

Fake and Farce: the War in Iraq

Citizen Zed

As is obvious from its title, this work is intended as a polemical piece of writing. However, while it uses irony, satire and other polemical/rhetorical devices, it is fundamentally **an analytical critique**. Ultimately, it will stand or fall by the arguments it advances.

A lot of books are going to come out quite soon on the war or on aspects of the war. The market could well be flooded. However, my contribution is somewhat unusual. Its unusual nature stems from two facts. **First**, I'm not a politician/ex politician, journalist, historian, professional commentator but a simple plain citizen, who lives in a suburb, but who has made an effort to comprehend and systematically analyse the whole affair in the light of the evidence which is available in the public domain. The whole aim of my enterprise is to try to make sense of it, in much the same way that lots of thoughtful citizens throughout the world must have been also trying to do, as they read their daily newspapers or look at the news on their television screens. I would like to share my thoughts and my conclusions with them, in order to provoke more thoughts and fruitful discussion. In this way, we can discharge our duty as responsible citizens in the spirit of "participatory democracy".

Second, in writing it, I've been aided by the fact that I've been trained as a philosopher. The habits acquired from such training die hard. The issues raised by this war are eminently suitable for philosophical treatment. I'll be using the well-established techniques of analytical philosophy upon them: dissecting arguments to see how valid and sound they are, exposing and critically examining presuppositions behind arguments, unearthing *non sequiturs*, contradictions and inconsistencies, working out implications not obvious at first sight, making distinctions when these should be made, giving a conceptual analysis of key concepts such as lying, WMD, pre-emptive war, etc., critically examining distinctions such as that between presentation on the one hand and content/policy on the other, dissecting and deconstructing key documents and texts. In discharging my duty as reflective citizen, I hope, at the same time, to practise such philosophising, not, however, explicitly, or in a heavy-handed and stodgy manner but as lightly and painlessly as possible and, thereby, to create **a racy polemic**, using the well-established gamut of rhetorical devices. In this way, I believe that **I've brought a new dimension and new insights**, too, to the discussion about the war.

As far as I'm aware, none of the books which have so far appeared or are about to appear on the subject possesses the two characteristics just described.

I invite you to glance at the Table of Contents below and to click on the volume itself to read it. Should you wish to share your thoughts with me on the subject, once you've read it, don't hesitate to get in touch. My email address is: citizenzed2004@yahoo.co.uk

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