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Don't let sympathy for Jews blind us

By Ng Tze Shiung

PHILIP Bowring's piece ("Undoing Bush's follies, April 24) was a refreshing read. One feels a sense of relief that reason and self-examination still exist in Anglo-American society.

I couldn't help having a feeling of deja vu, however. Bowring's critical judgment of recent events in Palestine and Iraq echoed Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference last year.

Unlike US President George W. Bush's usual detractors who rebuked White House policies from an American perspective, Bowring's article came closest (for a Westerner) to condemning much that has gone wrong in the Middle East, and summarised our fears as hapless observers of the world's majority.

Only if such commentaries by people in positions of responsibility accumulate and translate into deliberative democratic action will there be any hope of challenging the domination of neo-conservatism in the West.

Nobody should deny the immeasurable sufferings of the Jewish people during the Nazi holocaust, but neither should this sympathy be manipulated to blind us to the Palestinian holocaust we now witness on television every day.

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