

Towards Military Escalation: Obama Declares War on Syria

Why the Real Target is Assad Not ISIS

By <u>Mike Whitney</u> Global Research, September 14, 2014 <u>Counter Punch</u> Region: <u>Middle East & North Africa</u>, <u>USA</u> Theme: <u>US NATO War Agenda</u> In-depth Report: <u>SYRIA</u>

Invoking the same ominous language as his predecessor, Barack Obama used a prime time presidential address on Wednesday to announce the beginning of a war on Syria. And while there's no doubt that many Americans will be confused by Obama's misleading focus on the terrorist organization named ISIL, the real purpose of the speech was to garner support for another decade of homicidal conflicts in the Middle East.

The administration is as determined as ever to plunge the region into chaos, erase existing borders, and install its puppets wherever it can. ISIL-which is mainly an invention of western Intel agencies and their treacherous counterparts in the Gulf- conveniently creates the justification for another bloody invasion followed by years of occupation, subjugation, and revolt.

Barack Obama:

My fellow Americans — tonight, I want to speak to you about what the United States will do with our friends and allies to degrade and ultimately destroy the terrorist group known as ISIL. As commander-in-chief, my highest priority is the security of the American people.....

Thanks to our military and counterterrorism professionals, America is safer.

Still, we continue to face a terrorist threat. We cannot erase every trace of evil from the world, and small groups of killers have the capacity to do great harm. That was the case before 9/11, and that remains true today. That's why we must remain vigilant as threats emerge.

Get it? We are all in great peril and only our loving father, Obama, can save us. Where have we heard that before?

Obama: "In a region that has known so much bloodshed, these terrorists are unique in their brutality. They execute prisoners. They kill children. They enslave, rape, and force women into marriage.....If left unchecked, these terrorists could pose a growing threat beyond that region — including to the United States."

This is pure demagoguery, the likes of which we haven't heard since Bush's "The Axis of Evil" speech. The truth is, ISIL poses NO threat to US national security at all. It's a joke. Readers should mull that over before they throw their support behind Obama's proposed crusade in Syria..

More Obama: "First, we will conduct a systematic campaign of airstrikes against these

terrorists.....I will not hesitate to take action against ISIL in Syria, as well as Iraq. This is a core principle of my presidency: if you threaten America, you will find no safe haven....."

Okay, so borders don't matter, international law doesn't matter, national sovereignty doesn't matter. What matters is oil, money and power. Isn't that what he's saying? He's asking the American people to support another millennia of killing so he can pad the bank accounts of corrupt US oil magnates while strengthening America's tenuous grip on global power. Would you be willing to sacrifice your son's life for such a cause?

Obama: "Across the border, in Syria, we have ramped up our military assistance to the Syrian opposition. Tonight, I again call on Congress to give us additional authorities and resources to train and equip these fighters."

So, now Obama wants to arm and train the same terrorists which the CIA and our enlightened friends in the Gulf States recruited from around the world. Sounds like a good plan, doesn't it? What could go wrong?

Obama: "This is our strategy..... Secretary Kerry was in Iraq today meeting with the new government and supporting their efforts to promote unity, and in the coming days he will travel across the Middle East and Europe to enlist more partners in this fight."

So, Senator Botox and his gaggle of neocons are going to fix everything, just like they did in Kiev. Now I am worried.

Obama: "But I want the American people to understand how this effort will be different from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will not involve American combat troops fighting on foreign soil. This counter-terrorism campaign will be waged through a steady, relentless effort to take out ISIL wherever they exist, using our air power and our support for partner forces on the ground."

No American "boots on the ground"?? Is that what he said? What he meant to say was no boots on the ground until after the midterms. After that, the sky's the limit!

Don't kid yourself, the Obama claque is as determined to topple Assad as Bush was determined to remove Saddam. That's why Obama's public relations team decided to use the prestige of a primetime presidential speech –with all the pompous trappings of high-office-to make their case. It's because their real target is the American people who are being led by the nose into another hellish bloodbath.

Obama: "American leadership is the one constant in an uncertain world. It is America that has the capacity and the will to mobilize the world against terrorists."

Oh boy. American troublemaking is the "one constant" in this world, even death and taxes take a back seat to that. America started the war on terror. (Blowback) America perpetuated the war on terror. (check the globe. The US is fighting wars everywhere.) And America is entirely responsible for the war on terror. (Afghanistan, Mujahedin) And now-after 13 years of unlawful detentions, black sites, Abu Ghraib, Gitmo, death squads, waterboarding, illegal surveillance, drone attacks, and a mountain of carnage that stretches halfway to the moon- Obama is re-launching the War on Terror under the opaque sobriquet "ISIL". Haven't we had enough of this garbage yet?

As always, the media seems entirely mystified as to the administration's real intentions. In contrast, analyst Patrick Martin at the World Socialist Web Site sees through the hoax and sums it up like this in an article titled "Obama announces open-ended war in Iraq and Syria". Here's an excerpt:

"It was only 12 months ago that Obama tried and failed to create the political conditions for US air strikes against the Assad regime, making allegations of the use of nerve gas weapons that were later discredited. Now Obama is seeking to achieve the same goal by a different route, using ISIS as a pretext to get American military forces into Syria, where they will become the spearhead of the campaign to oust Assad and install a pro-US stooge regime in Damascus."

Bingo. The ISIL canard is nothing but a pretext for war.

Write to your Senators and Congressmen: NO WAR IN SYRIA.

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