

**Neoconservatism has more complex roots than just the ideas of Leo Strauss**, but it's hard to ignore the uncanny similarities between Straussian thought and the decisions emanating from the Bush administration, where many of the neoconservatives in charge of foreign policy were taught by Strauss or his students... "In the course of the past year, a new belief has emerged in the town (of Washington D.C): the belief in war against Iraq," writes Ari Shavit in Ha'aretz, Israel's leading daily newspaper, in April 2003. "That ardent faith was disseminated by a small group of 25 or 30 neoconservatives, people who are mutual friends and cultivate one another and are convinced that political ideas are a major driving force of history." New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman to Ari Shavit: "This is a war of an elite." Laughing. "I could give you the names of 25 people – all of whom are at this moment within a five-block radius of this office – who, if you had exiled them to a desert island a year and a half ago, the Iraq war would not have happened."

- Kitty Clarke, AdBusters Magazine, sept/oct., 2003