

DEMOCRACY WORSHIPER & PAT BUCHANAN

Is it time for responsible newspapers to stop publishing Pat Buchanan Op-Ed pieces?

Buchanan has for some time defended both Hitler and Stalin, blaming wars and other catastrophes on leaders like Roosevelt and Churchill. Buchanan's latest attack on George Bush and the World War II allied leaders rewrites history in a way which is terribly irresponsible and at times totally false.

The Sun Gazette would not give me enough room to respond fully to the Buchanan piece, but just consider a few of his concepts.

Buchanan blames the seeds of World War II on the fact that after World War I three million disenfranchised Germans were placed "under alien rule" without consent and against their will. Buchanan, with complete historical myopia, claims that between 1938 and 1939 German and other groups broke free of Czechoslovakia's multi-national Democracy and it was for that reason that Churchill thought Britain should go to war! This is a total lie. Churchill did not start World War II muchless because of the break up of the Czech Republic. Buchanan does not even mention Germany's invasion of Poland and its war of genocide against its neighbors and the rest of the world.

In Buchan's demented world, Churchill caused World War II in order to preserve the British Empire and British rule in India!

Israel was blamed for war with Hezbollah last summer not because of the continuing terrorism, rocket attacks, bombings and kidnappings by Hezbollah but because "democratic Israel [was] enraged by a Hezbollah kidnapping..." (Emphasis added)

World War I was said to be a war between democratic nations. There was nothing about Germany in 1914 that was democratic.

It is claimed that the German people chose Hitler while in fact he was made Chancellor by a democratically elected leader which was followed by the equivalent of a *coup d'etat* forced on the German people by the Nazi party.

Buchanan's point is, of course, that we should not support democracies because it may not always be in our self-interest. Buchanan's support for every fascist dictator who might conceivably side with America for a short time is reminiscent of the Stalin/Hitler pact which backfired on the Soviets and cost 25 million Soviet lives. Is Buchanan prepared to see the same catastrophe brought to America by our supporting dictators and other despots?

CAR/srb

By: Clifford A. Rieders, Esquire
Rieders, Travis, Humphrey, Harris,
Waters & Waffenschmidt
161 West Third Street
PO Box 215
Williamsport, PA 17703-0215
(570) 323-8711 (telephone)
(570) 323-4192 (facsimile)
rieders@riederstravis.com

Cliff Rieders, who practices law in Williamsport, is Past President of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and a member of the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority.