

—RAKO STUDIOS—

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As the Gulf War raged, one graffiti artist in San Jose California told it like it was.



This artful graffiti was printed in the San Jose Mercury News around the first Gulf war, circa 1993 or so. I find that many libertarians anti-war stance is just because they are wimpy candy-asses that wouldn't even participate in a food fight much less armed conflict.

Note the white lettering:

Dem kids
died for oil.
Thousands
more will
be capped
by our
psychotic
leader.
Get wise!

Still, I do take serious that editor of Soldier of Fortune, I believe, who said every war the US has engaged in since the Civil war has been a waste of blood and treasure. When asked about WWII, his solution was to just have the US sit by until the USSR inevitably conquered Berlin, and then drop an A-bomb on Moscow.

Its a bit of Monday morning quarterbacking, but it sure would have saved my Dad from getting his knees frozen in the Hürtgen forest during the Battle of the Bulge.

Still it is hard not to cheer the first Gulf war, perhaps the only decisive victory for the US since WWII. But in retrospect I have to question what we gained. A few Mideast countries did accept the US as alpha-male bully suitable to settle disputes among the other schoolyard bullies. That lasted about 3 years. But I can't believe the families of the dead or any of the wounded soldiers think the first Gulf was was a good idea.

So ponder this street art, perhaps by a young man, wise beyond his years, who wondered why we were spending billions of dollars and thousands of lives for oil, something in abundant supply all over the world. It is interesting that Germany's Panzer division running out of fuel during WWII has made oil the preeminent strategic commodity in politicians' minds. Meanwhile, China is scooping up all the niobium and rare-earth metals, the true strategic commodities of the 21st century. We still think it's about oil.

Politicians and strategists, like generals, always fight the last war, not the current or next one. In a century, the US spending so much blood and treasure to secure oil reserves will be seen as stupid as our generals sending their troops into mass charges on machine gun emplacements in WWI.