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## Generalissimo El Busho: Essays Cartoons on the Bush Years

*Ted Rall*

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**Ted Rall : Generalissimo El Busho: Essays Cartoons on the Bush Years** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Generalissimo El Busho: Essays Cartoons on the Bush Years:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My girlfriend loves it By Scott Just about the perfect present for any vaguely literate person who didn't particularly enjoy Bush v 2.0 and his antics. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Lessons in mass distraction By sailing up chit speak In our society of competing popularity contests, in

which the prevalence of countervailing insults seems to be of more importance than democratic ideals in maintaining political social ties, Ted Rall draws the cartoons which demonstrate how much freedom of speech editors are willing to allow in an America that is so clearly divided that journalists ought to feel obligated to maintain some sympathy for readers who are more likely to agree with Rall than with unsubstantiated assertions from anonymous sources. With the current controversies about secret provisions inserted in late-night conference committee drafts of important end-of-session appropriations legislation, it is not surprising that most people are capable of believing that the United States has reached a level of secrecy which makes the scenes shown in Ted Rall's cartoon possible, if not probable. Most of us don't actually know where Jimmy Hoffa's body ended up, and it is a shame that this book does not have an index to allow curious readers to look up Hoffa and see if Rall has a new theory on that, but we are sure to have a few ideas about events between October 10, 2000 ("Never has that been clearer than during this sad, pathetic, duller than death election year." p. 17) and the Last Word on March 2, 2004 (p. 207) and the essays in GENERALISSIMO EL BUSH allow news junkies to see how much more or less than Rall we knew then or know now. When it comes to predictions, Rall made some good ones, and I am unaware of any that were so far off he had to leave them out of this book in 2004, when, like the Worst-Case Scenarios cartoon on page 21, "The Jerk stops here" sign looks like it is on the desk in the Oval Office. I find the humor great, but I should be emphasizing how much the book shows an interest in technology and economics, two subjects which are not often prevalent in comic looks at the world situation. On February 17, 2002, Rall and I both took an interest in the Afghan Tall Man Khan, who was 5-feet-eleven but was attacked by a Hellfire missile fired from a Predator drone because he was mistaken for Osama bin Laden, who is 6-feet-4. (p. 68). Rall reprints information from the New York Times article by John F. Burns without further comment, except about "thousands of indiscriminately dropped bombs" in Afghanistan where Rall went to report on the war in November 2001. But the idea shows up in a 'Beyond the West Wing' cartoon on page 112: "All I have to do is declare you an 'enemy combatant' and WHAM!! Hellfire missile!" That article is about a November 3, 2002 "Central Intelligence Agency rub-out of alleged al-Qaeda operatives riding in a car in Yemen. Langley fired a Hellfire missile from a remote-controlled Predator drone into the vehicle, blowing up several men. The CIA later discovered that an American citizen, Kamel Derwish, had inadvertently been killed in the resulting inferno." (pp. 111-112). Costs are revealed in the "You Can Sponsor the War Against Iraq" cartoon on page 118: "PREDATOR DRONE Sponsor for \$40,000,000 (Just ONE big Lotto win!) Fires HELLFIRE MISSILE Sponsor for \$58,000 (Same as your WORTHLESS KID'S COLLEGE TUITION)." Rall's first column in this book after Bush 43 actually became president complained that Congress doubled his pay in 1999 by a vote of 276-147 in the House. "Clinton earned \$200,000 each year; Bush will get \$400,000 doing the same job." (p. 35). The accounting scandal panic is discussed on pages 89-93, with a look at the big change in corporate compensation in our lifetimes: "Accounting fraud is closely tied to CEO greed. Corporate executives skim obscene salaries off the revenues, getting paid tens of millions of dollars while driving venerable companies out of business and hard-working employees out of work. Companies argue that these payouts are necessary to find and retain the very best managers, but history disproves that canard. Plenty of talented executives work for significantly less, and plenty of overpaid greedheads do a lousy job. CEO pay ought to be capped, as the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed a decade ago, at twenty times the income of the lowest paid employee. Such a measure would insure that all boats are lifted by a rising tide and protect shareholders from rapacious executives." (pp. 92-93). Rall has a proposal to make employees totally uncapitalistic: "To truly prevent insider double-dealing, CEOs must be banned from owning shares of their own or related corporations." (p. 93). Ted Rall is unlikely to make millions on his books, which will never be as popular as the 'Peanuts' comics, but he seems to have a wage-slave labor value of wages view that is directly contrary to the roller-coaster and gambling mentality that makes capitalism a game in which wages are just one plaything among many for maximizing the total take of those who can see how it is occasionally possible to grab all the money before anyone else will realize what is going on. As far as people are concerned, the essay "A Government of Gangsters" captures the current administration's policy most clearly on January 29, 2002: "During the last several months, at least six thousand people have vanished off the streets of the United States. Kidnapped by government agents, they have no idea when--or if--they will be released from prison. . . . Since the disappeared haven't been granted access to lawyers or allowed to call their families, no one can talk to them. Bush says they have no rights because they're not American citizens-but we don't even know if that's true." (p. 63). Rall is expecting more surprises, rather than less, because the "sovereignty-busting gangsterism" (p. 94) ties in well with the doctrine of "permanent revolution" developed by Leon Trotsky in 1915 and used already for mass distraction by Hitler, Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. with broad grinning ...By FrizzTextSeldom an America has been so clearly divided on the opinion of the quality of his president. The one rejoice, the others moan. Leader of such an Anti-Bushies movement is the cartoonist Ted Rall next to the loud Michael Moore or the quiet Esther Kaplan and others. Rall's cartoons are distributed by insiders constantly around the globe by e-mail appendix. More than 120 merciless cartoons with necessary comments (written 2000-2004) show as foresighted satire can be: Ted Rall often had anticipated the walk of the events months before it became reality: the joy of making torture against prisoners in some American armed forces areas, the financial obtaining practices for a register looting war enthusiasm, the absurdity of some targets, thought up at the desk of the Oval Office: With "Predator" Drones, that

remote-controlled "Hellfire Missiles" US-army shot not only in the cartoon but also in the reality vs. the axis of the bad : against a Mercedes hurrying through the desert at the 3rd Nov. 2002 - unfortunately, an American citizen also dies by mistake; or at the 17th Feb. of the same year a fully automatic "Predator"-beast hits Tall Man Khan -- unfortunately, this one had been mistaken for Osama bin Laden . Ted Rall thinks that Bush has a monkey similar face, funny ears and empty eyes, and because this reminded him of the Chilean president Pinochet, he headlined "Generalissimo El Busho" and provided the Washington War-Lord with a sash and many medallions which he perhaps would like to see to himself if it were in Texas fashion, then. So he adorns himself as an alternative in the reality merely with jackets of aircraft carrier fight bomber pilots, broad grinning ...

Ted Rall is best known for saying today what will become conventional wisdom tomorrow. His GENERALISSIMO EL BUSHO is the ultimate chronicle of the most polarizing presidency in modern American history, a brilliantly tragicomic week-by-week dissection of the Bush Administration's follies and crimes as seen by America's most courageous editorial cartoonist and political writer. Ted Rall, who has traveled and reported from the world's hottest trouble spots, recognizes a dictator when he sees one. And he doesn't scare easily. Having seized power extraconstitutionally, Bush and his cabal of corrupt businessmen made it obvious that they intended to rule with ruthless zeal. Unlike most of his fellow journalists, however, Rall refused to be cowed--even in the wake of 9/11. Others came out of the woodwork during 2003, but Ted Rall's ferocious denunciations of our ersatz president and his assaults on our precious freedoms stood virtually alone during the flag-waving weeks and months following the attacks on New York and Washington. And unlike every other commentator, Rall used two different forms of media--cartoons and essays--to speak brutally honest truth to power even as he fended off death threats. Brave, uncompromising and fiercely devoted to traditional American values of freedom and integrity, Ted Rall's GENERALISSIMO EL BUSHO collects the best of his hilarious cartoons and brutally honest essays during the Bush years.

From Publishers Weekly Even when the country was rallying around President Bush, syndicated cartoonist and columnist Rall remained in a state of outrage—one he effectively maintains throughout this book, a set of essay-like meditations on a Pinochet-esque figure he calls "Generalissimo El Busho." Each of 60 or so short salvos is typically accompanied by one to three cartoons (at most four to six panels). Bush's election ("The Seizure of Power") is followed by a post-9/11 cartoon on the president's attitudes toward civil liberties violations titled "Martin Niemöller Now"—referring to the priest who said, in part, "When they came for Jews, I did not speak up, because I wasn't a Jew." A prescient cartoon imagines the prison at Guantánamo as the reality show Gitmo House. A "Canyon of Heroes" cartoon cites a 9/11 victim: "My death helped create the political climate that allowed tax cuts for rich folks during a recession." Love him or hate him, Rall is never less than provocative. The material is current through March 2004, and much of it still stings. A specialist on Central Asia, Rall actually went to Afghanistan and wrote, "We won the war but we lost the peace. Will we do the same thing in Iraq? Count on it." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Rall has filed some of the best reporting from Afghanistan by an American journalist." -- The Nation "Should (Rall) be published, arrested? Shot at dawn? Governmental action may be necessary." -- 1996/2000 Republican Presidential Candidate Alan Keyes "Ted Rall is a national hero." -- Daily Texan "Ted Rall is giving dissent a bad name." -- The Comics Journal From the Author Three million people lost their jobs, tens of thousands of Afghans and Iraqis lost their lives and we got stuck fighting two pointless wars that strengthened the terrorists who hate us. Some people did get something out of George W. Bush's reign of error, however: the super rich, who collected stupendous tax cuts, big corporations, who enjoyed almost total freedom to do whatever they want, and people like me. We political humorists and commentators ended up with the most radical, idiotic and vicious president in history--and he was illegitimate to boot! Not to mention: he was busy. Some days, I swear I could have drawn a dozen cartoons and written a dozen more columns. There were so many new initiatives, so many over-the-top schemes, it was nearly impossible to keep up. GENERALISSIMO EL BUSHO is the beneficiary of this embarrassment of inspirational riches. I hope you like it.