



/ Washington Post

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR | Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Explaining a massacre?

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton finds the latest massacre in Afghanistan “inexplicable” (“Massacre won’t alter strategy, Obama insists,” March 13). The explanation is the United States invaded and occupied a country it does not understand, forming an alliance with the least popular elements to overthrow the presumed “enemy”

(which, alas, it had armed and trained during the Russian occupation). This profound ignorance and hubris, fed by the emotion of 9/11 (planned by Saudis living in Germany), doomed the United States to failure and frustration expressed through blind vengeance against an “enemy” we still do not know.

Tom Miller, Oakland

War without end

We now have Orwell’s predicted era of perpetual war, which has been hermetically sealed to keep out an uninterested public while war profiteers rape the treasury and only military families know its true devastation and heartache.

It was only a matter of time before the real nature of our tragically misguided policy showed its cost. We have asked young men and women to fight for 10 years, longer than any previous war in American history. So why are we surprised when a trained killer, who has known nothing but murder and destruction for his adult life, goes about his business without regard for tactic, strategy or remorse?

Is military power, fear and destruction the best that America has to offer the world?

Matt Piucci, Oakland



Noorullah Shirzada / AFP/Getty Images

Afghans shout anti-U.S. slogans in a protest in Jalalabad against the killing of 16 villagers by an American soldier.

The New York Times

THE NEW YORK TIMES **EDITORIALS/LETTERS** WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012

Aftershocks From the Afghan Massacre

TO THE EDITOR:

The disaster of the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan becomes more apparent day by day. The shock and anger of 9/11 trumped reason and judgment as the United States blindly struck out, formed alliances with corrupt warlords and ended up alienating the entire population.

The occupation must end immediately, but we must not forget the debt we owe the long-suffering Afghan people for the pain we have caused them through no fault of their own.

TOM MILLER

Oakland, Calif., March 12, 2012

The writer, a lawyer, helped establish Parwaz, an Afghan-run microfinance organization.