

ABD Ortadoğu'da yanlış yaptı



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US' fatally flawed policies

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For more than a century, rebuilding the Middle East has been the top priority of the United States. In a bid to achieve its goal, the US has spent huge funds and put forth a lot of efforts.

Washington could have succeeded in reshaping the region, had it genuinely wanted to do so. Had it been so desperate to see a prosperous Middle East, it could have helped in the eradication of the communist mindset that was supported by the Baath regimes and it could have helped create a peaceful region. This region could have then become a fervent ally of the US, just as the US always hoped for.

Had the US used education and a policy of reconciliation, the situation in the Middle East would have been very different. Unfortunately, the US chose a different path. It chose the path

of violence to maintain its influence in the region. Washington tried to impose its own understanding of democracy on the Middle East without taking into consideration the religious sensibilities of the people of this region. It completely ignored the history and values of the region.

Today the movers and shakers in Washington are astounded by the wholesale massacres carried out by Daesh. It would be difficult to assess the current chaos in the Middle East without properly evaluating the US invasion of Iraq.

In 2004, Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison was widely covered by the media with the photos of Pvt. Lynnie England holding a leash attached to an Iraqi prisoner sprawled on the floor. Gen. J. Karpinski, who was the commanding officer of all detention facilities in Iraq, stated that the Abu Ghraib prison was under the command of military intelligence and that abuse and mistreatment were, in effect, official policy and that CIA agents were also participating in the interrogations. Let us remember the statements that Eric Fair, who was an interrogator in Abu Ghraib in 2004, issued years later. In his article published last year in the New York Times, Eric Fair said: "I was someone to be proud of. But I am not. I was an interrogator at Abu Ghraib. I tortured."

He stated that he was not at all surprised with the many methods mentioned in the torture report released by the US Senate. He writes, "I am not surprised. I assure you there is more; much remains redacted." Fair went on to write, "Most Americans haven't read the report. Most never will. But it stands as permanent reminder of the country we once were."

The 2006 report on Abu Ghraib, with 1,325 photographs, 93 videos and 660 photos documenting sexual abuse, provided us a very comprehensive view. However, the problem is this data only cover the period between Oct. 18 and Dec. 30, 2003 — a period of two and a half months. The extent of the horrible torture inflicted during the entire period, which lasted eight years, still remains a secret.

Ortadoğu'yu inşa etmek, yüz yıldan fazla bir zaman boyunca daima ABD'nin en büyük hedeflerinden biri oldu. Osmanlı'nın yıkılmasından sonra iyice şekillenen bu hedef için çok para harcadı ABD, çok da emek. ABD, istese gerçekten de Ortadoğu'yu şekillendirebilirdi. Hayal ettiği şekilde kendi demokrasisini getirir; kendi özgürlük anlayışını hakim kılar; modernliği, kaliteyi, özgür ruhu yaygınlaştırabilirdi. Baas rejimlerinin destekçiliğini yaptığı komünist zihniyeti tümüyle bertaraf edebilir, halkların barış içinde mutlu yaşadıkları, parçalanmak yerine birleşmeye yöneldikleri bir coğrafya meydana getirebilirdi. Bu coğrafya, tam da ABD'nin özlemini duyduğu şekilde ateşli birer ABD müttefiki olur, ABD'nin Ortadoğu hakimiyeti, sevgi, ittifak ve minnetarlık üzerine kurulabilirdi.

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