

The book stands accused of being a towering monument to self-denial of what are now seen as self-evident truths. Despite millions of words of newsprint, endless government probes in numerous countries and hours upon hours of TV reports proving the opposite, Rove stands by the idea that President George W Bush invaded Iraq reluctantly. He also denies Bush condoned torture. "He did just the opposite," Rove wrote.

He even makes the case that Bush moved swiftly and aggressively on climate change and says administration officials never tried to foster the belief that Saddam Hussein was behind the 9/11 terror attacks. Ah yes, and the earth is flat, the moon is made of green cheese and I've got a reliable secondhand car I'd like to sell you.

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