

January 28, 2008
Miami, Florida

Sidebar

Bush's Wrongs // Bush's Rights

I President Bush's Wrongs. The president's haters (mainly members of the pacifist left) list the wrongs (see Editorial of the International Herald Tribune, January 12-13, 2008, at p. 4): Bush has changed the nation's profile (today we cannot recognize America because of its lawless behavior); passed laws (e.g., the Patriot Act) that were not needed; the CIA tortured enemy combatants; the foreign Guantanamo Bay (Cuba) prison denies due process to Islamic terrorists (the US trampled their fundamental rights); in Abu Ghraib, US jailers tormented, abused, and sexually humiliated prisoners; the US circumvented the Geneva Conventions; the CIA used secret jails to torture prisoners (barbaric acts of simulated drowning); the secret interrogations were videotaped (later the tapes were destroyed); without warrants the US wiretapped and intercepted e-mails to spy on potential enemies; the Bush Administration sullied America's global image; Bush's tactics have not made America safer. This, the liberals claim, is a perturbing list—one that needs to be changed by the next presidential election. Well (as most presidential candidates say before answering a journalist's question), I disagree. So, let's take a look at Bush's "rights"—protecting America and its 300,000,000 population.

II President Bush's Rights. The president has many "rights" in his credit column (in my opinion). These rights (as listed above) have served our nation well and they serve as a platform for his successor. Why? America has not been attacked after "9/11." So, he must have done something right—more has yet to be done. Radical extremism must be met by drastic measures, not by TLC. We must not fight Islamic killers with American values—they are not Americans. They are not protected by our Constitution. On balance, Bush's rights outweigh his alleged wrongs (if any). History will judge him right (in my opinion). He should not be judged by present day "fellow travelers" (pacifists)—Bush haters. More important, the fundamental freedoms of Americans (citizens) have not been trampled by President Bush. That charge is totally false.

III What We Need From Our Next President. We need a powerful president—one that has experience fighting "bad people" (international criminal) and "protecting" Americans. Personal courage in the fighting front should determine who our next president should be. This is not a political football issue—this profound matter deals with life and death. Our brainy writers (journalists) must deal with the problem based on the "safety of our population." Whatever needs to be done to protect the USA (read, *Americans*) from foreign killers must be done. Fight fire with fire especially when the enemy is not an American (citizen or holding a green card). Which of the present candidates has the courage to fight the fight? I am leaning to McCain-Romney on the (R)

side and Clinton-Richardson on the (D) side. (I am an Independent.) McCain has stature—personality (charisma)—and has proven courage to deal with adversity and the challenges of our times. Clinton is also well prepared to meet the challenges that are ahead. Our next president must not be controlled by “pacifist strategies” or by “weak tactics.” Fundamental rights belong to Americans (in America’s 50 states), not to the Islamic foreign terrorists who want to kill us. Foreigners who are killers/criminals not members of a country’s regular army at war with America must fear the heavy hand of an America “commander in chief”—to them the American Bill of Rights and the Geneva Conventions do not apply. Those who want to kill Americans (worldwide) must suffer the consequences of their actions, as President Bush has commanded.