

# Rock Creek Free Press

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

Vol. 3, No. 5 May 2009

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

## Spanish Government Divided Over Indicting Bush Administration Torturers

By SHEILA CASEY / RCFP

An internationally renowned Spanish judge is attempting to prosecute six former Bush officials for their role in allowing torture at the US prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Despite being urged by the Spanish Attorney General to drop the case, Judge Baltasar Garzon has submitted the case to a lottery system which will now assign it at random to one of six high court judges. As one of those high court judges, Garzon has a one in six chance of getting the case back.

Spain has jurisdiction in the case because five Spanish citizens or residents claim to have been tortured at Guantanamo Bay.

The language used by Spanish Attorney General Conde-Pumpido, such as calling the case "fraudulent," has led some observers to conclude that Conde-Pumpido bowed to pressure from the Obama administration. The AG also said: "If one is dealing with a crime of mistreatment of prisoners of war, the complaint should go against those who physically carried it out."

US Attorney General Eric Holder said that he isn't going to prosecute any Central Intelligence Agency employees who water-boarded suspects. Holder said that it would be unfair to prosecute those who actually carried out acts of torture because it was considered legal at the time by the Justice Department. Holder also said the US would defend the CIA torturers against attempted prosecutions from overseas.

The 1984 Convention Against Torture states: "An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture..." Both Spain and the US are

signatory to the Convention, which the US has involved in negotiating.

Judge Baltasar Garzon is well known as a fearless crusader against tyranny and torture. Garzon had Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet served with an arrest warrant while he was visiting Britain in 1998. During 17 years in office, Pinochet ordered the murders of thousands of his political enemies and the torture and imprisonment of tens of thousands of others.

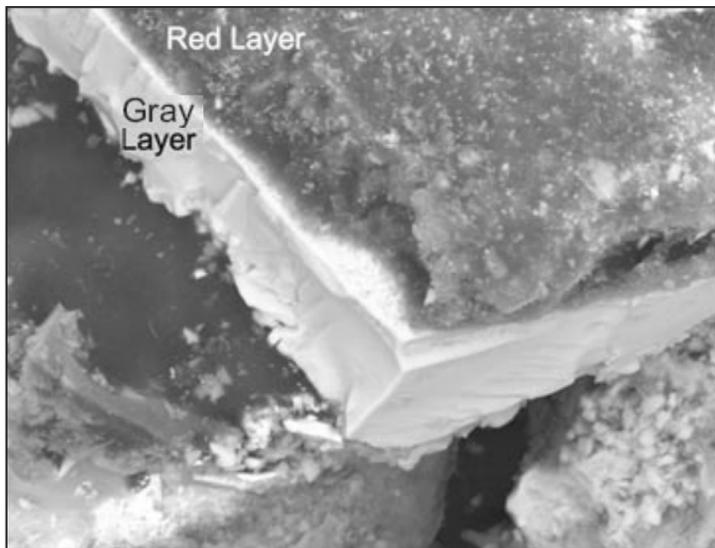
Pinochet was held under house arrest for over a year until British Home Secretary Jack Straw declared, based on a medical examination, that the former tyrant was brain damaged and unable to stand trial. Pinochet died in 2006 without ever being brought to justice.

The officials named in the Spanish complaint are former Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Douglas Feith, former Assistant Attorney General Jay Bybee, former Deputy Assistant Attorney General John Yoo, former Defense Department General Counsel William J. Haynes II, and Vice President Dick Cheney's former legal counsel, David Addington.

Jay Bybee and John Yoo wrote the infamous torture memos, including the opinions that water-boarding isn't torture, nor was anything torture, short of "death, organ failure or permanent impairment of a significant body function." The Pentagon's chief counsel, William J. Haynes, resigned after a magazine article accused him of rigging the trials of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. Cheney's chief counsel, David Addington, was a strong advocate of torture.

See SPAIN p. 4

## Scientists Find Explosives in World Trade Center Dust



Electronmicrograph from "Active Thermitic Material Discovered in Dust from the 9/11 World Trade Center Catastrophe."

By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

Scientists have detected flecks of undetonated explosives in four samples of dust from the World Trade Center catastrophe. A paper just published in the peer-reviewed *Open Chemical Physics Journal* describes the findings of nine scientists after 18 months of work.

The paper is titled "Active Thermitic

Material Discovered in Dust from the 9/11 World Trade Center Catastrophe". The primary authors are Niels Harrit, professor of chemistry at the University of Copenhagen, and Jeffrey Farrer, professor of Physics at Brigham Young University (BYU), Provo, Utah.

The research was initiated when Dr. Steven Jones, then also at BYU, observed small red/

grey chips in the magnetic fraction of dust he was analyzing from the WTC disaster. The scientists studied four independently collected samples of dust. One sample was collected by a Manhattan resident about ten minutes after the collapse of the second WTC tower, two samples were collected the next day, and a fourth was collected about a week later. The properties of these chips were analyzed using optical microscopy, scanning electron microscopy (SEM), X-ray energy dispersive spectroscopy (XEDS), and differential scanning calorimetry (DSC).

After careful study of the material the scientists concluded that the red component of the bi-layer chips is a high-tech explosive nano-material known as super-thermite. The material is composed of ultra-fine grains of iron oxide intimately mixed with nano-sized aluminum metal in a matrix of silicon and organic compounds. While these chips are very small (typically less than a millimeter) tests show that the material is highly energetic and can be ignited to produce a micro-explosive effect. The observed properties and composition of the thermitic material appears to match the published descriptions of nano-thermite fabricated at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and elsewhere. These high-tech explosives were relatively new at the time of the disaster, with some of the first published descriptions appearing in the literature in the late 1990s.

See EXPLOSIVES p. 5

## Secretive Plans for Issuing Global Currency

*Do we really want the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) issuing our global currency?*

By ELLEN BROWN

In an April 7 article in *The London Telegraph* titled "The G20 Moves the World a Step Closer to a Global Currency," Ambrose Evans-Pritchard wrote:

"A single clause in Point 19 of the communiqué issued by the G20 leaders amounts to a revolution in the global financial order.

"We have agreed to support a general SDR allocation which will inject \$250bn (£170bn) into the world economy and increase global liquidity," it said. SDRs are Special Drawing Rights, a synthetic paper currency issued by the International Monetary Fund that has lain dormant for half a century.

"In effect, the G20 leaders have activated the IMF's power to create money and begin global 'quantitative easing'. In doing so, they

are putting a de facto world currency into play. It is outside the control of any sovereign body. Conspiracy theorists will love it."

Indeed they will. The article is subtitled, "The world is a step closer to a global currency, backed by a global central bank, running monetary policy for all humanity." Which naturally raises the question, who or what will serve as this global central bank, cloaked with the power to issue the global currency and police monetary policy for all humanity? When the world's central bankers met in Washington last September, they discussed what body might be in a position to serve in that awesome and fearful role. A former governor of the Bank of England stated:

"[T]he answer might already be staring us in the face, in the form of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).... The IMF

tends to couch its warnings about economic problems in very diplomatic language, but the BIS is more independent and much better placed to deal with this if it is given the power to do so."

And if that vision doesn't alarm conspiracy theorists, it should. The BIS has been called "the most exclusive, secretive, and powerful supra-national club in the world." Founded in Basel, Switzerland, in 1930, it has been scandal-ridden from its beginnings. According to Charles Higham in his book *Trading with the Enemy*, by the late 1930s the BIS had assumed an openly pro-Nazi bias. This was corroborated years later in a BBC Timewatch film titled "Banking with Hitler," broadcast in 1998.<sup>2</sup> In 1944, the American government backed a resolution at the Bretton-Woods Conference

See BASEL p. 4

## Cybersecurity Act Would Give President Power To 'Shut Down' The Internet

By GREG FULTON / RAWSTORY

A recently proposed but little-noticed Senate bill would allow the federal government to shut down the Internet in times of declared emergency and enables unprecedented federal oversight of private network administration.

The bill's draft states that "the president may order a cybersecurity emergency and order the limitation or shutdown of Internet traffic" and would give the government ongoing access to "all relevant data concerning (critical infrastructure) networks without regard to any provision of law, regulation, rule, or policy restricting such access."

Authored by Democratic Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia and Republican

Olympia Snowe of Maine, the Cybersecurity Act of 2009 seeks to create a Cybersecurity Czar to centralize power now held by the Pentagon, the National Security Agency, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Homeland Security.

While the White House has not officially endorsed the draft, it did have a hand in its language, according to *The Washington Post*.

Proponents of the measure stress the need to centralize cybersecurity of the private sector. "People say this is a military or intelligence concern," says Rockefeller, "but it is a lot more than that. It suddenly gets into the realm of traffic lights and rail networks and water and electricity."

Snowe added, "America's vulnerability to massive cyber-crime, global cyber-espionage and cyber-attacks has emerged as one of the most urgent national security problems facing our country today. Importantly, this legislation loosely parallels the recommendations in the CSIS [Center for Strategic and International Studies] blue-ribbon panel report to President Obama and has been embraced by a number of industry and government thought leaders."

Critics decry the broad language, and are watchful for amendments to the bill seeking to refine the provisions. According to opencongress.com, no amendments to the draft have been submitted.

See INTERNET p. 4

## Hemp Legalization Bill Introduced

By ELAINE SULLIVAN / RCFP

On April 2, 2009 Rep. Ron Paul introduced H.R. 1866, the "Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2009". The bill would allow domestic hemp manufacturers to buy their hemp from American producers. Currently, US law bars the production of industrial hemp, and American manufacturers have to import their hemp from other countries. Sponsored by Reps. Ron Paul (R-TX) and Barney Frank (D-MA), the bill would allow US farmers to grow industrial, *non-psychoactive* hemp, which

manufacturers use for everything from soap to shoes to car upholstery. This marks the second time Rep. Paul has filed this bill, but it went nowhere in the last Congress.

"It is indefensible that the United States government prevents American farmers from growing this crop. The prohibition subsidizes farmers in countries from Canada to Romania by eliminating American competition and encourages jobs in industries such as food, auto parts and clothing that utilize industrial hemp to be located overseas instead of in the

United States," said Rep. Paul. "By passing the Industrial Hemp Farming Act, the House of Representatives can help American farmers and reduce the trade deficit — all without spending a single taxpayer dollar."

"It is unfortunate that the Federal Government has stood in the way of American farmers, including many who are struggling to make ends meet, competing in the global industrial hemp market. Indeed, the founders of our Nation, some of whom grew hemp,

See HEMP p. 2

## Anti-War Origins of Mother's Day



Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910)

By ELAINE SULLIVAN / RCFP

Julia Ward Howe, a prominent American abolitionist, social activist, pacifist, suffragette and poet most famous as the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," conceptualized the first Mother's Day in the United States in 1870. Howe became so distressed by the death and bloodshed of the Civil War that

she called on mothers from around the world to come together and protest what she saw as the senselessness of their sons killing the sons of other mothers. With the "Mother's Day Proclamation," she called for an international Mother's Day celebrating peace and motherhood:

*Arise, then, women of this day!*

*Arise all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or of tears, say firmly:*

*We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.*

*We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.*

*From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says, "Disarm, Disarm!" The sword of murder is not the balance of justice! Blood does not wipe out dishonor. Nor violence indicate possession.*

*As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war. Let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.*

*Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.*

*In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions. The great and general interests of peace.*

Howe attempted to make Mother's Day a day of peace. She proposed converting July 4<sup>th</sup> into Mother's Day to commemorate the nation's anniversary to peace. This proposal failed, but eventually June 2<sup>nd</sup> was designated for the celebration. In 1873, women's groups in 18 North American cities did join the celebration, but Howe funded many of these

See MOTHER'S DAY p. 6

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## Hemp Legalization Bill Introduced in Congress

HEMP from p. 1

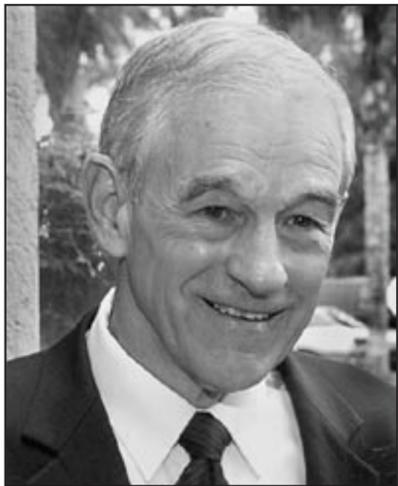
would surely find that Federal restrictions on farmers growing a safe and profitable crop on their own land are inconsistent with the constitutional guarantee of a limited, restrained Federal Government.”

Ten additional House lawmakers are supporting the bill: seven Democrats and two Republicans. They are Representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Barney Frank (D-MA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Jim McDermott (D-WA), George Miller (D-CA), Pete Stark (D-CA), Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), Wm. Lacy

Clay (D-MO), Tom McClintock (R-CA), and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA).

The introduction of the hemp bill comes just days after North Dakota issued the first state licenses for farmers to grow hemp. But North Dakota hemp farmers must still win approval from the DEA, something that is unlikely to occur under the current law. North Dakota isn't alone. Some 14 other states have passed pro-hemp measures and seven have passed bills that remove barriers to its production or research.

## Congressman Ron Paul Says:



## “End the War on Drugs”

BY RON PAUL

We have recently heard many shocking stories of brutal killings and ruthless violence related to drug cartels warring with Mexican and US officials. It is approaching the fever pitch of a full-blown crisis. Unfortunately, the administration is not likely to waste this opportunity to further expand government. Hopefully, we can take a deep breath and look at history for the optimal way to deal with this dangerous situation, which is not unprecedented.

Alcohol prohibition in the 1920s brought similar violence, gangs, lawlessness, corruption and brutality. The reason for the violence was not that making and selling alcohol was inherently dangerous. The violence came about because of the creation of a brutal black-market which drove profits through the roof. These profits enabled criminals like Al Capone to become incredibly wealthy and militantly defensive of that wealth. Al Capone saw the repeal of Prohibition as a great threat, and indeed smuggling operations and gangland violence fell apart after repeal. Today, picking up a bottle of wine for dinner is a relatively benign transaction, and beer trucks travel openly and peacefully along their distribution routes.

Similarly today, the best way to fight violent drug cartels would be to pull the rug out from under their profits by bringing these transactions out into the sunlight. People who unwisely buy drugs would hardly opt for the back alley criminal dealer as a source if a coffeehouse-style dispensary was an option. Moreover, a law-abiding dispensary is likely to check IDs and refuse sale to minors, as bars and ABC stores tend to do very diligently. Think of all the time and resources law enforcement could save if they could instead focus on violent crimes, instead of this impossible nanny-state mandate of saving people from themselves!

If these reasons don't convince the drug warriors, I would urge them to go back to the Constitution and consider where there is any authority to prohibit private personal choices like this. All of our freedoms – the freedom of religion and assembly, the freedom of speech, the right to bear arms, the right to be free from unnecessary government searches and seizures – stem from the precept that you own yourself and are responsible for your own choices. Prohibition laws negate self-ownership and are an absolute affront to the principles of freedom. I disagree vehemently with the recreational use of drugs, but at the same time, if people are only free to make good decisions, they are not truly free. In any case, states should decide for themselves how to handle these issues and the federal government should respect their choices.

My great concern is that, instead of dealing deliberatively with the actual problems, Congress will be pressed again to act quickly without much thought or debate. I can't think of a single problem we haven't made worse that way. The panic generated by the looming crisis in Mexico should not be redirected into curtailing more rights, especially our Second Amendment rights, as seems to be in the works. Certainly, more gun laws in response to this violence will only serve to disarm lawful citizens. This is something to watch out for and stand up against. We have escalated the drug war enough to see it only escalates the violence and profits associated with drugs. It is time to try freedom instead.

# Hemp Could Be Key To Zero-Carbon Houses

By ELAINE SULLIVAN / RCFP

Hemp, a grass and member of the cannabis family, and straw bales, the waste from harvested cereal grains, could be used to build carbon-neutral homes of the future to help combat climate change and boost rural economies.

Researchers at the University of Bath led by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) Centre for Innovative Construction Materials based at the university, have embarked on a unique housing project to develop the use of hemp-lime construction materials in the UK.

Hemp-lime is a lightweight composite building material made of fibers from the fast growing plant, bound together using a lime-based adhesive. The hemp plant stores carbon during its growth and this, combined with the low carbon footprint of lime and its very efficient insulating properties, gives the material a 'better than zero' carbon footprint. A wide variety of construction materials can be made from hemp fiber, such as composite fiber board which is both lighter and stronger than comparable wood products, 2x4s, lightweight concrete substitutes that have both insulative and soundproofing qualities.

Professor Pete Walker, Director of the BRE Centre for Innovative Construction Materials, explained: “We will be looking at the feasibility of using hemp-lime in place of



Close-up of hemp wall construction.

traditional materials, so that they can be used widely in the building industry.

“We will be measuring the properties of hemp-lime materials, such as their strength and durability, as well as the energy efficiency of buildings made of these materials.

“Using renewable crops to make building materials makes real sense - it only takes an area the size of a rugby pitch four months to grow enough hemp to build a typical three bedroom house.

“Growing crops such as hemp can also provide economic and social benefits to rural economies through new agricultural markets for farmers and associated industries.”

The three year project, worth almost £750,000 (1.1 million USD), will collect vital scientific and engineering data about this new material so that it can be more widely used in the UK for building homes.

The project brings together a team of nine partners, comprising BRE Ltd, Feilden Clegg Bradley Studio architects, Hanson Cement,

Hemcore, Lhoist UK, Lime Technology, National Non-Food Crops Centre, University of Bath, and Wates Living Space.

As part of the project the University of Bath received a research grant of £391,000 (600,000 USD) from the Renewable Materials LINK program run by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

England already boasts the first two hemp homes, built in 1999 at Haverhill in Suffolk, England. Isochanvre, a French company has built over 250 hemp homes. They have combined hemp fiber with lime to create a thermal and acoustical barrier which is stronger and seven times lighter than concrete.

Here in the US, hemp is not an option since it is illegal to grow it here, although it can be imported. However, straw bale houses are a tried and true alternative to conventional building techniques and offer a sustainable low-carbon footprint building material. Straw is the non-nutritive part of wheat, oats, barley, rye, rice and other cereals. Traditionally a waste product, farmers do not till the straw under the soil, but bale it and sell the bales as animal bedding or landscape supply.

The use of straw bales to construct homes was practiced in the plains states in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many of these early structures have lasted over one hundred years and are still standing and being used. The technique has been applied to homes, farm buildings, schools, commercial buildings, churches, community centers, government buildings, airplane hangars, well houses, and more. This technique for constructing walls has been recently revived as a low cost alternative for building highly insulating walls.

Straw bale houses are fire rated, and have an insulation value of R-40. They provide a market for local agricultural produce and save an average of 50 trees per house. Walls are typically supported by post and beam construction and the bales are used to infill. The surface is coated with stucco inside and out, permeable so the walls can breathe and do not accumulate moisture. Straw is also being used as a building material currently in sheet materials such as sheathing and wall panels.

Building walls with straw bales can be accomplished with unskilled labor, and the



First hemp home built in England in 1999 located at Haverhill in Suffolk.

low cost of the bales makes this technique economically attractive. Bales must be protected from getting wet with the application of a mud plaster or cement stucco.

There are a number of straw bale buildings now located in the Austin, Texas area and,



Patterson's straw bale cottage in Beals, Maine.

local expert consultation and construction are readily available.

A simple Google search will turn up thousands of sites with information on the construction, costs and benefits of straw bale and hemp homes; photos of homes under construction and completed; and how-to videos. Many of these sites give information and links regarding other sustainable building materials, such as bamboo, rammed earth, adobe and others. The Straw Bale Association of Texas (SBAT) in Austin ([www.greenbuilder.com](http://www.greenbuilder.com)) has links to resources around the country, as well as information on construction and building codes. Information regarding hemp buildings can be found at [www.hempbuilding.com](http://www.hempbuilding.com) and [www.eartheasy.com](http://www.eartheasy.com).

Elaine Sullivan is the health editor for the Rock Creek Free Press and a homeschooling mom.



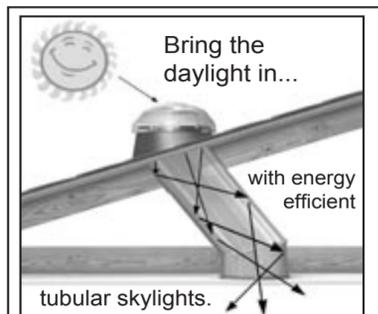
Unfinished interior wall of straw bale B&B in southeastern California.



Construction of a straw bale home in Hotevilla, Arizona.



Completed straw bale home in Colorado.



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# Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

## In Search of Constitution-Free Zones

BY JACOB G. HORNBERGER

To gain a good perspective on how the Pentagon and the CIA view the Constitution, all one has to do is consider what they've done with their prison camps in Cuba and Afghanistan.

Keep in mind, first of all, what the Constitution is. It is the supreme law of the land that we the people have imposed on federal officials, including those people serving in the military and paramilitary forces of the federal government.

While our American ancestors understood the need for a federal government, they also understood that that same government would constitute the biggest threat to their freedom and well-being. The way they dealt with that threat was to use the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to impose severe limits on the powers of federal officials, including those in the military.

So, what did the Pentagon do? Loyal following the orders of the president, it established a prison camp after 9/11 in a US naval base in Cuba as part of its "war on terrorism." Why Cuba? Because the feeling was that a prison camp in Cuba would be beyond the reach of the US Constitution and the federal-court system that the Constitution established.

In other words, the Pentagon, the institution that prides itself on taking an oath to "support and defend" the Constitution, established a prison camp that Pentagon officials hoped and intended would be a Constitution-free zone. The reason they had that hope and intention was so that they could do whatever they wanted to prisoners without having to concern themselves with the higher law that the American people had imposed on them. That would enable the Pentagon to engage in such acts as infliction of cruel and unusual punishments (e.g., torture and sex abuse), denial of due process, denial of right to counsel, denial of habeas corpus, and violation of other principles found in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The US Supreme Court, however, dashed the Pentagon's hopes when it held that the Gitmo prison camp was subject to the constraints of the US Constitution and that Gitmo prisoners had the right to contest their detention through the writ of habeas corpus, the ancient legal process whose roots stretch all the way back to the Magna Carta.

Now, at that point you would ordinarily think that would have settled the matter. That is, even though the

Pentagon set up its Cuban camp for the precise purpose of avoiding the Constitution, once the Supreme Court assumed jurisdiction, wouldn't you think that under our system of government — one in which the military and paramilitary is supposed to be subordinate to the civilian authority — the military would simply submit to the Supreme Court's ruling? After all, don't forget: the Pentagon and the CIA have taken oaths to support and defend the Constitution.

Alas, it was not to be. Rather than submit to the ruling of the Supreme Court, the Pentagon and the CIA instead embarked on a course of action specifically designed to circumvent the Court's ruling and the Court's jurisdiction.

Here's how they did it. As they continued kidnapping people in different parts of the world; instead of imprisoning them at Gitmo, they simply imprisoned them at the Pentagon's Bagram prison camp in Afghanistan. Why Afghanistan? Because then they could tell the federal courts, "You don't have jurisdiction to review our actions here because this is a theater of war, and you don't have the power to interfere with our wartime operations in a theater of war."

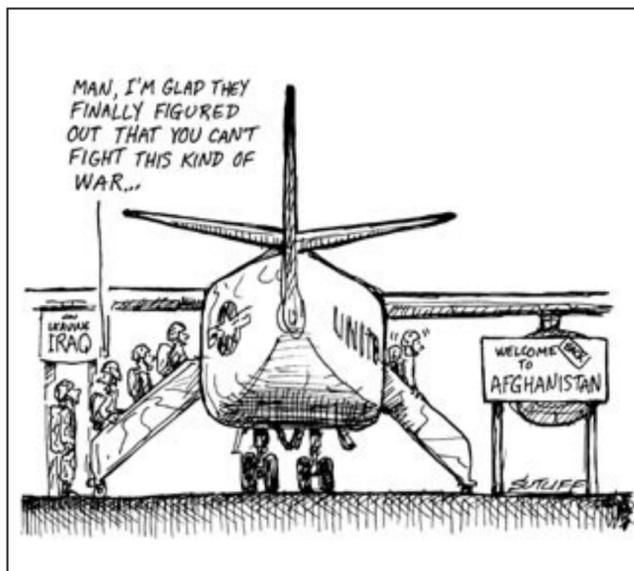
A clever trick, right? Unfortunately for the Pentagon and the CIA, however, a District of Columbia federal judge didn't buy it. Piercing through the legal sham, he held that detainees kidnapped and deposited at the Bagram prison camp have the same right of habeas corpus to contest their detention as the prisoners at Guantánamo.

Unfortunately, under the direction of President Obama, US officials are appealing the decision, arguing the same thing that President Bush did with respect to Guantánamo: that the Bagram prison camp is a Constitution-free zone and, therefore, free of any control by the US federal courts.

Oh well, so much for Obama's hope-and-change hype that helped him get elected.

Our American ancestors in 1787 understood that the federal government would inevitably attract power-lusting people who hated constitutional restraints on power. They also knew what such power-lusting officials would do in the absence of a Constitution and a Bill of Rights. How wise and prescient our ancestors were!

*Jacob Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation.*



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## Tortured Logic: Obama Writes Off Old Crimes While Promoting New Outrages

BY CHRIS FLOYD / EMPIRE BURLESQUE

I have little to say at the moment on the details of the Bush torture memos released by the Obama Administration, beyond what I have been writing for many years now about these sickening practices and what they say about America's bipartisan, imperial elite which countenanced them and, often openly, championed them. (I think my first piece on America's torture system was written in early spring 2002 — a column printed in the *Moscow Times*, drawn from readily available stories in the mainstream press.) America's willing practice of torture as an official policy has been open knowledge for almost the entire decade. But I will admit the bit about putting insects into the torture box of a wounded, deranged captive was new.

Barack Obama is being given great credit for releasing the memos, although as the president himself points out in his statement, their release was actually required by law. I suppose it's true that the United States government has become so degraded that we must be surprised and glad that a president actually obeys the law when it suits him, but I must say that I can't find any great cause for rejoicing — especially

as Obama's statement immediately and definitely ruled out prosecuting any of the direct perpetrators of these criminal actions.

I know that some are holding on to the hope that Obama's carefully worded statement leaves open the door to prosecuting the actual instigators of the crimes — the top officials of the Bush Administration, including George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Don Rumsfeld, and a host of other very senior officials and advisers, but I believe this is wishful thinking in the extreme. Look again at what Obama actually said:

"But at a time of great challenges and disturbing disunity, nothing will be gained by spending our time and energy laying blame for the past. Our national greatness is embedded in America's ability to right its course in concert with our core values and to move forward with confidence. That is why we must resist the forces that divide us and, instead, come together on behalf of our common future."

If Obama truly believes that prosecuting unknown CIA operatives would constitute some kind of disturbing disunity that the country could not bear in the present situation, then how likely is he to pursue the even more

"disturbing" prospect of investigating and indicting a former president and his top officials?

And, now, focus closely on this astonishing phrase:

"...we must resist the forces that divide us and, instead, come together on behalf of our common future."

It is clear in the context of his statement that "the forces that would divide us" refers to those who are calling for the instigators and perpetrators to be prosecuted. They are the ones insisting on the disturbing, disuniting course of "laying blame for the past." But what, in the name of God are America's "core values" if they do not include prosecuting people who order and commit the high crime of torture?

And cannot every criminal on the face of the earth now claim the Obama defense: "Surely, your honor, nothing will be gained by spending our time and energy laying blame for the past. So let's forget the fact that I raped/murdered/robbed/tortured, and move forward, shall we?" For the Obama defense is nothing other than the Nuremberg defense: "I was only following orders. I was given assurance by the highest authority that my actions were legal in

See TORTURED LOGIC p. 7

## An Odd Coincidence:

### Many SOA Grads Become Latin Death Squad Killers

BY SHERWOOD ROSS

If the Pentagon's instructors haven't been teaching assassination at the School of the Americas (SOA) in Fort Benning, Georgia, is it just coincidental that so many of its star pupils graduate to become mass murderers?

Take the strange case of Francisco del Cid Diaz, an SOA-educated second lieutenant in the Salvadoran army who ordered his unit to drag 16 people out of the Los Hojas cooperative of the Asociacion Nacional de Indigenas, beat them, shoot them, and dump their bodies into the Cuyupa River. Not content with his

SOA undergraduate work, Diaz re-enrolled after the massacre and was accepted again in 2003. By then the Pentagon had renamed SOA the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, (WHINSEC) as Latins joked SOA stood for "School of Assassins." Perhaps the most infamous Salvadoran SOA grad was Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, who ordered the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero and who operated a death squad that used blowtorches on his victims. D'Aubuisson might not have learned to use this device at SOA, of course, as he also attended the

See SOA p. 8

## A Message from Dr. William F. Pepper: Support a New Investigation of 9/11

BY WILLIAM F. PEPPER April 18, 2009

Many deeply concerned citizens of this Republic and the world have been engaged in tireless, multifaceted research and investigation about the events surrounding the 9/11 tragedy. These patriots have produced articles, essays, books and films that seek answers to the multitude of unanswered questions about this atrocity. Not having researched these questions myself and having no answers, when I have appeared before them I have encouraged the continuation of their valuable work as citizens of the Republic.

In their numbers are distinguished scientists, engineers, architects, professional people from all walks of life and families of victims who seek closure — people for whose courage, determination, intelligence and steadfastness I have boundless admiration. It was largely as a result of their efforts that a 9/11 Commission was established in the first place over the initial opposition of the Bush administration.

The failure of that Commission to seek, even address the critical questions is now a part of contemporary history. Former Georgia Senator, Max Cleland resigned early on in disgust citing official obstruction. More recently, Co-Chairmen Kean and Hamilton, have themselves declared their awareness that their work was obstructed and denied valuable information, materials and evidence. Consequently, there is overwhelming agreement that the initial government sponsored investigation was a failure in respect of bringing truth about 9/11 to the light of day.

That is why a group of citizens in the City of New York, aided, supported and encouraged by citizens throughout the United States and the world (remember, 80 nations lost citizens in that attack) came together to mount an effort to put a Referendum question on the general election ballot for the consideration of the

voters of New York City, seeking their approval for the establishment of a new, independent Commission to investigate all aspects of 9/11. The Commission will convene with a commitment to go where the facts lead, and they will have subpoena power to compel testimony under oath and full investigative and legal support staff.

I encourage all citizens, everywhere, to support the establishment of this Commission and its work.

The torch of leadership in this effort has recently been passed to the New York City Coalition for Accountability Now (NYC CAN). Ted Walter, a key leader of last year's petitioning effort, has taken on the task of directing NYC CAN through this initiative's final phases. Reverend Frank Morales, himself a 9/11 First Responder, has assumed the position of Treasurer. I have met with Ted and Frank on several occasions and have the utmost confidence not only in their abilities, but also the direction in which NYC CAN and its stellar, still growing Executive Council are taking this fight.

I call on all those within sight and sound of this message to rally behind this effort and, in your thousands, to support it with massive numbers of volunteer workers and monetary contributions. I encourage you to visit [www.NYCCAN.org](http://www.NYCCAN.org) and contribute now. History waits for no man.

Let us join our brothers and sisters in New York City and from the very belly of the beast, seek truth and justice.

W.F. Pepper

*William Pepper is the author of An Act of State: The Execution of Martin Luther King. He was the attorney for the Martin Luther King family who won a legal verdict against the US Government by proving in court that M.L. King was killed by a conspiracy of the CIA, FBI, US Army and local police.*

## Who Cuts Deficits Again?

BY DAVID SWANSON

To the Editor of the *Albuquerque Journal*:

You ran a cartoon depicting former president Ronald Reagan reducing the federal deficit and President Obama increasing it. The latter might prove true, but is a prediction. The former is simply not true. The national debt,

signed budgets with bigger deficits than anyone had previously seen, massively increasing our debt. George H.W. Bush took the practice further, setting new records for deficit spending and debt. During Clinton's presidency, the deficit

shrank for five years and became a surplus for the last three, reducing our debt. The most dramatic swing in US history came when George W. Bush took office and immediately shifted us from surplus budgets to deficit budgets that dramatically broke his father's record.

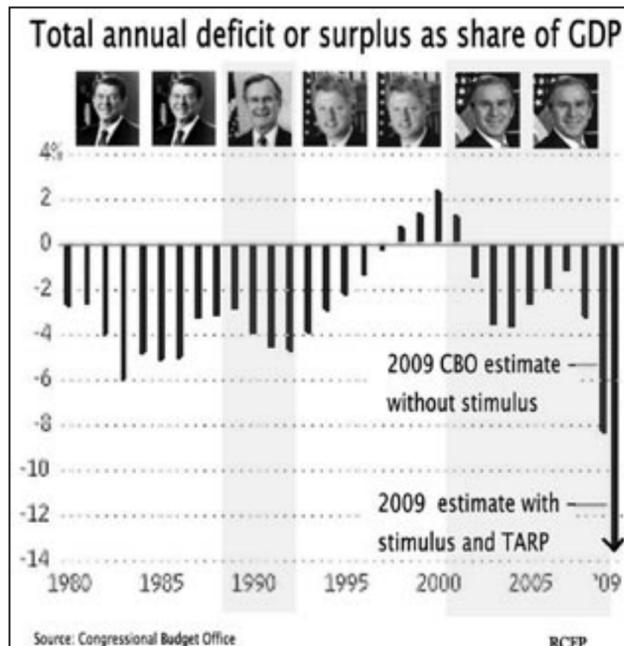
Now, I don't think a budget surplus is the best measure of a presidency,

and I was not a fan of Bill Clinton, but it is interesting that the Republican presidents, and the Congresses they

served with, have loaded our children down with almost insurmountable debt, while the media so consistently tells us the opposite story. One reason for this, I think, is the reluctance of those in power and those who write about them



taken as a percentage of gross domestic product, had been declining steadily and rapidly since the end of World War II when Ronald Reagan took office and



to acknowledge that these Republican presidents have dramatically increased spending in an area we're not supposed to question: the military. Thousands of Americans were in the streets on April 15 protesting government spending on schools, jobs, healthcare, and bank regulation, as well as, the insane Wall Street "bailout", oblivious to the fact that over half of every dollar of income tax goes of wars, military, and debt for wars and military. (That's 51%, by the calculation of the War Resisters League. Feel free to do your own math; you will certainly end up at right around half of every dollar.) Has your local newspaper ever told anyone that? In fact, Robert Gates has proposed the largest military budget yet (yes, with a Democratic president this time) and that story has been widely misreported as a budget reduction and depicted as such by the same cartoonist.

I know tax season is supposed to be a time for incoherent rage, but come on.

Honestly,  
David Swanson

*David Swanson is the author of the upcoming book Daybreak: Undoing the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect Union by Seven Stories Press and of the introduction to The 35 Articles of Impeachment and the Case for Prosecuting George W. Bush published by Feral House. Swanson is Co-Founder of AfterDowningStreet.org.*

# The Tower of Basel: Secretive Plans for the Issuing of a Global Currency

*Do we really want the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) issuing our global currency*

BASEL from p. 1

calling for the liquidation of the BIS, following Czech accusations that it was laundering gold stolen by the Nazis from occupied Europe; but the central bankers succeeded in quietly snuffing out the American resolution.<sup>3</sup>

In *Tragedy and Hope: A History of the World in Our Time* (1966), Dr. Carroll Quigley revealed the key role played in global finance by the BIS behind the scenes. Dr. Quigley was Professor of History at Georgetown University, where he was President Bill Clinton's mentor. He was also an insider, groomed by the powerful clique he called "the international bankers." His credibility is heightened by the fact that he actually espoused their goals. He wrote:

"I know of the operations of this network because I have studied it for twenty years and was permitted for two years, in the early 1960's, to examine its papers and secret records. I have no aversion to it or to most of its aims and have, for much of my life, been close to it and to many of its instruments. ... [I]n general my chief difference of opinion is that it wishes to remain unknown, and I believe its role in history is significant enough to be known."

Quigley wrote of this international banking network:

"[T]he powers of financial capitalism had another far-reaching aim, nothing less than to create a world system of financial control in private hands able to dominate the political system of each country and the economy of the world as a whole. This system was to be controlled in a feudalistic fashion by the central banks of the world acting in concert, by secret agreements arrived at in frequent private meetings and conferences. The apex of the system was to be the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland, a private bank owned and controlled by the world's central banks which were themselves private corporations."

The key to their success, said Quigley, was that the international bankers would control and manipulate the money system of a nation while letting it appear to be controlled by the government. The statement echoed an often-quoted one made by the German patriarch of what would become the most powerful banking dynasty in the world. Mayer Amschel Bauer Rothschild famously said in 1791:

"Allow me to issue and control a nation's currency, and I care not who makes its laws."

Mayer's five sons were sent to the major capitals of Europe – London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin and Naples – with the mission of establishing a banking system that would be outside government control. The economic and political systems of nations would be controlled not by citizens but by bankers, for the benefit of bankers. Eventually, a privately-owned "central bank" was established in nearly every country; and this central banking system has now gained control over the economies of the world. Central banks have the authority to print money in their respective countries, and it is from these banks that governments must borrow money to pay their debts and fund their operations. The result is a global economy in which not only industry but government itself runs on "credit" (or debt) created by a banking monopoly headed by a network of private central banks; and at the top of this network is the BIS, the "central bank of central banks" in Basel.

## Behind the Curtain

For many years the BIS kept a very low profile, operating behind the scenes in an abandoned hotel. It was here that decisions were reached to devalue or defend currencies, fix the price of gold, regulate offshore banking, and raise or lower short-term interest rates. In 1977, however, the BIS gave up its anonymity in exchange for more efficient headquarters. The new building has been described as "an eighteen story-high circular skyscraper that rises above the medieval city like some misplaced nuclear reactor." It quickly became known as the "Tower of Basel." Today the BIS has governmental immunity, pays no taxes, and has its own private police force.<sup>4</sup> It is, as Mayer Rothschild envisioned, above the law.

The BIS is now composed of 55 member nations, but the club that meets regularly in Basel is a much smaller group; and even within it, there is a hierarchy. In a 1983 article in Harper's Magazine called "Ruling the World of Money," Edward Jay Epstein



Modest beginnings, BIS Office, Hotel Savoy-Univers, Basel



First Annual General Meeting, 1931

wrote that where the real business gets done is in "a sort of inner club made up of the half dozen or so powerful central bankers who find themselves more or less in the same monetary boat" – those from Germany, the United States, Switzerland, Italy, Japan and England. Epstein said:

"The prime value, which also seems to demarcate the inner club from the rest of the BIS members, is the firm belief that central banks should act independently of their home governments. . . . A second and closely related belief of the inner club is that politicians should not be trusted to decide the fate of the international monetary system."

In 1974, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision was created by the central bank Governors of the Group of Ten nations (now expanded to twenty). The BIS provides the twelve-member Secretariat for the Committee. The Committee, in turn, sets the rules for banking globally, including capital requirements and reserve controls. In a 2003 article titled "The Bank for International Settlements Calls for Global Currency," Joan Veon wrote:

"The BIS is where all of the world's central banks meet to analyze the global economy and determine what course of action they will take next to put more money in their pockets, since they control the amount of money in circulation and how much interest they are going to charge governments and banks for borrowing from them. . . .

"When you understand that the BIS pulls the strings of the world's monetary system, you then understand that they have the ability to create a financial boom or bust in a country. If that country is not doing what the money lenders want, then all they have to do is sell its currency."<sup>5</sup>

## The Controversial Basel Accords

The power of the BIS to make or break economies was demonstrated in 1988, when it issued a Basel Accord raising bank capital requirements from 6% to 8%. By then, Japan had emerged as the world's largest creditor; but Japan's banks were less well capitalized than other major international banks. Raising the capital requirement forced them to cut back on lending, creating a recession in Japan like that suffered in the US today. Property prices fell and loans went into default as the security for them shrank. A downward spiral followed, ending with the total bankruptcy of the banks, which had to be nationalized – although that word was not used, in order to avoid criticism.<sup>6</sup>

Among other collateral damage produced by the Basel Accords was a spate of suicides among Indian farmers unable to get loans. The BIS capital adequacy standards required loans to private borrowers to be "risk-weighted," with the degree of risk determined by private rating agencies; and farmers and small business owners could not afford the agencies' fees. Banks therefore assigned 100 percent risk to the loans, and then resisted extending credit to these "high-risk" borrowers because more capital was required to cover the loans. When the conscience of the nation was aroused by the Indian suicides, the government, lamenting the neglect of farmers by commercial banks, established a policy of ending the "financial exclusion" of the weak; but this step had little real effect on lending practices, due largely to the strictures imposed by the BIS from abroad.<sup>7</sup>

Similar complaints have come from

Korea. An article in the December 12, 2008 Korea Times titled "BIS Calls Trigger Vicious Cycle" described how Korean entrepreneurs with good collateral cannot get operational loans from Korean banks, at a time when the economic downturn requires increased investment and easier credit:

"The Bank of Korea has provided more than 35 trillion won to banks since September when the global financial crisis went full throttle," said a Seoul analyst, who declined to be named. "But the effect is not seen at all with the banks keeping the liquidity in their safes. They simply don't lend and one of the biggest reasons is to keep the BIS ratio high enough to survive," he said. . . .

"Chang Ha-joon, an economics professor at Cambridge University, concurs with the analyst. 'What banks do for their own interests, or to improve the BIS ratio, is against the interests of the whole society. This is a bad idea,' Chang said in a recent telephone interview with Korea Times."

In a May 2002 article in The Asia Times titled "Global Economy: The BIS vs. National Banks," economist Henry C K Liu observed that

the Basel Accords have forced national banking systems "to march to the same tune, designed to serve the needs of highly sophisticated global financial markets, regardless of the developmental needs of their national economies." He wrote:

"[N]ational banking systems are suddenly thrown into the rigid arms of the Basel Capital Accord sponsored by the Bank of International Settlement (BIS), or to face the penalty of usurious risk premium in securing international interbank loans. . . . National policies suddenly are subjected to profit incentives of private financial institutions, all members of a hierarchical system controlled and directed from the money center banks in New York. The result is to force national banking systems to privatize. . . .

"BIS regulations serve only the single purpose of strengthening the international private banking system, even at the peril of national economies. . . . The IMF and the international banks regulated by the BIS are a team: the international banks lend recklessly to borrowers in emerging economies to create a foreign currency debt crisis, the IMF arrives as a carrier of monetary virus in the name of sound monetary policy, then the international banks come as vulture investors in the name of financial rescue to acquire national banks deemed capital inadequate and insolvent by the BIS."

Ironically, noted Liu, developing countries with their own natural resources did not actually need the foreign investment that had trapped them in debt to outsiders:

"Applying the State Theory of Money [which assumes that a sovereign nation has the power to issue its own money], any government can fund with its own currency all its domestic developmental needs to maintain full employment without inflation."

When governments fell into the trap of accepting loans in foreign currencies, however, they became "debtor nations" subject to IMF and BIS regulation. They were forced to divert their production to exports, just to earn the foreign currency necessary to pay the interest on their loans. National banks deemed "capital inadequate" had to deal with strictures comparable to the "conditionalities" imposed by the IMF on debtor nations: "escalating capital requirement, loan writeoffs and liquidation, and restructuring through selloffs, layoffs, downsizing, cost-cutting and freeze on capital spending." Liu wrote:

"Reversing the logic that a sound banking system should lead to full employment and developmental growth, BIS regulations demand high unemployment and developmental degradation in national economies as the fair price for a sound global private banking system."

## The Last Domino to Fall

While banks in developing nations were being penalized for falling short of the BIS capital requirements, large international banks managed to escape the rules, although they actually carried enormous risk because of their derivative exposure. The mega-banks succeeded in avoiding the Basel rules by separating the "risk" of default out from the loans and selling it off to investors, using a form of derivative known as "credit default swaps."

However, it was not in the game plan that US banks should escape the BIS net.

See BASEL p. 8



A court has found the creators of Swedish torrent site The Pirate Bay guilty of "assisting in making copyright content available," sentencing four men to one year in prison each, with millions to be paid in damages. The Sweden-based Pirate Bay has been around since 2003.

Music, video and software makers have complained about the site for years. When lawyers for Electronics Arts sent a cease and desist letter concerning unauthorized copies of games on the site, The Pirate Bay responded like this:

Hello and thank you for contacting us. We have shut down the website in question.

Oh wait, just kidding. We haven't, since the site in question is fully legal. Unlike certain other countries, such as the one you're in, we have sane copyright laws here. But we also have polar bears roaming the streets and attacking people :-).

A threatening letter from Warner Bros. Records got this reply:

We are well aware of the fact that The Pirate Bay falls outside the scope of the DMCA—after all, the DMCA is a US-specific legislation, and TPB is hosted in the land of Vikings, reindeers, Aurora Borealis and cute blonde girls.

Founders Peter Sunde, Fredrik Neij and Gottfrid Svartholm, ages 23-30, and 49-year-old Carl Lundstrom, received jail sentences of one year each. The court found total damages to amount to 30 million SEK (\$3,620,000 USD), which the court split between the four defendants. The four are expected to appeal.

Sunde is the only one of the defendants who still lives in Sweden.

Sunde says he will continue to fight against the ruling. "This case is still not actually judged. This is just the first level ... The final verdict is not out before the last appeal is denied, or if there are no more appeal possibilities. So it will take another four or five years before actual judgment comes."

The Pirate Bay's website seemingly made light of the court's ruling, saying "It was 'lol' to read and hear [the] crazy verdict."

"But as in all good movies, the heroes lose in the beginning but have an epic victory in the end anyhow. That's the only thing Hollywood ever taught us," the site added.

Sunde said that, for now, The Pirate Bay will continue to operate.

## Cybersecurity Act Would Give President Power To 'Shut Down' Internet

INTERNET from p. 1

Organizations like the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) fear that if passed in its current form, the proposal leaves too much discretion of just what defines critical infrastructure. The bill would also impose mandates for designated private networks and systems, including standardized security software, testing, licensing and certification of cybersecurity professionals.

"I'd be very surprised if it doesn't include communications systems, which are certainly critical infrastructure," CDT General Counsel Greg Nojeim told eWEEK, "The president would

decide not only what is critical infrastructure but also what is an emergency."

Adds Jennifer Granick, civil liberties director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, "Essentially, the Act would federalize critical infrastructure security. Since many systems (banks, telecommunications, energy) are in the hands of the private sector, the bill would create a major shift of power away from users and companies to the federal government."

Greg Fulton writes for Rawstory.

## Spanish Government Divided Over Indicting Bush Administration Torturers

SPAIN from p. 1

If the case lands with a judge who feels as strongly about torture as Garzon, the prosecution of these men will go forward. However, any convictions obtained could be essentially symbolic, as the US will not honor a request for extradition of former government officials.

The Obama administration has stated that it plans to continue to use rendition (kidnapping suspects and flying them to another country for torture or imprisonment). If Spain claimed for itself the same right to rendition that the US is claiming, we could see Bybee, Yoo or Addington kidnapped off an American street and into a Spanish prison.

Numerous Bush operatives have admitted that torture was committed, and the recently released torture memos make clear that prisoners, including children, were slapped, deprived of sleep for up to 11 days, subjected to stress positions, slammed against walls, water-boarded, and tortured with insects.

About water-boarding, the soon to be Attorney General Eric Holder said in January: "If you look at the history of the use of that technique, we prosecuted our own soldiers for using it in Vietnam. . . . Water boarding is torture."

President Obama has made clear that he has no intention of holding anyone accountable for torture, saying: "This is a time for reflection, not retribution. I respect the strong views and emotions that these issues evoke. We have been through a dark and painful chapter in our history. But at a time of great challenges and disturbing disunity, nothing will be gained by spending our time and energy laying blame for the past...that is why we must resist the forces that divide us and, instead, come together on behalf of our common future."

Evidently Obama believes that those who want torturers to pay for their crimes constitute "forces that divide us."

The case against the Bush 6 was initiated when a Spanish human rights group, the Association for the Dignity of Prisoners, filed a 98-page complaint with the National Court in Madrid, which specializes in international crimes. The court assigned the case to Judge Baltasar Garzon. Although the Spanish Attorney General recommended that the case be dropped, Garzon submitted it to a lottery system for another judge to continue.

The 1984 Convention against Torture states: Article 2

1. Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction.

2. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat or war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.

3. An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture. . . .

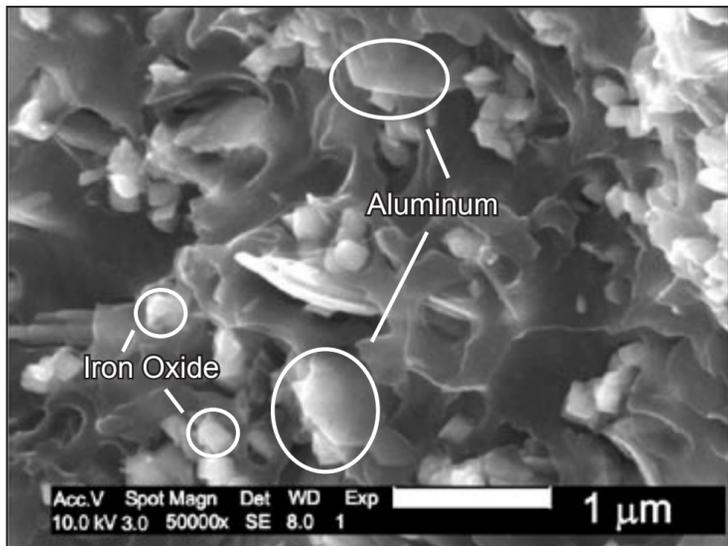
Article 15

Each State Party shall ensure that any statement which is established to have been made as a result of torture shall not be invoked as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made.

This language makes clear that signatories have not just the right, but the duty, to prosecute torture, that there are "no exceptional circumstances whatsoever" that can be used to justify torture, and that statements obtained as the result of torture cannot be used in a court of law.

Sheila Casey is a DC based journalist. Her work has appeared in The Denver Post, Reuters, Chicago Sun-Times, Dissident Voice and Common Dreams. She blogs at <http://www.sheilacasey.com>

# Scientists Find Explosives in World Trade Center Dust

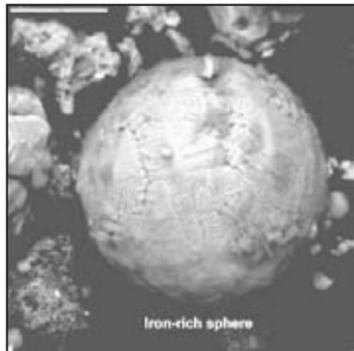


Under the electron microscope the red material is seen to be a porous matrix of nano-sized particles. XEDS reveals the composition of the individual particles. Iron oxide is present as crystals while the aluminum appears in flat plates. It would take over 1000 of the iron oxide crystals shown to span the width of a human hair.

EXPLOSIVES from p. 1

The scientists begin the paper with an explanation of their motivation for pursuing the research. "The destruction of three skyscrapers (WTC 1, 2 and 7) on September 11, 2001 was an immensely tragic catastrophe that not only impacted thousands of people and families directly, due to injury and loss of life, but also provided the motivation for numerous expensive and radical changes in domestic and foreign policy. For these and other reasons, knowing what really happened that fateful day is of grave importance."

While several government agencies, including NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) produced reports on the collapse of the three World Trade Center buildings, they pointedly did not analyze the debris for the presence of explosives. This omission is at odds with the requirement of the national standard for fire investigation (NFPA 921), which calls for testing related to thermite and other pyrotechnics. It is also at odds with the video evidence of explosions, and the testimony of fire department personnel, more than 100 of whom officially reported hearing or seeing explosions. NIST also failed to explain the source of large quantities of molten metal in the WTC rubble, or the abundant amounts of



Iron microspheres are found in abundance in WTC dust.

iron microspheres in the dust.

NIST spokesperson Michael Neuman was challenged by Hartford Advocate reporter Jennifer Abel on this glaring omission in the WTC report...

ABEL: ... what about that letter where NIST said it didn't look for evidence of explosives?

NEUMAN: Right, because there was no evidence of that.

ABEL: But how can you know there's no evidence if you don't look for it first?

NEUMAN: If you're looking for something that isn't there, you're wasting your time....

And NIST cannot claim that it is unfamiliar with the nano-thermitic materials. Several of the lead 9/11 investigators at NIST collaborated with Lawrence Livermore National Lab, in the late 90s, to test and characterize sol-gel preparations of high-power thermite materials. Arden Bement, the former deputy secretary of defense who was appointed director of NIST by President Bush immediately after 9/11, was a metallurgist and expert on fuels and materials and former director of DARPA's office of materials science and a former executive at TRW. He would be expected to be familiar with nano-thermite since DoD and DARPA are lead agencies in its development and TRW supplies NASA with advanced propellants including nano-gelled thermite.

[In an interesting side note: Bement was also a director of Battelle Corporation which was most likely the source of the weaponized anthrax spores used in the anthrax attacks of 2001.]

Some of the same individuals and organizations contracted by DoD and DARPA to develop nano-thermitic materials were selected by the Bush administration to investigate the collapse of the towers and Building 7.

### What the Scientists Found

The red/grey chips were found to be present in all samples of fine WTC dust analyzed to date. While the grey layer is the subject of ongoing investigation, the current paper focuses on the red layer. Very high magnification electron microscopy of the layer reveals a sponge-like structure composed of very small particles of several types. By using XEDS, researchers were able to map the elemental composition of the material. Iron oxide particles, shown as white in the image above, are fairly uniform in size and shape and about 100 nanometers long while the metallic aluminum appears as plate-like structures about 50 nanometers thick and up to a micron (1000 nanometers) in length. Other elements such as silicon and carbon were also detected in the red layer. This is significant because the presence of carbon in the material would supply the hot gas reaction products needed to

turn the thermite material from an incendiary into a low explosive. The authors avoided describing the material as "explosive" because the flakes studied are too small to assess the bulk properties of the material.

To test the power of this thermite material, small samples were heated in a Differential Scanning Calorimeter, a very sensitive device for detecting the heat generated by a chemical reaction. The samples ignited at about 430°C and generated as much or more heat than an equal mass of high explosive such as TNT. They also produced, as a reaction product, tiny metallic iron microspheres, just like the iron microspheres found in abundance in all samples of WTC dust as previously reported by USGS, FEMA and NIST.

### Conclusions

"The chips are clearly a nano-engineered material with two types of extremely small particles, each highly consistent in shape and size, held in close stable proximity by a durable matrix which is laminated to a hard homogeneous material. The student of energetic materials will appreciate that this description matches exactly that of a super-thermite in which the reactant particles are suspended in a sol-gel matrix applied to a substrate." (Jim Hoffman, 2009)

Sol-gels of nano-thermites are described in the literature as being very stable and safe to handle in liquid form. They can be applied to surfaces by spray or even paintbrush. It is entirely possible that the explosives were applied to the building disguised as a paint or as a spray-on fireproofing.

Researcher Kevin Ryan has previously published a paper (*Journal of 9/11 Studies*) noting the extreme coincidence that the floors in the towers where structural failure was initiated exactly correspond to the floors where fireproofing had recently been "upgraded" in 1999 and 2000. (See diagram)

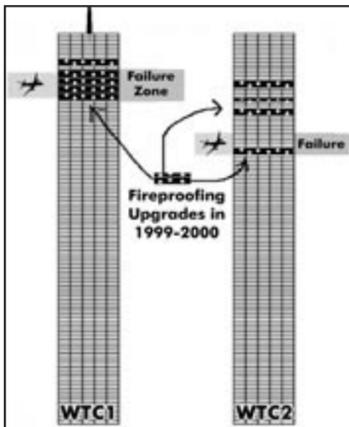


Diagram of Trade Center towers showing that the location of plane impacts and structural failure corresponds to floors where new fireproofing was recently applied.

Researchers have estimated, based on the weight of red/grey chips found in the four samples tested, that these chips make up as much as 0.1% of the mass of the fine dust produced on 9/11. While it is difficult to estimate the total mass of fine dust produced that day, the dust did cover Manhattan from river to river and for several miles in all directions. The dust mass was certainly at least several thousand tons (estimates range as high as 30,000 tons) which would mean several tons of the red/grey material is involved.

How did several tons of unexploded super-thermite end up in the dust of the World Trade Center disaster?

## Glossary of Analytical Methods

### DSC: Differential Scanning Calorimetry

A technique that determines the difference in the amount of heat required to increase the temperature of an experimental sample and reference. A differential scanning calorimeter outputs a DSC trace which shows the relationship of heat flux to temperature, and thereby exothermic or endothermic behavior of the sample.



### SEM: Scanning Electron Microscopy

A type of electron microscopy in which a beam of high-energy electrons scans the surface of a sample to image its structure or composition.

### BSE: Backscattered Electron imaging

A method of SEM imaging based on the detection of scattering of the electron beam.

### XEDS: X-ray Energy-Dispersive Spectroscopy

A technique for determining the elemental composition of a sample using an instrument that analyzes the spectrum of emitted X-rays from a sample as a beam of high energy electrons is directed onto its surface.



A single workstation may provide integrated BSE and XEDS capabilities using SEM equipment fitted with specialized BSE and XEDS detectors, where software controls the electron beam, sample positioning, and detector parameters.

WTC7.NET

## The Investigators



**Dr. Niels Harrit** of Copenhagen University in Denmark is an Associate Professor of Chemistry and is an expert in nano-chemistry. Professor Harrit works in the Center for Molecular Movies at the Niels Bohr Institut. The Centre combines expertise from Risø National Laboratory, University of Copenhagen, and the Technical University of Denmark in structural investigation of matter by synchrotron X-ray based techniques, femtosecond laser spectroscopy, theoretical insight in femtosecond processes, and the ability to tailor materials, and design sample systems for optimal experimental conditions.



**Dr. Jeffrey Farrer** is the Brigham Young University (BYU) lab director for Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM). The electron microscopes in the TEM lab combine to give BYU capabilities that are virtually unique... rivaling anything built worldwide.



**Kevin R. Ryan** is a chemist and a former laboratory director at Environmental Health Laboratories Inc., a subsidiary of Underwriters Laboratories Inc., the consumer-product safety testing giant. Ryan was dismissed from UL when he disputed claims that steel floor structures which had been certified by UL, had failed on 9/11 due to fire.

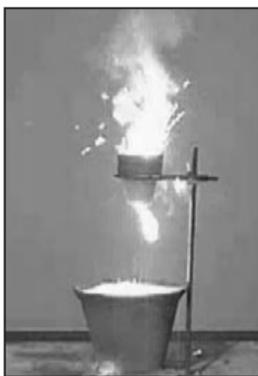
**Dr. Steven Jones** earned his bachelor's degree in physics, magna cum laude, from Brigham Young University in 1973, and his Ph.D. in physics from Vanderbilt University in 1978. Jones conducted his Ph.D. research at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (from 1974 to 1977), and post-doctoral research at Cornell University and the Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility. Jones conducted research at the Idaho National Laboratory, in Arco, Idaho where, from 1979 to 1985, he was a senior engineering specialist. He was principal investigator for experimental muon-catalyzed fusion from 1982 to 1991 for the US Department of Energy, Division of Advanced Energy Projects. Jones was forced into retirement from BYU when his controversial views regarding 9/11 became known.



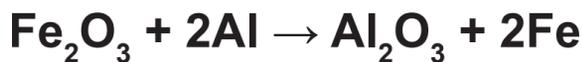
The other authors are Frank M. Legge of Logical Systems Consulting, Perth, Australia; Gregg Roberts of Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth, Berkeley, California; James R. Gourley of the International Center for 9/11 Studies, Dallas, Texas; and Bradley R. Larsen of S&J Scientific Co. of Provo, Utah, a firm with which Prof. Jones is also connected.

## The Thermite Reaction

### Traditional Thermite Formulation is an Incendiary



Iron oxide when mixed with aluminum metal powder and ignited reacts very energetically, with tremendous heat, and flame, and showers of molten hot metal droplets ejected from the reaction. The product of the reaction is molten iron at a temperature of 4500°F or greater, and aluminum oxide which wafts away as a white smoke. In this traditional formulation of thermite, particles are relatively large, similar in size to sugar crystals, or perhaps as fine as wheat flour, so while the reaction releases a remarkable amount of energy, the reaction is relatively slow, taking a few seconds to burn completely.



### Is Nano-thermite an Explosive?

By creating particles of iron oxide and aluminum thousands of times smaller than normal thermite, much smaller than can be achieved with simple grinding techniques, and intimately mixing and binding them together, the reaction speed can be dramatically increased. The increased rate of reaction makes these super-thermites potentially explosive, but to be actually explosive some ingredient must be added to the formulation to produce gas as a reaction product. It is the rapid expansion of hot gases that does the work of an explosion. To be a **high** explosive the reaction speed must exceed the speed of sound in the material, which is unlikely in the case of thermite materials but nano-thermitic material may act as a low explosive, in a manner similar to gun powder.

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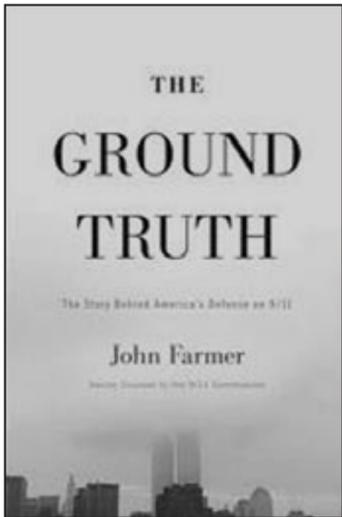
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Book Review

9/11 Commission Counsel Says:  
**Government Agreed to Lie About 9/11**



**The Ground Truth**  
 The Story Behind America's Defense on 9/11

By John Farmer, Senior Counsel to the 9/11 Commission

New book from man tasked by US government to help investigate the attacks unveils how the "official story is almost entirely untrue"

PAUL JOSEPH WATSON / PRISON PLANET.COM  
 The senior counsel to the 9/11 Commission, John Farmer, says that the government agreed not to tell the truth about 9/11, echoing the assertions of fellow 9/11 Commission members who concluded that the Pentagon engaged in deliberate deception about their response to the attack.

Farmer served as Senior Counsel to the 9/11 Commission (officially known as the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States) and is also a former New Jersey Attorney General.

Farmer's book about his experiences working for the Commission is entitled *The Ground Truth: The Story Behind America's Defense on 9/11*, to be released in September.

The book unveils how "the public had been seriously misled about what occurred during the morning of the attacks," and Farmer himself states that "at some level of the government, at some point in time...there was an agreement not to tell the truth about what happened."

Only the very naive would dispute that an agreement not to tell the truth is an agreement to lie. Farmer's contention is that the government agreed to create a phony official version of events to cover-up the real story behind 9/11.

The publisher of the book, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, states that, "Farmer builds the inescapably convincing case that the official version not only is almost entirely untrue but serves to create a false impression of order and security."

In August 2006, *The Washington Post* reported, "Some staff members and commissioners of the September 11 panel concluded that the Pentagon's initial story of how it reacted to the [alleged] 2001 terrorist attacks may have been part of a deliberate effort to mislead the commission and the public rather than a reflection of the fog of events on that day, according to sources

involved in the debate."

The report revealed how the 10-member commission deeply suspected deception to the point where they considered referring the matter to the Justice Department for criminal investigation.

"We, to this day, don't know why NORAD [the North American Aerospace Command] told us what they told us," said Thomas H. Kean, the former New Jersey Republican governor who led the commission. "It was just so far from the truth... It's one of those loose ends that never got tied."

Farmer himself is quoted in *the Post* article, stating, "I was shocked at how different the truth was from the way it was described.... The [NORAD air defense] tapes told a radically different story from what had been told to us and the public for two years.... This is not spin. This is not true."

As PrisonPlanet.com reported in August 2006, released portions of NORAD tapes from 9/11, which were featured in a *Vanity Fair* article, do little to answer skeptics' questions about the impotence of US air defenses on 9/11 and, if anything, only increase focus on the incompatibility of the official version of events with what is actually known to have taken place on that day.

Make no mistake, Farmer is not saying that 9/11 was an inside job; however, Farmer's testimony, along with that of his fellow 9/11 Commission members, conclusively demonstrates that, whatever really happened on 9/11, the official story as told to the public on the day and that which remains the authorities' version of events today, is a lie — according to the very people who were tasked by the government to investigate it. This is a fact that no debunker or government apologist can ever legitimately deny.

Paul Watson is an investigative journalist at [www.PrisonPlanet.com](http://www.PrisonPlanet.com). He is the author of *Order Out of Chaos* published in 2003.

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History's Lessons

**The Anti-War Origins of Mother's Day**

MOTHER'S DAY from p. 1

festivities, and when she stopped funding the celebrations, they died out.

The celebration of mothers and motherhood is an old tradition, dating back to the Egyptians, who honored the goddess Isis, the mother of Horus, the first pharaoh of a unified Egypt. The Greeks honored Rhea, the mother of the Greek gods with a festival of games called Hilaria around the time of the vernal equinox. It was customary to have a procession through the streets with a statue of the goddess carried at the head and a display of elaborate arts and crafts.

Other cultures of Asia Minor celebrated Gaia, the Earth goddess, and Meteroreie, the Mountain Mother. The Romans honored the goddess Cybele or Magna Mater (Great Mother) in their celebrations.

Cybele comes from the Greek goddess Rhea. The Anatolians (today's Turks) reportedly had celebrated so wildly that these festivities were eventually discouraged or banned. More conservative celebrations of Cybele included eating honey cakes and sharing flowers in the morning; this was practiced throughout Asia Minor and eventually in Rome.

In Christian Europe, people celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. This day was at first used to honor the church where one was baptized. Christians referred to this church as their "Mother Church". This place of worship would be decorated with jewels, flowers and other offerings. Christians also used this day to honor Mary, the mother of Christ. Later, the holiday was extended to include all mothers and was named "Mothering Sunday". Working class people were allowed the day off to go back to their hometowns to visit their mothers and families. The church gave a one-day reprieve from the fasting and penance of Lent so that families across England could enjoy a day together. Mothers were presented with cakes and flowers, as well as a visit from their distant children.

This English holiday did not make its way to the United States. The first English settlers, the Puritans, did not celebrate Mothering Sunday. Perhaps the Puritans felt that this festival conflicted with their conservative, unadorned views of Christianity. Perhaps, the harsh conditions and work of pioneering



Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948)

a new land did not leave time for such "frivolity". In any case, it would be centuries before a new Mother's Day festivity was celebrated in the US.

Mother's Day, as we know it today, was initiated by Anna Reeves Jarvis. Jarvis began to celebrate an adapted version of Julia Howe's celebration to help reunite families and neighbors that had been divided by the Civil War. After Anna Reeves Jarvis died, her daughter Anna M. Jarvis took up the banner and campaigned for the creation of a national Mother's Day in remembrance of her mother and in honor of peace. In 1908, Anna M. Jarvis petitioned the church where her mother taught Sunday school for over 20 years; the church honored her request. The first official Mother's Day celebration took place at Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Over 400 people attended the church in Grafton on May 10, 1908. In honor of her mother, Jarvis adorned the church with white carnations, her mother's favorite flower, and gave two white carnations to every mother that attended.

Jarvis devoted herself to the creation of Mother's Day and, in 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed it into national observance, declaring the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. The holiday flourished in the US, and white carnations, as well as other flowers, became increasingly popular. Jarvis was

greatly distressed by the commercialization of Mother's Day, and she opposed what she saw as a misuse of the holiday. Jarvis went so far as to sue to stop a Mother's Day event in 1932, and was arrested for disturbing the peace at the American War Mothers group; she was protesting their sale of flowers. Jarvis even petitioned against a postage stamp featuring white carnations and the words "Mother's Day". She was successful in having "Mother's Day" removed, but the carnations stayed. Jarvis fought to her dying day the exploitation of Mother's Day by florists and other merchants, writing; "What will you do to route charlatans, bandits, pirates, racketeers, kidnapers and other termites that would undermine with their greed one of the finest, noblest and truest movements and celebrations?" Jarvis' efforts were futile.

Today, Mother's Day is celebrated around the world. Even with the economic downturn, the National Retail Federation (NRF) predicts the total consumer spending for Mother's Day will reach \$15.8 billion in 2009. According to the NRF, "Consumers will shell out nearly \$3.0 billion on a special dinner or brunch, \$1.2 billion on consumer electronics like digital cameras, digital photo frames and video cameras, \$2 billion on flowers, \$1.4 billion on clothing and accessories and \$1.1 billion on personal service gifts like a trip to a favorite spa or salon. Shoppers will also spend \$1.6 billion on gift cards/gift certificates, \$696 million on house wares and gardening tools and \$672 million on greeting cards."

The bloodshed continues in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Palestine, Burma, Darfur and other places. American casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to climb, with 4,710 sons and daughters dead and over 1 million Iraqi sons and daughters dead.

A celebration that began as a way to honor our mothers and celebrate peace has morphed into a greedy, materialistic buying-and-selling frenzy on the part of the American people. Perhaps, we could celebrate this Mother's Day the way Howe and Jarvis intended it to be celebrated: bring our troops home to be with their mothers, let our "enemies" go home to their mothers, and spend our time and money on peaceful solutions instead of destruction.

Shipping News

**You Are Being Lied To About Pirates**

By JOHANN HARI / SAN FRANCISCO BAY VIEW

Who imagined that in 2009, the world's governments would be declaring a new War on Pirates? As you read this, the British Royal Navy - backed by the ships of more than two dozen nations, from the US to China — is sailing into Somali waters to take on men we still picture as parrot-on-the-shoulder pantomime villains. They will soon be fighting Somali ships and even chasing the pirates onto land, into one of the most broken countries on earth.

But behind the arrr-me-hearties oddness of this tale, there is an untold scandal. The people our governments are labeling as "one of the great menaces of our times" have an extraordinary story to tell - and some justice on their side.

Pirates have never been quite who we think they are. In the "golden age of piracy" - from 1650 to 1730 - the idea of the pirate as the senseless, savage thief that lingers today was created by the British government in a great propaganda heave. Many ordinary people believed it was false: Pirates were often rescued from the gallows by supportive crowds. Why? What did they see that we can't?

In his book *Villains of All Nations*, the historian Marcus Rediker pores through the evidence to find out. If you became a merchant or navy sailor then — plucked from the docks of London's East End, young and hungry — you ended up in a floating wooden Hell. You worked all hours on a cramped, half-starved ship, and if you slacked off for a second, the all-powerful captain would whip you with the



Somali pirates

cat o' nine tails. If you slacked consistently, you could be thrown overboard. And at the end of months or years of this, you were often cheated of your wages.

Pirates were the first people to rebel against this world. They mutinied against their tyrannical captains and created a different way of working on the seas. Once they had a ship, the pirates elected their captains, and made all their decisions collectively. They shared their bounty in what Rediker calls "one of the most egalitarian plans for the disposition of resources to be found anywhere in the 18th century."

They even took in escaped African slaves and lived with them as equals. The pirates showed "quite clearly — and subversively — that ships did not have to be run in the brutal and oppressive ways of the merchant service and the Royal Navy." This is why they were popular, despite being unproductive thieves.

The words of one pirate from that lost age — a young British man called William Scott

— should echo into this new age of piracy. Just before he was hanged in Charleston, South Carolina, he said: "What I did was to keep me from perishing. I was forced to go a-pirating to live."

In 1991, the government of Somalia in the Horn of Africa collapsed. Its 9 million people have been teetering on starvation ever since, and many of the ugliest forces in the Western world have seen this as a great opportunity to steal the country's food supply and dump our nuclear waste in their seas.

Yes: nuclear waste. As soon as the government was gone, mysterious European ships started appearing off the coast of Somalia, dumping vast barrels into the ocean. The coastal population began to sicken. At first they suffered strange rashes, nausea and malformed babies. Then, after the 2005 tsunami, hundreds of the dumped and leaking barrels washed up on shore. People began to suffer from radiation sickness, and more than 300 died.

Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, the UN envoy to Somalia, tells me: "Somebody is dumping nuclear material here. There is also lead and heavy metals, such as cadmium and mercury - you name it." Much of it can be traced back to European hospitals and factories, which seem to be passing it on to the Italian mafia to "dispose" of cheaply. When I asked Ould-Abdallah what European governments were doing about it, he said with a sigh: "Nothing. There has been no cleanup, no compensation

See SHIPPING NEWS p. 7



USS Bainbridge



MV Maersk Alabama

# Tortured Logic: Obama Writes Off Old Crimes While Promoting New Outrages

TORTURED LOGIC from p. 3

all respects.' Is this what we have come to? Is that what now constitutes bold, progressive action? Is this, really, part of our "core values," an essential embedded component of our "national greatness?"

The more one considers Obama's remarks, the more offensive they become, and the more flagrantly they insult the intelligence. For the very memos that he has released give the lie to his own statement. Obama says it would be wrong to prosecute CIA underlings for carrying out actions that they were told were legal. Leaving aside the fact that apparently none of these great, courageous, self-sacrificing, vigilant defenders of our "core values" (as Obama lauds them) considered these tortures to be inherently immoral, but simply wanted to cover their asses legally before they wall-slammed the hell out of somebody or poured water down their throats until they began to choke and drown — the fact is, they were told quite specifically by Bush's White House shysters that there was no guarantee that their actions would be considered legal by a court.

Glenn Greenwald points out the "smoking gun" memo that destroys Obama's entire defense — for it is a defense — of the CIA tortures: A signed statement by Steven Bradbury, one of the key paper-pushers in the torture regimen. Bradbury told the front-line torturers:

"Given the paucity of relevant precedent and the subjective nature of the inquiry, however, we cannot predict with confidence that a court would agree with this conclusion [i.e., the green light for heinous tortures]."

To be sure, Bradbury was politically astute enough to recognize that the essential unity of America's power-structure elite means that it is almost impossible for anyone who would genuinely and actively pursue imperial crimes to ever reach the top, for he added:

"...the question [of prosecution for the torture techniques] is unlikely to be subject to judicial inquiry."

And just as Bradbury foresaw, Obama has slammed the door shut on such judicial inquiries.

In the overblown, self-serving prose that has become his trademark, Obama lauds himself and his administration for their fealty to the "rule of law" in releasing the memos.

But of course, the rule of law also dictates that those who have planned, ordered and committed torture be prosecuted. The law has no special dispensation for crimes that might be "too disturbing" to prosecute. And so his ringing conclusion — "we have taken steps to ensure that the actions described within them never take place again" — rings completely hollow. How will failing to prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes deter any future perpetrator in high office? The latter will know that their crimes will be "too disturbing" to prosecute — in much the same way that the biggest fraudsters on Wall Street today are "too big to fail," and must be allowed to escape the consequences of their actions.

In the end, of course, it doesn't matter. This story will be buried in a day, or less, just as all the other many, many stories about the American torture program have been buried, year after year after year. And even this story — as morally repulsive as it is — deals only with the tip of the iceberg of America's global gulag. It refers only to the CIA's treatment of a very limited number of high-profile prisoners. Yet tens of thousands of people have passed through the belly of the gulag beast, where many have been tortured, held captive for years, even murdered. And not only is this still going on, but the Obama Administration is moving strenuously in court to drive these captives even deeper into limbo, asserting that no one who is plunged into the netherworld of America's little Gitmos in Afghanistan has the slightest right to any tincture of legal redress — even if they had been kidnapped from the streets of some foreign city and renditioned to Afghanistan.

The old crimes are being written off; the new crimes keep going on.

*Chris Floyd is an award-winning journalist, and author of the book, Empire Burslesque: High Crimes and Low Comedy in the Bush Regime. He has written for: The Moscow Times and the St. Petersburg Times in Russia, Truthout.org. His work appears regularly in CounterPunch, The Baltimore Chronicle and The Nation. His articles are also featured regularly on such websites as Information Clearing House, Buzzflash, Bushwatch, LevRockwell.com, Antivar.com, and many others. Floyd co-founded the blog Empire Burslesque with webmaster Richard Kastelein.*

SHIPPING NEWS from p. 6



Map of Somalia showing 2000 miles of coastline

and no prevention." At the same time, other European ships have been looting Somalia's seas of their greatest resource: seafood. We have destroyed our own fish stocks by over-exploitation - and now we have moved on to theirs. More than \$300 million worth of tuna, shrimp, lobster and other sea life is being stolen every year by vast trawlers illegally sailing into Somalia's unprotected seas.

The local fishermen have suddenly lost their livelihoods, and they are starving. Mohammed Hussein, a fisherman in the town of Marka 100km south of Mogadishu, told Reuters: "If nothing is done, there soon won't be much fish left in our coastal waters."

This is the context in which the men we are calling "pirates" have emerged. Everyone agrees they were ordinary Somali fishermen who at first took speedboats to try to dissuade the dumpers and trawlers, or at least wage a "tax" on them. They call themselves the Volunteer Coast Guard of Somalia - and it's not hard to see why.

In a surreal telephone interview, one of the pirate leaders, Sugule Ali, said their motive was "to stop illegal fishing and dumping in our waters ... We don't consider ourselves sea bandits. We consider sea bandits [to be] those who illegally fish and dump in our seas and dump waste in our seas and carry weapons in our seas." William Scott would understand those words.

No, this doesn't make hostage-taking justifiable, and yes, some are clearly just gangsters — especially those who have held up World Food Program supplies. But the "pirates" have the overwhelming

support of the local population for a reason. The independent Somali news site *WardherNews* conducted the best research we have into what ordinary Somalis are thinking — and it found 70 percent "strongly supported the piracy as a form of national defense of the country's territorial waters."

During the revolutionary war in America, George Washington and America's founding fathers paid pirates to protect America's territorial waters, because they had no navy or coast guard of their own. Most Americans supported them. Is this so different?

Did we expect starving Somalis to stand passively on their beaches, paddling in our nuclear waste, and watch us snatch their fish to eat in restaurants in London and Paris and Rome? We didn't act on those crimes — but when some of the fishermen responded by disrupting the transit corridor for 20 percent of the world's oil supply, we begin to shriek about "evil." If we really want to deal with piracy, we need to stop its root cause — our crimes — before we send in the gunboats to root out Somalia's criminals.

The story of the 2009 war on piracy was best summarized by another pirate, who lived and died in the fourth century BC. He was captured and brought to Alexander the Great, who demanded to know "what he meant by keeping possession of the sea." The pirate smiled and responded: "What you mean by seizing the whole earth; but because I do it with a petty ship, I am called a robber, while you, who do it with a great fleet, are called emperor."

Once again, our great imperial fleets sail today — but who is the robber?

Postscript: Some commentators seem bemused by the fact that both toxic dumping and the theft of fish are happening in the same place — wouldn't this make the fish contaminated? In fact, Somalia's coastline is vast, stretching 3,300km (over 2,000 miles). Imagine how easy it would be — without any coast guard or army — to steal fish from Florida and dump nuclear waste on Maine, and you get the idea. These events are happening in different places but with the same horrible effect: death for the locals and stirred-up piracy. There's no contradiction.

*Johann Hari is a writer for the Independent newspaper. He has reported from Iraq, Israel/Palestine, the Congo, the Central African Republic, Venezuela, Peru and the US, and his journalism has appeared in publications all over the world. To contact him, email johann@johannhari.com or visit his website at JohannHari.com.*

# ENABLING ACTS FOR AN ERA OF GREED



By MICHAEL COLLINS / SCOOP  
Huge majorities in both houses of Congress voted for legislation to allow the biggest bank heist of all time. But this time, it was the banks pulling the heist.

Our financial system looks ruined beyond repair. The credit default swaps crisis is 40 or so times bigger than the real estate meltdown over subprime derivatives. The top 25 banks in the United States are loaded down with \$13 trillion in credit default swaps and the deal is coming unraveled. If we accept the highly dubious assumption that the debt from the financial meltdown needs to be repaid by us, we're looking at \$43,000 a citizen right now. And we're just starting.

It didn't get that way by accident. There was special legislation that enabled the current crisis.

This was classic Money Party strategy and tactics.

The strategic goal was to turn Wall Street into a big casino for the "in crowd" of major investors, funds, and institutions. No rules and no regulations: "let the market take care of it" was the philosophy.

The tactics were easy. First you set up a scholarly group called the Law and Economics movement to give your scheme legitimacy. Then you give money and other favors to members of Congress.

At the right moment, you call in your congressional markers to let the banks start doing what they did to spark the Great Depression. Walk into the Wall Street casino loaded with cash and spend as if they're on coke. Your corny academic group has a couple of judges who decide a case that gives legal grace to the scheme. "The casino is legit," says the court. You then go for the whole nine yards by bringing back the long outlawed derivatives, subprimes, credit default swaps, etc.

The corporate media either ignores your "long con" altogether or covers it on their back pages.

Done deal! It's the perfect storm to create economic chaos allowing the most massive transfer of wealth since the Visigoths sacked Rome in 410 CE. It's all about socialism for the rich and survival of the fittest [capitalism] for the rest of us.

But Congress and the Treasury Department will preserve the financial elite in perpetuity. Why? To begin with, they'd have to admit that they created the problem in the first place with their enabling legislation. Congress would also have to

admit to absolutely zero oversight on this matter despite warnings.

Legislative, Judicial and Executive Branches — Acting in Unison Deliver the Goods.

Three distinct events enabled the current economic chaos. The baseline requirement for the era of greed was satisfied in 1999 when Congress repealed key provisions of the Glass-Steagall Act. That law was established during the first Great Depression. It tightly restricted the opportunities for reckless speculation by banks. They were barred from selling stocks and other speculative schemes. Title 1 of the Financial Services Modernization Act of 1999 says it all: "Title 1 —Facilitating affiliation among

schemes on September 1, 1999.

Reagan appointees Richard Posner, then chief judge, and current chief judge Richard Easterbrook were key movers. They're also heavily involved with the Law and Economics movement, a right wing, free market movement that opposes almost all regulation in Pavlovian fashion.

Credit default swaps and other derivatives had been illegal for decades. In 1981, specific rules were set up to tighten restrictions against these schemes. But all that changed on December 21, 2000, when the lame-duck Congress passed the "Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000" making these products legal. The legislation also barred the gathering of information that would serve as early warning on the legalized gambling on credit worthiness. Regulators were helpless in looking out for the public.

Here's the title of the House version of the bill:

"To reauthorize and amend the Commodity Exchange Act to promote legal certainty, enhance competition, and reduce systemic risk in markets for futures and over-the-counter derivatives, and for other purposes," 106th Congress, 2nd Session, H. R. 5660.

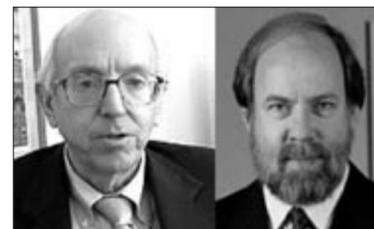
This is the vital wording modifying the Securities Act of 1933 that undid the economy: "Section 2A—Swap Agreements

none. The enabling legislation for this disaster was passed by an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives and by unanimous consent in the Senate.

It's important to have a "Roll Call" for the sponsors of the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000. They made it happen.

**Expect More of the Same**

The bailout and other efforts to save Wall Street firms and the large banks are essentially an effort to deal with the problems of derivatives and other market failures. Wall Street got the court decisions and legislation it wanted and then promptly proceeded to



7th Circuit judges Richard Posner and Frank Easterbrook started the demolition of SEC regulatory power over high risk derivatives.

create today's disaster. They sold these risky products and now they have to pay off. But they don't have the money even with the current bailouts. Where will they get it? The federal government was the only sucker left to tap and that bet came through to the tune of \$4.6 trillion. There's \$4.6 trillion awaiting further requests from the Federal Reserve

The culprits are still in place at failing financial institutions. Don't hold your breath waiting for political action to fix

## The sponsors of the "Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000." They made it happen.



Top row: Senators (S. 3283: Richard Lugar (R-IN), sponsor, cosponsors Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Tim Johnson (D-SD) plus cosponsors, Retired Senators Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL), Phil Graham, (R-TX), Chuck Hagel (R-NE). Bottom: Representatives (all retired) (H.R. 5600) Thomas Ewing (R-IL) sponsor; cosponsors Thomas Bliley, Jr. (R-VA), John J. LaFalce (D-NY), Larry Combest (R-TX), and Jim Leach (R-IA).

banks, securities firms and insurance companies"

"Commercial banks, brokerage firms, hedge funds, institutional investors, pension funds and insurance companies can freely invest in each other's businesses as well as fully integrate their financial operations."

This was a bipartisan effort with the Senate version passing 90 to 8 and the House 362 to 57.

The once-scorned derivatives had been the Holy Grail for "free" market radicals on Wall Street and elsewhere for years. They said that the restrictions on these products were unnecessary and stifled the free market ("free" for them). Even before Congress acted definitively in December 2000, the US Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit struck down the ability of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to rein in ruinous high-risk financial

The Commission is prohibited from: promulgating, interpreting, or enforcing rules; or issuing orders of general applicability." The Senate and House bills were combined into H.R. 4577, an appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education signed by President Clinton. Someone had a perverse sense of humor.

In other words, Congress legalized what had been illegal for decades, and it secured the 7th Circuit's opening gambit of handcuffing the SEC in dealing with the new high-risk financial products. Congress fixed the game so that the short-staffed regulatory agencies couldn't monitor the market, even if they wanted that function.

Good luck trying to find the legislative debate on this momentous change. There was

the situation. Both parties were in on this mess. Huge majorities in both houses of Congress voted for key legislation to allow the biggest bank heist of all time. But this time, it was the banks pulling the heist.

That's why the bankers have to stay in place. To remove them, would be telling, as William K. Black said recently:

"But the other element of your question is we don't want to change the bankers, because if we do, if we put honest people in, who didn't cause the problem, their first job would be to find the scope of the problem. And that would destroy the cover up." - William K. Black, Apr. 3, 2009

But it was all legal, wasn't it?

*Michael Collins reports for Scoop New Zealand News, scoop.co.nz*

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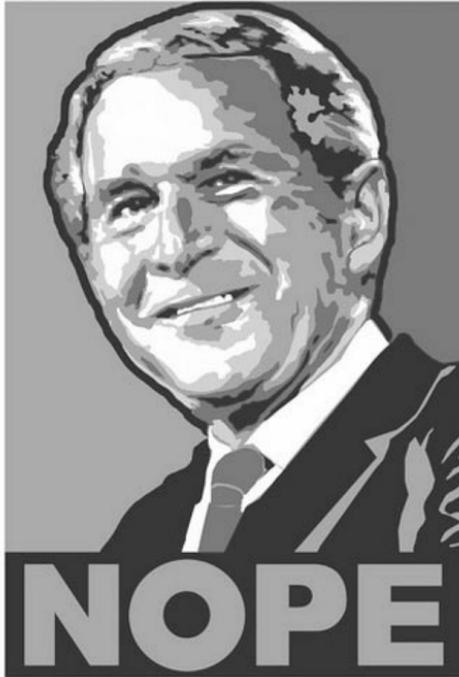
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PROSECUTE WAR CRIMES?



Former President Convicted of Crimes Against Humanity (Fujimori, not Bush)

BY JACOB G. HORNBERGER
If President Bush and Vice-President Cheney think that time is on their side with respect to crimes committed by their administration, this week's criminal conviction of former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori should put those thoughts to rest.

Meanwhile, a Spanish judge, Baltasar Garzon, has opened a criminal investigation of six former Bush officials — Alberto Gonzalez, Douglas Feith, David Addington, John Yoo, Jay Bybee, and William Haynes — for torture allegations arising out of the Pentagon's operations at Guantánamo.

Garzon was the judge who secured a criminal indictment of former Chilean President Augusto Pinochet, which led to Spain's extradition request for Pinochet when he visited London. While the request was ultimately unsuccessful, Pinochet was detained in London for a year awaiting the final disposition of the request.

Some might argue that a Spanish judge has no legitimate jurisdiction over crimes committed by US officials in Cuba or elsewhere. However, US officials are going to be hard put convincing people of that argument.

Chuckie Taylor, the son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, has just been sentenced in US district court to serve 97 years in federal prison for torture crimes committed in Liberia. Thus, if the US government has the power to prosecute, convict, and punish foreign officials for torture crimes committed in foreign countries, how likely is it that the Bush people will convince a Spanish court (or any other foreign court) that US officials cannot be put on trial for committing torture crimes in Cuba or elsewhere?

For many years, US officials have endorsed the idea of an international criminal court for rulers who commit human rights crimes. Well, except

for one big exception — US officials always made it clear that the court would apply only to foreign rulers, not US rulers. The rationale was that the United States was different from everywhere else — here, public officials would not be able to escape justice for their crimes.

What nonsense! Is there any effort by any US Attorney's office in the country to initiate a grand-jury investigation into the torture allegations at Guantánamo, Bagram, Abu Ghraib, the CIA's black sites, and elsewhere? Is the Justice Department seeking the appointment of a special prosecutor or initiating its own criminal investigation?

Of course not. And President Obama, the self-proclaimed agent of hope and change, has already signaled his position by proclaiming: "Nothing will be gained by spending our time and energy laying blame for the past."

Is it any wonder that so much of the world looks upon the US government as a paragon of hypocrisy and double standards? How else can one look upon a regime that calls for an international criminal court for everyone else's rulers and immunity for its own rulers under this pretentious attitude. "Unlike others, we will prosecute and punish our own officials," and then, when evidence of criminal wrongdoing surfaces, proclaims "Let's put the past behind us and just move on."

My hunch is that Bush and his people will be excluding Europe from those speaking engagements that garner them hundreds of thousands of dollars. They know what happened to Augusto Pinochet. But even sitting at home here in the United States for the rest of their lives might not be totally safe from prosecution in the long run. Just ask Alberto Fujimori, who just got sentenced to serve 25 years in jail for offenses committed some 15 years ago.

Jacob Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation.

An Odd Coincidence: Many SOA Grads Become Latin Death Squad Killers

SOA from p. 3

CIA-run International Police Academy in Washington, one of the classier DC finishing schools.

It might just be that some weird metaphysical force beyond human understanding has been attracting thousands of criminally insane military officers like Diaz from all over Latin America to Fort Benning and that they were psychiatric basket cases before they got there. That's unlikely, of course, as a WHINSEC official claims "only personnel of unquestionable character" are admitted to study. (If I met their students in a dark alley, I wouldn't ask them any questions, either.) Yet, it's odd that case after case — hundreds of them, really — keep popping up, in which SOA/WHINSEC alumni after leaving Georgia have gone stark raving berserk once they got home, overthrowing governments and filling elected officials full of holes. Didn't Georgia's "old sweet song" mellow them even a teensy-weensy bit?

Two of SOA's more notorious alumni, Generals Roberto Viola and Leopoldo Galtieri, both of whom trained at SOA in 1981, went on to become dictators during the "Dirty War", in which 30,000 Argentines were put to death. The generals were assisted by five other SOA grads and when civilian rule was restored Viola was sentenced to 17 years for his crimes. Who's to say, though, that he learned his grisly trade from the

Pentagon? He could have gotten his ideas just as well from studying Hitler's "Mein Kampf," right?

Then there's Bolivia. In 1980, SOA alumni General Garcia Meza Tejada assaulted the National Palace and forced the president to resign. His top aide, Luis Arce Gomez was also an SOA alum as were seven other coup criminals. In Brazil, the human rights group Torture Never Again linked 20 SOA graduates and two SOA instructors to crimes including false imprisonment, and torture methods such as electric shock, suffocation and other methods too nauseating to iterate.

In Colombia, half of some 250 officers cited for human rights violations in 1993 took advanced education at SOA. After his involvement in the 1988 Uraba massacre of 20 banana workers, the massacre of 19 business executives, and the assassination of a city mayor, General Farouk Yanine Diaz was a guest speaker at SOA in 1990, apparently so good that he was brought back for an encore next year. Another SOA grad, General Jorge Plazas Acevedo, was tried for the 1998 kidnapping and murder of Jewish business leader Benjamin Khoudari, and Col. Jesus Maria Clavijo, another SOA grad, stands accused of 160 murders during 1995-98. Yet another SOA grad, General Montoya Uribe, ran a "scorched earth" campaign in Putumayo.

It is well known that after the CIA overthrow in 1954 of Guatemala's president

Jacobo Arbenz, more than 200,000 civilians were killed. Not as well known is that SOA graduates there created vigilante squads responsible for starring roles in the slaughter. One SOA grad, General Efrain Rios Montt, who seized power in a coup, wiped out more than 400 Mayan villages, killing thousands and forcing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes. Involved also were SOA grads General Angel Rodriguez, defense minister, and Colonel German Chupina Barahona, National Police director.

In Peru, six officers educated at SOA were among those that burst into the men's dorm at La Cantuta and dragged off six students and a professor that were "disappeared." One of the SOA goons, Vladimiro Torres, went on to run the notorious "Colina" death squad and became head of the National Intelligence Service (SIN). His boss, Alberto Fujimori, of course, has just been convicted of humanitarian rights abuses, including massacre.

The above treatise is a short list of the achievements of SOA/WHINSEC which, for my nickel, President Obama could shut down tomorrow on the basis that it has been teaching militarists how to turn their homelands into living hells. Perhaps it seems also ironic that the US military, which preaches bravery, should be instructing officers in how to assassinate unarmed archbishops and priests whose principal "crime" has been advocating for Latin America's poor: banana pickers, copper

miners, tillers of the soil, etc.

Information for this article was taken from legal documents submitted to a Federal judge by Louis Wolf, a resident of Washington, DC, currently under six months' house arrest for his disrespectful, non-violent trespass at Fort Benning, Georgia last November. Sentenced to prison at the same time by Federal Judge G. Mallon Faircloth of the US District Court of Columbus, Georgia were Father Luis Barrios, of N. Bergen, New Jersey, an Associate Priest at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Manhattan and professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York; Theresa Cusimano, J.D.; seminary student Kristin Holm, of the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago; Sister Diane Therese Pinchot of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland; and Viet Nam veteran Al Simmons, a retired pre-school teacher of Richmond, Virginia.

It's a curious society that imprisons pacifists for trespass on military property where murder and torture allegedly are being taught to thousands of future Latin killers. Of course, the Pentagon may be teaching no such thing at Fort Benning: the outcomes could all be one big coincidence, no es verdad?

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The Tower of Basel: Secretive Plans for the Issuing of a Global Currency

Do we really want the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) issuing our global currency?

BASEL from p. 4

When they managed to sidestep the first Basel Accord, a second set of rules was imposed known as Basel II. The new rules were established in 2004, but they were not levied on US banks until November 2007, the month after the Dow passed 14,000 to reach its all-time high. The economy was all downhill from there. Basel II had the same effect on US banks that Basel I had on Japanese banks: they have been struggling ever since to survive.<sup>8</sup>

Basel II requires banks to adjust the value of their marketable securities to the "market price" of the security, a rule called "mark to market."<sup>9</sup> The rule has theoretical merit, but the problem is timing: it was imposed ex post facto, after the banks already had the hard-to-market assets on their books. Lenders that had been considered sufficiently well capitalized to make new loans suddenly found they were insolvent. At least, they would have been insolvent if they had tried to sell their assets, an assumption required by the new rule. Financial analyst John Berlau complained:

"The crisis is often called a 'market failure,' and the term 'mark-to-market' seems to reinforce that. But the mark-to-market rules are profoundly anti-market and hinder the free-market function of price discovery. . . . In this case, the accounting rules fail to allow the market players to hold



BIS Tower Building, Basel Switzerland

on to an asset if they don't like what the market is currently fetching, an important market action that affects price discovery in areas from agriculture to antiques."<sup>10</sup>

Imposing the mark-to-market rule on US banks caused an instant credit freeze, which proceeded to take down the economies not only of the US but of countries worldwide. In early April 2009, the mark-to-market rule was finally softened by the US Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB); but critics said the modification did not go far

enough, and it was done in response to pressure from politicians and bankers, not out of any fundamental change of heart or policies by the BIS.

And that is where the conspiracy theorists come in. Why did the BIS not retract or at least modify Basel II after seeing the devastation it had caused? Why did it sit idly by as the global economy came crashing down? Was the goal to create so much economic havoc that the world would rush with relief into the waiting arms of the BIS with its privately-created global currency? The plot thickens . . .

- NOTES
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Ellen Brown is the author of Web of Debt, an analysis of the Federal Reserve and "the money trust." Her eleven books include the bestselling Nature's Pharmacy, and Forbidden Medicine. Her websites are www.webofdebt.com and www.ellenbrown.com

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