

MARYAM JAFRI
Siege of Khartoum, 1884 (2006)

Description: *Siege of Khartoum, 1884* appropriates iconic images from the Iraq War (such as the capture of Saddam, the tearing down of Saddam's statue throughout public squares in Iraq) and combines them with archival news texts from earlier points in history. The texts come from the archives of *The New York Times*, *The Daily Telegraph (UK)* and *The Times (UK)*. The articles span from the period of high empire (late 19th century) to the present day. They include Winston Churchill's journalist writings while battling Mahdists in Sudan (1898), British attempts to suppress the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya (1950s) to anonymous American journalists depictions of the conquest of the Philippines (1920s), Vietnam (1960s) and Panama (1990s).

The project traces the narratives of Empire at work in the present moment. The 27 photo-collages work map the narrative arc of earlier colonial wars of conquest and reveal the way in which the Iraq war and the War on Terror conform to this predetermined script.

Dimensions: 27 A1 size (23.4 x 33.1 inches) photo-collage posters, archival ink-jet on Hahnemuehle paper



THE BAGHDAD OF THE FUTURE



TO THE PEOPLE OF BAGHDAD

In the name of my _____, and in the name of the peoples over whom he rules, I address you as follows:

Our military operations have as their object the defeat of the enemy and the driving of him from these territories. In order to complete this task, I am charged with absolute and supreme control of all regions on which _____ troops operate, but our armies do not come into your cities and lands as conquerors or enemies, but as liberators. Since the days of Halaka your city and your lands have been subject to tyranny of strangers, your palaces have fallen into ruins, your gardens have sunk into desolation, and your forefathers and yourselves have groaned in bondage. Your sons have been carried off to wars not of your seeking, your wealth has been stripped from you by unjust men and squandered in distant places. O people of Baghdad! Remember that for 26 generations you have suffered under strange tyrants who have ever endeavoured to set one Arab house against another in order that they might profit by your dissensions. This policy is abhorrent to _____ and her Allies, for there can be neither peace nor prosperity where there is enmity and misgovernment. Therefore, I am commanded to invite you, through your nobles and elders and representatives to participate in the management of your civil affairs in collaboration with the political representatives of _____ who will accompany the _____ Army, so that you may be united with your kinsmen in north, east, south, and west in realizing the aspirations of your race.

FREEDOM FOR THE ARABS



Exhibit A

As President Bush was suddenly trying to make clear last week, the man he had called a thug and a criminal is entitled to a fair trial. is supposed to be treated like anyone else. But his case presents legal problems that are not like anybody else's, and that will likely delay a trial for months. The defense will almost certainly demand files from the Central Intelligence Agency, since General worked for the agency for years, and for a time while George Bush was director. Nevertheless, the Justice Department said it reviewed the files before the invasion and decided it would still seek a trial. But the General still contends that he was not within the jurisdiction of American courts. His lawyers are also expected to argue that enormous pre-trial publicity has made it impossible to find an unbiased jury. Many of these problems could be finessed: Both sides say they want a trial, but, given the disclosures that General could make, both might be willing to strike a deal, too.

The General Goes to Court

After several unsuccessful attacks on Captain McNeill's Zariba U's Zariba at Gebile, the Mad Mullah, while retreating towards Welahed, encountered the main British force by chance on the 4th inst. The Camel Corps and Mounted Infantry immediately attacked the Mullah, routing his forces and pursuing them throughout the night through the mountains. One hundred of the enemy were killed, the Mullah and the Sultan of Nur narrowly escaped capture. The British losses were two men killed and five hundred wounded. The Mullah is believed to have taken refuge in the Mijertain country.

THE EXPEDITION AGAINST THE MAD MULLAH





Yesterday afternoon the Home Office authorities decided to offer £1000 reward for the apprehension, or for such information as shall lead to the apprehension of the persons who caused the explosion at Victoria Station, and attempted the outrages at the Charing-cross, Paddington, and Ludgate-hill Railway stations.

The announcement of the reward will be accompanied by the description of four men whose movements have been to some extent traced. It has been proved that the actual perpetrators of the outrages were from . Even the routes by which they came are known. They had evidently come direct from , and the fact that the found in the Portmanteau at Paddington bears date February 6 may indicate the time when they started their journey.



Elaborate precautions are being made at every railway station throughout the country to prevent explosions. Under the powers of the Explosives Act of last session Sir William Harcourt has directed that all suspicious parcels are to be opened at the railway stations.

THE DYNAMITE OUTRAGES

U.S. ENCOURAGED BY [REDACTED] VOTE



United States officials were surprised and heartened today at the size of turnout in [REDACTED] presidential election despite a [REDACTED] terrorist campaign to disrupt the voting. According to reports from [REDACTED], 83 per cent of the 5.85 million registered voters cast their ballots yesterday. Many of them risked reprisals threatened by the [REDACTED]. The size of the popular vote and the inability of the [REDACTED] to destroy the election machinery were the two salient facts in a preliminary assessment of the national election based on the incomplete returns reaching here. A successful election has long been seen as the keystone in President [REDACTED] policy of encouraging the growth of constitutional processes in [REDACTED]. Captured documents and interrogations indicated in the last week a serious concern among [REDACTED] leaders that a major effort would be required to render the election meaningless. This effort has not succeeded, judging from the reports from [REDACTED].

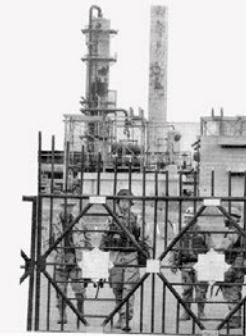


The Anglo-
Oil Company's tanker British, Advocate pulled away from the refinery quayside here today with 11,500 tons of fuel oil bound for Trincomalee, Ceylon. It was the first oil in upward of forty months to move freely into world markets. The cargo was the first oil purchased by a consortium of eight major foreign oil companies under a forty-year agreement signed in
yesterday by
The last unfettered oil cargo left here in the hold of the British Sailor June 21, 1951, less than two months after
, then Premier, had nationalized Anglo-
vast concession here. Today's sailing marked the end of what probably will be called the
era after the now-imprisoned leader, who had evoked the forces of emotional nationalism and xenophobia that eventually brought about a violent reaction--a royalist uprising that overthrew him fourteen months ago.



General Schwarzkopf, reached by telephone at his home in Maplewood, N.J., tonight, declined to comment on Moscow reports linking him with the present turmoil in
. His visit to
was purely a personal one, he explained, adding: "I went there to call on some friends whom I had struck up an acquaintance with during the years I was in
reorganizing the National Gendarmerie. I was not there this time in an official capacity and I conducted no business there." Asked to comment on the present
political situation, he explained that he preferred not to since he had been out of touch "for too long a period." He reorganized the Gendarmerie between 1942 and 1948 at the direction of the United States War Department.

Schwarzkopf Declines Comment



OIL MOVING TO WORLD MARKET

Between the two sailing dates the British maintained an economic blockade against oil as a result of
intransigence over the issue of 'compensation for the nationalized' holdings. The Abadan refinery, the world's largest, was virtually shut down. The consortium, which is composed of Anglo-
, a Dutch, a French and five United States companies, will operate the oil industry through two Dutch-registered companies.

Public Opinion

The _____ people overwhelmingly approve of the sending of United States troops to remove Gen. _____ from power, and they want them to stay for at least six more months, according to a poll taken in _____ that was made public last night by CBS News. Ninety-two percent of the 794 _____ adults interviewed said they approved of the sending of the troops, and 64 percent said they strongly approved.

_____ seemed optimistic about their future, with 90 percent predicting their country's situation over the next few years would improve as a result of the invasion.

But 74 percent said the American troops had used the right amount of force, and 87 percent, said "the price paid by _____ to overthrow the regime was worth it," even given the casualties and vandalism. Those directly affected by the invasion agreed. More than 80 percent of both those who suffered property loss and those with a friend or relative injured said the price paid by _____ to overthrow General _____ "was worth it."

Strongly Back U.S. Move

US Envoy Ousted By Iraq in Dispute On Kuwait's Status

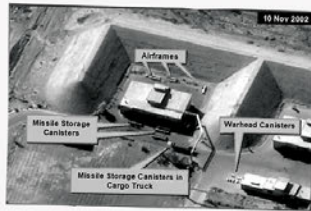


Iraq has ordered the United States Ambassador to leave the country and has recalled her own Ambassador from Washington in protest against United States accreditation of an Ambassador from Kuwait. Iraq contends the Persian Gulf sheikdom is part of Iraqi territory. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said President _____ acceptance of the credentials of the Kuwaiti envoy was regarded here "as an unfriendly act against Iraq." Premier _____ has repeatedly claimed sovereignty over the small oil-rich territory and has pledged to annex it. Kuwait had been for years a protectorate of Britain. Last _____ the treaty of protection was canceled and Kuwait was recognized as an independent state. British forces were withdrawn but after reports of heavy Iraqi troop movements toward the borders of Kuwait, Sheikh Abdulla al-Salim al-Sabah appealed to Britain for help. The British sent in 6,000 troops, an aircraft carrier and fighter planes. There were no major incidents.

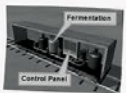




Nuclear Lies



Aluminum Tube for Uranium Enrichment



Beyond the antiaircraft-gun emplacements and the early-warning radar systems, and shortly before you get to the high concrete walls topped with concertina wire that surround Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, there's a large sign announcing that the facility welcomes guests. Like so much about the nuclear program, the signals are incongruous, contradictory and more than a little sinister. If it is to be believed, then the world has nothing to fear from its nuclear program. The United States, Europe, Israel, Saudi Arabia and other oil producers nearby can rest easy, because the facility has no plans to threaten the region with atomic weapons or put nukes in the hands of terrorists. If it is to be believed, its only goal, repeated countless times, ratified in treaties and open to inspections, is to develop a completely independent ability to make nuclear fuel and use it to generate electricity. But neither the United States nor Europe nor the United Nations is ready simply to believe it, at least not easily, and not without verification. Its record of concealment and deceit about its nuclear program goes back at least 20 years. Its extensive uranium-enrichment program was uncovered in detail only two years ago; its promise of "full disclosure" and "transparency" since then has been something considerably less. The facility has declined to allow investigators access to some military areas. They say they just can't find key documents that would show where and how they acquired key designs when they started their enrichment program in the 1980s. (Typically, under heavy international pressure this year, they finally produced one page from 1987 for inspectors to look at, but wouldn't turn it over.)



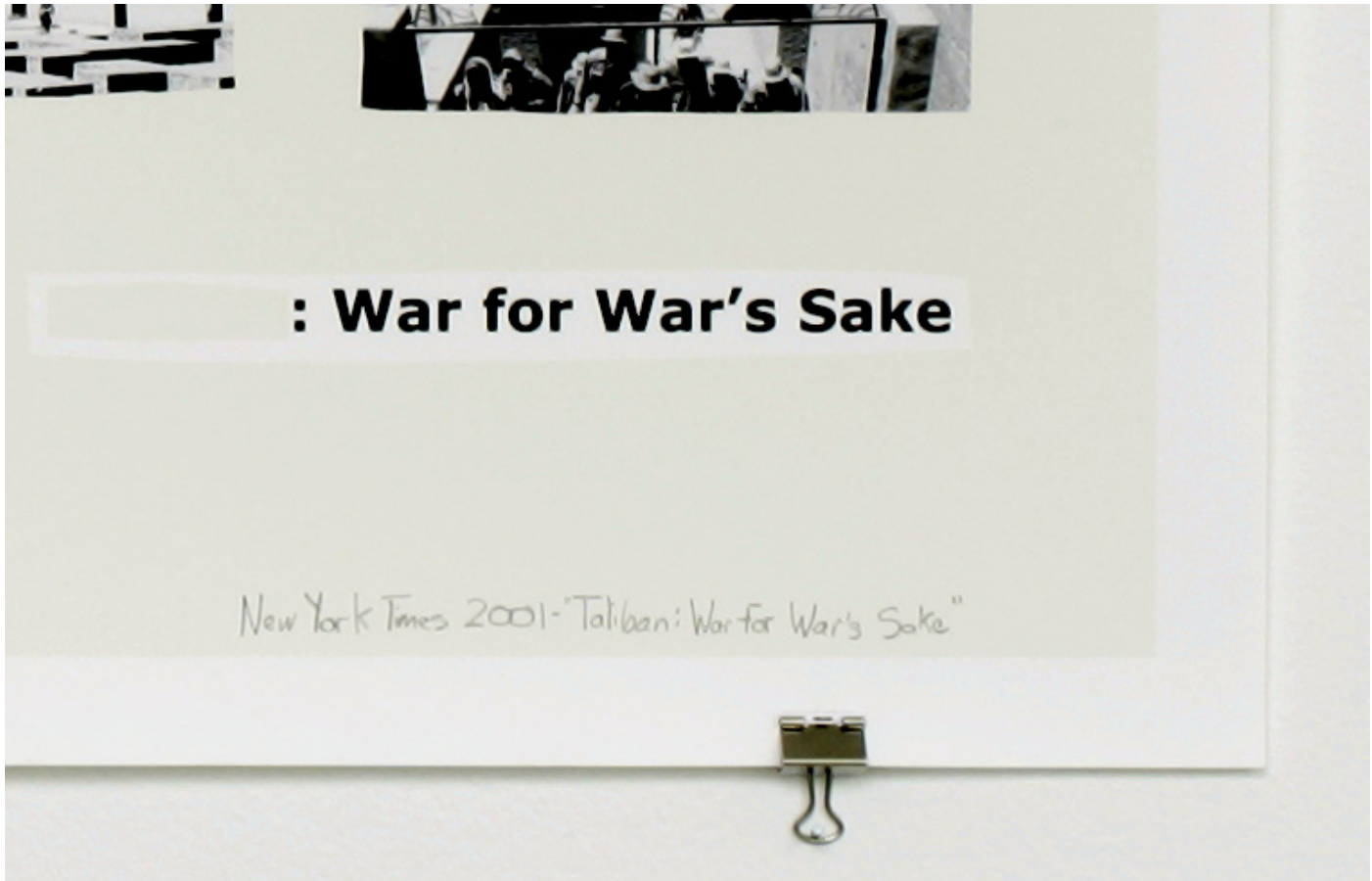
Rough-cut and wild-eyed, vandals called the **Taliban** blasted away last week at works of priceless ancient art, the giant standing **statue** of **Buddha**. The world, including the world of Islamic scholarship, was outraged and could barely find the words for what had happened. An assault on history? On culture itself? But what is happening in **Afghanistan** could be more disturbing yet, in the message it sends a modern world yearning for a dialogue among civilizations. The question is: In the deepest, broadest sense, did the **Taliban** really have any idea what they were doing? The movement's leaders are mostly young sons of illiterate peasants, raised on mine-strewn battlefields and stark refugee camps, and educated in rote sectarian blinders. Do they understand that this act, more than anything else, will be how the world remembers them? Even if they know how the world feels, said Frederick Starr, chairman of the Central Asia Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, "we have revealed an astonishing superficiality in our knowledge of who these people are." At New York University, Barnett Rubin, director of studies at the Center on International Cooperation, said: "I would dare say they have no idea what **we** are or what **we** is. None of the **we** went to schools where they were taught their **we** history."



Taliban : War for War's Sake



Installation View: Meanwhile In Baghdad, Renaissance Society 2007



*in the actual installation, the date is handwritten in pencil on the right bottom corner of each poster