

A NEW D-DAY

by Baruch Cohon

Events both here and in France dramatized the 6th of June -- a day that stands out as both heroic and tragic in American history. Tragic because so many good men died. Heroic because it still stands as a symbol of that national pride and united purpose that won World War II and every war before it.

Before it. Not after it. Because a lot of that spirit got lost.

Now our enemies in places like Iran gloat over what they call the end of American power. They are not the only ones sounding doom for this country. Writers on the political right warn of the decline of a great nation, the impending death of the United States as a superpower – and of our democratic way of life as well. They point to policies and postures of our leaders that spell weakness to our enemies, and likely reveal real weakness in ourselves.

Are they right? Will the United States succumb as did the Caesars, the Moguls, the Pharaohs and the other superpowers of history? And this time, without a fight?

Certainly we see conditions and trends that can cause alarm. Our vaunted information industry sets a tone for it. Face it. Last year the leftwing media worked hard to elect the unlikeliest candidate in U.S. history. They succeeded, not by a landslide but by a decisive 4% margin. Of course many of the Democrats' 52% didn't really vote for Obama. They voted against Bush, who was not running, but was so disliked that nobody from his party was to be allowed to win. Mindful of that fact, the same activists and media cheerleaders went to work the day after Obama moved into the White House, with a daily message of personal adulation – interview the family, celebrate the dog, quote and praise every slick speech the new president makes – effectively launching Campaign 2012. Last week when NBC's top newsman, Brian Williams, lent his prestige to MSNBC's White House tour, he let Michelle slip in the words "eight years." That's all it's about. Elect and re-elect.

Outside Washington, conservative commentators can definitely cite trends that point downward. State by state, public ambiguity becomes law on moral and ethical issues, from banning the Ten Commandments to dignifying perversion by calling it marriage. Just as returning Vietnam veterans were shunned by the politically correct, many wounded volunteers from service in Iraq and Afghanistan are reduced to begging on streetcorners. What kind of culture do we have? Maybe American civilization is rotten and deserves to die?

Stop right there.

This diverse nation, this land of liberty, is not that sick. Yes we have problems with a troubled economy and a two-or-three front war we didn't want. Yes we have porous borders and a confused government. We also have a couple of hundred million people who can tackle those problems individually – each American on a personal level. We do that if we have to. And we have to. I for one believe that we as a nation can still recover control over our own future and come together to build it. Very likely we will have to replace a good many elected officials in the process, but we can do that too. Remember, our Founding Fathers created a pretty strong system. It survived even the fools and scoundrels we sometimes put in office, because the real power is the people. A song that was popular in Israel a few years back says: "You and I can change the world." Believe that, because it's true.

Our new D-Day is Determination Day. Never mind the media, whether left or right. The election is over. And never mind the government, whether we agree with its policies or not. The next election is three years off. You and I can mold our future now. And the first step has to be Don't Give Up. Don't give up on yourself and don't give up on your country. Determination means we can't wait for another 9/11 to bring us together. We who share the blessings of this great nation need to grab each other by the shoulder and assert our strength. 1929 did not destroy us, and neither will 2009. Hitler and Tojo couldn't bring us down, and neither will the Islamofascists today. Remember

Rosie the Riveter? She predated Women's Lib, and she built warships that her boyfriend sailed. We can all take a cue from that kind of determination today.

What I am suggesting is a grass roots pro-America groundswell of energy to triumph over economic challenges at home and terrorists from overseas. The first ingredient of that energy is Determination. Believe in ourselves.

Another song title comes to mind, this one from 60+ years ago:
"We Did it Before and We Can Do it Again. Do you agree?"