

DAILY NEWS

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Not such a moral war

Satisfying as it must have been to write, Paul Wasserman's moral polemic against us liberals and lefties (Public Forum, Feb. 24) is definitely minor league.

We oppose President Bush's war in the gulf because it is unnecessary, and because

Washington's so-called concern for the Kuwaiti people is only another facade for its never-ending effort to control Third World nations. We know that the U.S. has cheerfully established and supported some of the most vicious dictatorships on earth — so long as they allowed us unfettered access to their resources, land and labor.

The real meaning of the American century is that millions of Third World children have died of hunger or preventable disease so that we could have cheap tin, coffee or bananas.

Liberals know that monsters like Saddam Hussein are predictable reactions to, if not products of, U.S. policy. For us, the morally sound path is to try to change reprehensible practices paid for with our own tax dollars, instead of always taking the cheap and easy path of bashing Washington's dream-of-the-hour.

→ *Demon (misprint)* — Bill Becker
West Hills

Public Forum
Daily News
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(As submitted. Omissions by editor enclosed in brackets: “[..]” This page is a reprinted facsimile of my original, which did not scan properly. I present it here single-spaced instead of the original double-spaced. — B.B.)

February 25, 1991

Dear editor,

Satisfying as it must have been to write, Paul Wasserman’s moral polemic against us liberals and lefty^s is definitely minor league. (“War is alienating, Public Forum, Feb. 24.)

We oppose President Bush’s war in the Gulf because it is unnecessary, and because Washington’s so-called concern for the Kuwaiti people is only another facade for its never-ending effort to control third world nations. We know that the U.S. has cheerfully established and supported some of the most vicious dictatorships on earth—so long as they allowed us unfettered access to their resources, land, and labor. The real meaning of the American century is that millions of third world children have died of hunger or preventable disease so that we could have cheap tin, coffee, or bananas.

Liberals know that monsters like Saddam Hussein are predictable reactions to, if not products of, U.S. policy. For us the morally sound path is to try to change reprehensible practices paid for with our tax dollars, instead of always taking the cheap and easy path of bashing Washington’s demon-of-the-hour. [We see no virtue in simply playing Wasserman’s all-American “tough-guy” who proudly bears the hatred of millions of the world’s citizens on his shoulders. Let Wasserman study his history. Granted, after learning that our own hands are far from clean (the first military bombing of civilians on record was by the U.S. Marines in Nicaragua, and the U.S.-backed Salvadoran military has been intentionally killing civilians for years), he may well come out for unvarnished social darwinism (i.e.: survival of the fittest). Then he will be even less qualified to discuss moral issues than he is now.]

Sincerely,

Bill Becker
[house address omitted. —B.B.]
West Hills, CA 91307