

“SHUT UP AND EXPLAIN HOW WE COULD ASSIST THE FPS IN FINDING *MORE* DETAINEES”



Atrios points out the hypocrisy of our foreign policy as displayed in his Twitter stream.

It reminded me of this:

(02:26:01 PM) Manning: i dont believe in good guys versus bad guys anymore... i only a plethora of states acting in self interest... with varying ethics and moral standards of course, but self-interest nonetheless

(02:26:18 PM) Manning: s/only/only see/

(02:26:47 PM) Lamo: the tm meant i was being facetious

(02:26:59 PM) Manning: gotchya

(02:27:47 PM) Manning: i mean, we're better in some respects... we're much more subtle... use a lot more words and legal techniques to legitimize everything

(02:28:00 PM) Manning: its better than disappearing in the middle of the night

(02:28:19 PM) Manning: but just because something is more subtle, doesn't make it right

(02:29:04 PM) Manning: i guess im too idealistic

(02:31:02 PM) Manning: i think the thing that got me the most... that made me rethink the world more than anything

(02:35:46 PM) Manning: was watching 15 detainees taken by the Iraqi Federal Police... for printing "anti-Iraqi

literature"... the iraqi federal police wouldn't cooperate with US forces, so i was instructed to investigate the matter, find out who the "bad guys" were, and how significant this was for the FPs... it turned out, they had printed a scholarly critique against PM Maliki... i had an interpreter read it for me... and when i found out that it was a benign political critique titled "Where did the money go?" and following the corruption trail within the PM's cabinet... i immediately took that information and *ran* to the officer to explain what was going on... he didn't want to hear any of it... he told me to shut up and explain how we could assist the FPs in finding *MORE* detainees...

(02:35:46 PM) Lamo : I'm not here right now

(02:36:27 PM) Manning: everything started slipping after that... i saw things differently

(02:37:37 PM) Manning: i had always questioned the things worked, and investigated to find the truth... but that was a point where i was a *part* of something... i was actively involved in something that i was completely against... [my emphasis]

All the pop psychology that has been offered to explain why Bradley Manning allegedly leaked to WikiLeaks serves to obscure his own very clear explanation: Manning first "saw things differently" when he was ordered to help our client thug in Iraq crack down on very tame domestic dissent.

While I think the Administration has been not-horrible in its response to the upheaval in the Middle East, it still is mostly just "words and legal techniques to legitimize" American self interest.