

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

zation" has become so similar to barbarism is that destruction and murder have been mobilized to keep it intact. Previously, "civilization" was ashamed of such a perversion.

But now, those claiming to represent civilization do not even bother to conceal their thoughts and boast that they would return parts of Asia to the Stone Age in retaliation.

The beginning of the new century has seen U.S. leaders think only about how to maintain their own monopolistic prosperity and carry out their will. They will stop at nothing — even using the United Nations as their butler.

There is no country to check the United States, and those planning to resist, like Afghanistan and Iraq, are going to be remodeled by destructive air raids, which have the effect of encouraging other governments to act in line with the U.S. will.

This is something that should be called "control by terror."

The problems raised by the United States do not pose a danger to the world. Rather, the United States itself is the problem.

World leaders are controlled by a leader who, like a thug, only wants to resort to force. They are completely unsuitable as leaders. That is why the world faces such danger.

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U.S. President George W. Bush
(AP-Kyodo)

Legend:

- Five big powers allowed to hold nuclear weapons under Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)
- Non-NPT members nuclear-have nations
- Nations suspected of having nuclear arms development programs

Labels on map: North Korea, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Israel

Portrait: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (Reuters-Kyodo)

Sources: Carnegie Corporation

New century brings with it a new type of war

By OSAMU NISHITANI

While people the world over were enjoying the countdown for the 21st century, few of them would have realized that the start of the century would see a new era of war — the like of which had never been seen before.

Of course, there had been conflicts in the past but there were usually within the larger framework of the Cold War. The problem humanity faced was no longer the threat of nuclear war but the control of regional conflicts. Indeed, the problem of urgently countering the threats to the global environment, and poverty and hunger, seemed uppermost.

The remarkable divide separating the world into North and South was a negative result of colonial rule by so-called "civilized countries" over several centuries, and the economic structure of globalization had further accelerated the devastation of countries in the South.

The goal of humanity, therefore, seemed to be to eradicate the ills of the poor countries with the assistance of the developed countries.

ly but to be fought "by all means."

Diplomacy is being shaken off as if it had never existed.

In order for named "enemies" to be prevented from being armed with nuclear weapons, possible nuclear attacks are openly mentioned. In order for them not to possess weapons of mass destruction, weapons of even more destructive power can be used.

What is more, these claims are regarded in the international community as correct and no country seriously challenges them.

What has caused these drastic changes? The cause is the attacks on the United States. U.S. leaders immediately understood who carried out the attacks, and why.

They knew the "enemies" beforehand. Now, everybody knows that the people and organization labeled as criminals by the U.S. were originals nurtured by the U.S. Middle East policy before they turned against their former sponsors.

But the U.S. administration suppressed questions about why the United States has be-

come the target of such violence, gave its citizens no time to think about it and succeeded in mobilizing them for a "pre-emptive" war.

The 21st century's war is said to be one between states and non-states (or rogue states) — a confrontation between "civilization" and "the uncivilized."

If this pattern is to be followed, countries would stage wars in the name of "civilization," and crush non-states or the uncivilized by any means.

With the end of the Cold War, the United States became the sole superpower. But it appears to have chosen to incorporate the world into a new "order of war" by further strengthening its military power, rather than taking responsibility and creating a peaceful world order.

The U.S., with a massive overdeveloped war industry and requiring huge amounts of energy and materials to maintain the "American way of life," appears to need the plot of a "large-scale war" to continue to be unilaterally "prosperous."

The reason modern "civil-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B7