



Forum for talere

September 2005

Forum For talere
Under denne overskriften åpner noen av Norges mest populære foredragsholdere til sine fagområder. Å høre på dem er tankevekkende. Noen ganger provoserende. Alltid engesjerende.

Talerforum formidler foredragsholdere innfor en rekke emner til bedrifter og organisasjoner.

Vi vill i denne formen regelmessig gi deg tankevekkende artikler skrevet av noen av disse foredragsholderne.

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Hans Blix

Questions two years after the war in Iraq

The war in Iraq 2003 removed Saddam Hussein from power and Iraq was liberated from a ruthless regime. But the war led, and still leads, to the destruction of human lives, resources and property. There are daily reports on attacks with numerous casualties among Iraqi civilians and policemen.



” *It's true that the Iraqis misbehaved and had no credibility, but that does not necessarily mean that what they said was always untrue (or wrong).”*

Hans Blix

Hans Blix

Initiated and controversial expert on weapons of mass destruction and on international politics at the very highest levels

[Vill du booke Hans Blix til et eget evenemang eller ha mer informasjon, klikk her.](#)

Far more American victims have been claimed after the occupation than during the war itself. There are still more than 130 000 American troops in Iraq and their presence is costing the US around 5 billion US dollars a month.

Stuck in the sand

The American government does not want to give any final date for the occupation. It's stuck in the sand. It fears that a retreat before a new Iraqi regime has been

stabilized would lead to chaos and possibly civil war. At the same time it is clear that the very presence of the Americans is the primary reason for the acts of violence. However, this is not the only worry for the Bush administration.

” *There are people in the Bush administration who say that they don't care if the UN sinks into East River*”

Hans Blix

Weapons of mass destruction

The main reason the administration self-confidently gave for the attack on Iraq – to eliminate hidden weapons of mass destruction – has been shown to be completely wrong. The administration took this stand based on material from the national intelligence services. Material they should have realized was deficient, had they been a bit more critical. They ignored that the UN inspectors during 700 inspections of around 500 sites had not found any weapons of mass destruction, and that the inspectors were sceptical to the American and British “proofs”.

” *It's sort of puzzling, I think, that you have 100 per cent certainty about the weapons of mass destruction's existence, and zero certainty about where they are.*”

Hans Blix

Poor economy

The war in Iraq was thus an expensive way for the US to gain full certainty that there were no forbidden weapons in Iraq. The alternative, to continue the inspections, would have cost around 300 million US dollars per year – of which the US would not have had to pay a single dollar – and would have involved around 300 UN personnel ...

Questions demanding answers

Of course our main perspective should be the future, to discuss how we better can use the UN globally for stability, peace and democracy. However, the world

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should also try to learn something from the Iraq conflict. Based on my own experiences of the UN, I will pose and comment on a number of questions raised by the conflict:

- Is the peace order in the UN charter as drawn up in San Francisco still valid, allowing individual states to use force only when attacked, or can the US – and perhaps all other states – attack whenever their intelligence services believe they see any weapons of mass destruction in a less friendly nation? Can the US today, alone and without any authorization from the UN Security Council, decide to attack North Korea or Iran, even if nothing seems to indicate that these countries are planning an attack on the US or any other state?
- Should the conclusions by the intelligence services of material obtained by signal reconnaissance, bugging and espionage have greater credibility than observations by independent, international inspectors? Wouldn't the best results come from a comparison and use of both these sources?
- Is it too much to ask that leading statesmen in democracies act with a measure of sincerity if they advocate war, and refrain from assigning a virtual reality to the world – a make believe world? What is the truth today in statements made about Iran and North Korea?
- Where were the independent, free and critical media during the six months before the war in Iraq? Was the collaboration on a dramatic escalation more beneficial for the headlines than putting question marks at shaky statements? Do the media feel a greater responsibility today?

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- Is the objective of the American military leadership in the Pentagon a “pax americana” – a world order in which the US, if necessary by force or subversion, makes sure that regimes not docile enough are exchanged, for example in Iraq or Iran or Venezuela?
- As NATO with the end of the cold war lost it’s role as a safeguard against Soviet communism, does the present American administration want to institute a well-oiled, US controlled NATO for peace keeping operations instead of the global UN?
- Why are the disarmament talks bogged down now, when we for fifteen years have had an easing of tension and when the great powers reasonably would need fewer weapons today than when they bared their teeth at one another?
- How big is the terrorist threat really, and what are the risks of terrorists obtaining biological, chemical or nuclear weapons? What should we do about it?
- How far should we go as regards integrity restricting measures – fingerprints, cameras, examination of overseas payments, phone tapping etc. – in the struggle against terrorists? Are we in a “world war” justifying for example that the US apprehends suspected individuals almost anywhere, sending them to countries using torture in their efforts to obtain information?
- What interests have companies and industry that the peace is kept and human rights are respected?

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- If national stability and rule of law is required to provide suitable conditions for economical and social development, isn't it then obvious that we also need international peace and international rule of law for global economical and social development?

” *In the Middle Ages people were convinced there were witches. They looked for them and they certainly “found them”.*

Hans Blix (alluding to the fact that no weapons of mass destruction were found)