

[A Lightning War for Liberty](#)

The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion. – Albert Camus

[Military Times Survey: 75% of Troops Oppose Strikes on Syria](#)

Posted on [September 13, 2013](#) by [Michael Krieger](#)

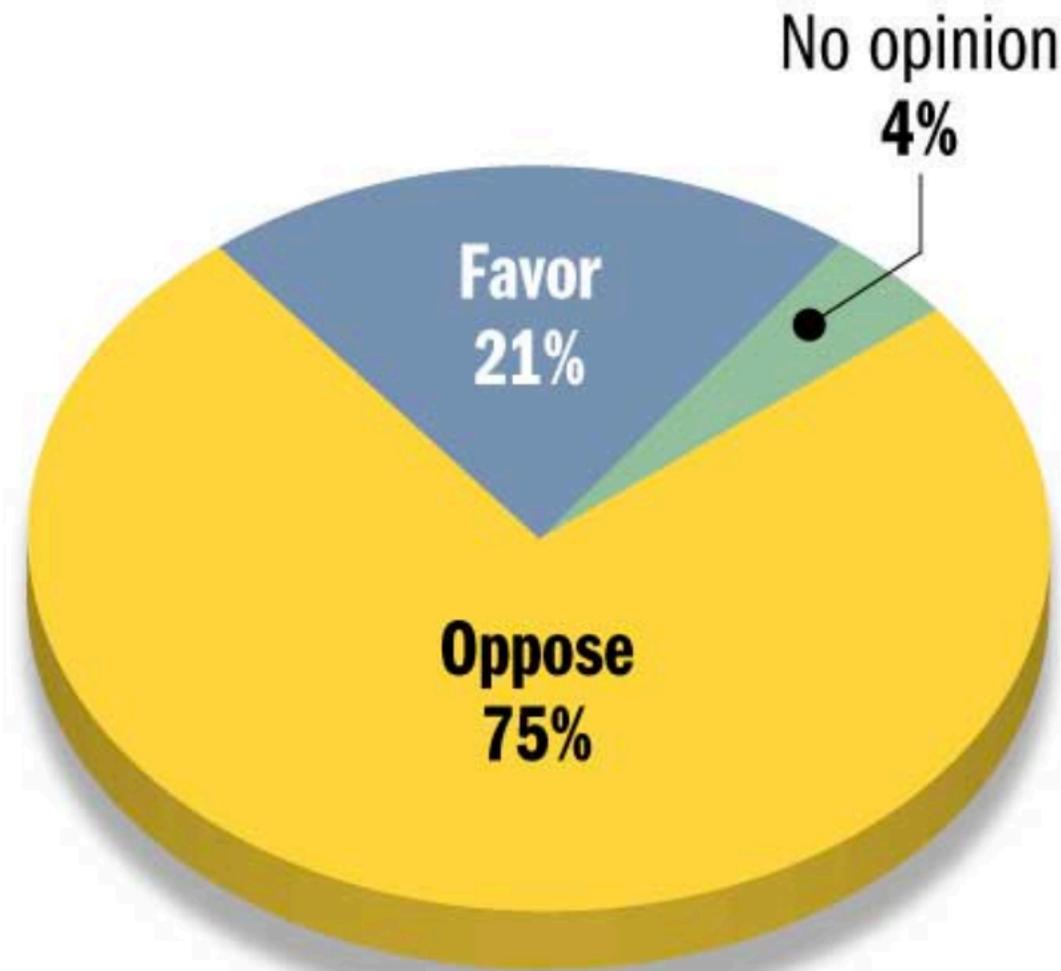
It's always a good sign for an empire's fortunes when the commander in chief of the armed forces completely loses the confidence and trust of the troops. While we have all seen various polls demonstrating the general public's complete opposition to unprovoked [military aggression against Syria](#), I hadn't seen a survey focused on military members until now. The results are not good for the establishment. From the *Military Times*:

To the list of skeptics who question the need for air strikes against Syria, add another unlikely group — many U.S. troops.

"I haven't heard one single person be supportive of it," said an Army staff sergeant at Fort Hood who asked not to be identified by name.

A Military Times survey of more than 750 active-duty troops this week found service members oppose military action in Syria by a margin of about three to one.

The survey conducted online Monday and Tuesday found that about 75 percent of troops are not in favor of air strikes in response to reports that the Syrian government used chemical weapons to kill civilians in that country.



A higher percentage of troops, about 80 percent, say they do not believe getting involved in the two-year-old civil war is in the U.S. national interest.

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[Harry Reid on the Senate Floor Proclaims: “The Anarchists Have Taken Over”](#)

Posted on [September 12, 2013](#) by [Michael Krieger](#)

We're diverted totally from what this bill is about. Why? Because the anarchists have taken over. They've taken over the House and now they've taken over the Senate.

People who don't believe in government — and that's what the Tea Party is all about — are winning, and that's a shame.

- Harry Reid on the Senate Floor earlier today

The best thing about inept, crony, powerful politicians is that when they realize they are losing the battle for the hearts and minds of the public they simply don't know what to do. Ultimately, this leads to moments of [public displays of dementia](#), such as the one exhibited by Harry Reid on the Senate Floor earlier today. I find it quite interesting that he refers to Congressional Representatives elected by the public as "anarchists" in such a demeaning manner. I suppose it's only when things go his way that he believes in democracy.

In any event, his display is a total embarrassment and his pathetic ramblings are merely more evidence of "the people's" recent grassroots political victories. I suppose it's also anarchic to want to not start World War III, right Harry? Enjoy!



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[Anti-Euro Party in Germany Makes Significant Headway into Parliamentary Elections](#)

Posted on [September 12, 2013](#) by [Michael Krieger](#)

I haven't been paying all that much attention to Germany as of late considering the [incredible amount of scandals](#) that have been emanating from the Obama administration, in addition to its ridiculous and dangerous attempts to catalyze World War III. However, with parliamentary elections set for September 22, it appears there are some interesting things afoot.

In case you haven't heard of it, a new party was formed in Germany on February 6, 2013. The party is known as the AfD, or the "Alternative for Germany." It is strongly anti-Euro and has gained surprising strength in the polls despite its very brief history.

On a related note, reading this article made me think of a comment made by Angela Merkel the other day when she said:

This is my approach and you can say that I'm doing all these things because I'm really a European at heart.

I found this odd, because while I do not live on the continent, I have spent some time there and in all my travels I never once met a European. I'm wondering, does this species actually exist outside of the catering halls of Brussels? Where do they live?

Now for more on the AfD from [Business Week](#):

German parliamentary elections are coming up on Sept. 22, and Chancellor Angela Merkel has a problem on her hands. A euro-skeptical political party known as AfD is rising in the polls and could deny her Christian Democratic Union and its coalition partners the majority they need to continue governing.

AFD, or Alternative for Germany, currently holds no seats in the Bundestag, and until recently it barely registered in public-opinion polls. But a survey released on Sept. 4 by the Forsa polling group showed it with 4 per cent support—just shy of the 5 per cent needed to win Bundestag representation. Peter Matuschek, Forsa's chief political analyst, says the poll may have underestimated the party's strength. Many supporters, he told Spiegel, "are too embarrassed to admit that they are planning to vote for the AfD," which wants Greece, Spain, and other crisis-hit countries to leave the euro zone, and possibly break up the existing monetary union itself.

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[NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg Spends \\$350,000 in a Failed Attempt to Sway Colorado Politics](#)

Posted on [September 12, 2013](#) by [Michael Krieger](#)

Most of my readers have probably already heard of the story below, but the reason I have chosen to highlight it today is because it represents something far more significant than simply the ouster of two local politicians. It is actually a manifestation of a much larger and more significant trend in these United States. A potent and far reaching political awakening that is sweeping the nation.

In the past, many people would simply shrug their shoulders in response to the insanity of legislators both at the local and national level. Not anymore. Enough people have finally received the much needed "kick in the butt" to get motivated and we are starting to see changes. Not only did some Colorado activists recall two politicians that voted against gun rights, but much more importantly, the American people as a whole just prevented (for now) a war in Syria by making their collective voices heard in mass and by pressuring their representatives. The sleeping giant is awake and politicians had better take notice.

The action in Colorado is particularly pleasing to me considering it is my adopted home state, as well as the fact that control freak, [nanny state NYC Mayor Mike Bloomberg](#) spent \$350,000 of his own money in a failed effort to prop up the recalled politicians. Going forward, nothing would please me more than if Bloomie wastes his entire fortune in failed [attempts to ban large sodas, guns, salt and e-cigarettes](#). Of course, he will never see, let alone criticize, all of the crimes committed by crony finance pals. From the [New York Times](#):

COLORADO SPRINGS — Two Colorado Democrats who provided crucial support for a package of state gun laws were voted out of office on Tuesday in special elections seen as a test of whether swing-state voters would accept gun restrictions after mass shootings at a Colorado movie theater and a Connecticut elementary school.

The vote, which came five months after the United States Senate [defeated](#) several gun restrictions, handed another loss to gun-control supporters and gave moderate lawmakers across the country a warning about the political risks of voting for tougher gun laws.

Although the election was confined to two small districts in Southern Colorado and does not repeal Colorado's gun laws or change partisan control of the General Assembly, both sides spent heavily and campaigned fiercely, fighting to prevail in what analysts called a proxy battle between gun-control advocates and the National Rifle Association.

For advocates on both sides, the stakes in Tuesday's elections were far bigger than the fates of two state politicians. As money and national attention poured into Colorado, a state of hunters that has been stained by two mass shootings, the races became a symbol of the nation's bitter fight over gun control, with one side bolstered by Mayor [Michael R. Bloomberg](#) of New York and the other by the [National Rifle Association](#).

While both sides campaigned vigorously, knocking on doors, holding rallies and driving voters to the polls, [gun-control advocates far outspent their opponents. A range of philanthropists, liberal political groups, unions and activists raised a total of \\$3 million to defend Mr. Morse and Ms. Giron. Mr. Bloomberg personally gave \\$350,000.](#)

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[Rethinking 9/11: Building 7 Was the First Known Instance of a Tall Building Collapse from Fires](#)

Posted on [September 11, 2013](#) by [Michael Krieger](#)

I've said for many years that I have no idea what actually happened on 9/11, but I am highly confident the government's official story is complete and total bullshit. A third building fell on that fateful day, WTC7. No planes hit the building and yet it came down at free fall speed. Even the government itself admitted that:

The collapse of WTC 7 is the first known instance of a tall building brought down primarily by uncontrolled fires.

- From the National Institute of Standards and Technology [\(NIST\) report](#).

Quite the coincidence, and not only brought down, but brought down at free fall speed. Watch the video and make up your own mind, but remember that all the civil liberties we have given up and all the wars we have launched were justified by 9/11.



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[How I Remember September 11, 2001](#)

Posted on [September 11, 2013](#) by [Michael Krieger](#)

I remember 9/11 like it was yesterday. I was one year into my Wall Street career. I got up that morning just like every other morning and headed toward Union Square station to get on the subway down to 3 World Financial Center, the headquarters of Lehman Brothers. I had just purchased breakfast in the cafeteria when I saw one of the human resources folks from my floor yelling to evacuate. I was confused but I got my ass downstairs fast. When I got down there I joined the hundreds of others staring in awe skyward at the gaping hole in the North Tower of the World Trade Center. People speculated that a helicopter had hit the building, but I said no way. It looked like a bomb went off to me.

Shortly afterward, the ground started shaking and I heard an enormous explosion and saw fire and debris shooting out from behind the North Tower. The herd starting running and I was trampled on. We all retreated to safer ground, at which point I ran into some co-workers. I mentioned that I was a bit worried these things could fall, but I was ensured by a higher-up at the firm that this was impossible. It was at that point that some co-workers and I decided to take the long walk home to my apartment on east 12th street. As we walked, we saw people jumping from the buildings, and ultimately we saw the first one collapse in front of our eyes as we traversed through Soho.

In the days following the collapse, all I wanted was for the towers to be rebuilt just like before. I wanted the skyline back to what I had know since the day I came into this earth at a New York City hospital to be restored exactly as I had always known it. Career-wise, I felt I should leave Wall Street. I thought about going back to graduate school for political science, or maybe even join the newly created Department of Homeland Security (yes, the irony is not lost on me). I read a lengthy tome on Osama Bin Laden and al-Qaeda. I was an emotional and psychological mess, and it was when I was in this state of heightened distress that my own government and the military-industrial complex took advantage of me.

It wasn't just me of course. It was an entire nation that was callously manipulated in the aftermath of that tragedy. The courage and generosity exhibited by so many New Yorkers and others throughout the country and indeed the world was rapidly transformed into terrifying fear. Fear that was intentionally injected repeatedly into our daily lives. Fear that translated into pointless wars and countless deaths. Fear that was used to justify the destruction of our precious civil rights. Fear that was used to initiate a gigantic power grab and the source of tremendous profits for the corporate-statists and crony-capitalists. Unfortunately, that is the greatest legacy of 9/11.

While all of the above is true, I now see a very bright silver lining. Although it took me an embarrassingly long time, I did wake up from the deep haze of propaganda and am now able to see things for what they really are. Of course, I am only one of millions globally who now recognize how badly we have been duped and are working to restore all of the precious things we have lost.

So let's take 9/11 to remember all the people that were lost on that day, as well as all of those to whom we have done injustice in the name of the Orwellian never-ending "War on Terror." Let's strengthen our resolve to right all of these wrongs and make us proud of these United States once again. That is how I remember September 11, 2001.

In Liberty,

Mike

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So Who Really Pays Television Pundits?

Posted on [September 11, 2013](#) by [Michael Krieger](#)

It is the job of the Fourth Estate to act as a check and a restraint on the others, to illumine the dark corners of Ministries, to debunk the bureaucrat, to throw often unwelcome light on the measures and motives of our rulers. 'News', as Hearst once remarked, 'is something which somebody wants suppressed: all the rest is advertising'. That job is an essential one and it is bound to be unpopular; indeed, in a democracy, it may be argued that the more unpopular the newspapers are with the politicians the better they are performing their most vital task.

- Brian R. Roberts from a October 29, 1955 article in the London periodical "Time & Tide"

I've used the above quote before, and it is one that many others have paraphrased in various ways over the past century. The key point is that news is supposed to be delivered by people who do not have direct financial conflicts of interests that will cause their news or opinions to be biased based on receiving a fat paycheck from an outside entity. If such conflicts exist, they should at the very least be disclosed. It's hilarious that so many pundits call Glenn Greenwald an "activist" and not a "journalist," when it is clear he is delivering information based on a genuine passion for civil liberties. Many of these same people that accuse Glenn of "activism" are paid shills for public relations (PR) firms that represent large corporate clients and special interests. Even worse, it is almost never admitted on air. I'd much rather a person report the news biased with a genuine passion for a cause than based on a bias that revolves around his or her bank account size.

I've been waiting for someone to put together a more comprehensive article on this topic, because while many people recognize that television news is nothing more than tabloid garbage or statist/corporate propaganda, most people don't understand the inner workings of it all. One of the primary reasons television news is so bad is because the so-called "experts" or pundits are actually quite often highly paid spokespeople for special interests, something which is disgracefully almost never disclosed by the anchors.

Earlier this month, the organization FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting) put out an excellent article that called out some of the more egregious examples of the above practice. They leverage the excellent article, [which I highlighted in June](#), by Lee Fang in the *Nation* in which he calls out NSA defender and television pundit Mike Murphy. Mr. Murphy was merely identified as a "Republican Strategist" on Meet the Press, when in reality the lobbying firm he founded, Navigators Global, represents large private contractors that work with the NSA.



However, the most ridiculous example of television news fraud outlined by FAIR relates to Michael Steele and Lanny Davis. FAIR writes:

*And then there are the times when the ideological lines get a little blurry, if they weren't blurry enough already. **Former RNC chair Michael Steele and Fox News liberal Lanny Davis are cable news fixtures—and business partners.** Steele's tenure at the RNC was marked by gaffes and scandal ([Washington Post](#), [4/7/10](#)), while Davis' history has included working on behalf of the dictators of Equatorial Guinea and Ivory Coast ([Salon](#), [12/21/10](#)).*

In June 2012, they founded the bipartisan-themed Purple Nation Solutions, a communications firm that specializes in "solutions through legal means, political lobbying and media management" for "CEOs, Fortune 500 companies, political leaders, lobbyists and individuals facing a crisis."

You have to check out the [website for Purple Nations Solution](#). Don't just read the description, also check out the logo on the top left. It has the Republican elephant and the Democrat donkey happily together. That's exactly how things really work in the District of Criminals, as [Bill Moyers excellently demonstrated here](#).

So they take different positions while on air, while serving the same corporate masters off the air. TV news in America would make Joseph Goebbels blush.

I strongly suggest [reading the entire FAIR article](#), it is excellent.

In Liberty,
Mike

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Censored in the USA: John Hopkins Cryptography Professor Told to Take Down Blog Post

Posted on [September 10, 2013](#) by [Michael Krieger](#)

There's nothing like waking up to the smell of censorship in the morning...and that's exactly what happened to John Hopkins cryptography professor Matthew Green on September 9th. I've seen Matthew's tweets come across my stream from time to time so I knew that he was highly regarded. *ArsTechnica* reports that:

Matthew Green is a well-known [cryptography professor](#), currently teaching in the computer science department of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Last week, Green authored a [long and interesting blog post](#) about the recent revelations that the National Security Agency (NSA) [has, among much else, subverted crypto standards](#). In his words, "The TL;DR [too long; didn't read] version] is that the NSA has been doing some very bad things." And Green went on to speculate at some length about what those "bad things" were and what they might mean.

Today, Green's academic dean [contacted him](#) to ask that "all copies" of the blog post be removed from university servers. Green said that the move was not "my Dean's fault," but he did not elaborate.

One excerpt from Green's original post was:

I was totally unprepared for today's bombshell revelations describing the NSA's efforts to defeat encryption. Not only does the worst possible hypothetical I discussed appear to be true, but it's true on a scale I couldn't even imagine. I'm no longer the crank. I wasn't even close to cranky enough.

A John Hopkins spokesperson Dennis O'Shea made the following statement to ArsTechnica:

The university received information this morning that Matthew Green's blog contained a link or links to classified material and also used the NSA logo. For that reason, we asked Professor Green to remove the Johns Hopkins-hosted mirror site for his blog.

Upon further review, we note that the NSA logo has been removed and that he appears to link to material that has been published in the news media. Interim Dean Andrew Douglas will inform Professor Green that the mirror site may be restored.

Here we go with [the NSA and its precious logo again](#). Who knew that the agency that spies on every fucking human on the planet had such sensitive feelings when it comes to their taxpayer funded logo.

The good news about all of this is that due to public pressure John Hopkins has issued an apology to Mr. Green, who just tweeted the following:

I just received a very kind formal apology from the Interim Dean of JHU Whiting School of Engineering.

— Matthew Green (@matthew_d_green) [September 10, 2013](#)

Full article from ArsTechnica [here](#).

In Liberty,
Mike

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[Video of the Day: Help Obama Kickstart World War III](#)

Posted on [September 10, 2013](#) by [Michael Krieger](#)

This is a really funny, short video making fun of that segment of the population referred to as Obamabots, the seemingly lobotomized drones [who support everything Obama does simply because, well he's Obama](#).

In it, the actors plead with you to help raise funds for World War III and one of them passionately states:

There is no way that he or the cabal of corporate interests, spy agencies, and shadow bankers that tell him what to do would ever mislead us.

A real treat. Enjoy!



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[JP Morgan Targets Twitter Activist and Subsequently Takes His Handle](#)

Posted on [September 9, 2013](#) by [Michael Krieger](#)

In one of the more bizarre stories I have seen in a while, Dallas-based graphic designer Chase Giunta was forced to give up a Twitter handle he had been using for years after JP Morgan complained. He had been using the handle to retweet criticisms of the TBTF bank, and after he refused to sell the handle for what he claims was a \$20,000 offer, the bank simply convinced Twitter to push him out. Amazingly, Jaime Dimon didn't even have to threaten martial law to get his way this time.

This looks like another case of [Goliath stomping on David](#). It'd be one thing if this person's name wasn't Chase, but it is, and so why doesn't a human being have just as much if not more of a right to use that handle as a corporate entity?

Here's a screen shot of Chase's Twitter account from late August. You be the judge, seems clear to me he wasn't trying to fool anyone that he was actually associated with the bank.



Chase Retweets

@Chase

This account is no way affiliated with Chase Bank or J.P. Morgan.

@ChaseGiunta

Dallas, TX

3,003

TWEETS

483

FOLLOWING

1,402

FOLLOWERS

Follow

Tweets



Ryan Clarke @mrsrapyrd

21 Aug

@chase you guys are still a nuisance to alot of people tho. *giggles at retweets*

Retweeted by Chase Retweets

Expand



Orochimaru @IMooLikeACaL

21 Aug

My bank card still hasn't came in... WTF! @Chase

Retweeted by Chase Retweets

Expand



No Friends Jeremy @Cantarero_J

21 Aug

Yall are some fuckin theifs @chase

More from the *New York Post*:

Twitter yanked the handle @Chase from Chase Giunta, who had been aggressively re-tweeting other people's criticisms of the nation's biggest bank.

On Thursday, JPMorgan, which had been using the clunkier @ChaseNews, immediately snapped up the @Chase handle.

A source said that JPMorgan had been following @Chase for about a year and filed a complaint alleging trademark infringement in recent weeks.

In an interview with *The Post*, Giunta said an anonymous broker offered him as much as \$20,000 to relinquish the @Chase handle, which he refused, citing Twitter's policy forbidding selling user names.

Pathetic.

Full article [here](#).

In Liberty,
Mike

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