions *that pose no threat to the U.S. or its defense*

5. To carry out actions that would shock the conscience of a U.S. court and cause lasting physical damage

d. *What kind of means of coercion?*

1. Acute pain that causes no permanent damage (ie. pressure points, etc.)
2. The Bible approves of the infliction of pain to compel right action in children, why not terrorists? (Prov. 13:24; see also 22:15; 23:13–14; 29:15).
3. Sodium Pentathol
4. Waterboarding – performed on our own troops in SERE training, Senate rejected amendment to make illegal, no permanent damage caused when used within appropriate guidelines. Obama issued executive order to cease its use.
5. Just War theory application – Daniel Heimbach on Charles Krauthammer’s appeal.

e. *But does it work?*

1. Michael Hayden, Michael Mukasey, William McSwain - significant results when used on al-Qaeda operatives.
2. Effective use of coercive interrogation techniques was known to Congress with no Congressional action to prohibit.
3. Having the ability to prevent mass murder and not taking the proper steps to do so is a great moral wrong.
4. Attorney General Eric Holder – threatening prosecutions for writing legal memos (!! ) and carrying out what Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel told CIA was legal. – Such threats cause institutional timidity in the DOJ and CIA.

D. Homosexuals in the Military

1. “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy: repealed by Congress 12-18-10, by 65-31 vote in Senate (8 GOP votes in favor)
2. Homosexuality is contrary to the moral standards of the Bible.
3. Elaine Donnelly of the Center for Military Readiness – “...homosexuals in the military, 24/7, would be unfair, demoralizing, and harmful to the culture of the volunteer force, on which our national security depends.”
4. 1,000 military officers sent letters to Pres. Obama asking him not to repeal DADT (including Commandant/s, Commander/s, General/s, & Admiral/s)
5. MOAA survey - 68% of respondents believe that repeal of the law would have a very negative effect (48%) or moderately negative effect (20%) on troop morale and military readiness.
6. Pres. Obama’s campaign promise was to seek repeal of DADT.
7. Final authority to decide: Congress: reflecting shift in much of US popular opinion

E. Women in Combat

1. Historically, in the US the position has been to not allow women to serve in combat.
2. Pressure to change this policy has come about over the past 30 years
3. Afghanistan – some women fighter pilots; Kosovo – 1993; 1<sup>st</sup> woman joined the Navy to be a combat pilot in '81.
4. Historic position of the U.S. (no women in combat) is the biblically correct position.
5. See *ESV Study Bible* article on War, p. 2555 (see Num. 1:2–3; Deut. 3:18–19; 20:7–8; 24:5; Josh. 1:14; 23:10; Judg. 4:8–10; 9:54; 1 Sam. 4:9; Neh. 4:13–14; Jer. 50:37; Nah. 3:13)

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