

Rock Creek Free Press

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Disaster Capitalism Comes to America



Jeff Long - Rock Creek Free Press

Foxes Loot Henhouse

Ex-Goldman Sachs Pres. Paulson Appoints Ex-Goldman Exec. Kashkari to Funnel \$700 Billion Taxpayer Dollars to Goldman Sachs and Other Wall Street Cronies.

By PAUL JOSEPH WATSON/PRISON PLANET

Now that Hank Paulson, The US Treasury and the Federal Reserve have robbed American taxpayers of a sum likely to run into the trillions, the coup de grâce has arrived in the form of ex-Goldman Sachs executive Neel Kashkari, who has been appointed by Paulson to dole out the ill-gotten gains of the bailout to

the rest of the corporate crooks.

Conflict of interest doesn't even come close — the fox guarding the henhouse is a more accurate summation. And the fact that he looks like a cross between Nosferatu and a villain from a Steven Segal movie doesn't help.

Kashkari, a former Paulson advisor to boot,

KASHKARI p. 4

Vitamin D Better than Flu Shot

By DONALD W. MILLER, JR., MD

Another influenza season is beginning in the northern temperate zone, and our government's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will strongly urge Americans to get a flu shot. Health officials will say that every winter 5-20 percent of the population catches the flu, 200,000 people are hospitalized, and 36,000 people will die from it.

The CDC's 15-member Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) makes recommendations each year on who should be vaccinated. Ten years ago, for the 1999-2000 season, the committee recommended that

people over age 65 and children with medical conditions have a flu shot. Seventy-four million people were vaccinated. The next season (2000-01) the committee lowered the age for universal vaccination from 65 to 50 years old, adding 41 million people to the list. For the 2002-03 season, the ACIP added healthy children 6 months to 23 months old, and for 2004-05, children up to 5 years old. For the 2008-09 season the committee has advised that healthy children 6 months to 18 years old have a flu shot each year. Its recommendations for influenza vaccination now covers 256 million

FLU SHOT p. 2

US Journalists and War-Crime Guilt

By PETER DYER /CONSORTIUMNEWS.COM

October 16 is an anniversary that should hold considerable interest for American journalists who have written in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom" — the invasion

and occupation of Iraq.

Sixty-two years ago, on October 16, 1946, Julius Streicher was hanged.

Streicher was one of a group of 10 Germans executed that day following the judgment of the first Nuremberg Trial — a 40-week trial of 22 of the most prominent Nazis.

Each was tried for two or more of the four crimes defined in the Nuremberg Charter: crimes against peace (aggression), war crimes, crimes against humanity, and conspiracy. All who were sentenced to death were major German government officials or military leaders. Except for Streicher.

Julius Streicher was a journalist. Editor of the vehemently anti-Semitic newspaper *Der Stürmer*, Streicher was convicted of, in the words of the judgment, "incitement to murder and extermination at the time when Jews in the East were being killed under the most horrible conditions clearly constituting ... a crime against humanity."

Presenting the case against Streicher, British prosecutor Lieutenant Colonel M.C. Griffith-Jones said: "My Lord, it may be that this defendant is less directly involved in the physical commission of the crimes against Jews. ... The submission of the Prosecution is that his crime is no less the worse ... that he made these things possible — made these crimes possible, which could never have happened had it not

JOURNALISTS p. 7

Bailout Doubtful: Not Enough Money in the World

By CHRIS FLOYD/EMPIRE BURLESQUE

The myth has quickly taken hold that the global financial crash was caused by bad mortgages. This has allowed rightwing hatemongers to blame the meltdown on the "liberal" programs that encouraged home ownership among a small percentage of lower-income people (a poisonous canard that parts of the mainstream media have actually done a fairly good job of knocking down), while "progressives" of various stripes have denounced banks and

other financial institutions for pushing over-easy credit on people who couldn't really afford it.

Unsustainable mortgages are a key factor in the global crash, of course. And many people (most of them white, by the way) did take out mortgages they would not be able to afford if the housing bubble ever burst, which it has, most spectacularly. And yes, it is undeniable that the financial services industry has been tempting people with easy credit like

schoolyard pushers flashing reefers.

All of this was bound to end badly, and did. But this alone would not have been enough to threaten the destruction of the entire global financial system, nor cause the blind, screaming panic that has strangled the financial markets, seized up the vital flow of money between banks, and caused the "free"-market-worshipping governments of the Western world to carry out nationalizations and interventions

BAILOUT p. 4

"Of Course bin Laden is Dead"

Former CIA agent Robert "Syriana" Baer tells radio host Terry Gross

By STEVE WATSON/INFOWARS.NET

An important news item that flew under the radar for the most part last week was the assertion from former CIA operative turned whistle-blower Robert Baer that Osama bin Laden is long dead.

The respected intelligence & foreign policy expert told Terry Gross, host of National Public Radio show *Fresh Air*, "Of course he is dead. Where are the DVDs? Bin Laden wouldn't dye

his hair, all these things can be manipulated."

Baer, who has previously publicly questioned the official story of the 9/11 attacks, continued, "He hasn't shown up. I've taken in the last month a poll of CIA officers who have been on his trail, and what astounded me was not a single one was sure he was alive or dead. They have no idea, I mean this man disappeared off the side of the earth."

Baer, who's previous book *See No Evil*

was the basis for the film "Syriana", asked "When in history has a country fought another country or another entity when the leader may be dead?" and warned that the so called war on terror could be an eternal war if the goal continues to be to capture Bin Laden.

Baer also warned that the war is shifting into Pakistan, a dangerous precedent that could see the vaguely defined conflict move anywhere.

BIN LADEN p. 5

Thousands of Troops Deployed in US Ready to Carry Out "Crowd Control"

By NAOMI WOLF/ALTERNET

Background: the First Brigade of the Third Infantry Division based in Ft. Stewart, GA (three to four thousand soldiers), has been deployed in the United States as of October 1, 2008. Their stated mission is the form of crowd control they practiced in Iraq, subduing "unruly individuals," and the management of a national emergency. I am in Seattle and heard from the brother of one of the soldiers that they are engaged in exercises now. Amy Goodman reported that an Army spokesperson confirmed that they will have access to lethal and non lethal crowd control technologies and tanks.

George Bush struck down Posse Comitatus,

thus making it legal for military to patrol the US. He has also legally established that in the "War on Terror," the US is at war around the globe and thus the whole world is a battlefield. Thus the US is also a battlefield.

He also led change to the 1807 Insurrection Act to give him far broader powers in the event of a loosely defined "insurrection" or many other "conditions" he has the power to identify. The Constitution allows the suspension of habeas corpus — habeas corpus prevents us from being seized by the state and held without trial — in the event of an "insurrection." With his own army force now, his power to call a group of protesters or angry voters "insurgents"

staging an "insurrection" is strengthened.

US Rep. Brad Sherman of California said to Congress October 2, 2008, captured on C-Span and viewable on YouTube, that individual members of the House were threatened with martial law within a week if they did not pass the bailout bill:

"The only way they can pass this bill is by creating and sustaining a panic atmosphere. ... Many of us were told in private conversations that if we voted against this bill on Monday that the sky would fall, the market would drop two or three thousand points the first day and a couple of thousand on the second day, and a

TROOPS p. 2

DC Residents Fight to Save Emergency Shelter

By ANDREW THOMAIDES

Last month, while Congress sat in the Capitol working on a \$700 billion dollar bail out plan for the rich, a couple blocks away the downtown DC homeless population was being abandoned, left to freeze to death on the streets as winter quickly approaches. For the past two years, members of the homeless population, with the support of local residents, collectives, and NGO's have fought to stop the unjust closure of Franklin School Shelter, the last emergency homeless shelter in downtown Washington, DC. The shelter is located on 13th and K street, in the heart of DC's downtown business (lobby) district, a wealthy

and powerful part of the city, and has been targeted by two successive DC mayors, first Tony Williams, then Adrian Fenty, to be closed down and handed over to private developers.

While the location of the Franklin shelter makes it a prime piece of real estate for developers, it also acts as a vital life-line for any homeless person hoping to either get and keep a job, or take advantage of the soup kitchens, medical centers, and other vital social services offered to them, most of which are located downtown. In addition, the shelters to which Fenty is forcing residents of Franklin to relocate are not only at capacity, but are located in dangerous and drug-filled areas,

nearly six miles from downtown. One of the residents of Franklin talked about this very issue, saying they have park and recreation buses going to these other shelters, but they are "never reliable, so people end up sleeping outside on the street downtown so they can get to their jobs on time, rather than stay in a shelter [across the river] and lose it."

Mayor Fenty has been trying to justify the closing of Franklin Shelter under the guise of concern for its unfitness for human habitation. However, over the past two years, the city has poured \$2 million dollars into renovating the Franklin School building. Franklin

SHELTER p. 8

The Little Lie and How It Grew

By DAVID BENJAMIN

GREAT NECK, NY - Last month, Gayle Quinnell, a septuagenarian reactionary from Shakopee, Minnesota, confessed on TV to G.O.P. candidate John McCain that she fears Democratic candidate Barack Obama because "he's an Arab." McCain replied that, no, Obama's no Arab at all, but a "decent family man" (implying that the two depictions are mutually exclusive).

To me, the more intriguing element of this bizarre exchange was the word "Arab," rather than the more common Obama epithets: "Muslim," "terrorist," and "Osama." Mrs. Quinnell's "Arab" formulation was just enough off-key to make me wonder where she picked it up. In a subsequent YouTube video, Mrs. Quinnell helpfully elaborated, explaining that she possesses pages and pages of corroboration, plucked from the

Shakopee Public Library. Since it's unlikely that there's much info on Obama's ethnicity in the Shakopee stacks, I figured what Gayle had done was surf the Web.

So I decided to try tracing her steps. It wasn't hard. No matter where I landed after Googling "obama, arab," I inevitably returned to the same damning quote. It goes: "Mr. Obama is 50% Caucasian from his mother's side. He is 43.75% Arab, and 6.25% African Negro from his father's side." Also: "Obama is not legally African-American. It is impossible for him to be, in truth, America's first African-American president."

Holy Leopold's ghost, Batman!

As I continued searching, I unearthed this shocker, verbatim, on a dozen websites, including Yahoo!Answers. I found it cited by conservative superstars Rush Limbaugh, Monica Crowley and Laura Ingraham. Every

repetition of this statistical proof that Barack Obama is "legally" Arab-American circles back to a Web blogger named Kenneth E. Lamb, a self-described journalist who claims a career of "writing and researching" for such august media outlets as the *New York Times*, the *Miami Herald*, the *Pentecostal Herald* and the Jewish Information Network.

Lamb's indictment of Obama the Mock-Negro is threefold. First, Lamb notes, Barack Hussein Obama must be an Arab because his full name is Arabic. Second, "Kenyan government" records, according to Lamb, have listed Obama's father, Barack Obama, Sr., as "Arab-African." Third, Lamb states that Barack is "descended from Arab slave traders" who resided in southern Sudan (an Arab-dominated state) until at least the 19th century, before emigrating to Kenya.

LITTLE LIE p. 8

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Avoid Flu Shots, Take Vitamin D Instead

(Better yet—go outside and get some sunshine)

FLU SHOT from p.1

Americans — 84 percent of the US population. Only healthy people ages 19–49 not involved in some aspect of health care remain exempt. Pharmaceutical companies have made 146 million influenza vaccines for the US market this flu season.

The CDC mounts a well-orchestrated campaign each season to generate interest and demand for flu shots. Along with posters for the public, flyers, and health care provider materials, it encourages doctors to “recommend/urge flu shots.” Medical groups, nonmedical organizations (like the YMCA), and the media trumpet CDC-released messages on influenza, notably: “Flu kills 36,000 per year,” “This could be a bad/serious flu year,” and “Flu vaccine is the best defense against flu.” The government promotes National Vaccination Week, which this year is December 8–14. This year, however, rather than uniformly following the government’s “Seven-Step Recipe” for generating demand for flu shots, the mainstream media has questioned their benefits.

The *New York Times* had an article in the September 2, 2008 issue titled “Doubts Grow Over Flu Vaccine in Elderly,” which says, “The influenza vaccine, which has been strongly recommended for people over 65 for more than four decades, is losing its reputation as an effective way to ward off the virus in the elderly. A growing number of immunologists and epidemiologists say the vaccine probably does not work very well for people over 70, the group that accounts for three-fourths of all flu deaths.” The article refers to a study done by the Group Health Center for Health Studies in Seattle on 3,500 people, age 65–94, to determine if flu vaccines are effective in protecting older people against developing pneumonia (*Lancet* 2008;372:398–405).

The National Vital Statistics Reports compiled by the CDC show that 1,138 deaths a year occur due to influenza alone (257 in 2001, 727 in 2002, 1,792 in 2003, 1,100 in 2004, and 1,812 in 2005). Bacterial pneumonia causes some 60,000 deaths each year, mainly in the winter, when surveillance data show increased prevalence of the flu virus. Using a mathematical (Poisson) regression model, officials estimate that the flu virus triggers some of the winter-time deaths from pneumonia, along with deaths in people with cardiovascular disease and other chronic illnesses. More than 34,000 of those “36,000” flu deaths are what officials estimate are “influenza-associated” pneumonic and cardiovascular deaths.

The Group Health study reported in the *New York Times* and other newspapers around the country found that flu shots do not protect elderly people against developing pneumonia. Pneumonia occurs with equal frequency in people over age 65 with or without a flu shot. Earlier studies, biased by the “healthy user effect,” over-estimated the vaccine’s effect on pneumonia because they did not adjust for the presence and severity of other diseases in unvaccinated people. As the Group Health authors point out, “The study found that people who were healthy and conscientious about staying well were the most likely to get an annual flu shot. Those who are frail may have trouble bathing or dressing on their own and are less likely to get to their doctor’s office or a clinic to receive the vaccine. They are also more likely to be closer to death.” Other investigators question that there is a mortality benefit with influenza vaccination. Vaccination coverage among the elderly increased from 15% in 1980 to 65% now, but there has been no decrease in deaths from influenza and pneumonia (*Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2008;178:527–33).

As one vaccine researcher puts it, “I think the evidence base [for mortality benefits from flu shots] we have leaned on is not valid” (*Lancet Infect Dis* 2007;7:658–66). There is also a lack of evidence that young children benefit from flu shots. A systematic review of 51 studies involving 260,000 children age 6 to 23 months found no evidence that the flu vaccine is any more effective than a placebo (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2006;1:CD004879).

Randomized controlled trials are the most reliable way to determine the efficacy — and safety — of a given treatment. No randomized trials show that flu shots reduce mortality from influenza or flu-related pneumonia. Some do show that the flu vaccine is somewhat effective in preventing influenza. In one widely quoted study, 1,838 volunteers age 60 and over were randomized to receive a flu shot or placebo (a shot of saline). The flu shot reduced the relative risk of contracting (serologically confirmed, clinical) influenza by a seemingly impressive 50%. The incidence of influenza among the unvaccinated people in this study was 3%. In the vaccinated group it was 2% (*JAMA* 1994;272:1661–5). Flu shots reduced the absolute risk of contracting influenza by a meager 1% (not 50%, as the “relative risk” portrays it). In actuality, for every 100 people that have a flu shot only one will benefit from it — this, in medical parlance, is the “number needed to treat” (NNT) in order to achieve any benefit from the treatment. A flu shot provides no benefit for the other 99 people — two of them will get influenza anyway — and all 100 risk being harmed by the vaccine.

Another randomized trial by Zaman and

coworkers published recently (*NEJM* 2008;359: published online September 17, in print October 9) found that the incidence of influenza in infants whose mothers had a flu shot during their pregnancy was 4% (6/159). The incidence of flu in infants whose mothers did not have a flu shot was 10% (16/157). In this study (done in Bangladesh and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, and others), flu shots reduced the relative risk of influenza illness in infants by a seemingly impressive 63%. But only six out of 100 infants benefited from the shot. The other 94 received no benefit — four got influenza anyway — and all are at risk from being harmed by the vaccine, particularly from the mercury, aluminum, and formaldehyde in it.

After officials select the three strains of flu virus that they think are most likely to be circulating during the next winter season (they picked the wrong ones last year), vaccine makers grow the viruses in fertilized chicken eggs, with 500,000 eggs per day (each examined by hand) for up to eight months. Formaldehyde is used to inactivate the virus. It is a known cancer-causing agent. Aluminum is added to promote an antibody response. It is a neurotoxin that may play a role in Alzheimer’s disease. Other additives and adjuvants in the flu vaccine include Triton X-100 (a detergent), Polysorbate 80, carbolic acid, ethylene glycol (antifreeze), gelatin, and various antibiotics — neomycin, streptomycin, and gentamicin — that can cause allergic reactions in some people.

Two-thirds of the vaccines made for the 2008–09 flu season, 100 million of them, contain full-dose thimerosal, an organomercury compound, which is 49% mercury by weight. (An unidentified number of the other 50 million vaccines contain either “no” or “trace” amounts of thimerosal.) It is used to disinfect the vaccine. Each one of these 100 million flu shots contain 25 micrograms of mercury, a mercury content that is 50,000 part per billion, 250 times more than the Environmental Protection Agency’s safety limit. Mercury is a neurotoxin, which has a toxicity level 1,000 times that of lead.

There is some evidence that flu shots cause Alzheimer’s disease. This most likely is a result of combining mercury with aluminum and formaldehyde, which renders them much more toxic together through a synergistic effect than each would be alone. One investigator has reported that people who received the flu vaccine each year for three to five years had a ten-fold greater chance of developing Alzheimer’s disease than people who did not have any flu shots (*Int J Clin Invest* 2005;1:1–4). (The brains

70% of doctors do not get flu shots.

of people with Alzheimer’s disease display three pathologic hallmarks: neurofibrillary tangles, amyloid plaques, and phosphorylation of tau protein. Brain cells grown in test tubes develop these changes when exposed to nanomolar doses of mercury, doses similar to the amount of mercury a person gets from a flu shot.)

Mercury in vaccines has also been implicated as a cause of autism. Vaccine makers have now removed thimerosal from all childhood vaccines, except flu shots. For more on this subject see my article “Mercury on the Mind,” with its recommended reading list, and *Evidence of Harm: Mercury in Vaccines and the Autism Epidemic: A Medical Controversy* by David Kirby.

Three serious, acknowledged adverse reactions to the flu vaccine are joint inflammation and arthritis, anaphylactic shock (and other life-threatening allergic reactions), and Guillain-Barré syndrome. Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is a paralytic autoimmune disease that fells people several weeks after their flu shot.

The package inserts that come with the flu vaccine note that GBS is a potential complication. There are 1 to 2 cases of GBS per 1 million vaccinated persons. (There were 10 times that many cases of GBS in 1976 with the flu vaccine used that year). Taking a flu shot is essentially the same as buying a lottery ticket for acquiring Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Flu virus exists in people year-round, and new strains seed a population during the “off-season.” In the northern and southern temperate zones, flu epidemics occur in the cold part of the year, October–March and April–September respectively. Flu epidemics occur in the tropics during the rainy season.

Explanations for why flu epidemics occur in the winter when it is cold — people being indoors in close contact, drier air dehydrating mucus and preventing the body from expelling virus particles, the virus lingering longer on exposed surfaces, like doorknobs, with colder temperatures — do not explain why flu epidemics occur in the tropics.

Something that can explain why flu epidemics also occur both in warm and cold climates is this: During a flu epidemic, wherever it may be, the atmosphere blocks ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation from the Sun. In the temperate zones above latitude 35 degrees North and South, the sun is at a low enough angle in the

winter that the ozone layer in the atmosphere absorbs and blocks the short-wavelength (280–315 nanometers) UVB rays. In the tropics during the wet season, thick rain clouds block UVB rays.

Skin contains a cholesterol derivative, 7-dehydrocholesterol. UVB radiation on skin breaks open one of the carbon rings in this molecule to form vitamin D. The activated form of vitamin D (1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D) attaches to receptors on genes that control their expression, which turn protein production on or off. Vitamin D regulates the expression of more than 1,000 genes throughout the body. They include ones in macrophages, cells in the immune system that, among other things, attack and destroy viruses. Vitamin D switches on genes in macrophages that make antimicrobial peptides, antibiotics the body produces. Like antibiotics, these peptides attack and destroy bacteria; but unlike antibiotics, they also attack and destroy viruses.

Vitamin D also expresses genes that stop macrophages from overreacting to an infection and releasing too many inflammatory agents — cytokines — that can damage infected tissue. Vitamin D, for example, down regulates genes that produce interleukin-2 and interferon gamma, two cytokines that prime macrophages and cytotoxic T cells to attack the body’s tissues. In the 1918–19 Spanish Flu pandemic that killed 500,000 Americans, young healthy adults would wake up in the morning feeling well, start drowning in their own inflammation as the day wore on, and be dead by midnight, as happened to my 22-year-old grandmother and my wife’s 24-year-old grandmother. Autopsies showed complete destruction of the epithelial cells lining the respiratory tract resulting, researchers now know, from a macrophage-induced severe inflammatory reaction to the virus. In a terribly misguided way, these victims’ own immune system attacked and killed them, not the virus, something in future pandemics vitamin D, in appropriate doses, can prevent.

A creditable hypothesis that explains the seasonal nature of flu is that influenza is a vitamin D deficiency disease. Cannell and colleagues offer this hypothesis in “Epidemic Influenza and Vitamin D” (*Epidemiol Infect* 2006;134:1129–40). They quote Hippocrates (circa 400 B.C.), who said, “Whoever wishes to investigate medicine properly should proceed thus: in the first place to consider the seasons of the year.” Vitamin D levels in the blood fall to their lowest point during flu seasons. Unable to be protected by the body’s own antibiotics (antimicrobial peptides) that this gene-expressor engineers, a person with a low vitamin D blood level is more vulnerable to contracting colds, influenza, and other respiratory infections (e.g., respiratory syncytial virus).

Studies show that children with rickets, a vitamin D-deficient skeletal disorder, suffer from frequent respiratory infections; and children exposed to sunlight are less likely to get a cold. Given vitamin D’s wide-ranging effects on gene expression, other studies, for example, show that people diagnosed with cancer in the summer have an improved survival compared with those diagnosed in the winter (*Int J Cancer* 2006;119:1530–36).

A growing body of evidence indicates that rickets in children and osteomalacia in adults (both a softening of bones due to defective bone mineralization) are just the tip of a vitamin D-deficiency iceberg. Tuberculosis and various autoimmune diseases, such as multiple sclerosis, lupus, and type I diabetes have a causal association with low vitamin D blood levels. Vitamin D deficiency plays a causal role in hypertension, coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, and stroke. It is also a risk factor for metabolic syndrome and type II diabetes, chronic fatigue, seasonal affective disorder, depression, cataracts, infertility, and osteoporosis. At the bottom of the vitamin D iceberg lies cancer. There is good evidence that vitamin D deficiency is a causal factor in some 15 different common cancers. (*NEJM* 2007;357:266–81).

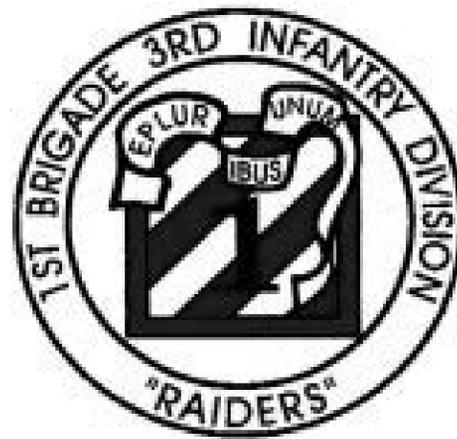
The increased number of deaths that occur in winter, largely from pneumonia and cardiovascular diseases, are much more likely due to vitamin D deficiency than to an increased prevalence of serologically-positive influenza virus (which also results from vitamin D deficiency).

Experts reckon that an optimum blood level of vitamin D (25-hydroxyvitamin D) is 50–99 ng/ml. (Children need a blood level >8 ng/ml to prevent rickets. It takes a concentration >20 to maintain parathyroid hormone levels in a normal range. A level >34 is needed for peak intestinal calcium absorption. And in elderly people, neuromuscular performance steadily improves as vitamin D blood levels rise to 50 ng/ml.) The government’s recommended daily allowance (RDA) for vitamin D is 400 IU (international units) a day, an amount sufficient to prevent rickets and osteomalacia but not vitamin D’s other gene-regulating benefits. To achieve all of vitamin D’s benefits one has to take an amount ten times the government’s RDA — 4,000 to 5,000 IU a day.

Cheap vitamin D supplements (D3, not D2) provide the only way most of us can maintain a year-round vitamin D blood level greater than 50 ng/ml. That requires taking 4–5,000 IU of vitamin D a day (50,000 IU every ten days or 150,000 IU a month).

Taking vitamin D in these doses is safe, far safer than a flu shot with all the bad chemicals it contains. Concerns about vitamin D toxicity are overblown. One can take a 10,000 IU vitamin D supplement on a daily basis without any adverse effects. In healthy persons, long-term consumption of more than 40,000 IU a day is necessary to cause an elevation in the blood calcium level (hypercalcemia), the first manifestation of vitamin D toxicity (*Am J Clin Nutr* 2006;84:694–97). Check your

Thousands of Troops Deployed in US Ready to Carry Out “Crowd Control”



TROOPS from p.1

few members were even told that there would be martial law in America if we voted no.”

If this is true and Rep. Sherman is not delusional, I ask you to consider that if they are willing to threaten martial law now, it is foolish to assume they will never use that threat again. It is also foolish to trust in an orderly election process to resolve this threat. And why deploy the First Brigade? One thing the deployment accomplishes is to put teeth into such a threat.

I interviewed Vietnam veteran, retired US Air Force Colonel and patriot David Antoon for clarification:

“If the President directed the First Brigade to arrest Congress, what could stop him?”

DA: “Nothing. Their only recourse is to cut off funding. The Congress would be at the mercy of military leaders to go to them and ask them not to obey illegal orders.”

“But these orders are now law?”

DA: “Correct.”

“If the President directs the First Brigade to arrest a bunch of voters, what would stop him?”

DA: “Nothing. It would end up in courts but the action would have been taken.”

“If the President directs the First Brigade to kill civilians, what would stop him?”

DA: “Nothing.”

“What would prevent him from sending the First Brigade to arrest the editor of the *Washington Post*?”

DA: “Nothing. He could do what he did in Iraq — send a tank down a street in Washington and fire a shell into the *Washington Post* as they did into *Al Jazeera*, and claim they were firing at something else.”

“What happens to members of the First Brigade who refuse to take up arms against US citizens?”

DA: “They’d probably be treated as deserters as in Iraq: arrested, detained and facing five years in prison. In Iraq, a study by Ann Wright shows that deserters — reservists who refused to go back to Iraq — got longer sentences than war criminals.”

“Does Congress have any military of their own?”

DA: “No. Congress has no direct control of any military units. The Governors have the National Guard but they report to the President in an emergency that he declares.”

“Who can arrest the President?”

DA: “The Attorney General can arrest the President after he leaves or after impeachment.”

[Note: Prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi in his new book, *The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder*, has asserted it is possible for District Attorneys around the country to charge President Bush with murder if they represent districts where one or more military members who have been killed in Iraq formerly resided.]

“Given the danger, do you advocate impeachment?”

DA: “Yes. President Bush struck down Posse Comitatus — which has prevented, with a penalty of two years in prison, US leaders since after the Civil War from sending military forces into our streets — with a ‘signing statement.’ He should be impeached immediately in a bipartisan process to prevent the use of military forces and mercenary forces against US citizens.”

“Should Americans call on senior leaders in the Military to break publicly with this action and call on their own men and women to disobey these orders?”

DA: “Every senior military officer’s loyalty should ultimately be to the Constitution. Every officer should publicly break with any illegal order, even from the President.”

“But if these are now legal. If they say, ‘Don’t obey the Commander in Chief,’ what happens to the military?”

DA: “Perhaps they would be arrested and prosecuted as those who refuse to participate in the current illegal war. That’s what would be considered a coup.”

“But it’s a coup already.”

DA: “Yes.”



Naomi Wolf is the author of *Give Me Liberty* (Simon and Schuster, 2008), the sequel to her *New York Times* best-seller *The End of America: A Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot* (Chelsea Green, 2007).



First Brigade Third ID “Raiders” demonstrate the “non-lethal” battle package they plan to deploy for domestic C&R (Conflict and Revolution) situations. Shown above are microwave crowd control systems.

vitamin D (25-hydroxy D) blood level. People with granulomatous diseases like sarcoidosis should also check their blood level of 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D, the active form.

Can a shot (or tablets) of vitamin D prevent influenza better than a flu shot? There is good reason to believe that it can.

Doctors in India and Canada give people a once-yearly injection of 600,000 IU of vitamin D (*MJA* 2005;183:10–12). That would be better, and safer, than having a flu shot. Daily, weekly, or monthly vitamin D tablets work just as well. For more on this subject, see my article “Vitamin D in a New Light” and visit Dr. Cannell’s Vitamin D Council website.

Investigators have completed one double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial that shows vitamin D prevents colds and influenza significantly better (P <0.002) than a placebo pill (*Epidemiol Infect* 2007;135:1095–6). A large multi-center randomized trial conducted over multiple flu seasons comparing vitamin D to a flu shot can show conclusively which is better, and safer. But given the financial stakes underpinning flu shots, and unpatentable vitamin D, who will fund it?

Considering what is most likely to be the outcome of such a trial, if it is ever conducted, I recommend that you avoid flu shots and take vitamin D instead. Other things to do to prevent the flu: avoid sugar, it suppresses immunity. Avoid Omega-6 vegetable oils (corn, safflower, sunflower, peanut, canola, and soybean oil). Americans consume 50 times more of these oils than are necessary for good health. In this amount they are powerful immune suppressants. Take a well-balanced multivitamin/mineral capsule on a daily basis. Eat garlic. Manage stress. Exercise. Get enough rest. And wash your hands. Viruses spread most often from touching contaminated objects, like doorknobs, phones, shared computer keyboards, and shaking hands. And go outside and get some sunshine.



Donald Miller is a cardiac surgeon and Professor of Surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is a member of *Doctors for Disaster Preparedness* and writes articles on a variety of subjects for *LevRockwell.com*. His web site is www.donaldmiller.com

Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

BY RON PAUL

Sickness Unto Debt

The Treasury bailout will only exacerbate red ink and inflation.

One of the burning questions regarding the recently passed bailout, and the one that almost no one has bothered to answer, is how the government intends to pay for it. Governments have three main methods by which they can raise funds: taxation, printing new money, and debt. As our \$10 trillion national debt shows, the federal government has always enjoyed raising money by issuing new debt. Money is gained upfront, while the cost of repaying that debt is pushed onto future generations.

This method is especially favored today, since imposing \$700 billion worth of taxes would lead to widespread public dissatisfaction. When the cost of all the recent bailouts plus the cost of all the new lending facilities the Federal Reserve has initiated are added together, we quickly reach a figure in the trillions of dollars. Even with the debt ceiling being raised to \$11.3 trillion, the issuance of debt alone cannot begin to cover the cost of all the bailouts in which the government is engaged. Every indication is that the government will use both debt and inflation in its attempt to keep the economy running at full speed.

Debt financing has begun in earnest, as the national debt has increased \$600 billion over the past three weeks, and most of that increase came even before the \$700 billion bailout bill was passed. I fully expect that trend to continue in the near future and would not be surprised if we see another debt-limit increase slipped into another economic stimulus package that might be passed before the new year. Now that our foreign creditors are less willing to purchase our debt, what debt we cannot sell to foreigners will be monetized through the Federal Reserve, resulting in increased inflation.

In fact, money supply data for the narrowest measure, the adjusted monetary base, show an unprecedented increase, far higher than when ex-Chairman Alan Greenspan attempted to reflate us out of trouble after the dot-com stock bubble burst. That intervention on Greenspan's part, pumping in liquidity and driving interest rates down, led to the real estate bubble, and Chairman Ben Bernanke unfortunately seems to be following the same script as his predecessor in resorting to credit creation and low interest rates. Even were this effort to succeed, it would only delay the inevitable. In order for the economy to return to normal, the Federal Reserve must cease the creation of new credit, overvalued assets must be allowed to fall in price, and malinvested resources must be allowed to liquidate and be put to use in more productive sectors.

The government's reaction to the credit crisis is based on the erroneous belief that the rate of economic growth over the past 10 to 15 years was the result of natural free-market processes, which is not the case. Rates of economic growth during the dot-com and real estate booms were clearly indicative of an overheated economy, and any attempt to try to stimulate the economy to return to such rapid growth will fail. Rather than allowing asset bubbles to pop and malinvested resources to liquidate, Federal Reserve monetary policy has attempted to pump more and more new money

and credit into the system to try, in vain, to sustain the economic boom.

The monetary base jumping by such a large margin is an indicator that the Federal Reserve has not learned from its mistakes and is hoping to get out of this economic downturn by creating even more credit out of thin air. With such large increases in the monetary base and with banks legally able to hold zero reserves, the vaunted money multiplier effect could theoretically reach infinity. If our policymakers fail to come to their senses, there is a real danger that we could end up in a hyperinflationary crisis such as the ones that beset Germany in the 1920s and Argentina and Zimbabwe in more recent decades.

The common measure of inflation, the consumer price index, has been so manipulated over the years that it cannot be trusted to be an accurate indicator of the true effect of inflation on people's pocketbooks. This is especially true of "core inflation," which eliminates food and energy prices, the two staples that are most important to every American. When the CPI figure is computed using the original method of calculation, it comes out to more than 10 percent per year, which is a more accurate indicator of the inflation being felt by middle-class Americans.

For years, I pointed to the now-discontinued M3 money supply figure, the broadest measure of the total money supply, and remarked how its rate of growth far outpaced the officially reported rate of inflation. Since inflation is chronically underreported, I continue to view money supply figures as a more accurate indicator of the true direction of prices. Now that the monetary base has spiked so dramatically, the result will be seen over the next few months as this new credit works its way through the system, resulting in significantly higher inflation. Unfortunately, because M3 is no longer reported, the full effect of this inflation on the US economy will go unreported in official statistics.

Our government has lived beyond its means for decades. We now face a crucial juncture, at which we determine whether to continue down the path of debt, inflation, and government intervention or choose to return to the economics of the free market, which have been ignored for almost a century. Increased debt leads to higher taxes on future generations, while increased inflation diminishes the purchasing power of American families and destroys the dollar. No society has ever achieved prosperity through indebtedness or inflation, and the United States is no exception. We cannot afford to continue our current policies of monetary expansion and unending bailouts. Unless we return to sound monetary policy, sharply reduce government expenditures, and realize that the government cannot act as a lender of last resort, we will drive our economy to ruin.

CRS

Ron Paul, MD is a ten term Republican member of Congress from Texas. He is a libertarian and constitutionalist and has opposed the PATRIOT ACT, the war on drugs, the war in Iraq and much of what goes on in Washington.

The Gig Is Up Banking Ponzi Scheme Implodes

BY MATT SULLIVAN/RCFP

A Ponzi scheme is a form of pyramid scam in which ever greater numbers of new suckers (called "investors") must be recruited at the base of the pyramid to pay off the Con-men at the top. The financial Ponzi scheme now imploding is the Central Banking System (called "the Fed"). In this system banks are allowed to create money out of thin air and lend it to suckers (called "borrowers") who must repay the loans PLUS INTEREST to support the people at the top of the pile (called "international bankers").

The problem is that while the banks

create the money they lend, they do not create the money to be paid as interest — the interest must be borrowed as well. To keep the scheme afloat requires geometrically expanding levels of new debt. To feed the credit monster after the stock market bubble popped the "Fed" created the real estate bubble. When that proved insufficient, they encouraged the derivatives bubble to expand until it has literally consumed the entire world. The value of derivatives may now exceed the total economic value of the earth.

Game over.

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A Trillion Dollar Bait and Switch

The Bailout and the Smell Test

BY PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

The explanation that has been given for the financial crisis does not match up with the solution that has been devised. Moreover, the windows into the crisis offered by the authorities are opaque rather than transparent.

The only clarity we have is that the crisis is resulting in financial concentration and that the bailout constitutes a massive raid by financial crooks on both taxpayers and central bank reserves in the US and Europe.

The public monies that are being directed to private financial institutions are huge. According to news reports, Germany is devoting \$540 billion to shoring up German banks, England is devoting \$73 billion, and France has pledged over \$400 billion. The US now has four separate bailouts underway, \$800 billion for banks, \$200 billion

for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, \$85 billion for the insurer AIG, and \$25 billion for the US auto industry. These figures add to more than \$2.1 trillion.

Some of these public monies are for purchasing troubled paper assets. Others are to be directly injected into the banks as public-supplied capital for private financial institutions, an ironic outcome for the free market ideology that resulted in the deregulation of the US financial system. According to news reports, in England the entire \$73 billion is being poured into banks as publicly supplied new capital. In Germany \$135 billion is for recapitalizing troubled banks. In the US Treasury Secretary Paulson is talking about using bailout money to purchase non-voting bank shares.

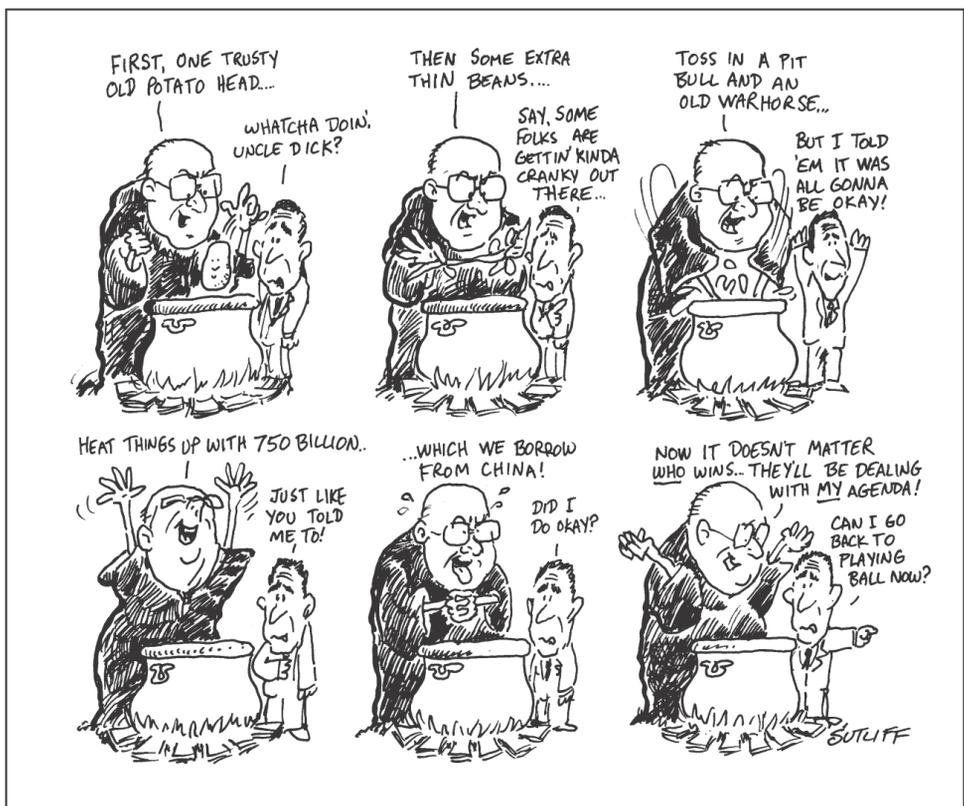
How is it possible that a financial crisis of such magnitude hit with such suddenness and urgency, catching

finance ministries and central banks unaware?

If the problem is what the public has been told, namely that defaulting subprime mortgages are reducing the income flows through to the holders of the mortgage-backed securities, why isn't the bailout money being used to refinance the defaulting mortgages and to pay off the foreclosed mortgages? That would restore the value of the mortgage backed securities, and it would not be necessary to pour huge amounts of taxpayers' money into recapitalizing banks and purchasing their bad assets.

There is not an unmanageable number of defaulting mortgages. According to the US Treasury estimate, 90-93% of the mortgages are good. How does a 7% or 10% default rate on US mortgages translate into a systemic

BAIT AND SWITCH p. 4



Drug War Terrorizes Americans

BY MIKE ADAMS/NATURALNEWS

Ten days ago, I wrote about Ron and Nadine from Living Libations (www.LivingLibations.com) who were arrested at the US border for trafficking chocolate (www.naturalnews.com). It turns out the portable drug test kits used by border agents consistently produce false positives on numerous substances, including essential oils, CoQ10, Dr. Bronner's Soap and many other items. See my pictures of one such false positive in the story link above.

So why do drug agents use these kits if they're not accurate? It's not about being accurate, silly. It's about instilling FEAR into the minds of the citizens. And using these bogus drug test kits, border agents can arrest, imprison and interrogate perfectly innocent victims who are merely carrying raw foods or nutritional supplements across the border.

Of course, people carrying dangerous prescription medications are utterly ignored by border agents, including children carrying mind-altering "speed" amphetamine drugs labeled as medications for "treating" ADHD. These drugs, which were once sold on the street as Speed, are now openly prescribed to tens of millions of children. And the side effects? Brain shrinkage. Slowed neurological development. Violent behavior and dangerous suicidal impulses. See www.naturalnews.com.

The so-called War on Drugs, it turns out, is a very selective war that targets only those drugs that don't make money for Big Pharma. Street drug chemicals, when packaged as medications, are openly allowed to be consumed by infants as young as six months old (under doctor's orders, no less!), and there's even an effort underway now to drug expectant mothers with antidepressant drugs just to ensure their children aren't born with depression. That's called "preventive medicine."

The War on Drugs completely ignores the drug companies, even when teen abuse of prescription drugs is widespread and highly dangerous. Doped up

on Ritalin, Oxycontin, SSRIs and other dangerous mind-altering drugs, millions of teens are becoming prescription drug addicts. But while DEA agents are flying helicopter raids over poppy fields in South America, and arresting medical marijuana patients in California, they're doing absolutely nothing to stop Big Pharma from selling medications that are widely (and openly) abused by children and teens.

In fact, the key ingredient to making methamphetamines (meth) is sold over-the-counter to children all across the country. You can walk into a Wal-Mart or Walgreens and buy this stuff without a prescription! And you can find the recipe for making meth out of these drugs with a single search on Google.

So where is the DEA when it comes to protecting children from prescription drug abuse? The DEA, it seems, is AWOL.

Why the War on Drugs is out of control

The War on Drugs has done virtually nothing to stem the tide of illegal street drugs, but it's sure given lots of money and power to another group: The DEA and other drug enforcement tyrants whose careers (and paychecks) depend on continuing their politically-motivated crusade against innocents.

Marijuana arrests are out of control, with nearly 8 million Americans having been arrested for pot possession over the last decade (www.projectcensored.org). Meanwhile, the US spends between \$10 and \$12 billion a year enforcing those laws, and that doesn't count the exploding prison population, where now an astonishing 11 percent of all black men between the ages of 30 and 34 are in prison. (<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2008/06>).

A startling 2.3 million Americans are sitting in prison cells right now, and many are there for victimless crimes such as smoking marijuana. And yet, amazingly, powerful institutions in society directly promote highly addictive drugs to virtually everyone:

DRUG WAR p. 8

Destruction Of Middle Class Not An Accident

BY SHEILA CASEY/RCFP

Economist and financial guru Karl Denninger has been railing for weeks about the lunacy of the bailout bill and the devastation it will bring to our financial markets.

Here's the key passage from Denninger's post on his website, www.market.ticker.denninger.net, from October 8, 2008:

"Oil will collapse in price to \$20/bbl. Unfortunately nobody will have any money to buy gasoline or a car, so it won't matter. As in The Depression, millions of automobiles will be scrapped after being abandoned by their owners for lack of insurance and registration fee money. Cheap scooters will become the dominant form of transportation for those with jobs, as they will be all most people can afford.

As credit collapses, distribution of food and other essentials will break down. Unable to access credit, trucking companies will be unable to get goods to market. The current distribution system for food requires travel of over 500 miles from production to consumption; this is untenable in a market where stable credit is unavailable. Food distribution will be

severely impacted and in some areas may break down below critical levels.

Unemployment will reach 25% within two years. Median income will fall by 30% nationally. Foreclosures will reach 20 million homes. The government will step in with Home Owner's Loan Corporation (HOLC) style remediation but it won't matter — the unemployed won't be able to pay irrespective of the price.

House prices will fall to well under \$100,000 nationally on a median basis but with lending all but non-existent you'll need 50% down. A few people will make out like bandits near the bottom, being able to buy up homes for \$10,000 each in blocks of 10 at a time — for cash. Sixty percent of America will be renters; nearly half of all homeowners will ultimately lose their homes to foreclosure.

Civil unrest will break out in major cities when incomes fall but the cost of food and essential services fails to come down materially, leaving millions of Americans hungry, broke and homeless. Unlike in the 1930s America will not stand quietly in soup lines; instead they will riot, loot and burn. The National

Guard will be called up but will find it impossible to exert meaningful control without shutting down all commerce in the affected areas. The decision will be made to cordon off the cities and deny entry to anyone who does not live in that specific neighborhood, essentially shutting down commercial activity. GDP will fall by 30%.

The S&P 500 will fall to 150 and flatline, a 90% loss. CNBC and Bloomberg will cease broadcasting. Volume will fall to 10% of former levels."

Denninger has not yet awakened to the truth about what happened on 9/11, and in fact has a section on his site called "tinfoil" for those of us who understand a bigger picture than just the financials -- a picture that includes politics and history.

Because he doesn't grasp that there is a worldwide conspiracy to destroy the middle class, he still thinks this financial debacle is due to incompetence and mismanagement. He is still urging his readers to write and call Congress, although Congress has made it abundantly clear that they don't care

MIDDLE CLASS p. 4

Foxes Loot Henhouse

KASHKARI from p.1

has been appointed bailout czar in a move so repugnantly crony that it almost makes the Michael Brown debacle look innocent in comparison.

The fact that Paulson himself was head of Goldman Sachs before joining the Bush junta in 2006 was not enough for these people, they had to put a banker in charge of bailing out other bankers, who can now sleep soundly knowing that their multi-million dollar bonuses are in safe hands while the real economy goes down the toilet.

However, such a brazenly corrupt appointment is even waking up kool-aid drinking neo-cons and making them understand the bailout exactly for what it is, a monumental looting of the American people and the crowning of a new fiscal dictatorship run by the Federal Reserve and the private banks.



Paul Watson is an investigative journalist at www.PrisonPlanet.com. He is the author of Order Out of Chaos published in 2003.

Bailout Doubtful: Not Enough Money in the World

BAILOUT from p.1

that, in sheer numbers, dwarf anything ever seen following a Communist revolution. (As John Lancaster notes in the *London Review of Books*, the Bush administration's takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac alone "was, by cash value, the biggest nationalization in the history of the world." And that was just the beginning.)

What has struck mortal fear in the heart of markets and governments is not bad mortgages, but the almost incomprehensibly huge and complex market for "derivatives," based in part on mortgage debt — but also on a vast array of other sources that were "securitized," turned into tradable, if ghostly, commodities, then sold off in a bewildering variety of increasingly arcane forms. This was accompanied by the expansion of yet another vast market in insurance mechanisms designed to protect these derivatives — mechanisms which themselves became "securitized."

At the same time, the financial services industry used its paid bagmen in governments around the world to loosen almost all restrictions, not only on securitization and the trading of derivatives, but also on the amount of debt that institutions could take on in order to play around in these vastly expanded and deregulated markets. For example, as Lancaster points out, the UK's Barclays Bank had a debt-to-equity ratio of 63 to 1:

Imagine that for a moment translated to your own finances, so that you could stretch what you actually, unequivocally own to borrow more than sixty times the amount. (I'd have an island. What about you?)

The result of all this has been the construction of a gargantuan house of cards, based on next to nothing, and left alone in the shadow, building a "perfect storm" of greed, deregulation and political corruption.

That storm has now struck. The house of cards has fallen down, and revealed a hole of derivatives-based debt that could not be filled, literally, by all the money in the world, much less by the mere trillions that national governments are frantically throwing at it today.

Yes, "mere" trillions. As Will Hutton explains in the *Observer*:

"...the dark heart of the global financial system [is] the \$55 trillion market in credit derivatives and, in particular, credit default swaps, the mechanisms routinely used to insure banks against losses on risky investments. This is a market more than twice the size of the combined GDP of the US, Japan and the EU. Until it is cleaned up and the toxic threat it poses is removed, the pandemic will continue. Even nationalized banks, and the countries standing behind them, could be overwhelmed by the scale of the losses now emerging."

Try to imagine: a \$55 trillion market now at risk of complete destruction. Even the derivative debt owed by individual institutions stands at nation-wrecking levels. For example,

a single bank in Britain, Barclays again, holds more than \$2.4 trillion in credit default swaps, the tradable "insurance" mechanism against securities default. This is more than the entire GDP of the United Kingdom. If all this paper goes bad, there are not enough assets in the entire country to pay it off. And that's just one bank, in one country.

Hutton gives the details: "This market in credit derivatives has grown explosively over the last decade largely in response to the \$10 trillion market in securitized assets — the packaging up of income from a huge variety of sources (office rents, port charges, mortgage payments, sport stadiums) and its subsequent sale as a 'security' to be traded between banks."

Plainly, these securities are risky, so the markets invented a system of insurance. A buyer of a securitized bond can purchase what is, in effect, an insurance contract that will protect him or her against default — a credit default swap (CDS). But unlike the comprehensive insurance contract on your car which you have with one insurance company, these credit default contracts can be freely bought and sold. Complex mathematical models are continually assessing the risk and comparing it to market prices. If the risk falls, the CDSs are cheap; if the risk rises — because, say, a credit rating agency declares the issuing company is less solid — the price rises. Hedge funds speculate in them wildly.

Their purported purpose was to provide a market solution to make securitization less risky; in fact, they make it more risky, as we are now witnessing. The refusal to bail-out Lehman Brothers has had cataclysmic consequences. Lehman's collapse means that it can no longer honor \$110bn of bonds, nor \$440bn of CDSs it had written. On October 10th, the dud contracts were auctioned, with buyers paying a paltry eight cents for every dollar. Put another way, there is now a \$414bn hole which somebody holding these contracts has to honor. And if your head is spinning now, add the three failed Icelandic banks. They can no longer honor more than \$50bn of bonds, nor a mind-boggling \$200bn of CDSs....

While every bank tries to pass the toxic parcel on to somebody else, the system has to find the money. So will compensation for the near valueless contracts and thus now uninsured debt ultimately be made — and by whom? And because nobody knows — not the regulators, banks or governments — who owns the swaps and whether they are credit-worthy, nobody can answer the question. Maybe holders of insurance policies will get the cash due to them, but will that weaken somebody else? The result — panic.

This is the ultra-dangerous downward vortex in which the system is locked. It is why share prices are plummeting. As recession deepens, there will be defaults on securitized bonds and the potential collapse of more banks outside the G7 ring-fence. Nobody knows what

proportion of the \$55 trillion of credit default contracts that have actually been written will be honored and who might bear losses running into trillions of dollars."

This is the beast in the dark that is haunting the feckless leaders of the developed world: \$55 trillion of unaccountable debt, and no way of knowing how much of it is even now being flushed down the toilet, taking the global economy with it.

The massive interventions we are seeing might stabilize the markets temporarily, or at least arrest their free fall long enough to come up with some kind of massive restructuring of the global financial system. Or they might not. For it is by no means certain that the wisdom and the political courage to come up with a more viable system can be found among the world's political leaders — all of whom, as we noted here the other day, have risen within the present system and, to one degree or another, owe their own power and privilege to the "malefactors of great wealth" and the extremist cult of market fundamentalism. There is no indication anywhere that the circle of collusion and corruption between governments and Big Money has even lessened, much less been broken, by the economic catastrophe. All of the various bailout plans and "coordinated actions" still have as their chief aim the preservation of the malefactors in their current state of wealth, privilege and domination. As Jonathan Schwarz writes:

"Still, US elites will try to impose as much of a structural adjustment as they can get away with in order to make the bottom 80% of America pay the price for the elites' spectacular screw-ups. The *Washington Post* has already started writing about how the current crisis demonstrates that we must cut Social Security. Look for much more of this to come."

The only slim hope we have for any genuine reform — even an imperfect, conflicted, compromised reform, which is the only kind we will ever have in this world, until the lion lies down with the lamb — is that the sheer scale of the real problem — the \$55 trillion beast, the very real potential for the complete destruction of the global economy, and the state power that depends upon it — might force some politicians to turn apostate, renounce the market cult, and bite the hands that have fed them for so long.

Absent this near-miraculous possibility, we will be left with yet another rickety house of cards, slapped together on the fly — largely at the malefactors' direction and for their benefit — while the beast gapes wide his ponderous jaws, and prepares to swallow us whole.

Chris Floyd is an award-winning American journalist, and author of the book, *Empire Burlesque: High Crimes and Low Comedy in the Bush Regime*. He has written for: *The Moscow Times* and the *St. Petersburg Times in Russia*, *The Baltimore Chronicle*, *The Nation*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and many others. Floyd co-founded the blog *Empire Burlesque* with webmaster Richard Kastelein.

Destruction Of Middle Class Not An Accident

MIDDLE CLASS from p.3

what we think; they don't work for us.

Yes, the middle class will be destroyed, but no, it is not an accident.

How gullible can the American people be? Do they truly believe that the 9/11 debacle, the Iraq war debacle, the Katrina debacle, and this financial debacle all result from incompetence? Has a single individual been demoted or fired for his "incompetence" in these disasters? (Actually yes, Michael Brown, the "Brownie" of "Heckuva job Brownie," is gone from FEMA for his role in the destruction of New Orleans. But I know of no other.)

There is a plan to destroy the wealth of the middle class, but before this could be done, a police state had to be created to prevent a revolution. This was all planned very carefully.

First, in the 90s the laws were changed to allow a huge financial bubble to be created out of nothing.

Next, through illegal spying our shadow rulers got the goods on Congress and many journalists, who were then vulnerable to blackmail.

Then, 9/11 was used as the excuse to create

a police state and destroy our Constitutional protections.

Then, interest rates were lowered in order to create a huge housing bubble.

Next, as detailed in an op-ed by former New York governor Eliot Spitzer, in *The Washington Post* on February 14, 2008, the Bush administration sued to prevent the states from protecting their citizens from predatory lending.

Finally, the housing market, the stock market, and the dollar, were collapsed, by design, to trigger civil unrest which will be used to justify unleashing the police state which is already in place.

When people are hungry and desperate, they will agree to anything. Liberty gone, they may be forced to agree to an RFID chip in their hand to replace their credit cards, drivers license, EZ pass, etc. Without the chip you are not a part of society, cannot buy or sell.

If you make trouble for the fascist state, they turn off your chip.

At that point we are completely controlled with no hope of revolution.

In a video available on YouTube, Hollywood film maker Aaron Russo (producer of "The Rose" and "Trading Places") describes what he learned through his friendship with Nicholas Rockefeller. Rockefeller told him (before it happened) about 9/11, the fake War on Terror, the Iraq war, and a plan to fit everyone with an RFID chip to track their every move.

Please...turn off Fox News, CNN and MSNBC and do your own research. The mainstream media is controlled through a CIA program called Operation Mockingbird and cannot be trusted. In his cover story for *Rolling Stone* on October 20, 1977, "The CIA and the Media," Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Carl Bernstein detailed how American journalists and publishers have been co-opted to serve the CIA.

The future, not just of our nation, but of the world, depends upon millions of people taking the scales from their eyes and clearly seeing the misery that faces us if we do not act.



Sheila Casey is a DC based journalist. Her work has been published in *The Denver Post*, *Buzzflash*, *Dissent Voice*, *The Progressive Populist* and *The Rock Creek Free Press*.



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A Trillion Dollar Bait and Switch

BAIT AND SWITCH from p.3

worldwide financial crisis?

The popping of the US real estate bubble could not produce worldwide systemic financial crisis without the mark-to-market rule, short-sellers, and a great deal of hype and orchestration. Why did Secretary Paulson let Lehman Bros. fail when every other firm is bailed out? Did Lehman's failure, by unwinding its own large portfolio, push hedge funds and banks into panic selloffs that spread the crisis at home and abroad?

The US Congress held no hearings on the crisis and consulted no independent experts. Congress responded dumbly to the financial crisis, just as it did following 9/11 when the Bush regime handed it the PATRIOT Act and the Afghan invasion. To secure Congress' acquiescence to the Paulson bailout, the Bush regime used threats of meltdown and martial law to panic Congress into turning over vast amounts of money for which accountability is

lacking. The hype behind the Paulson bailout is the financial version of the mushroom cloud evocation used by the Bush regime to panic Congress into accepting the US invasion of Iraq. Is yet another hidden agenda at work?

It is unclear how the bailout will play out. The monies for the US bailout will have to be borrowed abroad or printed. If foreign central banks need their dollar reserves in order to bail out their own banks that are polluted with toxic US financial instruments, the US Treasury might not have an easy time in the debt market. Moreover, the interest expense on an additional borrowed \$700 billion will raise the US current account deficit and burden US taxpayers with higher interest payments. If the money has to be printed, inflation and dollar devaluation will depress living standards for most Americans.

If the US economy sinks deeper into recession, lost jobs and rising interest rates on troubled mortgages will result in more defaults and foreclosures, thus further impairing

mortgage backed securities and requiring Congress to put more burdens on hard-pressed US taxpayers in behalf of the banks.

The authorities have blamed subprime mortgages for the crisis. Why then does their solution fail to address the problem of the mortgages? Instead, the solution directs public money into an increasingly concentrated private financial sector, the management of which is not only vastly overpaid, but also has escaped accountability for the financial chicanery that, allegedly, threatens systemic financial meltdown unless bailed out by the taxpayers.

Perhaps my nose is too sensitive, but this bailout doesn't pass the smell test.

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*. He is coauthor of *The Tyranny of Good Intentions*.

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Bill Kristol Attacks 9/11 Truth He's Been Wrong About Everything Else Too

"Having defeated and then occupied Iraq, democratizing the country should not be too tall an order for the world's sole superpower." - William Kristol, 2/24/03

George W. Bush's presidency will probably be a successful one.... we now seem to be on course to a successful outcome [in Iraq]. - William Kristol, July 2007

BY STEVE WATSON / INFOWARS.NET

A piece entitled "The Truthers' New Friends" has appeared in this week's edition of the *Weekly Standard*, which slams questions surrounding the attacks as "Anti-American" and those who entertain them as "lunatics".

The piece focuses on the screening of Italian film maker Giulietto Chiesa's "ZERO" on Russian State TV last month.

Clearly the fact that up to 30 million Russian citizens were able to switch on their TVs and watch a debate about 9/11 as a false flag event has got some at the *Standard* extremely riled.

"On September 12, the America-bashing reached a new low: a prime-time special on national television peddling the notion that the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks of September 11, 2001, were an inside job by American warmongers," writes Cathy Young.

"...the lunatics, for the most part, were running the asylum. The discussion was heavily dominated by several pro-conspiracy panelists who dismissed the "official story" of "19 Arabs directed by Osama bin Laden in a cave" as self-evidently absurd," the piece continues.

Young insinuates that the whole thing was a setup bent on "stoking anti-Americanism in

the Russian population." She even suggests "the purpose may have been retaliation: You won't buy our version of the war in Georgia? Fine, we won't buy your version of 9/11," referring to the recent Western corporate media bias over the conflict in South Ossetia.

According to a Russia Today poll 84% of their citizens are "lunatics" by the *Standard's* definition. Indeed, according to a global survey by WorldPublicOpinion.org, over half the world's population are "lunatics".

Of course, we shouldn't be surprised by the *Standard's* attack, given that it is edited by arch Neo-Con Bill Kristol, he of the PNAC, who, you may recall, advanced the prospect of a "New American Century" based primarily on preemptive military dominance.

In 2000, the report he submitted his name to, along with Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld, stated that its goals would not be achievable in the immediate term "absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event — like a new Pearl Harbor."

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Steve Watson is the webmaster for independent journalist, political activist and documentary film maker Alex Jones at Infowars.net. He is also a regular contributor to and editor of Jones' Prisonplanet.com

Speaking of Bill Kristol...

Remember PNAC?



BY WENDY S. PAINTING

For me the words "Project for the New American Century" (PNAC) bring many thoughts to mind, but they usually begin with a quote from a paper that the neoconservative think tank with this name published in 2000. This paper suggested that the New Order of the World, which the think tank envisioned, planned and achieved, would be difficult for American citizens to accept and that "the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event — like a new Pearl Harbor." Of course, this new Pearl Harbor was realized in the attacks of 9/11 and in its wake PNAC was able to mobilize and convince US citizens to support their "revolutionary" policies. For the most part, I think, average people had not realized that the policies enacted immediately after 9/11 had been scripted and "perfected" in advance of this catastrophe. While Americans, with the helpful network news channels and pundits, believed they were reacting to an event, the neo-con elite were only realizing some very long term goals. PNAC has now, years after its advent, spawned cultural reactions. An activist group calling themselves "Project For A New American Citizen" has been working on a project called "Rebuilding America's Senses" in response to the neoconservatives' "proposals." But what are the sensibilities which need to be rebuilt and why?

PNAC members serving on George W. Bush's administration included Richard Armitage (Deputy Secretary of State), Dick Cheney (VP), Francis Fukuyama (leading intellectual and foreign policy advisor), Bruce Jackson (former Lockheed Martin VP), Scooter Libby (Chief of Staff to VP), Donald Rumsfeld (Secretary of Defense), Paul Wolfowitz (Deputy Secretary of Defense), Jeb Bush (governor of Florida), Thomas Donnelly (Lockheed Martin director of communications), William Kristol (former student of Neo Conservative forefather Leo Strauss), R. James Woolsey (former CIA director), and Vin Weber (Board member of National Public Radio) ...the usual suspects.

The think tank, established in 1997, advocated a return to Reagan-based economic policies and fiercely sought American world dominance with equally fierce and antagonistic international military policies. One of their ultimate goals was to invade Iraq and oust Saddam Hussein, an action which they felt was incomplete after the Gulf War. PNAC advocated preemptive war, a doctrine which is antithetical to United States founding philosophy or ideological mythology and completely changed previous notions, albeit mythological ones, of US military *Rules of Engagement*. The genius of PNAC was that it was able to sell its policy of unprovoked war (read murder and genocide) by telling Americans and everyone else in the world, that these policies were meant to bring political and economic freedom to others. Incidentally, it is this policy, which current VP candidate, Sarah Palin, unabashedly endorses but was unable to recognize as 'The Bush Doctrine,' which would be more accurately entitled the PNAC doctrine. That a grad student, and not a very good one at that, knows the intellectual and philosophical foundations of Palin's own purported and supported policies, when she does not, is concerning to me, to say the least.

The lofty goals that PNAC proposed called for a highly aggressive posturing in the affairs of other nations and are in response to a perceived international (read Middle Eastern) power vacuum after the Cold War. What "concerned" PNAC domestically was not the thought of its own citizens' lack of education and health care, nor was it the thought of economic sustainability and autonomy, but was the fear that American citizens, without the imminent threat of nuclear war and an EVIL SOVIET EMPIRE around which to rally national consciousness, would never support these policies. US citizens, it was decided, would need a worthy external enemy around which to rally and about whom to blame their ills, if PNAC was ever to enact its noble vision of the future. Enter Osama bin Laden on stage right and Saddam Hussein on stage left.

It was through this stroke of brilliant public manipulation that PNAC, working through

PNAC p. 7

"Of Course bin Laden is Dead"

BIN LADEN from p.1

Last July, it was revealed that Pakistan has an agreement to allow CIA-operated Predator drones fly over the country and strike targets in the so called "hunt" for bin Laden. Since that time many strikes have taken place, killing civilians in the process.

In addition, details of a secret Pentagon plan to send US special forces into the wild tribal regions of Pakistan to find bin Laden have also emerged. The plans have reportedly not yet been implemented due to White House infighting.

There is voluminous evidence to suggest bin Laden is long dead.

According to French newspaper *Le Figaro*, bin Laden was on a kidney dialysis machine after he had one shipped to his base in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2000, and when the CIA personally visited him in a Dubai hospital. Other accounts suggest he was also suffering from Hepatitis C at the time and had only two years left to live.

Journalists who met Bin Laden before 9/11 later proclaimed their disbelief about the fact that he didn't appear on video after December 2001 to brag about the fact that he had not been captured. Since that time, every single Bin Laden video tape released has contained vague non-specific messages and in many cases the footage is old and re-hashed.

"With an ego the size of Mount Everest, Osama bin Laden would not have, could not have, remained silent for so long if he were still alive. He always liked to take credit even for things he had nothing to do with. Would he remain silent for nine months and not trumpet his own survival?" wrote the *New York Times'* Amir Taheri in July 2002.

A very good reason for Osama remaining silent after the end of 2001 would be the fact that he probably died on December 26 of that year, according to a December 25, 2001 report in the *Pakistani Observer*, which cited a Taliban official as stating that bin Laden died due to an untreated lung complication and that he had attended his funeral.

On January 18, 2002 CNN reported on the fact that Pakistan's president Pervez Musharraf believed bin Laden to be dead:

[A Bush administration official] said US intelligence is that bin Laden needs dialysis every three days and "it is fairly obvious that could be an issue when you are running from place to place, and facing the idea of needing to generate electricity in a mountain hideout."

Others have gone on record insisting they believe bin Laden to be dead, they include:

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, FBI counter-terrorism chief Dale Watson, Israeli intelligence sources, the late former Prime

Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto, bin Laden expert Professor Bruce Lawrence, head of Duke University's Religious Studies program.

In addition, a leaked French secret service memo in September 2006 concluded that bin Laden had died of typhoid poisoning the previous month. The memo cited Saudi Arabian secret service sources who were convinced that bin Laden had died in Pakistan.

"The information gathered by the Saudis indicates that the head of al Qaeda fell victim, while he was in Pakistan on August 23, 2006, to a very serious case of typhoid that led to a partial paralysis of his internal organs," states the French memo.

Judging from all the available evidence, the White House knows for certain or at least strongly suspects that bin Laden is dead and has been for many years, but they have chosen to maintain his myth for the purposes of political propaganda and as a hook on which to pin the advance of the imperial Neo-Con agenda.

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Dedicated to the 9/11 Truth Movement

BY JON GOLD/911BLOGGER.COM

Theorizing about what happened on 9/11, when you're not being given answers to your questions about that day by the people who should be able to do so, is perfectly normal. As is suspecting that the reason these answers aren't being given is "sinister" in nature. As Ray McGovern said, "for people to dismiss these questioners as 'conspiratorial advocates', or 'conspiratorial theorists'... that's completely out of line because... the questions remain since the President, who should be able to answer them, WILL NOT." When you think about everything this Administration has done in almost eight years, the idea that they might not be giving us the answers we seek because of something "sinister" is not crazy. In fact, it's the most logical conclusion one can come to at this point. After seven plus years of obfuscation, spin, lies, and cover-ups regarding the 9/11 attacks, it is unavoidable to think that criminal complicity is the reason why.

That being said, we have not proven it beyond the shadow of doubt. We do not have documentation that shows they planned it. We do not have a signed confession from someone. We have pieces of the puzzle, and to most of us that have been doing this a long time, those pieces point to more than just Osama bin Laden, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and 19 hijackers. I wish the media would do their job. But, they're not. Therefore, we have to be smart with how we approach people. This is America, and in America, you are innocent until proven guilty.

Fact #1

The Bush Administration was predominantly made up of members of an organization called "The Project For A New American Century." This group produced a document entitled, "Rebuilding America's Defenses" that said the "process of transformation" they wanted our military to undertake would take an excessively long time, unless there was a "catastrophic and catalyzing event — like a new Pearl Harbor." That document was written in September 2000. This document even cited that "advanced forms of biological warfare that can "target" specific genotypes may transform biological warfare from the realm of terror to a politically useful tool." A lot of the same people were part of a group that wrote a report entitled, "A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm" that advocated an aggressive Israeli policy in the Middle East.

Fact #2

The Bush Administration came into office wanting to go to war with Iraq. This is so heavily documented that veteran White House reporter Helen Thomas asked the President about it. He denied it of course, and used 9/11 as the justification for what he and his administration have done.

Fact #3

Dick Cheney was the CEO for a company called Halliburton. During his tenure there, he gave a speech at the Institute of Petroleum that said, "while many regions of the world offer great oil opportunities, the Middle East with two thirds of the world's oil and the lowest cost, is still where the prize ultimately lies, even though companies are anxious for greater access there, progress continues to be slow." On October 11, 2005, it was reported that the shares that Dick Cheney claimed he no longer had with Halliburton, rose 3,281% in one year.

Fact #4

In early 2001, Dick Cheney was put in charge of The National Energy Policy

Development Group, or "Energy Task Force" for short. He prepared for this during the transition between the Clinton and Bush administrations. The task force met with what appears to be every oil executive in existence, even though they denied it before Congress. It was eventually discovered that one of the topics of discussion during these task force meetings was Iraq's oil fields, five months before 9/11.

Fact #5

On the day of 9/11, a number of key personnel were "scattered" across the country, and the world, with few exceptions, including Dick Cheney. The President of the United States sat at a time when America was "under attack" from kamikaze hijackers in commercial airliners; he sat in a highly publicized location — five miles away from an international airport; he sat in a classroom full of children, he was not whisked away by the Secret Service. His conduct on the morning of 9/11 changed on the first anniversary.

Fact #6

On the morning of 9/11, there were several secret military exercises taking place, some of which allegedly mirrored the events taking place that day. A lot of different people didn't know whether or not the hijackings were "real-world or exercise." The 9/11 Report mentioned only one of these war games, and in a footnote in the back of the book.

Fact #7

On the day of 9/11, Donald Rumsfeld started planning the Iraq War. DoD staffer Stephen Cambone took down several notes with regard to what Rumsfeld was saying. "Best info fast... judge whether good enough [to] hit S.H. [Saddam Hussein] at same time - not only UBL [Usama Bin Laden]" ... "Go massive ... Sweep it all up. Things related and not." ... "Hard to get a good case."

Fact #8

Between 9:30pm and 10:00pm on 9/11/2001, Bush says, "this is a great opportunity. We have to think of this as an opportunity." He does so again during his State Of The Union speech on January 29, 2002. Karl Rove said, "sometimes history sends you things and 9/11 came our way."

Fact #9

The heads of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into 9/11, Sen. Porter Goss, and Sen. Bob Graham, along with Sen. John Kyl, met with an alleged financier of the attacks on the day of 9/11.

Fact #10

The Joint Congressional Inquiry, which both Bush and Cheney tried to "limit the scope" of, released a report with 28 redacted pages. Apparently, those 28 pages talk about "possible Saudi Arabian financial links." In 2004, Sen. Bob Graham says that the Bush White House is covering up Saudi Arabia's possible connection to the two hijackers that lived in San Diego. He said the information about them, "present[s] a compelling case that there was Saudi assistance." He also says that the Bush administration directed the FBI "to restrain and obfuscate" any investigations into the connection.

Fact #11

The Bush administration was the 9/11 families' "biggest adversary" when it came to the creation of a so-called Independent 9/11 Commission. The families had to fight "tooth and nail," and lobby to get an investigation because the Bush Administration clearly did not want one. Dick Cheney and George Bush refused to testify under oath before select individuals of the 9/11 Commission even though the families wanted them to. They testified together, not in public, and no recordings were allowed. They tried to

make Henry Kissinger the Chairman of the commission, but he resigned after the families started asking too many questions. Alberto Gonzales "stonewalled" the 9/11 Commission's access to the White House. They appointed Thomas Kean as Chairman, someone "who will be easily controlled by the administration," and Lee Hamilton, a long time friend of Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld to be the co-chair. Hamilton participated in two inquiries that resulted in cover-ups. The Iran/Contra Affair inquiry, and the October Surprise inquiry.

Fact #12

Philip Zelikow was the Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission. Paul Sperry explained, "though he has no vote, (Zelikow) arguably has more sway than any member, including the chairman. Zelikow picks the areas of investigation, the briefing materials, the topics for hearings, the witnesses, and the lines of questioning for witnesses... In effect, he sets the agenda and runs the investigation." Zelikow was a Bush Administration insider and member of the Bush administration transition team and he co-authored a book with Condi Rice. Zelikow was also a trained propagandist and expert on "the creation of public myths".

Fact #13

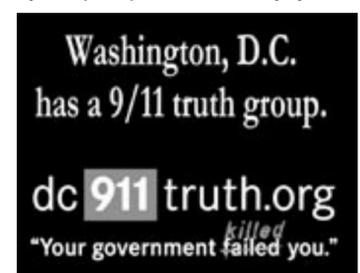
NORAD gave three different timelines with regards to their response on the day of 9/11. Sen. Mark Dayton slammed the 9/11 Commissioners for what the 9/11 Report said about NORAD. On August 2, 2006, the *Washington Post* reported that "the Pentagon's initial story of how it reacted to the 2001 terrorist attacks may have been part of a deliberate effort to mislead the commission and the public" and that "the 10-member commission, in a secret meeting at the end of its tenure in summer 2004, debated referring the matter to the Justice Department for criminal investigation."

There are so many facts concerning the 9/11 attacks, that it is impossible to know them all. People like to laugh at, and mock our theories (that we all have) concerning the events of 9/11. However, they have a difficult time with the facts. I hope that I have proven my point.

In conclusion, I am convinced some elements within our government, and others were complicit in the attacks of 9/11. As you can see above, the information that exists today clearly points in that direction. We have pieces to the puzzle, and we know who refuses to give up the other pieces. However, this is America, and in America, you are innocent until proven guilty. Let's have a real investigation, be it a domestic or international one, and do what can only be described as the right thing: holding those responsible for the 9/11 attacks, whomever they may be, accountable. It is long overdue. Justice has never been more needed. The perverse usage of that day can no longer continue. It is time to take away the "9/11 Card," and let those poor 2,973 souls finally rest in peace.

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Jon Gold has been working relentlessly for 4 years to expose the fraud of 9/11 to the American people.



Book Review

Conspirators' Hierarchy

Assassinations, Wars and Meltdowns: Who Benefits?

"In politics, nothing happens 'by accident.' If it happened, you can bet it was 'planned' that way." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

REVIEW BY WILLIAM HUGHES

Since the murders of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Francis Kennedy, little has gone right in this country. It's like we're headed for hell in a vehicle which doesn't have any brakes, driven by a raving maniac. Remember, too, the Vietnam War (1963-75) — that heated up almost immediately after JFK was eliminated. That conflict ripped the nation apart and cost the lives of 58,159 of our bravest sons and daughters. Think of the dubious Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. In between, the Watergate scandal surfaced and Richard M. Nixon fell from power. The outsourcing of millions of jobs is also part of this saga. Then, there was 9/11! It was followed in March 2003, by the Bush-Cheney Gang launching a preemptive strike against Iraq, at a cost estimated to be \$3.5 trillion! And, the latest shock therapy for us: the Wall Street bailout and the financial meltdown. All of this might make you wonder: Is some powerful, shadowy clique orchestrating the decline of America?

Well, Dr. John Coleman thinks so. He's the author of a book, mostly of a speculative nature, called *Conspirators' Hierarchy*. Published in 1992, it's now in its fourth edition. A former MI-6 British operative, he charged that America is being reduced to a vassal state by globalist schemers — "an invisible government" — who lust after a New World Order (NWO). If America's destruction is not being planned, then does that mean it has been subjected to one incredible incident after another simply by chance? If so, what a run of bad luck we've been in.

Dr. Coleman alleges that this powerful clique, heirs supposedly of the mysterious "Illuminati," has set in motion a devilish plan to "deindustrialize America...[and to] accelerate the collapse of first [our] steel industry, and then the auto and housing industries." Putting Dr. Coleman's theories aside, here is what I know: As I write, the steel industry in this country is only a shade of its once mighty self; auto giants, such as Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, are either pleading, in varying degrees, for government handouts and/or looking for a merger in order to survive; all this while the housing industry, thanks to the disastrous policies for over 19 years of the ex-Chair of "The Fed," Alan "Bubbles" Greenspan, is in a dangerous, costly tailspin.

Dr. Coleman further claims that the late economist Milton Friedman, who pushed for deregulation, the outsourcing of jobs and the privatizing of public assets in the US, was taking the same road as the globalist schemers. Maybe that was just a coincidence. Who knows for sure? We do know that the whacky Friedman sought to eliminate Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare! He was as deeply flawed in his thinking as the Neocons' bizarre Godfather, the late Leo Strauss was in his. Dr. Coleman also alleges, in his book, that the subscribers to the NWO want to devise "a One World Government with a unified...monetary system under their direction...[and that they also seek] the utter destruction of all national identity and national pride." Sounds pretty darn grim to me, if it is true! What do you think?

Unfortunately, there is little documentation in Dr. Coleman's book to support his numerous conspiracy theories. They are his opinions. Period! Nevertheless, we don't need Dr. Coleman's theories to see for ourselves that our civil liberties, our ancient rights, our middle class jobs, and our way of life are fast disappearing. We can note, too, how many federal policies, such as those dealing with international trade, have been so destructive to our once acclaimed industrial base and to the working class. The question remains: who is behind all of this chicanery?

We can also see that many of our elected officials, in Washington, DC, have done little about this debacle. Even now, with the economic and fiscal meltdowns, these politicians have turned the nation's fate mostly over to private bankers and corporate hucksters, who

don't have the public's welfare as a priority. Doesn't this violate the US Constitution?

In an insightful commentary, Tom Eley tells us who he thinks Henry Paulson, the US Treasury Secretary, really is, and about his close ties to the Wall Street kingpin, Goldman-Sachs. While reading Mr. Eley's piece, the prophetic words of Richard L. Trumka were still ringing in my ears. He's the Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO. He said, on May 1, 2008: "Wall Street has hijacked our economy!" Mr. Trumka's full remarks should be a must read.

Stop and take a good look at President George W. Bush! Does he act like he's really worried about the horrific shape the country is in? I think if he had his way, he'd be back at Crawford, Texas, fixing himself a barbecue lunch. He's only hanging around the White House because his handlers are insisting, for PR reasons, that he do so. And what about that mostly spineless US Congress? It just passed a \$650 billion dollar military budget to enrich the coffers of the Military-Industrial Complex. This is before it voted for the bailout for the Wall Street parasites. Then, there is VP Dick Cheney! Where has that warmonger been? Down on the Eastern Shore of Maryland shooting at ducks?

I submit that none of the above politicians are losing any sleep over the current sorry state of America. The reason: They don't really give a hoot! They are part of the problem. Here's another way to put it: If there were patriots running the US, wouldn't they be standing up for the nation's wellbeing against these Wire Pullers? Where are the patriots? I say this: The real patriots, like peace activist Cindy Sheehan, have been out in the streets, since March 2003, protesting the illegal Iraq War!

I argue further that the people in elected office, at the federal level, who truly do care about our Republic, such as Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) and Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH), have been cleverly marginalized by the Controlled Media Cartel. This is why, too, excellent Third Party presidential candidates, like Ralph Nader, Cynthia McKinney, Chuck Baldwin and Bob Barr, get little or no press coverage, and are also barred from the rigged debates, which are dominated by the DemRepublicrats, aka "The Duopoly."

Getting back to Dr. Coleman. He insisted that America's reputed enemies don't look like monsters. He said: "They wear business suits and drive to work... in limousines." Thanks for the tip. We'll keep a keen eye out for those really long limos.

One of the scariest predictions in Dr. Coleman's book is this contention: "[The Wire Pullers] are looking to [manufacture] social convulsions on a global scale, followed by depressions, as [a] softening up technique for bigger things to come, as its principal method of creating masses of people all over the world who will become its welfare recipients of the future." Ugly stuff!

These are, indeed, strange times that we live in. Some of the capitalist types have resorted to socializing their losses by sucking up to the taxpayers' bailout of Wall Street. The Military-Industrial Complex continues to make profits galore, while the price of oil has fallen to below \$100 a barrel. Meanwhile, the power-hungry, Empire-expansionists, embedded in the American Establishment, are speeding the country to the financial cleaners, with the total collapse of the dollar waiting in the wings for its cue. Who benefits, if the dollar collapses? The NWO?

Let me leave you with this cogent quote from author Peter Dale Scott. The master observer of parapolitical topics wrote: "In the long perspective of historical time, we see that the communities dedicated to truth, and justice, and decency, tend to outlast those of the vilifiers." Take that, you NWO creeps!

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History's Lessons
The Fed Now Owns The World's Largest Insurance Company
— But Who Owns The Fed?

By ELLEN BROWN

The Federal Reserve (or Fed) has assumed sweeping new powers in the last year. In an unprecedented move in March 2008, the New York Fed advanced the funds for JP Morgan Chase Bank to buy investment bank Bear Stearns for pennies on the dollar. The deal was particularly controversial because Jamie Dimon, CEO of JP Morgan, sits on the board of the New York Fed and participated in the secret weekend negotiations. In September 2008, the Federal Reserve did something even more unprecedented, when it bought the world's largest insurance company. The Fed announced on September 16, 2008 that it was giving an \$85 billion loan to American International Group (AIG) for a nearly 80% stake in the mega-insurer. The *Associated Press* called it a "government takeover," but this was no ordinary nationalization. Unlike the US Treasury, which took over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac the week before, the Fed is not a government-owned agency. Also unprecedented was the way the deal was funded. The *Associated Press* reported:

"The Treasury Department, for the first time in its history, said it would begin selling bonds for the Federal Reserve in an effort to help the central bank deal with its unprecedented borrowing needs."

This is extraordinary. Why is the Treasury issuing US government bonds (or debt) to fund the Fed, which is itself supposedly "the lender of last resort" created to fund the banks and the federal government? *Yahoo Finance* reported on September 17:

"The Treasury is setting up a temporary financing program at the Fed's request. The program will auction Treasury bills to raise cash for the Fed's use. The initiative aims to help the Fed manage its balance sheet following its efforts to enhance its liquidity facilities over the previous few quarters."

Normally, the Fed swaps green pieces of paper called Federal Reserve Notes for pink pieces of paper called US bonds (the federal government's IOUs), in order to provide Congress with the dollars it cannot raise through taxes. Now, it seems, the government is issuing bonds, not for its own use, but for the use of the Fed! Perhaps the plan is to swap them with the banks' dodgy derivatives collateral directly, without actually putting them up for sale to outside buyers. According to *Wikipedia* (which translates Fed speak into somewhat clearer terms than the Fed's own website):



Federal Reserve, Washington, DC

"The Term Securities Lending Facility is a 28-day facility that will offer Treasury general collateral to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's primary dealers in exchange for other program-eligible collateral. It is intended to promote liquidity in the financing markets for Treasury and other collateral and thus to foster the functioning of financial markets more generally.... The resource allows dealers to switch debt that is less liquid for US government securities that are easily tradable."

"To switch debt that is less liquid for US government securities that are easily tradable" means that the government gets the banks' toxic derivative debt, and the banks get the government's triple-A securities. Unlike the risky derivative debt, federal securities are considered "risk-free" for purposes of determining capital requirements, allowing the banks to improve their capital position so they can make new loans. (See E. Brown, "Bailout Bedlam," webofdebt.com/articles, October 2, 2008.)

In its latest power play, on October 3, 2008, the Fed acquired the ability to pay interest to its member banks on the reserves the banks maintain at the Fed. *Reuters* reported on October 3:

"The US Federal Reserve gained a key tactical tool from the \$700 billion financial rescue package signed into law on Friday that will help it channel funds into parched credit markets. Tucked into the 451-page bill is a provision that lets the Fed pay interest on the reserves banks are required to hold at the central bank."

If the Fed's money comes ultimately from the taxpayers, that means we the taxpayers are paying interest to the banks on the banks' own reserves — reserves maintained for their own private profit. These increasingly controversial encroachments on the public

purse warrant a closer look at the central banking scheme itself. Who owns the Federal Reserve, who actually controls it, where does it get its money, and whose interests is it serving?

Not Private and Not for Profit?

The Fed's website insists that it is not a private corporation, is not operated for profit, and is not funded by Congress. But is that true? The Federal Reserve was set up in 1913 as a "lender of last resort" to backstop bank runs, following a particularly bad bank panic in 1907. The Fed's mandate was then and continues to be to keep the private banking system intact; and that means keeping intact the system's most valuable asset, a monopoly on creating the national money supply. Except for coins, every dollar in circulation is now created privately as a debt to the Federal Reserve or the banking system it heads. The Fed's website attempts to gloss over its role as chief defender and protector of this private banking club, but let's take a closer look. The website states:

- "The twelve regional Federal Reserve Banks, which were established by Congress as the operating arms of the nation's central banking system, are organized much like private corporations — possibly leading to some confusion about "ownership." For example, the Reserve Banks issue shares of stock to member banks. However, owning Reserve Bank stock is quite different from owning stock in a private company. The Reserve Banks are not operated for profit, and ownership of a certain amount of stock is, by law, a condition of membership in the System. The stock may not be sold, traded, or pledged as security for a loan; dividends are, by law, 6% per year."

- "[The Federal Reserve] is considered an independent central bank because its decisions do not have to be ratified by the President or anyone else in the executive or legislative branch of government, it does not receive funding appropriated by Congress, and the terms of the members of the Board of Governors span multiple presidential and congressional terms."

- "The Federal Reserve's income is derived primarily from the interest on US government securities that it has acquired through open market operations... After paying its expenses, the Federal Reserve turns the rest of its earnings over to the US Treasury."

So let's review:
1. The Fed is privately owned.
Its shareholders are private banks. In fact,
THE FED p. 7

Shipping News



US Navy Vessel trails the captured freighter.



Somali pirates control the freighter MV Faina containing arms destined for Sudan.

Somali Pirates Expose US Sanctioned Arms Traffic

By WAYNE MADSEN/WAYNE MADSEN REPORT
The "other Rice," Barack Obama's chief foreign policy adviser Susan Rice, a former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs under President Bill Clinton, may have egg on her face as a result of the Somali pirate capture of a Belize-flagged Ukrainian freighter, the MV *Faina*, on September 25 off the Somali coast.

The ship is carrying 33 Soviet T-72 tanks, anti-aircraft batteries, rocket and grenade launchers, and ammunition, which was reportedly destined for the government of Southern Sudan, a breakaway movement that is currently in a tenuous coalition with the central Sudanese government in Khartoum.

Rice is a long-time supporter of the southern Sudanese Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and a virulent critic of the Khartoum government. The capture of the *Faina* by Somali pirates points to the existence of a secret arms supply line involving Ukraine's neocon government led by President Viktor Yushchenko, the government of Kenya, and the United States. The US Navy is currently shadowing the *Faina* in a standoff with the

Somali captors of the ship.

The letters "GOSS," known as a common acronym for Southern Sudan, appears in the contract number for the arms shipment, according to *Agence France Presse* (AFP).

Kenya, a close US military ally, was quick to deny that the Ukrainian weapons were destined for Southern Sudan. Kenya's Foreign Minister maintained that "GOSS" stands for "General Ordnance Supply and Security" and the weapons were for Kenya's Defense Ministry. However, Kenya cannot produce a valid end-user certificate for the weapons, an indication that they are being smuggled. Moreover, Kenya's military uses Western military equipment, not Russian or Ukrainian.

The Spanish news agency *EFE* reported the shipment on the *Faina* was the second such shipment to the SPLA.

A US Navy spokesman for US Central Command confirmed to AFP that the weapons were destined for Southern Sudan, a contention backed by Western intelligence sources in the region.

Andrew Mwangura, the head of the

Kenyan branch of the Seafarers Assistance Program, was arrested by Kenyan authorities after he revealed the weapons were for Southern Sudan.

Rice has been a major supporter of the SPLA but proof that the movement has violated the January 2005 agreement between Khartoum and Southern Sudan could re-ignite the civil war that claimed over two million lives during a 20 year span. Such a revelation would also throw cold water on the notion that an Obama administration would offer a foreign policy free of a hypocritical US foreign policy vis a vis Sudan, which is accused of stoking warfare in Sudan's Darfur province.

[Update 10/19/08: Andrew Mwangura of the East African Seafarers' Assistance Program reports that relatives and friends in Russian and Ukraine have raised eight million dollars to ransom the Ukrainian crew. The money is expected to be handed over to the pirates sometime this week.]

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Who Owns The Fed?

THE FED from p.6

100% of its shareholders are private banks. None of its stock is owned by the government.

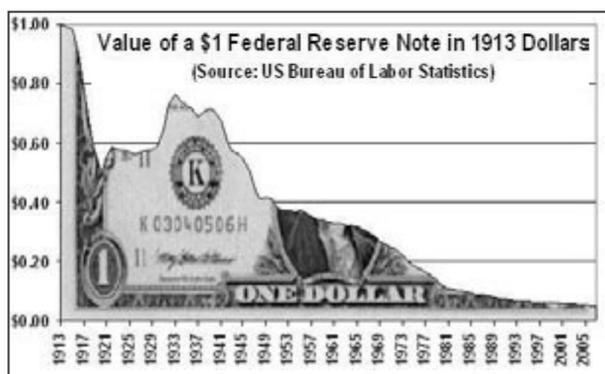
2. The fact that the Fed does not get "appropriations" from Congress basically means that it gets its money from Congress without congressional approval, by engaging in "open market operations."

Here is how it works: When the government is short of funds, the Treasury issues bonds and delivers them to bond dealers, which auction them off. When the Fed wants to "expand the money supply" (create money), it steps in and buys bonds from these dealers with newly-issued dollars acquired by the Fed for the cost of writing them into an account on a computer screen. These maneuvers are called "open market operations" because the Fed buys the bonds on the "open market" from the bond dealers. The bonds then become the "reserves" that the banking establishment uses to back its loans. In another sleight of hand known as "fractional reserve" lending, the same reserves are lent many times over, further expanding the money supply, generating interest for the banks with each loan. It was this money-creating process that prompted Rep. Wright Patman, Chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee in the 1960s, to call the Federal Reserve "a total money-making machine." He wrote:

"When the Federal Reserve writes a check for a government bond it does exactly what any bank does, it creates money, it created money purely and simply by writing a check."

3. The Fed generates profits for its shareholders.

The interest on bonds acquired with its newly-issued Federal Reserve Notes pays the Fed's operating expenses plus a guaranteed 6% return to its banker shareholders. A mere 6% a year may not be considered a profit in the world of Wall Street high finance, but most businesses that manage to cover all their expenses and give their shareholders a guaranteed 6% return are considered "for profit" corporations.



In addition to this guaranteed 6%, the banks will now be getting interest from the taxpayers on their "reserves." The basic reserve requirement set by the Federal Reserve is 10%. The website of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York explains that as money is redeposited and lent again throughout the banking system, this 10% held in "reserve" can be fanned into ten times that sum in loans; that is, \$10,000 in reserves becomes \$100,000 in loans. Federal Reserve Statistical Release H.8 puts the total "loans and leases in bank credit" as of September 24, 2008

at \$7,049 billion. Ten percent of that is \$700 billion. This means we the taxpayers will be paying interest to the banks on at least \$700 billion annually — this so that the banks can retain the reserves to accumulate interest on ten times that sum in loans.

The banks earn these returns from the taxpayers for the privilege of having the banks' interests protected by an all-powerful independent private central bank, even when those interests may be opposed to the taxpayers' — for example, when the banks use their special status as private money creators to fund speculative derivative schemes which threaten to collapse the US economy. Among other special benefits, banks and other financial institutions (but not other

corporations) can borrow at the low Fed funds rate of about 2%. They can then turn around and put this money into 30-year Treasury bonds at 4.5%, earning an immediate 2.5% from the taxpayers, just by virtue of their position as favored banks. A long list of banks (but not other corporations) is also now protected from the short-selling that can crash the price of other stocks.

Time to Change the Statute?

According to the Fed's website, the control Congress has over the Federal Reserve is limited to this:

"[T]he Federal Reserve is subject to oversight by Congress, which periodically reviews its activities and can alter its responsibilities by statute."

As we know from watching the business news, "oversight" basically means that Congress gets to see the results when it's over. The Fed periodically reports to Congress, but the Fed doesn't ask; it tells. The only real leverage Congress has over the Fed is that it "can alter its responsibilities by statute." It is time for Congress to exercise that leverage and make the Federal Reserve a truly federal agency, acting by and for the people through their elected representatives. If the Fed can demand AIG's stock in return for an \$85 billion loan to the mega-insurer, we can demand the Fed's stock in return for the trillion-or-so dollars we'll be advancing to bail out the private banking system from its follies.

If the Fed were actually a federal agency, the government could issue US legal tender directly, avoiding an unnecessary interest-bearing debt to private middlemen who create the money out of thin air themselves. Among other benefits to the taxpayers, a truly "federal" Federal Reserve could lend the full faith and credit of the United States to state and local governments interest-free, cutting the cost of infrastructure in half, restoring the thriving local economies of earlier decades.

Ellen Brown, J.D., developed her research skills as an attorney practicing civil litigation in Los Angeles. In Web of Debt, her latest book, she turns those skills to an analysis of the Federal Reserve and "the money trust." She shows how this private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves and how we the people can get it back. Her eleven books include the bestselling Nature's Pharmacy, co-authored with Dr. Lynne Walker, and Forbidden Medicine. Her websites are webofdebt.com and ellenbrown.com.

PROJECT FOR THE NEW AMERICAN CENTURY

PNAC from p.5

the Bush administration, brought the US and the rest of the world such classics as "The Global War on Terror" which has produced the wildly popular singles "Operation Iraqi Freedom" and "Operation Enduring Freedom." But PNAC is no one-hit wonder. The "military revolution" which spawned new and exciting ways to butcher families and regions, and saw US weapons development contracts fill the pockets of PNAC members, should not be forgotten. A few of my own favorite PNAC moments or issues of involvement, which I believe should be included in some future Greatest Hits record, involve the US (read international political and economic elite) *domination of cyberspace and outer space*. We haven't even begun to speak about *Homeland Security*.

Regardless, PNAC often wrote on the need to assert "American global leadership." But what of American domestic leadership? What of the problems faced within the country, which, according to neoconservatives, is a country that must be asserted as the bright and shining city on a hill and the leader for world restructuring, like it or not? We might want to note that 25% of children in the United States are below the poverty line and as of 2004 had the highest infant mortality rate in a list of "modern" nations. These are just some of the economic glories which the US can boast of and force onto others.

Furthermore, PNAC stated in March 2003 that the US is "committed to the rebuilding of Iraq and will provide the necessary resources and will remain [in Iraq]

for as long as it takes." Recently, I spoke to a soldier, who was on leave, but soon to be redeployed to Iraq and who spoke to me and others at great personal risk. He spoke of US efforts to rebuild Iraq. Although his unit is an ordinance unit, his particular job was to "guard" Iraqi civilians. He guarded them as they worked for pennies a day building US military installations. Most disturbingly, these workers range in ages from 7 or 8 years old to over 70. This particular soldier kept telling me the names of small children who are now, it seems, slaves under the umbrella of the United States of America, a fact which should cause all United States citizens a great deal of shame. Their eyes, he said, would not leave his mind. He said he felt guilty and that he could not sleep anymore, that he woke in the middle of the night reaching for his weapon and crying when the faces entered his waking consciousness.

I wonder if those who penned the PNAC documents and letters could come up with a convincing argument as to how slave labor, including child labor, brings political and economic freedom to anyone, even the captors, or how this practice, to name only one, can be to any civilized people, nation, or individual, examples of ethical leadership. What kind of leadership can we expect when issues like these are not allowed into the public consciousness, much less the public debate?

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US Journalists and War-Crime Guilt

JOURNALISTS from p.1

been for him and for those like him. He led the propaganda and the education of the German people in those ways."

The critical role of propaganda was affirmed at Nuremberg not only by the prosecution and in the judgment but also in the testimony of the most prominent Nazi defendant, Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering: "Modern and total war develops, as I see it, along three lines: the war of weapons on land, at sea and in the air; economic war, which has become an integral part of every modern war; and, third, propaganda war, which is also an essential part of this warfare."

Two months after the Nuremberg hangings, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 59(I), declaring:

"Freedom of information requires as an indispensable element the willingness and capacity to employ its privileges without abuse. It requires as a basic discipline the moral obligation to seek the facts without prejudice and to spread knowledge without malicious intent."

The next year, 1955, another General Assembly Resolution was adopted: Res. 110 which "condemns all forms of propaganda, in whatsoever country conducted, which is either designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression."

Although UN General Assembly Resolutions are not legally binding, Resolutions 59 and 110 carry considerable moral weight. This is because, like the United Nations itself, they are an expression of the catastrophic brutality and suffering of two world wars and the universal desire to avoid future slaughter.

Propaganda Crimes

Most jurisdictions have yet to recognize propaganda for war as a crime. However several journalists have recently been convicted of incitement to genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Because there is stiff resistance, especially from the United States, the effort to criminalize war propaganda faces an uphill battle.

However in legal terms, it seems relatively straightforward: if incitement to genocide is a crime, then incitement to aggression, another Nuremberg crime, certainly could and should be as well.

After all, aggression — starting an unprovoked war — is "the supreme international crime differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole," in the words of the 1946 judgment at Nuremberg. Criminal or not, much of the world now sees incitement to war as morally indefensible.

In this light and in light of Goering's three-part recipe for war (weapons, economic war and propaganda), it is instructive to look at

the role which American journalists and war propagandists have recently played in bringing about and sustaining war.

The Bush administration began to sell the invasion of Iraq to the American public soon after 9/11.

In order to coordinate this effort President Bush's chief of staff, Andrew Card, established the White House Iraq Group (WHIG) in the summer of 2002 expressly for the purpose of marketing the invasion of Iraq.

Among the members of WHIG were media figures/propagandists Karen Hughes and Mary Matalin.

WHIG was remarkable not only for its recklessness with the truth but for the candor with which it acknowledged it was running an advertising campaign. A September 7, 2002, *New York Times* article entitled "Traces of Terror: The Strategy; Bush Aides Set Strategy to Sell Policy on Iraq," reported: "White House officials said today that the administration was following a meticulously planned strategy to persuade the public, the Congress and the allies of the need to confront the threat from Saddam Hussein...."

"From a marketing point of view," said Andrew H. Card Jr., the White House chief of staff who is coordinating the effort, "you don't introduce new products in August."

It was as if the "product" — the unprovoked invasion of a sovereign state — was a consumer good, like a car or a TV show. The sales pitch was the manufactured "imminent threat" of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. In other words, the business of WHIG was incitement to aggressive war primarily through the propaganda of fear. Along those lines WHIG's most prominent member, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, invoked the specter of an Iraqi-generated nuclear holocaust in a September 8, 2002, CNN interview with Wolf Blitzer: "We do know that there have been shipments going into Iran, for instance — into Iraq, for instance, of aluminum tubes that really are only suited to — high-quality aluminum tools that are only really suited for nuclear weapons programs, centrifuge programs. ... The problem here is that there will always be some uncertainty about how quickly he can acquire nuclear weapons. But we don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud."

The smoking gun/mushroom cloud images were among the most memorable of all the White House war propaganda. They were generated just a few days earlier in a WHIG meeting by speechwriter Michael Gerson.

The existence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction was central to the Bush administration's campaign for war. Other important elements were Saddam Hussein's ties with al Qaeda and the strongly implied association of Iraq with the tragedies of 9/11. All were false. In propaganda, though, selling

the product trumps truth.

Unquestioning Submission

The role played by American mainstream media during the run-up to the invasion of Iraq was marked by widespread unquestioning submission to the Bush administration and abandonment of the most fundamental journalistic responsibility to the public.

This responsibility is embodied not only in Resolution 59 but in the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics as well, which states: "Journalists should test the accuracy of information from all sources and exercise care to avoid inadvertent error." The failure of influential American journalists, such as the *New York Times*' Judith Miller, to test the accuracy of information played a critical role in the Bush administration's successful effort to incite the American public to attack a country which was not threatening us. Though she was far from alone in selling the case for war, Miller — through her seemingly uncritical reliance on dodgy informants — was probably responsible to a larger degree than any other American journalist for spreading the fear of nonexistent Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

As such she and other influential journalists who failed in this way bear a share of moral, if not legal, responsibility for hundreds of thousands of deaths, millions of refugees and all the other carnage, devastation and human suffering of "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Some prominent American media figures, however, went considerably further than simple failure to check sources. Some actively and passionately encouraged Americans to commit and/or approve of war crimes, before and during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Prominent among these was Fox News' Bill O'Reilly who — regarding both Afghanistan and Iraq — advocated such crimes forbidden by the Geneva Convention as collective punishment of civilians (Gen. Con. IV, Art. 33); attacking civilian targets (Protocol I, Art. 51); destroying water supplies (Protocol I, Art. 54 Sec. 2) and even starvation (Protocol I, Art. 54 Sec. 1).

September 17, 2001: "The US should bomb the Afghan infrastructure to rubble: the airport, the power plants, their water facilities, and the roads" in the event of a refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden to the US. Later, he added: "This is a very primitive country. And taking out their ability to exist day to day will not be hard. ... We should not target civilians. But if they don't rise up against this criminal government, they starve, period." On March 26, 2003, a few days after the invasion of Iraq began, O'Reilly said: "There is a school of thought that says we should have given the citizens of Baghdad 48 hours to get out of Dodge by dropping leaflets and going with the AM radios and all that. Forty-eight hours, you've got to get out of there, and flatten the place." [See Peter Hart's "O'Reilly's War: Any rationale-or none-will do" *Fairness &*

Accuracy in Reporting, May/June 2003]

Collective Punishment

Another tremendously influential journalist, Pulitzer Prize winner and former executive editor of the *New York Times*, the late A.M. Rosenthal, also advocated attacking civilian targets and collective punishment in regard to waging war against Muslim nations in the Middle East.

In a Sept. 14, 2001, column, "How the US Can Win the War", Rosenthal wrote that the US should give Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria and Sudan three days to consider an ultimatum demanding they turn over documents and information related to weapons of mass destruction and terrorist organizations. During these three days, "the residents of the countries would be urged 24 hours a day by the US to flee the capital and major cities, because they would be bombed to the ground beginning the fourth day."

Right-wing media figure Ann Coulter, on the Sean Hannity Show on July 21, 2006, called for another war and more punishment of civilians, this time in Iran:

"Well, I keep hearing people say we can't find the nuclear material, and you can bury it in caves. How about we just, you know, carpet-bomb them so they can't build a transistor radio? And then it doesn't matter if they have the nuclear material."

This pattern of the major US news figures advocating aggressive wars even predated 9/11. Three-time Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas Friedman published a strident call for war crimes including collective punishment of Serbs and the destruction of their water supplies over the Kosovo crisis: "But if NATO's only strength is that it can bomb forever, then it has to get every ounce out of that. Let's at least have a real air war. The idea that people are still holding rock concerts in Belgrade, or going out for Sunday merry-go-round rides, while their fellow Serbs are 'cleansing' Kosovo, is outrageous. It should be lights out in Belgrade: every power grid, water pipe, bridge, road and war-related factory has to be targeted."

"Like it or not, we are at war with the

Serbian nation (the Serbs certainly think so), and the stakes have to be very clear: Every week you ravage Kosovo is another decade we will set your country back by pulverizing you. You want 1950? We can do 1950. You want 1389? We can do 1389 too." [*New York Times*, April 23, 1999]

These casual — even joking — comments about inflicting war on relatively weak countries came from American journalists and media figures at the very top of their profession. Each was addressing an audience of millions. It is difficult to overstate their influence.

Over the past decade alone, the massive destruction and carnage wreaked by American pursuit of "the supreme international crime" of aggression has been enabled by negligent, reckless and/or malicious use of this influence. Sadly, the words of Nuremberg Prosecutor John Mervyn Griffith-Jones concerning the propaganda of German journalist Julius Streicher hold considerable meaning today for some of the most prominent journalists in the country which, 60 years ago, provided the guiding light at Nuremberg:

Streicher "made these things possible — made these crimes possible which could never have happened had it not been for him and for those like him."

In 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 127 in which "the General Assembly ... invites the Governments of States Members ... to study such measures as might with advantage, be taken on the national plane to combat, within the limits of constitutional procedures, the diffusion of false or distorted reports likely to injure friendly relations between States."

Unfortunately, 60 years later, little progress has been made. War propaganda is still legal and very much alive - flourishing, in fact, as demonstrated by periodic calls for one more invasion of a country which has never threatened the US: Iran.

As matters stand today, with the United States still the world's preeminent military power, the American propagandists who enabled and advocated Operation Iraqi Freedom and other wars of aggression have little need to worry about their legal responsibilities under the Nuremberg principles. A strong case can be made, though, that they have blood on their hands.

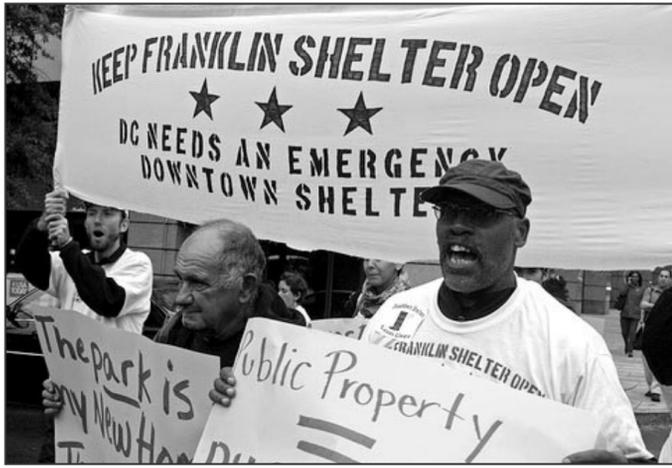
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DC Residents Fight to Save Emergency Shelter



SHELTER from p.1

also provides residents with hot water, air conditioning, and heat, something that has been missing periodically at some of the other shelters for various lengths of time.

Fortunately, the resistance spearheaded by Franklin residents, with the help of their supporters, has borne some fruit in the form of a piece of legislation called the "Franklin Shelter Closing Requirements Emergency Act." The act requires Mayor Fenty to prove he has beds to replace those he's taking away from Franklin (all 300), though, even in this he, along with Ward 2 Council member, Jack Evans, is doing his best to circumvent the law, and with it, any semblance of fairness to the DC homeless. While the City Council voted in favor of the bill (12 to 1), Fenty still managed to kick residents out. On Friday, September 26th, the city closed Franklin down.

It's important to note that this struggle is just one example of the many battles being fought all over America to keep public housing both alive and affordable. These struggles together represent the front lines of the class war in America. The most obvious indicator of this war can be seen in how we spend our money.

The United States spends more money on our military than the whole industrial world combined, including China, the Middle East and North Africa. We spend three times more money per person on incarceration (2.2 million people are incarcerated in the US — the most in the world) than on public education per pupil, and believe it or not, the US spends nearly four times more money to arrest and imprison marijuana offenders than on homelessness and affordable housing initiatives!

Meanwhile, the United States has over 50 million Americans without healthcare,

200,000 homeless veterans on the street on any given night, between 1 and 1.5 million teenagers experiencing at least one episode of homelessness each year, and nearly 13 million children living below the poverty line, with an additional 28 million living in abject poverty. There is a clear economic and social crisis in this country, and it stems from the steady assault on the middle and working class in America.

The \$700 billion dollar bail out passed by Congress will go to the richest among us while the poor and disenfranchised in this country continue to suffer from the very same economic system that the rich have created. Sadly, it seems that those in power, including both our presidential candidates, are willing to give pennies to the people but billions to the bankers. Access to affordable public housing and emergency shelters is our right. It's up to us to take back and defend what is rightfully ours.

On September 30th, Mayor Fenty signed 'The Franklin Shelter Closing Requirements Emergency Act of 2008' and submitted a report to the City Council. His report shows that the goals of his 'housing first' plan have not been met, and that only 87 residents of Franklin have been put into supportive housing. On October 7th, Marion Berry, Ward 8 DC Councilman, tried to introduce legislation that would open an emergency downtown shelter with 150 beds, but was stopped by Jack Evans. Mr. Evans wants to delay the introduction of the bill in order to re-define 'downtown' in order to stop any shelter from being opened in Ward 2 (downtown). The bill will be introduced on October 21st. For more information: Franklinshelter.org

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Drug War Terrorizes Americans

DRUG WAR from p. 3

- Daily caffeine through coffee and energy drinks for teens
- "Speed" amphetamines for children diagnosed with ADHD
- Highly addictive painkillers like Oxycontin, which are now openly abused by teens
- Over-the-counter cold medicines, now widely used to manufacture meth (crank, ice, etc.)

The real point to all of this, of course, is not to stop Americans from using drugs; it's to force Americans to use patented drugs that earn profits for powerful corporations. The job of the DEA is primarily to eliminate Big Pharma's competition by criminalizing non-patented drugs while protecting patented ones. In order to concentrate power into their own hands, they must create fear and terrorize the population, which is why the DEA keeps raiding California medical marijuana clinics, by the way... even though they are legal in the State of California!

Who are the real criminals?

The real criminals in society today are not the lazy potheads toking up a joint in the basement. The real criminals are those who terrorize us, take away our freedoms and steal our money while bailing out the rich. And guess who does all three? Your government, of course!

People like Ron and Nadine (www.LivingLibations.com) are unwittingly playing a Ghandi-like role in this grand governmental comedy. By persevering through their arrest and interrogation and proving their obvious innocence in the face of outrageous stupidity, they bring focus to the idiocy of modern law enforcement and the real threat posed to innocents by our nation's ill-fated War on Drugs.

Real power comes from health and wisdom, and yet the people running our governments today have neither; so they must fabricate

false power through the use of firearms, fear and intimidation. These are the weapons of the weak, and they will ultimately fall to the strength and courage of enlightened, health-infused individuals like Ron and Nadine from Living Libations.

Ultimately, the War on Drugs is not a war on drugs. It's a war on freedom. It's a war on civil liberties. It's a war of control, intended to enslave the People in a system of chemical treatment that solely serves the interests of

powerful corporations who are drugging our children into psychological oblivion.

Law enforcement claims its mission is to "protect and serve." They're right: To protect Big Pharma and serve as mercenaries in the war against freedom.

Mike Adams is an author, investigative journalist and educator. He is the founder of the website Health Ranger (www.healthranger.org) and NaturalNews.com. He's written thousands of articles and a book chronicling his pursuit of peak health. Grocery Warning.



The Little Lie and How It Grew

LITTLE LIE from p.1

Lamb says that he discovered this "devastating truth" in research for "... a NY daily of international reputation. It wasn't what I thought I'd find. I documented it, presented it to the Washington Bureau Chief, but was hardly surprised that it never saw ink..."

The above statement represents the sum total of Lamb's documentation. There are no footnotes, no genealogical lists, no weblink to the "Kenyan government." There is no proof of Lamb's assertion that every male ancestor of Barack Obama has an Arabic name. For all this "information," the only Web source — for poor gullible Gayle Quinnell, as well as Limbaugh, Crowley and Ingraham — is Ken Lamb.

However, by delving into the Web beyond the point where Mrs. Quinnell hung up her mouse, I learned a few things about Obama's lineage. First, yes, his mom was white. Second, according to Wikipedia and Britannica, Barack Obama's African half originates in the Luo tribe, who fled their roots in Sudan, bound for Kenya, in roughly 1500 A.D. The Luo — who are black as the ace of spades — have no blood connection to the Arabs who invaded Sudan about 500 years ago. Until the early 20th century, Luos got by with only one name. Under British colonial rule, they were forced to take a family name. So Barack Obama's grandfather, Onyango, simply combined his name with his father's, relabeling himself Onyango Obama. Both names, by the way — according to Ethnologue.com — are Luo, not Arabic. Obama means "slightly bent."

The point where Ken Lamb probably got lost was where Onyango moved to Zanzibar for awhile, and was lured away from Christianity by some unknown Muslim spellbinder. According to several sources, the Obama clan was Christian — as are 90 percent of Luos — until Barack's granddad went all Islamic and added another name! According to About.com, the *Chicago Sun-Times* and Barack's autobiography, Onyango not only decided to call himself Hussein ("the good") Onyango Obama, he decided to hang an Arabic name on his son, Barack Hussein Obama ("blessings on the good, slightly bent"). This Arabic-naming tradition among the Obamas didn't last long. The current Barack Obama named his daughters Malia (a Hawaiian word meaning "maybe," according to Think Baby Names.com) and Natasha (see "Rocky and Bullwinkle").

For the record, according to the *Sun-Times*, prior generations of Barack Obama's male forebears (the Luos, until recently, never kept track of mothers' names) were named Mwiru, Sigoma, Owiny, Kisodhi, Ogelo, Otondi, Obongo and Obiyo. His great grandmother was Nyaoko. His step-grandmother, the family genealogist, was named Sarah. Sarah, by the way, is a non-Luo name. It's Arabic (and Hebrew), according to Wikipedia, meaning "woman of high rank," or "lady governor."

So, what's the difference? Who cares if Barack Obama's forebears were Negro — as they appear to be — or Arab? For sane people, it's all the same. Most of us live side-by-side, in harmony, with Arab-Americans like Dr. Michael DeBakey, Jerry Seinfeld, Ralph Nader, Donna Shalala, Paula Abdul and Frank Zappa.

But Kenneth Lamb's point is that by lying about his Arabicity, Barack Obama is concealing his very identity. Hence, we cannot trust any word that comes out of his lying mouth. Lamb writes that if Obama were to admit that Mwiru, Owiny, Obiyo and Nyaoko were all Arab slave-traders, "Mr. Obama will have to admit that which he has never been forced to admit before, even in the face of the massive lies of his autobiography: Mr. Obama's entire projection of who he is, and what he is, is a lie."

Yeah, well, trouble is, according to the record, Obama is actually what he says he is — a half-caste darkie with a weird-ass name. So, how can we explain a growing posse of Web cadets out there — Gayle, Rush and Laura among them — who take Kenneth Lamb's dippy confection about Arabobama the Slave Prince of Wau at face value? Perhaps all we need to do is scroll back to a simpler, more analog era.

One of the Third Reich's lasting contributions to Western culture was the articulation by Nazi propaganda guru Joseph Paul Goebbels of a strategy he called the Big Lie — a whopper told so often, so brazenly and with such conviction that it morphs magically into Gospel in the minds of the masses. Today, the Big Lie remains alive and well, but — judging by Ken Lamb's blog, the *Drudge Report* and other Internet travesties — it's evident that the Web has spun a 21st-century subspecies of Goebbels' brainstorm: the Little Lie.

The Little Lie, ideally, is uttered but once — weakly — and released like a plankton speck into the Internet's vast soup of words. A typical Little Lie is credible, at first, to only a handful of its author's co-religionists. These believers might be crazier than the aunt in the attic. But they also have the Web. They echo the Little Lie until it loses all contact with its source. Ken Lamb disappears. Second- and third-circulation consumers have no idea that the author's assertions are both groundless and easily debunked.

The Little Lie takes on the cast of verisimilitude. It swells blatantly; it makes its debut on Talk Radio. Pretty soon, it's on national TV, spouted by a cocksure bigot from just south of Lake Riley. Fed by YouTube, it grows, from a once-tiny microorganism, into a myth so smug that it ends up, finally, mocking the very words of its originator, Kenneth E. Lamb, who has said, "Racist presumptions coupled with sloppy vetting don't turn a lie into the truth."

David Benjamin is a novelist and journalist, originally from Madison, Wisconsin, who now divides his time between New York and Paris. His latest book is *The Life and Times of the Last Kid Picked*.

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