

## Panic

When the twin towers came down, I dropped everything and surfed the media coverage for several weeks. By the end of the second week, thinking I had enough information to begin an analysis, I went to the keyboard. The first thing that came out was 'I smell an ambush and George took the bait'. George Bush did not see the real target nor did he see the real enemy. It seems that the majority of the American public didn't see them either. Their attention was focused on the weapons of mass distraction and they seemed blissfully unaware of the real weapons of mass destruction. The destruction of the twin towers was bait and George took it hook, line, and sinker. It seems that Osama knew that an expensive military with a declining economy has always been a recipe for disaster, and George obviously didn't.

Like the hunting scream of a cougar creates the panic that makes for an easy kill, 9/11 created a lot of panic. It's our panic that has cost us much of our health and wealth, many of our freedoms, and probably the civilization. The total time and energy spent on all aspects of our reaction to 9/11, both public and private, has been a waste of time and energy worth many trillions of dollars. Osama's stated goals were the destruction of the U.S. economy, and so far 9/11 seems to be working beyond his wildest dreams.

The loss of the World Trade Center was a horrible personal tragedy for many thousands of people, but it did nothing to endanger the sovereignty of the nation or the welfare of its people beyond the immediate event. World trade barely even blinked.

We lose that many people to cancer every few days. We lose that many people due to incompetent medicine every few weeks. More Americans die violent deaths in car crashes about every six weeks. Americans murder as many Americans every two months as were lost in the twin towers and they do it year after year after year. You'll get hit by lightning three times before you get hit by a terrorist.

Around the world, our angry and panicked response to 9/11 has cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people and devastated the lives of millions more. This has not gone unnoticed by the rest of the world and has been a major cause of the increase in terrorism. The first step in counter-terrorism is to quit pissing more people off.

Had even a small percentage of our efforts been spent on facilitating and protecting education and infrastructure in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the world, al-Qaeda and the Taliban would have withered away and ISIS would never have formed.

In this age of peak oil, as we begin to comprehend the finite nature of the energy that sustains our complex civilization, how much energy and resources have been spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? What will be our return on investment? Had it been spent on the research, education, and infrastructure to utilize alternative energy sources, we could have been well on the way to energy independence and declining greenhouse gasses.

It's getting obvious that our efforts to stave off disaster will be too little too late. 911 cost us 3,000 lives. Our obsession with fear and vengeance instead of dealing with the very real problems we face could cost billions of lives.