

What About Dresden?

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After the cessation of hostilities in World War II, something new was added. It seems that civilized nations had enough and a War Crimes Tribunal was established in Nuremberg, Germany to try individuals who contravened international law during the tumultuous war.

A young Ramsey Clark fought with the U.S. Marines and decided to view the trials. Clark eventually became a lawyer and in 1967 was appointed the Attorney General of the U.S. Today, he is known for his anti-war and leftist political views and his relentless efforts to bring knowledge to the world of the dirty tricks imperialists use to kill and destroy their enemies.

Clark attributes his affinity to justice from the Nuremberg trials. At the outset, Hermann Goering asked the court, "Are ALL crimes going to be tried?" The answer was "yes." Once the trials got underway, it became obvious that only Germans would be tried. Clark said he will never forget Hermann Goering being dragged out of the courtroom at the end of the trials and screaming, "What about Dresden?"

February 13 was the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Dresden. From what accounts one reads, the number of people killed was from 35,000 to 150,000.

Dresden held no military importance and the war was almost over. The city was inhabited totally by civilians and was not a producer of war material. The West wanted to teach the Germans a "lesson."

Pilots could feel the heat of the blaze and up to 50 miles away, the sky was red. The entire city turned into a fireball. The body count will never be known because many turned into ashes during the firestorm.

At Nuremberg, the subject of Dresden was not approached. What was formed with a good intent, turned into a kangaroo court that had pre-determined ideas of guilt.

The 60th anniversary of the bombing has created controversy in Germany. For years, the subject of Dresden was kept quiet. Now, the Germans commemorate the event, but the German government is attempting to keep certain elements away from the activities.

Thousands of right-wing activists came to Dresden to protest the actions. But, the German government is trying to keep them quiet because they are "Nazi sympathizers."

I am no Nazi, but I find this kind of squelching preposterous. In the U.S., the term 9-11 has become a rallying cry for patriotism. Imagine the U.S. government stopping thousands of right-wing fanatics from commemorating the loss of 3,000 people. It just would not happen.

And, Dresden's dead amounted to dozens of times more than New York dead of 9-11. In Germany, it is time to stick up and realize the truth and not keep messages quiet because they may upset the masters in Washington.

The Nuremberg trials set a precedent of deceit, rather than justice. The winners can break any international rule of law, but the losers must pay the price for everybody. The court was set up to help rid the world of war by placing blame on individuals or governments for horrendous acts. But, the results made it easier to conduct war in any dirty method available for the winners.

In Iraq, we have another Dresden. It is located in Fallujah. Even the little news we have heard from Fallujah indicates the U.S. has committed atrocities beyond belief. Recently, I read the account of a doctor who took a videotape of an incident that can not be condoned by any stretch of the imagination. He said families in a certain area of the city were told to assemble in the middle of a square in the city and they must carry white flags. The U.S. personnel said they would be transported to relief camps. When the time arrived, several dozen families were standing and a voice, in English, stated, "Now." Then, a barrage of bullets hit the Iraqis, killing most. The doctor recalled a person who was shot but still alive. He raised his arm and the arm was shot. Then, he moved his hand and that was shot. This was nothing less than systematic torture before murder.

I have seen some still shots of this incident. One, in particular is gruesome. It shows a young boy, about 14 or 15 years old, laying dead on the ground, clutching a white flag. (Picture at the beginning of this article.)

Will the U.S. be brought to justice? Of course not. Nobody will stop the military people from digging up acres of land and destroying buildings to cover up the use of chemical weapons on the Iraqis. Fallujah is another Dresden.

The international rules of war apply only to the poor or weak nations who try to stop from being overrun by the military powers.

Saddam Hussein, unless he is killed by his captors first, will be put on trial for invading Kuwait; an act that some construe as legitimate. In the past couple of decades, the U.S. has invaded Grenada, Panama, Iraq (twice), Somalia, and Afghanistan. Where is the trial for these interventions?

Mohamed Saleh, the former Iraqi Minister of Trade, will be put on trial for trying to keep his country afloat during an embargo. Tariq Aziz will be tried for attempting to create peace between Iraq and the U.S.

The world has been turned upside-down when the peacemakers are put on trial and the warmongers are given medals.

The U.S. condemned Iraq for having U.S. POWs put on television and state their names. "That's against international law," we heard. However, when thousands of Iraqi POWs are tortured, sodomized and killed, it is called "like a frat house party."

Even though the Nuremberg trials were a sham, the U.S. took one lead from them in blaming the leaders of countries for atrocities. In Nuremberg, the buck stopped at the top. No individual could use the excuse that he did not know what was going on below him.

But, in the current Abu Ghraib trials, only a few individuals have been charged: all of them from the low enlisted ranks. If the U.S. says Saddam is guilty of everything they accuse Iraq of doing, then Bush, Rumsfeld, Rice et al should be on the defense stand at the Abu Ghraib trials.

No, justice in the world is just a fleeting thought that some people in 1946 thought would rid the world of war. The victors turned around the concepts and today run rampant, killing millions of people who are considered cannon fodder in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries in which the U.S. runs secret operations.

The people who kill the unfortunates in the world are given medals for heroism. Imagine if anyone would recommend posthumous medals be given the 19 people who commandeered the airplanes on 9-11 that struck buildings in New York and Washington D.C. What about Dresden?