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Lethal Lapses in Intelligence

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To the Editor:

Political chicanery is not required for such a huge intelligence failure.

All the intelligence reports, including those of America's allies, noted Iraq's past attempts to build and hide chemical and biological weapons. But no one bothered to ask if Iraq had the operational capability to use weapons supposedly hidden for so long.

People do not repeat history's catastrophes because they forget them. They build up self-destructive ideologies and engage in behaviors that further history's catastrophic path because they remember the past too well.

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Ann Arbor, Mich., April 1, 2005

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