

Re: Business as usual

I know I'm a little slow at understanding the high stakes game of international politics and economics. But I eventually realized what the war in Afghanistan is all about - getting the rights to build a Unocal oil pipeline through the country and access to oil in former Soviet republics, even if it means replacing the government with one that's willing to cut a deal.

I also finally understood what Vice President Dick Cheney and other members of the administration are really concerned about in Iraq is control of the world's second largest oil reserves (we already control the world's largest reserves in Saudi Arabia).

It's really very clever - use the threat of communism (sorry, I mean terrorism) to rally the troops (sorry, I mean voters) and at the same time obtain enormous oil profits for already wealthy friends and family. Of course Saddam Hussein and other politicians in the Middle East play a similar game by calling attention to the threat of decadent American cultural influences, infidel Christianity and the Palestinian plight to rouse anti-Western sentiment among their own people in order to try and retain control over their own mineral resources. I wish them luck; they'll certainly need it.

It's business as usual running our foreign policy. I guess I don't really mind if the oil companies want to fight a war over oil resources, I just don't want to have to pay for it twice (first in the defense budget and again at the pump). But what I couldn't make sense of until recently was why are France and Russia so opposed to our "oilarchy" taking over the Middle East? Then I read that Russia supplies much of Iraq's oil industry, and France buys a large part of the oil produced there. Oh, now I get it! It's got nothing to do with weapons of mass destruction - it's just business as usual.

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