

SAMANTHA POWER BLAMES AMERICA FIRST

- Samantha Power's considered judgment, as expressed in a lengthy article she published in the *New Republic* in 2003, compared what she sees as the criminal behavior of the United States to that of Nazi Germany: "U.S. foreign policy has to be rethought. It needs not tweaking but overhauling. **We need: a historical reckoning with crimes committed, sponsored, or permitted by the United States....** Instituting a *doctrine of the mea culpa* would enhance our credibility by showing that American decision-makers do not endorse **the sins of their predecessors**. When Willie Brandt went down on one knee in the Warsaw ghetto, his gesture was gratifying to World War II survivors, but it was also ennobling and cathartic for Germany.... (*New Republic*, March 3, 2003 <http://www.newrepublic.com/article/srebenica-liberalism-balkan-united%20nations#>)
- Samantha Power is a reflexive critic of the United States – not exactly an attribute one would want in our representative to the United Nations. For example, she has written: "Some anti-Americanism derives simply from our being a colossus that bestrides the earth. **But much anti-Americanism derives from the role U.S. political, economic and military power has played in denying such freedoms to others.**" (*New Republic*, March 3, 2003 <http://www.newrepublic.com/article/srebenica-liberalism-balkan-united%20nations#>)
- Power has been committed for decades to deprecating and trying to undo American preeminence and exceptionalism: "**I got into journalism not to be a journalist but to try to change American foreign policy.** I'm a corny person. I was a dreamer predating my journalistic life, so I got into journalism as a means to try to **change the world.**" (Salon.com, February 18, 2008 http://www.salon.com/2008/02/18/samantha_power/)
- The nominee is a transnationalist who believes American power must be subordinated to the dictates of the "international community": "Influence is best measured not only by military hardware and GDP, but also by **other people's perceptions that we, the United States, are using our power legitimately.** That belief – that we are **acting in the interests of the global commons** and in accordance with **the rule of law** – is what the military would call a 'force multiplier.' It enhances the U.S. ability to get what it wants from other countries and other players." (*New Statesmen*, March 6, 2008 <http://www.newstatesman.com/world-affairs/2008/03/barack-obama-interview-power>)
- Power's transnationalism is also expressed in her enthusiasm for the U.S. to redistribute its wealth to less developed nations, as envisioned in the UN's Millennium Development Goals. (Note Power's practice of running down her country as a cheapskate when it comes to foreign assistance – ignoring Americans' consistently generous underwriting of the United Nations and their unmatched magnanimity through private charity.): "I think the United States must change its relationship to the Millennium Development Goals. It would make an enormous difference practically and in terms of public diplomacy **if we were not second-to-last among rich countries in giving aid away; if we were giving money away, investing in societies that actually don't have anything to do with our national security.** The instances where we make sacrifices **strictly in order to benefit other people** are so

few and far between. Even our democracy rhetoric is so rooted in a story about security and how non-democracies become threats and so on. (Interview with the one-worlder organization, Citizens for Global Solutions:

http://archive2.globalsolutions.org/issues/interview_samantha_power)

- Power's notion that the United States must eschew the use of power where it actually *has* vital interests, in favor of passing what John Kerry famously called "the UN test" and meeting the "responsibility to protect" lead her to argue that: "The United States must cease its reliance on **gratuitous unilateralism**. We make rules and create international institutions precisely in order **to bind states when their short-term interests would otherwise lead them toward defection....**" (<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/srebienica-liberalism-balkan-united%20nations#>)
- Power is dismissive of concerns that her transnational agenda with its promotion of the "interests of the global commons" and the authority of "international institutions" will infringe upon U.S. sovereignty: "Only U.S. resources and leadership can turn such institutions [as the International Criminal Court] into forces for the international stability that is indispensable to U.S. security. Besides, **giving up a pinch of sovereignty** will not deprive the United States of the tremendous military and economic leverage it has at its disposal as a last resort." (<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/srebienica-liberalism-balkan-united%20nations#>)
- Power's longstanding hostility towards Israel and support for its Palestinian enemies was captured in the following comment made during a television interview – so much so that she has lately tearfully apologized to Jewish audiences for it and expressed uncertainty about what she meant at the time: "...It may more crucially mean sacrificing – or investing, I think, more than sacrificing – billions of dollars, not in servicing Israel's military, but actually **investing in the new state of Palestine, in investing the billions of dollars it would probably take, also, to support what will have to be a mammoth protection force, not of the old Rwanda kind, but a meaningful military presence**. Because it seems to me at this stage (and this is true of actual genocides as well, and not just major human rights abuses, which were seen there), **you have to go in as if you're serious, you have to put something on the line**. (Video interview with Harry Kreisler: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7l9yDbDNXM>)