

SADDAM HUSSEIN the Fighter, the Thinker and the Man

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CHAPTER 15

Europe and the American Hold

But to what degree can Europe extricate itself from America's grip? The reply to this question exacts a familiarity with the strong justifications for this American hold over Europe. In Saddam Hussein's view, "the strong justifications for America's current hold are political in their influence over the major trends in European policy. Its basic form is the Soviet-American conflict and the two opposing sides, with Western Europe under the American wing for well-known reasons. Furthermore, a significant number of European nations have their own particular economic justifications for their relationship with America. One of these is American aid, as well as the presence of American companies, and wide American investment and capital in Western Europe (1)".

The question therefore has a political and an economic aspect. "In our political appraisals, we must devote particular attention to the matter of European security, Western Europe's fear of the Soviet threat, the role this plays in the American-European alliance, and its reflection on the strength of American influence in international politics (2)." The fact is that Europe, despite the balance of nuclear terror, does not now fear atomic arms as much as war with the conventional arms of the Warsaw Pact. In Europe's mind, the Pact's troops, or most of them, can be swept away by these conventional arms, which quantitatively, and sometimes qualitatively, depend on Europe's conventional arms should the hour of confrontation arise. In Saddam Hussein's assessment, "the matter of European security involves two volitions. The first is Western Europe's will to be rid of the ghost of a threat from the Warsaw Pact, and gain a measure of freedom, and stability, in developing away from the American hold. The second is the Soviet Union's desire to liberate its troops for confrontation with China, and for other international commitments (3)".

This is the political aspect. The economic aspect however, presents a new element in addition to American aid to some of Western Europe, and American capital within its various countries. This is oil. In that it represents a center of American pressure on Europe, this new element also represents, or is perhaps representative of, an Arab center of pressure, not only to loosen America's grip over Western Europe, but also for the Arab causes themselves. The correct solutions should be found for the latter in a way which links up perfectly with true Western European interests, independent of American control.

" After World War II, America played a definite role in driving Europe out of important oil positions, thus weakening the, effect of its individual policy in the Middle East. It drove Europe out of Iran and Saudi Arabia, and brought about the wide scale participation of European nations in other regions. In American policy, oil is no longer a formula for self-sufficiency guaranteeing strategic goods. Neither is it any longer a means of exploitation, but has instead become a decisive matter in America's universal policy, particularly in its relations with Western Europe and Japan (4)."

Saddam Hussein rightly asks where is America's hidden strength. And what is the basic element in its power outside its own territory? He then replies: "The basic factor is its

alliance with Europe and Japan (5)." If energy is the main stay of economic life and European industrial society, then whoever has "the capacity for serious influence in the Middle East, the prime source of energy for Europe and Japan, will be able to control both (6)".

Looking at the picture in this light raises two questions. The first involves freeing this energy from the grip of American influence and exploitation, and consequently freeing Europe and Japan from American dominance, at least in terms of the influence this powerful factor has on their life and economy. The second question involves using this energy in the field of international relations, and its political function in that it brings a positive yield for our Arab causes, with the current Arab-Zionist conflict at the fore. Free oil, or oil nationalized in the interests of the freedom, independence, and true overall development of the Arab people, is sold in accordance with Iraqi policy, its international interests, and within the framework of its Arab and international strategy. Other oil, that is "shared" oil in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other places, will not have the same capacity to influence. Furthermore, even though American and other Western nations have the lion's share, after Iraq nationalized its oil and demands for the nationalization of Arab oil everywhere increased, they were able to conceal their barefaced imperialist exploitation behind long-term purchasing contracts. This practically accomplished most of the objectives behind the former concessions, and helped the imperialist states to avoid political surprises, which harmed their interests and ran counter to their policies. In political terms, this was a fundamental element in the alliance between America, Europe and Japan, and strengthened America's hold over both, as well as consolidating American positions and centres of influence in its overall general policy. The nationalization of Iraqi oil did not therefore only represent liberation from the exploitation and political hegemony of monopolist companies. It also represented liberation for a part of the European will itself from the dominance of America's hold over it, and from the latter's almost total control over European domestic economic life.

Notes

- 1) Saddam Hussein, *Nidhal una Was-Siyasa ad-Dawliyya*, pp. 35-36.
- 2) *Ibid.*, p. 29.
- 3) *Ibid.*
- 4) *Ibid.*, p. 30.
- 5) *Ibid.*, p. 67.
- 6) *Ibid.*, p. 66.