

Rock Creek Free Press

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

The Big Lie Why Propaganda Trumps Truth

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

An article in the journal, *Sociological Inquiry*, casts light on the effectiveness of propaganda. Researchers examined why big lies succeed where little lies fail. Governments can get away with mass deceptions, but politicians cannot get away with sexual affairs.

The researchers explain why so many Americans still believe that Saddam Hussein was behind 9/11, years after it has become obvious that Iraq had nothing to do with the event. Americans developed elaborate rationalizations based on Bush administration propaganda that alleged Iraqi involvement and became deeply attached to their beliefs. Their emotional involvement became wrapped up in their personal identity and sense of morality. They looked for information that supported their beliefs and avoided information that challenged them.

See BIG LIE p. 4

The Economy Will Not Recover Until Trust is Restored

By WASHINGTON'S BLOG

A 2005 letter in premier scientific journal *Nature* reviews the research on trust and economics:

"Trust ... plays a key role in economic exchange and politics. In the absence of trust among trading partners, market transactions break down. In the absence of trust in a country's institutions and leaders, political legitimacy breaks down. Much recent evidence indicates that trust contributes to economic, political and social success."

Forbes wrote an article in 2006 entitled "The Economics of Trust". The article summarizes the importance of trust in creating a healthy economy:

"Imagine going to the corner store to buy a carton of milk, only to find that the refrigerator is locked. When you've persuaded the shopkeeper to retrieve the milk, you then end up arguing over whether you're going to hand the money over first, or

See TRUST p. 5

US Spec-Ops Run Psy-War Websites

By LEWIS PAGE/THE REGISTER (UK)

The secretive US Special Operations Command (SOCOM) has awarded "arms globocorp" General Dynamics a \$10m contract to set up a network of psychological-warfare "influence websites" supporting the Global War On Terror. France and Britain are specifically included as "targeted regions".

SOCOM is principally famous for its large contingents of elite, secret operatives from all four US armed services (Navy SEALs, Green Berets, Delta Force, Team-6/DevGru, "the Activity" etc). What's less well-known about the organization is that it also includes the US forces' active psychological-warfare apparatus. According to the 4th Airborne Psychological Operations Group - the only full-time PSYWAR unit in the US Army, and part

See PSY-WAR p. 5

Obama Worked for the CIA New Details on Obama's CIA-Front Employer

By WAYNE MADSEN

WMR has obtained additional details on Business International Corporation (BIC), the CIA front company where President Obama spent a year working after graduating from Columbia University in 1983.

BIC used journalists as non-official cover agents around the world. The firm published weekly and fortnightly newsletters for business executives, including Business International, Business Europe, Business Latin America, and Business Asia.

On February 24, 2009, WMR reported: "For one year, Obama worked as a researcher in BIC's financial services division where he wrote for two BIC publications: "Financing Foreign Operations" and "Business International Money Report", a weekly newsletter.

An informed source has told WMR that Obama's tuition debt at Columbia was paid off by BIC. In addition, WMR has learned that when Obama lived in Indonesia



with his mother and his adoptive father Lolo Soetoro, the 20-year-old Obama, who was known as 'Barry Soetoro,' traveled to Pakistan in 1981. He was hosted by the family of Muhammadmian Soomro, a Pakistani "Sindhi" who became acting President of Pakistan after the resignation of General Pervez Musharraf on August 18, 2008. WMR was told that the Obama/Soetoro

trip to Pakistan, ostensibly to go 'partridge hunting' with the Soomros, related to unknown CIA business. The covert CIA program to assist the Afghan mujaheddin was already well underway at the time and Pakistan was the major base of operations for the CIA's support . . . BIC had long been associated with CIA activities. BIC was founded by Eldridge Haynes, a self-professed

liberal Democrat. The BIC headquarters was located at the prestigious address of 1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in Manhattan."

Through its contacts with leading liberals around the world, BIC sought to recruit those on the left as CIA agents and assets. BIC documents obtained by WMR describe a series of top level "round tables" between US business and intelligence chiefs and government leaders around the world, including Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie, and 83 ministers and officials of 33 multinational organizations in Addis Ababa in 1969; Colombian President Carlos Lleras Restrepo and business and labor leaders of six Andean Bloc countries in 1968 and 1972; Argentine President General Juan Carlos Onganía and his junta in 1966; Spanish dictator Francisco Franco and his cabinet in 1962 and 1967; Brazilian President Emilio Médici in 1970; and Indonesian dictator Suharto and his

See OBAMA CIA p. 5

Eighteen Reasons Why You Should NOT Vaccinate Your Children Against The Flu This Season

By BILL SARDI

This year it is more important that you protect your children and loved ones from the flu vaccines than influenza itself. Here are the reasons:

1. This flu is simply another flu. It is not unusually deadly. In fact, the H1N1 swine flu in circulation is less deadly than many other influenza outbreaks. The first 1000 confirmed swine flu cases in Japan and China produced zero deaths. The Centers for Disease Control alleges 36,000 Americans succumb to the flu each year, but so far, since March through August of 2009 (6 months), the swine flu has been attributed to ~500-600 deaths in the US. The swine flu of 2009 has already swept through the Southern Hemisphere's flu season without alarm. Only exaggerated reports have been issued by the World Health Organization regarding hospitalizations required during the flu season in South American countries. Getting exposed to influenza and developing natural antibodies confers resistance for future flu outbreaks. Artificially boosting antibodies by exposure to flu viruses in vaccines is more problematic than natural exposure. Americans have been exposed to the H1N1 swine flu throughout the summer of 2009 with far fewer deaths and hospitalizations than commonly attributed to the seasonal flu.

2. Health authorities tacitly admit prior flu vaccination programs were of little or no value. This is the first time both

seasonal and pandemic flu vaccines will be administered. Both seasonal flu and swine flu vaccines will require two inoculations. This is because single inoculations have failed to produce sufficient antibodies. Very young children and older frail adults, the high-risk groups in the population, may not produce sufficient antibodies in response to the flu vaccine. This is an admission that prior flu vaccines were virtually useless. The same people who brought you the ineffective vaccines in past years are bringing you this year's new vaccines. Can you trust them this time?

3. In addition to failure to produce sufficient antibodies, this swine flu vaccine is brought to you by the same people who haven't been able to adequately produce a seasonal flu vaccine that matches the flu strain in circulation. In recent years, flu vaccination has been totally worthless because the strains of the flu in circulation did not match the strain of the virus in the vaccines. Authorities claim the prevalent flu strain in circulation in mid-September '09 is the H1N1 swine flu, which appears to be milder than past seasonal influenza in circulation. If this data is correct, why receive the season flu shot this year?

4. The vaccines will be produced by no fewer than four different manufacturers, possibly with different additives (called adjuvants) and manufacturing methods. The two flu inoculations may be derived from a multi-dose vial and, in a crisis and in short supply, it will be diluted to provide more doses and then adjuvants

must be added to trigger a stronger immune response. Adjuvants are added to vaccines to boost production of antibodies but may trigger autoimmune reactions. Some adjuvants are mercury (thimerosal), aluminum and squalene. Would you permit your children to be injected with lead? Lead is very harmful to the brain. Then why would you sign a consent form for your kids to be injected with mercury, which is even more brain-toxic than lead? Injecting mercury may fry the brains of American kids.

5. This is the first year mock vaccines have been used to gain FDA approval. Mock vaccines are made to gain approval of the manufacturing method and then the prevalent virus strain in circulation is added just days before it is actually placed into use.

Don't subject your children to experimental vaccines. Yes, these vaccines have been tested on healthy kids and adults, but they are not the same vaccines your children will be given.

Those children with asthma, allergies, type I diabetes, etc. are at greater risk for side effects. Children below the age of 2 years do not have a sufficiently developed blood-brain barrier and are subject to chronic brain infections that morph into symptoms that are called autism. Toddlers should not be subjected to injected viruses.

6. Over-vaccination is a common practice now in America. American children are subjected to 29 vaccines by

See 18 REASONS p. 2

Swine Flu Vaccine Linked to Paralysis "It's the Vaccine, Stupid!"

By F. WILLIAM ENGDAHL

It is not any alleged "Swine Flu" or H1N1 "virus" that is the danger to the lives of our loved ones, our children, our pregnant mothers. We are being literally panicked by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the US Government and the uncritical mass media into demanding what amounts to legalized toxins as a "guard" against a disease so far milder than a common cold.

The few details that have managed to leak out regarding the contents of the fluids that major pharmaceutical companies want to inject into our bodies confirm what I have been writing since the first alleged outbreak of Swine Flu

in the environs of a factory pig farm in Veracruz, Mexico.

The declaration by WHO of a Phase 6 "Pandemic Level" global health emergency was a political decision which had no relation to any proven "virus threat." It had to do with a multibillion dollar injection of hyperprofits into the coffers of a tiny handful of global vaccine giants—GlaxoSmithKline, Roche (Gilead Science, Inc.), Baxter Labs, Novartis, Sanofi Pasteur, and a few other elite drug giants.

More, the current H1N1 fear campaign from WHO, the German Robert Koch Institute, and the US Government's CDC appears on serious examination to have to do, not with safeguarding the public health, but rather with a long-term agenda

of political control of populations through deliberate means of making them ill, weak, partly paralyzed or otherwise too weak to focus on the increasingly obvious social crisis facing us all: the global breakdown of the dollar system. Why else would allegedly responsible governments from the United States to the Federal Republic of Germany, from Britain to France, embrace such a manifest health hoax?

The simplest research of a high school pupil, using official WHO and other government sources, can demonstrate this. If you doubt this, just commission your school age children to demonstrate, using only official sources published on the internet, that there is no sound, public health reason

See PARALYSIS p. 2

Obama For Renewal of Warrantless Spying On Americans

By PAUL JOSEPH WATSON/PRISON PLANET.COM
President Barack Obama has once again betrayed his promise to restore liberties evicted by the Bush regime by pushing Congress to renew Patriot Act provisions that allow for warrantless spying on American citizens, even in cases where there is no link to terrorism whatsoever.

According to a Wired News report, the "Obama administration has told Congress it supports renewing three provisions of

See WIRETAPS p. 5

The FBI War on Tupac Shakur and Radical Blacks



Tupac Shakur, 1996

By JOHN POTASH

In 1996, gunmen killed Tupac Shakur in Las Vegas. Despite his death at 25, Shakur remains the top-selling rap artist of all time. Tupac, the son of radical activists, was an extremely motivated radical activist leader. His huge influence through his music, coupled with his intention to work for radical change, made him an "enemy of the state".

US Intelligence's attacks on the Shakur family offer a window into their murderous programs targeting of Black leaders over the last four decades. Those targeted include not only Sixties leaders such as Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Huey Newton and Jimi Hendrix but also the more contemporary

See TUPAC p. 7

Wall Street's 9/11 Did Lehman Brothers Fall or Was It Pushed?

By ELLEN BROWN

A year after the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers on September 15, 2008, questions still swirl around its collapse. Lawrence MacDonald, whose book *A Colossal Failure of Common Sense* came out in July 2009, maintains that the bank was not in substantially worse shape than other major Wall Street banks. He says Lehman was just "put to sleep. They put the pillow over the face of Lehman Brothers and they put her to sleep." The question is, why?

The Lehman bankruptcy is widely considered to be the watershed event that changed the rules of the game for those Wall Street banks considered "too big to fail." The bankruptcy option was ruled out once and for all. The taxpayers would have to keep throwing money at the banks, no matter how corrupt, ill-managed or undeserving. As Dean Baker noted in April, 2009:

See WALL STREET p. 8

INSIDE

Dubi World Goes Bust • p. 2

Paul Craig Roberts on Healthcare • p. 3

David Swanson on Hemp • p. 3

Propaganda • The Big Lie • p. 4

John Pilger Interview • p. 6

John Potash on Tupac Shakur • p. 7

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Swine Flu Vaccine Linked to Paralysis

"It's the Vaccine, Stupid!"

PARALYSIS from p. 1

to declare any special measures, let alone to authorize "fast track" rollout of new vaccines, untested, for mass injection in the population. Tell them that the students who make the best case from only official sources will get the top honors in the course.

UK Report of Neurological Damage from Vaccine

According to a confidential warning letter written on July 29, 2009, a copy of which was leaked to the British newspaper, *Daily Mail*, the UK Government's Health Protection Agency head of Immunization Department, Prof. Elizabeth Miller, warned British neurologists that the swine flu vaccine, which was briefly used in a mass vaccination program in 1976 in the USA until it was abruptly withdrawn because of dangerous side effects, is linked to Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), a potentially deadly and nerve crippling disorder of the central nervous system. Guillain-Barre Syndrome attacks the lining of the nerves, causing paralysis and inability to breathe, and can be fatal. It can cause paralysis of the breathing muscles that can result death by suffocation.

The warning letter of Prof. Miller states, "The vaccines used to combat an expected swine influenza pandemic in 1976 were shown to be associated with GBS and were withdrawn from use." The US Government was forced in the 1976 Swine Flu scandal to pay out millions of dollars in damages to victims of GBS who had received the vaccine.

The UK Government plans to inject 13 million British citizens beginning in October with virtually untested H1N1 vaccines. The British Neurological Surveillance Unit (BNSU), part of the British Association of Neurologists, has been asked to monitor closely any cases of GBS as the vaccine is rolled out. One senior neurologist told the press off-record, "I would not have the swine flu jab because of the GBS risk."

Miller's letter was reportedly sent to 600 British neurologists on July 29, a sign that there is concern at the highest levels that the vaccine itself could cause serious complications. The letter notes, referring to the similar swine flu vaccination process in the USA in 1976 that "more people died from the vaccination than from swine flu; some 500 cases of GBS were found; vaccines may have increased risk of GBS by 800%; the US vaccine was withdrawn after just ten weeks when Government scientists confirmed the link with GBS; the US Government then was forced to pay tens of millions of dollars to those affected. They monitored that within days, symptoms of GBS were reported among those who had been immunized and 25 people died

from respiratory failure after severe paralysis. One in 80,000 people came down with the condition. In contrast, just one person died of swine flu."

Notably, the Obama Administration has issued a special ruling exempting the vaccine makers from all liability from the vaccines. Most alarming in this context is the fact that the new vaccine has not been sufficiently tested and that the effects, especially on children, are unknown. Yet small children and pregnant mothers are the first priority to be vaccinated under WHO recommendations.

However, as leading European epidemiologists confirm privately, the effects of the so-called H1N1 Influenza A or "Swine Flu" are to date extremely mild, comparable to a common cold and disappear in a few days with bed rest. The deaths, as CDC and other health agencies have had to admit, all took place in patients with previous severe respiratory problems or other severe illness, and have in no known case been definitively linked to Swine Flu. The deaths were what epidemiologists term "opportunistic" that is "coincidental" not causal.

GBS however, which is believed linked to adjuvants present in the new vaccines, can cause paralysis and death. One woman, Hilary Wilkinson, was stricken with GBS and had to be fed through a drip while needing a tracheotomy just to breathe. It took her three months in the hospital to learn how to walk and talk again. On the topic of the swine flu vaccine, she says today, "It makes me feel wary that the Government is rolling out this vaccine without any clear idea of the GBS risk, if any. I wouldn't wish it on anyone."

An 800% Rise in GBS Risk

Another letter with a warning about the swine flu vaccine from the Association of British Neurologists, signed by Dr. Rustam Al-Shahi Salman and Professor Patrick Chinnery, says, "Following the 1976 program of vaccination against swine influenza in the US, a retrospective study found a possible eight-fold increase in the incidence of GBS." That is an 800% increase after vaccination of 40 million Americans was done on a similar "health emergency" basis before abruptly being withdrawn. The 1976 swine flu mass vaccination campaign was abandoned after hundreds of cases of GBS were diagnosed and 25 died.

An emergency mass vaccination program was backed by President Gerald Ford that year because Centers for Disease Control head, Dr. David Sencer, convinced the White House that the swine flu strain was similar to the one responsible for the 1918-19 pandemic, which he claimed had killed half a million Americans and 20 million people worldwide.

Sencer was forced to resign in disgrace months later. The current CDC and WHO hysteria campaign over "H1N1 Influenza A Swine Flu" bears ominous similarities to that of 1976.

According to Dr. Tom Jefferson, (co-ordinator of the vaccines section of the influential Cochrane Collaboration, an independent British group that reviews drug research): "New vaccines never behave in the way you expect them to. It may be that there is a link to GBS, which is certainly not something I would wish on anybody. But it could end up being anything because one of the additives in one of the vaccines is a substance called squalene, and none of the studies we've extracted have any research on it at all." Squalene, a naturally occurring enzyme, could potentially cause so-far-undiscovered side effects.

In other words, what we have with the new versions of H1N1 "swine flu" vaccine is an untested, potentially dangerous cocktail of chemicals and viral fragments that could plausibly be linked to a devastating neurological condition, or worse.

The doctors and scientists are warning about the possibility of dangerous neurological side effects precisely because the government is failing to do so. Governments and pharmaceutical companies don't want people to know about risks associated with the vaccine, so they don't talk about them. Nor do they reveal the rather startling fact that the vaccine has never been tested on children or expectant mothers even though those are the two primary groups being targeted for the vaccine.

Vaccines are the bedrock of the pharmaceutical industry's profit centers. Through vaccines, the drug companies can ensure generations of future profits from diseases that have been identified in numerous studies as triggered or worsened by vaccines, including Alzheimer's, cancer, autism, Parkinson's Disease, and others.

British Conservative Party Health Parliament Spokesman, Mike Penning has stated, "The last thing we want is secret letters handed around experts within the National Health Service (NHS). Our job is to make sure that the public knows what's going on. Why is the Government not being open about this? It's also very worrying if doctors, who will be administering the vaccine, aren't being warned."

F. William Engdahl is a freelance journalist, historian, economic researcher, and author of several books including, Full Spectrum Dominance: Totalitarian Democracy in the New World Order and Rise and Decline of the American Century, 2009 (in press) and is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

Extravagant Dubai Island Project Sinks Under Weight Of the Credit Crunch



Dubai skyline, sprouts 20% of the world's construction cranes.

By JAMES MCLEAN AND BRIAN McDONALD/INDEPENDENT.IE

The Galwayman who bought Ireland is dead, England is deserted, while Australia and New Zealand have merged.

They were designed to make Dubai the envy of the world: a series of paradise islands inhabited by celebrities and the super-rich reclaimed from the azure waters of the Arabian Gulf and shaped like a map of the Earth. It was called The World.

As millions of tons of rock were dumped into the sea for the foundations, timely leaks suggested that Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie were to buy Ethiopia, Richard Branson was tipped to occupy England, while Rod Stewart would border him in Scotland.

Instead it has become the world's most expensive shipping hazard, guarded by private security in fast boats and ringed by warning buoys to keep the curious away.

A development that was meant to send Dubai's star into the firmament of First World cities has been left to the mercy of the waves and the baking winds.

Mile after mile of breakwater built from boulders brought hundreds of miles by ship has been laid, but inside its man-made lagoon, work has completely stopped.

The expected map of the world of 300 islands is instead a disjointed and desolate collection of sandy blots — a monumental folly just out of sight of Dubai's shore.

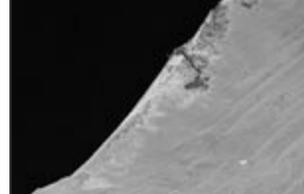
Those who bought into what was the world's most ambitious building project were not celebrities.

Many were more ordinary investors who put down 70% deposits, some of them Anglo-Indians.

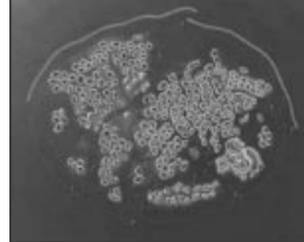
Galway auctioneer turned developer, John O'Dolan (51) fronted a consortium under his O'Dolan International banner and bought Ireland for 28m euros in 2007 and last year snapped up England from under the noses of several UK interests for 23.5m euros.

But the property crash brought tragedy in its wake as the

Dubai 1973



Dubai 2006



The "World" as seen from space



One inhabited island. Dubai's ruler's



Dredging ship builds island

Galwayman committed suicide in February of this year.

As well as his foreign investments, the popular family

man had extensive business interests in Ireland. He owned a bar and a hostel in Galway as well as other properties in Dublin and Limerick.

A couple of weeks before his tragic death, a receiver was appointed to his Galway hostel and a property company. His body was discovered in a shed on his Barna Road property.

His fellow investors in the Dubai development now have little prospect of seeing a return. The World has stopped, but they can't get off.

"The World has been cancelled. It doesn't even look like the world. Basically there is one island that is maintained that is said to be owned by the Sheikh [Dubai's ruler] and the rest looks like a pile of muck," said one local property agent.

It is the starkest example of a financing crunch that faces the emirate but many other projects are also in jeopardy.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), of which Dubai is a part, about \$300bn of building is on hold after prices began tumbling.

Abu Dhabi, Dubai's oil-rich neighbor, is helping to support it through the crisis, so far to the tune of about \$10bn. Another \$10bn is likely to follow soon, and more may follow.

Property is not the only dark spot in the UAE. In the nearby emirate of Sharjah the credit crunch caused massive power outages, leaving businesses and houses without electricity.

This week, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai's ruler and the UAE's Prime Minister, vowed to steer the emirate through its troubles and pledged to further rein in extravagant developments.

Officially, however, not a single project has been cancelled — just delayed.

"I don't blame anybody. Some papers try to write this but they are forgetting their problems [in their own countries] ... But people only throw stones when a tree has fruit," he said.

James McClean and Brian McDonald write for The Independent. You can read more of their articles at www.independent.ie

Eighteen Reasons Why You Should NOT Vaccinate Your Children Against The Flu This Season

18 REASONS from p. 1

the age of two. This means a little bit of disease is being injected into young children continually during their most formative years! Veterinarians have backed off of repeat vaccination in dogs because of observed side effects.

7. Health officials want to vaccinate women during pregnancy, subjecting the fetal brain to an intentional biological assault. A recent study showed exposure to flu viruses among women during pregnancy provoke a similar gene expression pattern in the fetus as that seen in autistic children. This is a tacit admission that vaccines, which inject a little bit of influenza into humans, cause autism.

8. Modern medicine has no explanation for autism, despite its continued rise in prevalence. Yet autism is not reported among Amish children who go unvaccinated. Beware the falsehoods of modern medicine.

9. School kids are likely to receive nasally-administered vaccines (Flu-Mist) that require no needle injection. But this form of live vaccine produces viral shedding which will surely be transmitted to family members. What a way to start an epidemic!

10. This triple reassortment virus appears to be man made. The H1N1 swine flu virus of 2009 coincidentally appeared in Mexico on the same week that President Nicolas Sarkozy of France visited Mexican president Felipe Calderon, to announce that

France intends to build a multi-million dollar vaccine plant in Mexico. An article written by Ron Maloney of the Seguin, Texas *Gazette-Enterprise* newspaper announces a "rehearsal for a pandemic disaster" scheduled for May 2, 2009. The article says: "Guadalupe County emergency management and their counterparts around the country are preparing for just such a scenario..." This means county health authorities across the US had been preparing a rehearsal for mass vaccinations prior to the announced outbreak in Mexico. Virologists admit this part swine flu/part avian flu/part human flu virus must have taken time to develop. But it somehow wasn't detected by hundreds of flu monitoring stations across the globe. On April 24, 2009 Dr. John Carlo, Dallas County Medical Director, alludes that the H1N1 strain of the Swine Flu as possibly being engineered in a laboratory. He says: "This strain of swine influenza that's been cultured in a laboratory is something that's not been seen anywhere actually in the United States and the world, so this is actually a new strain of influenza that's been identified." (*Globe & Mail*, Toronto, Canada)

11. Recall the swine flu scare of 1976. In a politically charged atmosphere where Gerald Ford was seeking election to the Presidency, the swine flu suddenly appeared at a military base. Vaccine was

produced and millions of Americans were vaccinated. But the vaccine was worse than the disease, causing hundreds of cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome and a few deaths. In a replay of the past, the White House is directly involved in promoting the H1N1 2009 swine flu vaccine. The federal government will use federal funds to pay off schools to administer vaccines, promote vaccination via highway billboards and TV advertisements, and conduct military-style mass inoculations in such rapid fashion that if side effects occur, it will be too late. The masses will have been vaccinated already. Over \$9 billion has been allotted by the federal government to develop and deliver an unproven and experimental flu vaccine. Don't be a guinea pig for the government.

12. Researchers are warning that over-use of the flu vaccine and anti-flu drugs like Tamiflu and Relenza can apply genetic pressure on flu viruses and then they are more likely to mutate into a more deadly strain. US health authorities want 70% of the public to be vaccinated against the flu this '09 season, which is more than double the vaccination percentage of any prior flu season. This would certainly apply greater genetic pressure for the flu to mutate into a more virulent strain.

13. Most seasonal influenza A (H1N1) virus strains tested from the United States and other countries are now resistant to Tamiflu (oseltamivir). Tamiflu has become a nearly worthless drug against seasonal flu. According to data provided by the Centers for Disease Control, among 1,148 seasonal flu samples tested, 1,143

(99.6%) were resistant to Tamiflu!

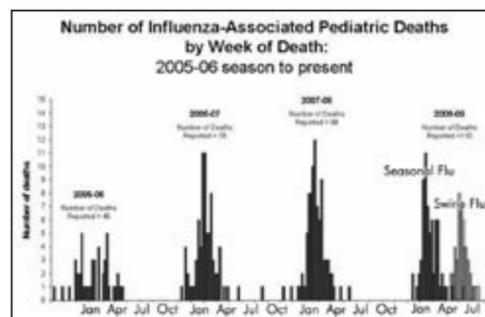
14. As the flu season progresses, the federal government may coerce or mandate Americans to undergo vaccination. France has already ordered enough vaccine to inoculate their entire population and has announced that vaccination will be mandatory. The US appears to be waiting to announce mandatory vaccination at a later date when it can scare the public into consenting to the vaccine. The federal government is reported to be hiring people to visit homes of unvaccinated children. This sounds like the Biblical account of Pharaoh attempting to eradicate all the young Israelite baby boys. Must we hide our babies now?

15. Public health authorities have cried wolf every flu season to get the public to line up for flu shots. Health authorities repeatedly publish the bogus 36,000 annual flu-related deaths figure to scare the public into getting flu shots. But that figure is based on the combined deaths from pneumonia in the elderly and the flu. Maybe just 5000-6000 or so flu-related deaths occur annually, mostly among individuals with compromised immune systems, the hospitalized, individuals with autoimmune disease or other health problems. As stated above, the swine flu in full force has only resulted in 500-600 deaths in the first six months in circulation and it is far more dreaded by public health authorities than the seasonal flu. The Centers for Disease Control issues a purchase order for flu vaccines and then serves as the public relations agency to get the public to pay for the vaccines. Out of a population

of 325 million Americans, only 100 million doses of flu vaccine have been administered each year and no epidemic has erupted among the unvaccinated.

16. The news media is irresponsible in stirring up unfounded fear over this coming flu season. Just exactly how ethical is it for newspapers to publish reports that a person has died of the swine flu when supposedly thousands die of the flu annually? In the past, the news media hasn't chosen to publicize each and every flu-related death, but this time it has chosen to frighten the public. Why? Examine the chart below. The chart shows that the late flu season of 2009 peaked in week 23 (early June) and has dissipated considerably.

While every childhood flu-related death should be considered tragic, and the number of flu-related pediatric deaths in 2009 is greater than prior flu seasons as a percentage, in real numbers it is not a significant increase. See chart:



According to data provided by the Centers for Disease Control, for week 34 ending August 29, 2009, there were 236 hospitalizations and 37 deaths related to the flu. That would represent just 5 hospitalizations and

less than one death per State, which is "below the epidemic threshold."

17. Public health officials are irresponsible in their omission of any ways to strengthen immunity against the flu. No options outside of problematic vaccines and anti-flu drugs are offered, despite the fact there is strong evidence that vitamins C and D activate the immune system and the trace mineral selenium prevents the worst form of the disease where the lungs fill up with fluid and literally drown a flu-infected person. The only plausible explanation as to why the flu season typically peaks in winter months is a deficiency of sunlight-produced vitamin D. Protect your family. Arm your immune system with vitamins and trace minerals.

18. Will we ever learn if the flu vaccine this year is deadly in itself? In 1993, the federal government hid a deadly flu vaccine that killed thousands of nursing home patients. It was the first year that flu shots were paid for by Medicare. The vaccine-

related mortality was so large that this set back the life expectancy of Americans for the first time since the 1918 Spanish flu! Mortality reports take a year or two to tabulate and the federal government may choose not to reveal the true mortality rate and whether it was related to the flu or the vaccines. You say this couldn't happen? It did in 1993!

Bill Sardi is a frequent writer on health and political topics. His health writings can be found at www.naturalhealthlibrarian.com. He is the author of You Don't Have To Be Afraid Of Cancer Anymore.

Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The Health Care Deceit

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

The current health care "debate" shows how far gone representative government is in the United States. Members of Congress represent the powerful interest groups that fill their campaign coffers, not the people who vote for them.

The health care bill is not about health care. It is about protecting and increasing the profits of the insurance companies. The main feature of the health care bill is the "individual mandate," which requires everyone in America to buy health insurance. Senate Finance Committee chairman Max Baucus (D-MT), a recipient of millions in contributions over his career from the insurance industry, proposes to impose up to a \$3,800 fine on Americans who fail to purchase health insurance.

The determination of "our" elected representatives to serve the insurance industry is so compelling that Congress is incapable of recognizing the absurdity of these proposals.

The reason there is a health care crisis in the US is that the cumulative loss of jobs and benefits has swollen the uninsured to approximately 50 million Americans. They cannot afford health insurance any more than employers can afford to provide it.

It is absurd to mandate that people purchase what they cannot afford and to fine them for failing to do so. A person who cannot pay a health insurance premium cannot pay the fine.

These proposals are like solving the homeless problem by requiring the homeless to purchase a house.

In his speech Obama said "we'll provide tax credits" for "those individuals and small businesses who still can't afford the lower-priced insurance available in the exchange" and he said low-cost coverage will be offered to those with preexisting medical conditions. A tax credit is useless to those without income unless the credit is refundable, and subsidized coverage doesn't do much for those millions of Americans with no jobs.

Baucus masquerades as a defender of the health impaired with his proposal to require insurers to provide coverage to all comers as if the problem of health care can be reduced to preexisting conditions and cancelled policies. It was left to Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) to point out that the health care bill ponies up 30 million more customers for the private insurance companies.

The private sector is no longer the answer, because the income levels of the vast majority of Americans are insufficient to bear the cost of health insurance today. To provide some perspective, the monthly premium for a 60-year old female for a group policy (employer-provided) with Blue Cross-Blue Shield in Florida is about \$1,200. That comes to \$14,400 per year. Only employees in high productivity jobs that can provide both a livable salary and health care can expect to have employer-provided coverage. If a 60-year old female has to buy a non-group policy as an individual, the premium would be even higher. How, for example, is a Wal-Mart shelf stocker or check-out clerk going to be able to pay a private insurance premium?

Even the present public option — Medicare — is very expensive to those covered. Basic Medicare is insufficient coverage. Part B has been added, for which about \$100 per month is deducted from the covered person's Social Security check. If the person is still earning or has other retirement income, an "income-related monthly adjustment" is also deducted as part of the Part B premium. And if the person is still working, his earnings are subject to the 2.9 percent Medicare tax.

Even with Part B, Medicare coverage is still insufficient except for the healthy. For many people, additional coverage from private supplementary policies, such as the ones sold by AARP, is necessary. These premiums can be as much as \$277 per month. Deductibles remain and prescriptions are only 50% covered. If the drug prescription policy is chosen, the premium is higher.

This leaves a retired person on Medicare who has no other retirement income of significance paying as much as \$4,500 per year in premiums in order to create coverage under Medicare that still leaves half of his prescription medicines out-of-pocket. Considering the cost of some prescription medicines, a Medicare-covered person with Part B and a supplementary policy can still face bankruptcy.

Therefore, everyone should take note that a "public option" can leave people with large out-of-pocket costs. I know a professional who has

chosen to continue working beyond retirement age. His Medicare coverage with supplemental coverage, Medicare tax, and income-related monthly adjustment comes to \$16,400 per year. Those people who want to deny Medicare to the rich will cost the system a lot of money.

What the US needs is a single-payer not-for-profit health system that pays doctors and nurses sufficiently that they will undertake the arduous training and accept the stress and risks of dealing with illness and diseases.

A private health care system worked in the days before expensive medical technology, malpractice suits, high costs of bureaucracy associated with third-party payers, heavy investment in combating fraud, and pressure on insurance companies from Wall Street to improve "shareholder returns."

Despite the rise in premiums, payments to health care providers, such as doctors, appear to be falling along with coverage to policy holders. The system is no longer functional and no longer makes sense. Health care has become an incidental rather than primary purpose of the health care system. Health care plays second fiddle to insurance company profits and salaries to bureaucrats engaged in fraud prevention and discovery. There is no point in denying coverage to one-sixth of the population in the name of saving a nonexistent private free market health care system.

The only way to reduce the cost of health care is to take the profit and paperwork out of health care.

Nothing humans design will be perfect. However, Congress is making it clear to the public that the wrong issues are front and center, such as the belief of Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and others that illegal aliens and abortions will be covered if government pays the bill.

Debate focuses on subsidiary issues, because Congress no longer writes the bills it passes. As Theodore Lowi made clear in his book, *The End of Liberalism*, the New Deal transferred law-making from the legislative to the executive branch. Executive branch agencies and departments write bills that they want and hand them off to sponsors in the House and Senate. Powerful interest groups took up the same practice.

The interest groups that finance political campaigns expect their bills to be sponsored and passed.

Thus: a health care reform bill based on forcing people to purchase private health insurance and fining them if they do not.

When bills become mired in ideological conflict, as has happened to the health care bill, something usually passes nevertheless. The president, his PR team, and members of Congress want a health care bill on their resume and to be able to claim that they passed a health care bill, regardless of whether it provides any health care.

The cost of adding public expenditures for health care to a budget drowning in red ink from wars, bank bailouts, and stimulus packages means that the most likely outcome of a health care bill will benefit insurance companies and use mandated private coverage to save public money by curtailing Medicare and Medicaid.

The public's interest is not considered to be the important determinant. The politicians have to please the insurance companies and reduce health care expenditures in order to save money for another decade or two of war in the Middle East.

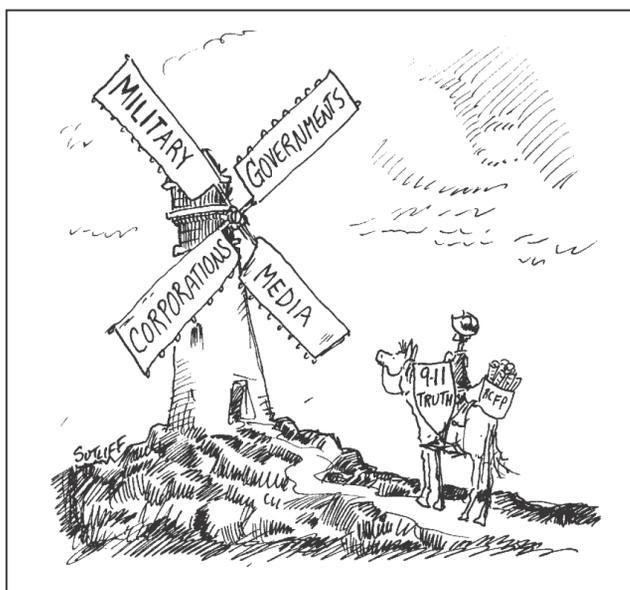
The telltale part of Obama's speech was the applause in response to his pledge that "I will not sign a plan that adds one dime to our deficits." Yet, Obama and his fellow politicians have no hesitation to add trillions of dollars to the deficit in order to fund wars.

The profits of military/security companies are partly recycled into campaign contributions. To cut war spending in order to finance a public health care system would cost politicians campaign contributions from both the insurance industry and the military/security industry.

Politicians are not going to allow that to happen. It was the war in Afghanistan, not health care, that President Obama declared to be a "necessity."

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan administration. He is coauthor of The Tyranny of Good Intentions. His new book, War of the Worlds: How the Economy Was Lost, will be published next month by AK Press/CounterPunch.

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9/11 Is The Big Lie Which America Still Won't Face

By ALLEN L. ROLAND

Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels was the master of the "BIG LIE" tactic which was that a lie, no matter how outrageous, if repeated enough, will eventually become accepted as the truth. Thus, the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie. In that regard, 9/11 is the Big Lie — which America still refuses to face with the truth.

The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."

I was interviewed on a local radio show in Sonoma Valley, California recently about 9/11. As an original signer of the 2004 9/11 Truth Petition, my position was well known — we still

owe the approximately 3,000 people who died that day the truth, and the thoroughly discredited 9/11 Commission has barely scratched the surface in finding the truth of 9/11.

A recent open letter to me from a reader (Aaron Brinegar) reflects the general frustration with the truth regarding 9/11 — "The year 2001 was not a good one for me. I lost my wife of 40 years to ovarian cancer. The business that I was a sales manager with filed for bankruptcy and closed its doors 5 days before Christmas. I have properly grieved those losses to the best of my ability and moved on with my life. On this date 9 years ago today, however, America became the victim of an act so despicable it defies imagination. I will never be able to find peace or solace until it can be proven once and for all beyond any shadow of a doubt that fire alone caused the collapse of the WTC buildings 1, 2, and 7. I am not a conspiracy nut and

normally give a wide berth to those that are, but if you wish to think of me as such for posing the question, so be it. Never in the history of modern architecture, anywhere the world over, has there been a high rise steel structured building collapse neatly into its own footprint at close to free fall speed because of fire. Never! Yet it happened not once, not twice, but three times on 9/11. I have 5 video clips of building 7 on my hard drive viewed from different angles as it fell, and I simply cannot accept that it was fire alone that imploded this building and brought it to the ground in 6.5 seconds. I would stake my life on it. Forget the hundreds of other questions that the Commission report failed to adequately answer. I am not interested. I make no accusations and point no fingers. I simply want to know what really brought the buildings down. So should you. I urge you not

See 9/11 BIG LIE p. 4

Obama Extends State of Emergency Declared on 9/11

Consistent with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared on September 14, 2001, in Proclamation 7463, with respect to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States. Because the terrorist threat continues, the national emergency declared on September 14, 2001, and the powers and authorities adopted to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 14, 2009. Therefore, I am continuing in effect for an additional year the national emergency the former President declared on September 14, 2001, with respect to the terrorist threat. This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

BARACK OBAMA
THE WHITE HOUSE,
September 10, 2009

Even though there hasn't been another terrorist incident since 9/11 (anthrax doesn't count since that was admittedly committed by a US government employee), and even though we have captured a dozen "al Qaeda number three's" and rendered them to undisclosed dungeons for waterboarding (and worse), the "State of Emergency" declared on 9/11 has been extended for yet another year.

Is it because we haven't captured Osama? That might be hard to do since he died in December 2001, but even if he were still alive, should a whole nation be in a state of emergency over one man?

Is the "greatest" nation on earth, with a military budget larger than all other nations of the world combined, that afraid of a bearded ghost? Are our leaders that cowardly that they would suspend our cherished liberties for fear of some small band of men? Or is their fear feigned; a deceitful excuse to seize additional powers for the executive. The power to spy on citizens without warrant; the power to detain without charge or trial; the power to suspend the usual checks and balances and due process of law. These are the powers our "frightened" leaders have seized with this act and which President Obama now extends.

A Safe Substitute for Alcohol?

By DAVID SWANSON

The US Department of Justice says that alcohol plays a pivotal role in two-thirds of all cases of violence against an intimate (a spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend), and blames alcohol for contributing to 100,000 sexual assaults against young people every year. That's right; alcohol hurts more people than al Qaeda.

Of course, alcohol does not always lead every consumer of it to violence. Most people who drink alcohol don't hurt anyone. But a large percentage of those who do get violent have been drinking alcohol. Should we ban it? We tried that once with miserable results, and we've banned other substances with equally bad outcomes.

We could stop promoting alcohol so heavily, but the impact of doing so, would probably not be large. What to do? Well, what if there was a substitute for alcohol that didn't make anyone violent? What if this substitute were far less dangerous than alcohol to the health of the person using it, as well as to those around him or her? What if this alternative substance even had health benefits and medicinal properties and potentials? What if this substance satisfied the desire for intoxication without actually containing anything toxic and you woke up the next morning without a hangover? What if this magical substitute for alcohol could boost the economy, free prisoners, reduce prison budgets, free up police to address serious crimes, and subtly improve our culture if only we could discover what it was?

The common name for this life-saving drug is marijuana, and in *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?* the authors Steve Fox, Paul Armentano, and Mason Tvert argue for legalizing marijuana as a regulated substitute to reduce the societal damage done by alcohol. In the book's foreword, Norm Stamper, former Chief of the Seattle Police Department, writes:

"I've been asking police officers throughout the US (and Canada) two questions. First: 'When's the last time you had to fight someone under the influence of marijuana?' (And by this I mean marijuana only, not pot plus a six-pack or fifth of tequila.) My colleagues pause; they reflect. Their eyes widen as they realize that in their five or fifteen or thirty years on the job, they have never had to fight a marijuana user. I then ask, 'When's the last time you had to fight a drunk?' They look at their watches. It's telling that the booze question is answered in terms of hours, not days or weeks."

The case for making pot more available to those who might choose it over alcohol seems straightforward. Unless, of course, you've heard any of the pervasive myths that have been spread about it in this country for nearly a century. In 1927, lacking any Iraqi aluminum tubes to peddle yet, the *New York Times* published this fantasy:

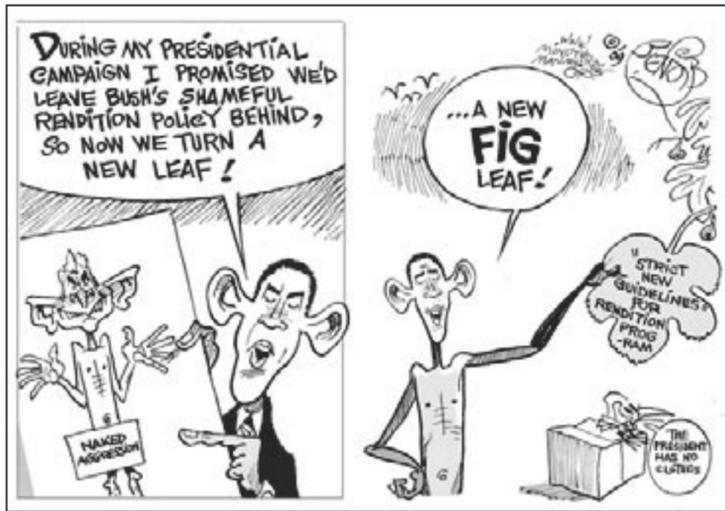
"Mexican Family Go Insane"
"Five Said to Have Been Stricken By Eating Marijuana"
"A widow and her four children have been driven insane by eating the

Marihuana plant, according to doctors, who say there is no hope of saving the children's lives and that the mother will be insane for the rest of her life...."

This is not terribly different from the stories promoted by our government today, and much of the book is devoted to debunking myths. While television networks are not required to give back even a smidgen of our airwaves for political campaigns or information, they have been required to air anti-pot propaganda, or to incorporate it into the plots of shows (such as "ER" and "Beverly Hills 90210"). In 2005, the Government Accountability Office determined that the government's anti-pot campaign had violated the law against covert propaganda by producing video news releases that news programs aired as if they had been created completely independently of the government.

When Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps was shown in a photograph using marijuana, both USA Swimming and the US Olympic Committee came down hard on him, just as the NFL does to its players. These are all organizations that live off massive funding from the makers of alcohol. So, incidentally, do members of Congress. It's a good thing THEY are never influenced by money.

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



The Big Lie

Why Propaganda Trumps Truth

BIG LIE from p. 1

regardless of the facts of the matter.

In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler explained the believability of the Big Lie as compared to the small lie: "In the simplicity of their minds, people more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods. It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have such impudence. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and continue to think that there may be some other explanation."

What the sociologists and Hitler are telling us is that by the time facts become clear, people are emotionally wedded to the beliefs planted by the propaganda and find it a wrenching experience to free themselves. It is more comfortable, instead, to denounce the truth-tellers than the liars whom the truth-tellers expose.

The psychology of belief retention even when those beliefs are wrong is a pillar of social cohesion and stability. It explains why, once change is effected, even revolutionary governments become conservative. The downside of belief retention is its prevention of the recognition of facts. Belief retention in the Soviet Union made the system unable to adjust to economic reality, and the Soviet Union collapsed. Today in the United States, millions find it easier to chant "USA, USA, USA" than to accept facts that indicate the need for change.

The staying power of the Big Lie is the barrier through which the 9/11 Truth Movement is finding it difficult to break. The assertion that the 9/11 Truth Movement consists of conspiracy theorists and crackpots is obviously untrue. The leaders of the movement are highly qualified professionals, such as demolition experts, physicists, structural architects, engineers, pilots, and former high officials in the government. Unlike their critics parroting the government's line, they know what they are talking about.

Here is a link to a presentation by the architect, Richard Gage, to a Canadian university audience: <http://globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=13242>. The video of the presentation is two hours long and seems to have been edited to shorten it down to two hours. Gage is low-key, but not a dazzling presenter. Perhaps that is because he is speaking to a university audience and takes for granted their familiarity with terms and concepts.

Those who believe the official 9/11 story and dismiss skeptics as kooks can test the validity of the sociologists' findings and Hitler's observation by watching the video and experiencing their reaction to evidence that challenges their beliefs. Are you able to watch the presentation without scoffing at someone who knows far more about it than you do? What is your response when you find that you cannot defend your beliefs against the evidence presented? Scoff some more? Become enraged?

Another problem that the 9/11 Truth Movement faces is that few people have the education to follow the technical and scientific aspects. The side that they believe tells them one thing; the side that they don't believe tells them another. Most Americans have no basis to judge the relative merits of the arguments.

For example, consider the case of the Lockerbie bomber. One piece of "evidence" that was used to convict al-Megrahi was a piece of circuit board from a device that allegedly contained the Semtex that exploded the airliner. None of the people, who have very firm beliefs in al-Megrahi's and Libya's guilt and in the offense of the Scottish authorities in releasing al-Megrahi on allegedly humanitarian grounds, know that circuit boards of those days have very low combustion temperatures and go up in flames easily. Semtex produces very high temperatures. There would be nothing whatsoever left of a device that contained Semtex. It is obvious to an expert that the piece of circuit board was planted after the event.

I have asked on several occasions and have never had an answer, which does not mean that there isn't one, how millions of pieces of unburnt, uncharred paper can be floating over lower Manhattan from the destruction of the WTC towers when

the official explanation of the destruction is fires so hot and evenly distributed that they caused the massive steel structures to weaken and fail simultaneously so that the buildings fell in free fall time just as they would if they had been brought down by controlled demolition.

What is the explanation of fires so hot that steel fails but paper does not combust?

People don't even notice the contradictions. Recently, an international team of scientists, who studied for 18 months dust samples produced by the twin towers' destruction collected from three separate sources, reported their finding of nano-thermite in the dust. The US government had scientists dependent on the US government to debunk the finding on the grounds that the authenticity of custody of the samples could not be verified. In other words, someone had tampered with the samples and added the nano-thermite. This is all it took to discredit the finding, despite the obvious fact that access to thermite is strictly controlled and NO ONE except the US military and possibly Israel has access to nano-thermite.

The physicist, Steven Jones, has produced overwhelming evidence that explosives were used to bring down the buildings. His evidence is not engaged, examined, tested, and refuted. It is simply ignored.

Dr. Jones' experience reminds me of that of my Oxford professor, the distinguished

In the simplicity of their minds, people more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods. It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have such impudence. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and continue to think that there may be some other explanation.

— Adolph Hitler - *Mein Kampf*

physical chemist and philosopher, Michael Polanyi. Polanyi was one of the 20th century's great scientists. At one time every section chairman of the Royal Society was a Polanyi student. Many of his students won Nobel Prizes for their scientific work, such as Eugene Wigner at Princeton and Melvin Calvin at UC, Berkeley, and his son, John Polanyi, at the University of Toronto.

As a young man in the early years of the 20th century, Michael Polanyi discovered the explanation for chemical absorption. Scientific authority found the new theory too much of a challenge to existing beliefs and dismissed it. Even when Polanyi was one of the UK's ranking scientists, he was unable to teach his theory. One half-century later, his discovery was re-discovered by scientists at UC, Berkeley. The discovery was hailed, but then older scientists said that it was "Polanyi's old error." It turned out not to be an error. Polanyi was asked to address scientists on this half-century failure of science to recognize the truth. How had science, which is based on examining the evidence, gone so wrong? Polanyi's answer was that science is a belief system just like everything else, and that his theory was outside the belief system.

That is what we observe all around us, not just about the perfidy of Muslims and 9/11.

As an economics scholar I had a very difficult time making my points about the Soviet economy, about Karl Marx's theories, and about the supply-side impact of fiscal policy. Today, I experience readers who become enraged just because I report on someone else's work that is outside their belief system. Some readers think I should suppress work that is inconsistent with their beliefs and drive the author of the work into the ground. These readers never have any comprehension of the subject. They are simply emotionally offended.

What I find puzzling is the people I know who do not believe a word the government says about anything except 9/11. For reasons that escape me, they believe that the government that lies to them about everything else tells them the truth about 9/11. How can this be, I ask them. Did the government slip up once and tell the truth? My question does not cause them to rethink their belief in the government's 9/11 story. Instead, they get angry with me for doubting their intelligence or their integrity or some such hallowed trait.

The problem faced by truth is the emotional needs of people. With 9/11, many Americans feel that they must believe their government so that they don't feel like

they are being unsupportive or unpatriotic, and they are very fearful of being called "terrorist sympathizers." Others on the left have emotional needs to believe that peoples oppressed by the US have delivered "blowbacks." Some leftists think that America deserves these blowbacks and thus believe the government's propaganda that Muslims attacked the US.

Naive people think that if the US government's explanation of 9/11 was wrong, physicists and engineers would all speak up. Some have (see above). However, for most physicists and engineers this would be an act of suicide. Physicists owe their careers to government grants, and their departments are critically dependent on government funding. A physicist who speaks up essentially ends his university career. If he is a tenured professor, to appease Washington the university would buy out his tenure as BYU did in the case of the outspoken Steven Jones.

An engineering firm that spoke out would never again be awarded a government contract. In addition, its patriotic, flag-waving customers would regard the firm as a terrorist apologist and cease to do business with it.

In New York today, there is an enormous push by 9/11 families for a real and independent investigation of the 9/11 events. Tens of thousands of New Yorkers have provided the necessary signatures on petitions that require the state to put the proposal for an independent commission up to vote. However, the state, so far, is not obeying the law.

Why are the tens of thousands of New Yorkers who are demanding a real investigation dismissed as conspiracy theorists? The 9/11 skeptics know far more about the events of that day than do the uninformed people who call them names. Most of the people I know who are content with the government's official explanation have never examined the evidence. Yet, these know-nothings shout down those who have studied the matter closely.

There are, of course, some kooks. I have often wondered if these kooks are intentionally ridiculous in order to discredit knowledgeable skeptics.

Another problem that the 9/11 Truth Movement faces is that their natural allies, those who oppose the Bush/Obama wars and the internet sites that the antiwar movement maintains, are fearful of being branded traitorous and anti-American. It is hard enough to oppose a war against those the US government has successfully demonized. Antiwar sites believe that if they permit 9/11 to be questioned, it would brand them as "terrorist sympathizers" and discredit their opposition to the war. An exception is Information Clearing House.

Antiwar sites do not realize that, by accepting the 9/11 explanation, they have undermined their own opposition to the war. Once you accept that Muslim terrorists did it, it is difficult to oppose punishing them for the event. In recent months, important antiwar sites, such as antiwar.com, have had difficulty with their fundraising, evidenced by their fundraising campaigns going on far longer than previously. They do not understand that if you grant the government its premise for war, it is impossible to oppose the war.

As far as I can tell, most Americans have far greater confidence in the government than they do in the truth. During the Great Depression, the liberals with their New Deal succeeded in teaching Americans to trust the government as their protector. This took with the left and the right. Neither end of the political spectrum is capable of fundamental questioning of the government. This explains the ease with which our government routinely deceives the people.

Democracy is based on the assumption that people are rational beings who factually examine arguments and are not easily manipulated. Studies are not finding this to be the case. In my own experience in scholarship, public policy, and journalism, I have learned that everyone from professors to high school dropouts has difficulty with facts and analyses that do not fit with what they already believe. The notion that "we are not afraid to follow the truth wherever it may lead" is an extremely romantic and idealistic notion. I have seldom experienced open minds even in academic discourse or in the highest levels of government. Among the public at large, the ability to follow the truth wherever it may lead is almost non-existent.

The US government's response to 9/11, regardless of who is responsible, has altered our country forever. Our civil liberties will never again be as safe as they were. America's financial capability and living standards are forever lower. Our country's prestige and world leadership are forever damaged. The first decade of the 21st century has been squandered in pointless wars, and it appears the second decade will also be squandered in the same pointless and bankrupting pursuit.

The most disturbing fact of all remains: The 9/11 event responsible for these adverse happenings has not been investigated.

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan administration. He was Associate Editor of the *Wall Street Journal* editorial page and Contributing Editor of *National Review*. He is coauthor of *The Tyranny of Good Intentions*.

We are Living in an Artificially Induced State of Consciousness



By NATHAN JANES / PUPAGANDA.COM

Since its inception in American homes in the late 1930s, television has essentially given America its culture. Today, television watching is the most popular leisure activity as more and more people are choosing the fantasy world of TV over engaging with others in real communication and experiences. Where people once wanted to explore the wonders of the world and nature, now many explore the world outside their homes only through what they view on television. Once a vast majority is living the same reality through television, then they are more predictable and easily managed. The television does an excellent job placing everyone that watches it on the same page, all sharing the same views, worries, interests, and idols.

Through the television, we are trained from birth to death as to what to believe. Many studies have demonstrated that the young unquestioningly accept whatever reality is presented by television. Impressionable children will often spend hours in front of the television each day as it is used as a trust worthy babysitter. As they sit down for their daily intake of cartoons, children's programming and commercials, many parents fail to realize what lessons the television is teaching their children. And so culture and norms of behavior are often more strongly influenced by what is on television rather than by what parents are teaching children. The parents of today grew up in front of the television as well and so the television is not often questioned and instead accepted as a part of the family's daily life. Children who grow up in front of the TV learn to arrange their lives around TV programming and will likely grow up to be adults who get their entertainment, news, and information from it.

Heavy television watching is culturally

accepted and expected in our society. In fact, the act of not watching TV can actually offend some people. With the average American adult watching more than 4 hours of television each day, the television plays a major role in continually creating the reality in which we live. Those who create the television programming — the six corporations and little over 100 board members who control all American mass media outlets — shape this reality. The interests of these corporations and those who lead them are to make money for both the media corporations and those corporations that the board members have special ties to. Rather than creating television shows that engages critical thinking and keeps Americans well informed on topics that may affect their well being, the TV causes us to see ourselves as consumers who need to be entertained. Television is creating a culture of occupied minds- an apathetic and passive population only interested in being entertained by mindless trivia with no interest in analyzing information and instead relying on the TV for all answers.

TV has led us into a world controlled by science and run by experts. In predicting a "Scientific Dictatorship," Aldous Huxley, author of *Brave New World* and well known for his studies on the development of new techniques by which to control and direct human behavior, described a world run by experts, which isn't hard to imagine when we've been trained through our television sets to always listen to experts. Major media promotes experts on just about every topic you can imagine while implying that the public is too dumb or uneducated to make their own decisions about such topics as vaccinations, financial management, and medical interventions. In this way, the television is creating in individuals a sense of learned helplessness, leaving us dependent on those given to us as experts to direct our decisions and actions.

The act of watching TV regularly is obedience to those in control. For total control in any system, everyone must be predictable. TV creates a collectivism society, where to be an individual is seen as an enemy to the peace within the collective society. Groupthink is essential in a society where everyone is to be controlled by those in power. Aldous Huxley once said, "It is possible to make people contented with their servitude. I think this can be done. I think it has been done in the past. I think it could be done even more effectively now because you can provide them with bread and circuses and you can provide them with endless amounts of distractions and propaganda."

Nathan Janes is an artist and writer and creator of PUPAGANDA.com.

9/11 Is The Big Lie Which America Still Won't Face

9/11 BIG LIE from p. 3

to categorically reject out of hand all those who question the official position as fools and lunatics. Please, I urge you to investigate with an open mind. A couple of starting places might be the architects and engineers web site (ae911truth.org) or the firefighter's site (firefightersfor911truth.org). This most infamous day in our nation's history deserves an impartial and unbiased investigative closure more fitting than the one it was given."

Both of my radio interviewers were not open to hearing that truth, and one actually walked out of the studio when I quoted Captain Russ Wittenberg, US Air Force fighter pilot and commercial pilot who had previously flown flight 93 - which impacted in Pennsylvania and flight 175 - the second plane to hit the WTC - "The whole government story they handed us about 9/11 is total B.S., plain and simple!" Regarding flight 77, "The airplane could not have flown at those speeds which they said it did without going into a high speed stall. The airplane won't go that fast if you start pulling those high G maneuvers at those bank angles ... The vehicle that hit the Pentagon was not Flight 77."

The only person who called into the radio show agreed that we need to search deeper for the truth about 9/11.

Both of my hosts seemed to reflect what Carl Sagan called one of the saddest lessons of history - "If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It is simply too painful to acknowledge, even to ourselves, that we've been so credulous."

And that's the sad lesson of 9/11 - close to the majority of Americans have bought into the BIG LIE of 9/11 and are not interested in finding the truth - because the truth would be far too painful to acknowledge and accept.

This is born out by recent Rasmussen polls — forty-nine percent (49%) of Americans believe that most of their fellow countrymen have already forgotten the impact of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in which 3,000 died.

The truth of 9/11 has been swept under the rug of our consciousness - replaced by annual prayers for the dead and an almost benign acceptance of the BIG LIE.

But this is not surprising because most Americans just don't care about the truth. Bill Maher makes this same point in this recent classic

4 minute video entitled — "Most Americans are Dumb and Uneducated" in which he points out that 34% of Americans still feel that Saddam Hussein was personally responsible for the 9/11 attacks, 24 % of Americans do not know who America fought in the Revolutionary war, 50% of Americans don't know that every state has two senators and (drum roll please) 18% of Americans still think the Sun revolves around the Earth.

When I despair of this, I think of Gandhi's words — "When I despair, I remember that all through history the ways of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fail. Think of it - always."

Allen L. Roland is a practicing psychotherapist, author and lecturer who also shares a daily political and social commentary on his weblog and website allenroland.com. He also guest hosts a monthly national radio show TRUTHTALK on www.conscioustalk.net.

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Obama Pushing For Renewal of Warrantless Spying On Americans

WIRETAPS from p. 1

the Patriot Act due to expire at year's end, measures making it easier for the government to spy within the United States."

Obama's support for the provisions should come as little surprise because he first voted for warrantless wiretapping of Americans in 2008 when he was an Illinois Senator, while also lending support for immunizing the nation's telecommunications companies from lawsuits charging them with being complicit in the Bush administration's wiretapping program.

One of the provisions Obama is pushing to renew is the so-called "lone wolf" provision, enacted in 2004, which allows for the electronic monitoring of an individual without the government having to prove that the case has any relation whatsoever to terrorism or a foreign power. This is in effect a carte blanche for the government to use every method at their disposal to spy on any American citizen they choose.

The "lone wolf" provision is opposed by the ACLU, whose legislative counsel Michelle Richardson told *Wired*, "The justification for FISA and these lower standards and letting it operate in secret was all about terrorist groups and foreign governments, that they posed a unique threat other than the normal criminal element. This lone wolf provision undercuts that justification."

Another Patriot Act provision Obama wants Congress to renew gives the government access to business, library and medical records, with the authorities generally having to prove that the investigation is terrorism related. However, since according to Homeland Security guidelines the new breed of terrorist is classified as someone who supports a third party, puts a political bumper sticker on their car, is part of the alternative media, or merely someone who disagrees with the authorities' official version of events on any

given issue, the scope for the government to use this power against their political adversaries is wide open.

The third provision Obama is pushing to renew allows a FISA court to grant "roving wiretaps" without the government having to even identify their target. This is another carte blanche power that gives the state the power to monitor telephone calls, emails and any other form of electronic communication.

Barack Obama swept into office on a mandate of "change" and a commitment to restore liberties that were eviscerated under the Bush regime. Despite promising to do so, he has failed completely to overturn Bush signing statements and executive orders that, according to Obama, "trampled on liberties." Indeed, despite promising to end the use of signing statements, he has continued to use them.

Obama has failed to close Guantanamo Bay or any other CIA torture "black site" as he promised to do.

Obama has failed in his promise to "reject the Military Commissions Act" and instead has supported the use of military commissions.

Obama has continued to allow the rendition and torture of detainees, while protecting Bush administration officials who ordered torture from prosecution and blocking the release of evidence related to torture.

Obama has gone even further than the Bush administration in introducing "preventative detention" of detainees; ensuring people will never get a trial.

In restating his support for warrantless wiretapping of American citizens, Obama has once again proven that his promise of "change" was nothing more than a hollow and deceptive political platitude to ensure his election. Since he took office, Obama has betrayed almost every promise he made and effectively become nothing more than the third term of the Bush administration.

Obama Worked for the CIA New Details on Obama's CIA-Front Employer



Barry Soetoro a.k.a. Barack Obama

OBAMA-CIA from p. 1

cabinet in 1968 and 1972.

Obama's mother, Ann Dunham, and his father, Barack Obama, Sr., met at the University of Hawaii in 1960 in a Russian-language class. At the time, the CIA and Britain's MI-6 were concerned about Soviet

penetration of Kenya's independence movement. Kenya became independent of Britain in 1963.

After marrying Indonesian national Lolo Soetoro, Dunham moved with Barack Obama, Jr. to Indonesia in 1966, just as the Suharto dictatorship was consolidating its hold on power, which included the massacre of some 1 million Indonesian Communists. Dunham left Indonesia in 1972, returning to Hawaii with her son. Dunham periodically made trips back to Indonesia, as well as to Pakistan, while working for the Ford Foundation and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the latter commonly used by the CIA for official cover agents.

Dunham Soetoro was in Indonesia when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979. Barack Obama visited Lahore, Pakistan, where his mother worked as a "consultant," in 1981. According to a declassified Top Secret CIA document titled "Worldwide Reaction to the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan", dated February 1980, Indonesia became a hotbed of anti-Soviet students demonstrations after Moscow's invasion of Afghanistan. The report states, "Indonesian students have staged several peaceful demonstrations in Jakarta and three other major cities. They have also demanded the recall of the Soviet Ambassador because of remarks he made to a student delegation on 4 January and have called for a severance of Soviet-Indonesian relations."

CIA files also contain a report on the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations (1971-1973), which is possibly pertinent to the agency's involvement in Indonesia. One of the participants in the Chicago CFR's 1971 conference in Oak Brook was Zbigniew Brzezinski, who would later become President Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser, the chief architect of the US support for the Afghan mujaheddin, and one of Obama's professors at Columbia University.

On April 27, 1973, the Chicago CFR sponsored a seminar titled "Indonesia Today," according to the CFR Chicago report maintained in CIA files. Present were "four representatives of the Center for Strategic International Studies in Jakarta" who discussed in presented papers Indonesia's role in Southeast Asia. One of the participants was Soetaryo Sigit, Indonesia's Minister of Mines.

The CFR report also states that the Atlantic Conference series that attracted the same high-level participants as BIC, was started in 1965 under the auspices of CFR Chicago by Joseph Slater of the Ford Foundation. The Ford Foundation employed Dunham in Indonesia.

CIA files also contain a single page from the "Chicago Buyers Guide." Listed on the page is the address and phone number for Business International Corporation in Chicago: One IBM Plaza, Suite 1420, 60611. 321-0300.

Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC-based investigative journalist, author and syndicated columnist. His latest books are *Jaded Tasks: Big Oil, Black Ops & Brass Plates and Overthrow a Fascist Regime on \$15 a Day*. His website is WayneMadsenReport.com

The Economy Will Not Recover Until Trust is Restored

TRUST from p. 1

where he is going to hand over the milk. Finally, you manage to arrange an elaborate simultaneous exchange. A little taste of life in a world without trust-now imagine trying to arrange a mortgage.

Being able to trust people might seem like a pleasant luxury, but economists are starting to believe that it's rather more important than that. Trust is about more than whether you can leave your house unlocked; it is responsible for the difference between the richest countries and the poorest.

"If you take a broad enough definition of trust, then it would explain basically all the difference between the per capita income of the United States and Somalia," ventures Steve Knack, a senior economist at the World Bank who has been studying the economics of trust for over a decade. That suggests that trust is worth \$12.4 trillion dollars a year to the US, which, in case you are wondering, is 99.5% of this country's income.

Above all, trust enables people to do business with each other. Doing business is what creates wealth.

Economists distinguish between the personal, informal trust that comes from being friendly with your neighbors and the impersonal, institutionalized trust that lets you give your credit card number out over the Internet."

Similarly, market psychologists Richard L. Peterson M.D. and Frank Murtha, Ph.D. wrote in October:

"Trust is the oil in the engine of capitalism, without it, the engine seizes up.

Confidence is like the gasoline, without it the machine won't move.

Trust is gone: there is no longer trust between counterparties in the financial system. Furthermore, confidence is at a low. Investors have lost their confidence in the ability of shares to provide decent returns (since they haven't)."

And two professors of finance write:

"The drop in trust, we believe, is a major factor behind the deteriorating economic conditions. To demonstrate its importance, we launched the Chicago Booth/Kellogg School Financial Trust Index. Our first set of data-based on interviews conducted at the end of December 2008-shows that between September and December, 52 percent of Americans lost trust in the banks. Similarly, 65 percent lost trust in the stock market. A BBB/Gallup poll that surveyed a similar sample of Americans last April confirms this dramatic drop. At that time, 42 percent of Americans trusted financial institutions, versus 34 percent in our survey today, while 53 percent said they trusted US companies, versus just 12 percent today.

As trust declines, so does Americans' willingness to invest their money in the financial system. Our data show that trust in the stock market affects people's intention to buy stocks, even after accounting for expectations of future stock-market performance. Similarly, a person's trust in banks predicts the likelihood that he will make a run on his bank in a moment of crisis: 25 percent of those who don't trust banks withdrew their deposits and stored them as cash last fall, compared with only 3 percent of those who said they still trusted the banks. Thus, trust in financial institutions is a key factor for the smooth functioning of capital markets and, by extension, the economy. Changes in trust matter."

Lewis Page is the author of *Lions, Donkeys and Dinosaurs* and a journalist for *The Register*.

subsidies, and insurance aren't really helping Wall Street. The Street's fundamental problem isn't lack of capital. It's lack of trust. And without trust, Wall Street might as well fold up its fancy tents.

Reich also writes: Despite all the money going directly to the big banks, despite all the government guarantees and loans and special tax breaks, despite the shot-gun weddings and bank mergers, despite the willingness of the Treasury and the Fed to do almost whatever the banks have asked, the reality is that credit is not flowing.

Why? Because the underlying problem isn't a liquidity problem. As I've noted elsewhere, the problem is that lenders and investors don't trust they'll get their money back because no one trusts that the numbers that purport to value securities are anything but wishful thinking. The trouble, in a nutshell, is that the financial entrepreneurship of recent years - the derivatives, credit default swaps, collateralized debt instruments, and so on - has undermined all notion of true value.

Many of these fancy instruments became popular over recent years precisely because they circumvented financial regulations, especially rules on banks' capital adequacy. Big banks created all these off-balance-sheet vehicles because they allowed the big banks to carry less capital.

In other words, I would argue that our economy is not fundamentally stabilizing (notwithstanding a couple of temporary "green shoots") because the government and the financial giants are taking actions and releasing data which encourage more distortion and less trust.

The crisis will deepen unless honest and transparent accounting is used, investments become transparent and understandable again, and the government stops gaming the system for the benefit of the big boys.

Efforts to Instill False Confidence Will Backfire

Indeed, I believe that trying to instill false confidence will actually backfire on Summers, Geithner, Bernanke and the boys and make the crisis worse.

Why? Psychologists say that — until government and business leaders prove they can behave responsibly, and until the perpetrators of financial fraud are held accountable — real trust will not be restored and the economy will not recover

See TRUST p. 8

US Spec-Ops Run Psy-War Websites

PSY-WAR from p. 1

of SOCOM: PSYOP is the dissemination of truthful information to foreign audiences in support of US policy... these activities are not forms of force, but are force multipliers that use nonviolent means in often violent environments... they rely on logic, fear, desire or other mental factors... The ultimate objective of US military psychological operations is to convince enemy, neutral, and friendly nations and forces to take action favorable to the United States...

Their purpose can range from gaining support for US operations to preparing the battlefield for combat.

Now SOCOM's Joint Military Information Support Command, which "orchestrates a 24/7 multi-media campaign formatted to the cultures and languages of relevant audiences" in "what has become a tough, entrenched war of ideas" has deployed what it calls the Trans-Regional Web Initiative (TRWI). Specs on the program were issued last year and earlier this month General Dynamics was awarded \$10,116,177 to run the Initiative for the first year.

The Initiative contract goes into detail: Special Operations Command requires the capability to posture for rapid, on-order global dissemination of web-based influence products and tools in support of strategic and long-term U.S. Government goals...

[Contractors will] develop, design, construct, operate, and maintain a series of synchronized influence websites supporting [Global War On Terror] requirements ... Government estimates a minimum of two and no more than twelve websites.

The SOCOM psywar sites will be run much in the same fashion as any normal web-media portal. There will be "indigenous content stringers and editors" within "targeted regions" providing 24-hour "original features, news, sports, entertainment, economics, politics, cultural reports, business, and similar items of interest to targeted readers".

Looking for operatives fluent in "English (British dialect)"

All the standard bread-and-butter methods will be employed: Government will require the use of XHTML, PHP, Java scripting, and flash development... Free email service for users of TRWI websites, as determined feasible by SOCOM, in order to integrate them as active participants of the site... Contractor is required to incorporate into TRWI websites

the use of web logs (blogs), streaming Video/Audio, moderated chat rooms, downloads of wall papers (inclusive of calendars) when directed by SOCOM... contractor will, at a minimum, develop Internet-based marketing procedures such as use of Google AdWords and Search Engine Optimization to prioritize search result listing of the applicable websites.

The difference will be that rather than a normal media boss, the Initiative websites will be controlled by managers reporting to SOCOM based in US regional command HQs around the world - managers holding US Top Secret/Secure Compartmented Information clearances, with "extensive public diplomacy, journalism, and media relations skills". Rather than ads or venture capital, the cash will come from SOCOM's psyops war chest.

Then there are hints of unconventional web tactics, different from your normal media:

The Government will require the contractor to provide "ghosted" websites that are protected by username and password and ready to go active upon approval by SOCOM.

So who are the "targeted readers" who are to be steered into supporting US policy, in particular the War On Terror?

A hint is given by the list of required foreign target languages, which includes obvious ones like Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Russian, Malay etc - but also French, and "English (British dialect and spelling)".

There's also a suggestion that operations similar to the Initiative may already be running, supporting the "24/7 multi-media campaign" spoken of last year by SOCOM's commander.

The Government will provide the contractor with Government Furnished Information (GFI) from any existing, USSOCOM-operated influence website strategies.

It would appear that any UK media site or channel which appears to be functioning without any visible means of support appropriate to its expenses may in fact be a tentacle of US Special Ops psywar command. (Or the Iranian equivalent, perhaps.)

We've obviously checked with our upper management regarding the identity of our backers, but it seems we don't have any need to know who they are.

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Book Review

War is a Racket:

The Antiwar Classic by America's Most Decorated Soldier, Marine Gen. Smedley Butler. (Paperback)



Published 1935 in the United States of America



Decorated Marine General Cannot Be Ignored

REVIEW BY ROBERT D. STEELE: This book is a real gem, a classic that should be in any library desiring to focus on national security. It is a very readable collection of short essays, ending with a concise collection of photographs that show the horror of war — on one page in particular, a pile of artillery shells labeled "Cause" and below is a photo of a massive pile of bodies, labeled "Effect."

Of particular interest to anyone concerned about the current national security situation, both its expensive misadventures abroad and its intrusive violation of many Constitutional rights at home, is the author's history, not only as the most decorated Marine at the time, with campaign experience all over the world, but as a spokesperson, in retirement, for placing constitutional American principles over imperialist American practice.

The following quotations from the book are intended to summarize it:

"I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested." [p. 10]

"War is a racket. ...It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives." [p. 23] "The general public shoulders the bill [for war]. This bill renders a horrible accounting. Newly placed gravestones. Mangled bodies. Shattered minds. Broken hearts and homes. Economic instability. Depression and all its attendant miseries. Back-breaking taxation for generations and generations." [p. 24]

General Butler is especially scathing

when he looks at post-war casualties. He writes with great emotion about the thousands of traumatized soldiers, many of whom lose their minds and are penned like animals until they die, and he notes that in his time, returning veterans are three times more likely to die prematurely than those who stayed home.

This decorated Marine, who understands and documents in detail the exorbitant profits that a select few insiders (hence the term "racket") make from war, proposes three specific anti-war measures:

- 1) Take the profit out of war. Nationalize and mobilize the industrial sector, and pay every manager no more than each soldier earns.
- 2) Vote for war or no war on the basis of a limited plebiscite in which only those being asked to bear arms and die for their country are permitted to vote.
- 3) Limit US military forces, by Constitutional amendment, to home defense purposes only.

There is a great deal of wisdom and practical experience in this small book—Smedley Butler is to war profiteering what S.L.A. Marshall is to "the soldier's load." While a globalized world and the complex integration of both national and non-national interests do seem to require a global national security strategy and a means of exerting global influence, I am convinced that he is correct about the fundamentals: we must take the profit out of war, and restore the voice of the people in the matter of making war.

Robert D. Steele, a former Marine Corps infantry and intelligence officer for twenty years and the second-ranking civilian (GS-14) in US Marine Corps Intelligence from 1988-1992. Steele is a former clandestine services case officer CIA. He is the founder and CEO of OSS.Net, Inc. as well as the Golden Candle Society.

History's Lessons

Stealing a Nation

The Anglo-American Invasion of Diego Garcia

AN INTERVIEW OF JOHN PILGER BY AMY GOODMAN / DEMOCRACY NOW, 06/07/2007

From the film, "Stealing a Nation": NARRATOR: This is Diego Garcia, the main island of the Chagos group in the Indian Ocean. It was once a phenomenon of natural beauty and peace — a paradise. Today is one of America's biggest military bases in the world. There are more than 2,000 troops, 2 bomber runways, 30 warships, and a satellite spy station.

B-1 and B-52 long-range bombers extended their reach from the British base in Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

NARRATOR: From here the United States has attacked Afghanistan and Iraq. The Pentagon calls it an indispensable platform for policing the world. Diego Garcia is a British colony. It lies midway between Africa and Asia, one of a group of unique coral islands. This is rare film taken by missionaries before the Americans came in the 1960s. Two thousand people lived in the Chagos islands, a gentle Creole population originally from Africa and India whose communities dated back to the late eighteenth century. They were thriving villages: a school, a hospital, a jail, a



Diego Garcia

Garcia for so much of how power imposes itself and disregards the lives and resources of people. The hypocrisy as well. You might remember it is now 25 years since Margaret Thatcher sent the Royal Navy down to the Falkland Islands to rescue 2,000 white Falkland Islanders and kicked the Argentines out. There were 2,000 Chagos islanders whom the British army kicked, uh the British government, kicked out themselves. Of course the key difference was that the Chagos islanders are black. Again, that is a critical element of how power works and who has priority.

So now we bring it up to when these documents are found, and some of the documents are, as I say, incredible. You have the senior legal adviser to the British Foreign Office, the document head maintaining the fiction, coaching British officials how to lie, how to describe an indigenous population as a floating population. Let's rebrand them contract workers. They tried everything. You have other documents talking about how we should lie to the United Nations saying that the islanders agreed to all this. Of course, they didn't. Other documents, which we got out of the Freedom of Information Act in this country showing how the US wanted these islands swept—that was the word that was used—swept of people completely. In the year 2000, after a long struggle and some tenacious work by a number of lawyers, one of whom, Richard Gifford, really only discovered the islanders when he went



Diego Garcia military air field

church, a railway, and, above all, a benign, undisturbed way of life.

AMY GOODMAN: Excerpt of "Stealing a Nation", by John Pilger. John, take it from there.

JOHN PILGER: Well, "Stealing a Nation", I don't often use the word "incredible," but when I started to look into this extraordinary story, I thought it was incredible. It became especially so when a group of us found classified files in the Public Record Office in London, which revealed just how the American and British governments had conspired to expel the entire population of this British colony, all of them British citizens, and dumped them in the slums of Mauritius 1,000 miles away and how the deal was set up. Britain got \$14 million off the cost of a Polaris submarine as a thank you for giving them the Chagos islands.

The Americans wanted Diego Garcia because it almost qualifies as the most perfect place in the world. It's one of the few places in the Indian Ocean that wasn't struck by the tsunami, which is why they wanted it. It is quite literally a paradise. The expulsion was done with coercion, with trickery. People had gone to Mauritius to see relatives and weren't allowed back or gone for health care, weren't allowed back. And then finally when they couldn't really get the rest of the population to leave, they started killing their pets. They shot their dogs, and when the Americans arrived, they used American military equipment to gas the dogs. The message was clear: You are next unless you go. Finally, two ships, evocative of so many expulsions like this, two ships took the remaining—mostly women and children—and dumped them in Mauritius. Then the world heard almost nothing about them for quite some years until the people themselves in Mauritius started to demonstrate outside the British embassy there and a long struggle began.

In the meantime, as you said, the third-biggest US overseas base was built, the longest runways. Afghanistan was attacked from there. Iraq was attacked from there. There is something I should say, to me, of a metaphor about what happened to Diego

and what happened to the island of Vieques, the same thing in the 1940s, the US military moving in and throwing thousands of people off the land to create the biggest military base and training center for the Atlantic fleet. But of course they didn't take everybody off the island. They took about two-thirds of the people off the island, and as a result, there was a continuing battle that finally triumphed a few years ago with the removal of the Navy from Vieques. What is happening now as a result of the court decision because, obviously as you say, most of the population was removed from the island, the ability of the constituency to fight to maintain that?

JOHN PILGER: Let me tell you how uh, how, how the Blair government fought this for the islanders. The High Court in 2000, having said that the islanders had the right to go home, that this was all outrageous, they should go home. The Blair government knew they could not go further in the court, so they invoke something called the Royal Prerogative, which is the divine right of kings, basically, to decree, and this very important power, which George W. Bush, I understand, has now assumed, this very important power Blair has used to go to war. It means that you bypass parliament. You bypass the executive completely. You give the Queen something to read and that is the end of it, and the Queen decreed that the islanders would never go home. But what is important since then, is that the High Court has come back, and here you have the judiciary now in Britain, as the executive becomes more and more concentrated in absolute power, the judiciary is playing almost a traditional role. The High Court again came back and said this is repugnant. That is the word it used. This is repugnant. These islanders have their rights. Now, as of a couple of weeks ago, the court is saying they can go back to the Chagos islands, but they can't go back to where most of them come from, and that is Diego Garcia, where the US base is.

Now, if you look back at the old files, the US didn't want them. There is plenty of room for them there. In fact, they could work on the base in that traditional way, unfortunately, but they wanted to do that. The US saw them as a potential national liberation movement. I have to tell you



Diego Garcia naval base

AMY GOODMAN: I want to just play a clip, one more clip, from "Stealing a Nation", where you discuss the British government making the claim that Diego Garcia did not have an indigenous population. This is the clip.

NARRATOR: They said the islanders did not really belong to the Chagos but were merely temporary contract workers. Foreign Office memorandum, July 1965:

"People were born there. In some cases there parents were born there, too. The intention is, however, that none of them should be regarded as being permanent inhabitants of the islands."

NARRATOR: So how would they be regarded?

"The legal position of inhabitants would be greatly simplified, from our point of view, though not necessarily from theirs, if we decided to treat them as a floating population."

NARRATOR: Foreign Office memo, November 1965:

"There is a civilian population. In practice, however, I would advise a policy of quiet disregard. In other words, let's forget about this one until the United Nations challenges on it."

AMY GOODMAN: An excerpt of "Stealing a Nation." Juan?

JUAN GONZALEZ: This whole saga of what has happened to Diego Garcia is a direct echo or reflection in terms of my own experience, having been born in Puerto Rico

that this campaign has been led mostly by elderly women, extraordinary women, many of whom simply don't want to die before they see their homeland again. So it's got to the point where they can go back to the outlying islands, but they can't go back to where most of them come from. They're going to need a lot of support, and it's about a government defying the court. It's like the US defying the Supreme Court; the High Court is the same, and we have a standoff at the moment.

JUAN GONZALEZ: And who does the work on the island of Diego Garcia? In other words, does the United States bring in laborers from other countries?

JOHN PILGER: Yes, it brings in the usual cheap contract workers. How ironic, it goes back to what they call the original inhabitants, the floating and contract population. They bring in people from the Indian subcontinent and of course Filipinos and others. They security vet them and so on and so forth.

John Pilger is a world-renowned journalist, author and documentary filmmaker, who began his career in 1958 in his homeland, Australia, before moving to London in the 1960s. Visit his website johnpilger.com.

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"The Mouth That Roars"

The FBI War on Tupac Shakur and Radical Blacks

TUPAC from p. 1

generation of less conventional leaders, such as activist-converted gangs and politically-linked rappers. This article is a summary of a book on this subject, *The FBI War on Tupac Shakur and Black Leaders*, which includes a thousand endnotes on its sources.

US Intelligence's Targeting of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

The US Intelligence apparatus is comprised of over 15 agencies, including the CIA, NAS, Military Intelligence, and it also includes the FBI which oversees local police intelligence. Historians and social scientists such as Michael Parenti, Peter Dale Scott and many others, have documented the fact that these

agencies work for the interests of the wealthiest American families and the multinational corporations they control. It is these elite families who contribute to politicians' campaigns and have documented family links to US Intelligence leadership. The job of the intelligence agencies is to protect the status quo—to protect the wealth and power of the elite families they serve. These agencies had every reason to want to eliminate radical black leaders trying to change the system. Leaders such as Malcolm X, MLK and Tupac Shakur were a threat to the system.

Gunmen fatally shot Malcolm X as he gave a speech in New York on February 21, 1965. Malcolm's security guard Eugene Roberts was the first to arrive at his body and confirm his death. Five years later, Roberts would reveal himself to be an undercover police intelligence agent when he testified in the trial of two Shakurs who led the New York Black Panthers.

Court records show that it was US military and Intelligence assets who assassinated Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. Attorney William Pepper conducted a 20-year investigation of MLK's assassination as attorney for the King family. His work culminated in two trials. The first, this one unofficial, proved that James Earl Ray did not kill Dr. King. The second, a civil trial in 1999, resulted in a

judgement against one of the government intelligence co-conspirators and put into the public record proof of extensive government involvement in the assassination. The controlled media has never bothered to report the facts of the case.

In the trial, Pepper revealed that Military Intelligence Group undercover agent Marrell McCullough had infiltrated MLK's inner circle. It was agent McCullough who immediately ran to MLK just after his shooting. McCullough had the assignment of checking MLK's life signs to communicate to other intelligence agents whether his wounds were fatal, the same role that agent Eugene Roberts had fulfilled in the Malcolm X assassination.

FBI Tactics Against Panthers Revealed; Continued as "Anti-Terrorism"

Tupac Shakur was born into a family of radical black activists. His father and uncles were all associates of Malcolm X in his Organization of Afro-American Unity. After Malcolm's death the Shakurs continued their activism with the Black Panther Party. Unfortunately for them, undercover COINTELPRO agent Eugene Roberts followed them into the Panthers.

Huey Newton and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in 1966. They appointed Lumumba Shakur head of the Harlem Panthers. Tupac's mother Afeni Shakur joined the Harlem chapter and married Lumumba. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover described the Black Panthers as "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country." The Black Panthers were, for many years, the primary target of FBI COINTELPRO operations. Their "threatening" activities included free breakfast programs for poor kids and free health care programs.

In 1969, Eugene Roberts and other undercover agents framed the Shakurs and 19 other leading New York Panthers. The "New York Panther 21" decided to have Afeni first gain release on bail and then lead the Harlem Panthers as they awaited trial for over a year.

During the New York Panther 21 trial in 1971, activists raided a Pennsylvania FBI office and found documents on the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (Cointelpro) involving targeting left-wing radicals, particularly blacks. These documents revealed how the FBI had accomplished its goal to "neutralize" the Black Panthers through assassinations, harassment arrests, and other tactics. One FBI strategy involved pitting East Coast Panthers, such as Afeni Shakur, against

Panthers that included Huey Newton. The media dubbed this the East versus West Panther War.

A month after her 1971 acquittal, Afeni gave birth to Tupac Amaru Shakur. Lumumba and Afeni had divorced by the time of their acquittal. She continued her activism and named Los Angeles Panther leader Geronimo Pratt as Tupac's godfather.

Former intelligence agents such as the FBI's M. Wesley Swearingen said his agency officially ended their Cointelpro program in 1971, but continued the same operations under different names. For example, they started "anti-terrorist" units that continued attacking the Black Panthers. In 1971, police attacked Bronx Panther co-leader Zayd Shakur and fellow Panther Assata Shakur. They went underground and helped start the Black Liberation Army. New Jersey police killed Zayd and wounded Assata in a controversial 1973 shoot-out.

In New York, the Revolutionary Armed Task Force (RATF), which included members of the Black Liberation Army, the Weather Underground and Puerto Rican Independence activists, reportedly robbed banks to underwrite healthcare in the Bronx. Police also charged the RATF with breaking Assata out of prison in 1979 and helping her gain political exile status in Cuba, where she resides today.

A new federal/state/local police amalgam in New York, the Joint Terrorist Task Force, used this case to arrest dozens of activists. They charged Mutulu with "conspiracy" related to the shooting/bank heist, not actual participation. In court, a judge reported that the FBI used Cointelpro tactics in their illegal surveillance of Mutulu for years, yet they still failed to present any physical evidence of his involvement in the bank truck incident. Nonetheless, using a witness given leniency for actually committing the bank heist, they convicted Mutulu in 1986.

FBI Focus on Tupac Shakur: Panther Leader

By the time Tupac turned 17, The New Afrikan Panthers elected him their youngest-ever national chairman. Black Panthers and Republic of New Afrika activists had founded the New Afrikan People's Organization (NAPO). Their young adult New Afrikan Panthers attempted to replicate the Black Panthers with chapters in eight cities.

FBI agent Richard Held supervised the San Francisco FBI office in the Bay area where the Shakurs had moved. Agent Held had previously directed the Los Angeles Cointelpro team's murders of Panthers and the frame-up of Geronimo Pratt in 1971. Agent Held then contributed to the cover-up of Huey Newton's 1989 murder. In 1990, evidence presented in a multimillion-dollar government court settlement, shows that Agent Held's FBI team planted a bomb under the car seat of Earth First! environmental leader Judi Bari, leaving her paralyzed.

Agent Held oversaw at least two

attacks on Tupac Shakur in the San Francisco Bay area. Oakland police stopped Tupac for jaywalking within several days of his first MTV worldwide video release in 1991. Oakland police arrested him, beat his head against the pavement and choked him unconscious. Both police brutality tactics have caused other victims' deaths. Tupac would later note, "I never had a record until I made a record."

In 1992, the San Francisco Bay area's Marin City invited Tupac to be an honorary guest at a music festival. At the event Tupac was attacked by unknown assailants who punched and then shot at the rap star. Police watched the incident and then arrested Tupac and his stepbrother but not the attackers. These and other details of the attack strongly suggest that the attack was one of Richard Held's Cointelpro operations.

Tupac Used Thug Façade to Politicize Gangs; Atlanta Police & NYC Attacks

Insiders confirmed that Tupac Shakur projected a gangsta rap persona as part of a secret political plan. He wanted to appeal to gangs in order to politicize them. Tupac, Mutulu Shakur, former Black Panthers brokered peace truces between Bloods and Crips gang sects. They then turned them on to left-wing politics. Similar gang transformations started spreading nationwide. The FBI and police intelligence retaliated against this movement by arresting gang peace truce leaders.

Police increased their attacks on Tupac at this time using the same "harassment arrest" strategy that they used against his Black Panther family. Witnesses stated that "off-duty" Atlanta plainclothes police officers smashed Tupac's car window and shot at him in October of 1993.

About two weeks after the shooting, a new "friend" of Tupac's, Jacques Agnant (a.k.a. Haitian Jack, Nigel), introduced the rap star to a woman in a New York dance club. After having sex with them that night, the woman returned several nights later and accused Tupac and Agnant of rape.

Amongst much police foul play, an officer admitted that police erased the woman's request for more sex on Tupac's hotel answering machine. Then, Tupac's lawyer obtained Agnant's long rap sheet for major charges that were all dismissed—a sure sign that Agnant did police intelligence work. A long-time police lawyer represented Agnant in court to defend him in the sodomy case, further confirming that Agnant was a police agent.

The night before the jury deliberated Tupac's case, an associate of Agnant's called the rapper to a recording studio lobby where gunmen ambushed Tupac and put two bullets in his head as the entertainer lay face down on the ground. Tupac miraculously survived. A studio guard said he offered the police a security camera videotape of the shooting but they refused to take the tape. The gunmen remain at-large.

FBI's East/West War and Police Front Group Targets Tupac, Biggie

The jury for the sexual assault trial acquitted Tupac of all the major charges, from forced sodomy to gun possession. They only found him guilty of touching Ayanna Jackson's butt against her will. While police informant Agnant only received two misdemeanors, Tupac was given 4 years in jail.

Despite the minor nature of

the charges, Tupac was sent to an upstate New York maximum-security prison. They apparently did this in order to utilize "Penal Coercion" on Tupac for the eleven months he remained in prison. (Amnesty International documented how prison officials used Penal Coercion techniques to damage the minds of political prisoners.) Officials used these coercion tactics to convince Tupac that his rapper friend Biggie Smalls orchestrated his shooting. This manufactured "feud," spurred on by Cointelpro, escalated into the East versus West rap war in the same way the FBI had created the East/West Panther war in the 60s.

Desperate to leave prison, Tupac signed a contract with Death Row Records in 1995. Evidence supports that Death Row Records worked as a US Intelligence front company. High level Los Angeles police detective Russell Poole said that dozens of LA police officers worked at Death Row records as "covert agents." Death Row instigated the East/West rap war, targeted political rappers and reportedly trafficked drugs. They also tried to end the Bloods/Crips peace truce.

In 1996, Tupac fired his lawyer who actually owned Death Row Records. Death Row Records then fired Tupac's bodyguard, Kevin Hackie, an undercover FBI agent who apparently disobeyed FBI orders by trying to dissuade Tupac from taking the fateful trip to Las Vegas.

Gunmen fatally shot Tupac in Vegas. FBI Agent Hackie claims that the FBI watched the shooting. The FBI further had pictures of Biggie Smalls within minutes of his Los Angeles murder in 1997. Detective Poole, the lead investigator of Biggie Smalls' murder, said his fellow officers at Death Row Records killed Biggie to make their murder of Tupac look like part of the East/West rapper war.

A Continuum of Targeting Activist Musicians: From Hendrix to Rappers

Such murderous targeting has a history and continues today. Jimi Hendrix began supporting the Panthers after MLK's assassination. While the FBI had him under close surveillance, a "former" MI6 agent inserted himself as Hendrix's manager and sabotaged his career. Within 48 hours of Hendrix firing his manager, the guitar legend was dead. Hendrix's fiancée stated that government foul play surrounded his death. She died mysteriously in 1996, just months after publishing this information.

In recent years, reports found that New York and Los Angeles police "rap" units trained police nationwide in FBI Counterintelligence Program (Cointelpro) tactics for attacking politically-linked rappers. Police foul play has been directed against popular rap artists as soon as they start getting involved in activism, including P-Diddy, Nas, Mos Def, Snoop Dogg, The Coup, Wu Tang Clan, Jay Z, Jam Master Jay and Eminem. The FBI also targeted other activist musicians, such as Rage Against the Machine and Spearhead. These injustices demand an independent investigation and response.

John Potash is author of The FBI War on Tupac Shakur and Black Leaders: US Intelligence's Murderous Targeting of Tupac, MLK, Malcolm, Panthers, Hendrix, Marley Rappers & Linked Ethnic Leftists. Foreword by Pam Africa with Mumia Abu-Jamal. Afterword by Fred Hampton, Jr. www.fbwarontupac.com copyright John Potash, 2009

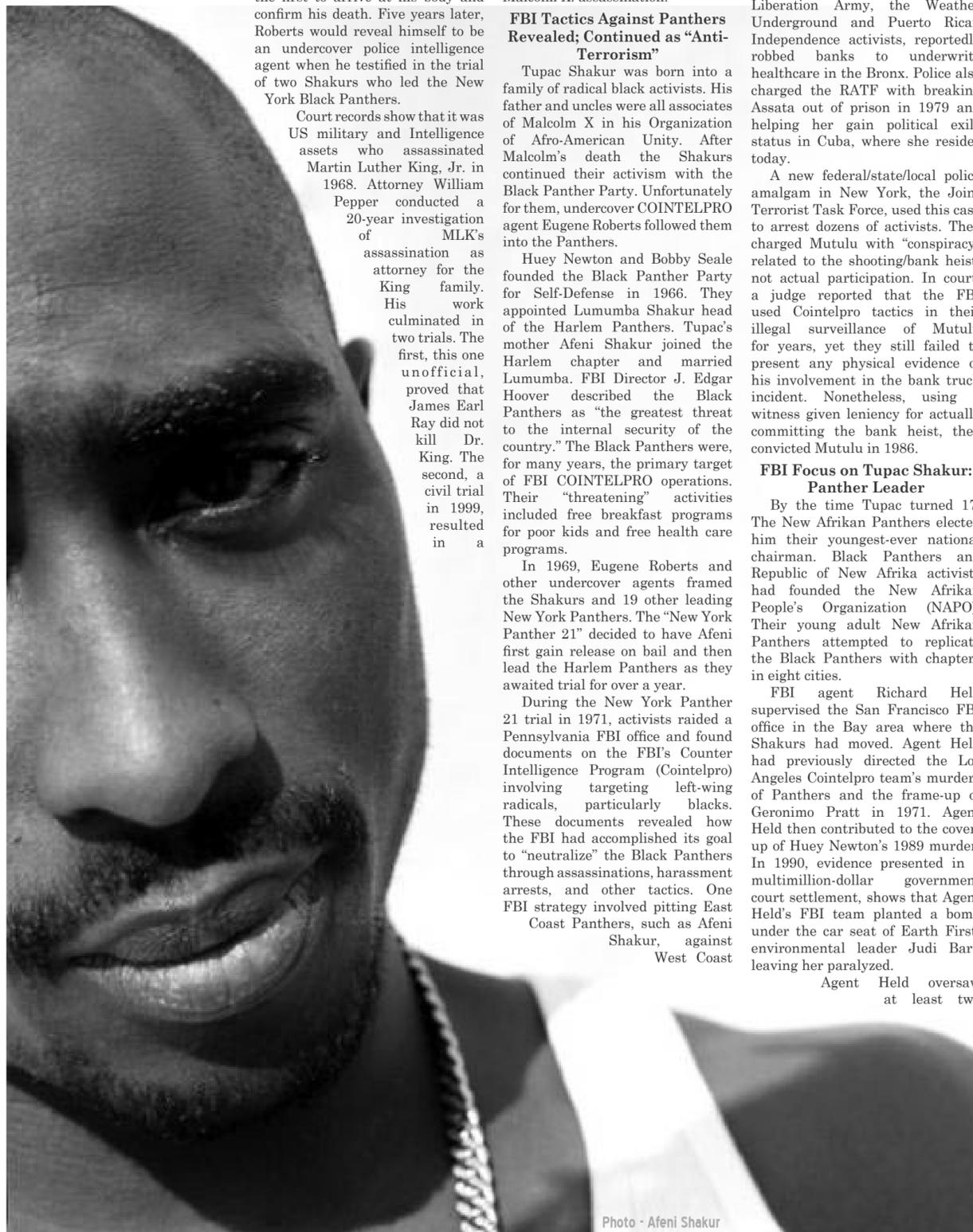


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Wall Street's 9/11

Did Lehman Brothers Fall or Was It Pushed?

WALL STREET from p. 1

"Geithner has supposedly ruled out the bankruptcy option because when he, along with Henry Paulson and Ben Bernanke, tried letting Lehman Brothers go under last fall, it didn't turn out very well. Of course, it is not necessary to go the route of an uncontrolled bankruptcy that Geithner and Co. pursued with Lehman. . . . [But] the Geithner crew insists that there are no alternatives to his plan; we have to just keep giving hundreds of billions of dollars to the banks . . . further enriching the bankers who wrecked the economy."



but UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling would not give the necessary waiver. He said something to the effect that he did not want to infect Britain with America's cancer. The sentiment was understandable, but the question was, why did he wait until it was too late for the Treasury or the Federal Reserve to move in with other arrangements?

The issue takes on more significance in light of the fact that Chancellor Darling played a similar role in another 9-11 collapse the previous year. On September 11, 2007, frantic customers were lining up outside Northern Rock, the UK's fifth largest mortgage lender, in the first British bank run in 141 years. The bank's shares plunged 31% in a single day. Like the collapse of Lehman Brothers in the U.S., the bankruptcy of Northern Rock changed the rules of the game. Britain's major banks too would now be saved at any cost, in order to avoid the loss of customer confidence, panic and bank runs that could precipitate a 1929-style market crash.

With Northern Rock, as with Lehman Brothers, Alistair Darling could have saved the day but backed down. Northern Rock had a willing buyer, Lloyds TSB; but the buyer needed a loan from the Bank of England, which the Bank's Governor, Mervyn King, had denied. Darling was advised by his staff to overrule the Governor and grant the loan, but this would have cost political capital for UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who had been widely lauded for giving the Bank of England its independence in 1997.

Brown is criticized domestically for precipitating the financial crisis with errors made as Chancellor of the Exchequer before he became Prime Minister. Critics maintain the British Treasury has abdicated its responsibility as the financial overseer of the British economy to the Bank of England, which in many ways controls the government, because its advice is always followed regarding the British budget. The whole scenario suggests that the much-vaunted virtues of an independent central bank are overblown. Some economists, including Milton Friedman and Ben Bernanke, blame poor policymaking by an independent Federal Reserve for bringing on the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Shock Therapy?

According to Representative Paul Kanjorski (D-PA), speaking on C-SPAN in January 2009, the collapse of Lehman Brothers precipitated a \$550 billion run on the money market funds on Thursday, September 18. This was the dire news that Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson presented to Congress behind closed doors, prompting Congressional approval of Paulson's \$700 billion bank bailout despite deep misgivings. It was the sort of "shock therapy" discussed by Naomi Klein in

her book *The Shock Doctrine*, in which a major crisis prompts hasty emergency action involving the relinquishment of rights or funds that would otherwise be difficult to pry loose from the citizenry.

Like the "bombing" of Lehman stock on September 11, the \$550 billion money market run was suspicious. The stock market had plunged when Lehman filed for bankruptcy on September 15, but it actually went up on September 16. Why did the money market wait until September 18 to collapse? A report by the Joint Economic Committee pointed to the fact that the \$62 billion Reserve Primary Fund had "broken the buck" (fallen below a stable \$1 per share) due to its Lehman investments; but that had occurred on September 15, and the fund had suspended redemptions for the following week. What dire reversal happened on September 17? According to the SEC, it was another record day for illegal naked short selling. Failed trades climbed to 49.7 million - 23% of Lehman trades.

The Larger Question Is Why?

All of this suggests that Lehman Brothers did not just fall over the brink but was pushed. Judge James Peck, who presided in the bankruptcy proceedings, said "Lehman Brothers became a victim, in effect the only true icon to fall in a tsunami that has befallen the credit markets."

If Lehman was indeed sacrificed, who pushed it and to what end? Some critics point to Henry Paulson and his cronies at Goldman Sachs, Lehman's arch rival. Goldman certainly came out on top after Lehman's demise, but there are other possibilities as well, involving more global players. The month after Lehman collapsed, Gordon Brown and the EU leaders called for using the financial crisis as an opportunity to radically enhance the regulatory power of global institutions. Brown spoke of "a new global financial order," echoing the "new world order" referred to by globalist banker David Rockefeller when he said in 1994:

"We are on the verge of a global transformation. All we need is the right major crisis and the nations will accept the new world order."

Richard Haas, President of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations, wrote in 2006:

"Globalization . . . implies that sovereignty is not only becoming weaker in reality, but that it needs to become weaker."

Sovereignty is one of these cherished rights that nations will give up only with "the right major crisis." Gordon Brown put it like this:

"Sometimes it takes a crisis for people to agree that what is obvious and should have been done years ago, can no longer be postponed. . . . We must create a new international financial architecture for the global age."

In April 2009, Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling hosted the G20 summit in London, which focused on the financial crisis. A global currency issue was approved, and an international Financial Stability Board was agreed to as global regulator, to be based in the controversial Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland. The international bankers who caused the financial crisis are indeed capitalizing on it, consolidating their power in "a new global financial order" that gives them top-down global control. Just some food for thought as September 11 rolled around again.

Ellen Hodgson Brown, J.D. has written extensively on economics. Her latest book is *Web Of Debt: The Shocking Truth About Our Money System and How We Can Break Free*. www.WebOfDebt.com

The Economy Will Not Recover Until Trust is Restored

TRUST from p. 5

For example, one of the leading business schools in America - the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business - has written an essay on the psychological causes and solutions to the economic crisis. Wharton points out that restoring trust is the key to recovery, and that trust cannot be restored until wrongdoers are held accountable:

According to David M. Sachs, a training and supervision analyst at the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia, the crisis today is not one of confidence, but one of trust. "Abusive financial practices were unchecked by personal moral controls that prohibit individual criminal behavior, as in the case of [Bernard] Madoff, and by complex financial manipulations, as in the case of AIG." The public, expecting to be protected from such abuse, has suffered a trauma of loss similar to that after 9/11. "Normal expectations of what is safe and dependable were abruptly shattered," Sachs noted. "As is typical of post-traumatic states, planning for the future could not be based on old assumptions about what is safe and what is dangerous. A radical reversal of how to be gratified occurred."

People now feel more gratified saving money than spending it, Sachs suggested. They have trouble trusting promises from the government because they feel the government has let them down.

He framed his argument with a fictional patient named Betty Q. Public, a librarian with two teenage children and a husband, John, who had recently lost his job. "She felt betrayed because she and her husband had invested conservatively and were double-crossed by dishonest, greedy businessmen, and now she distrusted the government that had failed to protect them from corporate dishonesty. Not only that, but she had little trust in things turning around soon enough to enable her and her husband to accomplish their previous goals."

"By no means a sophisticated economist, she knew . . . that some people had become fantastically wealthy by misusing other people's money - hers included," Sachs said. "In short, John and Betty had done everything right and were being punished, while the dishonest people were going unpunished."

Helping an individual recover from a traumatic experience provides a useful analogy for understanding how to help the economy recover from its own traumatic experience, Sachs pointed out. The public will need to "hold the perpetrators of the economic disaster responsible and take what actions they can to prevent them from harming the economy again." In addition, the public will have to see proof that government and business leaders can behave responsibly before they will trust them again, he argued.

Note that Sachs urges "hold[ing] the perpetrators of the economic disaster responsible." In other words, just "looking forward" and promising to do things differently isn't enough. Are the "perpetrators of the economic disaster" being held accountable?

So far, Obama, Summers, Geithner, Bernanke and the crew have tried to paper over the cause and severity of the financial crisis, instead of honestly addressing them. They haven't lifted a finger to hold anyone accountable (other than a Madoff or two), but have actually thrown billions of dollars at the perpetrators (or else appointed them to government posts).

Indeed, William Black says that "the [government's] entire strategy is to keep people from getting the facts".

Economist Dean Baker made a similar point, lambasting the Federal Reserve for blowing the bubble, and pointing out that those who caused the disaster are trying to shift the focus as fast as they can:

The current craze in DC policy circles is to create a "systematic risk regulator" to make sure that the country never experiences another economic crisis like the current one. This push is part of a cover-up of what really went wrong and does absolutely nothing to address the underlying problem that led to this financial and economic collapse.

The key fact that everyone must always remember is that the story of the collapse was not complex. We did not need great minds sifting through endless reams of data and running incredibly complex computer simulations to discover the underlying problem in the economy. We just needed some people who understood the sort of arithmetic that most of us learned in 3rd grade.

If the people at the Fed, the Treasury, and in other key positions had mastered arithmetic, and were prepared to act on their knowledge, they would have taken steps to stem the growth of the housing bubble. They would have prevented the bubble from growing to the point where its inevitable collapse would bring down both the US economy and the world economy. . . .

We didn't need some super-genius to solve the mystery. We just needed an economist who could breathe and do arithmetic. But the DC policy crowd tells us that if only we had a systematic risk regulator, this disaster could have been prevented.

Okay, let's do a thought experiment. Suppose we had our systematic risk regulator in 2002. Would this person have stood up to Alan Greenspan and said that the country is facing a huge housing bubble the collapse of which will sink the economy?

Alan Greenspan said that there was no housing bubble; everything was just fine. Would our systematic risk regulator have said that Greenspan was nuts and that the whole economy was a house of cards waiting to collapse?

Anyone who believes that a risk regulator would have challenged the great Greenspan knows nothing about the way Washington works. The government is run by people who first and foremost want to advance their careers.

And, the best way to advance your career in Washington is to go along with what everyone else is saying. If that was not completely obvious before the collapse of the housing bubble, it certainly should be obvious now.

How many people in government have lost their jobs because they failed to see the bubble? How many people even missed a promotion? In fact, the top financial officials in the Obama administration, without exception, completely missed the housing bubble. One might think it was a job requirement.

This lack of accountability among economists and economic analysts is the core problem that must be tackled. Unless these people are held accountable for their failures in the same way as custodians and dishwashers, there will never be any incentive to buck the crowd and point out looming disasters like the housing bubble.

The reality is that we have a systematic risk regulator. It is called the Federal Reserve Board.

They blew it completely. We will do far more to prevent the next crisis by holding our current risk regulator accountable for its failure (fire people) than by pretending that we somehow had a gap in our regulatory structure and creating another worthless bureaucracy.

Remember also that the Wharton study pointed out that "the public, expecting to be protected from such abuse, has suffered a trauma of loss similar to that after 9/11."

Trying to put a happy face on a grim situation, continuing to do things which are transparent attempts to instill false confidence, and leaving in power the people who caused the crisis reinforces the market's convictions that (1) government and business leaders are behaving irresponsibly instead of addressing the fundamental problems and (2) there is no accountability.

So people's trust declines still further, thus substantially delaying any chance of a sustainable economic recovery. In other words, by trying too hard to instill confidence, the powers-that-be actually undermine it and exacerbate the financial crisis.

So What Will Help?

Keeping quiet about how bad things are won't help. As numerous leading independent economists and financial experts agree, the three things that will help are:

1. Honestly addressing the causes of the crisis;
2. Honestly addressing the necessary - if bitter - medicine needed to get out of the crisis; and
3. Holding responsible those who caused the crisis.

Time Magazine notes: "Traditionally, gold has been a store of value when citizens do not trust their government politically or economically."

In other words, the government's political actions affect investments, such as gold.

It is interesting to note that Americans no longer trust their politicians, the justice system, their ability to obtain liberty, or the media. Americans know that the Bush-boys launched the war in Iraq (which will end up costing \$3-5 trillion dollars) based upon justifications which turned out to be untrue. Many Americans have read that the government imported communist [North Korean and Chinese] torture techniques and then said "we don't torture". Many Americans also know that the government spied on American citizens (even before 9/11) while saying "we don't spy", and that the government apparently planned both the Afghanistan war and the Iraq war long before 9/11.

This is an economic, not a political, essay. But I think the lack of trust in government concerning political issues poses an interesting question. Specifically, is it possible that the American people's distrust of the government concerning the above-described issues also bleeds over into a lack of trust in the government's economic actions and statements? In other words, if people discover that a government is lying about political issues, do people trust the government's pronouncements about economic issues less?

I don't know the answer, but analyzing the possibility could provide a researcher with an interesting project or a PhD candidate with a potential doctoral thesis.

This essay was edited for length. Find the complete essay, and more, at GeorgeWashington.BlogSpot.com

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