

With Gates, Obama Opt's for Empire

By [Matthew Rothschild](#)

Global Research, December 02, 2008

[The Progressive](#) 26 November 2008

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

Barack Obama's got a big problem.

He's suckered himself into believing that we need a bipartisan foreign and military policy.

And so he's reappointing Robert Gates as head of the Defense Department.

Let's remember: Gates was head of the CIA during Bush I. As such, he was involved in the invasion of Panama, the funding of a genocidal regime in Guatemala, the support of Suharto's brutal government in Indonesia, and the overthrow of Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti.

With Bush I, he pushed the first war against Saddam Hussein, even when it seemed that Saddam was preparing to withdraw from Iraq.

And now with Bush II, he's been running the Iraq War, which Obama vowed to end.

And Gates has come out with modernizing our nuclear weapons arsenal—that means making new nukes—even though Obama talked about nuclear disarmament during the campaign.

Something's terribly wrong with this picture.

And it's simply this: Obama doesn't really want a change in foreign and military policy. He said as much during the campaign when he praised Bush Sr. and said he wanted to return to the bipartisan consensus of the last forty years.

In those forty years, the United States waged war against Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. It helped overthrow the Allende government in Chile. It supported Suharto's invasion of East Timor. It financed and trained death squads in Central America. And on and on.

With the Gates choice, Obama proves he's not about ending the U.S. empire.

He's about running the U.S. empire—with less bravado than Bush-Cheney, but perhaps more efficiently.

And he's perfectly willing to use the old hands like Gates, bloody as they are, to get that job done.

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Matthew Rothschild](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca