

For Immediate Release

Going to War

By Russ Hoyle

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NEW IRAQ WAR BOOK RAISES KEY ISSUES FOR PRESIDENTIAL RACE

New York, NY – March, 2008 -- Just days after its publication, bloggers are already hailing Russ Hoyle's *Going to War* as a "powerful" and "hair-raising" account of the Bush White House's cynical and self-serving distortion of intelligence and manipulation of presidential power to achieve its historic march to war in Iraq. Says one: "I feel I really got to see the evil in men's hearts while reading it."*

A veteran New York editor and reporter, Hoyle has not only re-examined and rewritten the official version of the 18 months between 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq, he has drawn lessons from the story that will have important implications for the success or failure of America's ongoing war on terror -- and that the 2008 presidential candidates will ignore at their peril.

Hoyle has examined the fine print of thousands of pages of documents going back to the Gulf war -- official government and non-government reviews, scholarly and scientific papers, plus years' worth of newspaper articles, media reports and books on the subject -- to piece together what Pulitzer Prize winning author Thomas Powers calls "one of the great cautionary tales of American history."

With old-fashioned attention to detail reminiscent of legendary reporters like John Osborne and I. F. Stone, Hoyle has pieced together a story that many in official Washington still do not want told. "While it is perfectly legitimate to question my decision or the conduct of the war," President Bush once warned, "it is deeply irresponsible to rewrite the history of how that war began."

Going to War picks up where the July 2004 Select Senate Committee on Intelligence left off -- and has not returned. With cumulative documented evidence, Hoyle makes the most definitive case yet that the Bush White House knowingly and repeatedly politicized intelligence to achieve its war aims. Growing public awareness of that historic deception will have a critical impact on the increasingly bitter battle between Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. It is also guaranteed to play a divisive role in the fall presidential campaign between the Democratic standard-bearer and Republican John McCain

Mr. Hoyle argues that unless the presidential nominees fully understand and acknowledge the lethal mix of White House deception and incompetence at the root of the war, the odds the next President of the United States will successfully meet the foreign military and political challenges ahead are likely to suffer. Among the reasons:

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- **The inadequacy of the 2004 Bush intelligence reforms.** The U.S. intelligence failure in Iraq only hints at what lies ahead unless Congress provides the intelligence community with the independence to report and analyze strategic information without pandering to the White House.
- **A dysfunctional White House national security process.** Pre-war efforts to consolidate legal and political power in the executive offices of the president and vice president, to the exclusion of Congress, the judiciary and other government agencies, ensured a broken policy process that allowed serious manipulation and misjudgment to go unchecked.
- **The erosion of Constitutional checks and balances on executive power.** Effective Congressional oversight of Bush policies was seriously compromised and ineffective over the past eight years. Steps must be taken to restore the effectiveness of Congressional oversight and the public's right to official investigations to curb abuses of high office and corruption short of criminal prosecution, and restore the healthy role of the press.

Since finishing *Going to War*, Mr. Hoyle has turned his attention to the ferment among U.S. military officers who favor a dramatic revision of U.S. military doctrine to fight the wars of the 21st century. He believes that Gen. David Petraeus's surge has been effective tactically, but is fatally tethered to a failed U.S. war strategy. The author thus advocates a carefully planned drawdown of U.S. troops from Iraq. But he argues that military withdrawal from Iraq is virtually certain to have further-reaching consequences for both Iraq and U.S. foreign policy than Senators Obama and Clinton have led voters to believe.

After five years of war, Mr. Hoyle takes the position that the Iraqi people have earned the right to self-determination, and that a new administration eventually will be forced to accept a new and difficult set of circumstances in the region.

* Quotes from downwithtyranny.com, firedoglake.com.

About the author

Russ Hoyle is a former senior editor at the *New York Daily News*, *Time*, and *The New Republic*. He wrote the foreword on the Niger affair, the press, and the CIA leak case for the paperback edition of *The Politics of Truth* (2005) by Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV. Mr. Hoyle has written about Iraq war for TPM Café at talkingpointsmemo.com.

Going to War

How Misinformation, Disinformation and Arrogance led American into Iraq

By Russ Hoyle

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