

How did the U.S. government lead its people to war?

Rhetoric and Spin

Caves and Shadows

In the lead-up to war with Iraq, President Bush described the terrorists as living in caves, and Hussein as a leader of a "shadowy" network of terrorists. This language of caves and shadows is a rhetorical device used to dehumanize the enemy, associating Hussein with the beasts and monsters of mythic tales.

Video: CAVES & SHADOWS



- A Mechanism for War
- Rhetoric and Spin
 - Epic Struggle
 - An 'Either/Or' World
 - Iraq, Al-Qaeda and 9/11
 - There is No Doubt
 - Using Uncertainty as a Tool to Generate Fear
 - Spinning Agreement Where There's Disagreement
 - Verbal Sleights of Hand
 - Empty Promises
 - "The War on Terror"
 - Enemy Motives
 - Caves and Shadows
 - "Peace" and "Freedom"
- War Through Rose-Colored Glasses
- Abuses and Misuses of Intelligence
- A Mythic Reality
- Items of Note
- Bush Administration Claims vs. The Facts

BUSH: This is a war where the leaders hide in a **cave**, or they kind of hide in a **dark corner** of one of the cities around the world, and then they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths.

BUSH: We continue to pursue the terrorists in cities and camps and **caves** across the earth.

BUSH: ...**shadowy** terrorist networks are not easily contained.

BUSH: It's a man who has got connections with al-Qaeda. Imagine a terrorist network with Iraq as an arsenal and as a training ground. So that a Saddam Hussein could use this **shadowy** group of people to attack his enemy and leave no fingerprint behind.

[\[continue to the next section: "Peace and Freedom"\]](#)

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