

"We have about 60% of the world's wealth but only 6.3% of its' population. In this situation we cannot fail to be the object of envy and resentment. Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity. We need not deceive ourselves that we can afford today the luxury of altruism and world benefaction.

We should cease to talk about such vague and unreal objectives as human rights, the raising of living standards and democratisation. The day is not far off when we are going to have to deal in straight power concepts. The less we are then hampered by idealistic slogans, the better."

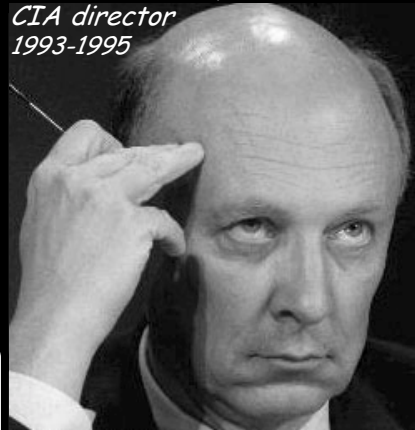
George Kennan, Former Head, U.S. State Department Policy Planning Staff, Feb. 24, 1948.

It's about the Oil...

"These resources [Middle East oil] constituted a stupendous source of strategic power, and one of the greatest material prizes in world history... probably the richest economic prize in the world in the field of foreign investment." U.S. State Dep't History, 1945, Vol. 8 p.45.

"United States policy is to keep the sources of oil in the Middle East in American hands." U.S. National Security Council, 1953, NSC 5401.

James Woolsey
CIA director
1993-1995



"France and Russia have oil companies and interests in Iraq. They should be told that if they are of assistance in moving Iraq toward decent government, we'll do the best we can to ensure that the new govern-

ment and American companies work closely with them. If they throw in their lot with Saddam, it will be difficult to the point of impossible to persuade the new Iraqi government to work with them." Washington Post, Sept. 15, 2002.

Conversion is about:

Labour: Military industrial conversion means changing from capital-intensive, military production to labour-intensive production of civilian goods.

Social programs: By reducing military budgets and producing socially-useful products and services, government resources can be used to save money while creating more jobs and rebuilding our social programs.

Peace & human rights: Providing civilian alternatives to military production has beneficial spin-offs worldwide. By stopping military exports to countries at war, and those abusing human rights, we are helping activists in other countries who are struggling for peace, democracy and justice.

Culture: Our society is militarized by a bombardment of gratuitous violence in everything from action films, video games, TV programs, to war toys and so-called "air shows." It's time to build a culture of peace.

Education: Building a culture of peace, requires a global perspective on the interconnectedness of human development, peace and the environment. Educating children, the public and ourselves on these issues is a crucial task.

Psychology: Social change comes about by transforming the beliefs, attitudes and perceptions of individuals, including ourselves.

Environment: Many military industries could be producing much-needed technologies to prevent pollution and cleanup the environment.

International Law: The world is governed by those with the most money and the biggest weapons. We need to move from the global system of "might is right" toward one based on respect for international law.

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