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THE HORROR OF ENDLESS INTERVENTIONISM

by Jacob G. Hornberger
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When the U.S. government invaded Iraq in 2003, I wonder how many U.S. officials contemplated the possibility that the cycle of death and destruction that they were initiating would be continuing 13 years later. And yet, here we are — more than a decade after Operation Iraqi Freedom was launched — and U.S. and Iraqi soldiers are, once again, battling over control of Mosul.

The battle for Mosul is being met with considerable indifference or nonchalance among many Americans. After all, there are so many more important things to talk about, such as sex scandals. But the fact that U.S. troops are still fighting, killing, and dying in Iraq 13 years after the U.S. invasion of the country (and 26 years after the U.S. government's Persian Gulf intervention) is truly remarkable.

Not surprisingly, the U.S. mainstream press and the U.S. national-security establishment are doing their best to put their best spin on the upcoming battle for Mosul. They are showing how U.S. warplanes are “softening” up the enemy with bombing raids on the city. They are reporting how Iraqi troops, counseled by U.S. military advisers, are readying for their long-awaited attack to liberate the city from ISIS, which is the group that came into existence as a direct consequence of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

U.S. officials and the mainstream press, however, are missing the big picture: The battle for Mosul, thirteen years after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, only goes to show what a disaster U.S. interventionism has been in Iraq and, for that matter, all over the Middle East. After all, thirteen years is more than enough time to have brought peace, prosperity, harmony, and liberty to the Iraqi people.

The ultimate goal in the battle for Mosul is the preservation of the Iraqi government — that is, the regime that the U.S. invasion installed into power. In fact, not surprisingly, many of the people who compose ISIS are former members of the Saddam Hussein regime — the regime that the U.S. invasion ousted from power.

Here's the thing to bear in mind: The Iraqi government is a U.S. creation. It owes its existence to the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Yet, obviously there are people in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East who will never accept the legitimacy of a regime that has been installed by a foreign power, especially when that foreign power is the U.S. government. They will continue to fight to the death to remove what they consider is nothing more than a vassal state in the U.S. government's far-flung overseas empire.

This is what all too many U.S. officials and their supporters in the mainstream press and among the American people just don't get. They see all the death and destruction that the U.S. military-industrial complex has brought the Middle East — not just in Iraq but also Libya, Syria, Yemen, Egypt, and Israel — and all they see is freedom, peace, and prosperity. That's why they continue to thank the troops for their service and why they get tears in their eyes at MLB baseball games when they asked to wave their caps in appreciation for what the troops have done in the Middle East.

They blind themselves to the obvious: After 13 years of death and destruction that the Pentagon and CIA have wreaked in the Middle East, that part of the world is one miserable cauldron of tyranny, conflict, discord, war, death, destruction, torture, and misery. Equally important, the more they intervene to fix the problems with the original intervention, the more the situation gets worse.

The current battle for Mosul is a mini-poster for the manifest failure of U.S. interventionism. The overall situation in the Middle East, including Libya, Syria, Egypt, Syria, and Israel, is a real-life advertisement for what U.S. interventionism does to foreign countries and, indirectly, to America. After all, don't forget that when terrorists retaliate for all the people who U.S. forces are, once again, killing in Iraq, U.S. officials will then use that threat to suspend even more of the rights and freedoms of the American people in order to "keep us safe" from the enemies their endless interventionism continues to produce.

Why do so many Americans seem blind over all this? After 13 years of senseless death and destruction, out of control federal spending and debt, and infringements on our liberty, privacy, and well-being there at home, why aren't they demanding that the troops be brought home

without any further delay? Do they really think that more interventionism or even a new president is going to produce a different result?