

SO I am sitting here working and watching the American Patriots series on the American Heroes Channel (AMC). The show identified that the British defended the colonists, from French invasion, in the French-Indian War (1754-1763). The war doubled the British national debt- and such is why the Crown began to impose taxes on the colonists...and the taxes were minimal. The collected taxes wouldn't have paid down the war debt; it was more token as the colonists were still under the crown.

The show then jumps to the Boston Massacre (1770) where only five colonists were killed. However, Boston 'patriots' launched an intentional propaganda campaign to persuade the loyalists that the crown was abusive. Side note: John Adams was the attorney representing the crown in the prosecution of the British soldiers; that name sounds a bit familiar!

There is then the emotional town hall meetings where our founding fathers were upset and all of the catch phrases were tossed around- 'don't tread on me' & 'no taxation without representation'. You know the rest of the story. And don't forget that those who participated in the Boston Tea Party (1773) dressed as Native Americans so the colonists wouldn't be suspected.

...so our country was founded on hating the legitimate debt collector? The British saved the colonists from a French invasion and re-colonization. A minor tax is nothing considering that it doubled the crown's national debt. The narrator uses language that is clearly in favor of the patriots and 'sons of liberty'. The question of 'well why didn't we simply pay the taxes because the crown saved our asses' is not addressed. I fully understand King George's actions of declaring martial law (1773) to then occupy the northern colonies to keep the 'patriots' under control.

I saw American Sniper yesterday. Great acting and movie, yet it is blatant propaganda. There are numerous fact-checkers who have compared the book to the movie- and Hollywood took a wide berth of discretion to dramatize Chris Kyle. You also have to figure that Chris Kyle omitted and changed the truth, to write the book, so the DOD would approve it and he (and SEALs) would be cast in a positive light.

Kyle is portrayed as the all-American, Midwest cowboy who is triggered to join the Navy after the embassy bombings in 1998 (Africa). This is not true. All he wants to do is kill the 'savages' in Iraq...at all costs. He loves every minute of his four tours and doesn't understand why his brother, or his teammate Giggles (who never existed), questions what they are doing in Iraq (though Kyle does have such questions in his book). This is because Kyle is such a patriot. He almost loses his wife and children because his call to serve the country is above all other duties. He overcomes his PTSD by working with veterans. He is killed by a veteran that he was working with on a shooting range.

...but the movie is good. It is capturing and really brought me in. Some of the emotional moments were a bit tough for me to sit through. I obviously found myself rooting for Kyle and being brought into his apple-pie, idealistic pursuit of evil savages and justice for our country. I then caught myself and came back to reality.

We created the problems over there. Since the first Gulf War, it is low estimated that our actions have killed more than three times as many people as Hussein is credited for killing. Intelligence reports consistently reflected that less than five percent of the 'terrorists' captured, in Iraq, were linked to a network. The remaining ninety-five percent were men who were paid money to pull a trigger at a certain time. We destroyed the economy and infrastructure during the invasion. What do you think people are going to do?

How is Kyle a hero? I think he is because he saved a lot of Marines and soldiers lives' by taking out targets that were planting IEDs or about to fire an RPG.

...yet we wrote the entire script that allowed Kyle to be a hero. We then leave and Malaki immediately takes action to create the environment for more sectarian violence. ISIS shows up to over-run the IDF that we trained, funded, and propped up for ten years. All of this falls off of the news when Ebola popped up.

We then have a series of movies, such as American Sniper and Lone Survivor, to glorify the actions of Special Forces. The movies are obviously one-sided and dripping with patriotism and a call to duty- yet don't illustrate what amazing and capable human beings our special operators are.

The media is in the process of writing the history of the GWOT. People will remember American Sniper, **not** that Hussein had **no weapons of mass destruction** and that Powell lied when he pitched the invasion to the United Nations.

Meanwhile, a new generation of young men have decided that they want to be G.I. Joe. This is what nations do and a necessary process to perpetuate the military industrial complex and, to a somewhat lesser extent, protect the homeland by projection of military force. Maybe my real issue here is that I was one of those young men and I have since come to learn that, although my intentions were pure, that I was duped into repeating the same cycle where I was full of vigor and aggrandized in my view of the military's role in world affairs.

Are we really just a bunch of bullies and assholes? We are brought up to revere the Founding Fathers. We create a situation to invade a foreign country so we can project American imperialism and test new technology. We continue to launch propagandist movies and war accounts to the public as to motivate patriotism.

...and none of this scathing criticism takes away from the obvious heroic actions of Chris Kyle and all of the Navy S.E.A.L.S. involved in the incident that Lone Survivor was based upon. Our Founding Fathers, for whatever criticism that I have given, forged the birth pangs of a new country- with a form of government new and foreign to history- with nothing more than a blank canvass...and that inspires me more than words can express. *This is all completely separate from disagreeing with how our culture writes biased history that become the truth.* However, I do recognize that our citizens should be proud of our country because we are far more of a force for good, freedom, and justice than we are a force of evil. I think it would do our country some good to recognize one good thing that we have done for every one bad thing we have done when reported by the news.

Our citizens need to be pacified and not carry any political burdens. This is accomplished by giving them cheap credit, a Big Mac, and movies where they can identify with a war hero. The GWOT defined a generation. It gave a lot of young men a reason to go prove themselves and do something besides sit around; it gave a generation the opportunity to rise to something greater than themselves...and we should never forget that. There is a tremendous amount of pride in service. If this comes as a result of a false narrative and a lie as a basis for invading a country...than I would fully support it **if the lie is publicly admitted.**