

AMERICAN CENTURY NOW

A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY LOOK AT THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
POLICIES OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION GUIDED BY

PROJECT FOR THE NEW AMERICAN CENTURY

Unprecedented Budget Surplus, Complete Party Dominance

In 2001, George W. Bush entered office with a \$237 billion budget surplus, a Republican majority in both houses, and a plan for governing largely defined by the political think tank "Project For a New American Century", whose key signatories included Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Jeb Bush, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Elliott Abrams, and a number of other so-called neo-conservatives from positions both inside and outside of government. As early as 1997, their plans for governing America in the 21st century were outlined in considerable detail on their web site (newamericancentury.org), and more specifically in the document "Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources For a New Century". In this document (released in September of 2000) PNAC outlined "Four Core Missions" for U.S. military forces:

1. Defend the American homeland
2. Fight and decisively win multiple, simultaneous major theater wars
3. Perform "constabulary" duties shaping the security environment in critical regions
4. Transform U.S. forces to exploit the "revolution in military affairs"

Have they accomplished their "mission"?

GOAL	MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?
Defend Homeland	We were decisively attacked <u>AFTER</u> the Bush administration took over the White House and U.S. security. The administration has at least succeeded in introducing the fascist-sounding term "Homeland" into common usage.
Fight & Win Multiple Wars	We have not yet won either of the two conflicts initiated by the Bush administration, and arguably could be said to have become an "occupying force" in both cases.
Perform Constabulary Duties	If by "Perform Constabulary Duties" the administration means being mired in unending guerilla conflicts after a failed incursion, this plan has been a resounding success.
Transform U.S. forces	If by "Transform U.S. forces" we mean "overextend the military abroad, inadequately treat returning soldiers, and create profound discontent with top military figures", yes.

Plans For Iraq

It is of considerable interest to note that as early as 1998, in an open letter to President Bill Clinton, PNAC members had already explicitly called for a U.S. ground campaign to oust Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. After the Bush administration established itself in the White House, it was handed, on September 11, 2001, an opportunity to pursue these strategies with unrelenting vigor and little in the way of reasonable criticism. The attacks of September 11 uncannily mirror in nature a hypothetical event mentioned with almost disturbing prescience in the PNAC document on page 51 where they suggest that "...the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event – like a new Pearl Harbor..."