

Support the site you rely on for your daily news. **Make a donation now!**

“America’s Best Political Newsletter.” *Out of Bounds Magazine*

# counterpunch

Edited by Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St. Clair

- [HOME](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [SUBSCRIBE](#)
- [DONATE](#)
- ABOUT
  - 
  -
- [EVENTS](#)
- STORE
  - [BOOKS](#)
  - [T-SHIRTS](#)

[FAQs](#)  
[LINKS](#)

Weekend Edition

October 28-30, 2011

ALEXANDER COCKBURN

[Will Tillikum, the “Killer Whale,” Get Standing and His Day in Court?](#)

ESAM AL-AMIN

[Understanding Tunisia’s Elections Results](#)

RALPH NADER

[Quo Vadis, OWS?](#)

MIKE WHITNEY

[The Never-Ending Eurofiasco](#)

PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

[Living in a Delusional World](#)

JOANNE MARINER

[After Qaddafi](#)

RUSSELL MOKHIBER

[Industrial Homicide in the Coal Mines](#)

DAVID ROSEN

[The Politics of Obesity](#)

SCOTT BORCHERT

[The Rise of the Tea Party](#)

LINH DINH

[A Gathering of the Tribes](#)

THOMAS H. NAYLOR

[New York Chic](#)

JEFFREY ST. CLAIR

[City of Exquisite Decadence](#)

SHEPHERD BLISS

[Going Down Fighting](#)

JOE GIAMBRONE

[Police Can Also be Traitors](#)

HARRY BROWNE

[Martin McGuinness’s Deadly Ambush](#)

MONA CHOLLET

[The Twittersphere Unmasked](#)

JOSHUA SPERBER

[Form in Front of Content](#)

SAUL LANDAU

[A Movie Warns Us](#)

RON JACOBS

[Wait a Minute, Mr. Postman](#)

DAVID MACARAY

[Joe the Plumber Rides Again](#)

LAWRENCE REICHARD

[Deadline in Bangor, Maine](#)

ROB URIE

[The Politics of Envy](#)

MARK T. HARRIS

[Herman Cain, American Dreamer](#)

FIDEL CASTRO

[Invaded Under False Pretexts](#)

MAX SCHWARZ

[The Fight of Our Lives](#)

MISSY BEATTIE

[The Moral Movement](#)

FARZANA VERSEY

[The Booby Trap](#)

PHIL ROCKSTROH

[We Shall Not be Moved](#)

STEPHEN MARTIN

[When the Mob Rules](#)

CHARLES R. LARSON

[Final Ramblings of a Celebrated Atheist](#)

DAVID YEARSLEY

[Meet Annette Dasch](#)

ROBERT DAVIES, FRANK FORD & JON TAYLOR

[Poet's Basement](#)

WEBSITE OF THE WEEKEND

[Slavery Footprint](#)

October 27, 2011

MIKE KING AND GEORGE CICCARIELLO-MAHER

[Oakland on Strike!](#)

PETER LEE

[Gaddafi and the Bacchae](#)

CONN HALLINAN

[Reversing the Lens on Pakistan](#)

DAVID PORTER

[The Long Shadow of Algeria](#)

SHEPHERD BLISS

[Marine Down in Oakland](#)

CHIP WARD

[Someone Got Rich and Someone Got Sick](#)

ERIC WALBERG

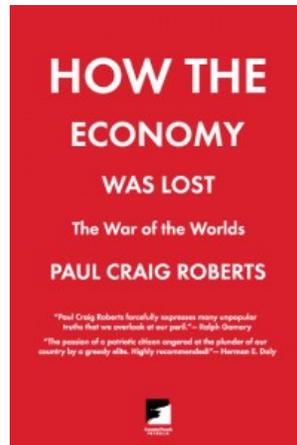
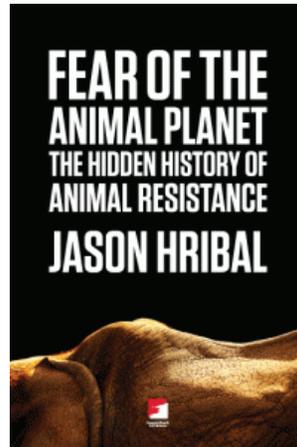
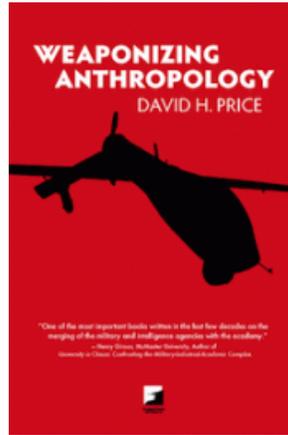
[American Crisis Politics](#)

Read More from  
the [Archives](#)

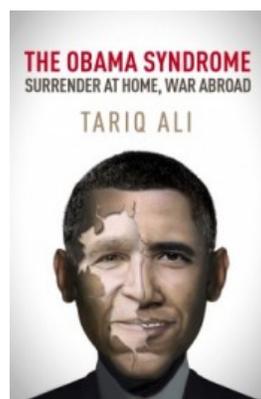
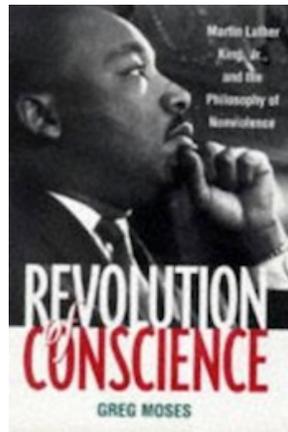
Search

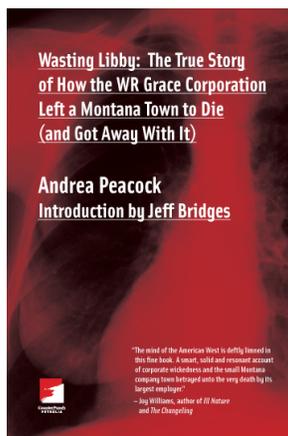


New Books Available from CounterPunch



Other Books Available from CounterPunch



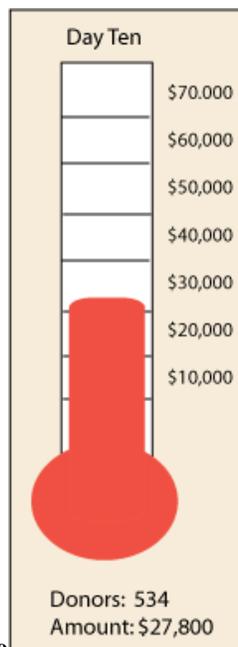


[More Books](#) Available from CounterPunch  
Annual Fundraising Appeal

### CounterPunchers Here's An Offer You Shouldn't Refuse!

We've been telling you for a week that either we meet our fundraising goal of \$75,000 over the next month or we'll be forced to drastically curtail the operation of our website.

Many, but not nearly enough of you have rallied with donations. With three more weeks of our fundraiser to go, we're still far from our target. But now a CounterPuncher has stepped forward to renew and raise a magnificently generous pledge he made last year.



**This CounterPunch supporter will now match every donation of \$100 or more, to a combined total of \$25,000. That means that any of you out there thinking of donating \$50 should know that if you donate a further \$50, CounterPunch will receive an additional \$100. And if you plan to send us \$200 or \$500 or more, he will give CounterPunch a matching \$200 or \$500 or more.**

So now it's your turn. Double your clout right now. Step up to the plate, and reach for the phone, or your check book or [hit the online donation button](#).

Many websites on the progressive side of the spectrum are cut-and-paste affairs, a mix of columns culled from mainstream newspapers, weeklies, blogs and so forth. Every day our CounterPunch site offers you up to a dozen original articles, and often twenty across our three-day weekend site.

We've been asking some of our readers and writers for our website to say why they value CounterPunch. Here's what **NOAM CHOMSKY** wrote us:

"It is, regrettably, no exaggeration to say that we are living in an era of irrationality, deception, confusion, anger, and unfocused fear — an ominous combination, with few precedents. There has never been a time when it was so important to have a voice of sanity, insight, understanding of what is happening in the world. Counterpunch has performed that essential service with unusual success. It is a matter of paramount importance to ensure that it will continue to do so, with even greater resources than before."

And **RALPH NADER**:

"A roaring colosseum of commentary, columnists and tell-it-like-it-was,-is,-and-should be original reportage, complete with a bookstore whose readable volumes tear away the lies, evasions, cover-ups and myths of a censored world. Taste, digest and deepen your mind from this fresh cornucopia called

CounterPunch.”

And **PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS:**

“CounterPunch is a first class site with a first class audience. Cockburn and St Clair assemble menus that offer to readers interesting perspectives and factual analyses that are essential to navigating our chaotic times. I always read the CounterPunch page”

Unlike many other outfits, we don't hit you up for money every month ... or even every quarter. But when we ask, we mean it. We ask for your support. We offer in return our independence, our unique position and our editorial choices.

Please, use our secure server make [a tax-deductible donation](#) to CounterPunch today or purchase [a subscription](#) and [a gift sub](#) for someone or one of [our award winning books](#) (or a crate of books!) as holiday presents. (We won't call you to shake you down or sell your name to any lists.)

To contribute by phone you can call Becky or Deva toll free at: 1-800-840-3683

Thank you, from Alex, Jeffrey, Becky, Alya, Deva, Kimberly, Nat and Marc

CounterPunch PO Box 228, Petrolia, CA 95558

**DONATE NOW**

June 27, 2001

Hitchens v. Kissinger



## Don't Sue Henry!

by Alexander Cockburn And Jeffrey St. Clair

Christopher Hitchens writes in Harper's, and in his new book *The Trial of Henry Kissinger*, that Kissinger is a war criminal. Kissinger responds to a Detroit radio talk show host, Mitch Albom, that Hitchens had “denied the Holocaust ever took place.” Does that mean that Kissinger accepts he's a war criminal? Now Hitchens tells the New York Post that he and his wife Carol are Jewish and that “Mr. Kissinger will be hearing from my attorney, who will tell him two things he already knows — what he said is false, malicious and defamatory, and if he says it again, we will proceed against him in court.”

That's a mistake, surely. It makes Hitchens sound defensive. It also changes the subject from Kissinger's blood-stained rampages through the late twentieth century to what precisely Hitchens wrote about David Irving, and what he may have said to Edward J. Epstein. (Back in Clintontime Epstein (partisan of Sidney Blumenthal in the latter's face off with Hitchens) told the New York Observer that during dinner at Elaine's Hitchens had told him and boon companions that actual evidence of six million Jews dead in gas ovens was in short supply. Hitchens adamantly denied Epstein's recollection.)

The idea may be to get HK into a libel action and then see what can be dragged out of the monster's archives in the discovery process. But such a suit would cost a fortune, and even though CH is surely well paid by Vanity Fair for his monthly column, we doubt he wants to see \$200,000 end up in a lawyer's back pocket (unless he has a Magic Christian or Magic Jew ready to finance the whole enterprise.) Better, surely, to make a joke about Kissinger's counter-slur and then refocus public attention on the desirability of putting HK on trial.

In the wake of Hitchens's two articles in Harper's on Kissinger's war crimes, magistrates in three countries — Chile, Argentina, and France — have summoned Kissinger to answer questions. Le Monde reported earlier this month that when French Judge Roger Le Loire had a summons served on Kissinger on May 31 at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, Kissinger fled Paris. The judge wanted to ask Kissinger about his knowledge of Operation Condor, the scheme evolved by Pinochet and other Latin American proconsuls of the American Empire to kill or “disappear” their opponents.

Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman, who put out the excellent Naderite publication, *Multinational Monitor*, wrote up an interesting account of Kissinger's recent appearance at the National Press Club in Washington DC.

“Scattered throughout the ballroom at the Press Club were little white note cards for questions, and it appeared that perhaps 100 questions were scribbled and sent up to the moderator, Richard Koonce, a member of the Press Club's book and author committee. It was Koonce's job to sift through the questions, pick out some interesting ones, and ask Henry some probing questions.”

Mokhiber and Weissman say they wrote down six questions — about the report in the Times, Kissinger's interview with Albom, the incident at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, Hitchens's articles in Harper's, about the three magistrates and simply this one: “If you are indicted for war crimes, will you defend yourself in court?”

The fix was in. Koonce “lofted six or seven puff balls about Kissinger in China, about Kissinger on Nixon, about his generic views of foreign policy. Nothing about war crimes, nothing about operating outside the law, nothing about Hitchens.”

After the event, Mokhiber and Weissman confronted Koonce.

“Was there an agreement with Dr. Kissinger not to ask questions related to Christopher Hitchens and allegations of war crimes?”

Koonce did not deny it.

“There was a definite sensitivity to that,” Koonce said. “He

[Kissinger] was afraid that if we got into a discussion of that, for the vast majority of people that, it would take so much time to explain all of the context, that you know, he preferred to avoid that, and so . . .”

And so Kissinger's wishes were accommodated and the questions were avoided.

Be it noted, as journalists and editors of, CounterPunch, we're generally opposed to libel actions. But before anyone heaps libelous mud upon our good names, they should be aware that we might make an exception if the suit stands a good chance of extorting large sums from bad people, or represents the only avenue of successful counter-attack against aforementioned bad people. We should mention that after we wrote in CounterPunch some years ago that Kissinger tried to make off with a vase from his Chinese guest house during his first trip to China, lawyers for HK wrote to us in threatening terms. Fearing protracted and costly litigation we promptly retracted the slur, noting that in the same item we had described HK as a war criminal, and Kissinger's lawyers had not contested this description as inaccurate or libelous. CP

**Counterpunch****Tells the Facts and Names the Names**

Published since 1996

Copyright © CounterPunch

All rights reserved.

[counterpunch@counterpunch.org](mailto:counterpunch@counterpunch.org)

**Mailing Address**

CounterPunch  
PO Box 228  
Petrolia, CA 95558

**Telephone**

1(707) 629-3683 or  
1(800) 840-3683

**Editorial**

Alexander Cockburn, editor  
Jeffrey St. Clair, editor  
Alevtina Rea, assistant editor  
Nathaniel St. Clair, Social Media

**Business**

Becky Grant  
Business Manager  
[beckyg@asis.com](mailto:beckyg@asis.com)  
Deva Wheeler  
Subscription and merchandise  
fulfillment  
[counterpunch@frontiernet.net](mailto:counterpunch@frontiernet.net)

**Browse the Archives**

Select Month 