Al Qaeda is down, not out

Terrorists and their supporters remain a threat, and in some parts of today’s world, are more organized and better financed than they were before September 11, 2001. But the fight against terrorist networks is not the only battle that needs to be fought. The U.S.-led war on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq may have been fought well, but it was not without its share of mistakes and blunders.

The first is that strategically defining Al Qaeda as the enemy of the United States was a serious mistake. Al Qaeda was not a single entity, but rather a network of diverse members, including many who were not affiliated with the U.S.-based terrorist group. By lumping all of these groups together, the Bush administration was able to make the case for war, but it also created a false narrative of threat.

The second is that the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq was fought with far too much force and too little planning. The war in Afghanistan was fought against a dispersed enemy, and the U.S. military was not prepared to deal with the kind of enemy that it faced. The war in Iraq was fought against a more organized enemy, but the U.S. military was not prepared to deal with the kind of enemy that it faced.

The third is that the U.S. military has been too focused on the battlefield, and not enough on the political and diplomatic aspects of the war. The U.S. military has been too focused on the battlefield, and not enough on the political and diplomatic aspects of the war. The U.S. military has been too focused on the battlefield, and not enough on the political and diplomatic aspects of the war. The U.S. military has been too focused on the battlefield, and not enough on the political and diplomatic aspects of the war.

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