

“SHUT UP AND EXPLAIN HOW WE COULD ASSIST THE FPS IN FINDING *MORE* DETAINEES”



Atrios points out the hypocrisy of our foreign policy as displayed in his Twitter stream.

It reminded me of this:

(02:26:01 PM) Manning: i dont believe in good guys versus bad guys anymore... i only a plethora of states acting in self interest... with varying ethics and moral standards of course, but self-interest nonetheless

(02:26:18 PM) Manning: s/only/only see/

(02:26:47 PM) Lamo: the tm meant i was being facetious

(02:26:59 PM) Manning: gotchya

(02:27:47 PM) Manning: i mean, we're better in some respects... we're much more subtle... use a lot more words and legal techniques to legitimize everything

(02:28:00 PM) Manning: its better than disappearing in the middle of the night

(02:28:19 PM) Manning: but just because something is more subtle, doesn't make it right

(02:29:04 PM) Manning: i guess im too idealistic

(02:31:02 PM) Manning: i think the thing that got me the most... that made me rethink the world more than anything

(02:35:46 PM) Manning: **was watching 15 detainees taken by the Iraqi Federal Police... for printing "anti-Iraqi**

literature”... the iraqi federal police wouldn’t cooperate with US forces, so i was instructed to investigate the matter, find out who the “bad guys” were, and how significant this was for the FPs... **it turned out, they had printed a scholarly critique against PM Maliki...** i had an interpreter read it for me... and when **i found out that it was a benign political critique titled “Where did the money go?” and following the corruption trail within the PM’s cabinet...** i immediately took that information and *ran* to the officer to explain what was going on... he didn’t want to hear any of it... **he told me to shut up and explain how we could assist the FPs in finding *MORE* detainees...**

(02:35:46 PM) Lamo : I’m not here right now

(02:36:27 PM) Manning: **everything started slipping after that... i saw things differently**

(02:37:37 PM) Manning: i had always questioned the things worked, and investigated to find the truth... but that was a point where i was a *part* of something... i was actively involved in something that i was completely against... [my emphasis]

All the pop psychology that has been offered to explain why Bradley Manning allegedly leaked to WikiLeaks serves to obscure his own very clear explanation: Manning first “saw things differently” when he was ordered to help our client thug in Iraq crack down on very tame domestic dissent.

While I think the Administration has been not-horrible in its response to the upheaval in the Middle East, it still is mostly just “words and legal techniques to legitimize” American self interest.