

**The Psychological Roots of
Bush's Iraq War Obstinacy**

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The scholar's tendency to examine the word — though used by writers in a myriad ways — the major

perseded suicide bombings; signs of reconstruction were better to his way of thinking than the carping of critics. Thus in the example of the car purchase, one may well avoid ads extolling the virtues of cars considered but not purchased (Festinger, p. 154). Above all else, the inner group provided a mutually self-supporting society (Festinger, p. 191). That is undoubtedly one reason Bush kept Rumsfeld on in spite of mounting criticism and allowed Cheney free rein

ers, without surrendering his basic beliefs. Festinger argued that the more pressure placed on the individual, the less likely they would be to give up their central beliefs (Festinger, pp. 189-192). This meant that Bush has to convince himself that any appearances of changes in strategy still reflect his basic premise of victory in Iraq. If Congress openly rebels in the fall, he can always console himself with the belief, he did not ~~imn~~: he was pushed. But forcing Bush to suc-