ALL-AMERICAN CHRISTMAS GIFTS

from Mother Jones

Christmas is a time for family and friends to gather. A sacred time. A time to look back and reflect on what really matters most. This year, there were so many gifts all about timeless American values, like militarism, jingoism, and barbarism.

Spirit of the Season

Does it seem like every year you have more and more people to buy presents for? Well, here's a gift idea that wants to be part of the solution, not the problem: the "America is full" T-shirt. Now, when the recipient of your gift heads out, people will know exactly what s/he thinks about those tired, poor, and huddled masses yearning to breathe free. And if there was any shred of doubt, the reverse side reads: "The borders? It's closing time."

Last year, the "Terrorist Hunting Permit" was a tasteful addition to any pick-up truck, or Abrams tank. This year, we recommend its companion, the "Liberal Hunting License." With this sticker there's "no bag limit."

Double your hunting fun with either the "Have you killed a Terrorist today?" or "One Dead Terrorist" T-shirt -- in beautiful, all natural white or a pretty, pink junior-sized version with a faux-blood splatter and a logo that reads: "Bringing Freedom to the World, One Dead Terrorist at a Time."

Another sure-fire, stocking-stuffer was the "Six Middle East countries can get along if five are nuked" tee-shirt.

Are shirts with slurs and hats with profanity-laced acronyms just a tad harsh for that place under your family-values tree? Then try a different path – one that blends militarism and misogyny – with an exquisite sweatshirt that reads: "Special Delivery" with an image of a bikini-clad woman, straddling a missile, in front of a red, white, and blue background, or how about the "Big Johnson Army" t-shirt – a gift for sophisticates who absolutely demand that their clothing feature large-breasted cartoon women, macho military vehicles and star-spangled backdrops.

One piece of charming Christmas-themed apparel is the "Freedom Isn't Free. Peace Isn't Pretty. Merry Christmas" shirt with its stunning image of the grim reaper, brandishing an automatic rifle, clad in military fatigues, and, of course, a Santa hat.

Or try the "Pro-Bush Christmas patriotic hooded sweatshirt" – emblazoned with an amalgamation of Americans flags, Christmas greetings, and a classic image of Santa "W." (Perhaps next year's version will have him handing out gifts with an obligatory "Happy Halliburton!" logo to Iraqi tykes.)

Git Yo Gitmo Gear

Believe it or not, our gulag at Guantanamo Bay has been up and running for almost four years now, and if you or your loved ones still haven't been fitted for your orange jumpsuit or gotten your Gitmo gear, make haste! So that the process proves no trial for you, we have (extra-)judiciously scoured right-wing runways for absolute perfection in head-to-toe Gitmo garb.

For starters, there's the lovely "I (heart) Club Gitmo" T-shirt -- just for that special someone you'd love to be shackled to for life. Or maybe, with memories of a favorite island getaway dancing in your head, you'd prefer the ever-tasteful "Paradise Resorts: Gitmo" shirt.

A mere $17.99 procures you the "Club Gitmo" baseball cap with an illustration of "Palm Trees, surf and sun and a little turban wearing cartoon character giving a great big thumbs up!" It makes the perfect pair with the lovely "Guantanamo Bay: Spa and Resort" barbeque apron. And, so no one will be left out, for the littlest torture-advocate purchase that companion bib or the ever-so-sweet "Camp Gitmo Kids T-Shirt."

Those on Santa's naughty list may, of course, prefer to opt for the "got gitmo?" thong.

Feeling expansive? Here's a shirt that seems to evoke both marquee sites in the American gulag, Gitmo and Abu Ghraib: the lovely "Property of Abu Ghraib åPrison" or the tasteful "I Got Humped at Abu Ghraib Prison."

If that special someone's car still has a little bumper room, consider the following crop of bumper adornments: "Jeb Bush for President, ?08", "Nuke their ass, take their gas!", "My SUV (heart) Iraqi Oil" or simply: "Nuke Mecca"

Give War a Chance

The holiday season is usually a rough time for warmongers – with all the talk of "peace on Earth," it's little short of a seasonal bias crime. So we'd like to recommend the "Footprint of the American Chicken" T-shirt, designed, says manufacturer "Life, Liberty, etc.," to help you identify "radical individuals so they can be avoided when possible? confronted when necessary" and, ultimately, chased "back to their hippie communes." On it, the peace sign is cleverly likened to the footprint of everyone's favorite cowering fowl. Another selection that promises to "drive all those bongo-slapping hippies berserk" is a tee of understated simplicity that says it all: "Pro-War." What could be better in the giving season than to offer someone close to you the chance to tell the world that s/he's down with human suffering and not afraid to broadcast it?

No Child Left Behind

Christmas, of course, is all about the kids. So we offer a smashing selection of shock-and-awe toys for terror-fighting tots.

The "Air Force One playset" is a can't-miss choice – die-cast metal replicas of all the President's fave vehicles: his jet, Air Force One; his helicopter, Marine One; the posh Presidential Limo; the sporty Presidential sedan; and a Secret Service Jeep, "complete with presidential seals, plus presidential motorcade signs."

Now little Suzie or Timmy can play President all day long, running from trouble and reality. A terrorist attack? Time to run (er, fly) scared in Air Force One. A hurricane in the gulf? Chopper off to Washington. Work to be done? Screw it, and head for Crawford. Protests there? Speed away in the high style only a Presidential sedan can supply. With this playset, the kids will have fun, fun, fun 'til their daddies take their bomb-proof limos away.

When you're fighting an endless war, you're gonna need an endless supply of warriors. This Xmas season, to help ensure that recruiting centers get a fresh supply of bodies for imperial wars of the future, you'll want the kiddies on your list to improve their battle-hardened brainpower with Mindfield, the US Military Trivia Game Board Game. Over 2,400 questions about the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, their equipment and their battles! Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead! It's never too early to steep little Timmy and Suzie in militarism and and the lure and lore of war.

Keep the "X" in Xmas

With so much going on during the holiday season, it's sometimes hard to keep what really matters in mind. Sure, the death toll due to the massive earthquake in Pakistan this year is nearing 90,000 and even the President has finally admitted that at least 30,000 dead Iraqis resulted from his war. But who has time to worry about such things?

There's Xmas shopping to do and there could hardly be a holier or (as Dick Cheney once intoned) more patriotic pastime. After all, capitalism has worked out so well for so many!

Shrub endorses bush

Mary Lou Shrub used to be pro-peace, but now with the anti-terrorism laws in force protecting our freedom by taking our civil liberties away, she wants to show publicly that she has moved right away from such un-Australian views and has adopted the "right" attitude.

To demonstrate her commitment to the new conformity, Mary Lou has been wandering around Lismore and Byron in her patriotic outfit talking to shoppers and shopkeepers and giving practical advice in how to be supplicant and safe.

And now she is coming to Nimbin, devoting her Tuesday afternoons to explaining to anyone interested such things as why the US flag is so appropriate for Australia, how Mr Howard is such a great American, and why civil liberties are not as healthy as a Big Mac.

As Mary Lou said, "I used to be political, but I'm not any more."

Patriotism plus. Mary Lou Shrub uses the little free speech left to show her admiration for her political masters

The street performer behind Mary Lou Shrub, manager, friend and confidant Sabina Baltruweit grew up in Germany and often questioned the older generation about how they could have allowed Hitler's fascism to take hold. "The way they were manipulated was appalling," she said. "People were afraid to speak up."

Nimbin Visitors Centre

Volunteers Wanted

Like meeting people?
Have a good local knowledge?
Have basic computer skills?

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81 Cullen St, Ph. 66 891 388
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