

Nazi-like Justification Of Aggressive War

Chancellor Adolf Hitler to the Reichstag Sept. 1, 1939, explaining why he invaded Poland:

For months we have suffered under the torture of a problem which the Versailles Diktat created—a problem that has deteriorated until it becomes intolerable for us. . . . On my own initiative I have, not once but several times, made proposals for the revision of intolerable conditions. All these proposals, as you know, have been rejected—proposals for the limitation of armaments and, even if necessary, disarmament, proposals for the limitation of war-making, proposals for the elimination of certain methods of modern warfare. . . .

For four months I have calmly watched developments, although I never ceased to give warnings. In the last few days I have increased these warnings. . . .

For two whole days, I sat in my government and waited to see whether it was convenient for the Polish government to send a plenipotentiary or not. Last night they did not send us a plenipotentiary, but instead informed us through their ambassador that they were still considering whether and to what extent they were in a position to go into the British proposals. . . .

Deputies, if the German government and its leader patiently endured such treatment, Germany would deserve only to disappear from the political stage. But I am wrongly judged if my love of peace and my patience are mistaken for weakness or even cowardice. . . .

The other European states understand in part our attitude. I should like all to thank Italy, which throughout has supported us, but you will understand for the carrying on of this struggle . . . we will carry out this task ourselves. . . . From now on bombs will be met with bombs. Whoever fights with poison gas will be fought with poison gas. Whoever departs from the rules of humane warfare can only expect that we shall do the same . . . until the safety, security of the Reich and its rights are secured.

President George W. Bush, nationally televised address March 17, 2003:

My fellow citizens. For more than a decade, the United States and other nations have pursued patient and honorable efforts to disarm the Iraqi regime without war. . . . The world has engaged in 12 years of diplomacy. We have passed more than a dozen resolutions in the United Nations Security Council. We have sent hundreds of weapons inspectors to oversee the disarmament of Iraq. Our good faith has not been returned. . . . Peaceful efforts to disarm the Iraqi regime have failed again and again because we are not dealing with peaceful men. . . .

The danger is clear: using chemical, biological, or one day, nuclear weapons, obtained with the help of Iraq, the terrorists could fulfill their stated ambitions and kill thousands or hundreds of thousands of innocent people in our country or any other. The United States and other nations did nothing to deserve or invite this threat. But we will do everything to defeat it. Instead of drifting along toward tragedy, we will set a course toward safety.

Before the day of horror can come, before it is too late to act, this danger will be removed. The United States of America has the sovereign authority to use force in assuring its own national security. That duty falls to me as Commander in Chief by the oath I have sworn, by the oath I will keep. . . . America tried to work with the United Nations to address this threat, because we wanted to resolve the issue peacefully. In the case of Iraq, the Security Council did act in the early 1990s, under Resolutions 678 and 687, both still in effect.

The United States and our allies are authorized to use force in ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction. This is not a question of authority. It is a question of will. . . .

Should the enemy strike our country, they would be attempting to shift our attention with panic and weaken our morale with fear. In this, they would fail. No act of theirs can alter the course or shake the resolve of this country. We are a peaceful people. Yet we're not a fragile people. And we will not be intimidated by thugs and killers. If our enemies dare to strike us, they and all who have aided them will face fearful consequences.