

Iran is the Root of all Evil

By Glenn Greenwald

February 03, 2012 "[Salon](#)" -- *The Washington Post*'s David Ignatius yesterday reported that Leon Panetta believes there is "a strong likelihood that Israel will strike Iran in April, May or June," while the Face of American Meritocracy, *NBC News*' Luke Russert, today [said](#) that "NBC can report Sec of Defense Panetta says there's a greater than 50% chance Israel will attack Iran in the coming months." If that does happen, many Americans will undoubtedly be entirely supportive because they know (at least the ones who read American newspapers and listen to their government officials) that Iran is the Evil-est since Saddam's Iraq:

Wall Street Journal, today:



BY SIOBHAN GORMAN

WASHINGTON—U.S. officials say they believe Iran recently gave new freedoms to as many as five top al Qaeda operatives who have been under house arrest, including the option to leave the country, and may have provided some material aid to the terrorist group.

The men, who were detained in Iran in 2003, make up al Qaeda's so-called management council, a group that includes members of the inner circle that advised Osama bin Laden and an explosives expert widely considered a candidate for a top post in the organization.

The assertions are likely to amplify tensions between Washington and Tehran. A ...

Washington Post, Wednesday:

Iran, perceiving threat from West, willing to attack on U.S. soil, U.S. intelligence report finds



By Greg Miller, Published: January 31

An assessment by U.S. spy agencies concludes that Iran is prepared to launch terrorist attacks inside the United States, highlighting new risks as the Obama administration escalates pressure on Tehran to halt its alleged pursuit of an atomic bomb.

In congressional testimony Tuesday, U.S. intelligence officials indicated that Iran has crossed a threshold in its adversarial relationship with the United States. While Iran has long been linked to attacks on American targets overseas, U.S. officials said they see troubling significance in Tehran's alleged role in a plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador in Washington last year.

Wired, Wednesday:

Iran Now a 'Top Threat' to U.S. Networks, Spy Chief Claims

By Noah Shachtman January 31, 2012 | 1:49 pm | Categories: Info War

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"Russia and China are aggressive and successful purveyors of economic espionage against the United States," Director of National Intelligence James Clapper noted in his [prepared testimony](#) (.pdf) to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. "Iran's intelligence operations against the United States, including cyber capabilities, have dramatically increased in recent years in depth and complexity. We assess that FIS [Foreign Intelligence Services] from these three countries will remain the top threats to the United States in the coming years."

Is there anything those Persian Monsters aren't guilty of? The worst part of all this may be the fact that National Security officials don't even have enough respect for the American public and media to create a new propaganda script; like some budget-strapped studio executives eager to push a worthless sequel to the market, they instead just lazily haul out the last script that was used with only the most cosmetic changes:

Weekly Standard, Septemeber 2003:

THE MAGAZINE

Saddam's al Qaeda Connection

From the September 1 / September 8, 2003 issue: The evidence mounts, but the administration says surprisingly little.

SEP 1, 2003, VOL. 8, NO. 48 • BY [STEPHEN F. HAYES](#)

Jeffrey Goldberg & Eli Lake, *The Atlantic*, June, 2010:



JEFFREY GOLDBERG - Jeffrey Goldberg is a national correspondent for *The Atlantic* and a recipient of the National Magazine Award for Reporting. Author of the book *Prisoners: A Story of Friendship and Terror*, Goldberg also writes the magazine's advice column.

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On That Dastardly Saddam-al Qaeda Connection

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Eli Lake, one of the best national security reporters in America, got in touch the other day with Goldblog in his bunker to offer his support for the dangerous idea that Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda once had a potentially meaningful relationship. He offered to guest-blog on this point for me, and I cautioned him against it, because evidence-based reporting is not particularly interesting to the hard-leftists for whom disbelief in such a connection is a sacrament. But he insisted. So here's Eli:

Eli Lake, *New York Sun*, March, 2008:

Report Details Saddam's Terrorist Ties

By **ELI LAKE**, Staff Reporter of the Sun | March 14, 2008

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WASHINGTON — A PENTAGON REVIEW OF ABOUT 600,000 documents captured in the Iraq war attests to Saddam Hussein's willingness to use terrorism to target Americans and work closely with jihadist organizations throughout the Middle East.

The report, released this week by the Institute for Defense Analyses, says it found no "smoking gun" linking Iraq operationally to Al Qaeda. But it does say Saddam collaborated with known Al Qaeda affiliates and a wider constellation of Islamist terror groups.

Laurie Mylroie & ABC News' Brian Ross, November, 2001:

Mylroie: Evidence Shows Saddam Is Behind Anthrax Attacks

Jarret Wollstein
Friday, Nov. 9, 2001

Editor's note: This is the conclusion of a two-part interview with Laurie Mylroie, publisher of the online newsletter Iraq News and author of "Study of Revenge: Saddam Hussein's Unfinished War against America." See part one, [Saddam Is Behind the Terrorist Attacks](#).

NewsMax: What's the evidence that Saddam is also behind the anthrax attacks?

Mylroie: ABC News reported on October 29th that at least two labs have concluded that the anthrax used in the U.S. was coated with two additives linked to Iraq's biological weapons program: bentonite and silica. These additives make anthrax particularly lethal by preventing spores from sticking together, enabling them to float and making anthrax easily inhalable.

Fortunately, though, those responsible for the last tawdry script have been stripped of all influence, while the American media learned its lesson from the role they played in the Iraq debacle and will be much more skeptical of these claims this time around. Actually, neither of those things is true — see [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) — which is exactly why government officials know they do not need even to bother with producing anything new.

UPDATE: Yousef Munayyer [reminds me of this other important plot similarity](#) between the wildly successful original and the sequel:

CBS News, August 18, 2002:

Israel To U.S.: Don't Delay Iraq Attack

By Dan Collins

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(CBS) Israel is urging U.S. officials not to delay a military strike against Iraq's Saddam Hussein, an aide to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Friday.

Israeli intelligence officials have gathered evidence that Iraq is speeding up efforts to produce biological and chemical weapons, said Sharon aide Ranaan Gissin.

"Any postponement of an attack on Iraq at this stage will serve no purpose," Gissin said. "It will only give him (Saddam) more of an opportunity to accelerate his program of weapons of mass destruction."

The Guardian, today:

Israel defence minister warns it may soon be too late for Iran military strike

Ehud Barak says Tehran's nuclear programme is slowly reaching 'immunity stage' when no armed intervention could stop it

Harriet Sherwood in Herzliya

guardian.co.uk, Thursday 2 February 2012 20.10 GMT

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Aren't war advocates going to have to find at least a few superficial plot changes to maintain dramatic interest?

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