

# DEATH OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN STATUS QUO

---

## \$40 OIL

---

## THE FORMER PROPAGANDA TWINS SPEAK

---

## GOING NUCLEAR

I'm in Asia right now. On the way in, I was reminded of the increasingly visible effects of climate change—a tropical depression had closed the airport in Tokyo, so I was diverted to Nagoya, where I and 12 plane-loads of people slept on the airport floor, hoping to reach our destinations in time for our business meetings.

---

## WHAT TIPPED THE

# BALANCE?

John Amato provides some perspective on the most ominous development of the week, when Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani announced that he can no longer restrain his followers. Sistani announced this in the last few days. But, as one of Amato's readers pointed out, David Ignatius reported that Sistani was worried about this back in July.

David:..

---

## REPUBLICAN FOREIGN POLICY: MAKE A PROFIT ON DESTRUCTION, MAKE A PROFIT ON RECONSTRUCTION

I can't remember where I asked it, but several weeks ago I asked who was going to pay for Lebanon's reconstruction. Some in the thread mused that we, the American taxpayers, would pay for it. Well, wouldn't you know:

The Bush administration is scrambling to assemble a plan to help rebuild Lebanon, hoping that by competing with Hezbollah for the public's favor it can undo the damage the war has inflicted on its image and

---

## JUDY AND JOHNNY

It seems Arianna hasn't disbanded her impressive network of Judy Miller sources. She reports:

At 7:30 this morning, John Bolton was having breakfast at Oscar's at the Waldorf with Judy Miller.

Arianna wonders whether Bolton's nomination battle to be reappointed came up. But I'm not convinced. After all, we have good reason to believe that John Bolton is the only Neocon who has availed himself of Judy's particular talent for WMD porn since

---

## **HOW MANY TERRORISTS DOES ONE F-16 GET YOU?**

Fred Kaplan tries to teach BushCo a lesson about cooperating with unsavory regimes by pointing out the central role Pakistan played in yesterday's big terrorist bust.

There's a broader lesson here, and it speaks to the Bushadministration's present jam throughout the Middle East and in other danger zones. If the British had adopted the same policy toward dealing with Pakistan that Bush has adopted toward dealing with, say, Syria or Iran (namely, it's an evil

---

## **PAT LANG'S FOUR QUESTIONS AND HEZBOLLAH**

What a dirty trick Pat Lang played, sending his friends a list of four issues with the US-French peace plan, but not addressing those four issues

himself. France and the United States are not at war with each other. They cannot agree to end the fighting. Hizbullah thinks it is winning both tactically and strategically. Why will it agree to anything other than a cease-fire in place? Such a cease-fire will be a victory

---

## **LAMONT'S "SINGLE ISSUE" VOTERS**

The Q-Poll shows that 44% of Lamont's supporters support him mainly because of Lieberman's stance on the Iraq war. And Markos anticipates a bunch of pundits frowning on the large number of "Single Issue" voters.

For a pundit to suggest the Iraq war is a "Single Issue" simply betrays their ignorance of the impact that war has and will continue to have on this country and the rest of the world.

Some are