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## War is here, and current strategy isn't winning it

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It is disconcerting that U.S. political leaders, policy makers and presidential hopefuls still believe that the war in Iraq as we are fighting it today somehow contributes to the global war on terror. The current refrain goes something like, "If we don't fight them over there, then we will fight them over here."

We are already fighting them here and have been for decades. The real question is, what kind of attacks are we likely to face and where? As 9/11 showed us, a well-motivated group of terrorists can achieve a tremendous victory without any local popular support, but the fighters in Iraq cannot simply pull up stakes and create the kind of havoc in the U.S. that they have in Iraq. They'll have to do something different, something like they did in September 2001.

Although the networks those terrorists relied upon are certainly disrupted to some degree by U.S. military action around the globe, they still exist and the motivation and expertise they need is still available. So are the targets. Americans must not be fooled into thinking that because we have not had another 9/11-style attack we are winning the global war on terror. On the contrary, our enemies are meticulously plotting their next move against us. As we have seen in Iraq and Afghanistan, our failure to implement an effective post-Iraq invasion strategy, on top of short-sighted Cold War political strategies, has clearly increased the number of motivated enemies we have.

An attack like 9/11 takes years of planning and coordination; so unless the enemy was already planning its subsequent move prior to September 2001, we should not have expected to see another devastating attack yet. They were likely waiting to see our response to 9/11 and what we leave unprotected for use as their next target.

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