

Remix culture, analysis



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Attack of the Clones and Bush War on Terrorism The MAD magazine poster is a parody of the Star Wars poster of the movie "Attack of the Clones". Even the movie itself was criticized by movie critics since it failed to deliver the high expectations of its loyal followers. The MAD poster depicts George Bush as Anakin Skywalker since he is the main protagonist in the War on Terror.

Bush declares all-out war against the Iraqis while his own country is besieged with political problems. An insightful analysis of Bush speech argued:

"It pulled out every available stop in an effort to use those alarms to gain support for staying the course in Iraq. The speech this morning was designed to once again lure Americans into the insidious and sinister Bushco Terror Trap." (TV newslies, 2005)

Similarly, Anakin is given the task to protect the Republic from the invaders while at the same time gallantly establishing his love relationship with Queen Padme. In case of Bush and Rice, there is an intimate political relationship nurtured by the concept of war. Beautiful Natalie Portman plays Padme, a princess whose vote is crucial to the Republic. She has an enigmatic character and can potentially disrupt status quo given her powers. For this reason, she is compared to Condoleezza Rice, the National Security Advisor of Bush, who has past powers since she is a brilliant and well-educated diplomat who developed the policy of "Transformational Diplomacy" as a prescription to the problems of the Middle East (U. S. Dept. of State, 2005). Rice was aggressive in maintaining diplomacy with countries besieged by conflict which is similar to the stance of Princess Padme.

The poster also shows the clones as the main antagonist, when in fact it is really Anakin who harbors the real enemy within - Darth Vader. Ironically, Saddam Hussein is portrayed as the clone since all Iraqis and people of Middle

East are clones of terrorists which is why they are subject to much scrutiny and suspicion. Such was the moral panic that disseminated during post 9/11. The original Star Wars poster did not state the Phantom Menace but the MAD poster introduced Osama Bin Laden as the Phantom Menace. The main reason for such is that Anakin would later become Darth Vader who becomes the real phantom menace.

The face of Obi-Wan Kenobi, the swashbuckling mentor of Anakin is replaced with face of Donald Rumsfeld. Rumsfeld, is a seasoned politician and retired military strategist who have served Nixon, Ford, and even the old Bush. He is like Obi since his experience makes him a very good advisor to Bush in terms of military strategy. Obi resists the concepts of violence and uses them only when needed; similarly, Rumsfeld planned many tactical attacks against Iraq that resulted only to less bloodshed for American soldiers.

Minor characters such as Dick Cheney and Colin Powell is also depicted as supporting casts in the MAD poster. Like the other Jedi, they assist Bush in combating the clones so that democracy would be maintained in the free world. Cheney is similar to Rumsfeld since he is a seasoned political and military strategist who uses power if the occasion falls from it. Cheney's experience in Operation Desert Storm and as former Vice President of US makes him fit to play Yoda's role.

Works Cited :

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