

War, by removing the ease of daily life, is a teacher of violence and lowers the mood of the masses to the level of contemporary events

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*

EDITOR'S NOTE NOVEMBER SECOND AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 11TH

by Andrew Gold

Joseph Wood Krutch observed that every great power mistakes the eclipse of its power for the eclipse of civilization itself.¹ Although he wrote this in 1929, his point is timely as we approach the November 2nd election. In the wake of challenges to this nation's economic and security policies on multiple continents, the current Administration and its domestic political allies in the war on terror are interested in using this nation's power with immodesty that a more old-fashioned observer might name hubris.

For anyone who is concerned with the nation's present leadership. There are concerns about the judicial appointments done by a man who prides himself on the adolescent simplicity of his judgment. There are concerns about a reckless economy policy of tax cuts for the wealthy coupled with a record half-trillion dollar budget deficit, which might reasonably be considered a Constitutional violation against generations unborn: It is taxation without representation. There are concerns about a unilateral foreign policy that leads its defenders to accuse old allies of new enemies. But more than anything, the election is about whether this nation is ready to put behind it the political moment that began September 11, 2001.

President Bush has done much to turn trauma into a reason for an elastic crusade. His effort is unworthy of a free nation. This is not to say that those currently designated as terrorists (radical religious extralegal political actors who target civilians) do not pose a threat to people in this country and elsewhere. But it is to say that all wisdom sides with approaching the war against al-Queda in quiet confidence of the durability of our political and social fabric.² Despite both's

