

## **Bushism Is Emerging**

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It's been a little more than one year since Bush came to power. He has gradually formulated a new set of strategic frameworks and concepts. This is happening because of the fact that a larger portion of the Bush team comes from the military, which is decidedly different from the Clinton Administration. The 9-11 incident and the ongoing anti-terrorism war have further strengthened the U.S. status as the sole superpower since the end of the Cold War. According to analysis by the Democrats, Bush Jr. is learning a lesson from Bush Sr. who ended the Gulf War too quickly without fully taking advantage of the effect caused by the Gulf War; Bush Jr. is now striving to fully stretch the duration of the current war, putting indelible marks of his on the new war theory and concepts. We call this "Bushism" which is bringing many uncertainties to a world that is already in turmoil, and directly upsetting the overall situation of world peace and development.

The Characteristics of Bushism:

### 1. Unilateralism:

When he first entered the White House, Bush was described as a hostile bull in a Spanish bullfight. Once released, the bull became a bully, smashing anything in its way without any concern, confronting big countries such as Russia and China, causing friction with its European allies, preventing détente between the two sides in the Korean Peninsula, threatening Iraq, and harboring bias for Israel in Israel's armed challenge to the Palestinians. The U.S. has also ignored the agreements on issues such as arms control and environment reached at various international conferences and disregarded domestic opposition, tearing apart the Kyoto Treaty, speeding up its tests on its missile defense system, postponing the implementation of the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and refusing to sign the Agreement to Ban Biological Weapons, and the International Landmine Agreement.

The 9-11 incident caused the most severe loss of human lives and property on the U.S. homeland and it shocked the entire nation. Bush has put anti-terrorism at the top of his priority list, beginning to seek international cooperation in order to establish an international anti-terrorist alliance, to conduct a prolonged anti-terror war. While doing this, Bush has announced the principle, "If you are not with us, you are against us," followed by the U.S. unilateral withdrawal of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Since achieving initial victory in Afghanistan, the U.S. unilateralism has become even more rampant, leading to the open denunciation of some countries as the Axis of Evil. The U.S. has also made the announcement that the anti-terror war is far from over. Instead, it has entered a new phase in which the war has expanded to countries beyond

Afghanistan. Especially serious is the U.S. decision, in light of some countries' active defense measures, to deploy "contingency plans," i.e., to use advanced weaponry to counter these defense measures.

## 2. Worshipping the military forces:

The 9-11 incident, which has challenged the American homeland security, dealt the U.S. an unprecedented blow and shocked the nation, has not led the U.S. to correctly self-examine the real reason for terrorism. Instead, the U.S. is further convinced that military force will solve all the problems. As a result, it accelerates its weapons development programs, while attempting to destroy the advanced weaponry in other regions and countries in order to guarantee the "absolute security" of the U.S.

Using the anti-terrorism war as a justification, President Bush announced at the beginning of this year that in years ahead the U.S. would greatly increase its spending on the military, that the defense budget for the year 2002 would be \$380 billion and would soon reach \$400 billion.

Disarmament and arms control has been a major issue in the areas of international relations and international security since the end of the Cold War. There had been conspicuous progress in these areas until a year ago. Since Bush entered the White House, the U.S. government has ignored the fierce objection of many countries, actively taken efforts to lay the legal, public relations, and especially technical foundations for the National Missile Defense system, and has withdrawn from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The National Missile Defense (NMD) is a component of the American global strategy; NMD serves the U.S. government in its practice of hegemony and brute force, helping imposing military threats and military interventions on other countries.

As the fighting in Afghanistan fades, the U.S. is spreading its anti-terrorism operations to other parts of the world. In addition to getting ready to attack Iraq, the U.S. has sent military advisors to countries such as the Philippines, Georgia, and Yemen. The U.S. has its worldwide strategic plans: to occupy strategic points, and to open up new markets for American arms trade.

In early March, the American media pointed out that there was a document called "Nuclear Posture Assessment." The content of the document includes that as a contingency measure, the U.S. military was authorized to use nuclear weapons to strike the following seven countries: China, Russia, Iraq, North Korea, Iran, Libya and Syria. This has fundamentally changed the traditional policy of the past 50 years to use nuclear weapons only as nuclear deterrence and the last resort of striking the enemy, thus seriously damaging the global strategic stability, the mutual trust among nations and severely threatening international peace and security.

## The Reasons Why Bushism Was Conceived And Emerged:

1. The imbalance of international powers has stimulated the U.S. desire for hegemony.

The Cold War was a time when two superpowers competed for global hegemony. In the meantime, socialist countries, third world countries and all other peace-loving powers in the world also developed, becoming important factors in preventing wars. After the end of the Cold War, the U.S. became the only remaining superpower, thus greatly inflating the American desire for hegemony to an unprecedented level. The Americans have mistakenly thought that capitalism can achieve whatever is desired for. This situation has greatly helped formulate Bushism.

2. The extreme emphasis on “the U.S. interests being supreme” has elevated to unprecedented high level the American belief of “Might makes right.”

In international relations, a country will always first be concerned with its own strategic interests, while in the meantime caring for international society and the national interest of the country it is dealing with. After the 911 Incident, most countries’ attitudes toward the U.S. have been mostly submissive, evasive, trying to jump on the bandwagon, or only launching timid and limited resistance. Only a handful of countries have been able to keep in mind their own national interests and take overall counter-actions or launch resistance against the U.S. We should also notice that the current anti-terrorism war is an extremely complicated new war. But the U.S. has fancied itself as the “Global Hegemon,” using the international organizations when it can, and throwing them away when it doesn’t care. The so-called “American interests” are everywhere; the whole world is the American interests. This is what Bushism is really about: a new type of hegemonism.

3. What new hegemonism seeks is an all-out hegemonism encompassing areas such as politics, military, economics and culture.

The U.S. economic hegemonism should also be obvious. One example is the recent U.S. unilateral decision to impose high tariffs on imported steel from many countries and regions. In the past, there have been many “trade wars” between the U.S. on the one side and Europe and Japan on the other. But these trade wars all ended up with no clear winner, or they ended up with settlements favorable to the U.S. The reasons are that the U.S. exerts great influence in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The U.S. cultural hegemonism is also becoming more and more conspicuous. The Americans are using all means possible to sell American values, and their objective is to make the whole world “Americanized.”

At present, American unilateralism mainly targets countries related to terrorism; yet another target of American unilateralism is China and Russia. Although China has supported America’s anti-terrorism efforts in many aspects, China up to this point has not received its deserved recognition and reciprocity. The U.S. policy toward us is a policy of engagement plus containment, which is the manifestation of Bushism.