

Neocons Planned Regime Change in the Middle East and North Africa 20 Years Ago

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

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Neocons Planned Regime Change In Iraq, Iran and Syria by 1991

I've repeatedly documented that [the Neocons planned regime change in Iraq, Libya, Iran, Syria and a host of other countries right after 9/11 ... if not before.](#)

And that Obama is [implementing these same plans](#) – just with a “kindler, gentler” face.

Glenn Greenwald provides further documentation that [the various Middle Eastern and North African wars were planned before 9/11](#):

General Wesley Clark ... said the aim of this plot [to “destroy the governments in ... Iraq, ... Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Iran”] was this: “They wanted us to destabilize the Middle East, turn it upside down, make it under our control.” He then recounted a conversation he had had ten years earlier with Paul Wolfowitz — back in 1991 — in which the then-number-3-Pentagon-official, after criticizing Bush 41 for not toppling Saddam, told Clark: “But one thing we did learn [from the Persian Gulf War] is that we can use our military in the region – in the Middle East – and the Soviets won’t stop us. And we’ve got about 5 or 10 years to clean up those old Soviet regimes – Syria, Iran [sic], Iraq – before the next great superpower comes on to challenge us.” Clark said he was shocked by Wolfowitz’s desires because, as Clark put it: “the purpose of the military is to start wars and change governments? It’s not to deter conflicts?”

[I]n the aftermath of military-caused regime change in Iraq and Libya ... with concerted regime change efforts now underway aimed at Syria and Iran, with active and [escalating proxy fighting](#) in Somalia, with a [modest military deployment](#) to [South Sudan](#), and the active use of drones in six — [count ‘em: six](#) — different Muslim countries, it is worth asking whether the neocon dream as laid out by Clark is dead or is being actively pursued and fulfilled, albeit with means more subtle and multilateral than full-on military invasions (it’s worth remembering that neocons specialized in dressing up their wars in humanitarian packaging: Saddam’s rape rooms! Gassed his own people!). As Jonathan Schwarz ... put it about the supposedly contentious national security factions:

As far as I can tell, there’s barely any difference in goals within the foreign policy establishment. They just disagree on the best methods to achieve the goals. My guess is that everyone agrees we have to continue defending the mideast from outside interference (I love that Hillary line), and the [Democrats] just think that best path is four overt wars and three covert actions, while the neocons want to jump straight to seven wars.

The neocon end as Clark reported them — regime change in those seven countries — seems as vibrant as ever. It's just striking to listen to Clark describe those 7 countries in which the neocons plotted to have regime change back in 2001, and then compare that to what the U.S. Government did and continues to do since then with regard to those precise countries.

Note: The so-called "war on terror" has also [weakened our national security and created many more terrorists than it has killed, imprisoned or otherwise stopped](#). It is also [destroying our economy](#).

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