

Violence against innocent parties is immoral.

Within a year of the end of the Gulf War, the CIA reported that about a million Iraqi civilians had died from the effects of the war and the embargo—many from disease and malnutrition due to the US destruction of water treatment plants, hospitals, electric generation plants, and so on, together with the inability to get food and medical supplies. Many more innocents have since died from the effects of the war.

In conservative morality, there is a fight between good and evil, in which “lesser evils” are tolerated and even seen as necessary and expected.

The argument that killing innocent civilians in retaliation would make us as bad as them may work for progressives, but not for conservatives.

Be the change you wish to see in the world! If the United States wants terror to end, the United States must end its own contribution to terror.

The foreign policy of moral norms—of diplomacy and economic leverage, minimizing the use of force—is the only sane and humane foreign policy.

Domestic Policy

After September 11, I had a rational fear: a fear that the attack had given the Bush administration a free hand in pursuing a conservative domestic agenda. It could not be said by the media at the time, but it was true. No taxes from the wealthy were raised to pay for the war. Indeed, they were cut! The social security surplus was taken from the “lockbox” to pay for the war, with every Democrat in Congress except one voting for it.

It was supposed to cost forty billion dollars. It actually cost three trillion so far—and counting, if you count the continuing cost of treating veterans injured in the war and of propping up governments in Iraq and Afghanistan. It ruined the economy of our country—our educational system, our infrastructure—and it has taken away a vast range of needed public resources. The poor and middle class got poorer, but the rich got richer. And the earth got warmer. And the conservative movement grew.

It was another lesson in systemic causation. Foreign policy and domestic policy are inextricably linked. Guns made for war will be sold at gun shows