

## Trautman

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Saddam Hussein was forced to accept defeat. However, prominent neoconservatives thought the United States should aim for the removal, not just the containment, of Hussein. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 created an ideal opportunity to do just that.

In 2002, the Bush Administration rhetorically merged Saddam Hussein with Osama bin Laden and produced a rationale for invasion. The consequences of that action are still with us today.

On August 7, 1998, the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed. More than 200 people were killed and thousands were injured. These actions were linked to Al-Qaeda. Air strikes were ordered by President Clinton and Osama bin Laden was eventually indicted by a federal grand jury. Ultimately, these actions proved unsuccessful in stopping Osama bin Laden.

In August 2001, there were ominous signs Al-Qaeda was close to carrying out a new terrorist attack. The 9/11 Report lists numerous opportunities our government had to foil the plot. One involved Zacarias Moussaoui, often referred to as the 20th hijacker. On August 15, 2001, an intelligence investigation was begun into him by the Minneapolis field office of the FBI. Moussaoui exhibited some suspicious behavior. He wanted to learn how to "take off and land" a Boeing 747 even though he didn't plan on becoming a commercial pilot.

He also could not believably explain how he had \$32,000 in

a bank account. Even though he was arrested shortly later for an immigration violation, by August 23, the CIA could not definitively link him to Al-Qaeda.

While it is unclear if he was part of the plot, the 9/11 report concluded that "If Moussaoui had been connected to Al-Qaeda, questions should instantly have arisen about a possible Al-Qaeda plot that involved piloting airliners, a possibility that had never been seriously analyzed by the intelligence community."

Perhaps one would have been enough to stop the attacks.

As of this writing, both the Iraqi parliament and Congress are planning vacations soon — typical August thinking. Even though Congress hasn't

been very productive this year, that's not the legislative body that most concerns me. The Iraqi parliament has issues to solve now.

Will the insurgents and jihadists take August off? I doubt it.

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