

An Interview with the President. Iraq Explained.
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John Problem: Good Morning, Mr. President. And welcome on behalf of all our readers.

The President: A real pleasure to be here, Jarn. I enjoy reading your magazine, and the stuff about Tony. Great guy - a real statesman.

John Problem: Yes. Would you care for some coffee?

The President: If I need coffee, Jarn, my guys will fix it.

John Problem: Of course.

The President: O.K. Shoot. What d'ya wanna know?

John Problem: Well, Mr. President, we asked our readers on what subject they would most like to have your views. And they overwhelmingly voted for foreign policy.

The President: That's OK. I guess they would. You had a big empire, 'n all. So, go ahead.

John Problem: Well, Mr President. The big question is always: what's going to happen in Iraq?

The President: Y'know, Jarn, I get really teed off always being asked about Eye-rak. It gives me a real pain, believe me. Still, in your case, I'll make an exception. I'll tell you what's coming down over there. You seem a reasonable sort of guy, doing your best, a Brit, you were in the military 'n all - ya could've been in Baghdad. Anyway, I'm gonna give you an exclusive. So, heads up. Because this is the big one.

John Problem: Right, Mr. President.

The President: My guys are gonna video this, Jarn.

John Problem: Certainly, Mr. President.

The President: Lemme fill you in on the background. As President, whatever you do, there's a thousand jerks out there, sounding off in the media about how they would do it better. Lemme tell ya, Jarn, when I make a decision, it's not the martini that does it, like those dope heads. It's after a lot of

hard thinking - and taking the best advice America has to offer.
Right?

John Problem: Yes, Mr. President. Of course.

The President: And the godd-- the sicko media go on and on about what a bunch of smarty-pants they are and what a rich idiot I am, who cain't even speak properly. Ya know what, Jarn?

John Problem: What, Mr. President?

The President: They're all total jerks. Because they have no idea why I ordered the invasion of Eye-rak. They thought it was for the oil. Jerks! Do you know why Eye-rak got targeted, Jarn?

John Problem: Er, no, actually.

The President: Well, I'm gonna tell ya. Nobody's heard this before, so you're gonna owe me one.

John Problem: Oh, definitely!

The President: I didn't send in 'shock and awe' for their stoopid oil-fields. No way. My plan for Eye-rak was to knock out their kulchur. Wipe it out! Gone! Good and for all!

John Problem: Kulchur?

The President: I guess you Brits call it 'culture'.

John Problem: Ah.

The President: Ya see, Jarn. My personal mission is not about finding more oil-fields. I got plenty of my own. It's not about bringing democracy to a bunch of unfriendly wackoes. Forget it. It's not about 'manifest destiny', whatever that is. Those second-guessing jerks in the media know nothing! My mission is... Now, listen hard, Jarn. My mission is to spread American Culture around the world. And make it a better place. You're the first to hear that, Jarn. Like I said: an exclusive.

John Problem: Well, Mr. President. I don't know what to say. Er...

The President: That's OK. I'm gonna give you the full story. To start with, you gotta take a look at all the cultures of the world. Right?

John Problem: Right.

The President: You got the Asians with all that statue stuff with arms waving about all over the place. Pretty well dead, now. Those guys over there are more interested in making big bucks. You got the European culture. Well, we already have that in the U.S of A. Came with the immigrants. And then you got the culture of the Middle East. Of Mee-poe-satamia. Old Baghdad, Damascus 'n all. You with me, so far, Jarn?

John Problem: Yes, I am, Mr. President.

The President: Say. Why don't you can that 'Mister President' stuff. Call me 'George'.

John Problem: Er. Right. Thanks, um.

The President: OK. So we Americans have absorbed cultures from all over and we've changed and improved them, right? But the culture we ain't got a hold on is that stuff in the Middle East. Like I said. Now. You know that my mission is to bring American Culture to the world. Make it globalised, like really global. How am I gonna do that if there is still a strong culture hanging around that is not willing to be a part of ours? Huh? Tell me that. Where they don't wanna watch Hollywood movies and they pour Coca-Cola down the drain. Unbelievable!

John Problem: Um.

The President: So the only way to handle that is to hit it hard. 'Shock and Awe'. Let 'em know that we're in charge and that we know what's best for 'em. Sort out their culture; adapt it; absorb the accessible parts into our American culture. Hot-diggety; everybody happy! D' ya get it, Jarn? I took out Eye-rak so that culture can be globalised. And American.

John Problem: I see. George.

The President: Gonna be the same with Eye-ran. They had a big culture; ya know that? Real old and real powerful once. So, they're next. CIA says the people will welcome us, 'n that's what I like to hear. I'm deeply committed to policies that feel good, Jarn.

John Problem: Yes. George.

The President: Now, I know what you're gonna say next, Jarn. You're gonna say: what about those cheese-eating surrender monkeys?

John Problem: I'm sorry?

The President: The French! Everybody says they got a culture that is way different from ours. Some of those jerks in the media even say it's better! Can you believe that? Well, I had your M.I., whatever number it is, do some research on that, lemme tell ya. Some of your guys speak the language there. Clever, huh? And they found that 40% of stuff on French television is American soaps! That's during the day. At night, the Frogs watch Hollywood movies! There's a McDonald's in every town. And when they're not drinking their vinegar wine, they're sinking bourbon, for Pete's sake! I don't need to worry about them, right?

John Problem: Probably not.

The President: You better believe it! I can concentrate on Eye-ran and Koe-reeyah. Mission almost accomplished, huh? So, what d'ya think, Jarn? How d'ya like your exclusive?

John Problem: I'm overwhelmed. Truly. George.