

Misrepresenting War

Over the past several weeks, the world has observed two significant anniversaries: the twentieth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq (March 20) and the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine (February 24). Two recent articles, one by Juan Cole and the other by Jeremy Scahill, reflect on these invasions and highlight some of the lessons we have failed to learn.

In ***The American War from Hell, 20 Years Later: How Washington Lost Its Moral Compass in Iraq***, Juan Cole reminds readers of the mendacity at the highest levels of the U.S. government that paved the way for this war. What was falsely presented to the U.S. public as an effort to remove an oppressive dictator has destabilized an entire region and weakened U.S. standing in the world.

Who remembers anymore that, in 2003, we were Vladimir Putin? - Juan Cole

In ***The Disturbing Groupthink Over the War in Ukraine***, Jeremy Scahill warns of the dangers of accepting the official narrative about the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He stresses the right and responsibility of citizens to question the actions of their government, particularly in times of war, and notes that efforts to stifle debate ignore the long history of U.S. foreign policy, military, and intelligence catastrophes, as well as its abuses and crimes.

Read: ***The American War from Hell, 20 Years Later: How Washington Lost Its Moral Compass in Iraq***.

Read: ***The Disturbing Groupthink Over the War in Ukraine***.

Juan Cole is the Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan and a recognized expert on the Middle East. Jeremy Scahill is an investigative journalist and founding editor of *The Intercept*. He is the award-winning author of *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army*.