

the Philippines. Another possible consequence of U.S. policy is that American soldiers could end up fighting a country that the United States has armed.

Political Scientists Hate Term Limits

Mark P. Petracca, professor of political science at the University of California at Irvine, writes that political scientists are openly hostile to term limitation because they are cynical about the attentiveness, general knowledge, and judgmental capacity of the average voter, among other reasons. In "Why Political Scientists Oppose Term

Limits" (Cato Briefing Paper no. 14), Petracca points out that political scientists were instrumental in promoting the professionalization of legislatures.

He also argues that many political scientists prefer stability and efficiency to broad political participation and that they believe term limitation would quickly exhaust the pool of political leaders. Petracca writes that the views of political scientists may also be influenced by political partisanship and that they may even perceive attacks on professional politicians as a threat to their own professionalism. ■

U.S. Should Stay Out of Mideast, Leon Hadar Argues in *Quagmire*

With the disappearance of the Soviet Union, is there any remaining reason for the United States to be a major participant in Middle Eastern politics? Leon Hadar says no in his new Cato Institute book, *Quagmire: America in the Middle East*. Hadar, a former UN bureau chief for the *Jerusalem Post* who teaches political science at American University in Washington, writes that it is time to rethink America's decades-old Middle Eastern policy, which was fashioned in the crucible of the Cold War.

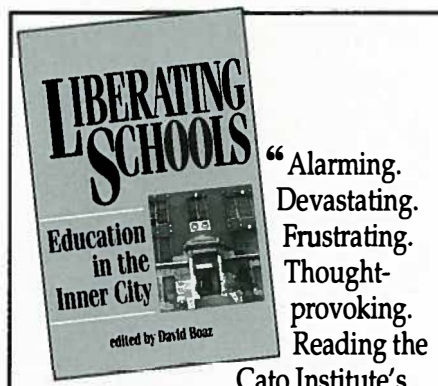
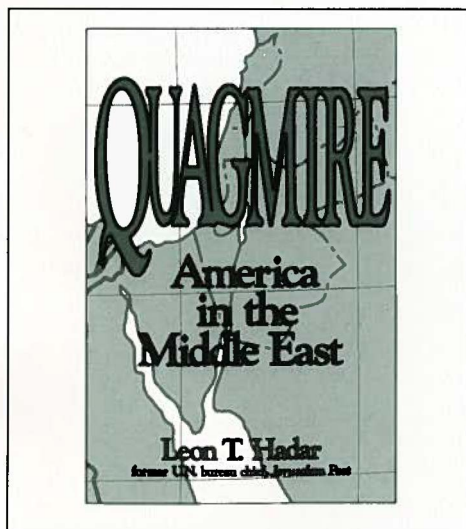
Quagmire begins by noting that dramatic changes in the old Soviet bloc in 1989 and 1990 had begun to force a reconsideration of America's international role—until Saddam Hussein of

Iraq invaded Kuwait. One effect of the crisis and ensuing war was to temporarily save the foreign policy establishment from a painful readjustment. Those, including President Bush, who advocated a continued global role for the United States could point to Iraq to illustrate the threat of "instability" that required an American response. Although other regions, Central Europe, for example, evidenced instability, the Middle East, with its riches of oil, furnished an apparently unanswerable case for American globalism.

Hadar argues that current developments in the Middle East in fact do not demonstrate a need for American involvement there. He points out that American leaders have neither the power nor the knowledge to manage the lives of people in the region and that U.S. meddling inevitably makes the various parties more irresponsible and less willing to take advantage of opportunities for settling disputes.

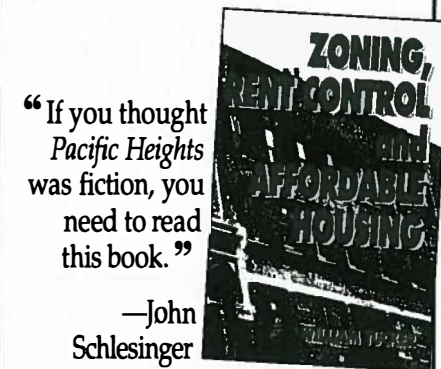
Quagmire calls on the United States to redefine its role with respect to Israel, the Palestinians, the Arabs, and Iran. It identifies the special interests—conservative and liberal, Arabist and pro-Israeli—that urge an energized American presence in the Middle East for their own purposes and argues persuasively that such a role is not in the general interest of the American people.

Quagmire is available from the Cato Institute for \$14.95 in paperback, \$24.95 in cloth. ■



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