Since all US imperial wars are fought 'overseas' – far from any immediate threats, attacks or invasions - -US imperial rulers have the special task of making the 'causus bellicus' immediate, 'dramatic' and self-righteously 'defensive'.

To this end US Presidents have created circumstances, fabricated incidents and acted in complicity with their enemies, to incite the bellicose temperament of the masses in favor of war.

The pretext for wars are acts of provocation which set in motion a series of counter-moves by the enemy, which are then used to justify an imperial mass military mobilization leading to and legitimizing war.

More...