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This World War II kid has had it with post-modern America

I finally figured out why I'm so disgruntled by post-modern America. I'm a World War II kid.

Growing up during America's last total and constitutional war had a profound effect on me. Patriotism, for me, is a given. I once saw a bunch of high-priced journalists on one of those long-winded public-television shows in which they discuss hypothetical situations.

One of these scenarios was that you're a war correspondent with enemy forces and you learn that they plan to ambush an American unit. Would you reveal their plans to the Americans? I couldn't believe my ears. Some of the journalists had to wrestle with the idea, and others actually said they would not tip off the Americans, because it was their job to be neutral.

That is utterly inconceivable to me. If I

were a war correspondent, I wouldn't be with the enemy in the first place. But, if I did learn of an attack, I not only would tell the American forces. I would, if necessary, toss away my notebook, pick up a rifle and fight with them. How any human beings can imagine that their jobs override their duties as a citizen is incomprehensible to me. But not to a lot of contemporary Americans, which is why I'm an anachronism and proud of it.

Another belief acquired from growing up during the war was that the duty of the federal government was to do important things, such as defend the country against armed aggression. I can't abide a federal government that frets and fumes about people smoking or putting too much salt on their french fries and wimps out on defending the borders against unarmed immigrants. Most

contemporary politicians aren't fit to shine the shoes of Franklin Roosevelt or Harry Truman.

Nor do I care for or approve of unconstitutional wars (all since World War II) with the corollary that the military will fight them while the rest of the country sits back in comfort and either gets rich, ignores them or actually gives aid and comfort to the enemy.

I said 20 years ago that when the American people made Jane Fonda rich and famous after she had actively aided a foreign enemy that was killing Americans and torturing prisoners of war, I knew that the United States was down the tubes as a nation. Nothing has happened to change my mind.



CHARLEY REESE
OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

Today we have a philanthropic draft dodger as commander in chief. He's posturing and blustering about bombing a virtually unarmed, small Third World country. If Bill Clinton had to face a Nazi Germany or an Imperial Japan, he'd wet his pants. And if some of these \$50,000-a-speech generals had to fight an Erwin Rommel or Heinz Guderian or Yohji Yamamoto, they might not be worth so much

on the fried-chicken circuit. In the meantime, many Americans are clearly more fond of myths and lies than they are of facts.

Finally, I grew up believing that journalism was about reporting serious matters.

The way so much of the news media have gone the *National Enquirer* route annoys me. I guess, having grown up in an age of giants and heroes, I can't adjust to midgets, dwarfs and other variations of human spiritual, intellectual and moral deformity.

The generation that fought and won World War II set high standards not only on the battlefield but in politics and in journalism and in industry. It's hard to imagine today's pampered, ever-complaining multimillionaire athletes and entertainers voluntarily going off to war the way the Ted Williamses and Jimmy Stewarts did. If anyone had ever suggested to war correspondents such as Ernie Pyle and Edward R. Murrow that they stand neutral while American soldiers died, they would have punched his lights out.

Guess I know how Rhett Butler felt when he finally gave up on Scarlett O'Hara.

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Saw your recent show
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+ LOVE
booknotes)
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P.S. Am WWII kid, vstrally.
CHS.

The Orlando Sentinel

A pop quiz on the Middle East — answers may surprise you

Just so you can keep up with the perpetual crisis in the Middle East, I have a little quiz for you.

Question: Which country in the Middle East has nuclear weapons?

Answer: Israel.

Q: Which country in the Middle East refuses to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and bars international inspections?

A: Israel.

Q: Which country in the Middle East seized the sovereign territory of other nations by military force and continues to occupy it in defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions?

A: Israel.

Q: Which country in the Middle East routinely violates the international borders of another sovereign state with

warplanes and artillery and naval gunfire?

A: Israel.

Q: What American ally in the Middle East has for years sent assassins into other countries to kill its political enemies (a practice sometimes called exporting terrorism)?

A: Israel.

Q: In which country in the Middle East have high-ranking military officers admitted publicly that unarmed prisoners of war were executed?

A: Israel.

Q: What country in the Middle East refuses to prosecute its soldiers who have acknowledged executing prisoners of war?

A: Israel.

Q: What country in the Middle East

created 762,000 refugees and refuses to allow them to return to their homes, farms and businesses?

A: Israel.

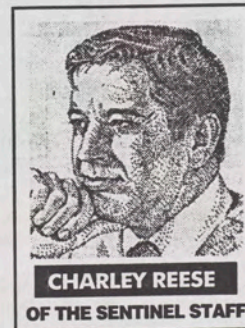
Q: What country in the Middle East refuses to pay compensation to people whose land, bank accounts and businesses it confiscated?

A: Israel.

Q: In what country in the Middle East was a high-ranking United Nations diplomat assassinated?

A: Israel.

Q: In what country in the Middle East did the man who ordered the assassination of a high-ranking U.N. diplomat



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become prime minister?

A: Israel.

Q: What country in the Middle East blew up an American diplomatic facility in Egypt and attacked a U.S. ship in international waters, killing 33 and wounding 177 American sailors?

A: Israel.

Q: What country in the Middle East employed a spy, Jonathan Pollard, to steal classified

documents and then gave some of them to the Soviet Union?

A: Israel.

Q: What country at first denied any official connection to Pollard, then voted

to make him a citizen and has continuously demanded that the American president grant Pollard a full pardon?

A: Israel.

Q: What country on Planet Earth has the second most powerful lobby in the United States, according to a recent *Fortune* magazine survey of Washington insiders?

A: Israel.

Q: Which country in the Middle East is in defiance of 69 United Nations Security Council resolutions and has been protected from 29 more by U.S. vetoes?

A: Israel.

Q: What country is the United States threatening to bomb because "U.N. Security Council resolutions must be obeyed?"

A: Iraq.

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