Making the World Safe for Terrorism

By the end of December 2001, civilian casualties in Afghanistan far exceeded casualties in Manhattan on September 11 [BBC News, January 3, 2002], while Osama bin Laden remained at large—as he still does. One can be sure that every relative, friend, and neighbor of the Afghan innocent dead is now more sympathetic to the terrorists, rather than less.

You know where terrorists come from, don’t you? They are the orphaned children who grow up where the last generation’s bombs fell. Terrorism is the small-town startup company, war the multinational franchise that puts it out of business—but depends on others coming along to keep the market fresh and maintain the illusion of competition.