

## Mass Distraction

Mass media manipulation technique involving the methodical diverting of public attention away from many deceptions mendaciously delivered by militaristic dispatchers, ministerial dispersants and other mediumistic delinquents about such doubtful matters as the recent possession of 'weapons of mass destruction' by Iraqi tyrants. Issue-obscuring word play, in other words.

## Intelligence Report

Any old ill-informed rubbish nowadays, apparently.

## Japanese Pick-up Truck

Vehicle in which bin Laden was said to be riding when the last reasonably believable sighting of him was made ... somewhere near Kandahar, southern Afghanistan, mid-September 2001. The exact brand of the truck is uncertain.

## Kirkuk

Key point in northern oil-fields of Iraq. A much prized corporate asset.

## Lies Told in Lead-up to War

Take your pick - from the run-up to the Iraq war - or any other.

## Wolfowitz

Sometimes a person's name does indeed seem to influence character.

## X

Marks the precise target spot that 'smart' weapons often miss.

## Yes-Man/-Woman

The role most likely to be played by a representative of the present British government when in close proximity to a representative of the present American government.

## Zag

A diversionary tactic by a government spin-doctor, etc

## Zig

Proceeds and/or follows a Zag.

## Pentagon

Confined space in Washington, USA, in which the wider world is widely misunderstood.

## Sweets and Flowers

What Pentagon officials seriously expected US troops to be greeted with as they invaded and occupied Iraq.

## Twin Towers

Significant reference points in recent world history. More or less every aggressive international diplomatic or military act by the American government for the foreseeable future is likely to be justified by back-reference to the terrorist assault on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York on 11 September 2001.

## Neo-Conservatives

Term of self-reference favoured by right wing war-mongering ideologues in the Bush administration - Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, and others. Traditional conservatives believe in dealing with the world pragmatically as it is. These 'new' conservatives believe in fashioning the world in their own image. Some say 'neo-con' neatly sums up a bunch of re-branded truth-distorting con merchants.

## Victory

An elusive concept in modern 'asymmetric warfare'.



## Home Truths

### South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition has a DIY approach to campaigning.

Hilary is not the wife of a former U.S. president, so she cannot earn millions from her family life-story - nor tout it around t.v. and radio studios and press sessions. She told it in the best way she could: by displaying a home-made anti-war banner on her South Shields home. Hilary explained: her husband Fred died aged 37 in 1980; his father Fred was injured in WWII and invalided out of the Royal Navy aged 31 in 1943; his father Fred was killed at Gallipoli aged 47 in 1916; his father Harry died in an Afghan war aged 40 in 1879; his father Fred died in an Indian war aged 52 in 1857. She said: 'It is a very personal protest, which may seem selfish, but I know how war affects families.'



Illustrated Letter, Lindisfarne Gospels



Miners' Memorial, Durham Cathedral

## Democratic Imperialism

A good/bad example of oxymoron, or contradiction in terms. A doctrine of the systematic ousting tyrants by the use of external force and replacing them with more 'western-friendly' governments. Whether the policy and/or its end results are truly 'democratic' - as most democrats would understand the concept - is doubtful. Somewhat mysteriously, the doctrine is a meeting point of some on the British centre-left and the American right.

## ONE of the features of the modern day

**anti-war movement, and this is increasingly apparent in the South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition and many other anti-war groups in the region, is the growing awareness that the anti-war struggle cannot be continued in the old way and that a fresh approach is called for.** What is more significant is that this is not just some future prospect which is being called for but this fresh approach is something that is in the making. One of the greatest achievements of the work which has been carried out to date is that up and down the country there are numerous groups of activists thinking along the lines of finding this fresh approach.

**In South Tyneside, and other districts in the region, there are now anti-war groups where nothing existed before.** What is now becoming clear is that whilst before there were very few people who were prepared to meet to discuss and carry out activities after open war had finished now that is no longer the case. Whilst, the numbers of activists locally are still small, relative to the numbers that become involved in the movement when the threat of war is greatest, it is clear that a shift is taking place. This shift is being accompanied by a change in perceptions of the movement and in the thinking. Things are shifting from a conception of the anti-war movement as a pressure group aimed at persuading those in power to cease their warmongering activities to conception of the movement that engages in serious discussion and actions as to how the people can empower themselves and to unite around a programme to defeat the warmongers once and for all.

This was very evident in the small conference that the South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition organised after the end of the Iraq war and at the beginning of the occupation of Iraq by US and Britain in May. One speaker reflected the seriousness of the work that our movement is undertaking for the future of humanity when he said "wars of the 21st century are in fact an all out assault on the rights of people around the world. "Rights" that must remain sacred if we are to subscribe to notions of civilised transaction, with a view to stability of our societies, ultimately leading to a life free from molestation, threat, and danger for all the human family." Another stressed the importance of organising locally when he said. "We in the South Tyneside Stop The War Coalition should play our part. We should continue our efforts." Another raised a vital question that "people have to do their own thinking and organising and create new arrangements to give this movement for peace permanent life." And he elaborated his view that the movement should fight to establish an anti-war government. Another pointed to developing the Peoples Assembly along a truly democratic path that empowered people from below and also said the group should consider directly standing anti-war candidates in the public elections.

**The important thing is that today people are seriously searching for ways to develop the movement in order to defeat the warmongers. There is also a growing realisation that the key to achieve this is to unleash the people's initiative by organising in such a way that the people consciously participate in decision-making at every level.**

## George

A first name shared, coincidentally, by Mr Bush and Mr Galloway. They are not perhaps presently on the best of first-name speaking terms.