



The AMERICA FIRST Leader

March 26, 2008

The Official Newspaper of the America First Party

www.AmericaFirstParty.org

One Million Iraqi Deaths Likely *Media and Government Whitewash Must End*

By Jonathan Hill
AFP National Chairman

Understanding the number of deaths that have occurred in Iraq as a result of the direct and indirect consequences of our invasion leads to consideration of our government's moral culpability for those deaths -- both American and Iraqi deaths. It also testifies to the gross incompetence of our present leadership. It is a sensitive issue to many who have supported the war, just as the truth of abortion is sensitive to those who have supported that cause.

We are glad that the media often mentions the thousands of U.S. troops sacrificed in Iraq, but oddly, there is little or no mention by government or media sources of the Iraqi civilian toll. But in September, for the second time in only 14 months, reputable sources shockingly estimated Iraqi deaths to be near a million. This astounding number has been disregarded by many as unlikely and

has political ramifications which are not generally welcomed.

To be fair, there are many other estimates of Iraqi deaths which vary widely from the million casualty estimates. At a December 2005 press conference, President Bush gave an estimate of 30,000 for all Iraqi military and civilian fatalities since the start of the war. His number was similar to that of Iraq Body Count (IBC), a project operated by volunteers from the U.K. and U.S., and which incorporates only violent civilian deaths corroborated by multiple media reports, or bodies found. IBC's documentary evidence is supplemented by "hospital, morgue, NGO and official figures" and their database includes "deaths caused by US-led coalition forces and paramilitary or criminal attacks."

But in September, for the second time in only 14 months, reputable sources shockingly estimated Iraqi deaths to be near a million.

The work of IBC seems laudable, but its dependence on media reporting of deaths means that it provides a low estimate of civilian fatalities. It is widely known that the media have only limited access to Iraq, due to the security risk -- journalists who venture outside the Green Zone are taking their lives in their hands.



Mourners gather around the bodies of some of the eleven victims of American occupation. School teacher Fa'is Harat was killed by U.S. soldiers, along with his wife and three children in 2006 in the village of Alsaffa near Samara. Photos courtesy of the Iraqi League (iraqirabita.org).

Although the IBC supplements its data with Iraqi government figures, this source is highly

the period from the 2003 invasion up to November 2006. But the same source mentioned that a Health Ministry spokesman reported that records had not been kept until early 2004, implying that most of the first year's casualties were not recorded.

suspect. The government leaves the job of estimating deaths to many individual ministries, and this has resulted in conflicting numbers. Sometimes, an individual ministry will contradict itself.

For example, according to the AP and AFP news agencies, the Iraqi Health Ministry estimated deaths at 100,000 to 150,000 for

The same Iraqi official stated that 70 to 80 people were dying from violence daily throughout all of Iraq. Within days of this official claim, however, the head of the Baghdad Central morgue, Dr. Abdul-Razzaq al-Obaidi, stated that he was receiving as many as 60 violent death victims per day at his single facility alone, which

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Abusive Tax Policies Punish Americans and Threaten Economic Growth

By **Blaine L. Heath**

America First Party of Ohio

April 15th has been a famous day for as long as I can remember. It marked the day that my taxes were finally paid up and the rest of my earnings for the remaining year were mine, and mine alone.

However, once I left college and began working I woke up to a much different reality. The thought that my money is my own, as most Americans tend to believe, is a complete fallacy. It did not take me long to realize that I had state tax that was due. Local taxes were also due. The city government can be relentless in its collection of money it feels it has coming to it.

Sales tax on every purchase of gasoline and cigarettes can also be just as unforgiving. Before long I realized that I had spent well over six months of my fixed salary just to keep every government entity off of my backside. I recalled something about "serfdom" from history class and it really began to taint my perception of my own American government and the party leaders who ultimately determine tax policy...or any other pol-

icy for that matter.

Families from coast to coast will soon be sitting down to do their taxes and hope that they owe their federal government nothing further from the previous year. They will hope they complete their taxes correctly and hope that the I.R.S. does not decide to audit them and cause further pain and chaos. Hopefully those millions of families will ultimately get fed up, decide that it is time for another Tea Party, and call their elected officials relentlessly to remind them of how difficult it is to raise a family on less than half a year's salary.

There will soon be another presidential election, and we will also vote for our House and Senate members. The Democrats are expected to pick up even more seats as the backlash against the G.O.P. continues. That will surely mean higher taxes hitting the already thinly stretched wallet of American families.

I woke up to a much different reality. The thought that my money is my own, as most Americans tend to believe, is a complete fallacy.

Tax reform is necessary, but neither the Democrats nor Republicans have ever been sincere when it comes to real tax reform. The so-called Bush tax cuts were a ridiculous attempt at appeasing the working families of our country. Both parties' elected officials cannot even see that it is a necessity to consider the elimination of most taxes. The America First Party remains the only party that is serious about this.

Consider the following taxes that we all have to pay: Federal Income Tax, Federal Unemployment Tax, Workers Compensation Tax, Social Security Tax (and most of our younger Americans know they will never see a dime of their Social Security money), Medicare Tax, State Income Tax, State Unemployment Tax, School Tax, Sales Taxes (state and local), Real Estate Tax, Property Tax, Utility Taxes, Gasoline Tax,

Cigarette Tax, Telephone federal excise tax, Marriage License Tax, Alcohol Taxes, Capital Gains Tax (to discourage investment), Inheritance Tax (to discourage savings), and Road Usage Taxes on truckers.

These are only a handful of the taxes that Americans are coerced into paying. The list goes on and on. Few of these taxes were around one hundred years ago. As a result we were the most prosperous nation in the world, a creditor nation, had no national debt and had the largest middle class in the world. Mom could afford to stay home and raise the children. Now both parents are forced to work just to get by. And this is mostly because of the abusive, destructive, and immoral tax system



a responsible manner. This is not such a drastic approach as many pro-tax politicians claim. There are many sources of revenue that bring money into local and state governments and they have been proven to be more than sufficient to run the costs of government - when it operates within its constitutional role. It is a government that endorses socialism that demands the additional confiscation of money from working families in the form of the income tax.

The America First Party platform nicely details the party stance on the elimination of taxes and the party's National Convention has endorsed the Fair Tax as a good first step in overall tax reform. These are great steps to solving a lot of our nation's problems, encouraging families to save and invest, and building a much stronger and thriving economy. The two-party system has failed and is bankrupt of ideas and vision. With our recommended changes in tax policy, and a fiscally responsible government operating within its constitutional limits, our nation could experience a boom like we have never experienced before.

However, the vision cannot become a reality unless the members from all states help build this party by developing state affiliates and supporting our people for elected office at the local levels. Our vision is too important not to be an influence. And why shouldn't we take the lead? We have the best platform and vision of growth of any party out there!

that the Democrats and Republicans have forced on the citizens of this country. These policies should be considered criminal because they both harm the family, and suppress the economy that rests on the back of American workers.

It is irrational to consider the leaders of the two parties as competent, when they favor a tax system which is so destructive to families. The leaders are either purposely harming the American family and economy or they are oblivious to the harm that they are causing. There is no other reasonable conclusion. And at the end of the day Americans feel more like serfs than citizens.

The simple solution to the tax problem is to adhere to the Constitution and follow the Founders' intent. It is vital that our elected officials work toward the elimination of all national, state and local income taxes in

The America First Leader

An Official Publication of the America First Party, prepared by the Public Relations Committee, and published by authority of the America First National Committee.

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One Million Iraqi Deaths

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also had received 1,600 violent death victims the previous month. The daily statistic did not include the many victims taken to the city's many hospital morgues, he said, or those who were buried by families on the same day they died, in accordance with Islamic custom.

Dr. al-Obaidi's statement indicates that fatalities in Baghdad alone were well in excess of 22,000 in 2006. Baghdad, while the largest city with a population of about 7 million, has only about 25% of the population of Iraq. Therefore, based on Dr. al-Obaidi's information, violent deaths in Iraq could easily have been 50,000 to 100,000 for 2006 alone. Based only on reports from morgues, hospitals and municipal authorities throughout Iraq, the UN estimated the 2006 civilian deaths to be in excess of 34,000, with about half of fatalities occurring in Baghdad.

It is certain that the body tally has been undercounted.

It is certain that the body tally has been undercounted. According to Ellen Knickmeyer, of the *Washington Post*, "The deaths reported by officials and published in the news media represent only a fraction of the thousands of mutilated bodies winding up in Baghdad's overcrowded morgues each month.... Bodies are increasingly being dumped in and around Baghdad in fields staked out by individual Shiite militias and Sunni insurgent groups. Iraqi security forces often refuse to go to the dumping grounds, leaving the precise number of bodies in those sites unknown."

Contributing to the undercount, is the breakdown in report-

ing to the Iraqi Health Ministry. Les Roberts, one of the authors of the Lancet casualty studies wrote the following last February in the *Independent*:

"Saddam Hussein's [health ministry] surveillance network, which only captured one third of all deaths before the invasion, has certainly deteriorated even further. During last July, there were numerous televised clashes in Anbar, yet the system recorded exactly zero violent deaths from the province. The last Minister of Health to honestly assess the surveillance network, Dr Ala'din Alwan, admitted that it was not reporting from most of the country by August 2004. He was sacked months later..."

This notwithstanding, Prime Minister Tony Blair echoed the positions of many other high profile voices when he stated to Parliament in 2004 that, "Figures from the Iraqi Ministry of Health, which are a survey from the hospitals there, are in our view the most accurate survey there is." So given all of the readily available background information on the quality of the Iraqi Health Ministry's numbers, why is so much credibility given to them? And given the clear limitations of the Iraq Body Count numbers, why are similar numbers cited as a likely estimate by our President?

A question, which may be related to the first two is, why are the two estimates done by Johns Hopkins and peer-reviewed by the prestigious medical journal, the *Lancet*, treated as incredible? The same question applies to a similar study done by the well-respected ORB research group in the U.K. Two of these estimates are consistent with a finding of about 1 million casualties since the start of the war.

Unlike most other estimates,

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Party Founding Principles

The Statement of Principles of the America First Party was adopted at the first meeting of the National Committee on April 20, 2002. The Principles provide an outline for the Party's Platform, which contains a section for each of the Principles headings. Each Platform section then expands upon that particular set of principles.

The Statement of Principles is the core statement of beliefs of the America First Party. As such, a two-thirds vote of the National Committee is required to adopt any change to the Principles.

The Party Constitution binds both the National Committee and the National Convention to adopt a platform consistent with the Principles. All party leaders are required to support and advance the Principles as a condition of holding a position of trust within the America First Party.

Preserve and Protect Our People and Our Sovereignty

- Support a military whose mission is to protect our nation, not police the world
- Strengthen our borders and promote rational immigration policies
- Protect English as our common language
- Seek friendship with all nations, but avoid entangling alliances
- Work to maintain our nation's sovereignty and oppose all attempts to make our nation subservient to the precursors of global government
- Apply American values to our foreign policy

Promote Economic Growth and Independence

- Restore accountability and Constitutionality to budgets and taxes
- Promote tax policies that adhere to the Constitution, enhance individual freedom, encourage savings and investment, and promote the family
- Eliminate unconstitutional portions of the federal government
- Rebuild our manufacturing base and protect American workers
- Protect our right to fair trade and oppose free trade, exit NAFTA and the WTO
- Help American businesses stay in America
- Promote a Buy American policy
- End taxpayer bailouts of corporations and foreign governments
- Implement a self-sufficient energy policy

Encourage the Traditional Values of Faith, Family, and Responsibility

- Protect and recognize the sanctity of all human life
- Defend the traditional family unit based on one man and one woman
- Promote the primacy of parents in the lives and education of their children

- Respect the free exercise of religion
- Recognize the Judeo-Christian heritage of our shared values

Ensure Equality Before the Law in Protecting Those Rights Granted by the Creator

- Defend the self-evident truth "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"
- Preserve and protect all of the Bill of Rights
- Oppose all quota systems - merit and behavior must prevail
- End judicial tyranny and restore balance to our political system
- Restore property rights and restrict government land confiscation

Clean Up Our Corrupted Political System

- Remove the primary source of corruption by sharply reducing the size and scope of the federal government to its limited powers under the Constitution, and return control over all other matters to the states
- Require that all political donations be promptly disclosed and come from voters
- Enforce fair, uniform standards for ballot and debate access to give voters more choice
- Implement clean election practices-restore paper ballots
- Reform the lobbying system so that the only organizations permitted to lobby are those organizations whose money is acquired strictly from voter donations. Reasonable individual voter donation amount limits must be established
- End lavish Congressional pensions-put them on Social Security
- Ban taxpayer funded Congressional campaign mailings
- Restore the rights of states in the manner of choosing Senators and Representatives and promote the citizen legislator

Hate-crimes Legislation Threatens Freedom of Expression and Equal Justice

By **Michael E. Lynch**
Public Relations Committee

Freedom of speech may have received a brief reprieve when a hate-crimes provision was removed from a military appropriations bill in December. However, all Americans who cherish our First Amendment rights to free expression should remain vigilant, as similar efforts to attack free speech may be introduced in the near future.



origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability." Previous federal hate-crimes legislation protected people from crimes motivated by their race, religion, or national origin. The protected status on the basis of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" has troubled social conservatives.

Judging from the aggressive efforts of liberals in Congress, and the apathetic acquiescence of so-called conservatives and moderates, it is unlikely that the push for such

hate-crimes legislation will end soon. Even if the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Act has not become law, a similar bill is likely to be reintroduced into Congress.

The recent legislation poses several problems. Many Christian writers have expressed concern about the bill's implications for religious liberty and free speech. The final section of the H.R. 1592 says nothing in the act should be construed to prohibit activities protected by the free speech or free exercise clauses of the First Amendment. However, those promises ring hollow to observers who have seen how hate-crimes legislation has evolved both in the US and democratic nations around the world. Since the Senate version sponsored by Kennedy lacks the First-Amendment protections, the lessons of recent history must be seriously considered.

Ever since elementary school, where children chanted "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me" at each other, most reasonable people thought acts of violence should receive stiffer punishments than cruel words. Perhaps some legislators need to go back to the fourth grade.

A recent case in New Hampshire gives a prime example of how hate-crimes legislation works. In May 2004, John Guimond, of Lawrence,



Lady Justice standing atop the Old Bailey courthouse in London. Modern hate-crime legislation will overturn 800 years of western concepts of jurisprudence in the punishment of criminal conduct.

MA, allegedly used an anti-homosexual slur while robbing a gay man and his underage partner. The normal prison sentence for robbery in New Hampshire is three-and-a-half to seven years. However, by insulting

standing of the concept of justice. Calling someone "doofus," "dork," or "fatso" is not a crime. However, calling someone "faggot" or "queer" is punishable by perhaps 23 years in jail: about three times as long as the basic robbery conviction. This means that the actual robbery earned only a four-year sentence. Ever since elementary school, where children chanted "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me" at each other, most reasonable people thought acts of violence should receive stiffer punishments than cruel words. Perhaps some legislators need to go back to the fourth grade.

Most crimes that are punishable according to the proposed legislation
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The hate-crimes law would extend special protections to homosexuals, "transgendered" persons, and transvestites. Crimes against these individuals, or members of other protected groups, would be punished more severely than those against other people.

The law would provide protections against "offenses involving actual or perceived religion, national

the victim's sexual orientation, he faced a 10- to 30-year sentence. It seems as though New Hampshire's state legislators have little under-

Are You an Economic Patriot?

The Importance of Buying American

By Roger Simmermaker

AFP of Florida

The majority of Americans prefer to buy American. Poll after poll, in recent years, has shown this to be true. A June 2007 *Consumer Reports* magazine poll found 92 percent of Americans want country-of-origin labels on meat and produce. A nationwide poll conducted by Sacred Heart University in September 2007 found 86.3 percent of Americans would like to block Chinese imports until they raise their product safety standards to the level of U.S. standards. An August 7, 2007, Zogby poll showed that one in three Americans would be willing to pay four times as much for American-made toys, and 63 percent were willing to join a boycott of Chinese-made goods in general.

But the desire of Americans to buy American is not merely a recent phenomenon that began in March 2007 when China was found to have exported contaminated wheat gluten that was added to pet food and ended up killing many family pets. A February 2005 Associated Press poll showed that 93 percent of Americans



feel a strong connection to the wisdom of our founding fathers. Thomas Jefferson offered this about buying American: "I have come to a resolution myself, as I hope every good citizen will, never again to purchase any article of foreign manufacture which can be had of American make, be the difference of price what it may."

And as our national debt continues to climb out of control, Americans must realize that at least part of the reason is because workers in foreign countries don't pay taxes to America. Only American workers do. And more taxes collected means more benefits reaped for better public schools, libraries, and hospitals, a stronger military, a safer NASA space program, cleaner public parks, better construction and maintenance of our roads and bridges, and well-equipped fire and police departments. The benefits of collecting more tax revenue for the things "We, the People" have asked for from the use of our tax dollars are virtually endless.

But we need to do more than just buy American-made products. We need to buy American-owned products as well. Why? Because Ameri-

bath soap, you might notice Irish Spring and Jergens are both made in the U.S. But Irish Spring is American owned and Jergens is Japanese owned. And you'll never find that information by looking at the label. Buying American can be as simple as that.

French's and Grey Poupon are both made in the U.S. but only one of them is American-owned. French's is not French-owned; it is owned by a British company. And even though Grey Poupon sounds like it might be foreign, it is actually an American-owned brand. But perhaps the best example of all is that Swiss Miss is American-owned, but Carnation is owned by a Swiss company: Nestle, the largest food and beverage company in the world. It would help if we were more diverse in our purchases and didn't think that if two similar brands are made in America that it doesn't matter which one we buy. It does matter.

But what about big ticket items? Over 95% of the tires American owned Cooper sells in the U.S. are made in the U.S. Michelin makes tires in the U.S. too, but it is a French-owned company. American-owned Whirlpool makes several appliances in the U.S., and so does Frigidaire. But Frigidaire is owned by a company based in Sweden. American-owned General Motors and Ford each have more plants in the U.S. than all their Japanese competitors combined, and they also have higher domestic parts percentages, on average, than Japanese brands as well. GM and Ford pay more taxes to America. They support more work-

ers, retirees and their dependents than foreign-owned companies. So if you fly the American flag, you should drive an American car.

Ownership matters to Americans. An overwhelming majority of Americans, 73 percent according to a *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll, opposed United Arab Emirates-based Dubai Ports World from taking control of several of America's ports. It is why Marathon Oil Co., uses the slogan "An American Company Serving

America." And it is why Venezuelan-owned Smartmatic, a company that manufactured voting machines for American elections, was pressured into selling its Sequoia Voting Systems Company, Inc., to an American company. Ownership matters, which is why there was such a public outcry about the 70 percent Chinese government-owned CNOOC bid to acquire American-owned petroleum company Unocal. It is incredibly rewarding to see, time after time, Americans rushing to defend our companies when we stand a chance of losing them. The next step is for Americans to defend them by buying American every day.

When we support foreign companies operating in the United States, we still send our dollars to foreign lands through profits paid to foreign companies, and this money may, and many times has, been used to "invest" back into the United States. But foreigners are investing with money that used to be ours. When foreigners assume ownership of U.S. land

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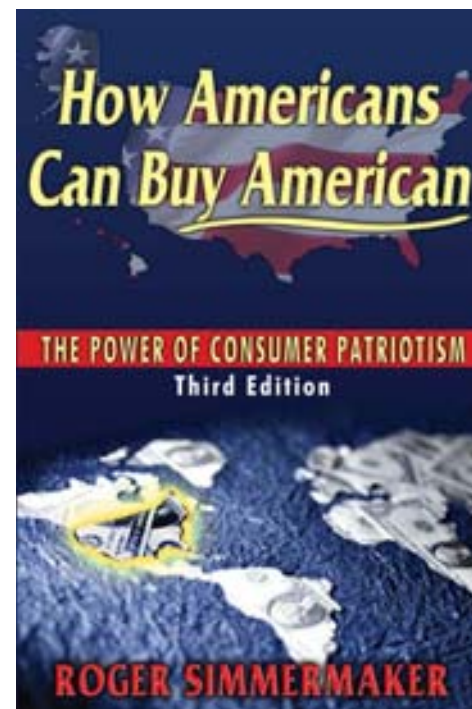
But we need to do more than just buy American-made products. We need to buy American-owned products as well.

would rather buy American products if quality and price were the same as foreign goods. In November 2005, a *Christian Science Monitor* poll asked the question "How often do you look for products that are 'MADE IN USA?'" Forty-seven percent responded by saying that they do either "most of the time" or "almost always." Only 15 percent said "seldom," and an equal percentage said "never."

But why do Americans feel this way? One reason is many Americans

can-owned companies pay nearly twice the amount of taxes to our U.S. Treasury compared to foreign-owned companies.

The good news is that we can literally double the amount of taxes we pay to the U.S. Treasury through the money we are already spending, usually with no extra cost or inconvenience to the consumer. This is especially true with products in cases when the consumer is indifferent as to which product to buy. If you're at the supermarket and you need to buy



Roger Simmermaker is the author of "How Americans Can Buy American." Now in its third edition, the book is available from the AFP Store.

U.S. / Chinese Relations Show Need for America First Policy

By **J. C. Schweingrouber**
Public Relations Cmte Chair
and
Wayne Herrod
AFP Ohio Chairman

The “Peoples Republic of China” has dominated U.S. news in the previous months for all the wrong reasons. Despite the full support of corporate America and the political elites for normal relations with China, the U.S. voter is waking up to the terrible threats that exist with our current foreign and trade policies with the communist nation. The danger of U.S. policy lies in the threat to the safety to the American consumer, both economically and militarily.

For decades, China has been working to coordinate its domestic and military policy to gain strategic advantages against the United States. In recent months we have begun to learn to just what extent they have been willing to go. China has been openly making trade threats with dangerous goods shipped in bulk to U.S. citizens, economic threats with their trade and currency policy, and military threats with their aggressive posturing and blatant statements from their top military brass. Despite the clear signals from the communist nation’s leadership, U.S. politicians are sleepwalking into an international crisis, one that hasn’t been experienced since the height of the Cold War. Sadly, during this season of political debate leading to the election of a new president, not one candidate is discussing the rising red threat as an economic and military competitor.

American stores have been flooded with products bearing the “Made In China” stickers in previous years. Some of the most popular

products, toys that we buy our children for their birthday or as Christmas presents, are coated with dangerous chemicals from lead paint to well known chemicals found in common date-rape drugs. Millions of dangerous toys have been pulled from the shelves to avoid more serious injury to American children.



In addition to the countless reports of toy recalls, the New York Times reported recalls of pet foods that contained dangerous ingredients that could cause the death of family pets. Some of those pet foods were reported to have a chemical called melamine. It is

scary to think that the growing source of food supplies for human consumption is from China, leaving Americans to question what foods are good for their own health.



Americans have no way of knowing where their food originates. There are no laws requiring “made in China” to be put on our food. The Bush administration, assuming Americans will avoid food from some countries, has refused to mandate “country of origin” labels, fear-

For decades, China has been working to coordinate its domestic and military policy to gain strategic advantages against the United States.

ing criticism from the WTO and other international groups. U.S. consumer safety plays second fiddle to geopolitical concerns.

Wayne Herrod, Chairman of the America First Party of Ohio, lived in Asia for seven years. “I read Asian newspapers from Taiwan, Hong Kong and other places where there existed a “free press” (not Chinese publications, which are government controlled). While there, there were scandals involving diverting milk



powders from New Zealand which were contaminated with rodent feces, heavy metals and pesticide residues deemed unsafe for human consumption,” Herrod says. According to the *China Post/Taipei Times*, “These were transshipped through Hong Kong and repackaged into packages from a trusted manufacturer and sold in Taiwan to children as baby formula and put into moon cakes during the 1992 Mid Autumn Festival.” Herrod stated, “The communist government had no concern for the health of its own people. We should not be shocked to learn that they would cut corners to save a penny and put the lives of Americans at risk.”

In addition to the many dangerous products dumped onto American consumers, the Chinese have subtly been using other strategies to undermine the U.S. economy and possibly intimidate American leadership. Members of Congress and the Bush Administration have openly recognized China’s policy of currency manipulation as being detrimental to our economy.

Most world currencies “float” on the open market to reflect a more ac-

curate measure of their economic strength. China, however, has tightly pegged its currency, the yuan, to the U.S. dollar and has purposely undervalued it by as much as 40% in recent years. The result of this currency manipulation is the loss of American manufacturing jobs. Allowing China to continue its currency manipulation without some form of protection for American workers is both un-American and unnecessary.

To be clear, the America First Party has long endorsed a monetary policy where the dollar is pegged to a precious metal standard for the long term economic vitality of our nation. However, that standard has not been met since President Richard Nixon removed our nation from the gold standard. Since that time our country has operated under an inflationary monetary policy and our dollar “floats” on the world market. When nations, like China, manipulate the floating rate of their currency it is to put another nation at a disadvantage. A proper response, and a historically American response, would be to place tariffs on those goods shipped from the foreign nation. Our leadership in Washington, due to their globalist thinking, refuse to adopt such measures and continue to put the American consumer and worker in jeopardy.

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One Million Iraqi Deaths Likely

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which suffer from incomplete reporting from wide swaths of the country, these are based on surveys conducted throughout most regions of Iraq. So again, is there a rational reason for downplaying them, while estimates based mainly on fatalities confirmed by geographically-limited media reporting are treated as credible? This is indeed what is happening.

In July 2006, a study published in the *Lancet*, funded by MIT and conducted by Johns Hopkins researchers estimated the "excess deaths" in Iraq -- the difference between the pre- and post-invasion death rates. This estimate was determined by surveying "12,801 people living in 47 clusters" throughout Iraq, according to study co-author Gilbert Burnham. Participants were asked about the numbers of deaths in their household since the invasion. Teams asked for death certificates 87% of the time, and these were presented in 92% of the cases. The resulting death rate estimate was extrapolated over the entire population, resulting in an estimate of deaths due to the direct and indirect consequences of the invasion. The result: 654,965 deaths, within a 95% confidence interval of 392,979 to 942,636, with 92% of fatalities



Harat children lie dead after U.S. soldiers killed the entire family in 2006.

due to violence.

At the time, John Zogby, whose nationally recognized polling company had done several surveys in post-invasion Iraq, said "The sampling is solid. The methodology is as good as it gets. It is what people in the statistics business do."

This horrifying gut-wrenching estimate is now supported by a similar Iraqi household study released only 14 months later, in September of last year. It was done by the respected UK-based ORB research group, a high-profile independent polling company in Britain. ORB has done work for the Conservative Party, the BBC, Morgan Stanley, and many other major entities. Their Iraq poll surveyed 1,499 Iraqis in 15 of the 18 provinces. Results showed that 83% died from violence. The total estimated death toll since the invasion was 1,220,580. Based on

It is reasonable to conclude that about 1 million people have died in Iraq from the direct and indirect consequences of our foreign policy mismanagement. But this does not mean that it is politically popular to mention this, and virtually no one in the media is.

a 2.5% margin of error, there was a minimum of 733,158 deaths and a maximum of 1,446,063.

The above statistics need to be understood properly. They are estimates, and it is considered 95% probable that the true number of casualties will not fall outside the 95% confidence interval. Within the 95% confidence interval, one has a bell curve, or normal probability distribution, with the highest probability estimate being in the middle. So in the case of the 2006 and 2007 estimates, the most likely number of deaths is 654,965 and 1,220,580, respectively.

Are these results really outrageous? Let us see how the



Family and friends overcome with grief in the aftermath of the Alsaffa massacre of the Harat family. Photo courtesy of the Iraqi League (iraqirabita.org).

Lancet's estimated death rates compare to those in other war or disaster regions. The *Lancet* study concluded that there were 5.5 Iraqi deaths per 1000 persons per year prior to the invasion, and that in the post invasion years, the aver-

siders the death rate per 1000 for Afghanistan to be 19.96, and incredibly, this is almost identical to the *Lancet's* estimate for Iraq for June 2005 to June 2006! It also shows 11 other nations with higher death rates than were projected in Iraq for this period. These include Afghanistan, Mozambique, Niger, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Liberia, South Africa, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Angola, and Swaziland. As for the *Lancet's* postwar average of 13.2, the CIA shows that there are 35 nations with greater death rates. These include Latvia, Estonia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Russia, and Ukraine.

Therefore, we can say with certainty that the *Lancet* and ORB results are reasonable and in line with statistical results for many other nations. To put it another way, it is reasonable to conclude that about 1 million people have died in Iraq from the direct and indirect consequences of our foreign policy mismanagement. But this does not mean that it is politically popular to mention this, and virtually no one in the media is.

It also seems clear that our government is actively covering ***(Continued on Page 9)***

So is a death rate of 13.2 or 19.8 per 1000 absolutely unthinkable? A quick look at the CIA's *Factbook* shows that the CIA con-

Hate-crimes Legislation Threatens Freedom

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are hateful, by their very nature. People do not commit murder, robbery, or assault as acts of love. It is already a crime to assault or murder a homosexual, racial minority, or member of any other group protected by hate-crimes legislation. The punishment is determined by the nature of the crime, not the personal attributes of the victim.

In a press release dated May 1, 2007, the America First Party opposed the House's hate-crimes bill, in part because "it inappropriately gives one class of citizens special treatment or protection," creating inequality in our justice system.

Alan Chambers, a former homosexual and president of Exodus International, a Christian ministry to homosexuals, said, "This legislation says that we, as former homosexuals, are of less value and worth less legal protection now than when we were living as homosexuals. We categorically reject this mindset and reaffirm every American's value and right to equal protection under the law" (quoted in "House panel OKs hate crimes bill," posted online by *Baptist Press*, April 26, <http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?id=25504>).

In addition, such hate-crimes legislation violates the Constitution. In a column released in the aftermath of the House vote on H.R. 1592 (<http://www.house.gov/paul/tst/tst2007/tst050707.htm>), Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) pointed out that the crimes covered by hate-crimes legislation all fall under the jurisdiction of the states, and the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution prohibits the federal government from meddling in such affairs.

The Constitutional threat is particularly subtle here, since some of the House bill's language is subtle. In both the House and Senate versions, most of the bill offers assistance to local law-enforcement agencies, from the federal government, to aid in investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. The bills indicate that local law-enforcement agencies would be able to apply for assistance.

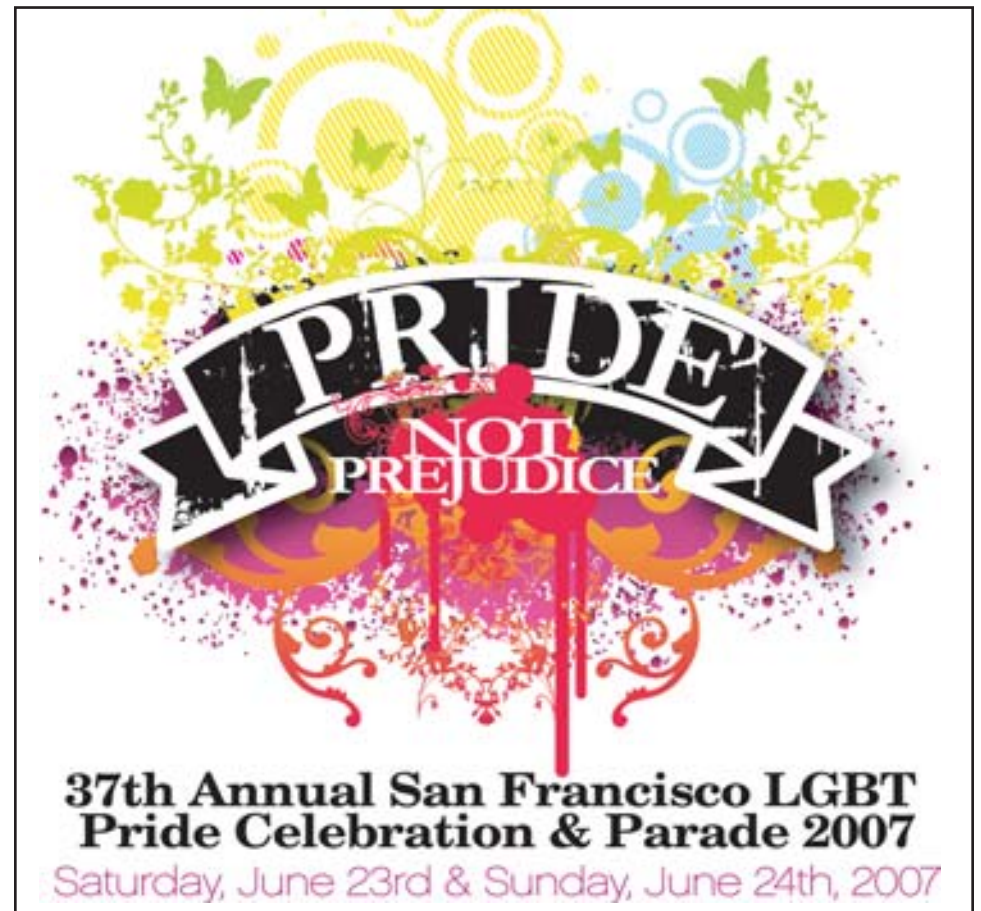
However, the bill states that the Attorney General or specified mem-

bers of his department may bring federal hate-crimes action if "the State does not have jurisdiction or does not intend to exercise jurisdiction" (emphasis added) or if "the verdict or sentence obtained pursuant to State charges left demonstratively unvindicated the Federal interest in eradicating bias-motivated violence." In other words, the Attorney General may say, "I don't like how you folks handled this case. I think it's a hate crime, regardless of what your police officers think. I'm taking over." The Tenth Amendment clearly prohibits this activity, but few writers besides Ron Paul have addressed this problem.

Some Christian groups and family-values activists have argued that the hate-crimes bill, coupled with other federal statutes, may infringe on freedom of speech. In an article entitled "Christians in bull's-eye in new 'hate crimes' plan," posted online by *WorldNetDaily* on April 26, Glenn Lavy of the Alliance Defense Fund pointed out that the inclusion of a definition of "hate crimes" from another section of federal law may create this danger. The article quoted Lavy: "There is legitimate concern that once Congress makes any 'hate' crime a federal offense, the categories of crime will expand to include speech that causes someone to 'feel' intimidated, just as they have in other places such as Australia, Canada, and Sweden."

In recent years, clergy in Sweden and Canada have been charged with hate crimes for preaching that homosexuality is a sin. A few years ago, in Australia, a "religious tolerance" law was used to sentence two Christian ministers to jail when they criticized Islam; even though their criticism was grounded in a presentation of verses from the Qu'ran (showing what Islam says about itself), legal action was allowed to proceed against the ministers.

Unfortunately, even when hate-crimes legislation is written in a broad manner which should ensure equal protection under the law, certain groups receive favored status. *WorldNetDaily* columnist Walter E. Williams (an African-American) observed in a December 26, 2007 col-



Official logo for the San Francisco "Gay Pride" Celebration. Not content with flaunting their own degeneracy, LGBT lobby members insist that decent people embrace it as well on pain of incarceration.

umn, "Media conceal black interracial crimes," that a significant number of interracial crimes are ignored when the perpetrators are black and the victims are white. He cited several egregious cases where black suspects were not charged with hate-crimes, even though hate-crimes charges had been brought in similar cases where the perpetrators were white and the victims were black. Williams points out that, according to FBI statistics, the number of white persons attacked by black people is twice as high as the number of black people attacked by white persons. Nevertheless, hate-crimes charges are rarely considered when the victim is a Caucasian and the alleged perpetrator is a minority.

Lavy and others are concerned that a person may be charged with a hate crime even if they were not directly involved in the act. For example, a minister might preach that homosexuality is a sin. If one of his parishioners later attacks a homosexual, the minister may be held liable. In this scenario, a pastor's sermon, letter to the editor, a political party's platform, etc.--all of which are pro-

tected by the First Amendment--could be considered "hate speech" and lead to criminal charges. It would not matter if the minister clearly spoke against violence or cruelty towards homosexuals. Even the Bible could be classified as hate literature, and Jesus Christ branded as a bigot.

As indicated in our party's platform, "The America First Party is unalterably opposed to all so-called 'hate crime' laws whether they are federal, state, county, or municipal. The elusive element of 'hate' as a significant factor in the commission of a particular crime is something that can best be determined by God, not by Man." Hatred comes in all shapes, colors, and sizes. It should not matter in a court of law whether a crime was committed because of the victim's race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, or any other factor. Government should take proper action to punish hate-filled criminal acts in all their forms, considering the actions of the perpetrator and their consequences. This protection should be granted to all citizens without granting special status to some groups over others.

One Million Iraqi Deaths Likely

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up the true picture. Take for instance the CIA's unlikely estimate for the 2007 Iraqi death rate: 5.26. This is lower than the 5.5 pre-invasion death rate, and it attempts to place Iraq in the same league as the Pacific island kingdom of Tonga, Fiji, and Belize, and puts Iraq's death rate considerably lower than Iceland's!

Another recent survey released in March by D3 Systems, of Vienna, Virginia, and sponsored by ABC, BBC, *USA Today*, and the ARD German TV network, corroborates the grim picture painted by the *Lancet* and ORB studies. Here is an excerpt:

"Eighty percent of Iraqis report attacks nearby – car bombs, snipers, kidnappings, armed forces fighting each other or abusing civilians. It's worst by far in the capital, Baghdad, but by no means confined there. The personal toll is enormous. More than half of Iraqis, 53 percent, have a close friend or relative who's been hurt or killed in the current violence. One in six says someone in their own household has been harmed. Eighty-six percent worry about a loved one being hurt; two-

thirds worry deeply. Huge numbers limit their daily activities to minimize risk. Seven in 10 report multiple signs of traumatic stress."

The newest study to be released, published on January 9th by the *New England Journal of Medicine* and performed by the World Health Organization in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Health, estimated only 151,000 violent deaths -- over 4 times fewer than the *Lancet's* estimate. The report stated that the 2nd *Lancet* study "considerably overestimated the number of violent deaths."

A key point here, however, is the health ministry's deteriorating credibility since its takeover in December of 2005 by supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr, the Shiite cleric who controls the Mahdi Army militia. As a result of that takeover, it is likely that many Iraqi citizens would fear having interaction with surveyors working for or with the present Health Ministry, and this, among other things, could easily skew the results of that study.

This is underscored by CBS News reporter Lara Logan's uncovering of how death squads



Locals carry the victims of the Alsafta massacre from the rubble.

have been operating in Iraqi state hospitals under the new administration. An intelligence report that CBS reports having access to describes the following: "1. Hospitals have become command and control centers for the Mahdi

Mahdi Army."

All this gives good reason to question the Iraqi Health Ministry/WHO study's 151,000 casualty estimate. On the other hand, the revelation in mid-January that George Soros provided half the

It also seems clear that our government is actively covering up the true picture.

Army militia. 2. Sunni patients are being murdered; some are dragged from their beds. 3. The militia is keeping hostages inside some hospitals, where they are tortured and executed. 4. They're using ambulances to transport hostages and illegal weapons, and even to help their fighters escape from U.S. forces."

CBS reports, "A man was bringing his murdered brother to the morgue. They asked him if he knew who the killers were and he said 'yes.' They shot him right there." In addition to these atrocities there are signs that the health ministry is being purged of non-conforming staff. One hospital worker reported that "80 percent of the original doctors and staff where she works are gone, replaced by Shia supporters of the

funding for the 2nd *Lancet* Study might be used to discredit it. But given that three other studies are consistent with the *Lancet* estimate of 654,965 deaths, and that the crude death rates calculated by the study compared well with the CIA's estimates for other nations, this does not significantly undermine the result. We should also keep in mind that the study was commissioned by MIT, conducted by researchers affiliated with Johns Hopkins, and then peer-reviewed by associates of the *Lancet*. These are all reputable groups.

It is important for Americans to see the grim realities associated with Iraq, in order to accurately assess the damage that our foreign policy has done. Failure to do so
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Harat family home where most of the killing took place. Photos this page courtesy of the Iraqi League (iraqirabita.org).

United States Relations with Red China

(Continued from Page 6)

In early 2007 the Bush Administration sent many high profile members of the White House, including the Secretary of State and the Treasury Secretary, to Beijing to discuss China's use of currency manipulation. That visit from high level officials did not result in any meaningful action. Instead, it showed the weakness of our public leaders as Chinese officials balked at the requests of the White House. Despite many continued public complaints, China continues to manipulate its currency. The communist nation has made clear from its actions that they fully intend to bleed off American jobs to bolster their own economy and have no concern for the safety of American citizens by continuing to export dangerous products for use in our homes.

The U.S. Treasury Department has had no problem allowing China to buy billions of dollars in U.S. Treasury obligations over the past year and a half. This failed policy, with no objection from the Bush Administration or Congress, has resulted in China owning well over

friend and ally. It is considered a "nuclear" option in government circles and is the clear posturing of an enemy of the United States.

China has spent vast amounts of its gains from the U.S. on its military buildup for several years. The Pentagon has warned the Washington political machine of their rapid increase in military spending to build a force to compete with the United States. The *Christian Science Monitor* also reported, in November of 2005, that the Chinese had converted about 15% of its two million man military into a modern force skilled at rapid attacks against smaller foes. This conversion points to a future rapid attack to bring Taiwan under communist control. Some speculate that it could also foreshadow many other small regional attacks that would compromise U.S. interests in the region.

In the event that China attacks Taiwan, the U.S. (due to neglect of the Chinese threat) would be left with a tough decision. Do we send forces in to protect Taiwan and face the "nuclear option" of China crashing the dollar and sending the world into a depression, or do we sit on the side-



The Red Chinese flag of the Chinese Communist Party, the largest terrorist organization in the world with which the United States has diplomatic and trade relations.

in China. The money you spend on that product finds its way back to China for them to spend on their military, their roads, and the economic machine to take more American jobs.

The most recent developments regarding China's posturing and military technology have been the most disturbing. On January 11th the Chinese military fired a land based rocket called the Feng Yun 1C into orbit to destroy one of its own aging weather satellites causing concern among many Western nations and Japan. Several official complaints were filed by the U.S. and its allies due to the unusual nature of the event. Military experts believe that the test to obliterate the satellite was a clear signal to the United States of China's military technology capability.

U.S. military officials are concerned because of the necessary use of satellites for our own national defense and the safety of our troops in the battlefield. Our low-Earth satellites are necessary for our military to commence bombing and directing battlefield operations. The Chinese test shows that our battlefield advantages are now vulnerable. Knocking out our needed satellites in a time of war would put hundreds of thousands of our soldiers at a disadvantage and could cripple a significant portion of our civilian population that rely on satellite technology for simple communications.

John Pike of globalsecurity.org,

an organization that gathers information on international security topics was recently interviewed by CNN.com. He went on record saying, "If we, for instance, got into a conflict over Taiwan, one of the first things they'd probably do would be to shoot down all of our lower Earth-orbit spy satellites, putting out our eyes." He went on to say, "The thing that is surprising and disturbing is that the Chinese have chosen this moment to demonstrate a military capability that could only be aimed at the United States."

U.S. leaders seem to be intimidated by the posturing coming from Beijing and have managed to even avoid the topic during the debates leading up to the next presidential election. However, this threat is not going away and ignoring it will only result in the Chinese using more aggressive tactics in the future. If the two ruling parties refuse to deal with this issue, then perhaps it is time for them to step aside and allow dialogue and discourse from the third parties on the best way to handle our next Cold War. The America First Party has called for the necessary steps to avoid this growing threat, and with regard to many other vital national concerns, but those recommendations have fallen upon deaf ears in Washington among the liberal and neo-con elites.

The America First Party platform
(Continued on Page 11)

Perhaps China already considers itself at war with the United States.... Maybe they have already employed a strategy of sapping our vital manufacturing jobs, of sending toxic food and products for our gluttonous consumption, and of putting themselves in the position of holding an economic gun to our head.

\$1.35 trillion of foreign dollar reserves and over \$900 billion in U.S. bonds to use as a political weapon against America.

With such a weapon in hand, China has hinted at selling all of the treasury debt if Washington retaliates against its unfair trade and currency practices. Selling all of their holdings of U.S. treasuries and dollar reserves would result in a crash of the U.S. dollar, which is already seeing record lows due to bad trade policy and record debt levels. In other words, China is hinting at causing an economic collapse in America. Such a veiled threat is not the action of a

lines and send the message to our allies that we can no longer protect them in the face of danger?

Perhaps China already considers itself at war with the United States. They understand that they face a military foe that they cannot presently defeat on the battlefield. So maybe they have already employed a strategy of sapping our vital manufacturing jobs, of sending toxic food and products for our gluttonous consumption, and of putting themselves in the position of holding an economic gun to our head. It is entirely possible. Consider this the next time you shop and pick up a product made

Economic Patriots Buy American!

(Continued from Page 5)

and factories, they become our landlords. We are essentially letting them be the holders of the mortgage on our national treasury. Every time they return their profits to their foreign lands, and pay their taxes to their foreign governments, they dissipate our country's wealth instead of creating it. What can we do about it? For starters, how about trying more American investment in America and less foreign investment in America? We cannot trade ownership of our American assets and industries for prosperity.

The good news is that the American-made products are out there, you've probably just been looking in the wrong places.

But the very thought of trying to buy American can feel like a daunting task. If an important aspect of your store shopping has been to find the "Made in USA" label, you have no doubt felt the frustration of finding a wide variety of goods made in a wide variety of foreign countries. Ninety-Six percent of clothing we buy in the U.S. is made outside our borders. Sounds depressing, right? Not if you know how and where to find that 4 percent of clothing being produced in the United States. If you do, you can help stabilize the trend of ever-increasing foreign imports and even cause it to reverse direction.

So how can we find that coveted 4 percent? Awareness is the key. The good news is that the American-

made products are out there, you've probably just been looking in the wrong places. Everything I wear every day is made in the USA, and if I can do it, you can too! And I'm here to tell you I probably don't spend any more money on clothes than you do, and I'm not buying clothes of inferior quality. I wrote *How Americans Can Buy American* to help like-minded Americans become more aware of the possibilities.

But even when buying American does cost more, we need to avoid thinking of it as an extra cost and instead think of it as an investment in

our country, and avoid the "bargain shopper" mentality of always striving to find the cheapest product possible. President William McKinley had a few things to say about the word "cheap." He said, "I do not prize the word 'cheap.' It is not a badge of honor. It is a symbol of despair. Cheap prices make for cheap goods, cheap goods make for cheap men, and cheap men make for a cheap country."

Americans often purchase foreign goods not because they have a huge desire or craving for imports but because they are often forced to buy from the options that are placed in front of them. If 85 percent of the goods on the shelves at Wal-Mart are imported, it is no startling revelation

that most of the people shopping there will come away with their shopping bags stuffed full of imports. Shoppers don't walk out of Wal-Mart with foreign-made goods because they crave imports. They come away with foreign-made goods because it is what Wal-Mart stocks. I've heard plenty of stories about people looking through several products in stores to find the "Made in USA" logo on them, but I've never heard of anyone searching persistently until they can find one that says "Made in China."

Buying American is rooted and grounded in such American values as independence, self-reliance, and self-sufficiency. In today's economy, we need to make sure we buy American so that there will continue to be American left to buy. And even though we can't stop foreign companies from buying our American land, American factories and American companies, we can stop giving them the money with which to do it.

Roger Simmermaker is the author of How Americans Can Buy American: The Power of Consumer Patriotism. He also writes "Buy American Mention of the Week" articles for his website www.howto-buyamerican.com and is a member of the Machinists Union and National Writers Union. Roger, a former chairman of the America First Party of Florida, has been a frequent guest on Fox News, CNN and MSNBC and has been quoted in the USA Today, Wall Street Journal and US News & World Report among many other publications.

Iraqi Deaths

(Continued from Page 9)

will increase the likelihood that we will fail to craft the right foreign policy for the future. Unfortunately, there is often a disconnect between the way Americans see their country and the way people overseas see it, and this is sometimes due to the American media not reporting the truth. As a result, populist tendencies can develop at home and overseas which can lead to international tensions.

But members of the America First Party know that risk of international tensions and of calamities like the one in Iraq, would be largely eliminated if our foreign policy were governed by constitutional principles.

Under the Constitution (art. 1, sec 8), the U.S. military is budgetarily restricted from any combat role which is not related to national defense. If this requirement were respected, our nation's international prestige would still be relatively high in comparison to what it is now, and about 1 million Iraqis and 4,000 Americans would still be alive today.

Will there be millions more deaths before we return to the safety of constitutional principles that have served us so well in the past?

Red China

(Continued from Page 10)

calls for a more traditional foreign policy and economic policy. Instead of being held hostage at the economic whims of communist China, we should focus on a more sound fiscal policy and operate within our means. Leveraging the economic well-being of Americans is unjust and immoral.

Americans should take it upon

themselves to institute a "buy American" policy for their own homes. A boycott of dangerous Chinese goods is a huge step in the right direction. It would send a clear message from the citizens of this country to the leaders of China, in contrast to the continued weak messages coming from Washington. Such a simple act would encourage more domestic production to alleviate the job losses in our necessary manufacturing sector.

The U.S. should immediately require tariffs on goods shipped from

China to halt the unfair trade advantage they have been given over U.S. made goods, at least a 30% tariff to meet their level of currency devaluation against the dollar. Also, the status of "Most Favored Nation" should be revoked because of their economic threats, military threats, and lack of respect for basic human rights, including freedom of religion and reproduction.

The U.S. government's insistence on such an unholy affiliation with the communist nation is a direct result of

U.S. multinational corporations looking to save a few bucks on manufacturing costs by shipping millions of jobs to China for a slave's wage. Our elected officials need to wake up to the threat that China is mounting for the long term. They are making themselves a foe, not a friend. Continuing our current policies with Red China would be like handing a loaded gun to the Soviets during the Cold War. It is bad for America and puts every American citizen in mortal and economic danger.



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Fighting for Faith, Freedom and the Constitution to Put America First!

Now you can show your pride in putting America First, while you promote the party and help spread our message to your friends and neighbors. Here are some of the items available from the Party Store.



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This glossy, eight page full-color newsletter is a complete introduction to the America First Party. It presents a professional, vibrant image of the party to prospects.



AFP Business Cards
This color business card is great to pass out on the street or anywhere you encounter a potential party member or supporter. On the back is listed a number of important positions of the Party.



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AFP Ball Cap - This white adjustable baseball cap comes with the Party logo embroidered on the front. Made in the USA.

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AFP White T-shirt
This white pull-over tee shirt comes with the party logo and name emblazoned on the front. Made in the USA and available in a very wide range of sizes.

How to order these items and more!

- Order online by credit card from our party store website at store.americafirstparty.org.
- Write to us for a store leaflet and order form at 1630 A 30th St # 111, Boulder, CO 80301.
- Call us at our toll-free number (866) SOS-USA1 and request a store leaflet and order form.