

economies, and thus preventing the illegal consolidation of control of 20% of the world's proven oil reserves, and the direct capacity to menace at least a further 25%, constitutes a legitimate vital interest for the consumer countries, and for the international community in general.

This fact, too, provides part of the response to the narrow historical contrast with Hitler's Germany. Iraq could aim for the capacity to slash the jugular vein of today's interdependent world economy. It has the fifth largest military forces in the world and a demonstrated unconcern about using them. Saddam Hussein launched and fought a horrific eight-year war, at the cost of a million lives, and resorting even to chemical weapons against military and civilian personnel. He was then immediately prepared to concede all that his country had fought over with Iran when he got out of his depth in the current crisis. With a professed messianic expansionism and a fascist internal regime to exterminate all dissenters, Saddam's Iraq, in its time and place, does indeed permit legitimate comparison in many respects to the dictators of the nineteen-thirties.

Another plaint that may tend to muddy the discussion is that the outside world somehow created this monster, and certainly armed it, with the apparent implication that either its conduct now is somehow excused, or that firm opposition by the world is not now legitimate. To disentangle and trace all the roots of Saddam's Iraq is neither possible, helpful nor necessary in the immediate crisis he has precipitated. We may note the bitter lesson that he has been massively armed by outsiders -- principally by the Soviet Union and France which supplied, respectively, 47 per cent and 27 per cent of Iraq's major weapons systems during the Iranian war -- but this point is only useful if it leads to a solid determination that this deadly trade must be stopped.

### **NOW ONE SUPERPOWER POLICEMAN?**

Much of the controversy, in Canada as elsewhere, about the international response to this crisis has revolved around the preponderant role being played by the United States. It is not only reflexive anti-Americans who become concerned when they see the rapid