

Weapons of Mass Distraction

Who used poison gas in Syria? The answer depends on who you ask. No side of the question has any more credibility than any other when it comes to knowing and being truthful. No one who answers to Trump can be believed, because Trump himself is a prolific serial liar, and he, unfortunately is Commander in Chief.

The Syrian government and their ally, Russia, would be just as likely to lie if it served their interests.

No one, however, has explained why it would have made sense for the Syrian government to knowingly use chemicals. They are winning back territory. They want the support of the people, and to be able to govern once the terrorists are defeated. And they know the kind of reaction chemical warfare brings.

It does make sense for the ISIS/Al Qaeda/rebels to perpetrate such an attack to blame, and weaken support for, the government. They have no problem killing civilians in Syria or anywhere in the world, and often brag about it.

Logical motive doesn't prove guilt, but since we lack believable facts, logic is what we have to work with. It is possible, of course, for governments to act irrationally. Ours certainly has. Just what is so special about chemical warfare in the first place that it requires an outside nation to respond to punish it? Killing people is wrong, and killing many people is wronger. Causing pain and suffering before death adds to the wrongness. That's what war does.

The allies firebombed Dresden and Tokyo in WW 2. We A-bombed 2 Japanese cities. The US used napalm and Agent Orange in Vietnam. The US helped Sadaam use poison gas against Iran, and used depleted uranium ordnance in both wars against Iraq, causing a huge increase in cancer and birth defects for decades afterward.

While nuclear weapons have not been used since 1945, we have maintained huge stockpiles of them and the means to deliver them anywhere. We claim the option to use them, even in a first strike.

So, what standards are we upholding and presenting to the world? Are we really the moral authority on humane infliction of war killing and maiming?

No, we have picked one of many means of destroying lives in war to use as a tool of propaganda, hoping to distract from our responsibility for the huge death toll in Syria, and to promote regime change. Whether the accusation is true or false doesn't matter for that purpose.

--cosmicrat April 12, 2017