

UNCLASSIFIED

Running head: History Essay

History Essay

SGM Gladys E. Portwine

United States Army Sergeants Major Academy

30 November 2008

Class# 35

UNCLASSIFIED

1. Introduction

A. Background Information:

Topic: A theme from America's First Battles is how-- and why--the U.S. military has repeatedly been unprepared to execute its primary mission at the outbreak of hostilities. Using two examples from this book (or, if you wish, you may select initial operations from Operation Just Cause, Operation Desert Storm, actions in Mogadishu, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom). Identify the root factors affecting the U.S. military's readiness to perform its primary function during the initial stages of the conflicts under investigation. In your analysis, be sure to include the role of the NCO in preparing Soldiers to conduct combat operations. In your conclusion, address whether or not the U.S. military has overcome the fundamental obstacles to achieving force readiness prior to the commencement of combat operations.

B. Thesis or Argumentative Statement: U.S. Armed Forces have been unprepared for the most of their military campaigns. They always have been prepared and have clear objectives then what is the real reason that they are unable to get to their objectives quickly?

II. Reasons that Support the Thesis or Argumentative Statement

A. Reason/ Argument 1 (main point #1)

1. This section will provide the arguments on reasons that have cost U.S. Army to bear damage in the wars they had all the skills and artillery.
2. During the war on terrorism, U.S. has initiated coalition led war against countries.

B. Reason/ Argument 2 (main point #2)

1. U.S. Strikes have always been criticized at various occasions.
2. On the long run of war operations we can see that every time there are some other political objectives as well when it comes to military strikes.
3. Most of the times, U.S. led wars have been against the Muslim countries.

III. Counter Arguments and Responses

- A.** However, the Thesis statement is quite true. U.S. has been unable to get its objective in nearly all the cases whenever it has started operation against any enemy.

IV. Conclusion

- A.** On the whole we can say that the reasons for all the issues that the U.S. Forces have been unable to get their objectives and most of the times were unable

to guess what us coming towards them from enemy side. In order to get the job done effectively, U.S. has to think about all the possible scenarios which can be seen in the battlegrounds.

Abstract:

The Americans have been involved in many wars since America gained its freedom from Britain. Wars will continue to exist as long as Countries feel threat to their sovereignty, religious freedom, or perceived rights. Over the course of the years, the United States has been part of the protection to the fore mention rights. United States Army has been involved in many wars in recent times, the wars are still continuing in many parts of the world. The lack of the information about the enemy and most of the time, in case of United States Army, they were overconfident of their abilities and skills. These issues have caused various unbearable losses of lives of American Soldiers as well as many resources. These issues also caused the wars to be prolonged and even causing budgets to escalate.

United States and the Soviet Union have always been considered the Super Powers. However, the Soviet Union invasion into Afghanistan in 1990 proved that mighty Armed Forces are not the main component of being a Super Power. The Soviet Union was destroyed and at that point the United States should have realized Super Power does not equal world police. United States always helped the countries to fight against terrorism.

Even from the start when Iraq took control of Kuwait in 1990, United States was the first one to react and take the issue to the United Nations so that innocent Kuwaitis should be freed. Also in Afghanistan Operation Enduring Freedom has been the part of strike against terrorism started by United States after September 11, 2001, with its allies.

United States Army has been involved in many operations at many times. Consider the current situation where United States has been involved in operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and also have forces appointed in Europe and some other countries as well to stop the possible strike opportunities that can hit those countries and can possibly attack the proposition of the USA in the future.

When we look at the strategy of the United States on different operations we will observe that the objectives of the wars are not clearly optimized. Sometimes the objectives change

from time to time, but the change in the strategy doesn't change at all.

Look in the case of Somalia, where United States send their forces with the United Nations to observe peace against the rebels and they were unable to do so. Other forces like Pakistan even helped United States Forces to get them out safely. One reason for this is the inability to get to know the enemy and the resources that are available to the enemy. It was stereotyped that Somalia being the poor country doesn't have the resources to fight them but they fought their heart out and United States then pulled back from the operation.

The Operation Desert Storm was another operation that was started against Iraq when they attacked Kuwait for the oil reserves. First it was the strategy of United States to counterstrike Iraq so that it cannot attack Saudi Arabia. The strike started and Kuwait was freed from the Iraqis. At that time, when the United States entered into Iraq, the strike was stopped. Another strike against Iraq started in 2003 when the reason for attack was the terrorists Al-Qaeda. One discrepancy in the strategy can be seen when in 1990 United States should have kept on invading Iraq but they stopped for unknown political reasons.

During the war on terrorism, United States has initiated coalition led war against many countries. We can take a look at

Afghanistan where the war is still going on and the United States is said to have lost the long term prospects of this war. The main objective of this strike was to get Al-Qaeda, Taliban and capture Usama Bin Laden. It has been seen that United States has gotten many of them killed and has got control of the majority of the region but still they been unable to get the victory.

It is also seen that there was a change in strategies from Al-Qaeda and Taliban. They started to fight the Gorilla war and used the suicide bombing as a replacement strategy. This strategy has been too much for the United States Forces and they have not been able to cope with these strategies. Similar scenes have been originated in Iraq, where the suicide bombers have initiated a strike against the United States Forces.

Another reason for not getting the required objectives was the long term planning of the wars. They have taken so long in the completion of their objectives that they themselves now don't know what they are doing in these countries fighting and being killed. Now the policy makers are deciding upon when to call back the forces from these countries. This step is also another problem for the United States troops as leaving like this is like quitting. That was what happened in Somalia and similar was the case in Vietnam when United States troops were killed in high numbers.

United States have always been criticized at various occasions. Most of the times, United States led wars have been against the Muslim countries and those who are weak in their military approach. Somalia and Vietnam are one example of this situation. Also the relations of United States with Israel have also led various criticisms on the course of United States against the biasness of strikes. Iran is another country which is on the verge of another strike that is against the Muslims. So whenever they attack someone like this, the whole Muslim community stands against the United States and tries to help them with what ever possible way they can.

On the long run of war operations we can see that every time there are some other political objectives as well when it comes to military strikes. United States has been the biggest importer of oil and requires much more of it for its needs. Now when we say that United States has been unprepared and unsuccessful in getting the objectives of the war, we might be wrong as well.

As we all know that the policy of the United States of America is not like that of any other country. United States has to deal with all the countries being a super power. So when the operation was against, this would have been the reason to enter into the central oil reserved countries of Africa. It was a failed attempt. The next attempt was against Iraq in 1990. by

taking this step United States entered the Middle East countries. It is also thought the aggressive attacks by Iraq on Kuwait were done on the order of United States so that in order to release Kuwait from Iraq, they would enter the oil rich area.

Similarly the Afghanistan attack was initialized to get in contact with the China and Russia who are the two big powers of the world. Counterstriking Iraq in 2003 was another step towards establishing themselves in the Middle East region. Iran seems to be the next target.

On the large perspective we can see that if the United States is unable to get their objectives to win the fight, then we can also assume that they required it that way. They were not worried about the outcomes of the battles and the wars; they were looking at a big picture of controlling the major countries which they can use for a longer period of time.

On the whole we can see that the United States has been fighting at various places and against various enemies. The only reason for all these fighting seems to be the searching of a place which is peaceful and has no enemies.

But whenever we see this issue getting ahead, we observe that these wars were not inevitable. The situations that have risen should have been dealt with quite early.

However, the thesis statement is quite true. United States have been unable to get its objective in nearly all the cases

whenever it has started operation against any enemy. The high budgeting and the high profile trainings have, most of the times lost its value when the real fighting comes to place. The high class weapons are with the addition of best thinkers who provide them with the best possible strategy according to the conditions of the war grounds.

One of the main reasons for all the issues, that the United States Forces have been unable to fulfill their objectives and unable to forecast measures coming from the enemy. There has been narcissism in their approach where they always see themselves as invincible and consequently lose their strategically maintained approach to fight against their enemy. In order to get the job done effectively, United States has to think about all the possible scenarios which can be seen in the battlegrounds.

Reference

- Pritchard, Tim. (2007). *Ambush Alley: The Most Extraordinary Battle of the Iraq War*. New York: Presidio Press.
- Ricks, Thomas. (2006). *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq*. New York: Penguin Press HC.
- Regulo Zapata Jr. (2007). *Desperate Lands: The War on Terror Through the Eyes of a Special Forces Soldier*. New York: Nadores Publishing & Research.
- Elshtain, Jean. (2004). *Just War Against Terror: The Burden Of American Power In A Violent World*. New York: Basic Books.
- Kessler, Ronald. (2003). *The CIA at War: Inside the Secret Campaign Against Terror*. New York: St. Martin's Press.