

LibraryCrunch

Service for the Next Generation Library: A Library 2.0 Perspective by Michael Casey

[« "I'll be blasted if we will be last!" | Main | Rebecca Miller on The MySpace Gap »](#)

Politics Anyone?

By the oldest trick in the political book — the whipping up of a panic, in which any dissenting voice could be dismissed as "soft" or even "traitorous" — powers had been ceded by the people that would never be returned...

...Those of us who are not Americans can only look on in wonder at the similar ease with which the ancient rights and liberties of the individual are being surrendered in the United States in the wake of 9/11. The vote by the Senate on Thursday to suspend the right of habeas corpus for terrorism detainees, denying them their right to challenge their detention in court; the careful wording about torture, which forbids only the inducement of "serious" physical and mental suffering to obtain information; the admissibility of evidence obtained in the United States without a search warrant; the licensing of the president to declare a legal resident of the United States an enemy combatant — all this represents an historic shift in the balance of power between the citizen and the executive.

[Pirates of the Mediterranean](#) by Robert Harris, in today's New York Times.

Posted by Michael on September 30, 2006 06:01 PM | [Permalink](#)

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