

# Rock Creek Free Press

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Vol. 2, No. 3 March 2008

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

## Tortured Prisoners to Face Tribunals

After six years, military prosecutors are finally preparing the first cases against Guantanamo prisoners accused of participating in the plot that led to the deaths of nearly 3,000 Americans on Sept. 11, 2001. Rather than bring the cases into the US judicial system, the charges will be filed in the military commission system at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp.

Included in the indictments will be Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (KSM), who the government accuses of being the former senior aide to Osama bin Laden. The government claims that KSM has confessed under torture to being the principal planner of the 9/11 plot. "I was responsible for the 9/11 operation, from A to Z," he is alleged to have said. KSM is also reported to have confessed to a litany of crimes, including the murder of Daniel Pearl, which it is known he did not commit.

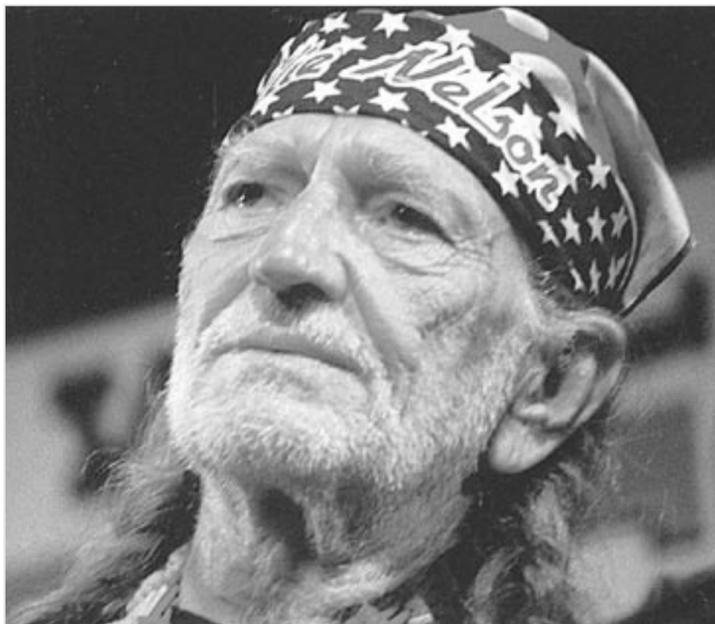
The case could help bolster the flagging reputation of the Bush administration by attempting to reestablish the credibility of the official version of the events of 9/11. The administration also wants to justify the

creation of the Guantanamo concentration camp, where over 400 of the nearly 800 prisoners once held have been found, after years of confinement, to be innocent of any crime and released. In all the years since the detention camps' creation in 2003, there has been only one prisoner convicted of any crime, and that was a plea-bargain resulting in a sentence of only 9 months.

These cases bring new scrutiny to the military commission system, which has a troubled history and has been criticized as a system designed to win convictions but which does not provide the legal protections of American civilian courts. The high court has already struck down an earlier version of the Military Commissions Act because it did not provide for appeal. It is not clear whether the current legal process in Guantanamo will stand judicial review.

If the defendants are allowed to appeal the presumed convictions in civilian court the question of their treatment at the hands of interrogators will certainly be an issue.

The *New York Times* reports that military see TRIBUNALS p. 7



Singer-Songwriter, American Icon, Willie Nelson speaks about 9/11 deception on national radio

## More Than One Million Iraqis Killed

More than one million Iraqis have died as a result of the conflict in their country since the US-led invasion in 2003, according to a research report released in January.

The survey was conducted by Opinion Research Business (ORB), a British polling firm. They conducted 2,414 face-to-face interviews with adults in Iraq and found that 20 percent of people had had at least one death in their household as a direct result of the conflict. That figure translates into approximately 1.03 million excess Iraqi civilian deaths attributed to the war and occupation.

The margin of error in the survey, conducted in August and September 2007, was 1.7 percent, giving a range of deaths

see MILLION KILLED p. 7

## Willie Nelson: "Twin Towers Imploded"

Paul Joseph Watson - *Prison Planet*

Straight talking American icon Willie Nelson told a national radio show that he thought the Twin Towers were imploded like condemned Las Vegas casino buildings, as the country music superstar voiced his doubts about the official 9/11 story.

Agreeing with host Alex Jones that he questioned the official story, Nelson elaborated, "I saw those towers fall and I've seen an implosion in Las Vegas - there's too much similarities between the two, and I saw a building fall that didn't get hit by nothing,"

added Nelson, referring to WTC Building 7 which collapsed in the late afternoon of September 11.

"How naive are we - what do they think we'll go for?," asked Nelson, pointing out that his doubts began on the very day of 9/11.

"I saw one fall and it was just so symmetrical, I said wait a minute, I just saw that last week at the casino in Las Vegas and you see these implosions all the time and the next one fell and I said hell there's another one - and they're trying to tell me that an airplane did it and I can't go along with that," said Nelson.

The former Highwayman, fresh from his appearance at the Super Bowl, questioned why Afghanistan became an immediate target in the aftermath of 9/11, when the official story posited that mostly Saudi Arabians were responsible for the attack.

"When I get hit I like to look around and see who did it before I start swinging at everybody in the room, and that's kind of what we were doing," said Nelson, "We get hit over here and then next thing you know we're jumping on everybody in the town - so (if) we got hit from Saudi Arabia, I think we've got some

see WILLIE NELSON p. 2

## TSA: Strictly Theater

A study published in the December issue of the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) concludes that there is no evidence that the huge amounts of money spent on TSA (Transportation Security Admin.) airport security screening measures since September 11 are effective. The Journal notes that other types of screening such as medical tests, are evaluated based on rigorous scientific and cost/benefit criteria before they are approved for use on the general public. However, this is apparently not the case for airport security screening practices.

The researchers found that there were no comprehensive studies of the effectiveness or accuracy of x-ray equipment or metal detectors or chemical detection equipment used on passengers and their luggage.

The researchers, who include an

epidemiologist and an economist from Harvard, and a preventive medicine expert from the University of Washington, discovered that the amount and quality of evidence available for the effectiveness of TSA screening procedures does not even approach what would be required by the UK National Screening Committee to approve even a simple medical screening procedure.

In spite of the lack of research documenting the accuracy or effectiveness of security measures, an estimated \$5.6 billion is spent on airport security world-wide. That figure does not include the even greater cost to the flying public of productivity lost due to the time delays which security procedures impose. That productivity cost is estimated to be over \$6 billion in the US alone.

see TSA p. 5

## The Corporate Media And CIA: In Collusion For Some Time

Wayne Madsen - *Wayne Madsen Report*

The *Wayne Madsen Report* has uncovered a series of CIA documents that point to a close relationship between the CIA and the corporate media dating back to 1977. The documents reveal that *Time* Magazine was instrumental in setting up a meeting at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia between top CIA officials, *Time* Magazine executives, and a number of barons of European firms.

The interaction between the CIA, corporate media, and corporate billionaires resembles the annual Bilderberg Conference, which brings together some 130 government, corporate, and intelligence officials at various locales around the world.

An October 21, 1977, letter from *Time*

publisher Ralph P. Davidson to CIA director Stansfield Turner expressed thanks to Turner for organizing a briefing at CIA headquarters for *Time* officials and European business leaders. The briefing was part of *Time*'s "Update on America '77" Conference.

The CIA briefing was conducted on October 18, 1977, for ten *Time* executives and 27 European businessmen. The executives were briefed for two hours on East-West Balance, NATO, the Middle East, the Soviet Fleet in the Mediterranean, and the economic outlook for Europe. An October 13, 1977 CIA memo indicates some of the participants in the CIA briefing: "Mr. Bowie, Dr. Stevens, Mr. Maurice Ernst, D/OER and [redacted] NIO/USSR." OER is the Office of Economic Research and NIO/USSR is National Intelligence Officer/USSR.

Another CIA memo for the Special Assistant to the Director for the National Foreign Assessment Center (NFAC) from the Deputy Director for Regional and Political Analysis suggests additional topics for the briefing for *Time* and the Europeans, including: NATO/Warsaw Pact Balance, Soviet Economic Prospects, Eastern Europe, China, Rhodesia, Soviet Internal Political Scene, and Soviet Assessment of Eurocommunism.

The degree at which *Time* was held to receive such a briefing indicates the historic close relationship between the corporate media and the US intelligence community, a relationship that continues to this day and one that has contributed to the demise of American journalism.

Among the Europeans who were briefed at Langley was British billionaire Sir James Goldsmith, a leading opponent of European integration and an enemy of Britain's free press. Goldsmith was notorious for suing the

see CIA MEDIA p. 6

## Why Were the 9/11 Tapes Destroyed?

Paul Craig Roberts

Many Americans are content with the 9/11 Commission Report, but the two chairmen of the commission, Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton are not. Neither was Commission member Max Cleland, a US Senator who resigned from the 9/11 Commission, telling the *Boston Globe* (November 13, 2003): "This investigation is now compromised." Even former FBI director Louis Freeh wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* (Nov. 17, 2005) that there are inaccuracies in the commission's report and "questions that need answers."

Both Kean and Hamilton have twice stated publicly, once in their 2006 book, *Without Precedent: The Inside Story of the 9/11 Commission*, and again in the January 2, 2008, *New York Times*, that there are inaccuracies in their report and unanswered—or mis-answered—questions.

On the second day of this New Year, Kean and Hamilton accused the CIA of obstructing their investigation: "What we do know is that government officials decided not to inform a lawfully constituted body, created by Congress and the President, to investigate one of the greatest tragedies to confront this country. We call that obstruction."

In their book, Kean and Hamilton wrote that they were unable to obtain "access to star witnesses in custody who were the only possible source for inside information about the 9/11 plot."

The only information the commission was permitted to have about what was learned from interrogations of alleged plot ringleaders, such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, came from "third hand" sources. The commission was not permitted to question the alleged plotters in custody or even to meet with

those who interrogated the alleged plotters. Consequently, write Kean and Hamilton, "We had no way of evaluating the credibility of detainee information" that was fed to them by third party hands. "How could we tell if someone such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was telling us the truth?"

The fact that video tapes of the interrogations existed was kept secret from the 9/11 Commission.

The video tapes have since been destroyed by the CIA. The destruction of the videos has become an issue because of White House involvement in the decision to destroy the tapes and because the videos are believed to have been destroyed because they reveal methods of torture that the Bush administration denies using.

According to President Bush, the US does see 9/11 TAPES p. 7

## Toxic Mercury in Fish

Elaine Sullivan

The *New York Times* published an article on January 23, 2008 stating that high levels of mercury are found in tuna sushi. Laboratory tests performed on tuna from 20 Manhattan stores and restaurants found so much mercury in tuna sushi that a regular diet of six pieces a week would exceed the levels considered acceptable by the EPA (49 micrograms of mercury a week). Analyzed by Dr. Michael

Gochfeld, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, NJ and Dr. Joanna Burger, Professor of Life Sciences at Rutgers University, the tuna from some of these establishments had mercury levels so high that the FDA could take action to remove the fish from the market.

Mercury in fish is not a new phenomenon. In March 2004 the FDA and EPA teamed up to issue a warning to the public about

mercury in fish. The joint advisory stated that although fish and shellfish are important parts of a healthy diet and are good sources of protein and other nutrients, some of us should monitor how much we eat. The FDA and EPA warning states: "...depending on the amount and type of fish you consume it may be prudent to modify your diet if you are: planning to become pregnant; nursing; or a young child." The advisory went on to

see MERCURY p. 2

## Government Health Agencies Complicit in Cholesterol Ruse

Bill Sardi

The revelation that statin cholesterol drugs may be of little or no benefit, as revealed in a lengthy cover story in January 28 issue of *Business Week* magazine, begs the question: how did this misdirection go on for so long?

As the *Business Week* article pointed out, statin drugs "are the best-selling medicines in history, used by more than 13 million Americans and an additional 12 million patients around the world, producing \$27.8 billion in sales in 2006."

How can anyone question the benefits of such a drug, asks *Business Week*, when they are "thought to be so essential that, according to the official government guidelines from the National Cholesterol Education Program

(NCEP), 40 million Americans should be taking them. Some researchers have even suggested—half-jokingly—that the medications should be put in the water supply, like fluoride for teeth. And it's almost impossible to avoid reminders from the industry that the drugs are vital. A current TV and newspaper campaign for one statin drug, as endorsed by Dr. Robert Jarvik, artificial heart inventor, proclaims that this drug 'reduces the risk of heart attack by 36%...in patients with multiple risk factors for heart disease'."

**Statin drug ruse revealed**

But the cholesterol/statin drug ruse finally unraveled when, after two years of foot dragging delays to release data from a large study involving Zetia, a cholesterol-lowering

drug that inhibits cholesterol absorption from foods, and Vytorin, which is a combination of Zetia plus Zocor, the latter a statin drug that inhibits formation of cholesterol in the liver, revealed no health benefits.

Even though this drug combo lowered circulating cholesterol numbers better than either drug alone, it did not reduce plaque formation in arteries and did not confer a projected reduction in mortality.

In fact, an earlier review published last year in the British journal *Lancet* by Drs. John Abramson of Harvard Medical School and James M. Wright of the University of British Columbia, could find no evidence for a reduction in cardiac mortality in a combined

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Is it safe to eat the spicy tuna roll?

## Toxic Mercury in Fish

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list three recommendations for selecting and eating fish and shellfish that would allow the consumer to "... receive the benefits of eating fish and shellfish and be confident that they have reduced their exposure to the harmful effects of mercury."

### FDA and EPA recommendations

1. Do not eat Shark, Swordfish, King Mackerel, or Tilefish because they contain high levels of mercury. (Tuna was not tested in this study but should also be avoided.)
2. Eat up to 12 ounces (2 average meals) a week of a variety of fish and shellfish that are lower in mercury. (Select animals lower down on the food chain, but not North American lobster which is very high in methylmercury.)
3. Check local advisories about the safety of fish caught by family and friends in your local lakes, rivers, and coastal areas. If no advice is available, limit consumption to 6 ounces (one average meal) per week of fish you catch from local waters, but don't consume any other fish during that week.

For a more extensive list, go to: [www.cfsan.fda.gov/~firf/sea-mehg.html](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~firf/sea-mehg.html)

The FDA and EPA are supposed to warn the public of health risks such as this, but, the advisories don't go far enough. They tell us to

reduce our "exposure to the harmful effects of mercury", but not how long mercury stays in our bodies or how to get rid of it.

According to Drs. Mercola and Klinghardt in "Mercury Toxicity and Systemic Elimination Agents" an article published in the *Journal of Nutritional and Environmental Medicine* (March 2001), "Mercury in the central nervous system causes psychological, neurological, and immunological problems in humans. Mercury bonds very firmly to structures in the central nervous system through its affinity for sulfhydryl-groups on amino acids. Other studies have shown that mercury is taken up in the periphery by all nerve endings and rapidly transported inside the axon of the nerves (axonal transport) to the spinal cord and brainstem. Unless actively removed, mercury has an extremely long half-life of somewhere between 15 and 30 years in the central nervous system." So, reducing exposure to the harmful effects of mercury may help you from accumulating more mercury in your system, but does little for the mercury that is already there. A process called chelation can be employed to speed the removal of mercury from the body, it uses a regimen of diet change and cleansing for several days to help flush mercury from the system.

### Sources of Mercury

Mercury is a naturally occurring element in the earth. Natural sources of mercury, such as volcanic eruptions and emissions from the ocean, have been estimated to contribute about a third of current worldwide mercury air emissions, whereas human-caused emissions account for the remaining two-thirds. According to the EPA, "These estimates are highly uncertain. Much of the mercury circulating through today's environment is mercury that was released years ago, when mercury was commonly used in many industrial, commercial, and residential products and processes. Land and water surfaces can repeatedly re-emit mercury into the atmosphere after its initial release into the environment." Human-caused emissions are roughly split between these re-emitted emissions from previous human activity, and direct emissions from current human activity.

The EPA estimates that 83% of the mercury deposited in the US originates from international sources, with the remaining 17% coming from US and Canadian sources. Most of this mercury is from power plants and municipal and medical waste incinerators. Mercury in the air eventually settles into water or onto land where it can be washed into water. Fish and shellfish are the main sources of methylmercury exposure to humans.

Once deposited, small creatures, such as plankton, convert the mercury into a highly toxic form called methylmercury. The plankton is eaten by small fish and crustaceans where it accumulates in the animals flesh. These small fish and crustaceans are eaten by larger fish which in turn are eaten by predator fish like tuna, swordfish, shark, king mackerel and others. Along this chain the mercury accumulates and concentrates; because the large fish also have longer life spans they can



Coal fired power plants account for most of US mercury emissions

accumulate toxic levels of methylmercury. This, unfortunately, is passed along the food chain to us. Eating fish and shellfish that are lower on the food chain; shrimp, salmon, and tilapia can help to reduce the amount of mercury you get, but you will have to do some research to determine which fish and shellfish are safest to eat. The FDA and the EPA have extensive lists of fish and their mercury levels.

According to the EPA website US mercury emissions account for about 3% of the global total, of that about one third is deposited within the contiguous US the remainder enters the global cycle. Asia is reported to contribute 53% of global emissions with Africa following at 18%, Europe 11%, North America 9%, Australia 6% and South America at 4%. The Clean Air Network Fact Sheet of August 1999 cites "The Electric Power Research Institute calculates that up to 10% of the mercury released deposits within 62 miles of a power plant; 50% within 621 miles and the rest is transported regionally and globally."

According to the EPA website, "The United States is leading an effort within the United Nations Environment Programme to create a program that would establish partnerships designed to help developing countries reduce mercury emissions. The partnerships will leverage resources, technical expertise, technology transfer, and information exchanges to provide immediate effective action that will result in tangible reductions of mercury use and emissions. It accelerates the work of the UNEP Mercury program, originally proposed by the US at the 2003 UNEP Governing Council meeting."

The US has cut its own mercury emissions from 220 tons per year in 1990 to 115 tons in 1999 with the biggest changes in the municipal waste combustors and medical waste incinerators. Regulations that were issued in the 1990s to control mercury emissions burning waste require more than a 90% reduction in emissions from these facilities. However, President Bush has tried to do an end run around these regulations through the Clear Skies legislation which would allow for 3 times the amount of mercury emissions as the Clean Air Act.

In spite of attempts by the Bush administration to gut mercury emission regulations, the US remains a very small contributor to global mercury emissions. However, the whole world shares the same oceans, so reducing mercury pollution is a global, not just a national, problem. Since many types of fish are caught and sold internationally, effective exposure reduction will require reductions in global emissions. In the meantime, don't eat the spicy tuna roll.

Elaine Sullivan is an anthropologist living in Washington who writes on health and nutrition for *The Creek*.

## Willie Nelson 9/11 Truther



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questions that need to be answered from those folks," said Nelson.

In light of his viewpoint, Nelson said that recent revelations concerning the impartiality of the 9/11 Commission and its close links with the White House did not surprise him.

"What does it take for us to realize we're having the wool pulled over our eyes one more time?" he concluded.

Nelson is not the first high-profile public figure to question 9/11. In March 2006, actor Charlie Sheen voiced his doubts and was followed last year by his father Martin Sheen.

Aside from celebrities - professors, scientists and other experts the world over have questioned the inconsistencies in the official story, and the topic was most recently even a subject of serious debate in the Japanese Parliament.

Nelson's country music contemporaries The Dixie Chicks were savaged by the establishment when they criticized the Bush administration shortly before the invasion of Iraq. It remains to be seen whether the corporate media will dare take on Nelson for his views or whether they will just try to ignore the story as happened with Martin Sheen.

Listen to or download the MP3 audio of the interview: <http://prisonplanet.com/audio/040208nelson.mp3>

## Government Health Agencies Complicit in Cholesterol Ruse

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review of all published statin drug studies. [The *Lancet* 2007; 369:168-169]

### Falsifying the numbers

The *Business Week* report says statin drugs benefit only 1 in 100 users, while they claim to reduce the risk of a non-fatal heart attack by 36%. But that figure is a relative number, not a hard one. About 3% of patients taking a placebo will experience a heart attack compared to 2% taking a statin drug, which produces the so-called 30-plus percent risk reduction. But in hard numbers, this is only a 1% reduced risk.

This type of misleading advertising wouldn't pass Federal Trade Commission guidelines. But public health agencies, serving as free publicity agents for the statin drug manufacturers, repeat the claim to give it a ring of credibility.

### Complicity by public health agencies

Articles posted at websites administered by the Food & Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health repeat this misleading claim. In fact, a recent posting by the NIH claims statin drugs reduce the risk for a sudden death heart attack by 19%, when in hard numbers it is actually just 0.8% (reduction from 3.8 to 3.0% over 4.4 years).

How did the FDA ever approve these drugs except to ignore these facts? Why did the FDA allow pharmaceutical companies two years to report critical data on the effectiveness of a "life-saving" drug?

### Do benefits outweigh the risk for side effects?

For years there has been criticism that statin drugs are not totally safe, that they produce muscle aches and mental problems. But advocates for statin drugs have repeatedly claimed the benefits of statin drugs far outweigh any risks, said to occur among 2-3% of users. But the *Business Week* report cited side effects occur among 10-15% of users, which is backed by current research. [Current *Opinion Lipidology* 2007 Aug;18(4):401-8] Clearly, the risks for serious side effects far outweigh any alleged benefits.

### Collusion by medical journals

Others in modern medicine are also complicit in this subterfuge. The following is

an example.

On April 8, 2004 the *New England Journal of Medicine* published an authoritative report about the use of cholesterol-lowering drugs among patients hospitalized for acute coronary syndrome (acute heart attack or highly unstable chest pain/angina). The study, conducted by researchers at Harvard Medical School in Boston, enrolled 4162 patients at 349 sites in 8 countries. [New *England Journal of Medicine* 350: 1495-1504, April, 8, 2004]

The study compared the use of standard-dose (40 mg) pravastatin (Pravachol) with intensive-cholesterol lowering with high-dose (80 mg) atorvastatin (Lipitor). The chart below appears to show a slight advantage (about 4-5% difference) in reduction of mortality for the high-dose statin drug regimen. This slight advantage is shown as a 16% relative risk reduction in the published paper. These relative numbers are used to magnify the effects of these types of intensive drug regimens.

No. at Risk	6 months	12 months	18 months	24 months	30 months
Standard therapy	1688	1536	1423	810	138
Pravastatin	1736	1591	1485	842	133
Intensive therapy					

Data as originally published.

OK, the complicity of modern medicine in this crime is documented in print. The *New England Journal of Medicine* published a correction of the above numbers two years later (Feb. 16, 2006), in an obscure back page of the *NEJM*. The following is a scanned image of that correction notice.

CORRECTION					
Intensive versus Moderate Lipid Lowering with Statins after Acute Coronary Syndromes (April 8, 2004;350:1495-1504). In Figure 2 on page 1500, several of the numbers of patients at risk for death or a major cardiovascular event in the pravastatin and atorvastatin groups were listed incorrectly. The numbers should have read as follows: for pravastatin, 1701 (6 months), 1542 (12 months), 1449 (18 months), 896 (24 months), and 224 (30 months); for atorvastatin, 1752 (6 months), 1590 (12 months), 1515 (18 months), 950 (24 months), and 231 (30 months).					

Here are the corrected numbers:

No. at Risk	6 months	12 months	18 months	24 months	30 months
Standard therapy	1701	1542	1449	896	224
Pravastatin	1752	1590	1515	950	231
Intensive therapy					

Corrected data.

Intensive high-dose statin drug therapy (atorvastatin) appears to have slightly

increased the risk for death rather than reduced it. There was no explanation as to why the initially-reported numbers were incorrect, nor why the *New England Journal of Medicine* didn't withdraw this paper, which still misleads many. Nor why doctors at the above-mentioned medical institutions didn't seek wider exposure for this correction.

### Do statin drugs mimic a vitamin?

In 2006 Dr. Davis S. Grimes of the Blackburn Royal Infirmary in Great Britain, ruffled a lot of feathers in the medical world when he revealed that statin drugs appear to be synthetic versions (called analogs) of vitamin D. [Lancet 2006 Jul 1; 368(9529):83-6] All the alleged health benefits of statin drugs, prevention of osteoporosis, cancer prevention, promotion of arterial health, parallel those of vitamin D. The pharmaceutical world was quick to deny the allegation.

In his report entitled "Are statin analogs of vitamin D?" Dr. Grimes claims that the concept of statin drugs may come from vitamin D as they appear to be molecular alterations of this vitamin. A more recent study confirms that statin drugs modestly increase vitamin D levels.

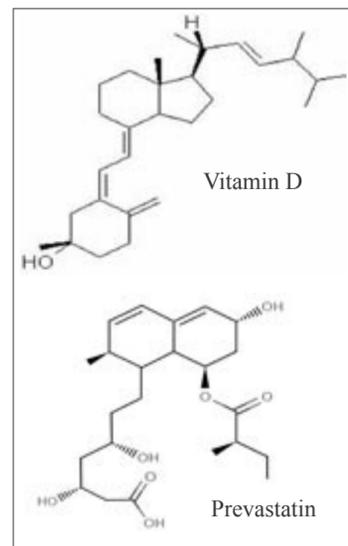
### Liver toxicity turned into a health benefit

Because these statin-drug vitamin D analogs had toxic liver side effects, their pharmaceutical inventors appear to have turned this drawback into a so-called advantage - that they inhibited cholesterol production in the liver. For comparison, any herbal product that raises liver enzyme levels would be quickly withdrawn from the marketplace by the FDA and declared a liver toxin. But the FDA permits liver-toxic statin drugs to be marketed and sold to millions of Americans.

### Common health benefits of statin drugs and vitamin D

If statin drugs have any redeeming quality it is that they modestly raise vitamin D levels. How would this common biological action of statin drugs and vitamin D address the accumulation of plaque in arteries with advancing age?

You will be surprised to learn only about 3% of arterial plaque is cholesterol and 50% is calcium. [International *Journal of Cardiology* 1991 Nov; 33 (2):191-8] Researchers in



Germany point out that a deficiency of vitamin D induces calcification and that "almost all atherosclerotic plaque in arteries are calcified." [Current *Opinion Lipidology* 2007 Feb; 18(1):41-6] Calcification results in stiff arteries. Cholesterol on the other hand is soft and waxy and does not produce hardened arteries. Vitamin D is an anti-calcifying agent. [Seminars in *Dialysis* 2005 Jul-Aug; 18(4): 307-14]

A vitamin D deficiency increases the risk for heart disease. [Circulation January 7, 2008; Current *Opinion Clinical Nutrition Metabolism Care*. 2008 Jan; 11(1):7-12] Heart attacks occur more frequently in winter when vitamin D levels are low. [Chronobiology *International* 2005; 22(6):1121-35; International *Journal of Epidemiology* 1990 Sep; 19(3):559-63] The use of vitamin D supplements reduces the overall risk of mortality at least seven times greater than statin drugs. [Archives of *Internal Medicine* 2007 Sep 10; 167(16):1730-7]

Modern medicine misdirected the public and many health professionals into thinking cholesterol, not calcium, is the chief culprit in coronary artery disease. By lowering a meaningless number, patients would derive a false sense of heart health, and doctors would

maintain a high level of disease to treat.

### Cholesterol or calcium?

It is instructive to compare the dietary intake of cholesterol and calcium with the coronary heart disease and stroke mortality rates from various countries. Such a comparison shows that dietary cholesterol has no meaningful relationship with coronary heart disease while dietary calcium does.

### Steer the public away from high-dose vitamin D

But something had to be done to distract the public away from taking vitamin D pills. So a misleading claim was made that high-dose vitamin D actually induces arterial calcifications and that pharmaceutical companies would have to invent synthetic versions (analogs) of vitamin D that would not result in calcification of tissues throughout the body.

While vitamin D does induce calcification, it requires a human equivalent dose of 21,000,000 international units (IU) to do this. [Current *Opinion Lipidology* 2007 Feb; 18(1): 41-6] A person would have to take over 52,000 400-IU vitamin D pills to do this.

Health directives from various public agencies attempt to steer the public away from so-called high doses of vitamin D. An online National Institutes of Health guide says 2000 IU is the "upper safe limit."

But this limit is absurd. About 30 minutes of total-body sun exposure to midday summer sun would produce about 10,000 IU of natural vitamin D and overcalcification does not occur from solar vitamin D production. Two people inadvertently consumed sugar cubes overfortified with vitamin D and their intake was 1.7 million units per day. It took seven months before headaches and gastric side effects forced them to see a doctor, and the symptoms subsided with cessation of the use of the sugar cubes. [Lancet 2002 Feb. 23; 359(9307):672]

It's time for the millions of Americans taking statin drugs to confront their doctors, and inquire about substituting \$3-a-day statin drugs for a 10-cent vitamin D pill.

Bill Sardi is author of the new book: *You Don't Have To Be Afraid Of Cancer Anymore*.

# Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Paul Craig Roberts

## War Without End

“We support the troops!” That’s the excuse the Democrats have given for continuing to fund Bush’s aggression against Iraq and Afghanistan. But, of course, war funding doesn’t support the troops. War funding supports an evil machine that chews up and spits out the lives and well-being of the troops, along with that of millions of Iraqi and Afghan, men, women, and children. War funding supports Bush’s aggression in Iraq and Afghanistan and his continuing efforts to occupy both countries in order to turn them into puppet states.

Polls show that a majority of the troops and their families do not support Bush’s aggression. The fact that Ron Paul’s campaign for the Republican presidential nomination received the lion’s share of contributions from military families also underlines the great divide between the troops and those who would “support” them by keeping them in Iraq and Afghanistan. What all those ribbon decals on the back of SUVs proclaiming “support the troops” really mean is support Bush’s wars of aggression against Muslims.

According to *The Washington Post*, Bush’s \$3.1 trillion federal budget provides no funding for the proposal in his State of the Union address to permit military members to transfer their unused education benefits to family members. Bush got applause for his nationally televised words, but the troops and their families got no money in his budget.

Government analysts calculate the education benefits would cost in the range of \$1-2 billion annually – the cost of funding the war for two days.

The only money that Bush and Congress want to give the troops is what is required to keep them at war. Everyone has read the horror stories of the lack of care for the physically and emotionally wounded troops who have made it back from Iraq.

In contrast, to fund Bush’s war, Bush and Congress have already spent in out-of-pocket and future costs at least \$1,000 billion. Every American can draw up lists of better uses of this immense fortune than blowing up a country’s infrastructure and killing hundreds of thousands of its citizens.

Nothing good whatsoever has been accomplished by Bush’s invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. It was obvious to anyone with a lick of sense in 2002, six months prior to Bush’s invasion of Iraq on March 18, 2003, that an invasion would be a strategic blunder. William S. Lind, myself, and others made that prediction in October 2002. Three years later, Lt. Gen. William Odom, former director of the National Security Agency, vindicated us by declaring Bush’s invasion of Iraq to be “the greatest strategic disaster in US history.” If the head of the NSA doesn’t know a “strategic disaster” when he sees one, who does?

Gen. Odom’s assessment is certainly correct. Bush, Cheney, the neocons, and the sycophantic media were completely wrong. Look at the situation today. Unable to defeat the Sunni insurgency, the US “superpower” has had to resort to paying tens of millions of dollars to insurgent leaders to bribe them not to attack US troops. In addition, Bush is supplying the insurgents with weapons “to fight al-Qaeda.” The Sunni leaders gladly accept the money and weapons, but how long can they survive being collaborators with the American enemy that has destroyed their country and the Sunni place in the sun?

It was obvious to everyone but Bush and the neocons that overthrowing Saddam Hussein in the name of democracy would put the majority Shi’ites, who are allied with Iran, in place as the new rulers of Iraq. So far the Iraqi Shi’ites have bided their time and have not joined in earnest the insurgency against the US occupation. Instead, they, like the Sunnis, have directed most of their attention to cleansing neighborhoods of one another. The reasons that violence is down—although still higher than Americans could live with—are that most of the neighborhoods are now segregated, Moqtada al-Sadr has ordered his militia to stand down, and the Sunni insurgents are being paid not to attack US troops.

Bush started a war, and now to avoid losing it Bush pays Iraqis not to attack US troops!

The Sunnis and Shi’ites are stronger than ever, while the US troops are worn down and demoralized from multiple lengthy combat tours that violate traditional US military policy.

It was also obvious that Bush’s invasions would destabilize nuclear-armed Pakistan. On Feb. 8, seasoned foreign correspondent Warren Strobel reported for the McClatchy newspapers that “Pakistan is now the central front in America’s war on terror.” On Feb. 9, *The Washington Post* reported: “Pakistan faces a growing threat from a new generation of radicalized, battle-hardened militants who embrace jihad and have become allied with local and international terrorists intent on toppling the pro-Western government [shorthand for paid US puppet], a senior US intelligence official told reporters yesterday.”

US officials have been pressing Pakistan, to

no effect, to allow US troops to join the Pakistani army’s fight against Pakistani tribes allied with the Taliban. US officials, “speaking on condition of anonymity,” are trying to muster support for an expanded US military role in Pakistan by alleging that Osama bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar are in Pakistan with their top commanders. Bush wants to bomb Pakistan in order to win the war in Afghanistan.

With all available US troops tied down in Iraq, the US is using NATO soldiers as mercenaries to try to counter a resurgent Taliban. Europeans are tiring of their role as a European proxy for America’s legions, and the NATO commander speaks of a NATO defeat in Afghanistan.

NATO was an alliance created to resist a Soviet invasion of Europe. The US has kept an unnecessary NATO alive for 18 years as a source of troops for its foreign adventures. Europeans dislike being mercenaries for an American empire, especially one that slaughters civilians.

Desperate for troops, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates is trying to scare Europeans with the threat of “international terrorism,” but Europeans know that the best way to bring terrorism to Europe is to send troops to fight Muslims for the Americans. Whether Gates will get the German and French soldiers that he so desperately needs depends on whether the US can give the German and French leaders, Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy, enough billions of dollars to divide among their parties to embolden them to override public opinion and send their soldiers to die for US and Israeli hegemony in the Middle East.

Gates told Europe that NATO’s survival is at stake: “We must not – we cannot – become a two-tiered alliance of those willing to fight and those who are not.” In a rare bit of honesty for a senior American government official, Gates admitted at the NATO conference in Munich last week that Europeans’ anger at the US over Iraq is the reason Europe won’t send enough troops to fight the Taliban in Afghanistan, thus putting what Gates disingenuously called “the international mission in Afghanistan” at risk of failure.

The Afghanistan “mission,” like the Iraq “mission,” was a mission for US and Israeli hegemony. The official reason for invading Afghanistan was 9/11 and the alleged refusal of the Taliban to hand over Osama bin Laden. It had nothing whatsoever to do with Europe, NATO, or any “international mission.” The official reason for invading Iraq was alleged, but nonexistent, weapons of mass destruction that allegedly threatened America – another, but more deadly, 9/11 in the making according to the Bush regime.

If the US now needs foreign troops to save its bacon in these two lost wars, it should demand them from Israel. Israel is why the US is at war in the Middle East. Let Israel supply the troops. The neocons who dominated the Bush regime and took America into illegal wars are allied with the extreme right-wing government of Israel. The goal of neoconservatism is to remove all obstacles to Israeli territorial expansion. The Zionist aim is to grab the entirety of the West Bank and southern Lebanon, with more to follow later.

Remember “mission accomplished?” Remember all the strutting neocons with their promises of a “cakewalk war?” Remember all the ignorant bragging about having “defeated the Taliban?” All of these lies were designed to tie America down in interminable wars in the Middle East for Israel’s benefit. There is no other reason for Bush’s invasions. We know for certain that Bush and his entire administration lied through their teeth about the Taliban and about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

What a total crock of ignorance and deception the Bush regime represents. Bush, defeated in Iraq, defeated in Afghanistan, with Pakistan crumbling in front of his eyes, is now reduced to begging the French, whom it was such grand sport for his neocon officials to denigrate, to send soldiers to save his ass in Afghanistan.

What a laughing stock Bush has made of America. What ruination this utter idiot and his supporters have brought to America. What total traitors the neoconservatives are. Every last one of them should be immediately arrested for high treason. Neoconservatives are America’s greatest enemies, and they control our government! All Americans have to show for six years of Bush’s “war on terror” is an incipient police state.

Now standing in the wings is mad John “Hundred-Year-War” McCain. Will the American electorate wipe out the Republican Party before this insane party wipes out America?

*Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan administration. He is coauthor of The Tyranny of Good Intentions. He can be reached at: paulcraigroberts@yahoo.com*



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Matt Sullivan - editor@RockCreekFreePress.com

## Vermont Wants Its Guard Troops Back

Vermont lawmakers from both houses of the legislature are pushing bills to pull the state’s National Guard troops from Iraq.

State Rep. Michael Fisher (D-Lincoln), said the authority to call up Guard members for Iraq duty has expired because that country no longer poses a threat to US national security.

“The mission authorized in 2002 does not exist,” said Fisher, who has introduced a bill backed by 30 colleagues that calls on Gov. Jim Douglas (R.) to join the effort. “Unless Congress grants a new authorization, the Vermont Guard should revert back to state control.”

Senate President Pro Tem Peter Shumlin (D.) said the Senate would take up similar legislation.

“Bottom line is, if the politicians in

Washington aren’t going to do the right thing for our troops, let’s do the right thing by bringing our Vermont Guard members home,” he said. “If Vermont can make one small step forward, I believe others will follow.”

Similar proposals are being considered by lawmakers in Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

A spokesman for Gov. Jim Douglas said Douglas can’t stop the use of Guard troops in the war.

“It’s clear that there’s no legal basis for stopping the federalization of the National Guard when Congress has authorized and continues to fund a war,” said Douglas’ spokesman Jason Gibbs. “The bottom line is, this a federal issue.”

He said Douglas would rather see Congress develop an exit strategy to bring the troops home as soon as possible.

Maj. Gen. Michael Dubie, head of the Vermont National Guard, refused to comment until he could read the bill.

Shortly after the bill was introduced in the Vermont legislature, a commission on the Army National Guard and Reserves issued a report saying that, in part because of the deployments of Guard members and equipment overseas and insufficient training, the US military is ill-prepared to handle a catastrophic event (such as a biological or nuclear attack) within the US.

Call your Governor and demand that your state’s National Guard troops come home.

CSRO

## Torture Works

Matt Sullivan

Torture, we are told by experts, is useless for gathering accurate intelligence. It is counterproductive for winning the hearts and minds of an occupied population. Torture is so obviously outside the bounds of international norms, its deployment has blackened the reputation of the US and will put generations of future American soldiers in jeopardy of reciprocal maltreatment.

So what is torture good for?

As a means of mass communication, torture works. Americans get the message. Iraqis get the message. The message that this administration is beyond the law, and they are willing to imprison and torture whomever they like with (so far) impunity.

As a method of creating “terrorists” torture is ideal. Prisoners can be persuaded to confess to any number of pretend offenses, and, given enough time and enough “persuasion,” they can even be made to believe it themselves. In the case of American citizen Jose Padilla, for example, after four years of stress positions, solitary confinement,

mind-altering drugs, and sensory deprivation, his lawyers concluded that he was mentally unfit to assist in his own defense. He was not even able to distinguish between his attorneys and his captors.

In the case of “KSM”, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the purported 9/11 mastermind, he has already confessed under torture to a long list of offenses, including some which authorities acknowledge he had no part in, such as the murder of Daniel Pearl.

As a means of compromising the legal and judicial system torture works. Once a White House counsel has signed off on the use of one coercive tactic, such as stress positions, or exposure to extremes of temperature or noise, how could he possibly rule against another, such as sleep deprivation? How many steps is it, from there to waterboarding and electric shocks? Once a judge has admitted secret evidence into his courtroom, why would he balk at secret evidence gathered through torture? While a judge so compromised would hardly be fit to sit on the bench, he’d be the perfect pick for Attorney General, in such a system.

The government has announced that they intend to bring six prisoners forward for trial on charges related to 9/11. The six, including KSM and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, have been held in secret detention and, by the government’s own account, subjected to torture including waterboarding. So after six years of confinement within a system that bears no resemblance whatever to the judicial system described in the Constitution, no habeas corpus, presumption of innocence, or right to face their accusers. Now they are to be tried in a judicial process that also bears no resemblance to our constitutional due process. They will be tried, no doubt, in secret tribunals, using secret evidence and they will be convicted with “confessions” obtained under torture.

These show trials are such a mockery of judicial due process that they surely mark the end of any pretense of the “rule of law” in this country. What are moral and righteous Americans to do when the government puts itself completely outside and beyond the reach of the law? What must citizens do when the state becomes the criminal?

CSRO

## Plutocracy Controls Politics

### The Evolution of Evil

Joel Hirschhorn

Perhaps a global political apocalypse has already arrived.

Activists and dissidents should understand that evil forces and tyrannical governments have evolved. Just as human knowledge and science expand, so do the strategies and instruments used by rulers, elites and plutocrats. By learning from history and using new technology, they have smarter tools of tyranny. The best ones prevent uprisings, revolutions and political reforms. Rather than violently destroy rebellious movements, they let them survive as marginalized and ineffective efforts that divert and sap the energy of nonconformist and rebellious thinkers. Real revolution remains an energy-

draining dream, as evil forces thrive.

Most corrupt and legally sanctioned forms of tyranny hide in plain sight as democracies with free elections. The toughest lesson is that ALL elections are distractions. Nothing conceals tyranny better than elections. Few Americans accept that their government has become a two-party plutocracy run by a rich and powerful ruling class. The steady erosion of the rule of law is masked by everyday consumer freedoms. Because people want to be happy and hopeful, we have an epidemic of denial, especially in the present presidential campaign. But to believe that any change-selling politician or shift in party control will overturn the ruling class is the epitome of self-delusion and false hope. In the

end, such wishful thinking perpetuates plutocracy. Proof is that plutocracy has flourished despite repeated change agents, promises of reform and partisan shifts.

The tools of real rebellion are weak. Activists and dissidents look back and see successful rebellions and revolutions and think that when today’s victims of tyranny experience enough pain and see enough political stink, they too will revolt. This is wrong. They think that the Internet spreads information and inspiration to the masses, motivating them to revolt. This is wrong. They await catastrophic economic or environmental collapse to spur rebellion. This too is wrong.

see EVIL p. 8

## Global Oil Production Peaked in 2006

- Petroleum Output Will Fall by Several Percent a Year
- Other Energy Supplies: Gas, Coal, Uranium Declines to Follow

Matt Sullivan

The German-based Energy Watch Group (EWG) released a study last year reporting that world oil production has already peaked and will fall by half as soon as 2030. The report also warns that extreme shortages of fossil fuels will likely lead to wars and social breakdown.

The German study claims that global oil production peaked in 2006 - slightly ahead of projections made by experts at The Oil Drum, an online site for oil industry experts, but much earlier than the consistently rosy projections of CERA, the top industry-funded consultancy. The consensus among the experts at The Oil Drum a few years ago was that peak would be reached around 2010. Based on actual production data, July 2006 appears to have been the actual peak of global liquid fuel production.

The EWG report's most alarming finding was the steepness of the projected decline in oil production after its peak. The report predicts that production will begin to fall by several percent a year. "The world soon will not be able to produce all the oil it needs as demand is rising while supply is falling. This is a huge problem for the world economy," said Hans-Josef Fell, EWG's founder and the German MP behind the country's successful support system for renewable energy.

The EWG study relies on actual oil production data which is much more reliable than estimates of reserves still in the ground. The group says official industry estimates put global reserves at about 1.255 gigabarrels - equivalent to 42 years' supply at current consumption rates; however consumption rates will now fall, and rather steeply.

Global oil production is currently about 81 million barrels a day - EWG expects that to fall to 39 million by 2030. It also predicts significant falls in gas, coal and uranium production as those energy sources are used up.

"Peak Oil" is nothing new. Britain's oil production peaked in 1999 and has already dropped by half to about 1.6 million barrels a day. In the US, where the age of oil began

a century ago, the peak was reached in 1971. It is no coincidence that the US "gas crisis", marked by long lines at the pumps and shortages, ensued not long after production peaked.

The concept of "Peak Oil" has been around since 1956 when it was first investigated by a US oil expert named Dr. M. King Hubbert. He calculated, based on the declining rates of new oil discoveries and the rising rates of consumption, that US domestic oil production would peak around 1970. He was only off by one year. Predicting when world oil production would peak had been considerably more difficult, but now that the peak has apparently passed, the only thing left to predict is the rate of production declines.

The EWG report presents a bleak view of the future unless a radically different approach is adopted. British energy economist David Fleming is quoted as saying: "Anticipated supply shortages could lead easily to disturbing scenes of mass unrest as witnessed in Burma recently. For government, industry and the wider public, just muddling through is not an option any more as this situation could spin out of control and turn into a complete meltdown of society."

In the US, preparations have included the construction of FEMA detention camps and legislation setting the stage for martial law.

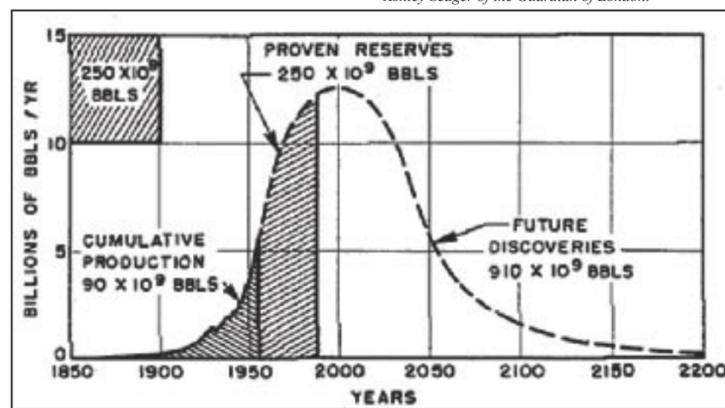
The German government, on the other hand, has supported an aggressive alternative energy policy, which guarantees above-market payments to producers of renewable power. Germany committed a decade ago to reaching 100% of energy from renewables by 2020.

By the end of 2003, Germany had an estimated 45,400 permanent jobs resulting from the wind industry alone, a figure expected to increase to 103,000 jobs by 2010 when wind will supply over 10% of the nation's demand for electricity. Another 35,000 people are employed in the German solar industries. Total solar sales grew by 60% in 2004, to more than 2 billion euros (US\$2.6 billion).

Germany's experience suggests that a massive shift to renewable energy is possible. Starting from almost no renewable energy applications, Germany has moved to the forefront of global renewable energy in just 10 years. Other governments would do well to follow suit, by recasting their national energy policies to capitalize on nature's renewable bounty.

The alternative is to not address the energy problem and instead prepare for the unpleasant consequences. That seems to be the US Government's approach.

Portions of this article based on the reporting of Ashley Seager of the Guardian of London.



M. King Hubbert's forecast for the world's oil production, from his 1956 paper

## US Air Force Academy Hires Fake Terrorists



Air Force Academy

Neil MacFarquhar

The Air Force Academy was criticized by Muslim and religious freedom organizations for playing host last month to three speakers who critics say are evangelical Christians falsely claiming to be former Muslim terrorists.

The three men were invited as part of a weeklong conference on terrorism organized by cadets at the academy's Colorado Springs campus under the auspices of the political science department.

The three will be paid a total of \$13,000 for their appearance, some of it from private donors, said Maj. Brett Ashworth, a spokesman for the academy.

The three were invited because "they offered a unique perspective from inside terrorism," Major Ashworth said. The conference is to result in a report on methods to combat terrorism that will be sent to the Pentagon, members of Congress and other influential officials, he added.

Members of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, a group suing the federal government to combat what it calls creeping evangelism in the armed forces, said it was typical of the Air Force Academy to invite born-again Christians to address cadets on terrorism rather than experts who could teach students about the Middle East.

"This stuff going on at the academy today is part of the endemic evangelical infiltration that continues," said David Antoon, a 1970 academy graduate and a foundation member.

The three men were invited to talk about being recruited and trained as terrorists, not religion, although one of them, Zak Anani, did tell students that converting to Christianity from Islam saved his life, said John Van Winkle, another spokesman for the academy.

Muslim organizations objected to the fact that no other perspective about Islam was offered, saying that the three speakers — Mr. Anani, Kamal Saleem and Walid Shoebat — habitually paint Muslims as inherently violent. All were born in the Middle East but Mr. Saleem and Mr. Shoebat are now American citizens, while Mr. Anani has Canadian citizenship.

"Their entire world view is based on the idea that Islam is evil," said Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the Council on Islamic American Relations. "We want to provide a balancing perspective to their hate speech."

Academic professors and others who have heard the three men speak in the United States and Canada said some of their stories border on the fantastic, like Mr. Saleem's account of how, as a child, he infiltrated Israel to plant bombs via a network of tunnels underneath the Golan Heights. No such incidents have been reported, the academic experts said. They also question how three middle-aged men who claim they were recruited as teenagers or younger could have been steeped in the violent religious ideology that only became prevalent in the late 1980s.

Prof. Douglas Howard, who teaches the history of the modern Middle East at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., heard Mr. Saleem speak last November at the college and said he thought the three were connected to several major Christian evangelical organizations.

"It was just an old time gospel hour — 'Jesus can change your life, he changed mine,'" Mr. Howard said. "That is mixed in with 'Watch out America, wake up America, the danger of Islam is here.'"

Mr. Howard said his doubts about their authenticity grew after stories like the Golan Heights saga as well as something on Mr. Saleem's Web site along the lines that he was descended from the grand wazir of Islam. "The grand wazir of Islam is a nonsensical term," Mr. Howard said.

Keith Davies, the director of the Walid Shoebat Foundation, which organizes their appearances, said critics tried to undermine the speakers' reputation because "they can't argue with the message."

Arab-American civil rights organizations question why, at a time when the United States government has vigorously moved to jail or at least deport anyone with a known terrorist connection, the three men, if they are telling the truth, are allowed to circulate freely. A spokesman for the FBI said there were no warrants for their arrest.

New York Times, Feb. 7, 2008

## Don't be Fooled by the Myth of John McCain

Johann Hari

A lazy, hazy myth has arisen out of the mists of New Hampshire and South Carolina. Across the Pan-Atlantic press, the grizzled 71-year-old Vietnam vet, John McCain, is being billed as the Republican liberals can live with. He is "a bipartisan progressive", "a principled hard liberal", "a decent man", in the words of liberal newspapers. His new frontrunner status coming out of Super Tuesday is being seen as something to cautiously welcome, a kick to the rotten Republican establishment.

But the truth is that McCain is the candidate we should most fear. Not only is he to the right of Bush on a whole range of subjects, he is also the Republican candidate most likely to dispense with Hillary or Barack.

McCain is third-generation Navy royalty, raised from a young age to be a senior figure in the Armed Forces, like his father and grandfather before him. He was sent to one of the most elite boarding schools in America, then to the Naval Academy where he ranked 894th out of 899 students in ability. He used nepotism to get ahead: when he was rejected by the National War College, he used his father's contacts with the Secretary of the Navy to make them reconsider. He then swiftly married the heiress to a multi-million dollar fortune.

Right up to his twenties, he remained a strikingly violent man, "ready to fight at the drop of a hat," according to his biographer Robert Timberg. Once known as "McNasty", this rage seems to be at the

core of his personality. Describing his own childhood, McCain has written: "At the smallest provocation I would go off into a mad frenzy, and then suddenly crash to the floor unconscious. When I got angry I held my breath until I blacked out."

But he claims he was transformed by his experiences in Vietnam—a war he still defends as "noble" and "winable," if only it had been fought harder. (More than three million Vietnamese died; how much harder could it be?) His plane was shot down on a bombing raid over Hanoi, and he was captured and tortured during five years of imprisonment. To this day, he cannot lift his arms high enough to comb his own hair.

On his release, he used his wife's fortune to run to as a Republican senator. He was a standard-issue Reaganite corporate Republican—until the Keating Five corruption scandal consumed him. In 1987, it was revealed that McCain, along with four other senators, had taken huge campaign donations from a fraudster called Charles Keating. In return they pressured government regulators not to look too hard into Keating's affairs, allowing him to commit even more fraud. McCain later admitted: "I did it for no other reason than I valued [Keating's] support."

McCain took the only course that could possibly preserve his reputation: he turned the scandal into a debate about the political system, rather than his own personal corruption. He said it showed how "we need to drive the special interests out of Washington" and became a high-profile campaigner for campaign finance reform. But privately, his behavior hasn't changed much. For example, in 2000 he lobbied federal regulators hard on behalf of a major campaign contributor, Paxon Communications, in an act the regulators spluttered was "highly unusual." He has never won an election without outspending his opponent.

But McCain has distinguished himself most as an uber-hawk on foreign policy. To give a brief smorgasbord of his views: at a recent rally, he sang "Bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb Iran," to the tune of the Beach Boys' "Barbara Ann." He says North Korea should be threatened with "extinction."

McCain has mostly opposed using US power for humanitarian goals, jeering at proposals to intervene in Rwanda or Bosnia—but he is very keen to use it for great power imperialism. He learnt this philosophy from his father and his granddad Slew, who fought in the Philippine occupation at the turn of the 20th century, where he was part of a mission to crush the local resistance to the US invasion. They did it by forcing the entire population from their homes at gunpoint into "protection zones," and gunning down anybody over the age of ten who was found outside them. Today, McCain dreamily describes this as

"an exotic adventure" which his grandfather "generally enjoyed."

Then McCain's father, John, led the US invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965, at a time when there was a conflict on the Caribbean island. On one side, there were forces loyal to Juan Bosch, the democratically elected left-wing President who was committed to land redistribution and helping the poor. On the other side, there were forces who had overthrown the elected government and looked nostalgically to the playboy tyranny of Rafael Trujillo. John McCain Sr. intervened to ensure the supporters of the democratic government were crushed, bragging that it taught the natives "how to behave themselves". He saw this as part of a wider mission, where the US would take over Britain's role as a "world empire".

These beliefs drive McCain's politics today. He brags he would be happy for US troops to remain in Iraq for 100 years, and declares: "I'm not at all embarrassed of my friendship with Henry Kissinger; I'm proud of it." His most thorough biographer—and recent supporter—Matt Welch concludes: "McCain's programme for fighting foreign wars would be the most openly militaristic and interventionist platform in the White House since Teddy Roosevelt—[it] is considerably more hawkish than anything George Bush has ever practiced." With him as president, we could expect much more aggressive destabilization of Venezuela and Bolivia—and more.

So why do so many nice liberals have a weak spot for McCain? Well, to his credit, he doesn't hate immigrants: he proposed a program to legalize the 12 million undocumented workers in the US. He sincerely opposes torture, as a survivor of it himself. He has apologized for denying global warming and now advocates a cap on greenhouse gas emissions—but only if China and India can also be locked into the system. He is somewhat uncomfortable with the religious right (while supporting a ban on abortion and gay marriage.) It is a sign of how far to the right the Republican Party has drifted that these are considered signs of liberalism, rather than basic humanity.

Yet these sprinklings of sanity—onto a very extreme program—are enough for a superficial, glib press to present McCain as "bipartisan" and "centrist." Will this be enough to put white hair into the White House? At the moment, he has considerably higher positive ratings than Hillary Clinton, and beats her in some match-up polls. If we don't start warning that the Real McCain is not the Real McCoy, we might sleepwalk into four more years of Republicanism.

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## Are Conspiracy Theorists out of Their Gourds?

Sheila Casey

Of course conspiracies exist. Merriam-Webster says a conspiracy is "a secret agreement to do an unlawful or wrongful act." If two or more people plot to do something corrupt, criminal or not, it's a conspiracy. The world is teeming with them.

But conspiracy theorists are assumed to fear something much larger and more insidious than run of the mill nastiness; their suspicions focus on vast schemes and secret societies that control the levers of government. Conventional wisdom calls these people crackpots, nut jobs, tin foil hatters. Wikipedia states that "conspiracy theorist is a pejorative term, used to dismiss claims that are considered paranoid, unfounded, outlandish, irrational, or otherwise unworthy of serious consideration."

It seems that conspiracy theorists have all the credibility of members of the Flat Earth Society.

Are we to assume then that no governmental conspiracies exist? That the idea of the Bush administration lying to us, or pressuring other agencies such as the State Department, CIA, or Justice Department to lie to us is unthinkable? That it wouldn't be possible, for example, for them to cook up a case for war against a country that never attacked us, using information they know to be false? That they might claim that we are

invading to spread democracy, when they really have their eye on the \$30 trillion in oil under Iraqi sands? That they are willing to be thought of as incompetent because they invaded without an exit strategy when not leaving is exactly what those double-dealing conspirators had in mind?

Me neither, that could never happen.

Who are these wild-eyed conspiracy theorists? One was JFK. In a 1961 speech to the American Newspaper Publishers Association he said:

"We are opposed around the world by a monolithic and ruthless conspiracy that relies primarily on covert means for expanding its sphere of influence—on infiltration instead of invasion, on subversion instead of elections, on intimidation instead of free choice, on guerrillas by night instead of armies by day."

Another was Hillary Clinton. In an interview on The Today Show in 1998, she referred to a "vast right-wing conspiracy that has been conspiring against my husband."

JFK and Hillary Clinton, two deranged, delusional denizens of the lunatic fringe, trying to undermine the country no doubt.

Conspiracy theorists are getting a lot of press these days, because they keep popping up in unexpected places. When several members of We Are Change infiltrated Real Time with Bill Maher last month to shout out their half-baked theories about 9/11 see CONSPIRACY p. 6

*"The power of the Executive to cast a man into prison without formulating any charge known to the law, and particularly to deny him the judgment of his peers, is in the highest degree odious and is the foundation of all totalitarian government whether Nazi or Communist." - Winston Churchill, Nov. 21, 1943*

## Rule By Fear Or Rule By Law?

By Lewis Seiler and Dan Hamburg

Since 9/11, and seemingly without the notice of most Americans, the federal government has assumed the authority to institute martial law, arrest a wide swath of dissidents (citizen and noncitizen alike), and detain people without legal or constitutional recourse in the event of "an emergency influx of immigrants in the US, or to support the rapid development of new programs."

Beginning in 1999, the government has entered into a series of single-bid contracts with Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) to build detention camps at undisclosed locations within the United States. The government has also contracted with several companies to build thousands of railcars, some reportedly equipped with shackles, ostensibly to transport detainees.

According to former diplomat and author Peter Dale Scott, the KBR contract is part of a Homeland Security plan titled *ENDGAME*, which sets as its goal the removal of "all removable aliens" and "potential terrorists."

Fraud-busters such as Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Los Angeles, have complained about these contracts, saying that more taxpayer dollars should not go to taxpayer-gouging Halliburton. But the real question is: What kind of "new programs" require the construction and refurbishment of detention facilities in nearly every state of the union with the capacity to house millions of people?

Sect. 1042 of the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), "Use of the Armed Forces in Major Public Emergencies," gives the executive the power to invoke martial law. For the first time in more than a century, the president is now authorized to use the military in response to "a natural disaster, a disease outbreak, a terrorist attack or any other condition in which the President determines that domestic violence has occurred to the extent that state officials cannot maintain public order."

The Military Commissions Act of 2006, rammed through Congress just before the 2006 midterm elections, allows for the indefinite imprisonment of anyone—citizen or noncitizen—who donates money to a charity that turns up on a list of "terrorist" organizations, or who speaks out against government policies. The law calls for secret trials for citizens and noncitizens alike.

Also in 2007, the White House quietly issued a National Security Presidential Directive (NSPD-51), to ensure "continuity of government" in the event of what the document

vaguely calls a "catastrophic emergency." Should the president determine that such an emergency has occurred, he and he alone is empowered to do whatever he deems necessary to ensure "continuity of government."

This could include everything from canceling elections to suspending the Constitution to launching a nuclear attack. Congress has yet to hold a single hearing on NSPD-51.

US Rep. Jane Harman, D-CA (Los Angeles County) has come up with a new way to expand the domestic "war on terror." Her Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007 (HRI955), which passed the House by the lopsided vote of 404-6 and which is being considered in the Senate, would set up a commission to "examine and report upon the facts and causes" of so-called violent radicalism and extremist ideology, then make legislative recommendations on combatting it.

According to commentary in the *Baltimore Sun*, Rep. Harman and her colleagues from both sides of the aisle believe the country faces a native brand of terrorism and needs a commission with sweeping investigative power to combat it.

A clue as to where Harman's commission might be aiming is the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, a law that labels those who "engage in sit-ins, civil disobedience, trespass, or any other crime in the name of animal rights" as terrorists. Other groups in the crosshairs could be anti-abortion protesters, anti-tax agitators, immigration activists, environmentalists, peace demonstrators, Second Amendment rights supporters ... the list goes on and on. According to author Naomi Wolf, the National Counterterrorism Center holds the names of roughly 775,000 "terror suspects" with the number increasing by 20,000 per month.

What could the Government be contemplating that leads it to make contingency plans to detain without recourse millions of its own citizens?

The Constitution does not allow the executive to have unchecked power under any circumstances. The people must not allow the president to use the war on terrorism to rule by fear instead of by law.

*Lewis Seiler is the president of Voice of the Environment, Inc. Dan Hamburg, a former Congressman, is executive director.*



TSA from p. 1

The US Transportation Security Administration justifies its current procedures by pointing out that they confiscated over 13 million prohibited items last year. It is telling that the TSA chooses to measure its effectiveness by the number of times innocent passengers are inconvenienced by the confiscation of lighters and pen knives (13 million) and not by the number of would-be terrorists apprehended (zero).

The BMJ article questions the purpose of asking such questions as "Did you pack your bags yourself?" since almost no one ever says "no" and certainly not a hypothetical would-be terrorist. Another troubling question involves the ethics of using "profiles" and the selection of criteria that are to be used for pre-selecting passengers for more thorough searches.

The BMJ article highlights the fact that there is no publicly available research underlying the methods used by the TSA. Airport security is an important area of public interest that is funded and managed by the federal government. Its methods and procedures should be required to meet at least the minimal standards of accuracy and cost effectiveness required in other disciplines such as medicine and engineering.

*Editors note: The main flaw with the BMJ article is that it assumes the principal function of the TSA is to prevent terrorists from taking contraband weapons onto an airplane. That*

*assumption is not supported by observable evidence.*

*Based on what the TSA actually does, in practice, it is clear that a principal function of the TSA is to identify and monitor all passengers and restrict the travel of some selected individuals through the use of no-fly and extra-security lists. The criteria for inclusion on these lists has not been made public, but we can infer from the available evidence who the lists are meant to include: any member of the enemy ethnic or religious group (Arab, Muslim); anyone critical of administration policies (Ted Kennedy, Jesselyn Radack); those who have written articles or books pointing out the criminality of the government, (Naomi Kline, James Moore), or persons involved in any sort of protest or demonstration, (Prof. Walter Murphy); or journalists covering events the government would rather remain secret (Alex Jones). The TSA is even more hostile to foreign visitors whose political views do not align with those of the current administration (Cat Stevens). The administration is now seeking the ability to prevent selected individuals from even overflying the US.*

*As distasteful as the no-fly lists are, clearly the most important function of the TSA is to accustom American citizens to life under a police state. To that end, the more onerous the TSA makes its procedures, the more ridiculous and demeaning the process, the more effective it is as a psychological conditioning tool.*

## Military-Industrial Complex Calls Shots In America Today

By Sherwood Ross

(Special) --- On the brown prairie just a few miles west of Belle Fourche, (pronounced BELL-foosh, South Dakota), a town that styles itself the geographic heart of America, you can pull your car off two-lane blacktop highway 212 and watch the antelope graze. These graceful creatures keep back a couple of hundred yards from the road, and if you approach them to take pictures they will pick up their heads and tails and amble off in the opposite direction. They're wary enough so that if some fool with a rifle tried to take a shot, there's a good chance they'd escape.

Now and then behind the barbed wire fence strung along the highway, you can spot the antelope grazing near the concrete ruins of an abandoned missile silo nudging above the surface. Here, at the height of the Cold War, missiles slept waiting for the alarm clock that would ring if nuclear war broke out with Soviet Russia. The antelope pay no mind to the possibility some really indigestible stuff might have leaked up from the silos that might ruin their meal.

The nuclear silos were peopled by two men, so that, in theory, if one went nuts, the other could prevent him from launching the nuclear missile on his own initiative. A US Senator once boasted, "We can hit the men's room in the Kremlin" and these silo soldiers were the plumbers at the ready to flush the world's troubled toilet bowls. In order to fire the missile, though, both operators had to turn the handles of their instruments simultaneously. The only wee problem is someone figured out how one man could disable the other and, by using a rope attached to a spoon, turn the disabled man's trigger along with his own, thus launching his own private nuclear holocaust.

Much of the country's nuclear stockpile has been dismembered, and the ranchers in nearby Belle Fourche are no longer collecting a little extra rent from the Pentagon for the use of their meadowlands. They console themselves with a homespun parade and genuine rodeo every July 4th that's worth a trip to South Dakota. Cowpokes on the floats throw candy at bystanders and the cowgirls racing around the barrels in the arena are among the prettiest.

USA has reduced its stockpile of nuclear warheads to about 10,000, according to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. "No Nukes News," published by Peace Action Education Fund of Washington, D.C., says the arsenal is nevertheless equivalent to 130,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs. "This is firepower enough to destroy the Earth, and all life on it many times over," they observe.

Nuclear war-ready America is just one of the several props that sustain the Military-Industrial Complex (MIC). Nuclear warfare began when President Truman ostensibly sought a way to shorten WWII, to save the lives of US fighting men. The bombs that leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki did that all right, at the expense of shredding international conventions against bombarding civilians. Another outcome was the costliest arms race in history. If the US could drop the atomic bomb, why couldn't Soviet Russia make one and drop one? Why not China? Israel? India? Iran? And rather than share the technology with its wartime Soviet allies, the US-UK bomb developers kept the secret to themselves, insuring a nuclear arms race that has bled the US of \$7-trillion since the Manhattan project. Albert Einstein, looking back, said writing FDR about the possibility of creating an atomic weapon was the worst mistake he ever made in his life. Over the years, the manufacture and testing of A-Bombs and H-bombs would lead directly to many deaths and fill the atmosphere with poisonous fallout liable to cause cancers for centuries to come. As for the cost of a Cold War that might have been averted, General Douglas MacArthur, hardly a pacifist, said, "The hundreds of billions of dollars now spent in mutual preparedness (by America and the Soviet Union) could conceivably abolish poverty from the face of the earth."

Unfortunately, there are some Americans who do not wish to end arms spending, much as they'd deny it if accused of such perfidy. We know, though, because we have their word for it. Named by President Truman as Defense Mobilization Director in World War II, former General Electric chief Charles E. Wilson put it baldly when he called for an alliance of Big Business and the military in a "permanent war economy." He got his wish, too. It wasn't idle talk. A Bureau of the Budget report in 1946 said during the war the Army sought "total control of the nation, its manpower, its facilities, its economy," according to author Fred J. Cook in *The Warfare State* (Macmillan), published in 1962. That's not exactly what President George Washington had in mind when he declared in his Farewell Address in 1796, "Overgrown military establishments are under any form of government inauspicious to liberty, and are to be regarded as particularly hostile to Republican liberty."

Earlier, when FDR's appointee to run the War Production Board, Donald Nelson, a former Sears vice president, had a difference with the Pentagon, FDR told Nelson not to rock the boat. It was General Brehon Somervell, boss of Pentagon procurement,

who called the shots. So military contractors built and overbuilt, to the point where the US produced, for instance, more than 130 aircraft carriers during WWII, so many it sent a flotilla of leftovers to ally Winston Churchill.

In 1944, with an Allied victory probable and when enormous stockpiles of ammunition and other war materials were climbing skyward, many small contractors wanted to begin the conversion to peace-time consumer goods. According to author Cook, the big defense contractors quashed this initiative because the nimble small players could convert more quickly, so nothing was done until the top defense contractors were good and ready.

The military wasn't supposed to run the USA. Alexander Hamilton warned us about it long ago: "The continual necessity for their services enhances the importance of the soldier, and proportionably degrades the condition of the free citizen. The military state becomes elevated above the civil." The Declaration of Independence indicted Britain's King George for making "the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power." The military's lavish spending goes back even to Colonial times. As "Yankee Doodle" himself recalled in the famous song, "And what they wasted every day I wish it could be saved."

Starting with WWII, according to Cook, permanent revolving doors were built linking the Pentagon and Corporate America. There were 1,400 executives with the rank of major and higher employed by the top 100 defense contractors, he said. General Dynamics alone had 27 generals and admirals on its payroll. That practice continues to this day, and at the highest levels. The MIC crowd also occupies top slots in Washington. As John Perkins noted in *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (Plume), George Shultz, Nixon's Treasury secretary, served as a Bechtel president and Caspar Weinberger, Defense Secretary under President Reagan, had been a Bechtel vice president. Bechtel, of course, is one of the Pentagon's leading business partners.

During the Fifties, many generals and their business buddies fanned out across the country preaching the gospel of preparedness and, at times, even the lunacy of preventive war. Government contributed to the hysteria by urging Americans to build fallout shelters. In an uncharacteristic but prescient remark, General MacArthur declared: "Our government has kept us in a perpetual state of fear — kept us in a continuous stampede of patriotic fervor with the cry of a grave national emergency. Always there has been some terrible evil at home or some monstrous foreign power that was going to gobble us up if we did not rally behind it by furnishing the exorbitant funds demanded."

So it was that another general, President Dwight Eisenhower said upon leaving the White House, "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

In words written in 1962, that now seem prophetic Cook predicted Vietnam: "If we are dragged into another (after Korea) limited war in Southeast Asia, we shall bleed ourselves of our finest youth and our future leadership in a blind endeavor to halt and contain by force an ideology we detest. The battle, if it is fought on these terms can only succeed in bleeding us white in endless 'police actions.'"

"America has been changed without any popular recognition of the fact, from a peace-loving and isolationist democracy into a Warfare State whose real intent...is not the preservation of peace and law and order in the world, but the extension of our own capitalist system throughout the world..." Cook concluded, adding "...insanity has become our way of life."

The CIA spread the insanity by creating revolutions the world over, just the sort of violent action it liked to blame on Communists such as Cuba's Che Guevara, who invaded Bolivia. Did the American people ever vote to overthrow all the governments the CIA toppled from power? Did they even know what was being done in their name? A partial list of countries overthrown by the CIA includes Iran, 1953; Guatemala, 1954; Dominican Republic, 1963; Ecuador, 1963; Indonesia, 1965; Cambodia, 1970; Chile, 1973; Portugal, 1975; Chad, 1982; Bolivia, 1982.

As a result of the CIA's breeding so much hatred around the world, if we're not scared out of our wits over possible reprisals, maybe we should be. Today, leftover Cold War era nukes can be smuggled into the US and detonated. How does an industrialized nation with so much to lose respond to a desert kingdom or a stateless gang of thugs having access to a nuclear trigger? What good are all the Star Wars anti-missile defense shields (still being built, naturally, at great cost to the taxpayers) against incoming missiles, when the nuclear strike can be imported for cheap on a cargo ship? It is nations such as the US and Great Britain, whose leaders decided 60 years ago to build atomic weapons, that stand in the gravest peril today as a result of that decision.

Speaking of the Star Wars defense, the *New York Times* reported a senior Congressional investigator has accused the Government

Accounting Office of covering up a scientific fraud among builders of the \$26-billion system designed as an anti-nuclear missile shield. The contractors are off to a poor start, he said, on a system that will eventually cost the taxpayers \$250-billion. The investigator, Subrata Ghoshroy, said GAO ignored evidence the two main contractors "had doctored data, skewed test results and made false statements" to the government. Ten years ago like charges were made by a senior engineer who then charged contractor TRW in 1995-96 "had falsified research findings" about the project. (By the way, how many public schools can you build for \$250-billion? How much low- and moderate-income housing? How much mass transit? How many diseases could you wipe out around the globe?)

As the late economist John Kenneth Galbraith wrote in UK's *The Guardian* on July 15, 2004: "In 2003, close to half the total US government discretionary expenditure was used for military purposes. A large part was for weapons procurement or development. Nuclear-powered submarines run to billions of dollars, individual planes to tens of millions each."

Galbraith went on to write, "Such expenditure is not the result of detached analysis. From the relevant industrial firms come proposed designs for new weapons, and to them are awarded production and profit. In an impressive flow of influence and command, the weapons industry accords valued employment, management pay and profit in its political constituency, and indirectly it is a treasured source of political funds. The gratitude and the promise of political help go to Washington and to the defense budget and to foreign policy or, as in Vietnam and Iraq, to war. That the private sector moves to a dominant public-sector role is apparent."

Today, the MIC is operating full-blast. For example, President Bush is determined to keep the Texas factories that make the F-18 fighter-bombers humming by selling the planes to India and Pakistan. No matter these planes can deliver nuclear warheads and will only escalate tensions between the touchy neighbors. America today has the unenviable distinction of being the world's number one arms peddler. Uncle Sam, the hardware king!

What's more, under Bush, military spending climbed from \$290-billion in 2001 to \$437-billion in 2004 and, counting the separate appropriations for the Iraq War and the tens of billions spent on the intelligence agencies, it could top \$600-billion this year.

Arms makers are becoming millionaires overnight. United for Fair Economy and Institute for Policy Studies reported in 2004 the Iraq War is leading to "huge average raises (for CEOs) at the biggest defense contractors. One CEO of a bulletproof vest firm increased his salary from \$525,000 in 2001 to \$70-million in 2004, the report said. As for "free enterprise," so cherished by Republican lawgivers, only one of the top 10 defense contractors "won a majority of its contracts through 'full and open' competition," according to the Center for Public Integrity in Washington. "All the rest collected most of their contract dollars through sole source contracts or other no-bid procedures."

The exception was SAIC. The other contractors who cashed in largely without competing are Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, United Technologies, General Electric and Carlyle Group, CPI said.

Taxpayers typically do not know of the lack of competitive bidding or recognize that much of what is spent is lavished on obsolete technology. William D. Hartung, co-author of a World Policy Institute Special Report at the New School University, found "Contracts for the top 10 weapons contracts were up 75% in the first three years of the Bush Administration alone," — much of it apparently wasted on obsolete technologies.

When the Pentagon is informed of wasteful practices, it commonly ignores it. As Knight-Ridder reported last January 24, Congressman Walter Jones, (R-NC) is quoted as understating, "We've got an agency that is not doing its job of being a watchdog for the taxpayers." Retired Army Reserve officer Paul Fellencer, Sr. complained to the Pentagon's fraud hot line last year about \$200-million worth of outrageous overpayments for ordinary supplies. Pentagon investigators never bothered to call him and dismissed his tip as "unsubstantiated," the news service said.

The failure to perform by contractor Halliburton, formerly headed by Vice President Dick Cheney, has been well documented. Now it appears, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, President Bush's uncle, William H.T. Bush, better known as "Uncle Bucky," collected just under \$1.9-million in cash plus stock valued at more than \$800,000 from the sale of Engineered Support Systems Inc. *The Times* said ESSI "experienced record growth as a result of expanded US military contracts — many to supply US efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan." The paper also noted some of the contracts were awarded on a no-bid basis, including a \$77-million deal to refit military vehicles with armor for use in Iraq

see MILITARY p. 7

## The Corporate Media and the CIA

CIA MEDIA from p. 1

British magazine *Private Eye* and the *Daily Telegraph* over unflattering reports on his business practices. Goldsmith's own global media acquisitions mirrored those later carried out by Rupert Murdoch.

Also in attendance was Siemens Executive Vice President Paul Dax. Siemens had covertly partnered with the National Security Agency (NSA) to ensure that Siemens and its "silent sister," Crypto AG, engineered encryption equipment with a secret back door enabling NSA to decipher and read encrypted messages.

Another noteworthy CIA guest was Philippe de Weck, the Chairman of Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), a bank long associated with the secret money tranches

of the Bush family, particularly the gold transferred from Ferdinand Marcos' Philippines to Bush-controlled UBS accounts thanks to Oceaneering International of Houston, a CIA front, and the special envoy to the Philippines, Paul Wolfowitz.

Also in attendance was Patrick Node-Langlois, the senior Vice President of Lafarge North America. The firm would later, in the 1980s, be implicated in supplying Saddam Hussein with war materials while Hillary Rodham Clinton served on its corporate board.

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## Why Were the 9/11 Tapes Destroyed

9/11 TAPES from p. 1

not practice torture even though he and his Department of Justice (sic) assert the right to torture.

Is the torture issue a red herring? The 9/11 Commission was not tasked with investigating interrogation methods or detainee treatment. The commission was tasked with investigating al Qaeda's participation in the 9/11 attack and determining the perpetrators of the terrorist event. There was no reason to withhold from the commission video evidence of confessions implicating al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.

Was the video evidence withheld from the 9/11 Commission because the alleged participants in the plot did not confess, did not implicate al Qaeda, and did not implicate bin Laden? Does anyone seriously believe that evidence of confession would not have been revealed — evidence that could have foreclosed what has become a massive movement of 9/11 truth seekers involving large numbers of highly credible persons?

There is no reason for the Bush administration to fear the torture issue. The Justice Department's memos have legalized the practice, and Congress has passed legislation, signed by President Bush, giving retroactive protection to US interrogators who tortured detainees. The Military Commissions Act, passed in September 2006 and signed by Bush in October 2006, strips detainees of protections provided by the Geneva Conventions: "No alien unlawful enemy combatant subject to trial by military commission under this chapter may invoke the Geneva Conventions as a source of rights." Other provisions of the act strip detainees of speedy trials and of protection against torture and self-incrimination. The law has a provision that retroactively protects torturers against prosecution for war crimes.

Did the Bush administration cleverly take advantage of the torture claims in order to spin the destruction of the CIA video tapes as a "torture story." It is much more likely that the tapes were destroyed because they reveal the absence of confession to the plot. As Kean and Hamilton ask, without evidence how do we know the truth? All we have is the word of the administration that told us Saddam

Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and that, while sitting on a Nov. 2007 NIE report that concluded that Iran had terminated its weapons program in 2003, told us that Iran had an ongoing nuclear weapons program and was close to having a nuclear weapon.

What about the bin Laden video tape in which he takes credit for the 9/11 attack? Every indication is that the tape is a fake. The bin Laden in the Nov. 9, 2001, "confession video" looks nothing like the bin Laden in the last confirmed video of December, 2001.

Recently, the Italian newspaper, *Corriere Della Sera*, reported that the former president of Italy, Francesco Cossiga, said that Italian intelligence had concluded that the bin Laden confession video was a fake.

William Arkin in the online *Washington Post*, Feb. 1, 1999, described a voice-morphing technology developed at the government's Los Alamos laboratory. Arkin reported that digital morphing, including appearance, "has come of age, available for use in psychological operations."

Investigative reporter Kristina Borjesson reminds us that "six days after 9/11, CNN reported that bin Laden had sent a statement to Al Jazeera denying that he had been involved." She also reminds us that the FBI says it has no hard evidence that bin Laden was responsible for 9/11. The FBI wants Osama for the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, not for 9/11. Borjesson also reports that in the "confession video", bin Laden is revealed writing with his right hand, but is known to be left-handed.

If the bin Laden "confession video" is indeed a fake, as it appears to be, why run the risk of creating such a video if the CIA has on video tape the confessions of the alleged al Qaeda participants in the 9/11 plot?

Why destroy such evidence, especially when torture has been given a green light by the DOJ and US Congress?

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan Administration. He was Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal editorial page and Contributing Editor of National Review.

## History's Lessons

### How the Banksters Ensured US WWII Intervention

Henry Makow Ph.D.

After Britain's humiliating retreat from Dunkirk June 4, 1940, Winston Churchill defiantly declared, "We shall fight on the beaches...we shall never surrender..."

His confidence was based on his certain knowledge that the United States would back Britain to the hilt.

The vast majority of Americans were against intervention. But a covert British propaganda and "dirty tricks" campaign, employing almost 1000 people in NYC (mostly Brits and Canadians), had hijacked democracy with the full cooperation of the FDR administration. It illustrates how London-based central bankers control the American people to this day.

The Republican Party was against intervention. Thanks to the British, the Republican Presidential nomination of June 28, 1940 went to unknown pro-intervention pro-conscription "internationalist" Wendell Wilkie, a lifetime Democrat who had never held public office.

On the eve of the costliest war in US history, (one million dead or maimed, \$2 trillion in 1990 dollars), Americans were not given a choice. There wasn't an anti-war candidate. Does this remind you of 2004 or 2008?

More than propaganda was involved. The organizer of the Republican convention, Ralph Williams, an "isolationist" (doublespeak for patriot) conveniently died May 16 and was replaced by a lifelong British agent Sam Pryor who packed the convention with Wilkie delegations and supporters shouting, "We want Wilkie."

True, Williams was 70 years old. But historian Thomas Mahl says that the British mandate included murder and he implies this took place. Heinrich Muller, the Chief of the Gestapo who worked for the CIA during the Truman administration confirms that the British killed many Americans who got in the way. (See Gregory Douglas, *The CIA Covenant, Nazis in Washington*, at [tbr.org](http://tbr.org))

"[Wilkie's] nomination exempted President Franklin Roosevelt from the normal pressures of an election campaign," Mahl writes in his explosive book *Desperate Deception: British Covert Operations in the US, 1939-44*. (1998)

Walter Lippmann wrote, "the sudden rise and nomination of Wendell Wilkie was the decisive event, perhaps providential, which made it possible to rally the free world...Under any other leadership but his, the Republican Party would ... have turned its back on Great Britain..."

If a Republican nationalist like Robert Taft had won the nomination, Churchill was prepared to make peace with Hitler and abandon Stalin to his fate. The Jewish holocaust wouldn't have occurred because of Hitler's wish for good relations with England. In a repeat of WWI, American intervention prolonged the war with disastrous consequences for mankind.

CENTRAL BANKERS AND SPIES

The Rockefeller and Morgan empires are part of the central banking cartel. At the highest level, all intelligence agencies (MI-6, CIA, Mossad, KGB) answer to this cartel, not to their national governments.

The British Security Coordination (BSC) part of MI-6 handled the campaign to frog march the USA into WWII. It was financed by the Rockefellers and Morgans and housed rent-free on the 38th Floor of the "International Building" of Rockefeller Center.

"This was a convenient address," Mahl writes. "Several British agencies promoting intervention were also housed here. The British Press Service was located on the 44th Floor. The British intelligence front group Fight for Freedom located its operations on the 22nd floor in the same building, also rent free."

Wendell Wilkie had been an organizer at numerous Democratic conventions. He was the President of a Morgan-controlled insurance company and a member of the Fight for Freedom executive. His whole campaign was financed and organized by the Morgans and British intelligence but made to look homespun.

CONSPIRACY from p. 4

being an inside job, the incident was shown by Bill O'Reilly on Fox News and Jeanne Moos and Glenn Beck on CNN. O'Reilly and Beck roundly denounced the mush-for-brains radicals, and Beck posted a poll on his website, asking if viewers didn't agree that anyone who thinks our government planned 9/11 is 'insane.'

Unfortunately for Beck, 66% said no, they're not. Is it possible that two-thirds of his viewers are insane as well?

They're not the only crackpots. A September 2007 Zogby poll found that 51% of Americans want Congress to probe Bush and Cheney regarding the 9/11 attacks. A New York Times/CBS News poll from October 2006 found that

After losing the 1940 election, Wilkie worked closely with FDR to sabotage nationalist Republicans and was briefly considered for FDR's VP in 1944. Instead, his usefulness apparently at an end, he conveniently died in that year at age 52 of a "streptococci throat infection" contracted in the hospital.

The BSC's minions might be forgiven for thinking the Rockefellers were opponents of Fascism. In fact, the central banking cartel brought Hitler to power. The Rockefellers provided the Nazis with oil and owned part



Wendell Wilkie; lifelong Democrat, Wall Street Industrialist, who never held a public office became the Republican's 1940 candidate for president—ensuring their defeat.

of Germany's largest industrial concern, I.G. Farben. They provided the Nazis with indispensable technology and materiel before and during the war, at the expense of the US war effort.

Charles Higham's book, *Trading with the Enemy*, demonstrates that the central bankers had an intimate economic relationship with the Nazis through corporations like Standard Oil, General Motors, Ford, ITT, and Chase Bank.

Defeating Nazism was not the immediate goal of American intervention. The goal was to have a long, devastating, and lucrative war, leading to greater concentration of power in their hands through the Cold War and world government (the European Union and the United Nations).

THE MODUS OPERANDI

In the 1930s, the American people learned how the bankers had maneuvered the US into WWI for great profit. Congress passed a battery of legislation to prevent this from happening again. British PM Neville Chamberlain called the US Congress "pig-headed and self-righteous nobodies" thus, the necessity to change public opinion before FDR could commit the US to war. Their main weapon was the mass media, literally owned by the central bankers or controlled by advertising from their cartels.

In 1940, publications owned by the central bankers and their front men included *The New York Herald Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *PM*, *The Chicago Sun*, The Cowles Group (*Look*), *Time Life*, *The Washington Post* and the *Baltimore Sun*. All were decidedly for intervention. Hollywood also produced war propaganda. Alexander Korda, director of "Lady Hamilton" and "The Lion has Wings" was a British agent.

Journalists achieved success as spokesmen for British Intelligence. They included Walter Winchell, Drew Pearson, Dorothy Thompson, Walter Lippmann, James Reston and Hubert Bayard Swope.

Public opinion polls were rigged or edited to give Americans the impression they favored intervention. For example, a British agent, David Ogilvy, put out the Gallup polls.

Nationalist politicians like Hamilton Fish, Martin Dies, and Burton Wheeler were smeared as pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic. They were hounded with false charges and eventually defeated. One Senator, Arthur Vandenberg changed his mind with the help of beautiful socialites working for British Intelligence.

The British manufactured German atrocity photos and a phony map purporting to be a Nazi plan to divide South America. This map helped FDR overturn the last remaining neutrality legislation. Phony horoscopes forecasted ruin for Hitler and American "isolationists."

Like the Communists, the British formed numerous groups that masqueraded as grass roots organizations. They included Friends of Democracy, The League for Human Rights, the Fight for Freedom Committee.

After the war, the Rockefeller's Council on Foreign Relations ensured that official histories of American intervention were written. They did not want a repeat of the embarrassing revelations of how the US was tricked into WWI.

The British would have abandoned Stalin only as a last resort. British Freemasonry (i.e. the central bankers) was behind the Bolshevik Revolution but by pretending to be opposed, Britain was able to betray their allies, the nationalist White Russians. The bankers later created Nazi Germany because Stalin had become too nationalistic himself.

The bankers were going to let the two titans fight it out like monsters in a Japanese B-movie but Hitler had to lose because Germany represented a much greater threat to their plans than Russia.

Mahl's book provides glimpses into this confluence between the central bankers, the British, Jewish leaders, and the USSR.

For example, the BSC subsidized the Overseas News Agency, which was a branch of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, founded by Jacob Landau. Banker Felix Warburg also subsidized the JTA, whose job was to publicize persecution of Jews. Landau was also on the executive of Fight for Freedom.

Decrypted VENONA messages (wires between the Soviet embassy and Moscow) reveal that Landau was working for both the British and the Soviets. He traveled to Mexico City in 1943 and had several meetings with the Soviet ambassador.

Mahl writes: "the VENONA messages reveal...Soviet secret intelligence had thoroughly penetrated BSC and its offspring OSS" (which became the CIA.)

William Stephenson headed BSC. His Second-in-Command was Col. Charles "Dick" Ellis a member of MI-6 who organized and ran the future CIA. According to Mahl, Ellis was "also suspected of working for German and Soviet intelligence services."

This picture is consistent with the view that the central bankers control all Intelligence agencies and wars are just a charade. (See my "Are World Wars Orchestrated?")

FINALLY

Freud's nephew Edward Bernays helped manipulate the masses. In his book *Propaganda*, he wrote:

"The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government, which is the true ruling power of our country."

Wars are orchestrated to eventually produce world government. As the Masonic leader Albert Pike wrote in 1871, the third world war will be between the "political Zionists and Islam." Translated, that means the US and Israel versus Iran and possibly China and Russia.

Americans are being frogmarched to the next world war. The present period might be compared to the 1930s when both sides armed and rehearsed. The final conflagration, possibly in 2010-2012, would eliminate a large number of "useless eaters."

Henry Makow, is the inventor of the board game *Scruples*, and the author of *A Long Way to go for a Date*. He received his Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Toronto in 1982 and lives in Winnipeg. He welcomes your feedback and ideas at [henrym@mts.net](mailto:henrym@mts.net).

Unfortunately the 9/11 Truth virus has infected the highest levels of society. Pilots, engineers, physicists, architects, CIA veterans and former government officials are among those raving about WTC 7, molten metal and Bush's unusual absorption in *My Pet Goat*. Can we trust them? Of course not, they're conspiracy theorists.

But, just for arguments sake, consider if there were a vast conspiracy to cover up the truth about 9/11. Don't you think they'd need an equally vast PR campaign to portray any conspiracy theorists in the worst possible light, so all 84% of us would keep our suspicions to ourselves, lest we be mocked mercilessly?

Me neither.

Shelia Casey is a journalist in Washington, DC.

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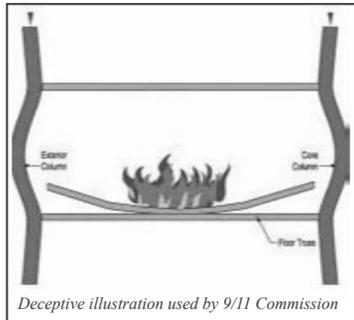
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## Is 9/11 Ancient History?

Joe Shermis

The events of September 11, 2001 are now being treated as an historical event, covered by the History Channel as an occurrence of yesteryear. The Channel's oft repeated airing of programming that attempted to detail the science involved with the collapse of the WTC towers looked back and pronounced the conclusions of the 9/11 Commission as self-evident. However, the specific science quoted by the Commission, the key part of its official explanation, is now being widely refuted by physics and engineering professors at our nation's best universities. Even the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which originally proposed the progressive collapse theory (called the "pancake theory") has now backed away from that contention. At this point there is no official engineering explanation for the collapse of the buildings; there is only the public relations mantra of "planes plus fire".

In search of an explanation, a variety of different scientific disciplines have now scrutinized the physics of the collapse of the three buildings of the World Trade Center. For the rest of us, the process begins with an examination of the graphics that are offered by the Commission to represent the "Pancake Theory." Claiming that the burning jet fuel melted key sections of the 287 steel beams and caused the floors to collapse one upon the other, the Commission report illustrates this scientific claim with a simple picture of one floor dropping onto another.



The illustration is a blatant distortion of the construction design of the Twin Towers. It's a smoking gun, not a simple oversight: the graphic used by the Commission to illustrate their "idea" represents exactly one fourth of the building's construct. In an apparent attempt not to offend whoever decided to go with that particular bit of "science" to explain things, the graphic purposefully ignores the 47 vertical steel columns that ran up the center of each building. A thorough examination of the whole of the Commission's report shows the Commission misleading the public for very specific purposes. While the Commission purports to achieve its mission "to provide the fullest account of the events surrounding 9/11," the report's omissions, and a thorough examination of why such a wide variety of circumstances and facts were omitted, provide a damning indictment of the investigation itself and the length to which the Commission, and by inference the Bush administration which established the Commission, have gone to pursue their hidden agenda.

These omissions are meticulously documented in the book *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions* (2005) by Claremont School of Theology Professor Emeritus David Ray Griffin, who demonstrates, with exacting scientific standards, that the incredibly large quantity of omissions are intentional. Written shortly after the publication of the 9/11 Commission Report, the book convincingly deconstructs the official story presented in the report. Griffin shows, among many other things, that the executive director of the Commission was strongly biased in support of the secrecy desired by the White House.

Since writing his first 9/11 book, *The*

*New Pearl Harbor*, Dr. Griffin has written a virtual library on the subject of 9/11; *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*, his second book, was followed in 2006 by two more important books: *Christian Faith and the Truth Behind 9/11 and 9/11 and American Empire: Intellectuals Speak Out*, co-edited with retired University of California, Berkeley professor and author Peter Dale Scott. In 2007 Dr. Griffin published his most remarkable book on 9/11, *Debunking 9/11 Debunking*, a detailed response to the well-funded official and semi-official attempts to debunk the 9/11 Truth movement. His next book, *9/11 Contradictions*, is due to be published in March, 2008.

And Griffin is not the only one, there is an enormous and growing body of work, from popular movies to scientific journals, all debunking the official explanation of the events of 9/11. These resources provide volumes of evidence that supports the premise of a controlled demolition of three buildings at The World Trade Center that day, as well as an extensive cover up that indicates official complicity by the upper echelon of Defense department, FBI, CIA, Pakistani intelligence, and Bush administration. They provide a plethora of smoking guns, all documented in meticulous, scholarly fashion.

According to the Presidents own statements, the operational premise of the Global War on Terror policies are based almost entirely on the findings and prescriptions of the 9/11 commission. The pursuit of this agenda, practically without discussion or appropriate checks and balances, is at best counter to our Founding Fathers intent. At worst it points to a level of corruption that is reaping obscene profits for anyone well connected enough to acquire a federal contract.

The most incriminating piece of evidence in support of a controlled demolition is an assertion by World Trade Center leaseholder Larry Silverstein that a controlled demolition did in fact take place on that day at 5:20 PM on a 47-story building 350 feet away from the towers. Silverstein, who had previously held the lease on World Trade Center Building 7, additionally took over the lease of the towers just months before. He makes this astounding claim on the television show *America Rebuilds* in September 2002 in response to a question about the circumstances surrounding the seven-second collapse of WTC Building 7:

"I remember getting a call from the, er, fire department commander, telling me that they were not sure that they were going to be able to contain the fire, and I said, 'You know, we've had such terrible loss of life, maybe the smartest thing to do is pull it'. And they made that decision to pull, and then we watched the building collapse."



This photograph of World Trade Center construction reveals the massive central core of the building.

The subsequent collapse of the building is impressive; it folds in on itself, as if the innards have given way. Then it drops perfectly into its own footprint: a perfect controlled demolition.

That World Trade Center Building 7 contained offices for the CIA, the SEC, the Secret Service, the IRS, the Defense Department, and a "command center" built explicitly for the use of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in response to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing was not considered relevant to the 9/11 Commission.

Another red flag that insurance investigators appear to be ignoring is the statement by Mayor Giuliani concerning his abrupt decision to abandon the control room from which he was monitoring the burning buildings. Giuliani claims that:

"We were operating out of there (the Emergency Command Center on the 23rd floor of WTC-7) when we were told that the World Trade Center was gonna collapse, and it did collapse before we could get out of the building."

Neither the insurance company paying off Silverstein nor the 9/11 commission had anything to ask the Mayor, the leaseholder, nor the fire department commander about the WTC7 demolition. There was no reason for Mayor Giuliani or anyone to suspect the buildings would collapse; a skyscraper has never before or since collapsed as a result of fire. But suddenly, and with an admitted warning to a key government official, three buildings collapse precisely when "someone" says they will.

This is but one of many failures of the commission to examine anything that contradicts the official story. Besides not taking any interest in Giuliani's or Silverstein's incriminating statements, the report never even questions the collapse of WTC 7.

While lessons from history can be debated, what is indisputable is that the flow of information that the commission examined and released was entirely controlled by the chief of staff of the investigation Phillip Zelikow. Zelikow's ties to the White House are extensive; he was on the National Security Council in the Bush I White House, and the transition team from the Clinton White House. He also directed the Aspen Strategy Group, which included White House hawks Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney and Paul Wolfowitz.

The new book by *Times* journalist Philip Shenon discloses that even during the operation of the 9/11 commission, Zelikow was in frequent contact with the White House including political operative Carl Rove.

At the time of the creation of the commission there were repeated calls for his removal from the commission by the Family Steering Committee, for the sake of having an independent investigation. While Zelikow refused to leave, the original head of the commission, Henry Kissinger removed himself when his connections to the bin Laden family were threatened to be revealed.

Before 9/11 Phillip Zelikow had authored numerous documents in support of our government's bellicose foreign policy.

With the passage of time the world of academia has now had a chance to look at not only the specific investigation techniques of the matter, but the physics involved with the collapse of the Twin Towers. The claim that the kerosene jet fuel could have melted steel was the first and most obvious claim disproved once independent professional physicists, metallurgists, and demolition engineers analyzed the evidence. The disparity between the temperature that jet fuel burns and steel melts at is about a thousand degrees Fahrenheit. The conditions to melt or weaken the steel simply are not present.



Joe Shermis is the publisher of "The Steelhead Special".

## More Than One Million Iraqis Killed

MILLION KILLED from p. 1

of 946,258 to 1.12 million. The research covered 15 of Iraq's 18 provinces but it did not include the two most dangerous, Kerbala and Anbar.

Estimates of civilian deaths in Iraq are always highly controversial but this latest estimate seems to confirm the Johns Hopkins study published in the *Lancet* in October 2006 which estimated the death toll at 655,000 at that time. That translates to about 500 Iraqis

killed per day during the first few years of the conflict. The new data suggests that the death rate may have doubled during the most recent year, which includes the timeperiod of the "surge" in American troop levels.

The ORB study also made estimates of the number of children orphaned as a result of the hostilities. An astounding 5 million children, nearly 19% of the minor children in Iraq, have lost at least one parent in the conflict.



## Military-Industrial Complex Calls Shots

MILITARY from p. 5

and the firm is under investigation because equipment it was supposed to supply didn't work properly.

Author Johnson quotes Robert Higgs of the Independent Institute, of Oakland, Calif., as describing the MIC as "a vast cesspool of mismanagement, waste, and transgressions not only bordering on but often entering deeply into criminal conduct... The great arms firms have managed to slough off much of the normal risks of doing business in a genuine market, passing on many of their excessive costs to the taxpayers while still realizing extraordinary rates of return on investment."

Meanwhile, President Bush chops away at the domestic budget, even cutting back funds for cancer research, veterans, and education. Several million Americans are homeless. Forty million do not have medical insurance. Thirty million live at jobs that do not pay them enough to afford decent housing. Millions of potentially valuable young people cannot afford to start college. And the man responsible for much of today's record \$8-trillion national debt, as part of his plan to gut Social Security, has the temerity to warn the country this solvent and self-sustaining system will be in trouble 25 years from now!

Let us recall *Washington Post* reporters Woodward and Bernstein were told during their Watergate probe to "follow the money." Apparently, that's what government in America is all about. It surely is what the MIC is all about. Of the estimated \$1-trillion wrung from taxpayers on April 17th, about half will find its way into the coffers of the MIC. The American public is being victimized by defense spending while its domestic needs for affordable housing, fair wages, medical care, and social justice are unmet. As Charlie Wilson knew long ago, MIC can be a perpetual money machine. To keep the military cauldron boiling, the Pentagon is plowing \$1.5-trillion dollars into research to create a witches' brew of 80 new advanced warfare systems.

In so many ways, the invasion of Iraq is all about money. WMD was just the lie to bring it about. Not only is the MIC cashing in big time but oil companies, such as Exxon-Mobil are gorging themselves on record high profits. Other Anglo-American oil companies are waiting in the wings for regimes friendly to the US to push through pipeline deals the Taliban government in Afghanistan and the Hussein regime in Iraq refused to permit. As war-related damage to Iraq's oil infrastructure has reduced its oil output below pre-war levels, thus tightening supplies, the price of gas charged at the pump to American motorists goes up and up.

In sum, Americans have a problem. What Hamilton and the other Founders feared long ago is now reality. The MIC has thrived for nearly a half century thanks to a compliant Congress, but never so much as today when Republican congressmen and lobbyists are being jailed wholesale for greed. The MIC has transformed an isolationist nation that didn't want to get involved in WWII into a global bully with 725 acknowledged military bases in 130 foreign nations. (That's in addition to nearly 1,000 bases in the USA.) Actually, writes historian Chalmers Johnson in his best-seller *The Sorrows of Empire* (Henry Holt), "there are many more, since some bases exist under leaseholds, informal agreements, or disguises of various kinds."

On Okinawa alone, he writes the Pentagon operates 38 separate bases on the choicest 20 percent of the island." In South Korea, there are more than 100 bases. Johnson says Okinawa is typical: "The conditions there—expropriation of the island's most valuable land for bases, extraterritorial status for American troops who committed crimes against local civilians, bars and brothels crowding around the main gates of the bases, endless accidents, noise, sexual violence, drunk driving accidents, drug use, and environmental pollution—are replicated anywhere there are American garrisons." That Okinawa's people, and others unhappy with the American presence, would like the US "gone" is irrelevant to the Pentagon. As Johnson notes, "After more than fifty years, the air force shows no signs of leaving

[Greenland] despite continuous protests by the Inuit of Greenland and numerous lawsuits filed in the Danish Supreme Court."

"Our country deploys well over half a million soldiers, spies, technicians, teachers, dependents, and civilian contractors in other nations and just under a dozen carrier task forces in all the oceans and seas of the world," Johnson writes. "We operate numerous secret bases outside our territory to monitor what the people of the world, including our own citizens, are saying, faxing, or e-mailing to one another. Our globe-girding military and intelligence installations bring profits to civilian industries, which design and manufacture weapons for the armed forces or undertake contract services to build and maintain our far-flung outposts." What's more, the State Department's International Military Education and Training Program has been providing instruction to the armies of 133 out of 189 countries around the globe. Johnson writes, "The Pentagon finds it convenient to train foreign military forces and police to carry out secret programs of state terrorism, including the assassination of foreign leaders, without being charged with war crimes and violations of the Geneva Convention."

Unfortunately, Americans seem as indifferent to military control as antelope grazing on the South Dakota prairie. The question is: Will Americans take action to rein in the MIC? As President Bush was deaf to the cries of the UN's Hans Blix that Iraq had no WMD, as he did not listen to the UN Secretary-General and the Pope when they pleaded with him not to invade Iraq, as he paid no heed to the millions of common folk around the world who demonstrated against his Iraq invasion, he is not likely to listen to any critics now. He is threatening Iran with "the nuclear option" because Iran, with its paltry \$3.5-billion military budget, might be capable of making one atomic bomb five to ten years from now. All the while President Bush sits on an obscene nuclear stockpile of 10,000 bombs, repudiating nuclear arms control treaties on his own and reigniting the arms race!

Not surprisingly, people the world over, as historian Johnson writes, have caught on to the fact that the US is "something other than what it professed to be, that it was, in fact, a military juggernaut intent on world domination."

What can people do? One effective response each individual can take is to boycott American-made cars and other manufactured goods, cancel vacations and business travel in USA, refuse to educate children in America, and stop patronizing American fast food restaurants and buying Hollywood films. By following the nonviolent path shown by Gandhi and Martin Luther King, peace-seeking people in every nation can send President Bush a message even he can read.



Sherwood Ross, a former executive in the US civil rights movement, reporter for the "Chicago Daily News", and wire service columnist, is founder of the League for Nonviolent Solutions, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA. Contact him at sherwoodr1@yahoo.com

## Tortured Prisoners to Face Tribunals

TRIBUNALS from p. 1

prosecutors are considering seeking the death penalty for Mr. Mohammed. They will focus on the Sept. 11 attacks in an effort to try to establish credibility for the military commission system before a new administration takes the White House next January.

"The thinking was 9/11 is the heart and soul of the whole thing. The thinking was: go for that," the unnamed official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the *Times* is willing to report his statements without revealing their source.

A Pentagon spokesman, Bryan Whitman, announced that, "The prosecution team is close to moving forward on referring charges on a number of individuals."

The six prisoners being charged are among 14 "high value" detainees transferred to Guantanamo from a secret CIA detention program. These former "ghost prisoners" were previously held, and reportedly tortured,

at undisclosed locations operated under the CIA's Secret Rendition program.

The revised Military Commissions Act provides that detainees charged with war crimes are entitled to military lawyers to defend them, a presumption of innocence and a right of appeal. But many flaws remain, including the fact that the system is under Pentagon control and even the judges will be military officers.

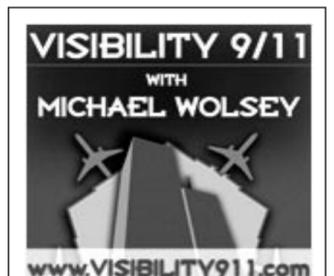
At Senate Judiciary Committee hearings in January, it was revealed that the accused will not have the right to see the evidence against them. Some evidence potentially useful to the defense, such as the videos of detainee torture, has already been destroyed. The military will have the option of withholding other evidence from the defense by simply informing the court 21 days in advance.

At least one of the prisoners, KSM, was subjected to the torture technique known as waterboarding while in secret CIA custody, Gen. Michael V. Hayden, the director of the

Central Intelligence Agency, confirmed on February 5. At a Pentagon hearing last year, KSM claimed responsibility for more than 30 terrorist attacks and plots, many of which he could not possibly have been involved in.

The other detainee whose treatment may be problematic for the Pentagon is Mohammed al-Qahtani, another so-called "20th hijacker", who has been held at Guantanamo since 2002. Pentagon investigators admitted in 2005 that he had been subject to abusive treatment at Guantanamo, including sleep deprivation, being forced to wear a bra and being led around on a leash among other insults.

The other four potential defendants are Guantanamo detainee Ramzi bin al-Shibh, who had been a roommate of the alleged lead hijacker Mohamed Atta in Hamburg, Ammar al-Baluchi, a nephew of Mr. Mohammed, along with his assistant Mustafa Ahmed al-Hawsawi, and finally a one-legged man known as Khallad.



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## Has the Government Already Implemented Continuity of Government Plans?

George Washington

As pure fiction, imagine that the US government has already implemented its "continuity of government plans". As you probably know, the continuity of government (COG) plans are contingency plans which create a new government in the case of an alleged threat to the ability of the American government to continue operations. America's COG plans were created to deal with nuclear war, but they have been discussed in many other contexts as well.

What would things look like if the COG plans were already being implemented?

\* Top leaders of the "new government" called for in the COG would entirely or largely go into hiding, and would govern in hidden locations.

\* Those within the new government would know what was going on. But those in the "old government"—that is, the one created by the framers of the Constitution—would not necessarily know the details of what was happening.

\* Normal laws and legal processes might largely be suspended, or superseded by secretive judicial forums.

\* The media might be ordered by strict laws, punishable by treason, to only promote stories authorized by the new government.

### Is It Possible?

As everyone jokes about, Dick Cheney has largely been hiding in "an undisclosed location" since 9/11 and the anthrax attacks.

Habeas corpus and other fundamental legal safeguards have been abandoned. More and more people who question the government are being labeled as "terrorists", and people are increasingly falling into black holes and being subject to judicial decisions made by secret bodies no one has even heard of before. Increasingly, the executive branch is "above the law" (for example, the Attorney General has basically stated that he won't enforce the law). John Conyers has acted like a schizophrenic off his meds by sitting on his hands on impeachment, even though he has said that Bush and Cheney must be impeached.

The corporate media has censored—or delayed by years—important stories about the government. While the mainstream American media has always been lousy, it has become exponentially worse since 9/11.

### No Way

You might ask what could have triggered the implementation of COG plans. Well, 9/11 and the anthrax attacks would almost certainly qualify as large enough events to trigger COG.

You might also argue that the above scenario is impossible because we would know if continuity of government plans had been implemented.

However, consider that the COG plans themselves may order the media, Congress and everyone else under penalty of treason not to discuss the plans. Why?

Because the government can prevent panic and keep control if people believe that the three branches of government are still functioning. It is standard operating procedure for governments to underplay the severity of crises, so as to prevent panic. And if people, hypothetically, did want to institute martial law, they would be smart enough to institute a police state that looked very different from Nazi Germany. In this age of media manipulation, social psychology, marketing savvy, and psychological operations, planners of a police state in modern America would want to ensure that it looked like America-as-usual, so that public did not realize what was really happening.

Is that why the Homeland Security Committee was denied access to the COG plans? Because they included laws ordering people to keep the COG program secret, and to pretend that it was business-as-usual? Or because they have already been implemented?

Is that why the federal government is basically "deputizing" corporations to act as sheriffs in the event of martial law? And training pastors to preach obedience to martial law?

Remember also that provisions of the Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act are already being implemented, even though the Senate has not yet approved that law. How could that happen if COG plans were not in effect?

### Continuity of Government Measures WERE Implemented on 9/11... Were They EVER Revoked?

Continuity of Government (COG) measures were implemented on 9/11. For example, according to the 9/11 Commission Report, page 38:

"At 9:59, an Air Force lieutenant colonel working in the White House Military Office joined the conference and stated he had just talked to Deputy National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley. The White House requested (1) the implementation of Continuity of Government measures, (2) fighter escorts for Air Force One, and (3) a fighter combat air patrol over Washington, D.C."

Likewise, page 326 of the Report states:

"The Secretary of Defense directed the nation's armed forces to Defense Condition 3, an increased state of military readiness. For the first time in history, all nonemergency civilian aircraft in the United States were grounded, stranding tens of thousands of passengers across the country. Contingency plans for the continuity of government and the evacuation of leaders had been implemented."

You might assume that the COG measures ceased soon after 9/11. However, CNN reports that — 6 months later —

Because Bush has decided to leave the operation in place, agencies including the White House and top civilian Cabinet departments have rotated personnel involved, and are discussing ways to staff such a contingency operation under the assumption it will be in place indefinitely, this official said.

Similarly, the *Washington Post* stated in March 2002 that "the shadow government has evolved into an indefinite precaution." The same article goes on to state:

"... assessment of terrorist risks persuaded the White House to remake the program as a permanent feature of 'the new reality, based on what the threat looks like,' a senior decision maker said."

### Implementation of COG Was Kept Hidden from Congress

As a CBS article makes clear, virtually none of the Congressional leadership knew that the COG had been implemented or was still in existence as of March 2002:

Key congressional leaders say they didn't know President Bush had established a "shadow government," moving dozens of senior civilian managers to secret underground locations outside Washington to ensure that the federal government could survive a devastating terrorist attack on the nation's capital, the *Washington Post* says in its Saturday editions.

Senate Majority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-SD) told the *Post* he had not been informed by the White House about the role, location or even the existence of the shadow government that the administration began to deploy the morning of the Sept. 11 hijackings.

An aide to House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt (D-MO) said he was also unaware of the administration's move.

Among Congress's GOP leadership, aides to House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL), second in line to succeed the president if he became incapacitated, and to Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) said they were not sure whether they knew.

Aides to Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) said he had not been told. As Senate president pro tempore, he is in line to become president after the House speaker.

Similarly, the above-cited CNN article states:

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) said Friday he can't say much about the plan.

"We have not been informed at all about the role of the shadow government or its whereabouts or what particular responsibilities they have and when they would kick in, but we look forward to work with the administration to get additional information on that."

Indeed, a few months ago, in summer 2007, Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) on the Homeland Security Committee (and so with proper security access to be briefed on COG issues), inquired about continuity of government plans, and was refused access. Indeed, DeFazio told Congress that the entire Homeland Security Committee of the US Congress has been denied access to the plans by the White House. DeFazio concluded: "Maybe the people who think there's a conspiracy out there are right".

### How They Might Have Maintained COG to the Present

But could the White House have maintained COG operations to the present day? One hint may be contained in the above-cited CNN article:

Concerns that al Qaeda could have gained access to a crude nuclear device "were a major factor" in the president's decision, the official said. "The threat of some form of catastrophic event is the trigger," this official said.

This same official went on to say that the US had no confirmation, "and no solid evidence", that al Qaeda had such a nuclear device and also acknowledged that the "consensus" among top US officials was that the prospect was "quite low."

Still, the officials said Bush and other top White House officials including Cheney were adamant that the government take precautions designed to make sure government functions ranging from civil defense to transportation and agricultural production could be managed in the event Washington was the target of a major strike.

It is well documented that the administration has been crying wolf about looming terrorist attacks by al Qaeda ever since 9/11. By claiming that Washington is the target of a major strike, the Neocons may have been able to maintain the COG and the "shadow government" continuously ever since 9/11.

While I have no direct evidence that the COG is still in effect, the fact that key players have said that the measures would be permanent, the continuous exaggeration by the administration of major terrorist threats, and the circumstantial evidence that the COG measures are still in effect, all argue for their continued existence.

If COG measures are still in effect, it could help explain why things have been so dysfunctional in the United States recently. Indeed, COG is the absolute antithesis of the Constitutional form of American government.



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**Defend Our Freedoms - Defend The Bill of Rights**

EVIL from p. 3

Why are these beliefs wrong? Power elites have an arsenal of weapons to control and manipulate social, political, and economic systems globally: corruption of public officials that make elections a sham; corporate mainstream media that turn news into propaganda; manipulation of financial markets that create fear for the public and profits for the privileged; false free trade globalization that destroys the middle class; rising economic inequality that keeps the masses time-poor and financially insecure; intense marketing of pharmaceuticals that keep people passive; and addictive consumerism, entertainment and gambling that keep people distracted and pacified.

The biggest challenge for dissidents is to avoid feel-good therapeutic activism that has virtually no chance of removing evil and tyranny. Idealism without practicality, tactics without lofty goals, and symbolic protests pose no threat to power elites. Anger and outrage require great strategic thinking from leaders seeking revolution, not mere change. And social entrepreneurs that use business and management skills to tackle genuine social problems do nothing to achieve political reforms. To the extent they achieve results, they end up removing interest in overthrowing political establishments that have allowed the problems to fester.

What is the new tool of tyranny? Technological connectivity achieved through advanced communications and computer systems, especially the rise of wireless connectivity. The global message to the masses is simple: buy electronic products to stay plugged in. Connectivity may give pleasure, but it gives even more power to elites, rulers and plutocrats. It allows them to coordinate their efforts through invisible cabals, to closely monitor everything that ordinary people and dissidents do, and to cooperatively and clandestinely adjust social, financial and political systems to maintain stability and dominance.

In this dystopian world, all systems are integrated to serve upper-class elites and the corporate state, not ordinary people. When ordinary people spend their money to be more shackled to connectivity products, they become unwitting victims of largely invisible governmental and corporate oppressive forces. They are oblivious to the fact that their technological seduction exacerbates their political and economic exploitation. Though some 70 percent believe the country is on the wrong track, they fail to see the deeper causes of the trend. And if Americans were really happy and content with their consumer culture, then why would they be stuffing themselves with so many antidepressants, sleeping pills and totally unhealthy foods? In truth, the vast majority of people are in denial about the rotten system they are trapped in (aka "The Matrix"). They are manipulated to keep hope alive through voting, despite the inability of past elections to stop the slide into economic serfdom.

Increasingly, the little-discussed phenomenon of economic apartheid ensures that elites live their lavish lives safely in physically separated ways. Concurrently, economic inequality rises, as the rich extract unusually high fractions of global wealth. When the rich get richer, the powerful get stronger. Does some economic prosperity trickle down to the poorest people? Perversely, the middle class is moved into the lower class. In this new physics of evil, wealth transfer is not from the rich to the poor, but from the middle class in wealthier countries to the poor in developing nations, where a few new billionaires join the global plutocracy.

Some data on economic inequality: The after-tax income of the top 1 percent of Americans rose 228 percent from 1979 through 2005, while middle class income remained flat over the last 4 decades. The richest 0.01 percent of earners made 5.1 percent of all income in 2005, up more than 300 percent from just 1.2 percent in 1960. Bad economic times like the present just exacerbate inequality. Even as most Wall Street companies lost billions in the sub-prime mortgage debacle after they had

already made billions, they gave obscene bonuses to their employees: the average topped \$180,000 for 2007, tripling the \$61,000 in 2002. Scholars used to predict that high levels of economic inequality like we have today would lead to rebellion. But there are now insufficient tools and paths for rebellion, because the plutocracy has eliminated them. Instead, citizens are offered elections whose outcomes can be controlled and subverted by the ruling class.

The New World Order is getting what it wants: a stable two-class system, with the lower class serving the elitist upper class. The paradox is that along with rising economic inequality and apartheid is mounting consumerism and materialism that is used to pacify, distract and control the masses. That's where easy credit and cheap products from low-wage nations are critical. The poor can have cell phones, 24-7 Internet access and, increasingly, cars, while the bejeweled upper class travel in private jets and yachts, vacation on private islands, and have several gated mansions maintained by servants and guarded by private police. We have a technologically advanced form of medieval society. It is working in the US and China and most other places. Elections just mask economic tyranny and slavery.

The ruling class knows how to maintain stability. Keep the masses distracted, fearful, brainwashed, insecure, and dependent on government and business sectors for survival. Train people to see themselves as relatively free consumers. Maintain the myth that ordinary people can become wealthy and join the ruling class, which theoretically is not impossible, but of no statistical significance for the masses.

There are no easy paths to restore power to the people. But here are three strategies worth considering. First, the real power of the masses is as consumers, not as voters, workers, activists, or Internet users. Weakened unions, globalization, technology, and illegal immigration have sapped the power of workers. National economies, especially the US, depend on consumers. Suspensions in discretionary consumer spending used as a political weapon could force reforms. But curbing personal spending and saving money has become a rare form of civil disobedience. Consumers buy stuff when they want it, not when they can afford it. Rulers have replaced chains with debt and no political leader in a very long time has championed economic rebellion.

Second, because they are more a tool of tyranny than rebellion, the masses should stop giving credibility and legitimacy to faux democracies by boycotting elections. Plutocrats cleverly equate patriotism and good citizenship with voting while at the same time ensuring that no genuine change agents can succeed even if elected. All election results can be subverted by the forces of corruption. Those promising change, like Barack Obama, do not pose a lethal threat to forces of evil and corruption. Sadly, refusing to vote in corrupt political systems is another worthy but unpopular form of civil disobedience. The compulsion to vote is a political narcotic that sustains democratic tyranny.

Third, people must seek forms of direct democracy that give them political power. National ballot measures and initiatives are needed to make laws, impose spending mandates and recall elected officials. A most important tool is constitutional conventions outside the control of status quo preservationists to obtain systemic reforms that governments will never provide, as explained for the US at [www.foavc.org](http://www.foavc.org). No greater example of ruling class power exists than the absence of massive public demands for using what the Founders gave Americans in Article V: the convention option to circumvent and fix the federal government that - amazingly - has never been used, and that no presidential candidate has supported, including constitutional champion Ron Paul.



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