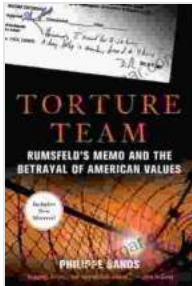


# Unveiling the Rumsfeld Memo: A Betrayal of American Values



## Torture Team: Rumsfeld's Memo and the Betrayal of American Values by Philippe Sands

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 704 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 272 pages



## The Rumsfeld Memo: A Harbinger of Darkness

In the aftermath of the harrowing events of 9/11, the United States embarked on a transformative journey, a war on terror that would forever alter its course. Amidst the turmoil, a chilling document emerged from the depths of the Pentagon, a memo that would cast a long, dark shadow over the nation's soul: the Rumsfeld Memo.

Penned by then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, this infamous memo authorized the use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" on suspected terrorists, euphemisms for torture methods that would have been unthinkable just a few short years earlier.

April 24, 2006

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld

SUBJECT: Thoughts on Meeting with Military Analysts -- April 18, 2006

- Focus on the Global War on Terror -- not simply Iraq. The wider war -- the long war. Iraq is a battleground.
- Describe the nature of the threat -- vicious, violent extremists; chop off heads.
- Let the public know there will be no terminal event -- like the signing ceremony on the USS MISSOURI. It will be a long war.
- Set out the next benchmarks. We pointed to the January (2005) elections, the constitution, the December (2005) election, and the formation of the new government. Now we can look forward to the announcement of the new cabinet, and continued transfer of responsibility to the Iraqi Security Forces.
- Describe the "dire consequences" if we toss in the towel. Explain what the world would look like.
- Link Iraq to Iran. Iran is the concern. If we fail in Iraq or Afghanistan, it will help Iran.
- "We fight there so we won't have to fight here at home."
- Go on the offense. Push back, rather than simply defending. We can't win on defense.
- We are at war. It is a test of wills. The center of gravity is in the U.S., not in Iraq. Perseverance = Victory.

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## **Betrayal of American Values: A Descent into Darkness**

The Rumsfeld Memo signaled a profound betrayal of American values, a departure from the principles of human rights and civil liberties that had long defined the nation. The authorization of torture shattered the very foundation upon which the United States was built.

The memo opened the floodgates to a systematic abuse of power, as the government embarked on a clandestine program of rendition and torture, holding suspects in secret prisons around the globe, beyond the reach of the law.

The repercussions were devastating, not only for the victims of these heinous acts, but for the collective conscience of the nation. The United States had become a perpetrator of human rights violations, tarnishing its reputation and undermining its moral authority on the world stage.

### **Erosion of Values: A Slippery Slope**

The Rumsfeld Memo was not an isolated incident, but rather a symptom of a broader erosion of values that had been taking hold in the post-9/11 era. In the name of national security, the government expanded its surveillance powers, curtailing civil liberties and chipping away at the freedoms that had been so fiercely defended for generations.

The erosion of values extended beyond the realm of counterterrorism. The government's response to the financial crisis of 2008 exposed a deep-seated disregard for ethical behavior and accountability, as those responsible for the disaster faced little to no consequences.

The consequences of this erosion of values were profound. Trust in government plummeted, as citizens grew disillusioned with the institutions that were supposed to protect them. Society became more polarized, as fear and suspicion replaced dialogue and understanding.

### **Reclaiming Our Values: A Call to Conscience**

The Rumsfeld Memo and its aftermath serve as a stark reminder of the fragility of our values and the importance of vigilance in their defense. The

erosion of these values has had a corrosive effect on our society, undermining trust, polarizing our communities, and tarnishing our reputation on the world stage.

It is imperative that we reclaim our values, that we recommit ourselves to the principles of human rights and civil liberties, and that we hold our government accountable for its actions.

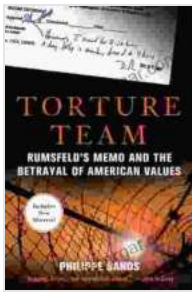
The time has come for a national conversation about the sacrifices we are willing to make in the name of security, and the consequences of those sacrifices for our collective conscience. We must demand transparency and accountability from our government, and we must hold ourselves to a higher standard of ethical behavior.

### **: A Path to Redemption**

Unveiling the Rumsfeld Memo is not simply an exercise in historical inquiry, but a call to action. It is a reminder of the dangers of complacency, of the importance of vigilance, and of the power of our collective voice.

By confronting the dark chapters of our past, we can illuminate a path to redemption. By reclaiming our values, we can rebuild trust, heal our divisions, and reaffirm our commitment to a just and equitable society.

The Rumsfeld Memo and the betrayal of American values that it represents should serve as a catalyst for change, a reminder that our values are not static, but rather dynamic and ever-evolving. It is up to us to shape their trajectory, to ensure that they continue to guide our nation towards a more just and humane future.



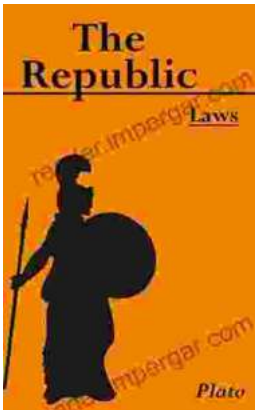
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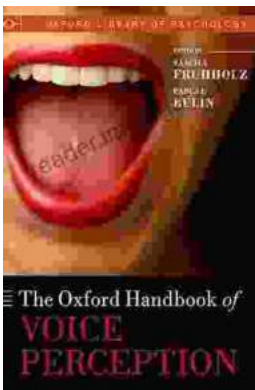
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