

# Rock Creek Free Press

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

## US Appeals Court OKs Kidnapping and Torture

*Ruling perpetuates Bush-era 'war on terror' excesses*

By AMY GOODMAN

"Extraordinary rendition" is White House-speak for kidnapping. Just ask Maher Arar. He's a Canadian citizen who was "rendered" by the US to Syria, where he was tortured for almost a year.

In November the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in New York City, dismissed Arar's case against the government officials (including FBI Director Robert Mueller, former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and former Attorney General John Ashcroft) who allegedly conspired to have him kidnapped and tortured. Arar is safe now, recovering in Canada with his family. But the decision sends a signal to the Obama administration that there will be no judicial intervention to halt the cruel excesses of the Bush-era "global war on terror," including extraordinary rendition, torture and the use

See KIDNAPPING pg. 2

## Italian Court Convicts CIA Agents of Kidnapping

*Historic Verdict Sentences US Agents in Absentia*

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

(Milan) - An Italian court's conviction of 23 agents of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for kidnapping is an historic repudiation of the CIA's crimes, Human Rights Watch said today. The Milan court also found that two Italian officials illegally collaborated in CIA abuses.

The judge said he could not pronounce any verdict against five of the seven Italians on trial for the 2003 abduction of an Egyptian imam because they were protected by the state secrecy doctrine. Of the 26 Americans who were on trial, all of them in absentia, the court found that three were protected by diplomatic immunity guarantees.

Robert Seldon Lady, alleged to be the CIA station chief in Milan at the time of the kidnapping, received an eight-year sentence,

See ITALIAN COURT pg. 4

## British Ambassador Confronts Torture Policy

By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

Craig Murray, the former British ambassador to Uzbekistan, claims the CIA relied on confessions gleaned through extreme torture from suspects sent to that country as part of the extraordinary rendition program. "I'm talking of people being raped with broken bottles," he said at a lecture in late October that was re-broadcast by the Real News Network. "I'm talking of people having their children tortured in front of them until they sign a confession. I'm talking of people being boiled alive. And the intelligence from these torture sessions was being received by the

See TORTURE pg. 2

## Spurred by AIPAC, US House Denounces Goldstone Report on Israeli War Crimes in Gaza

*When the Israel Lobby goes on red alert, it becomes the Jewish Lobby*

By WAYNE MADSEN

Two votes this month show that when backed to the wall, the powerful Israel Lobby can become even more powerful when it marshals the resources of the worldwide Jewish Lobby. The two lobbies went into red alert status over the UN report of well-respected South African judge Richard Goldstone, who is Jewish, a self-described Zionist, and trustee of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The report recommends an independent investigation into Israeli actions in what the report stated amounted to "war crimes, possibly crimes against humanity." Israel's invasion of Gaza, code named "Cast Lead," resulted in the deaths of over 1400 Palestinians, many of them children and women.

The reaction of the "twin lobby" to the Goldstone report was quick and fierce. On cue, the Anti-Defamation League's whiny Abe Foxman let loose with a barrage of criticism of Goldstone. From other quarters, Goldstone was accused of being "anti-Semitic" and a "self-hating Jew." The



Members of the UN Mission took testimony at four public hearings (Goldstone, center).

same sort of vitriolic name-calling had been meted out by the Lobby to Mary Robinson, the former Irish President, who served as UN Human Rights Commissioner.

The Israel Lobby, whose political backbone comes from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC),

See GOLDSTONE pg. 4

## Summary of the Goldstone Report

On 3 April 2009, the President of the Human Rights Council, Alex Van Meeuwen, established the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict with the mandate "to investigate all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that might have been committed at any time in the context of the military operations that were conducted in Gaza during the period from 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009, whether before, during or after."

The President appointed Justice Richard Goldstone, former judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa and former Prosecutor of the International

Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, to head the Mission. The other three appointed members were: Professor Christine Chinkin, Professor of International Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science, who was a member of the high-level fact-finding mission to Beit Hanoun (2008); Ms. Hina Jilani, Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and former Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, who was a member of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur (2004); and Colonel Desmond Travers, a former Officer in Ireland's Defence Forces and member of

the Board of Directors of the Institute for International Criminal Investigations.

The Mission conducted 188 individual interviews. It reviewed more than 300 reports, submissions and other documentation amounting to more than 10,000 pages, over 30 videos and 1,200 photographs.

By refusing to cooperate with the Mission, the Government of Israel prevented it from meeting Israeli government officials, but also from travelling to Israel to meet with Israeli victims and to the West Bank to meet with Palestinian Authority representatives and Palestinian victims.

See SUMMARY pg. 5

## Goldman's Profits Come from Our Pockets: Why We Need a Tobin Tax

By ELLEN BROWN

In the midst of the worst recession since the Great Depression, Goldman Sachs is having a banner year. According to an October 16 article by Colin Barr on CNNMoney.com:

While Goldman churned out \$3 billion in profits in the third quarter, the economy shed 768,000 jobs, and home foreclosures set a new record. More than one million Americans have filed for bankruptcy this year, according to the American Bankruptcy Institute.

Barr writes that Goldman's "eye-popping profit" resulted "as revenue from trading rose fourfold from a year ago." Really. Revenue from trading? Didn't we bail out Goldman and the other Wall

Street banks so they could make loans, take deposits, and keep our money safe?

That is what banks used to do, but today the big Wall Street money comes from short-term speculation in currency transactions, commodities, stocks, and derivatives for the banks' own accounts. And here's the beauty of it: the Wall Street speculators have managed to trade in practically the only products left on the planet that are not subject to a sales tax. While parents in California are now paying 9% sales tax on their children's school bags and shoes, Goldman is paying zero tax to sustain its gambling habit. Race track winnings and other forms of gambling are taxed at up to 25%. But stock market trades get off scot free.

That helps explain Goldman's equally eye-popping tax bracket. What would you guess - 50%? 30%? Not even close. In 2008, Goldman Sachs paid a paltry 1% in taxes — less than clerks at WalMart.

**Speeding Tickets to Slow Day Traders?**

Wall Street bankers have been called today's "welfare queens," feeding at the public trough to the tune of trillions of dollars. The fact that their speculative trades remain untaxed suggests a tidy way that taxpayers could recover some of their bailout money. The idea of taxing speculative trades was first proposed by Nobel Prize winning economist James

See TOBIN TAX pg. 7

## German High Court Outlaws Electronic Voting

*A Censored Headline and Why it Matters*

By MICHAEL COLLINS / WORLD NEWS

The German justices are clearly the most rational group of high level functionaries in the industrialized world. They did what no other court would do in Europe or the United States. They effectively outlawed electronic voting. On March 3, 2009, the German Federal Constitutional Court declared that the electronic voting machines used in the 2005 Bundestag elections for the German national parliament were outside of the bounds of the German Constitution.

In the March 2009 ruling, they reasoned that electronic voting is not verifiable because citizen votes are counted in secret. Electronic voting is obscure technology, inaccessible to all but a very few initiates. Most importantly, the German high court noted electronic voting machines don't allow citizens to "reliably examine when

the vote is cast, whether the vote has been recorded in an unadulterated manner".

The written opinion effectively bars electronic voting in future elections based on the complexity of voting machines and the inability of voters to watch their vote being counted. This raises the bar of acceptability well above the meaningless solutions offered by "paper trails" for touch screen voting or the so-called "paper ballots" for computerized optical scan voting machines, the most popular form of voting in the United States.

Germany's 2009 Bundestag elections were conducted with hand counted paper ballots.

Have you heard that one of the world's leading economic powers, the fourth largest economy in the world, banned electronic voting because it was undemocratic? Given the multitude of problems encountered in

the US and the number of questionable election results, wouldn't it make sense that when Germany banned electronic voting and replaced it with paper ballots, there would be at least a day's worth of national coverage in the United States?

Nothing like that occurred. The Associated Press (*Times of India*) story on the verdict danced around the periphery of the world media market with coverage in Turkey, India, Australia, and Ireland. But there were no major media takers for the AP story in the United States.

There was every reason to carry the story. In a 2006 Zogby poll, 92% of the 1028 registered voters surveyed said they agreed with this statement:

"Citizens have the right to view and obtain information about how election

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## WHO Says Cell Phones Cause Brain Tumors

By SHEILA CASEY / RCFP

Cell phones are linked to four different kinds of cancer, a ten year study has revealed.

The study found a "significantly increased risk" of some brain tumors after ten or more years of cell phone use. The Interphone Study, sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and conducted by the International Agency for Cancer Research, looked at 12,800 people in 13 countries.

The Interphone Study is the largest investigation to date into the risks of mobile phone use.

Lead investigator Dr. Elizabeth Cardis said that cell phone use by children should be "restricted," although not banned entirely, and suggested that adults reduce their exposure either through hands-free kits or by limiting talk time.

The *Journal of Clinical Oncology* published an article on October 13 that

See TUMORS pg. 2

## Colombia To Be US Military Base

*US Full Spectrum Dominance*

By EVA GOLINGER/THE CHÁVEZ CODE

An official document from the Department of the US Air Force reveals that the military base in Palanquero, Colombia will provide the Pentagon with "...an opportunity for conducting full spectrum operations throughout South America..." This information contradicts the explanations offered by Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and the US State Department regarding the military agreement signed between the two nations on October 30th. Both governments have publicly stated that the military agreement refers only to counter-narcotics and counterterrorism operations within Colombian territory.

President Uribe has reiterated numerous times that the military agreement with the US will not affect Colombia's neighbors, despite constant concern in the region regarding the true objectives of the agreement. But the US Air Force document, dated May 2009, confirms that the concerns of South American nations have been right on target. The document exposes that the true intentions behind the agreement are to

See BASES pg. 7

## Major Hasan Of Fort Hood - Patsy In A Drill Gone Live?

By WEBSTER TARPLEY

In the wake of the massacre at Fort Hood Texas on November 5, the media narrative which is now being consolidated to explain the conduct of the accused shooter, identified by the U.S. Army as Major Nidal Malik Hasan, an Army psychiatrist of Jordanian-Palestinian ancestry, is full of contradictions, embarrassed silences, and absurdities which amounts to an articulated campaign of media hysteria and mass manipulation. An alternative interpretation is required, one which regards Major Hasan as a manipulated patsy in the context of a relatively sophisticated operation mounted by forces within the US intelligence community, using methods and assets which by now ought to have become familiar.

In my 2005 book *9/11 Synthetic Terrorism*, I argued that 9/11 and other recent terrorist attacks represented provocations cynically orchestrated by privately controlled rogue networks operating within the US intelligence

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Former British Ambassador Craig Murray.

## British Ambassador Confronts Torture Policy And Pays The Price

"They were being told to confess to membership in Al Qaeda. They were told to confess they'd been in training camps in Afghanistan. They were told to confess they had met Osama bin Laden in person. And the CIA intelligence constantly echoed these themes.

"I was absolutely stunned - it changed my whole world view in an instant - to be told that London knew [the intelligence] coming from torture, that it was not illegal because our legal advisers had decided that under the United Nations convention against torture, it is not illegal to obtain or use intelligence gained from torture as long as we didn't do the torture ourselves...

We built up an overwhelming dossier of evidence, and I complained to London about the conduct of our ally in rather strong terms including the photos of a boy being boiled alive.

I received a reply from the British Foreign Office. It said, this is a direct quote, "Dear Ambassador, we are concerned that you are perhaps over-focused on human rights to the detriment of commercial interests."

And it is 'commercial interests' that Murray claims are the real reason for the Afghanistan war - control of the region's energy supplies. As evidence, he points to the plans to build a natural gas pipeline through Afghanistan that would allow Western oil companies to avoid Russia and Iran when transporting natural gas out of the region.

According to Murray, in the late 1990s the Uzbek ambassador to the US met with then-Texas Governor George W. Bush to discuss a pipeline for the region. The secret agreement would grant Texas-based Enron the rights to Uzbekistan's natural gas deposits, while oil company Unocal would develop the Trans-Afghanistan pipeline.

In the opening pages of Murray's new book, *Murder in Samarkand* is a facsimile of a letter from Kenneth Lay, then-chairman of Enron, to George W. Bush, then-governor of the state of Texas. It was written on April 3, 1997, years before Bush became president.

It reads in part "Dear George, you will be meeting with Ambassador Sadyq

Safaev, Uzbekistan's Ambassador to the United States on April 8th. ... Enron has established an office in Tashkent and we are negotiating a \$2 billion joint venture with Neftegaz of Uzbekistan ... to develop Uzbekistan's natural gas and transport it to markets in Europe ... This project can bring significant economic opportunities to Texas."

Murray points out that the consultant who was organizing this for Unocal was a certain Mr. Karzai, who is now president of Afghanistan.

"There are designs of this pipeline, and if you look at the deployment of US forces in Afghanistan, as against other NATO country forces in Afghanistan, you'll see that undoubtedly the US forces are positioned to guard the pipeline route. It's what it's about. It's about money, it's about oil, it's not about democracy."

In apparent retaliation for Murray's objections to the torture policy, he was savagely attacked in the British media.

"I was suddenly accused of issuing visas in return for sex, stealing money from the post account, of being an alcoholic, of driving an embassy vehicle down a flight of stairs, which is extraordinary because I can't drive. I've never driven in my life. I don't have a driving license. My eyesight is terrible."

"But I was accused of all these unbelievable accusations, which were leaked to the tabloid media, and I spent a whole year of tabloid stories about sex-mad ambassador, blah-blah-blah. And I hadn't even gone public. What I had done was write a couple of memos saying that this collusion with torture is illegal under a number of international conventions including the UN Convention Against Torture."

While the charges were eventually dropped or found to be baseless, Murray's reputation was ruined and his career in the British Foreign Service was finished.

Craig Murray is currently the rector of the University of Dundee in Scotland.

See [ConsortiumNews.com](http://ConsortiumNews.com) for an extended transcript of Ambassador Murray's remarks.



## German High Court Outlaws Electronic Voting: Story Goes Unreported in US

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officials count votes — 92% agree.

That's exactly the proposition that the German court upheld. Surely there was an audience for the German decision but there was hardly a word from the corporate media.

### Why did this happen?

There are certain vital stories that the US corporate media won't touch. The most prominent censored headline is "Over One Million Iraqi Civilians Dead in Conflict." This figure has been known since 2007 while a previous survey showing 650,000 dead was spiked in 2006. The Iraqi civilians died as a result of internal conflict unleashed by the US invasion in 2003. Had Bush-Cheney not invaded with the approval of a sleep walking Congress, these people would not have died as they did.

Another vital story that isn't covered is election fraud, fixing an entire election. The corporate media simply can't raise the possibility that election fraud exists. The preliminary steps enabling election fraud through computerized voting are: outsourcing elections to private vendors and the lack of any verifiable connection between your vote and the voting machines processes.

However, corporate media are more than happy to cover the nearly nonexistent "voter fraud" stories about masses of illegal voters showing up at the polls. The Bush administration was only able to produce 24 convictions of citizens and non citizens combined over a three year period.

The media will discuss electronic voting malfunctions but they simply won't connect the dots. Computers function as programmed, by definition. "Malfunctions" during vote counting are part of any given program. When the errors benefit one side of the political equation, it is highly relevant to raise questions about intentional "errors." However, the treatment of these stories is always within the context of computer problems instead of a broad inquiry into why elections are outsourced to private vendors and the resulting risks and problems. US elections will be virtually dominated by one private firm out of Omaha, Nebraska, Elections Systems and Software (ES&S).

### German Citizens Prevail

A recent article by elections activist Kathleen Wynne, former Associate Director of BlackBoxVoting.org, told the story of the landmark German case with a link to an extensive radio interview with litigant Dr. Ulrich Wiesner (Electronic Voting Declared Unconstitutional in Germany).

Physicist Ulrich Wiesner, PhD and Prof. Joachim Wiesner, PhD, an eminent German

political scientist, brought suit against the use of electronic voting machines in the 2005 Bundestag elections. The evidence gathered supported the findings of the court described above. While both Wiesner's on the suit have PhD's and distinguished careers, they brought the landmark case on their own as citizens. Undeterred by the odds and the dismissal of German politicians, they stood by their cause and won.

It's a great story, father and son team prevail against huge odds to ensure that all Germans get their vote counted. But none of the majors here bit.

These articles constitute most of the serious coverage of this story in the United States: Paul Lehto wrote two articles for OpEdNews.com on March 3 and 19, 2009: "Germany Bans Computerized Voting, Will Hand Count in 2009" and "German High Court Honors US Democratic Principles". Activist Bev Harris wrote a commentary on March 19: "Let's Get Off The Hamster Wheel", BlackBoxVoting.org. *Newsweek* ran an insightful column in its education section on June, 2009, "We Do Not Trust Machines". While AP ran the story, it wasn't picked up and featured by any major media outlet in the United States. *The International Herald Tribune* also covered the decision but its sister paper, *The New York Times*, dropped the ball.

Kathleen Wynne's article told the story of the citizens who made the decision happen, the Wiesner father and son team. Deadline Live with Jack Blood, the radio show, carried a comprehensive interview of German litigant, Dr. Ulrich Wiesner and follow up discussions with Kathleen Wynne and Bev Harris

But that's it. The highest court in the nation with the world's fourth largest economy makes law that bans electronic voting after determining that computerized elections are fundamentally opposed to democratic principles. The decision applies directly to the electronic voting systems used in the United States. What do we hear from the US corporate media? Just about nothing.

In this case, when a tree falls in the forest and just a few people hear it, it's no big deal. But it should be.

Michael Collins is a writer in the DC area who researches and comments on clean elections and voting rights. Collins blogs at [www.thesmirklingchimp.com](http://www.thesmirklingchimp.com).

## US Appeals Court OKs Kidnapping and Torture



Maher Arar reunited with his children in 2003 after nearly a year in detention.

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of the "state secrets privilege" to hide these crimes.

Arar's life-altering odyssey is one of the best known and best investigated of those victimized by US extraordinary rendition. After vacationing with his family in Tunisia, Arar attempted to fly home to Canada. On Sept. 26, 2002, while changing planes at JFK Airport, Arar was pulled aside for questioning. He was fingerprinted and searched by the FBI and the New York Police Department. He asked for a lawyer and was told he had no rights. He was then taken to another location and subjected to two days of aggressive interrogations, with no access to phone, food or a lawyer. He was asked about his membership with various terrorist groups, about Osama bin Laden, Iraq, Palestine and more. Shackled, he was then moved to a maximum-security federal detention center in Brooklyn, strip-searched and threatened with deportation to Syria.

Arar was born in Syria, and told his captors that if he returned there, he would be tortured. As Arar's lawyers would later argue, however, that is exactly what US authorities hoped would happen. Arar was eventually allowed a call — he

information to the FBI and settled with Arar, giving him an apology and \$10 million. The US government, on the other hand, has offered no apology, and has even kept Arar on a terrorist watch list. He is not allowed to enter the US

Two years ago, he had to testify before Congress via video conference. He said: "These past few years have been a nightmare for me. Since my return to Canada, my physical pain has slowly healed, but the cognitive and psychological scars from my ordeal remain with me on a daily basis. I still have nightmares and recurring flashbacks. I am not the same person that I was. I also hope to convey how fragile our human rights have become and how easily they can be taken from us by the same governments that have sworn to protect them."

Given the excesses of the Bush administration and Barack Obama's promise of change, it has surprised many that these policies are continuing and that Congress and the courts have not closed this chapter of US history. President Obama has never once condemned extraordinary rendition.

Arar's lawyer, Maria LaHood of the Center for Constitutional Rights, calls the court decision against Arar "an outrage." In his dissent, Judge Guido Calabresi wrote, "I believe that when the history of this distinguished court is written, today's majority decision will be viewed with dismay." Given the torture that Arar suffered, his own response was remarkably measured: "If anything, this decision is a loss to all Americans and to the rule of law."

Amy Goodman is the host of "Democracy Now!," a daily international TV/radio news hour airing on 700 stations, including public radio stations nationwide. Denis Moynihan contributed research to this column.

got through to his mother-in-law, who got him a lawyer — and a visit from a Canadian Consulate official. For nearly two weeks, the US authorities held the Syria threat over his head. Still, he denied any involvement with terrorism. So in the middle of the night, over a weekend, without normal immigration proceedings — without telling his lawyer or the Canadian Consulate — he was dragged in chains to a private jet contracted by the CIA and flown to Jordan, where he was then handed over to the Syrians.

For 10 months and 10 days, Maher was held in a dark, damp, cold cell measuring 6 feet by 3 feet by 7 feet high, the size of a grave. He was beaten repeatedly with a thick electrical cable all over his body, punched, made to listen to the torture of others, denied food and threatened with electrical shock and an array of more horrors. To stop the torture, he falsely confessed to attending terrorist training in Afghanistan. Then, after nearly a year, he was abruptly released to Canada, 40 pounds lighter and emotionally destroyed.

The Canadian government, under conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper, investigated, found its own culpability in relaying unreliable

## WHO Says Cell Phones Cause Brain Tumors

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reviewed existing research on the association between cell phones and brain tumors. It found that the most rigorous studies showed an 18% increased risk of brain tumors in cell phone users, which tended to occur on the side of the head where the cell phone was used the most.

A 2006 Swedish study found that heavy cell users had a 240% increased risk of a malignant tumor on the side of the head where the phone was commonly held. Heavy use was defined as 2000 hours in ten years, or 30 minutes a day. An earlier Swedish study found that rural users were at greatest risk, apparently because the signal must be stronger to reach users far from a cell phone tower.

The US, with a population of 300 million people, has 270 million cell phones in use. Senator Tom Harkin, now head of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, has promised to probe more deeply into the question of cell phones causing brain cancer.



Sheila Casey is a DC based journalist. Her work has appeared in *The Denver Post*, *Buzz Flash*, *Common Dreams* and *Dissident Voice*. Sheila Casey blogs at <http://www.sheilacasey.com>.



Meriah Heller begins her 10th year on the net this month at [www.Meriah.net](http://www.Meriah.net)  
Bringing you the BEST minds on the planet - Continuing coverage of 9/11 and every topic under the sun!  
Totally listener supported - NO commercials - just straight talk!  
Many FREE shows available.  
Greg Palast calls her "The inventor of internet reality radio"  
Find out for yourself!  
"The Mouth That Roars"

# Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

## The Evil Empire

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

The US government is now so totally under the thumbs of organized interest groups that "our" government can no longer respond to the concerns of the American people who elect the president and the members of the House and Senate. Voters will vent their frustrations over their impotence on the president, which implies a future of one-term presidents. Soon our presidents will be as ineffective as Roman emperors in the final days of that empire.

Obama is already set on the course to a one-term presidency. He promised change, but has delivered none. His health care bill is held hostage by the private insurance companies seeking greater profits. The most likely outcome will be cuts in Medicare and Medicaid in order to help fund wars that enrich the military/security complex and the many companies created by privatizing services that the military once provided for itself at far lower costs. It would be interesting to know the percentage of the \$700+ billion "defense" spending that goes to private companies. In American "capitalism," an amazing amount of taxpayers' earnings go to private firms via the government. Yet, Republicans scream about "socializing" health care.

Republicans and Democrats saw opportunities to create new sources of campaign contributions by privatizing as many military functions as possible. There are now a large number of private companies that have never made a dollar in the market, feeding instead at the public trough that drains taxpayers of dollars while loading Americans with debt service obligations.

Obama inherited an excellent opportunity to bring US soldiers home from the Bush regime's illegal wars of aggression. In its final days, the Bush regime realized that it could "win" in Iraq by putting the Sunni insurgents on the US military payroll. Once Bush had 80,000 insurgents collecting US military pay, violence, although still high, dropped in half. All Obama had to do was to declare victory and bring our boys home, thanking Bush for winning the war. It would have shut up the Republicans.

But this sensible course would have impaired the profits and share prices of those firms that comprise the military/security complex. So instead of doing what he said he would do and what the voters elected him to do, Obama restarted the war in Afghanistan and launched a new one in Pakistan. Soon Obama was echoing Bush and Cheney's threats to attack Iran.

In place of health care for Americans, there will be more profits for private insurance companies.

In place of peace there will be more war.

Voters are already recognizing the writing on the wall and are falling away from Obama and the Democrats. Independents who gave Obama his comfortable victory have now swung against him, recently electing Republican governors in New Jersey and Virginia to succeed Democrats. This is a protest vote, not a confidence vote in Republicans.

Obama's credibility is shot. And so is that of Congress, assuming it ever had any. The US House of Representatives has just voted to show the entire world that the US House of Representatives is nothing but the servile, venal, puppet of the Israel Lobby. The House of Representatives of the American "superpower" did the bidding of its master, AIPAC, and voted 344 to 36 to condemn the Goldstone Report.

In case you don't know, the Goldstone Report is the Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. The "Gaza Conflict" is the Israeli military attack on the Gaza ghetto, where 1.5 million dispossessed Palestinians, whose lands, villages, and homes were stolen by Israel, are housed. The attack was on civilians and civilian infrastructure. It was without any doubt a war crime under the Nuremberg standard that the US established in order to execute Nazis.

Goldstone is not only a very distinguished Jewish jurist who has given his life to bringing people to accountability for their crimes against humanity, but also a Zionist. However, the Israelis have demonized him as a "self-hating Jew" because he wrote the truth instead of Israeli propaganda.

US Representative Dennis Kucinich, who is now without a doubt a marked man on AIPAC's political extermination list, asked the House if the members had any realization of the shame that the vote condemning Goldstone would bring on the House and the US government. The entire rest of the world accepts the Goldstone report.

The House answered with its lopsided vote that the rest of the world doesn't count as it doesn't give campaign contributions to members of Congress.

This shameful, servile act of "the world's greatest democracy" occurred the very week that a court in Italy convicted 23 US CIA officers for kidnapping a person in Italy. The CIA agents are now considered "fugitives from justice" in Italy, and indeed they are.

The kidnapped person was renditioned to the American puppet state of Egypt, where the victim was held for years and repeatedly tortured. The case against him was so absurd that even an Egyptian judge ordered his release.

One of the convicted CIA operatives, Sabrina deSousa, an attractive young woman, says that the US broke the law by kidnapping a person and sending him to another country to be tortured in order to manufacture another "terrorist" in order to keep the terrorist hoax going at home. Without the terrorist hoax, America's wars for special interest reasons would become transparent even to Fox "News" junkies.

Ms. deSousa says that "everything I did was approved back in Washington," yet the government, which continually berates us to "support the troops," did nothing to protect her when she carried out the Bush regime's illegal orders.

Clearly, this means that the crime that Bush, Cheney, the Pentagon, and the CIA ordered is too heinous and beyond the pale to be justified, even by memos from the despicable John Yoo and the Republican Federalist Society.

Ms. deSousa is clearly worried about herself. But where is her concern for the innocent person that she sent into an Egyptian hell to be tortured until death or admission of being a terrorist? The remorse deSousa expresses is only for herself. She did her evil government's bidding and her evil government that she so faithfully served turned its back on her. She has no remorse for the evil she committed against an innocent person.

Perhaps deSousa and her 22 colleagues grew up on video games. It was great fun to plot to kidnap a real person and fly him on a CIA plane to Egypt. Was it like a fisherman catching a fish or a deer hunter killing a beautiful 8-point buck? Clearly, they got their jollies at the expense of their renditioned victim.

The finding of the Italian court, and keep in mind that Italy is a bought-and-paid-for US puppet state, indicates that even our bought puppets are finding the US too much to stomach.

Moving from the tip of the iceberg down, we have Ambassador Craig Murray, rector of the University of Dundee and until 2004 the UK Ambassador to Uzbekistan, which he describes as a Stalinist totalitarian state courted and supported by the Americans.

As ambassador, Murray saw the MI5 intelligence reports from the CIA that described the most horrible torture procedures. "People were raped with broken bottles, children were tortured in front of their parents until they [the parents] signed a confession, people were boiled alive."

"Intelligence" from these torture sessions was passed on by the CIA to MI5 and to Washington as proof of the vast al Qaeda conspiracy.

Ambassador Murray reports that the people delivered by CIA flights to Uzbekistan's torture prisons "were told to confess to membership in Al Qaeda. They were told to confess they'd been in training camps in Afghanistan. They were told to confess they had met Osama bin Laden in person. And the CIA intelligence constantly echoed these themes."

"I was absolutely stunned," says the British ambassador, who thought that he served a moral country that, along with its American ally, had moral integrity. The great Anglo-American bastion of democracy and human rights, the homes of the Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights, the great moral democracies that defeated Nazism and stood up to Stalin's gulags, were prepared to commit any crime in order to maximize profits.

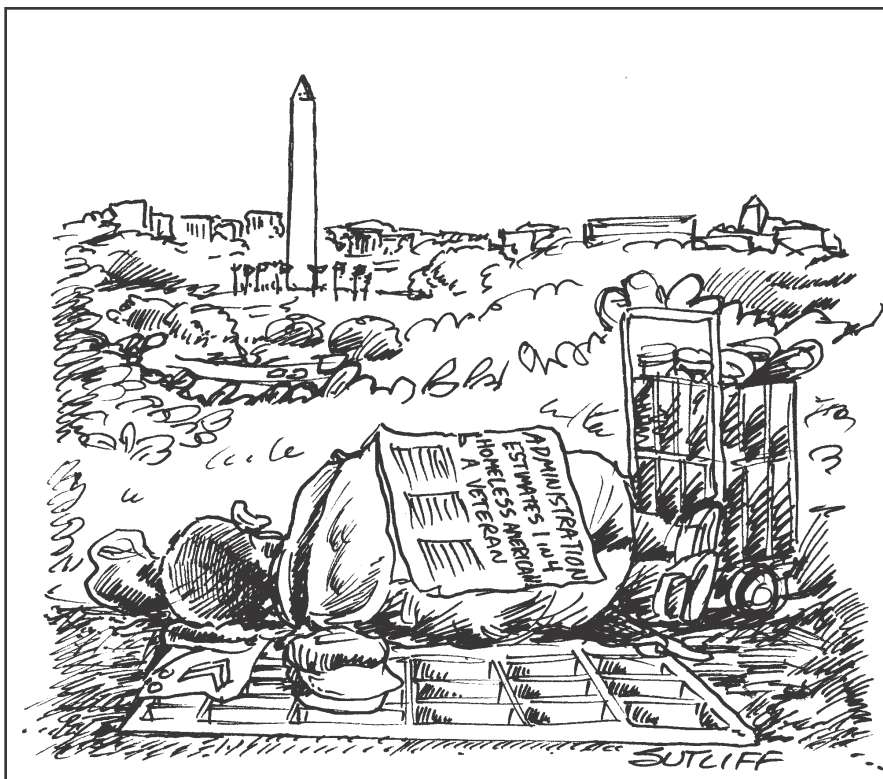
Ambassador Murray learned too much and was fired when he vomited it all up. He saw the documents that proved that the motivation for US and UK military aggression in Afghanistan had to do with the natural gas deposits in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The Americans wanted a pipeline that bypassed Russia and Iran and went through Afghanistan. To insure this, an invasion was necessary. The idiot American public could be told that the invasion was necessary because of 9/11 and to save them from "terrorism," and the utter fools would believe the lie.

"If you look at the deployment of US forces in Afghanistan, as against other NATO country forces in Afghanistan, you'll see that undoubtedly the US forces are positioned to guard the pipeline route. It's what it's about. It's about money, it's about energy, it's not about democracy.

Guess who the consultant was who arranged, with then Texas governor George W. Bush, the agreements that would give to Enron the rights to Uzbekistan's and Turkmenistan's natural gas deposits and to Unocal to develop the trans-Afghanistan pipeline. It was Karzai, the US-imposed "president" of Afghanistan, who has no support in the country except for American bayonets.

Ambassador Murray was dismissed from the UK Foreign Service for his revelations. No doubt on orders from Washington to our British puppet.

*Paul Craig Roberts, a former Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury and former associate editor of the Wall Street Journal, has held numerous academic appointments. He has been reporting shocking cases of prosecutorial abuse for two decades. A new edition of his book, The Tyranny of Good Intentions, co-authored with Lawrence Stratton, a documented account of how Americans lost the protection of law, was published by Random House in March, 2008.*



## Why the Blasé Attitude about Torture

By RAY MCGOVERN

"We're going to talk about the policy of torture," the radio producer said when she called me five years ago. "And you'll have ten minutes to defend your side."

"There's another side?" I asked. "Of course," she answered, "and the other person will also have ten minutes."

My protest that torture is not a "policy," but rather a crime, made no impact.

It was then that I began to understand in a more tangible way what the post-World War II Nuremberg Tribunal meant in referring to "the accumulated evil" that flows inevitably

from what it termed the "supreme international crime" — a war of aggression.

History, including recent history, has shown torture to be one of those accumulated evils.

"But torture works," many say, reducing what is first and foremost a moral problem to a utilitarian one.

Just for the record, no experienced intelligence professional I know will tell you it works. Just the opposite.

For example, on September 6, 2006, just before President George W. Bush held a press conference to extol the advantages of what he called "an alternative set of procedures" for

interrogation, Army Intelligence chief Gen. John Kimmons told reporters:

"No good intelligence is going to come from abusive practices. I think history tells us that. I think the empirical evidence of the last five years, hard years, tells us that."

That message was among the first things drummed into me when I came on active duty as an Army infantry/intelligence officer 47 years ago this week. My 27-year subsequent service at the CIA reinforced that learning.

In the fall of 2005, then-CIA Director Porter Goss heeded Vice President Dick Cheney's call to join him in descending

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## Our Debt to Italy

By DAVID SWANSON

The United States of America owes much of the hope it has right now of remaining what John Adams called "a nation of laws, not men" to Italian law enforcement. Were it not for the fact that Italian prosecutors, unlike their American counterparts, answer to the law rather than a president, the enforcement of laws against a massive crime spree by US officials (and their Italian accomplices) would not have begun.

In 2003, the CIA and the United States military kidnapped a man, a political refugee, in Italy. His name was Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, also known as Abu Omar. Our CIA agents spied on him from their luxury hotels and gourmet-meal lives in Milano (all paid for by US tax payers). They were told to kidnap Nasr and send him to

Egypt to be tortured, and they did so. According to recent statements by two of them, they knew perfectly well they were violating the law. But they were not worried enough at the time to refrain from discussing the matter on their cell phones as they enjoyed the dolce vita and racked up credit card bills wasting the same currency our government claims it has a moral duty not to waste on healthcare.

Nasr was indeed kidnapped, flown to Egypt, and tortured. His wife, Ghali Nabila, testified in Italian court for over six hours. In October 2004, she had been able to see him, briefly out of Egyptian prison. (He was eventually released years later.) Nabila said in court:

"I found him wasted, skinny - so skinny his hair had turned white, he had a hearing aid."

Ordered, against her will, to describe

his torture, she said:

"He was tied up like he was being crucified. He was beaten up, especially around his ears. He was subject to electroshocks to many body parts."

Asked if that included genitals, she replied "Yes."

Nasr himself wrote in a letter smuggled out of prison and printed in the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*:

"I was hung by my feet from the ceiling, my head down, my hands tied to my back, my feet tied up. I was subjected to electric shocks all over my body, especially in my head, nipples, testicles, and penis. My testicles were also beaten with a stick and squeezed tightly if I refused to answer their questions or was suspected of telling lies. They fixed my body to an iron door

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## 9/11 Fundamentalists

By MICHAEL HASTY / RCFP

Ever since an anonymous White House aide—widely rumored to be Karl Rove—told journalist Ron Suskind that the Bush administration looked at its critics as a "reality-based community," progressives have gleefully adopted that description as their own. But there is one issue in which the opinion of many progressives is just as faith-based as that of any religious fundamentalist: the events of September 11th, 2001.

I call these mainstream progressives "9/11 fundamentalists."

Virtually every facet of the official story of what happened that day remains under question—from the true identity of the alleged hijackers, to the unprecedented and mysterious "collapse" of the three World Trade Center towers. Even the co-chairs of the 9/11 Commission, Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, have publicly admitted they were misled by both the military

and civilian agencies. A full quarter of the footnotes in the commission's report refer to the testimony under torture of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who has told the Red Cross that he lied to stop the torture. The testimony of former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds—who said recently that the CIA had a working relationship with Osama bin Laden until the very morning of 9/11—was reduced to an obscure footnote.

The FBI does not list 9/11 under the crimes for which Osama bin Laden is wanted, because, as its public affairs officer has said, "There isn't enough evidence." When the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was unable to get physical models to comply with its theory of the WTC "collapse," it turned to computer models to get the results it wanted—choosing the second least-plausible explanation. NIST tried to deny that the third tower that "collapsed" that day, the

notorious WTC7, fell at free-fall speed. A high school teacher proved them wrong, as they were forced to admit in their final report. In a reply to a letter from quizzical scientists, curious about anomalies in the official report on the twin towers, NIST admitted, "We cannot provide a full explanation of the buildings' collapse."

Funny how that admission got so little media coverage.

I've been active in the progressive movement, both as an organizer and participant, since the Vietnam War, when I got old enough to be drafted. In my pursuit of the truth of what happened on 9/11, I've encountered many fellow activists from my years in the peace movement. We have a lot of respect for each other, because we see the search for 9/11 truth as integral to our lifelong efforts to advance the cause of social justice. We also share a sense of

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## Our Debt to Italy

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and on a wooden instrument they call the bride, where my hands were tied over my head from behind and my legs tied together or sometimes each leg on different sides. The torture that takes place during this is electric shocks, and beating with a shoe and cables."

Presidents Barack Obama and Silvio Berlusconi oppose prosecuting Americans or Italians for kidnapping this man and transporting him to his torturers. The US Department of Justice will, therefore, not prosecute. In Italy, on the other hand, there is still some measure of law, law as a standard applied to all equally, without immunity for those with the power to commit the greatest crimes.

November 4th, an Italian court convicted 23 CIA agents, including the CIA's current second ranking official Stephen Kappes, and one member of the US Air Force. The prosecutor Armando Spataro has repeatedly asked the Italian government to issue an international arrest warrant and request extradition by the United States. It has not yet done so.

One of the convicted CIA agents, Sabrina De Sousa, openly admits that the kidnapping was illegal, but says that she feels betrayed by those who authorized the operation and failed to protect its participants from prosecution. De Sousa ignores Nuremberg Principle IV, which requires noncompliance with illegal orders or instructions:

"The fact that a person acted pursuant to order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility under international law, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him."

But De Sousa also has a point, one well exemplified at Nuremberg: Those at the bottom are not the most responsible. Those who must be held accountable first and foremost are the decision-makers at the top. And who authorized the policy of kidnapping people and shipping them off to be tortured? Three top US officials have authorized rendition: Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama. And in this case, the presidents responsible were Bush and, almost certainly, Berlusconi.

For justice to reach to those highest levels and thereby deter the

practice of kidnapping, under the name rendition in the years ahead, justice must be permitted to proceed on the paths it has blazed thus far. Americans must make Italians aware of our gratitude for their efforts to save us from ourselves. And Italy must be compelled to obey its laws rather than its president on the question of issuing international arrest warrants and a demand for extradition. The 23 fugitives already can expect arrest if they visit any nation of Europe. They should not be free to roam the rest of the world.

By US standards, Italy would be justified in kidnapping these fugitives and "rendering" them to Italian prisons. An extradition request would be a generous favor of a sort that the United States does not grant to others. Failure to take that step on behalf of the rule of law will put the blood of future rendition victims on the hands of the Italian as well as the American people.

Vi prego, i miei carissimi fratelli e sorelli, salvateci da noi stessi. (I beg you, my dear brothers and sisters, save us from ourselves.)

David Swanson is the author of the new book *Daybreak: Undoing the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect Union by Seven Stories Press*. You can order it and find out when his tour will be in your town: <http://davidswanson.org/book>.

## Italian Court Convicts CIA Agents of Kidnapping

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the most serious penalty that the court handed down in the case.

"The Milan court sent a powerful message: the CIA can't just abduct people off the streets. It's illegal, unacceptable, and unjustified," said Joanne Mariner, terrorism and counterterrorism program director at Human Rights Watch. "Both the Italian and US governments should now be on notice that justice authorities will not ignore crimes committed under the guise of fighting terrorism."

In a disappointing development, the court ruled that it could not pronounce a verdict for five Italian defendants, all current or former officials with SISMI, Italy's military intelligence agency, because the evidence in the case against them was protected by state secrecy. The court apparently felt constrained by a March 2009 ruling of Italy's Constitutional Court, which set out an overbroad reading of state secrecy protections.

The court did, however, reject even broader interpretations of state secrecy protections asserted by numerous other defendants, which could have completely prevented the court from examining evidence of CIA/SISMI joint criminal activity. Had the court adopted the defendants' sweeping position, the bulk of the evidence in the case might have been excluded.

"Just as in the United States, government officials in Italy are relying on state secrecy to shield their illegal acts from judicial scrutiny," Mariner said. "This is



CIA surveillance photo of Abu Omar in Italy.

incompatible with the principle that government officials should be treated equally before the law and held accountable for their crimes."

Human Rights Watch also disagreed with the court's reading of diplomatic immunity protections, arguing that such immunity should not be interpreted to protect officials responsible for grave human rights crimes.

Human Rights Watch emphasized that the vigorous efforts of the Italian criminal justice system to prosecute CIA operatives for abusive rendition operations underscore the relative inactivity of the US Department of Justice. Although the Obama administration has opened a preliminary investigation of CIA interrogation abuses, the review is narrowly focused and does not cover CIA renditions.

The verdicts today also stand in stark contrast to a disappointing decision issued on November 2 by a US federal appellate court in New York, which dismissed the suit brought by Canadian rendition victim Maher Arar. Arar was detained while in transit at John F. Kennedy airport in September 2002, and then rendered by the CIA to Jordan and Syria, where he was brutally tortured for nearly a year.

Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, better known as Abu Omar, was kidnapped as he was walking down the street in Milan on February 17, 2003. The abduction is believed to have been a joint operation between the CIA and Italian military intelligence.

After being driven by his captors to Aviano Air Base in northeastern Italy, Abu Omar was allegedly put on a plane and flown to Ramstein Air Base in Germany, and from there to Egypt. He claims that he was tortured repeatedly during the nearly four years he was held in Egyptian custody without charge.

"I was brutally tortured," he told Human Rights Watch in a 2007 interview, "and I could hear the screams of others who were tortured, too."

An Italian court issued indictments against those believed responsible for the cleric's abduction in June 2005, but the case moved forward slowly, in part because successive Italian governments viewed the prosecution as a hindrance to Italian-US relations. Notably, both the Berlusconi and Prodi governments refused to seek the extradition of the 26 Americans being prosecuted in the case.

The Italian government also tried to block the case by challenging much of the evidence that implicated the defendants in the case, claiming that its use could endanger national security. In March 2009, in an important setback for the prosecution, Italy's Constitutional Court barred much of this evidence from being admitted at trial, ruling that it was protected by the state secrets doctrine.

In his final argument before the court, lead prosecutor Armando Spataro made a powerful argument for holding government officials accountable for grave human rights abuses, including those committed in fighting terrorism. Referencing the reasoning of the post-World War II Nuremberg Tribunal, he rejected the claim made by certain CIA defendants that because they were following orders their actions were legitimate.

The Italian defendants included Gen. Nicolò Pollari, the former head of SISMI, Italy's military intelligence service, who was forced to resign over Abu Omar's abduction and rendition, and Pollari's former



Abu Omar

deputy, Marco Mancini.

The American defendants consisted of 25 alleged CIA operatives — including former Milan CIA station chief Robert Seldon Lacy and former Rome CIA station chief Jeffrey Castelli — as well as US Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Romano, who was stationed at the Aviano military base in northeastern Italy at the time the events occurred.

The seven Italian defendants in the case were tried in person, while the 26 American defendants were tried in absentia. The Italian government provided legal representation for the American defendants, but two of them hired private counsel. Human Rights Watch is concerned that trials in absentia do not afford defendants an adequate opportunity to present a defense as required under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Should Italian law enforcement authorities ever gain custody over the defendants, Human Rights Watch believes that the men should be granted a retrial.

During the Bush administration, responsibility for the CIA's rendition program lay at the highest levels of government. In the immediate wake of the September 11 attacks, President George W. Bush signed a classified presidential directive giving the CIA expanded authority to arrest, interrogate, detain, and render terrorist suspects arrested abroad. During his two terms in office, the US is believed to have rendered terrorism suspects to the custody of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Libya, and Syria, among other countries.

The exact number of people rendered by the CIA to foreign custody since 2001 is unknown. Then CIA Director Michael Hayden claimed in a 2007 speech before the Council on Foreign Relations that fewer than 100 people had been rendered abroad since the September 11 attacks: "mid-range two figures," he said.

"The CIA's rendition program should be on trial in the United States," Mariner said. "But since the US Department of Justice has utterly failed in its responsibility to investigate and prosecute these serious crimes, it was left to Italy to bring this important case to trial."

"Italy/US: Italian Court Rebukes CIA Rendition Practice" © 2009 Human Rights Watch

## Why the Blasé Attitude about Torture

ATTITUDE from p. 3

on Sen. John McCain to demand that the CIA be exempted from his amendment on torture. For me, that was the last straw.

I decided to hand back the Commendation Medallion given me at my retirement for "exceptionally commendable service," saying I did not wish to be associated, however remotely, with an agency openly engaged in torture.

This Veterans Day I am reminded that I am twice a veteran — proud to have served in uniform, but filled with a sense of shame that the agency in which so many have served honorably has been stained by the willingness of its leaders and operatives to carry out Bush/Cheney instructions for torture.

Euphemisms cannot wash torture clean. Not "an alternate set of procedures;" not "enhanced interrogation techniques;" not "extraordinary rendition" masking kidnapping for the purpose of torture.

Sabrina de Sousa, one of the 23

CIA operatives convicted in absentia and sentenced by an Italian court November 4 for kidnapping Egyptian cleric Abu Omar off the streets of Milan in 2003 complained on TV:

"Clearly, we broke the law, and we're paying for the mistakes right now of whoever authorized and approved this," she observed.

De Sousa recognizes that she has become one of the proverbial "rotten apples at the bottom of the barrel" — like the equally guilty but hapless Lynndie England of Abu Ghraib.

It is clear that those who "authorized and approved" the kidnapping expect to get off scot-free. And they will, if we do not insist that our justice system hold them accountable.

It is a telling irony that the orderly procedures of the independent judiciary in Italy owe so much to the power of (earlier) American advocacy.

As international law attorney Scott Horton noted in *Harper's* on November 6, it was US jurists who

advanced for the first time (in 1946-48) the view that seizing people, holding them without recourse to law, and subjecting them to torture is "a particularly serious crime."

Horton adds that "disappearings" are now widely recognized — and not only in Italy — as a "crime against humanity and thus not subject to statutes of limitation or capable of being ignored."

Why, then, the blasé public attitude toward torture; why the lack of moral leadership in our religious institutions?

Ray McGovern works with *Tell the Word*, the publishing arm of the ecumenical Church of the Saviour in inner-city Washington, DC. An Army infantry/intelligence officer and then a CIA analyst for 30 years, he now serves on the Steering Group of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS).

## THE BUSH DYNASTY MAY BE OUT OF OFFICE . . . BUT NOT OUT OF POWER



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## Spurred by AIPAC, US House Denounces

### Goldstone Report on Israeli War Crimes in Gaza

GOLDSTONE from p. 1

had introduced into the House of Representatives resolution H.R. 867, which called on the Obama administration not only to reject the Goldstone report, also known as "Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict," but block any further consideration of it by the United Nations. On November 3, the House resolution passed by a lopsided 344-36 vote.

AIPAC was supported in its last-minute blitzkrieg of the House by like-minded organizations, including the American Jewish Committee, Jewish Federations of North America, Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), and the Zionist Organization of America.

AIPAC, through its power over campaign donations from wealthy Jews in the United States, can ram any legislation through Congress at a moment's notice. And H.R. 867 was time-sensitive. AIPAC and its allies had to send a message to the Obama administration that it and The Lobby expected strong American opposition to the upcoming UN General Assembly vote on accepting the Goldstone report. The UN vote took place two days later and passed 114 to 18, with 44 abstentions and 16 nations not voting.

With the power of the World

Jewish Congress, the European Jewish Congress, and other pressure groups arrayed against them, many small countries dependent on World Bank and International Monetary Fund (both controlled by pro-Israelis, Robert Zoellick and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, respectively), were forced to vote against Goldstone, abstain, or simply not vote at all. Israel proclaimed that the 18 nations that voted against Goldstone represented a "moral majority." Israel, headed up by an expansionist and xenophobic government, in which avowed racist and gangster Avigdor Lieberman serves as Foreign Minister, received a seal of approval not only from the Obama administration but US ambassador to the UN Susan Rice, mentored by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Alejandro Daniel Wolff, Rice's deputy, reportedly cajoled various UN delegations to either vote no on Goldstone, abstain, or miss the vote entirely.

However, some countries, like some members of the House, stood up to the immense twin Lobby to vote for Goldstone and reject the threats made by the Lobbies' arm twisters and thumb breakers.

Among those who defied AIPAC and its allies were Representatives Keith Ellison (D-MN), Dennis

Kucinich (D-OH), Ron Paul (R-TX), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Geoff Davis (D-KY), Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Charles Boustany (R-LA), Jim McGovern (D-MA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), John Dingell (D-MI), and George Miller (D-CA). Perhaps the greatest courage was shown by Representative Bob Filner (D-CA), who is Jewish, and voted against AIPAC. Previously, Filner admitted the power of AIPAC to punish those members of the House who defied it. Filner cited the electoral losses of Representative Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) and Earl Hilliard (D-AL), who were defeated in their respective Democratic primaries after out-of-state money from wealthy Jewish circles poured into the campaign coffers of their opponents. Representative Donna Edwards (D-MD), who also voted against the AIPAC resolution, faces a similar AIPAC-inspired challenge next year.

Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC-based investigative journalist. He is a regular political and national security commentator on *Russia Today*, and has also appeared on Fox News ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, CNN, BBC, al Jazeera, and MS-NBC. Madsen is the author of *Jaded Tasks: Big Oil, Black Ops & Brass Plates and Overthrow a Fascist Regime on \$15 a Day*.

# Summary of the Goldstone Report

SUMMARY from p. 1

## Findings:

Israel deployed its navy, air force and army in the operation it codenamed "Operation Cast Lead". The military operations in the Gaza Strip included two main phases, the air phase and the air-land phase, and lasted from 27 December 2008 to 18 January 2009. The Israeli offensive began with a week-long air attack, from 27 December until 3 January 2009. The navy was used in part to shell the Gaza coast during the operations.

Statistics about Palestinians who lost their life during the military operations vary. Based on extensive field research, non-governmental organizations place the overall number of persons killed between 1,387 and 1,417.

According to the Government of Israel, during the military operations there were 4 Israeli fatal casualties in southern Israel, of whom 3 were civilians and one soldier, killed by rockets and mortars attacks by Palestinian armed groups. In addition, 9 Israeli soldiers were killed during the fighting inside the Gaza strip, 4 of whom as a result of friendly fire.

Mission examined the Israeli strikes against the Palestinian Legislative Council and the Gaza main prison. Both buildings were destroyed to an extent that puts them out of use. Statements by Israeli Government and armed forces representatives justified the attacks arguing that political and administrative institutions in Gaza are part of the " Hamas terrorist infrastructure". The Mission rejects this position. It finds that there is no evidence that the Legislative Council building and the Gaza main prison made an effective contribution to military action. The Mission examined the attacks against six police facilities, four of them during the first minutes of the military operations on 27 December 2008, resulting in the death of 99 policemen and nine members of the public. The overall around 240 policemen killed by Israeli forces constitute more than one sixth of the Palestinian casualties. The circumstances of the attacks and the Government of Israel July 2009 report on the military operations clarify that the policemen were deliberately targeted and killed on the ground that the police as an institution, or a large part of the policemen individually, are in the Government of Israel's view part of the Palestinian military forces in Gaza.

The Mission finds that the Gaza police were a civilian law-enforcement agency. The Mission also concludes that the policemen killed on 27 December 2008 cannot be said to have been taking a direct part in hostilities and thus did not lose their civilian immunity from direct attack as civilians on this ground. It concludes, however, that the attacks against the police facilities on the first day of the armed operations failed to strike an acceptable balance between the direct military advantage anticipated (i.e. the killing of those policemen who may have been members of Palestinian armed groups) and the loss of civilian life (i.e. the other policemen killed and members of the public who would inevitably have been present or in the vicinity), and therefore violated international humanitarian law.

The Mission did not find any evidence to support the allegations that hospital facilities were used by the Gaza authorities or by Palestinian armed groups to shield military activities and that ambulances were used to transport combatants or for other military purposes. On the basis of its own investigations and the statements by UN officials, the Mission excludes that Palestinian armed groups engaged in combat activities from UN facilities that were used as shelters during the military operations.

The Mission acknowledges the significant efforts made by Israel to issue warnings through telephone calls, leaflets and radio broadcasts and accepts that in some cases, particularly when the warnings were sufficiently specific, they encouraged residents to leave an area and get out of harms way. However, the credibility of instructions to move to city centres for safety

was also diminished by the fact that the city centres themselves had been the subject of intense attacks during the air phase of the military operations.



Civilian dead from mortar blast.

Finally, the Mission stresses that the fact that a warning was issued does not relieve a commander and his subordinates of taking all other feasible measures to distinguish between civilians and combatants.

On 15 January 2009, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) field office compound in Gaza City came under shelling with high explosive and white phosphorous munitions. The Mission notes that the attack

was extremely dangerous, as the compound offered shelter to between 600 and 700 civilians and contained a huge fuel depot.

On the same day, the Israeli forces directly and intentionally attacked the Al Quds Hospital in Gaza City and the adjacent ambulance depot with white phosphorous shells. On the basis of its investigation, the Mission rejects the allegation that fire was directed at Israeli forces from within the hospital.



White phosphorus strike.

The Mission also examined the intense artillery attacks, again including white phosphorous munitions, on Al Wafa hospital in eastern Gaza City, a facility for patients receiving long-term care and suffering from particularly serious injuries. On the basis of the information gathered, the Mission found a violation of the prohibition of attacks on civilian hospitals in the cases of both hospitals.

The Mission examined the mortar shelling of al-Fakhura junction in Jabalya next to a UNRWA school which at the time was used as a shelter housing more than 1,300 people (Chapter X). The Israeli forces launched at least four mortar shells. One landed in the courtyard of a family home, killing eleven people assembled there. Three other shells landed on al-Fakhura Street, killing at least a further 24 people and injuring as many as 40.

### The Mission considers the attack to have been indiscriminate in violation of international law, and to have violated the right to life of the Palestinian civilians killed in these incidents

The Mission investigated eleven incidents in which Israeli forces launched direct attacks against civilians with lethal outcome. The cases examined in this part of the report are, with one exception, all cases in which the facts indicate no justifiable military objective pursued by the attack. In one case a mosque was targeted with a missile during the early evening prayer, resulting in the death of fifteen, and an attack with flechette munitions on a crowd of family and neighbours at a condolence tent, killing five. The cases examined in this part of the report are, with one exception, all cases in which the facts indicate no justifiable military objective pursued by the attack.

Based on its investigation of incidents involving the use of certain weapons such as white phosphorous and flechette missiles, the Mission, while accepting that white phosphorous is not at this stage proscribed under international law, finds that the Israeli armed forces were systematically reckless in determining its use in built-up areas.

### Destruction of industrial infrastructure, food production, water installations, sewage treatment and housing

Already at the beginning of the military

operations, the Al Bader flour mill was the only flour mill in the Gaza Strip still operating. The flour mill was hit by a series of air strikes on 9 January 2009 after several false warnings had been issued on previous days. The Mission finds that its destruction had no military justification.

The chicken farms of Mr. Sameh Sawafeary in the Zeitoun neighbourhood south of Gaza City reportedly supplied over 10 per cent of the Gaza egg market. Armoured bulldozers of the Israeli forces systematically flattened the chicken coops, killing all 31,000 chickens inside, and destroyed the plant and material necessary for the business.

Israeli forces also carried out a strike



Dead chickens on farm outside Gaza City.

against a wall of one of the raw sewage lagoons of the Gaza Waste Water Treatment Plant, which caused the outflow of more than 200,000 cubic metres of raw sewage into neighbouring farmland. The circumstances of the strike on the lagoon suggest that it was deliberate and premeditated.

The Namar Wells complex in Jabalya consisted of two water wells, pumping machines, a generator, fuel storage, a reservoir chlorination unit, buildings and related equipment. All were destroyed by multiple air strikes on the first day of the Israeli aerial attack.

During its visits to the Gaza Strip, the Mission witnessed the extent of the destruction of residential housing caused by air strikes, mortar and artillery shelling, missile strikes, the operation of bulldozers and demolition charges. Combining the results of its own fact finding on the ground with UNOSAT imagery and the published testimonies of Israeli soldiers, the Mission concludes that, in addition to the extensive destruction of housing for so-called "operational necessity" during their advance, the Israeli forces engaged in another wave of systematic destruction of civilian buildings during the last three days of their presence in Gaza, aware of the imminence of withdrawal.

The attacks on industrial facilities, food production and water infrastructure investigated by the Mission are part of a broader pattern of destruction, which includes the destruction of the only cement packaging plant in Gaza (the Atta Abu Jubbah plant), the Abu Eida factories for ready-mix concrete, further chicken farms and the Al Wadia Group's foods and drinks factories. The facts ascertained by the Mission indicate that there was a deliberate and systematic policy on the part of the Israeli armed forces to target industrial sites and water installations.

### The use of Palestinian civilians as human shields

The Mission investigated four incidents in which Israeli forces coerced Palestinian civilian men at gun point to take part in house searches during the military operations (Chapter XIV). The Palestinian men were blindfolded and handcuffed as they were forced to enter houses ahead of the Israeli soldiers. Published testimonies of Israeli soldiers who took part in the military operations confirm the continued use of this practice, in spite of clear orders from Israel's High Court to the armed forces to put an end to it and repeated public assurances from the armed forces that the practice had been discontinued. The Mission concludes that this practice amounts to the use of



Al Waida drink factory after attack.

Palestinian civilians as human shields and is therefore prohibited by international humanitarian law.

During the military operations Israeli armed forces rounded up large numbers of civilians and detained them in houses and open spaces in Gaza and, in the case of many Palestinian men, also took them to detention facilities in Israel. In the cases investigated by the Mission, the facts gathered indicate

that none of the civilians were armed or posed any apparent threat to the Israeli soldiers.

Civilians, including women and children, were detained in degrading conditions, deprived of food, water and access to sanitary facilities, and exposed to the elements in January without any shelter. The men were handcuffed, blindfolded and repeatedly made to strip, sometimes naked, at different stages of their detention.

In the Al Atatra area in north-western Gaza Israeli troops had dug out sand pits in which Palestinian men, women and children were detained. Israeli tanks and artillery positions were located inside the sand pits and around them and fired from next to the detainees.

The Mission concludes that the treatment of these civilians constitutes the infliction of a collective penalty on those persons and amounts to measures of intimidation and terror. Such acts are grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and constitute a war crime.

Statements by Israeli leaders to the effect that the destruction of civilian objects would be justified as a response to rocket attacks ("destroy 100 homes for every rocket fired"), indicate the possibility of resort to reprisals. The Mission is of the view that reprisals against civilians in armed hostilities are contrary to international humanitarian law.

### Blockade of Gaza

From the facts ascertained by it, the Mission believes that Israel has violated its obligation to allow free passage of all consignments of medical and hospital objects, food and clothing (article 23 of the Fourth



Remains of a Mosque.

Convention). The Mission also finds that Israel violated specific obligations it has as Occupying Power spelled out in the Fourth Geneva Convention, such as the duty to maintain medical and hospital establishments and services and to agree to relief schemes if the occupied territory is not well supplied.

Finally, the Mission considered whether the series of acts that deprive Palestinians in the Gaza Strip of their means of sustenance, employment, housing and water, that deny their freedom of movement and their right to leave and enter their own country, that limit their access to a court of law and an effective remedy, could amount to persecution, a crime against humanity.

### The continuing detention of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit

The Mission is of the opinion that, as a soldier who belongs to the Israeli armed forces and who was captured during an enemy incursion into Israel, Gilad Shalit meets the requirements for prisoner-of-war status under the Third Geneva Convention.

The Mission is concerned by declarations made by various Israeli officials, who have indicated the intention of maintaining the blockade of the Gaza Strip until the release of Gilad Shalit. The Mission is of the opinion that this would constitute collective punishment of the civilian population of the Gaza Strip.

### Crackdown in the West Bank

Various witnesses and experts informed the Mission of a sharp increase in the use of force by the Israeli security forces against Palestinians in the West Bank from the commencement of the Israeli operations in Gaza.

Of particular concern to the Mission were allegations of the use of unnecessary, lethal force by Israeli security forces, the use of live ammunition, and the provision in the Israeli armed forces "open fire regulations" of different rules to deal with disturbances where only Palestinians are present, as compared to disturbances where Israelis are present. This raises serious concern with regard to discriminatory policies vis-à-vis Palestinians.

It is estimated that since the beginning of the occupation, approximately 700,000 Palestinian men, women and children have been detained by Israel. According to estimates, as at 1st June 2009, there were approximately 8,100 Palestinian 'political prisoners' in detention in Israel, including 60 women and 390 children. Many are held in administrative detention, and some under the Israeli "Unlawful Combatants Law".

In the West Bank, Israel has long imposed a system of movement restrictions.

Movement is restricted by a combination of physical obstacles such as roadblocks, checkpoints and the Wall, but also through administrative measures such as identity cards, permits, assigned residence, laws on family reunification, and policies on the right to enter from abroad and the right of return for refugees. Palestinians are denied access to areas expropriated for the building of the Wall and its infrastructure, for use by settlements, buffer zones, military bases and military training zones, and the roads built to connect these places. Many of these roads are "Israeli only" and forbidden for Palestinian use. Tens of thousands of Palestinians today are subject to a "travel ban" imposed by Israel, preventing them from traveling abroad. A number of witnesses and experts invited by the Mission to meet in Amman and participate in the hearings in Geneva could not meet with the Mission due to this travel ban.

During and following the operations in Gaza, Israel deepened its hold on the West Bank through an increased level of expropriation, an increased number of house demolitions, demolition orders and of permits granted for homes built in settlements, and increased exploitation of the natural resources in the West Bank.

Palestinian armed groups have launched about 8000 rockets and mortars into southern Israel since 2001. While communities such as Sderot and Kibbutz Nir-Am have been within the range of rocket and mortar fire since the beginning, the range of rocket fire increased to nearly 40 kilometres from the Gaza border, encompassing towns as far north as Ashdod, during the Israeli military operations in Gaza.

Since 18 June 2008, rockets fired by Palestinian armed groups in Gaza have killed 3 civilians inside Israel and 2 civilians in Gaza when a rocket landed short of the border on 26 December 2008. Reportedly, over 1000 civilians inside Israel were physically injured as a result of rocket and mortar attacks, 918 of which were injured during the time of the Israeli military operations in Gaza.

The Mission has determined that the rockets and, to a lesser extent, mortars, fired by the Palestinian armed groups are incapable of being directed towards specific military objectives and were fired into areas where civilian populations are based. The Mission has further determined that these attacks constitute indiscriminate attacks upon the civilian population of southern Israel and that where there is no intended military target and the rockets and mortars are launched into a civilian population, they constitute a deliberate attack against a civilian population.



White phosphorus raining down on civilians.

### Accountability

Investigations and, if appropriate, prosecutions of those suspected of serious violations are necessary steps if respect for human rights and humanitarian law is to be ensured and to prevent the development of a climate of impunity. States have a duty under international law to investigate allegations of violations.

In the context of increasing unwillingness on the part of Israel to open criminal investigations that comply with international standards the Mission supports the reliance on universal jurisdiction as an avenue for States to investigate violations of the grave breach provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, prevent impunity and promote international accountability.

International law also establishes that whenever a violation of an international obligation occurs an obligation to provide reparation arises. It is the view of the Mission that the current constitutional structure and legislation in Israel leaves very limited room, if any, for Palestinians to seek compensation. It is necessary that the international community provides for an additional or alternative mechanism of compensation for damage or loss incurred by Palestinians civilians during the military operations.

You can read the entire report at [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32057&Cr=palestin&Cr1=or just google "Goldstone Report"](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32057&Cr=palestin&Cr1=or just google 'Goldstone Report').

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## Book Review



## THE FRANKLIN SCANDAL: A Story of Powerbrokers, Child Abuse & Betrayal

BY JEFF LONG/ROCK CREEK FREE PRESS  
*The Franklin Scandal* is the story of a nationwide pedophile ring that pandered children to a cabal of the rich and powerful. The ring's pimps were a pair of political powerbrokers who used Boys Town as a pedophilic reservoir, had access to the highest levels of our government, and connections to the CIA.

A tragic tale that tears at your heart and rips your soul, *The Franklin Scandal* is the true story of a child-pandering network and the masking of its very existence through a massive cover-up orchestrated from the utmost pinnacle of power — using the CIA, FBI, Secret Service and a corrupt judicial process. This book shows how a major part of that cover-up was accomplished, how officers of the court suborned their duties ... and afterwards were given promotions (one is a sitting federal judge).

The shocking disclosures begin at an old brick warehouse tied to the CIA and their front group, the Finders, in a seedy section of Washington, DC, progressing through the \$40 million-dollar bust-out of a nondescript Midwestern credit union — with a fancy bedroom in its basement — and then back to a DC party house with hidden cameras. The alleged front man for the group was a rising star in the Republican party, Lawrence E. King. He opened the 1984 GOP national convention with a rousing rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner" and threw a party for 600 people that included cabinet officials and President Reagan's daughter at Southfork Ranch — the swanky mansion used for the Dallas TV series.

After accounts of severe abuse told by the frightened children were squelched, a state legislative committee was formed to examine the alarming affair. The Nebraska legislators nearly exposed the ring in 1990, but its unveiling had the potential to produce seismic political aftershocks. A rash of deaths and a full court press by federal and local law enforcement effected an immaculate cover-up. Its lead investigator's airplane mysteriously exploded in midair, his omnipresent briefcase went missing, and all of his investigative records were subpoenaed by the FBI two days later. With that, the case was shut down — until now.

Journalist Nick Bryant has traveled over 40,000 miles and spent nearly seven years uncovering this authoritative history. He has had his life threatened, his cars searched, and his actions monitored. Bryant located several of the young victims, who are now adults, and coaxed them to emerge from the shadows — some telling their story for the first time ever. The victims talk about flights all around the country, and there are hundreds of flight logs to back this up. The most frequent destination? Washington, DC, the District of Criminals — to a party house wired for pictures and sound.

State and federal grand juries in Nebraska and a grand jury in the District of Columbia played an integral role in the cover-up, and the author has had access to thousands of documents that would ultimately be sealed by two of the grand juries.

The media, through either commission or omission, also abetted the cover-up of the trafficking network. Various news

organizations have attempted to break aspects of this story, but the reports have either been ignored or mysteriously shelved. ABC backed away from pursuing this story, while, conversely, CBS appears to have abetted its concealment—making it obvious that very powerful people have a vested interest in safeguarding this secret. In 1993, the Discovery Channel had contracted with British-based TV station, Yorkshire Television, to produce a documentary, "Conspiracy of Silences," of this scandal for American television. It was due to air nationwide on the Discovery Channel on May 3, 1994, with advertisements in *TV Guide*, newspapers and inserts across the nation, but no one ever saw the program. Last minute and without explanation, it was pulled from the air. All copies were thought to have been destroyed due to pressure applied through back room channels by influential members of Congress. Both Discovery Channel and Yorkshire Television had been reimbursed for their costs in the production of the documentary. In late 1995 however, Senator John DeCamp received by mail, anonymously, the only surviving pirated copy. It is now available on the internet for posterity.

Bryant also tracked down members of the sex ring, and persuaded them to talk. Conducting hundreds of hours of interviews and digesting thousands of documents, Bryant has written the definitive narrative of our country's most suppressed scandal. More than just an exposé, this is also an amazing chronicle of courage, faith, and fortitude amidst great betrayal. Bryant brings this explosive report directly to the court of public opinion, in search of justice for the devastated children and consequences for those who have helped to perpetuate this horror. This book is a wake-up call for everyone who cares about children ... and our Republic.

In addition to demonstrating breathtaking government corruption, *The Franklin Scandal* demonstrates that politicians, captains of industry, and media personalities are compromised. The approval rating of the United States Congress hit an historic low of 12% in October 2008, showing that the vast majority of citizens think Congress is not serving us, the American people. *The Franklin Scandal* shows one reason why. There is another checks-and-balances system in effect—one that has been hidden from the public: blackmail.

For additional information please visit [FranklinScandal.com](http://FranklinScandal.com). For a preview of Nick Bryant's upcoming documentary, visit [aDangerousMovie.com](http://aDangerousMovie.com). The publisher is donating 50% of the book's proceeds to organizations that assist abused children.

*Nick Bryant's writing has recurrently focused on the plight of disadvantaged children in the United States, and he's been published in numerous national journals, including the Journal of Professional Ethics, Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness, Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, and Journal of School Health. He is the co-author of America's Children: Triumph of Tragedy, addressing the medical and developmental problems of lower socioeconomic children in America.*

## History's Lessons When Dictatorship Came to America

BY THOMAS J. DiLORENZO

The presidential oath of office contains a pledge to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States, and, by implication, the liberties of the American people that the document is intended to preserve. In light of this, can you name which of the delegated powers in the US Constitution allow the president to invade his own country, mass murder his own American citizens, and bomb, burn and plunder their cities? Can you explain how such acts would be consistent with protecting the constitutional liberties of those unfortunate citizens? If you think you can, then congratulations, you are a "Lincoln Scholar." If not, do not despair. You are in decent company, including the five living past presidents as of 1861, namely, Martin Van Buren, John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, and James Buchanan. Lincoln's predecessor, President James Buchanan of Pennsylvania, stated the truth when he said the following:

Has the Constitution delegated to Congress the power to coerce a State into submission which is attempting to withdraw . . . from the Confederacy [of states]? If answered in the affirmative, it must be on the principle that the power has been conferred upon Congress to declare and to make war against a State. After much serious reflection, I have arrived at the conclusion that no such power has been delegated to Congress or to any other department of the federal government (Senate Journal, 36th Congress, 2nd Session, 4 December 1860, 15–16).

Unlike Lincoln, James Buchanan was a constitutionalist. His opinion that a president has no constitutional right to invade his own country and murder his fellow citizens has relegated him to the bottom of every ranking of American presidents by the American history profession for generations. This doesn't mean he was wrong, only that a large segment of the history profession is hopelessly corrupt. Buchanan understood, as did nearly everyone prior to Lincoln, that the states did not give up any of their sovereignty when they ratified the Constitution; they merely delegated several distinct powers to the central government that was designed to act for their mutual benefit.

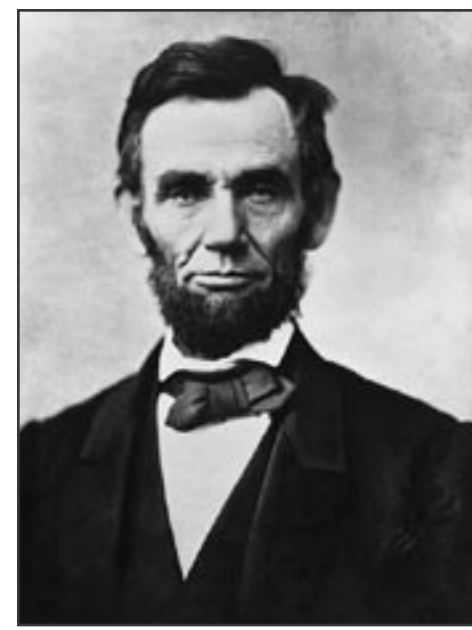
Buchanan's position on secession is described in some detail by John Avery Emison in his new book, *Lincoln Über Alles: Dictatorship Comes to America*. It's high time that Americans grow up, says Emison, and confront the reality of their own history, as opposed to the childish fairy tales concocted by the court historians of the Church of Lincoln.

As for the other living presidents mentioned above, the New Yorker Millard Fillmore, a former Whig, opposed the war for its duration and never joined the new Republican Party after the Whig Party imploded, as did most Northern Whigs. Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire was a fierce critic of the war and especially of Lincoln's Stalinist, police-state tactics in suppressing political opposition in the North. New Yorker Martin Van Buren died in 1862 but opposed the war, and John Tyler of Virginia, who also died in 1862, actually served in the Confederate Congress.

These men were all patriotic Americans who understood that waging war against the citizens of any state was an act of treason. They understood this because, unlike Lincoln, they had read, understood, and believed in the Constitution. As Emison points out, Article III, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution defines treason as follows: "Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort". As with all the founding documents, "United States" is in the plural, signifying that the free and independent states are united for some specific purpose, in this case, in delegating certain powers to the central government, mostly for foreign policy reasons. Treason meant waging war against the citizens of the states, not the government in Washington, DC. Lincoln's war was nothing if it was not a war prosecuted by the Republican Party against the Southern states. It was, therefore, the very definition of treason under the US Constitution.

The Lincoln Cult sometimes claims that the so-called "insurrection clause" of the Constitution (Article 4, Section 4) gives the government the ability to wage war on its own citizens, but this is a gross misreading of the document. Article 4 states: "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence."

Lincoln violated the first part of Article 4 by imprisoning members of the Maryland legislature in 1861 and by occupying various southern states, ruling over them with military dictatorships during the war. The war was not a domestic insurrection within the Southern states. But even if one assumes that it was, as



President Lincoln

Lincoln falsely did, it is important that the second part of Article 4 denotes that the central government cannot interfere in an insurrection within any state unless first invited to do so by the legislature or governor of that state. The governors of the Southern states never invited Lincoln to invade them, bomb their cities, and murder their citizens by the thousands. But then again, Lincoln believed that he was more important than the Constitution.

In his chapter entitled "Secession, the Constitution, and the Law," Emison devastatingly critiques Lincoln Cultist James McPherson's one-sentence quip in his (McPherson's) book, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, that the states that entered the union after the original thirteen were creatures of the central government and therefore were not sovereign over it and had no right to secede. This quip has been endlessly repeated by Lincoln cultists in their defense of Lincoln's war despite the fact that it is historically and constitutionally baseless. It is baseless because of what the Supreme Court has called the "Equal Footing Doctrine." When Tennessee became the third new state in 1796, for example, it was admitted "on an equal footing with the original states in all respects whatsoever," phraseology that has been used ever since, Emison reminds us. This means that, just as the original thirteen states were sovereign over the central government, so are all the others. All states are equal under the Constitution.

This fact motivates Emison to ask the obvious question: "If all the states are equal, do any states or combination of states have the legal or moral authority to destroy another state and replace its lawfully elected government with one imposed by military occupation? If so, which states have such authority? How did they get it? Lincoln's answer to these questions was, essentially, "the side with the most bayonets makes the rules."

In his chapter entitled "War Crimes" Emison details just how Lincoln "proved" his new theories about the absolute and omnipotent powers of the federal government to be "correct." He explains how the Lincoln regime reignited the horrors of total war in the world, including the waging of total war on one's own citizens. Among the phrases used to describe the waging of total war on Southern civilians is "rampage," "theft and indiscriminate destruction of property," "rob, tyrannize, threaten," "numerous reports of rape," and "woe betide the region's unprotected black women, against whom acts of the most heastly an infamous character" were perpetrated by Union Army soldiers.

Much of this barbarism was the work of the "heroic" General Sherman. Emison scoured numerous biographies of Sherman and found him to be described in the following ways by those who knew him best: "A near emotional cripple"; a dangerous man"; "traumatized, marginalized, and self-loathing"; "a caged lion . . . angry"; suffering from "delusional misjudgment"; "suicidal impulses"; "confessed to his wife a death-wish for himself . . ."; "a man of primal rage."

"Sherman's gone in the head, he's lunny [sic]," said Assistant Secretary of War Thomas Scott, as quoted by Emison. "It would be dangerous to give [Sherman] command," said General Henry Halleck. Of course, Lincoln not only gave Sherman command, but made him one of the top commanders, and the Republican Party turned him into a national icon after the war. (Sherman spent the next 25 years after the war orchestrating the campaign of genocide against the Plains Indians.)

Emison documents with Sherman's own words how the man seemed to hate just about everyone, especially blacks, Mexicans, Jews, and Indians. He was not an enlightened egalitarian devoted to black equality, as the buffoonish Lincoln cultist Victor Davis Hanson has contended. This mentally-deranged maniac "justified" his mass killing of civilians by inventing the "doctrine of military necessity," which essentially said that anything goes in war, even the murder of innocent women and children. Sherman's armies would later perfect this barbaric ideology during the

Indian Wars, as Emison recounts.

When backed into a corner, the Lincoln Cult usually resorts to the preposterous claim that everything the Lincoln regime did (or did not do, such as peacefully ending slavery, as the rest of the world did in the 19th century) was justified because Northerners were enlightened about race and Southerners were not. Evil Southerners had to be civilized, the story goes, even if that meant killing them by the hundreds of thousands. But, as Emison writes, "The idea that . . . white Northerners . . . fought the Civil War to end slavery or were on the right side of the racial justice issue is preposterous." It is "nothing short of gullible self-deception, bordering on simple-mindedness."

Your author is not as generous as Emison in this regard. James McPherson, Doris Kearns-Goodwin, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and other Lincoln cultists are not simple minded. They know what they are doing, and they know that it pays very well careerwise and moneywise to be a court historian.

In another attempt to allow Americans to wean themselves from childish self-deceptions about their own history, Emison devotes a chapter to race in American history. He discusses how slavery existed for hundreds of years in the North, especially in New York, Boston, and Newport, Rhode Island, the hubs of the transatlantic slave trade. The transatlantic slave trade "was one of the foundations of New England's economic structure" for generations. The slave trade was also "one of the cornerstones of New York's commercial prosperity in the eighteenth century."

Emison documents the truth behind Tocqueville's statement in *Democracy in America* that "the problem of race" was even worse in the North than it was in the South in the early nineteenth century. He presents a table of seventy-six Northern Jim Crow Laws that were enacted beginning with Vermont in 1777 and ending with New York in 1868. Jim Crow laws were a Northern invention. In the decade preceding the War to Prevent Southern Independence alone, California, Utah Territory, Indiana, Ohio, Kansas Territory, Nebraska Territory, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Oregon disenfranchised all free blacks.

In 1839, Ohio's legislature passed "a resolution that Negroes have no right to petition the legislature for any purpose whatever."

Massachusetts banned interracial marriage in 1836, after Rhode Island did so in 1822; during the same year (1836), state legislator Abraham Lincoln voted for an Illinois resolution that "the elective franchise should be kept pure from contamination by the admission of colored votes"; In 1833, Connecticut criminalized "the establishment of any school for persons of the African race"; Ohio, Indiana and Illinois required "good behavior bonds" from free blacks; many Northern states enacted "Negro Exclusion Laws"; the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that blacks were not citizens twenty years before the famous Dred Scott decision; and Illinois amended its Constitution in 1862 to add a Negro exclusion provision.

One very interesting aspect of *Lincoln Über Alles* is Emison's discussion of the preponderance of "German Forty-Eighters" in the Lincoln administration and at the upper levels of his army. These men were German immigrants who participated in an 1848 European political revolt that advocated highly centralized government, despised state's rights, and believed that citizens needed to subordinate their personal interests to the state. "Many Forty-Eighters were Marxists; some considered themselves communists. One of the Forty-Eighters was Marx's own brother-in-law . . . the Forty-Eighters saw themselves as international agents of change."

One of the more prominent German immigrants in the Lincoln administration was Francis Lieber, who Lincoln employed to write the military code known as the "Lieber Code" for the U.S. Army. Another was General Franz Sigel, and officer in the Prussian army who fled Europe and became a Union army general who gained notoriety for his defeat in the Battle of New Market at the hands of VMI cadets. Sigel apparently believed he would teach the sons of Virginia, including a descendant of Thomas Jefferson who was killed in the battle, what it meant to be an American. Emison describes numerous other German "revolutionaries" who were given important commands in Lincoln's army.

A great many German immigrants settled in the Midwest and were instrumental in Lincoln's nomination and election. Abe recognized this, and purchased several German-language newspapers in order to bolster his German immigrant support. Emison makes a very persuasive case that it was German immigrants who "put him over the top" in six key states (Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) in the 1860 election. This perhaps explains why so many prominent Germans, some of whom barely spoke English, were commissioned

See LINCOLN p. 7

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Small Towns. Prejudice. Dirty politics. Crazy people make more sense than the sane ones. Distorted reality.

Oh, of course it was written by  
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## Colombia to be Base of US Military Operations

BASES from p. 1

enable the US to engage in "full spectrum military operations in a critical sub-region of our hemisphere where security and stability is under constant threat from narcotics funded terrorist insurgencies... and anti-US governments..."

The military agreement between Washington and Colombia authorizes the access and use of seven military installations in Palanquero, Malambo, Tolemaida, Larandia, Apiay, Cartagena and Málaga. Additionally, the agreement allows for "the access and use of all other installations and locations as necessary" throughout Colombia, with no restrictions.

Together with the complete immunity the agreement provides to US military and civilian personnel, including private defense and security contractors, the clause authorizing the US to utilize any installation throughout the entire country — even commercial airports, for military ends, signifies a complete renunciation of Colombian sovereignty and officially converts Colombia into a client-state of the US.

The Air Force document underlines the importance of the military base in Palanquero and justifies the \$46 million requested in the 2010 budget (now approved by Congress) in order to improve the airfield, associated ramps and other installations on the base to convert it into a US Cooperative Security Location.

"Establishing a Cooperative Security Location (CSL) in Palanquero best supports the COCOM's (Command Combatant's) Theater Posture Strategy and demonstrates our commitment to this relationship. Development of this CSL provides a unique opportunity for full spectrum operations in a critical sub-region of our hemisphere where security and stability is under constant threat from narcotics funded terrorist insurgencies, anti-US governments, endemic poverty and recurring natural disasters."

It's not difficult to imagine which governments in South America are considered by Washington to be "anti-US governments". The constant aggressive declarations and statements emitted by the State and Defense Departments and the US Congress against Venezuela and Bolivia, and even to some extent Ecuador, evidence that the Bolivian Alliance for the People of our America (ALBA) nations are the ones perceived by Washington as a "constant threat". To classify a country as "anti-US" is to consider it an enemy of the United States. In this context, it's obvious that the military agreement with Colombia is a reaction to a region the US now considers full of "enemies".

### Counternarcotics Operations are Secondary

Per the US Air Force document:

"Access to Colombia will further its strategic partnership with the United States. The strong security cooperation relationship also offers an opportunity for conducting full spectrum operations throughout South America to include mitigating the counternarcotics capability."

This statement clearly evidences that counter-narcotics operations are secondary to the real objectives of the military agreement between Colombia and Washington. Again, this clearly contrasts the constant declarations of the Uribe and Obama governments insisting that the main focus of the agreement is to combat drug trafficking and production. The Air Force document emphasizes the necessity to improve "full spectrum" military operations throughout South America — not just in Colombia — in order to combat "constant threats" from "anti-US governments" in the region.

### Palanquero is the Best Option for Continental Mobility

The Air Force document explains:

"Palanquero is unquestionably the best site for investing in infrastructure development within Colombia. Its central

location is within reach of...operations areas...its isolation maximizes Operational Security (OPSEC) and Force Protection and minimizes the US military profile. The intent is to leverage existing infrastructure to the maximum extent possible, improve the US ability to respond rapidly to crisis, and assure regional access and presence at minimum cost. Palanquero supports the mobility mission by providing access to the entire South American continent with the exception of Cape Horn..."

### Espionage and Warfare

The document additionally confirms that the US military presence in Palanquero, Colombia, will improve the capacity of espionage and intelligence operations, and will allow the US armed forces to increase their warfare capabilities in the region.

"Development of this CSL will further the strategic partnership forged between the US and Colombia and is in the interest of both nations...A presence will also increase our capability to conduct Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), improve global reach, support logistics requirements, improve partnerships, improve theater security cooperation and expand expeditionary warfare capability."

The language of war included in this document evidences the true intentions behind the military agreement between Washington and Colombia: they are preparing for war in Latin America. Recent days have been full of conflict and tension between Colombia and Venezuela. Recently, the Venezuelan government captured three spies from the Colombian intelligence agency, DAS, and discovered several active destabilization and espionage operations against Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela. The operations - Fénix, Salomón and Falcón, respectively, were revealed in documents found with the captured DAS agents. Approximately two weeks ago, ten bodies were found in Táchira, a border zone with Colombia. After completing the relevant investigations, the Venezuelan government discovered that the bodies belonged to Colombian paramilitaries infiltrated inside Venezuelan territory. This dangerous paramilitary infiltration from Colombia forms part of a destabilization plan against Venezuela that seeks to create a paramilitary state inside Venezuelan territory in order to break down President Chávez's government.

The military agreement between Washington and Colombia will only increase regional tensions and violence. The information revealed in the US Air Force document unquestionably evidences that Washington seeks to promote a state of warfare in South America, using Colombia as its launching pad. Before this declaration of war, the peoples of Latin America must stand strong and unified. Latin American integration is the best defense against the Empire's aggression.

"The US Air Force document was submitted in May 2009 to Congress as part of the 2010 budget justification. It is an official government document and reaffirms the authenticity of the *White Book: Global Enroute Strategy of the US Air Mobility Command*, which was denounced by President Chávez during the UNASUR meeting in Bariloche, Argentina on August 28th. I have placed the original document and the non-official translation to Spanish that I did of the relevant parts relating to Palanquero on the web page of the Center to Alert and Defend the People, "Centro de Alerta para la Defensa de los Pueblos", a new space we are creating to guarantee that strategic information is available to those under constant threat from imperialist aggression.

*Eva Golinger is a Venezuelan-American attorney from New York, living in Caracas, Venezuela since 2005 and the author of many best-selling books including The Chavez Code: Cracking US Intervention in Venezuela. She blogs at www.chavezcode.com*

# Goldman's Profits Come from Our Pockets: Why We Need a Tobin Tax

TOBIN TAX from p. 1

Tobin in the 1970s. But he acknowledged that the tax was unlikely to be implemented because of the massive accounting problems involved. Today however, modern technology has caught up to the challenge, and proposals for a "Tobin tax" are gaining traction. The proposals are very modest, ranging from .005% to 1% per trade, far less than you would pay in sales tax on a pair of shoes. For ordinary investors, who buy and sell stock only occasionally, the tax would hardly be felt. But high-speed speculative trades could be slowed up considerably. Wall Street traders compete to design trading programs that can move many shares in microseconds, allowing them to beat ordinary investors to the "buy" button and to manipulate markets for private gain.

Goldman Sachs admitted to this sort of market manipulation in a notorious incident last summer, in which the bank sued an ex-Goldman computer programmer for stealing its proprietary trading software. Assistant US Attorney Joseph Facciponti was quoted by Bloomberg News as saying of the case:

"The bank has raised the possibility that there is a danger that somebody who knew how to use this program could use it to manipulate markets in unfair ways."

The obvious implication was that Goldman has a program that allows it to manipulate markets in unfair ways. Bloomberg went on:

"The proprietary code lets the firm do 'sophisticated, high-speed and high-volume trades on various stock and commodities markets,' prosecutors said in court papers. The trades generate 'many millions of dollars' each year."

Those many millions of dollars are coming from ordinary investors, who are being beaten to the punch by sophisticated computer programs. As one blogger mused:

"Why do we have a financial system? I mean, much of its activity looks an awful lot like gambling, and gambling is not exactly a constructive endeavor. In fact, many people would call gambling destructive, which is why it is generally illegal..."

What makes Goldman Sachs et. al. so evil is that they offer vast wealth to our society's best and brightest in exchange for spending their lives being non-productive. I want our geniuses to be proving theorems and curing cancer and developing fusion reactors, not designing algorithms to flip billions of shares in microseconds.

Gambling is an addiction, and the addicted need help. A tax on these microsecond trades could sober up Wall Street addicts and return them to productive labor. It could transform Wall Street from an out-of-control casino back into a place where investors pledge their capital for the development of useful products.

### The Tobin Tax Gains Momentum

Various proposals for a Tobin tax have received renewed media attention in recent months. President Obama gave indirect support for the tax in a Press briefing on

July 22, when he recommended that the government consider new fees on financial companies pursuing "far out transactions". Leaders from France, Germany, and the European Commission endorsed putting a speculation tax on the agenda at the G20 meeting in Pittsburgh in September. Brazil has now imposed what may be the first Tobin Tax on foreign investment inflows. A US bill proposing to tax short-term speculation in certain securities, called "Let Wall Street Pay for Wall Street's Bailout Act of 2009", was introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) last February. A different bill to regulate derivative trades was approved by the Financial Services Committee in October.

Derivatives are essentially bets on whether the value of currencies, commodities, stocks, government bonds or virtually any other product will go up or down. Derivative bets can cause shifts in overall market size reaching \$40 trillion in a single day. Just how destabilizing short-term speculation can be — and just how lucrative a tax on it could be — is evident from the mind-boggling size of the market: \$743 trillion globally in 2008. Another arresting fact is that just five super-rich commercial banks control 97% of the US derivatives market: JPMorgan Chase & Co., Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc. and Wells Fargo & Co.

### Pros and Cons

Promoters of international development have suggested that a mere .005% tax could raise between \$30 billion and \$60 billion per year, enough for the G7 countries to double international aid. But more than raising money, the tax could be an effective tool for slowing harmful speculative practices. According to a number of Nobel Prize economists, a downsized speculative market would go far toward creating a more sturdy financial system, helping to avoid the need for future bailouts. But if the tax is too small, it might not have the desired effect on speculation. The larger 1% tax originally proposed by James Tobin is therefore favored by some proponents. The much-needed income from a US tax could be split between federal and state governments.

Opponents of the Tobin tax, led by the financial sector, argue that it would kill bank jobs, reduce liquidity, and drive business offshore. Supporters respond that Tobin tax profits could be used to create new jobs, and that the small size of the tax would hardly affect cash flows — although certainly the speculative market would shrink. Players in dice-rolling speculative operations have long claimed that their trades "stabilized" the system by enabling investors to hedge risk, but the recent financial crash has exposed that defense as being without clothes. Inflows of "hot money" are not good for a country. They create quick speculative bubbles that can collapse equally quickly when the money flows out again. Better for the country and its economy are the funds of prudent investors who intend to stick

around for a while. A modest tax could even encourage these preferred investors, who will be more confident if their investments are not liable to collapse suddenly from hot money outflows.

Besides technical questions about how to implement the tax internationally, the offshore argument probably presents the most serious challenge. Should a Tobin tax pass in the US, investors would be likely to move to other markets beyond the reach of taxation. The US could penalize traders for doing business abroad, but governments in major markets like Germany and London would no doubt need to endorse the tax for any meaningful shift to be seen. Some experts have argued that the Tobin tax would be best implemented by an international institution such as the United Nations, which would gain a large source of funding independent of donations from participating nations.

That proposition sets off alarm bells for other observers, who see any international tax as a move toward further strengthening the power of the global financial oligarchs. However, the very fact that the United Nations, the G20, and the Bank for International Settlements are discussing this option suggests that we the people need to jump in and stake out our claim for national purposes, before we lose the tax money to international bodies controlled by the global bankers. We need to design the tax the way we want, before they design it the way they want. It needs to be collected by the US Treasury and to go into the Treasury's coffers. It needs to bypass Wall Street and reach Main Street, where it can be used to stimulate local business and investment.

Officials from the International Monetary Fund insist that implementing a Tobin tax would be logistically impossible. But Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize winning economist and former World Bank leader, disagrees. In Istanbul in early October, he said that a Tobin tax was not only necessary but, thanks to modern technology, would be easier to implement than ever before. "The financial sector polluted the global economy with toxic assets," he said, "and now they ought to clean it out."

While Wall Street's welfare queens have been busy collecting generous government handouts, the 50 states have been left to fend for themselves. Some 48 states have faced budget crises in the past year, forcing them to cut libraries, schools, hospitals, and police forces, and to raise taxes on income and sales. A sales tax on the exotic financial products responsible for precipitating the economic crisis is long overdue.

*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.*

## When Dictatorship Came to America

LINCOLN from p. 6

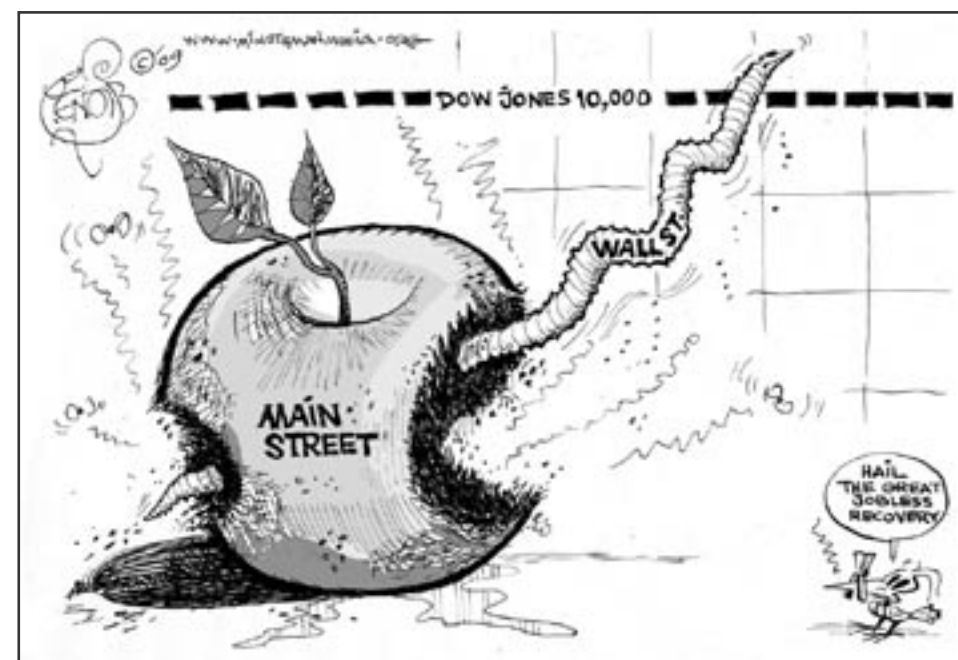
as colonels, majors, or generals in Lincoln's army.

Emison views Lincoln's relevance to modern America very differently than Mario Cuomo and Harold Holzer, authors of *Why Lincoln Matters: Today More Than Ever*. Cuomo and Holzer celebrate the fact that Lincoln has long been the image/poster boy of America. In a textbook example of the kind of childish simplemindedness that Emison refers to, Holzer has even said that "everything good" in all of American history since 1865 is due to Abraham Lincoln.

Emison agrees that Lincoln's influence is tremendous, but writes that "America is haunted by Lincoln's blood lust for a coercive, dominant, unitary, unaccountable, debt-laden central government" whose principle function is "the plunder of society and the redistribution of wealth to the politically privileged elite [like the Cuomo family] and their collection of political sycophants [like Lincoln cultists] who help keep them in power." In this regard, "the two major parties have become the party of Lincoln, each a metastatic twin of the other." Abraham Lincoln "opened the door to the Leviathan central state that mandates, manipulates, and regulates virtually every aspect of life in America and seeks unilateral hegemony around the globe."

*Thomas J. DiLorenzo is professor of economics at Loyola College in Maryland and the author of The Real Lincoln; Lincoln Unmasked: What You're Not Supposed To Know about Dishonest Abe and How Capitalism Saved America. His latest book is Hamilton's Curse: How Jefferson's Archenemy Betrayed the American Revolution — And What It Means for America Today.*

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# 9/11 Fundamentalists

9/11 from p. 3

solidarity that comes from feeling like a persecuted minority, lepers in the citadels of mainstream progressivism, ridiculed for our "tin foil hats."

Van Jones, the Obama environmental adviser forced to resign in part because he signed a petition to reinvestigate 9/11, was an embarrassment to what we in the 9/11 truth movement call the "left gatekeepers," ranging from traditional outlets like *Mother Jones* and *Nation* magazines, to websites like Common Dreams, Firedoglake and Daily Kos, where "twofoers" are regularly shoed away.

## Ignoring the Scientific Evidence

These 9/11 fundamentalists mirror the mainstream media (MSM) paradigm on 9/11 truth, which they call "conspiracy theory" — conveniently ignoring the verifiable physical evidence that's been presented by independent scientists, about the controlled demolition of the WTC towers with a highly-advanced form of military-grade "nanothermite" explosive (NIST has refused to publicly debate these scientists, explaining that it would be a debate that "nobody wins"). 9/11 fundamentalists even ignore the official reports, like the US Geological Survey study of the dust from the World Trade Center, which found therein an unusually high concentration of iron microspheres, caused by the propulsion of molten iron. A FEMA report on WTC7's steel girders found strange "Swiss cheese-like holes" and "intergranular melting." As the NIST report correctly notes, neither jet fuel nor office fires can get hot enough to melt steel. *The New York Times* called this 9/11's "biggest mystery." Both reports recommended further study. None was done.

So why do I look like I'm wearing a tin foil hat when I ask the legitimate question, why didn't these followup studies happen? Am I being too paranoid to think that the fact that the investigation was overseen by a longtime Bush family operative, then-Commerce Secretary Don Evans, may have something to do with it? Is it possible that, even though the Bush administration lied about virtually every one of its executive acts throughout eight years of a stolen presidency, they were telling the truth in this one instance? Does anyone really still believe that they had any scruples whatsoever against killing fellow Americans, after they sent over 4,000 Americans to their deaths in Iraq, in a war based on nothing but a cynical lie? How naive can you be?

## A New World View

The personal tragedy for me is that I have such great respect for the work that these fellow progressives are doing, otherwise, I can certainly understand the many reasons people fail to open their eyes to the truth of 9/11 — very few of them nefarious. It's a huge psychological challenge to begin with, because it can shake your world view to its very core. It makes the political world in which we seem to live — the primary subject of left gatekeeper discourse — just so much red team/blue team bread and circus, without much relation to the covert world that actually governs this country — what scholar Peter Dale Scott calls America's "Deep State." We live in a world run in every major power by gangsters disguised as friends of democracy. It is only by examining the American version of

this Deep State world that we can fully answer such questions as, "Why did opium production explode in Afghanistan after the US invasion?" Without 9/11 truth, the answer is necessarily incomplete. Sibel Edmonds says that you can't understand 9/11 if you don't understand the underworld of drugs.

Like religious fundamentalists, 9/11 fundies come in various forms. Around the time of the last September 11th commemoration, and the Van Jones resignation, there were comments on the 9/11 truth movement from several leading progressives, a couple of which I'll address here.

If there is anyone who should be open to the idea of a conspiracy surrounding the events of 9/11, you might expect it to be Robert Parry, who cut his journalistic chops on the Iran/Contra scandal, as a reporter for *Newsweek* magazine. What's also ironic is that Parry regularly posts the essays of former CIA analyst Ray McGovern, who, like his friend Cindy Sheehan, has publicly defended the 9/11 truth movement, at his Consortiumnews website. (McGovern has also advocated the opinion that his former employer was involved in the murder of JFK. Ever the canny analyst, he usually keeps his more conspiratorial musings to himself in his published writing.)

## What Incompetence?

Parry begins his essay, "The Real Lessons of 9/11," with a full-throated defense of the "Bush Incompetence Theory," which holds that, despite all the hair-on-fire warnings coming in from US intelligence, a chuckleheaded Texan like Bush, with his mind on oil deals and strategic defense, couldn't be bothered by a pesky fly like "terrorism." So 9/11 happened, and it just happens to be an amazing coincidence that the Bush and bin Laden families have been business partners for decades; and that W's best friend in the Air Guard became Salem bin Laden's American business rep; and that W's dad was meeting with the bin Ladens at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington DC on the morning of 9/11 as fellow investors in the Carlyle Group; and that the traditional Bush family industries of oil, defense and finance have profited magnificently from W's freewheeling war crimes, genocide and other hilarious misadventures, all stemming from 9/11. And nobody's been held to account.

## What incompetence?

Most people aren't aware that the biggest asset to go into W's so-called "blind trust" after the Supreme Court awarded him the presidency was Exxon/Mobil stock. Exxon/Mobil made unprecedented profits, breaking record after record for eight years. What incompetence? In another ignored warning, the Democratic stronghold of New Orleans was gutted by Nature's gift to the Shock Doctrine. You've now got prime areas open for development, and Louisiana's probably seen its last Democratic governor or senator for years to come. Where's the incompetence there? The little boy who started out sticking firecrackers in frogs' asses grew up to indulge his every little psychopathic whim, having little orgasmic thrills every time he heard about another "terrorist" boiled alive in Uzbekistan, or watched one of his private CIA videos, and no one who helped him realize his sicko fantasies will ever pay a price. And Parry wants to argue this guy is

"incompetent?" Be real.

Parry calls the idea that the WTC towers were brought down by controlled demolition "bizarre," but appears solely reliant on the science emanating from the Bush Commerce Department that the claim has been "debunked." We all know what sticklers for science the Bush people were. He offers no names for the "debunking" scientists he depends on for his opinion, nor does he offer any argument or evidence anywhere in the piece. He also relies on the 9/11 Commission report, even though he admits it "steered away from any overt criticism of policymakers." He prefers to think that the reason intelligence didn't penetrate higher than the field level in the FBI is more bureaucratic "incompetence," having nothing to do with the bonuses paid to managers who stopped that intelligence at mid-level and who ignored warnings about Zacarias Moussaoui coming from French intelligence at the same time as frantic calls were coming in from the Minneapolis FBI.

## Paranoid Shift

You cannot actually call Michael Lerner, the editor of *Tikkun* magazine and a leading voice of the religious left, a 9/11 fundamentalist. Besides the fact that he signed the notorious petition calling for a new investigation of 9/11 that Van Jones signed, I have a personal reason for thinking that his mind remains open on 9/11 truth. In January 2004, *Tikkun* posted my first online article, "Paranoid Shift," which is essentially a 9/11 truth statement, at the top of its homepage, under the headline, "George Bush's Conspiracy." *Tikkun* has also posted essays by David Ray Griffin, the truth movement's leading thinker. So Lerner is aware of the workings of the Deep State.

Nevertheless, in his published response to the Van Jones resignation, after he takes the obligatory ad hominem swipe at 9/11 truth "nutcases," Rabbi Lerner—who says he is "agnostic" about 9/11 truth—also defends the Bush Incompetence Theory. He explains that the reason he signed the 9/11 petition is that a new investigation is needed to clear up "inconsistencies and problems with the official story," and put the "conspiracy theories" to rest. In other words, the coverup is about the incompetence. As for the idea that Bush "had concrete prior knowledge of an attack on the United States and for political reasons allowed it to happen," Lerner, good-hearted man that he is, doesn't "believe that one bit"—even though he acknowledges that "it worked very much in favor of their militarist policies."

He draws on his personal experience dealing with the FBI and law enforcement to assert that "there are far more conspiracies than most of us would believe, but they are fundamentally irrelevant to what shapes American policies." Of course, you'd have a hard time arguing for the "irrelevance" of a 9/11 conspiracy in shaping American policy. A "new Pearl Harbor" was exactly the prescription called for by the Project for a New American Century (the neoconservative government-in-exile during the Clinton years) and by Zbigniew Brzezinski, Obama's foreign policy guru, to get the American public's support for a robust military presence in the energy-rich zones of Central Asia and the Middle East.

How convenient that it happened. Shock Doctrine, indeed. Among the conspiracies of which Lerner is no doubt aware are Operation Gladio, the CIA-NATO postwar campaign of false flag terrorism waged to keep western Europe from electing communists; and Operation Northwoods, the early 1960s Joint Chiefs of Staff plan to stage terrorist attacks on American soil to justify an invasion of Cuba. But Lerner stays firm in his "belief" in Bush's innocent incompetence, despite these historical precedents.

## LIHOP vs. MIHOP

This actually makes him more of a 9/11 fundamentalist than even Noam Chomsky, the bête noire of 9/11 truthers, who recently admitted to a questioner that "you could argue" that the Bush administration ignored the warnings about 9/11 for political reasons, and the Let It Happen On Purpose (LIHOP) scenario is "conceivable" (LIHOP is the more conservative 9/11 truth position; the movement, following the work of physicist Steven Jones and others on controlled demolition of the WTC, has moved closer to the MIHOP, Made It Happen On Purpose, position). But Chomsky's opinion of a 9/11 conspiracy is that it doesn't make any difference if Bush did it or not, because America's international crimes are already so great that the murder of 3,000 Americans pales in comparison. So he, like Lerner, thinks that focusing on 9/11 is a gigantic waste of time and energy that distracts people from addressing the more important "structural" problem of imperial militarism.

But Chomsky's global, structuralist vision has blinded him to the unique domestic nature of this particular war crime. Americans of all political persuasions have long adapted themselves to their country's foreign policy ambiguities, by either waving the flag or waving a sign. But the crime of 9/11, if exposed, would reveal the whole dark underbelly of the power elite, and the military/intelligence apparatus behind the curtain of American democracy. At which point, the illegitimacy of the present American government. Former Reganite Deputy Treasury Secretary Paul Craig Roberts recently described the US as a "failed state" would no longer be in question, and the American people would be forced to form a new one. The revolution in consciousness would necessitate a political revolution. How this unfolds, of course, is up to us.

## A Fruitful Debate

9/11 truth is not going away, and its growing number of adherents will continue banging at the gates of mainstream progressivism. It is frustrating to me that there doesn't seem to be any actual debate going on between progressive 9/11 fundamentalists and truthers—just shouting over the walls. I realize that fundamentalists don't want to sully themselves by consorting with "nutcases." But it seems to me that a non-profit foundation like the Nation Institute could make some nice fundraising dollars by having a panel of prominent fundamentalists, like Chomsky, Lerner and Parry, and maybe Norman Solomon or David Corn, debate a panel of equally prominent truthers, like David Ray Griffin, Steven Jones, Richard Gage, the founder of Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth, and 9/11 family member Donna Marsh O'Connor, somewhere in Manhattan.

Personally, I'm confident that that's a debate that somebody would win.

Michael Hasty writes the blog, *Radical Pantheist*. Email: radicalpantheist@gmail.com

# Major Hasan Of Fort Hood: Patsy In A Drill Gone Live?

agencies for purposes of mass political manipulation. Starting from an overview of terrorist actions from the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 (coincidentally also on November 5) through 9/11, I developed a method of analysis of state-sponsored false flag terrorism which distinguished the roles of fanatical, duped, or psychotic *patsies* like Oswald, of subversive *moles* ensconced as officials within government agencies, and of *technicians* or professional killers who actually create the observed effects, all commanded and coordinated from outside of government, and all operating within the atmosphere of mass brainwashing provided by the Wall Street media. I also highlighted the role of drills and exercises which are hijacked and turned into real-world terror attacks. In order to understand the Fort Hood massacre, it is indispensable to apply this method here as well.

It seems clear that unannounced, surprise terror drills are standard operating procedure at Fort Hood and probably other military bases as well. They are frequent enough to be the first thing many soldiers, thought was happening. Drills are designed to be as realistic as possible. But the acme of realism is reality — real killing, which can occur through small but decisive changes in the unfolding of the drill. We may therefore be dealing here with a drill which has been taken live or flipped live, as so often happens in terror incidents. In fact, initial published reports by eyewitnesses support such a theory.

If so many of the Army personnel on the scene thought at first that the incident was a drill, did Major Hasan also think he was participating in a drill? Did he imagine that he was going to be an actor playing the assigned role of a member of the terrorist red team in a realistic exercise? In other words, was this inept, troubled and quasi-psychotic individual somehow under the impression that he was attending an officially sanctioned exercise of some routine type, until real bullets began to be fired by other more qualified shooters, thus taking the drill live? This might also help us to account for the extraordinary intensity of firing at the scene — well over 100 rounds. For this working hypothesis to stand up, we would have to show that there were other gunmen firing — gunmen who knew that the drill was turning into a real massacre. The additional shooters would according to the classification referred to above represent the *technicians* in this action — the trained killers who have the ability to do the things that the patsy is accused of doing. Interestingly enough, extra gunmen are exactly what we find in the initial reports.

[The above represents the opening paragraphs of the story submitted as we went to press. For the full version, readers are invited to visit [actindependent.org](http://actindependent.org) or [rense.com](http://rense.com).—Ed.]

Webster G. Tarpley is a Washington based historian and author and an expert on state sponsored false flag terrorism. His latest book is *Surviving the Cataclysm*.



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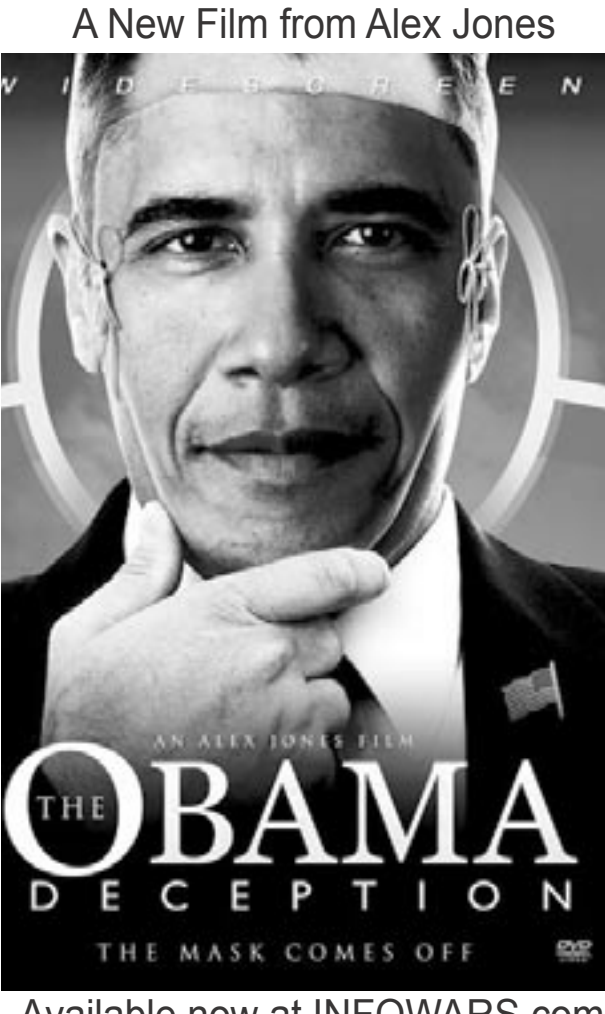
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