

Rock Creek Free Press

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

US Constitution May Be Suspended

War, National Emergency and "Continuity of Government"

By PETER DALE SCOTT / GLOBAL RESEARCH

In July 1987, during the Iran-Contra hearings grilling of Oliver North, the American public got a glimpse of "highly sensitive" emergency planning North had been involved in. Ostensibly, these were emergency plans to suspend the American Constitution in the event of a nuclear attack (a legitimate concern). But press accounts alleged that the planning was for a more generalized suspension of the Constitution.

As part of its routine Iran-contra coverage, the following exchange was printed in the *New York Times*, but without journalistic comment or follow-up: **Congressman Jack Brooks:** Colonel North, in your work at the N.S.C. were you not assigned, at one time, to work on plans for the continuity of government in the event of a major disaster?

Both North's attorney and Sen. Daniel Inouye, the Democratic Chair of the Committee, responded in a way that

showed they were aware of the issue:

Brendan Sullivan [North's counsel, agitatedly]: Mr. Chairman?

Senator Daniel Inouye: I believe that question touches upon a highly sensitive and classified area so may I request that you not touch upon that?

Brooks: I was particularly concerned, Mr. Chairman, because I read in Miami papers, and several others, that there had been a plan developed, by that same agency, a contingency plan in the event of emergency, that would suspend the American Constitution. And I was deeply concerned about it and wondered if that was an area in which he had worked. I believe that it was and I wanted to get his confirmation.

Inouye: May I most respectfully request that that matter not be touched upon at this stage. If we wish to get into this, I'm certain arrangements can be made for an executive session.¹

But we have never heard if there was or was not an executive session, or if the

rest of Congress was ever aware of the matter. According to James Bamford, "The existence of the secret government was so closely held that Congress was completely bypassed."² (Key individuals in Congress were almost certainly aware.)

Brooks was responding to a story by Alfonzo Chardy in the *Miami Herald*. Chardy's story alleged that Oliver North was involved with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in plans to take over federal, state and local functions during a national emergency. This planning for "Continuity of Government" (COG) called for "suspension of the Constitution, turning control of the government over to the FEMA, emergency appointment of military commanders to run state and local governments and declaration of martial law."³

To my knowledge no one in the public (including myself) attached enough importance to the Chardy story. Chardy

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Did the CIA Kill Jimi Hendrix?

By JOHN POTASH / RCFP



Newly released songs by legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix have led music magazines such as *Rolling Stone* to feature him in cover stories, despite his death four decades ago. Closer scrutiny of Hendrix's life suggests that US and British Intelligence targeted Hendrix for developing anti-war and pro-Black Panther politics. Such targeting helps explain why Hendrix failed to release much of his music before his death. It also exemplifies the extreme tactics imperialist governments use to stop anyone who could have more sway over people's hearts and minds than does the government.

This past March stores started selling a CD of Hendrix's previously unreleased recordings, titled "Valleys of Neptune". These dozen songs were some of the hundreds Hendrix failed to release during his brief career. Posthumous releases of the prolific guitarist's recordings continued for decades after his death.

New evidence supports one of the reasons why Jimi Hendrix's manager, Mike Jeffery, worked to block Hendrix from releasing more of his songs. Leading biographers have said in print that Jeffery stated he "used to" work for MI6—Britain's CIA. In 2009, James Wright, a road manager for a band that Mike Jeffery also

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The Death of Aiyana Jones: 'Showtime Syndrome' Claims a Child



By WILLIAM NORMAN GRIGG / PROLIBERTATE

In physics, the term "observer effect" describes how examining a phenomenon can change it, because of the influence of the instruments used to make the observation. Something similar happens to human interactions when cameras are present. The irresistible impulse to play to the lens makes human behavior mannered and self-aware. Every statement becomes a performance, every gesture a pose.

The steady onslaught of police propaganda shows of the "COPS" genre constitutes the worst and most dangerous form of "reality" television.

A couple of years ago, I coined the term "COPS Effect" to describe how pseudo-documentary programs glorifying the police abet irresponsible (but highly telegenic) use of paramilitary tactics. The presence of cameras during law enforcement operations often triggers a condition I call "Showtime Syndrome," a frequently lethal tendency toward self-dramatization on the part of police.

Conflict and danger, whether genuine

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The Mysterious CAFRs:

How Stagnant Pools of Government Money Could Help Save the Economy

By ELLEN BROWN / WEBOFDEBT.COM

For over a decade, accountant Walter Burien has been trying to rouse the public over what he contends is a massive conspiracy and cover-up, involving trillions of dollars squirreled away in funds maintained at every level of government. His numbers may be disputed, but these funds definitely exist, as evidenced by the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFRs) required of every government agency. If they don't represent a concerted government conspiracy, what are they for? And how can they be harnessed more efficiently to help allay the financial crises of state and local governments?

The Elusive CAFR Money

Burien is a former commodity trading adviser who has spent many years peering into government books. He notes that the government is composed of 54,000 different state, county, and local government entities, including school districts, public authorities, and the like; and that these entities all keep their financial assets in liquid investment funds, bond financing accounts and corporate stock portfolios. The only income that must be reported in government budgets is that from taxes, fines and fees; but the investments of government entities can be found in official annual reports (CAFRs), which must be filed with the federal government by local, county and state governments.

These annual reports show that virtually every US city, county, and state has vast amounts of money stashed away in surplus funds. Burien maintains that these slush funds have been kept concealed from taxpayers, even as taxes are being raised and citizens are being told to expect fewer government services.

Burien was originally alerted to this information by Lt. Col. Gerald Klatt, who evidently died in 2004 under mysterious circumstances, adding fuel to claims of conspiracy and cover-up. Klatt was an Air Force auditor and federal accountant, and it's not impossible that he may have gotten too close to some military stash being used for nefarious ends. But it is

See CAFRS p. 7

Oil Blob in Gulf Much Worse Than Reported

By MIKE ADAMS / NATURALNEWS

On May 8, I published an article on NaturalNews questioning the media spin on the massive oil spill in the Gulf. That story, entitled "Is Gulf Oil Rig Disaster Far Worse Than We're Being Told?", stated the following:

"It's hard to say exactly what's going on in the Gulf right now, especially because there are so many conflicting reports and unanswered questions. But one thing's certain: if the situation is actually much worse than we're being led to believe, there could be worldwide catastrophic consequences. If it's true that millions upon millions of gallons of crude oil are flooding the Gulf with no end in sight, the massive oil slicks being created could make their way into the Gulf Stream currents, which would carry them not only up the East Coast but around the world where they could absolutely destroy the global fishing industries."

Now, one month later, it turns out that

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Deepwater Horizon just before it sank into the Gulf of Mexico

American Psychological Association Scrubs Links to CIA Torture Workshops

By JEFFREY KAYE / THE PUBLIC RECORD

Like a modern-day Ministry of Truth, the American Psychological Association (APA) has scrubbed its Web page describing "deception scenarios" workshops that were part of a conference it conducted with the CIA and Rand Corporation on July 17-18, 2003. In the addition, the APA erased the link to the page, and even all mention of its existence, from another story at its July 2003 Science Policy Insider News Web site that briefly described the conference.

In May 2007, in an article at Daily Kos, I noted that the workshops were describing "new ways to utilize drugs and sensory bombardment techniques to break down

interrogatees." Quoting from the APA's description (found only in an archived version of the APA Web site):

- How do we find out if the informant has knowledge of which s/he is not aware?
- How important are differential power and status between witness and officer?
- What pharmacological agents are known to affect apparent truth-telling behavior?
- What are sensory overloads on the maintenance of deceptive behaviors? How might we overload the system or overwhelm the senses and see how it affects deceptive behaviors?

In August 2007, in a landmark article at *Vanity Fair*, journalist Katherine

Eban revealed that Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) psychologists James Mitchell and Bruce Jessen were participants at the APA/CIA/Rand affair. Mitchell and Jessen have since been linked with the implementation of the CIA's "enhanced interrogation techniques" in 2001-2002.

Just last November, in an article at Firedoglake, I recalled the issue of the 2003 conference and asked "Who Will Investigate CIA/RAND/APA Torture 'Workshop'?" I wrote at that time:

"The APA and CIA have a very long history of working together on interrogation techniques, in particular

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US Troops Executing Prisoners In Afghanistan

By DAVID EDWARDS

The journalist who helped break the story that detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq were being tortured by their US jailers told an audience at a journalism conference last month that American soldiers are now executing prisoners in Afghanistan.

New Yorker journalist Seymour Hersh also revealed that the Bush Administration had developed advanced plans for a military strike on Iran.

At the Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Geneva, Hersh criticized President Barack Obama and alleged that US forces are engaged in "battlefield executions."

"I'll tell you right now, one of the great tragedies of my country is that Mr. Obama is looking the other way, because equally horrible things are happening to prisoners,

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Psychiatric Drugs Cause Rapid Weight Gain in Kids

By DAVID GUTIERREZ / NATURALNEWS

A new study has confirmed that atypical antipsychotic drugs can cause rapid weight gain in younger patients, as well as increasing levels of triglycerides and LDL ("bad") cholesterol in their blood.

"We are very much afraid that this will lead to diabetes and metabolic syndrome," researcher Christoph Correll said.

Antipsychotic drugs are intended primarily for people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, but may also be prescribed for children with autism, aggression or tics. The so-called "second generation" or "atypical" antipsychotics have become more popular than older drugs, in part because doctors believed them safer. Emerging research suggests this may not be the case, however, as argued in a 2008 study published in *The Lancet*.

In 2003, the FDA warned that use of the drugs could lead to elevated blood sugar and diabetes. Numerous studies have also linked the drugs to weight gain.

"We found that obesity/weight gain, Type 2 diabetes mellitus, and cardiovascular

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American Psychological Association Scrubs Links to CIA Torture Workshops

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on sensory deprivation and use of drugs like LSD and mescaline in interrogations, and other methods of breaking down the mind and the body of prisoners.

Use of drugs to influence interrogations, in addition to sensory deprivation, distortion and overload or bombardment were signal techniques in a decades-long interrogation research program that came to be known by its most famous moniker, MKULTRA. These torture techniques were studied and tested by the CIA even earlier, in its 1950s projects Bluebird and Artichoke. By the early 1960s such techniques were codified in a CIA Counterinsurgency Interrogation Manual, also known by its codename, KUBARK.

The story on the APA/CIA/Rand workshop received a good deal of dissemination on the Internet. One can imagine that the description of the abusive techniques explored there were an embarrassment to the honchos of the APA, who strive to maintain an organizational aura of liberalism and scientific respectability, while at the same time selling its wares to the Defense Department and intelligence agencies in promoting the "War on Terror" and "Homeland Security."

The URL for the former Web page — www.apa.org/ppo/issues/deceptscenarios.html — now brings up a message that "the page is not available." A search of the APA site and a Google search does not retrieve a link to the original page, which can now be accessed (thankfully) only through a web archive search engine.

The same is true for the Web page for the APA's July 2003 "Spin" newsletter, which has a story entitled "APA Works with CIA and RAND to Hold Science of Deception Workshop." Listed at the end of the story is a link telling readers to "View the thematic scenarios from the workshop." (See archived version.) The old URL — www.apa.org/ppo/spin/703.html — brings up another "page not available" message. However, the bulk of the Web page now resides at a new address — www.apa.org/about/gr/science/spin/2003/07/also-issue.aspx — with the former link now missing from the story.

While the scrubbing of the page describing truth drugs and sensory overload could be attributed to some normal archiving decision, or the victim of a web do-over (and APA does appear to have redesigned their site), the excision of the text and link to the site on the referring page cannot be an accident.

What is APA up to?

Recently, APA has made some noises about finally respecting the decision of its membership. A September 2008 referendum that decisively repudiated "the APA leadership's long-standing policy encouraging psychologist participation in interrogations and other activities in military and CIA detention facilities that have repeatedly been found to violate international law and the Constitution." In the referendum APA members voted to prohibit psychologist participation in settings where human rights violations take place. This policy took dead aim against use of

psychologists in the Behavioral Science Consultation Teams (BSCTs) used at Guantanamo and elsewhere.

To date, however, the referendum has had no effect, over a year and a half since the vote on the referendum took place, the Public Interest Task Force for the APA recently told APA members involved in passage of the referendum that it is gathering information on offending sites in order to implement the new policy. I will hope, though I have little trust, that APA will take the necessary steps.

But APA has a history of bad faith on such issues. Recently, they rewrote a problematic section of their ethical code, dubbed the Nuremberg loophole by some. The revision allowed psychologists to violate their ethical rules if done to comply with "law, regulations, or other governing legal authority." As Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) described it, "The new language restores the 1992 version of the code, which prohibits use of the standard 'to justify or defend violating human rights.'" But PHR also noted:

Section 1.02 was inserted into the APA ethics code in August 2002 and was used by both the APA and the Bush Administration to allow the participation of psychologists in the "enhanced interrogation" program, in which detainees were systematically abused and tortured under the supervision of health professionals. PHR is calling for the APA to also reform section 8.05 of the 2002 ethics code, which allows research on human subjects without their consent if such research comports with law or

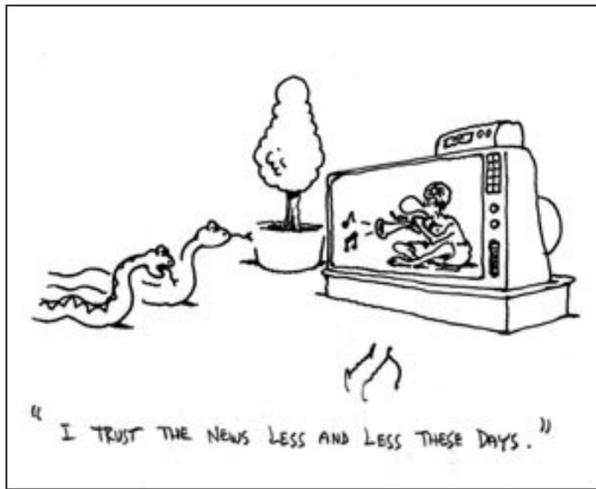
regulations.

Section 8.05 allows psychologists to dispense with the use of informed consent in research experiments where "permitted by law or federal or institutional regulations." The use of informed consent guarantees the voluntary participation of human subjects in research done upon them, and is considered a bedrock of ethical research.

The gyrations of the APA remind one of the razzle-dazzle misdirection of the Obama administration, which trumpets "transparency" but recently told the Supreme Court to turn down Maher Arar's appeal of his rendition-torture lawsuit. In addition, President Obama's own secret black site prisons have now been revealed, over a year since Obama made a big deal out of closing down the CIA black sites. When it comes to hiding the crime of torture, the US government and its contracting agencies have made a fetish out of secrecy, and the promise of an end to torture after the hideous Bush/Cheney years is revealed to be a chimera.

This report was originally published at [Firedoglake](http://Firedoglake.com).

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Psychiatric Drugs Cause Rapid Weight Gain in Kids

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conditions were more prevalent in the treated cohort," said Jeanette M. Jerrell, a professor of neuropsychiatry at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, of a study she published in 2008. Jerrell found that the risk was even higher among children taking more than one of the drugs.

But studies linking atypical antipsychotics and weight gain have been complicated by the fact that people regularly go on and off the drugs, making it hard to pinpoint a specific drug's contribution. The new study, conducted by researchers from the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset, NY and published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, circumvented this problem by including only participants who were receiving treatment with psychotropics for the first time.

The study included 257 people between the ages of four and 19 who were being treated for severe problems with aripiprazole (marketed as Abilify), olanzapine (marketed as Zyprexa), quetiapine (marketed as Seroquel), or risperidone (marketed as Risperdal). They were compared with 15 people in the same age group who were suffering from similar problems but had declined drug-based treatment.

Although only Abilify and Risperdal are currently approved for use in children, all four drugs are used on juveniles in practice. An FDA panel recently recommended that Seroquel and Zyprexa also be approved for some uses in children.

The researchers found that in 11 weeks of treatment, patients taking Abilify gained an average of 9.7 pounds, patients on Risperdal gained 11.7 pounds, patients on Seroquel gained 13.4 pounds and patients on Zyprexa gained 18.7 pounds.

Depending on the drug, between 10 and 36 percent of participants became overweight or obese over the course of the study. Much of the weight gained was in the belly, a risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

"In these kids that we studied, there was rapid and dramatic weight gain, more than has been described before," Correll said.



Patients taking Seroquel, Risperdal and Zyprexa all showed increases in blood triglyceride levels as well, and Zyprexa also increased LDL cholesterol levels. These are also characteristics of metabolic syndrome, along with central obesity and elevated fasting blood sugar. Metabolic syndrome is a serious risk factor for cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Scientists greeted the findings by saying that more data are needed to understand why the drugs cause weight gain and for how long, and why some people lose weight after going off the drugs and others do not.

"Some of these kids are maintained on these medications for many years if not indefinitely, so it's definitely a concern," said Ronald T. Brown of the Temple University Health Sciences Center in Philadelphia. "For children who really don't absolutely need these drugs, they need to be doing more behavioral approaches in psychotherapy."

Sources for this story include: www.usnews.com; www.nlm.nih.gov.

David Gutierrez is a staff writer for NaturalNews.com.



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or contrived, make for high-impact television; de-escalation and sober, careful police work do not. Thus embedding camera crews with the police creates a perverse incentive for "peace" officers to choose an approach more likely to result in avoidable death, injury, and property destruction. Only officially vetted personnel from State-aligned media are suitable; "Mundanes" with cameras are subject to summary arrest.

Aiyana Jones, the 7-year-old girl shot to death early Sunday (May 17) during a SWAT raid on her Detroit home, was almost certainly a victim of the "COPS Effect."

Troops from the Detroit Police Department's Special Reaction Team (SRT) ("troops" is a more appropriate description than "officers") seeking a murder suspect executed a no-knock warrant on the home where Aiyana was sleeping on the couch.

Despite warnings from neighbors that there were children present in the home — a fact attested by the toys scattered in the front yard — the SRT paramilitaries chose a Fallujah-style "dynamic entry," hurling a flash-bang grenade through a closed window and storming through the front door with guns drawn.

The incendiary grenade landed on the couch where Aiyana was sleeping. Her father claims that the child suffered burns as a result. Seconds later, she was dead.

One of the SRT troopers

engaged in what was called a "tussle" with Mertilla Jones, Aiyana's grandmother. In the antiseptic and completely dishonest language favored by the state-aligned media, the officer's gun "went off."

This means, apparently, that the inanimate object simply discharged *sua sponte*, independent of intentional or negligent action on the part of its owner, a fully credentialed member of the exalted "Only Ones" — as in "law enforcement and the military are the Only Ones who should be permitted to own and carry firearms."

Firearms in the hands of the hoi polloi, we are told, have a way of spontaneously firing and killing innocent children. Oddly enough, that's what supposedly happened to a beautiful 7-year-old girl named Aiyana Jones.

The raid took place at about 12:30 a.m. The individual being sought at the multi-family dwelling was a suspect in a murder that took place at about 3:00 p.m. the previous Friday. Police report that they arrested the suspect at the duplex where the raid occurred. However, they pointedly refuse to say whether the shooting death of Aiyana Jones took place in the same unit where the suspect was found.

This was not a hostage situation. The proverbial clock wasn't ticking. Why didn't the police quietly set up a perimeter at the targeted address, and wait until the suspect left the building? Why stage a post-midnight paramilitary raid against a home where children were present?

A paragraph found toward the end of a *Detroit Free Press* account provides a likely answer:

"Outside the home, the department's special response team was prepared to go in. Film crews with A&E's 'The First 48' reality show, which follows police departments nationwide during the crucial 48 hours after a homicide

is committed, were taping the team for a documentary. Police spokesman John Roach said the tapes will be reviewed as part of the investigation."

In other words, the decision-making process in this investigation was being distorted by the "COPS Effect." The department insists that this was a high-risk warrant enforcement operation, but it wasn't too dangerous to bring a camera crew along. Had the intent been simply to capture a murder suspect, the police could have sent a team of street officers and homicide detectives, rather than the paramilitary goon squad and their archivists.

Detroit is an economic moonscape in which the police — through the institutionalized larceny called "asset forfeiture" — have become the single largest source of property crime. The SRT and the Narcotics Enforcement Division (which is trained by the SRT) average two full-force raids each day, most of them conducted against single- and multi-family dwellings.

A few years ago, the SRT was featured in an A&E "reality" program entitled "SWAT." Viewers learned, among other things, that each member of the 21-officer SRT is given a GI Joe-style code name that is "based upon a specific action, or character trait that the officer has. These code names are used as tactical call signs, similarly to how pilots in the military refer to one another."

If the member of this little club who shot Aiyana hasn't been assigned a codename, I think "Fumbles" would make the best match for his skillset.

According to attorney Geoffrey Fieger, who is representing the family of Aiyana Jones, the child's death was not caused by a maladroit SWAT operator. Fieger claims that "video footage shows police fired into the home at least once after lobbing a flash grenade through the window," reports *The Washington Post*. If this is true, the death of Aiyana Jones would be murder by depraved indifference, rather than negligent homicide.

The Death of Aiyana Jones: 'Showtime Syndrome' Claims a Child

US Troops Executing Prisoners In Afghanistan

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to those we capture in Afghanistan," Hersh said. "They're being executed on the battlefield. It's unbelievable stuff going on there that doesn't necessarily get reported. Things don't change:

"What they've done in the field now is, they tell the troops, you have to make a determination within a day or two or so whether or not the prisoners you have, the detainees, are Taliban," Hersh added. "You must extract whatever tactical intelligence you can get, as opposed to strategic, long-range intelligence, immediately. And if you cannot conclude they're Taliban, you must turn them free.

"What it means is, and I've been told this anecdotally by five

or six different people, battlefield executions are taking place," he continued. "Well, if they can't prove they're Taliban, bam. If we don't do it ourselves, we turn them over to the nearby Afghan troops and by the time we walk three feet the bullets are flying. And that's going on now."

The video of Hersh was uploaded to Michael Moore's YouTube account May 11.

Hersh has a long history as an investigative journalist and worked for many years at *The New York Times*. In 1969, he broke the story of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam.

David Edwards is Video Editor and writer for therawstory.com.

William Norman Grigg publishes the *Pro Libertate* blog and hosts the *Pro Libertate* radio program.

May 19, 2010

Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

When False Flags Don't Fly

By JAMES CORBETT / THE CORBETT REPORT

Those who have studied history know that nothing invigorates and empowers an authoritarian regime more than a spectacular act of violence, some sudden and senseless loss of life that allows the autocrat to stand on the smoking rubble and identify himself as the hero. It is at moments like this that the public — still in shock from the horror of the tragedy that has just unfolded before them — can be led into the most ruthless despotism: despotism that now bears the mantle of “security.”

Acts of terror and violence never benefit the average man or woman. They only ever benefit those in positions of power.

This is why Nero fiddled while Rome burned: it gave him a chance to throw the Christians to the lions and rebuild the capital of the Roman Empire in his own image.

This is why Hearst and the warmongers of the emerging American Empire were delighted by the 1898 destruction of the USS *Maine* in Havana Harbor: It gave them the excuse they needed in order to rouse the public into supporting the Spanish-American War.

This is why Israel attacked the USS *Liberty* in 1967 during the Six Day War, strafing and torpedoing it relentlessly for hours in a vain attempt to send it to the bottom: the Israelis believed that the loss of the *Liberty* could be blamed on Egypt and draw the Americans into war.

This is why there are hundreds of documented examples of governments staging attacks in order to blame them on their political enemies. In every civilization, in every culture, in every historical period, authoritarians have known that spectacular acts of violence help to further consolidate their own power and control. And sadly, throughout history there have been all too many willing to allow attacks to occur, to pretend that attacks have occurred or even to attack their own population in order to further their political agenda.

To think that such staged provocations and false flag attacks no longer occur would be as unrealistic as believing that human nature itself has changed, that powerful people no longer seek to increase their power, that influence is never used for deceit or manipulation, that lies are no longer told to satisfy greed or slake the thirst for control. It is to believe that our society is immune from those things that we have seen in every other society in every other era. In short, it is a dangerous delusion.

The people are once again learning the power of this delusion. They are learning the extent to which they have been lied to. They are once again studying their history.

The Russians are learning how the FSB intelligence agency was caught planting bombs in Moscow in the 1990s during a terror scare that swept Putin into power and stirred the public into supporting the Second Chechen War. They are learning how their autocratic ex-President came to power campaigning on the graves of those his old FSB cronies had killed.

The Israelis are learning how Mossad has been caught time and again posing as the very Muslim terrorists they claim to be opposing. They are learning how Israel uses the specter of terror to further extend their blank check drawn on American funds to expand their police state at home and maintain their headline stance, the world's sixth-largest nuclear superpower supposedly threatened by the possibility that one of their neighbors may one day obtain a single nuclear weapon.

The British are learning how their SAS officers were caught dressing up as Arabs in Iraq, driving around with trucks full of munitions, shooting at police to stir up ethnic tensions and insure that permanent bases could be built in the region. They are learning how Haroon Aswat, the supposed mastermind behind the London 7/7 bombings, was working for British Intelligence. They are learning how British military intelligence took part in IRA bombings.

The Indians are learning how the 2008 Mumbai attack was helped by a US Agent who is cooperating with investigators so that he won't face questioning by foreign authorities.

The Canadians are learning how their own provincial police dressed up as protestors in 2007 and threatened violence against other police in order to force a crackdown on peaceful protests.

And the Americans are learning that there were multiple bombs found, dismantled and taken out of the Alfred P. Murrah building on April 19, 1995 in Oklahoma City. They are learning that Timothy McVeigh had written a letter to his sister in which he claimed to be in the Special Forces for the US Army. They are learning the bombing was being directed by FBI informants, just as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing was. They are learning about 9/11, the Gulf of Tonkin, Operation Northwoods and their own Army Counterinsurgency Manuals that teach officers how to commit false flag attacks to blame on their enemies.

In short, the people are learning the truth. And now we see the same buildup to a false-flag event taking place that we saw in Oklahoma City 1995. At that time the US had a corporate media desperate to fling mud at anyone concerned by the actions of their government, and it had a government that was desperately unpopular in the face of growing dissatisfaction. Today we see the exact same factors at play.

If anything, the situation today is worse than it was in the run-up to the Oklahoma City Bombing, with media consolidation meaning that groups of concerned citizens like the Oath Keepers are being attacked by the controlled minions on both the left and the right. And now it is not just the militia that is being demonized by the establishment: it is veterans and gun owners, third party supporters and libertarians, anti-war protestors and human rights campaigners, people who are upset with the government giving trillions to the banks that have engineered our current financial crisis in the first place. In short, everyone is now a potential terrorist, according to the governmental and media agencies that deign to limit our range of acceptable opinion and control dissent.

Even the word ‘terrorist’ means something more than it did back in 1995. After the false-flag 2001 anthrax attack allowed the passage of the Patriot Act, after the boogey of Al-CiAda gave the NSA the opportunity to announce that they were collecting everyone's emails and everyone's telephone calls, after the former Homeland Security Secretary came out and admitted that the Bush administration had made up terror threats in order to scare the people into supporting the government, now we know what the real definition of terrorism is. It is governments scaring their own populations into line.

But there is something else that's different now from what it was in 1995. The people are learning something else about terrorism: they are not terrorists for speaking out against their government. They are not terrorists for wanting the government to stop selling their children into servitude to pay bankers their bonuses. They are not terrorists for pointing out that the FBI and the CIA and Mossad and MJ6, whether singly or jointly, are behind every major terrorist event.

The people are not terrorists because they do not want to see more death. They do not want more destruction; the spilling of the blood of their fellow citizens is not in their interests. Death and destruction only ever serves the governmental and financial and industrial interests who always grow in power and wealth in the wake of every tragedy. Time and again, the people pay with their lives, and the governments and the banks and the war machine only grow and prosper.

The people do not want terrorism because it does not benefit them. It only benefits the existing power structure.

And this time, if there is another staged event to blame on the government's enemy of the day, the people will know who to blame.

James Corbett produces The Corbett Report which provides podcasts, interviews, articles and videos about breaking news and important issues from 9/11 Truth and false flag terror to the Big Brother police state, eugenics, geopolitics, the central banking fraud and more. You can hear James Corbett at www.corbettreport.com. Corbett lives in Japan.



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Creeping Terror: The New American Way of War

By CHRIS FLOYD / EMPIRE BURLESQUE

The American way of war is a marvelously ingenious thing. And thoroughly modern too. No more of that “don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes” jazz; your modern “warfighter” (they aren't called “soldiers” anymore, you know) prefers to view his targets through, say, a computer screen safely ensconced back in the Homeland or thousands of feet in the sky, or else through the unearthly greenish glow of night-vision scopes. And open combat? Forget it. The new American way is the sneak attack on civilian homes in the dead of night. You creep up, you break in, you cap a few ragheads, then you run away. What glory! What magnificent valor!

The *Washington Post* reports on yet another glorious page in the annals of the exceptional nation “intended by God to be a light set on a hill to serve as a beacon of hope and Christian charity to a lost and dying world.” It's the usual story. Secret “warfighters” suddenly attack a civilian compound in the middle of the night. This, not surprisingly, provokes a few shots from some of the inhabitants, who have no idea who is attacking their home. The superior firepower of the beacons of hope and Christian charity quickly overcome the piddling arms of the demonic heathens, however, and in a moment, there are

dead gook – sorry, raghead – bodies all around. Including children – you've got to have children in your body count these days, if you want to be a thoroughly modern Christian beacon warfighter. Then you and your brave band of secret warriors run away and prepare for the next bold raid.

Naturally, the local losers come out and boo-hoo-hoo over their dead relatives, as if no one had ever seen their son shot to death in front of their eyes before. They trot out all their evidence that the victims had nothing to do with the “insurgents” (which is what your modern warfighter calls anyone who objects to the presence of armed foreigners prowling all over their land), they keen and wail and do all the other animalistic stuff that primitives do when one of the pack snuffs it. “Oh, I lost my son, oh my son, my precious son,” etc., etc. – as if there's not a dozen more where he came from; you know how those people breed.

But anyway, here's the beauty part: if the local dorky darkies start to complain, you just say, “Hey man, we came under fire! Those monkeys shot at us when we came sneaking up on their house in the middle of the night with our guns drawn. That proves they were bad guys. We had to take them out.”

That's it. That's the drill. It happens virtually every week now in Afghanistan

– just as it happened time and again in Iraq, back when some guy named Stanley McChrystal was in charge of covert ops for that evil, reactionary throwback, George W. Bush. Whatever happened to old Stan anyway? Oh yeah; the nice, progressive, thoroughly modern Barack Obama put him in charge of the whole shooting match in Afghanistan, as well as the not-so-secret war of assassination in Pakistan. And oddly enough, the slaughter of civilians in both of these target countries has been rising ever since.

But hey, that's just how we roll nowadays. That's the American way of war. Creep, sneak, kill, run, lie – repeat. Sure, it only makes things worse, creates more enemies, keeps the wars going. But isn't that the point? Check it out, baby: they're piling an extra \$33.5 billion of prime war pork on top of the mountain of Terror War funding already laid out for this year! And you need a whole lot of blood to wash down that meat – and a whole lot of new enemies to make sure the feast never ends.

Chris Floyd is an award-winning American journalist, and author of the book, Empire Burlesque: High Crimes and Low Comedy in the Bush Regime. He has written for: The Moscow Times and the St. Petersburg Times in Russia, Truthout.org. Floyd co-founded the blog Empire Burlesque with webmaster Richard Kastelein.

The Danger of Israel's Nuke Hypocrisy

Israel's insistence that US officials keep playing dumb about Israeli nukes undermines non-proliferation policies

By ROBERT PARRY / CONSORTIUM NEWS

The United States finds itself in the curious position of going to the mat on behalf of Israel's top security concern – preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb – while Israel and its supporters continue to insist that US officials maintain Israel's decades-old “ambiguity” about whether or not it possesses a nuclear arsenal of its own.

This extraordinary double standard – demanding transparency from Iran, which doesn't have the bomb and disavows wanting one, and protecting the secrets of Israel, which is believed to have one of the most sophisticated nuclear stockpiles on earth – has forced the Obama administration and many US news organizations into logical and moral contortions.

The hypocrisy is also counterproductive, undermining whatever moral standing the United States might have in trying to strengthen safeguards that are considered important to prevent the nightmare scenario of some terrorist organization getting its hands on nuclear materials.

Despite those stakes, Israel's Likud government and its neoconservative backers in the United States show no flexibility when it comes to acknowledging the existence of Israeli nukes or discussing the value of Israel accepting the nonproliferation standards that apply to other nations.

For his part, President Barack Obama has verbally stumbled through two questions when asked about his knowledge of Israel's nuclear arsenal. In both cases, he clumsily maintained the practice of American presidents trying to keep Israel's “secret,” a charade that dates back to Richard Nixon and has required the tacit collaboration of the mainstream US news media.

Over the past four decades, Israel's nuclear arsenal has been one of those inconvenient truths that everyone in power knows but agrees not to talk about. In that sense, it represents not

only a glaring hypocrisy in the eyes of many around the world but also damages the US democratic process by establishing a factual no-man's-land where public debate fears to tread.

So, instead of news organizations like the *New York Times* reporting “all the news that fit to print,” you see a willful surrender of objectivity in favor of aligning with Israel's desire for secrecy and double standards.

For instance, in a May 9 editorial, the *Times* demanded a toughening of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to punish countries that evade its prohibitions. The *Times* said this crackdown was a prerequisite for the United Nations punishing Iran with harsher sanctions.

“At a frightening time — when Iran and North Korea are defying the Security Council and pressing ahead with their nuclear programs, and terrorists are actively trying to buy or steal their own weapon — there has to be a law to make clear that proliferation will not be tolerated,” the *Times* said.

“The treaty is that law. But it is badly fraying.”

Double Standards

•The *Times* said the nations of the world must come together and insist:

•that “all treaty members accept tougher nuclear monitoring.”

•that penalties be imposed on “any state that violates its treaty commitments and then withdraws from the pact, as North Korea did.”

•that nuclear-fuel-producing nations, like the United States, guarantee supplies for other countries' “peaceful energy programs.”

•that the United States and Russia make deep cuts in their own arsenals and “quickly draw other nuclear powers into arms reduction talks.”

•that “no more India-like exemptions from nuclear trade rules” be made “and that any state that tests a weapon would be denied nuclear trade.”

The *Times* noted that the special US deal “to sell nuclear energy technology to India (which like Pakistan boycotted the nonproliferation treaty so it could develop weapons) enshrined unequal treatment.”

But the *Times* made no reference to the third rogue state that stayed out of the NPT so it could secretly develop nuclear weapons – Israel. The *Times* only made a backhand reference to that fact in a slap at Egypt for having the audacity to propose a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

“Egypt, which leads the Nonaligned Movement, is also playing games by pressing for a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East that seeks to force Israel to give up its nuclear arsenal. That is not going to happen any time soon.”

So, because Israel has no intention of relinquishing its nuclear weapons – or even acknowledging their existence – The *Times* suggested that another de facto special deal must be carved out.

But this “unequal treatment” favoring Israel not only gives it a pass on signing the NPT but comes with a special humiliation for senior US officials, making them jump through hoops with verbal gymnastics to avoid even mentioning that Israel has nuclear weapons.

The *Times* concludes its editorial with a moral commandment that “all states need to ante up and reverse the treaty's slide. The world's security depends on it.”

All nations, it seems, but Israel.

Robert Parry broke many of the Iran-Contra stories in the 1980s for the Associated Press and Newsweek. His latest book, Neck Deep: The Disastrous Presidency of George W. Bush was written with two of his sons, Sam and Nat, and can be ordered at neckdeepbook.com. His two previous books, Secrecy & Privilege: The Rise of the Bush Dynasty from Watergate to Iraq, Lost History: Contras, Cocaine, the Press & Project Truth and Trick or Treason: The October Surprise Mystery are also available there or go to Amazon.com.



Did The CIA Kill Jimi Hendrix?

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managed, The Animals, made an important claim against Jeffery. In his published book Wright claimed that Jeffery admitted to him that he had Hendrix killed because the rock star wanted to end his management contract with Wright.

US/British Intelligence 1960's Attack on Political Musicians

Researchers such as British magazine editor Frances Stonor Saunders outlined how American and British Intelligence forces colluded in their work against leftist artists, writers and musicians. She gave several examples of this in her book, *The Cultural Cold War*. Black artists were a particular Intelligence focus partly because the racism blacks experienced often led them to have anti-imperialist political perspectives.

For example, intelligence agencies closely monitored black writers Richard Wright and Franz Fanon (Gayle, *Richard Wright*, 1980).

Researchers highly suspected US Intelligence actions in both these writers' deaths, particularly Wright's early death. Frances Saunders said that after Wright moved to Paris, the CIA and FBI monitored him closely until "he died in mysterious circumstances in 1960."

US intelligence also had a particular longtime concern about political musicians and had sophisticated strategies for attacking them. An exposed intelligence document reviewed by a 1976 congressional committee examining the FBI's Counterintelligence Program detailed many tactics used against political musicians (Constantine, *Covert War Against Rock*, 2001). It instructed agents to:

"Show them as scurrilous and depraved. Call attention to their habits and living conditions, explore every possible embarrassment. Send in women and sex, break up marriages. Have members arrested on marijuana charges. Investigate personal conflicts or animosities

between them. Send articles to the newspapers showing their depravity. Use narcotics and free sex to entrap. Use misinformation to confuse and disrupt. Get records of their bank accounts. Obtain specimens of their handwriting. Provoke target groups into rivalries that may result in death."

Hendrix's Rise in Britain, Politicization and Intelligence Targeting

In the US, Hendrix received little fame during the mid-1960s while he toured with music legends such as Sam Cooke ("You Send Me"). Cooke died under questionable circumstances himself. Jimi Hendrix then moved to England where he quickly rose to stardom. Mike Jeffery coerced his way into managing Hendrix by 1967. Evidence of Jeffery's continued MI6 work included his partnerships with CIA-linked figures, his sudden huge wealth, and his skills at acquiring CIA-type tax havens in the Bahamas.

By 1968 Jimi Hendrix had

become popular worldwide. The assassination of Martin Luther King that year led Hendrix to engage in more radical-left activism. Hendrix's fiancée, Monika Danneman, and top biographers, such as Harry Shapiro and Caesar Glebbeek, noted Hendrix's change. He began promoting the Black Panthers in interviews, played benefits for Panther Bobby Seale and the war-protesting Chicago Seven, and dedicated his last album to the Panthers.

With his vast popularity among blacks and whites, Jimi Hendrix began posing a threat to bigoted pro-war groups. Former Air Force Secretary Townsend Hoopes said one of the government's greatest fears was "the fateful merging of anti-war and racial dissension."

The FBI and police began targeting Hendrix in the US, and other countries aided their efforts when he went abroad. Such collaboration was common through the International police group "Interpol." The FBI started a closely guarded file on Hendrix and placed him on a security list of subversives to be rounded up for detention in case of a national emergency. Police detectives began round-the-clock surveillance of Hendrix and his band.

Media Smears and Spy Manager Manipulations

Intelligence forces appeared to use several of the tactics outlined in the above intelligence memorandum regarding political musicians. In Toronto, Canadian federal police arrested Hendrix at an airport, claiming that he transported drugs. Shapiro and Glebbeek cited Hendrix saying he'd never take such a risk and that his manager, Mike Jeffery, set up that airport arrest.

Furthermore, regarding Hendrix and drug use, Shapiro and Glebbeek said that, contrary to popular belief, Hendrix produced his first classic album, "Are You Experienced?", with virtually no drug use. After his rise to fame, Hendrix only snorted heroin a couple times and did some pills, while also tripping on LSD at times. By later 1969, Danneman said Hendrix gave it all up except for minimal amounts of alcohol and marijuana use. Throughout Hendrix's life and after his death, media reports claimed Hendrix's depravity and debauchery with drugs.

Shapiro, Glebbeek and Monika Danneman also claimed that manager Mike Jeffery consistently sabotaged the guitar legend's political activist work. For example, Danneman said that when Hendrix played one antiwar benefit show that Jeffery opposed, Hendrix believed his manager dosed his drink with LSD. Hendrix had given up LSD by that time and ended his set early, discouraged that he wasn't playing to his best ability.

The biographers and Danneman further accused Jeffery of manipulating Hendrix with Mafia connections to intimidate him not to end their management relationship. For example, few know that Mafia figures kidnapped Hendrix for several days in Manhattan in 1969. Jeffery collaborated with a band manager named Jerry Morrison to miraculously get Hendrix free, supposedly with "tougher" Mafia. Morrison formerly worked as the propagandist for CIA-supported Haitian dictator Papa Doc Duvalier. Researchers have previously noted how the Mafia and US Intelligence colluded to target other black entertainers, as well as Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy (William Pepper, *Act of State*; William Turner and Jonn Christian, *The Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy*).

Multiple reports cite other ways Mike Jeffery tried to undermine Jimi Hendrix's career. For example, as stated above, Jeffery blocked release of many Hendrix albums. Jeffery gained this control by getting Hendrix to sign a complicated set of contracts in 1968. Jeffery also stole vast sums of money from Hendrix, leaving him broke at times.

Hendrix's Mysterious Death After Firing Manager, and Government Cover-up

Rumors continue as to how Jimi Hendrix died at the age of 27. Living with him at that time, Monika Danneman appeared to give the most reliable account. While Shapiro and Glebbeek had some discrepancies with Danneman's recollection of Hendrix's last 24 hours, most of their eyewitnesses' reports backed Danneman's general description.

Danneman said that on September 18, 1970, the day after Hendrix finally fired Jeffery, she found her fiance unconscious in their London apartment bed before noon. Hendrix had been at a party the night before and took sleeping pills to counter unusually bad insomnia he had that night. Danneman called an ambulance and Hendrix died within an hour or two.

The coroner said that what Hendrix had in him shouldn't have killed him. The coroner found a non-fatal dose of sleeping tablets, a small amount of alcohol, a trace of the barbiturate Seconal, and 20 mg of amphetamine (speed). The coroner declared that Hendrix should have recovered from the pills, so the official cause of death was "inhalation of vomit due to Barbiturate intoxication." Danneman said that after Hendrix returned from the party that night, he showed her a handful of pills people gave him at the party, which he then discarded. Danneman suspected that someone put pills in his drinks without his knowledge.

Government officials' foul play abounded thereafter. Danneman said that when police investigated her place they failed to take anything and warned her to not say anything about the death. Then, an official British inquest resulted in the London coroner and the inquest members declaring an open (inconclusive) verdict on Hendrix's death. The inquest had only called three witnesses to testify: Danneman, Hendrix's road manager and the coroner. They failed to have the ambulance workers, the people Hendrix saw at the party, or the hospital doctors testify. Such investigative omissions further indicate possible government intelligence involvement in Hendrix's murder.

Further evidence of government foul play includes media-echoed police reports that Hendrix left recorded messages with his friend Chas Chandler, saying that he was suicidal. Chandler said he didn't own an answering machine. The coroner also found an unidentifiable compound in Hendrix's body. Top doctors told Danneman that because the coroner waited several days to do Hendrix's autopsy, any poisons in his system may have no longer been in a detectable state.

Other Investigations and Government Cover-up Around Hendrix's Death

Groups reexamined Jimi Hendrix's death at least twice in later years. In 1975, the magazine *Crawdaddy* investigated and concluded that a death squad of undercover intelligence agents killed Hendrix. While that magazine's sources are uncertain, more official inquests followed.

In 1992, England's attorney general ordered an inquiry into Hendrix's death, and Scotland Yard also re-examined the case. Danneman, Shapiro and Glebbeek easily contradicted Scotland Yard, exposing the agency's cover-up. For example, Scotland Yard claimed to quote Hendrix's attending doctor, Dr. John Bannister, saying Hendrix was "dead on arrival... [dying] in the ambulance or at home." The ambulance workers denied Hendrix was dead on arrival, as supported by official reports of his death an hour after arriving at the hospital.

Danneman also asked for more information from Dr. Bannister. Scotland Yard told her he had been struck off England's official list of doctors, without any further explanation. In 2009, Dr. Bannister turned up, reporting in a *London Times* article that he moved to Australia in 1972. He eventually lost his license there for fraudulent behavior. In that 2009 *Times* article, though, Bannister supported road manager James Wright's assertion about Jeffery saying he had Hendrix killed and that Hendrix appeared to have been murdered.

Fight over Hendrix's Posthumous Music, Linked Deaths and his Legacy

Mike Jeffery confiscated all of Hendrix's recordings and belongings from his New York studio. It took 25 years for Al Hendrix to gain the rights to his son's music from Warner Records. And then, on albums and memorabilia that made over \$100 million in sales, he was only given \$2 million.

Several groups sued Hendrix's manager, Mike Jeffery, for money he owed them. A judge allowed Jeffery to travel for business during the trial, and Jeffery reportedly died in a plane crash in 1973. Because a witness only identified Jeffery from his jewelry, some believe he escaped with the shell company fortunes he created. Jeffery created his tax haven shell with the same Bahamas institutions that worked later with George H.W. Bush's CIA in the BCCI/Iran-Contra scandal.

One key Hendrix-linked death occurred much later. Monika Danneman said Jeffery threatened to kill her if she published the memoir about Hendrix that she wrote in 1971. She said she lost her book manuscript twice between 1971 and 1973, first to a thief she believed Jeffery sent, and then to a Jeffery associate.

In 1995, Monika Danneman finally published a book (*The Inner World of Jimi Hendrix*) about Hendrix's activist political plans, Jeffery's sabotage, and government cover-up. News reports said Danneman killed herself in 1996. Her close friends believe she was murdered. They said Danneman had continued getting death threats over the years and had just finished a long interview for a film on Hendrix.

While most rock historians still consider Jimi Hendrix the top guitarist of all time, his image remains soiled with falsehoods. Evidence supports that he was moving away from drugs and that intelligence forces killed him for the political activism he started in 1969. Such evidence also suggests that other political musicians' early deaths deserve more scrutiny.

This article was adapted from a chapter of *The FBI War on Tupac Shakur and Black Leaders*, <http://fbivarontupac.com>.



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Peter Dale Scott speaking at the Deep Politics conference in Santa Cruz, May 16, 2010.

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himself suggested that Reagan's Attorney General, William French Smith, had intervened to stop the COG plan from being presented to the President. Seven years later, in 1994, Tim Weiner reported in the *New York Times* that what he called "The Domsday Project" – the search for "ways to keep the Government running after a sustained nuclear attack on Washington" – had "less than six months to live."⁴

To say that nuclear attack planning was over was correct, but this statement was also very misleading. On the basis of Weiner's report, the first two books on COG planning, by James Bamford and James Mann, books otherwise excellent and well-informed, reported that COG planning had been abandoned.⁵ They were wrong.

Mann and Bamford did report that, from the beginning, two of the key COG planners on the secret committee were Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld, the two men who implemented COG under 9/11.⁶ What they and Weiner did not report was that under Reagan the purpose of COG planning had officially changed: it was no longer for arrangements "after a nuclear war," but for any "national security emergency." This was defined in Executive Order 12656 of 1988 as: "any occurrence, including natural disaster, military attack, technological emergency, or other emergency, that seriously degrades or seriously threatens the national security of the United States."⁷

In other words extraordinary emergency measures, originally designed for an America devastated in a nuclear attack, were now to be applied to anything the White House considered an emergency. Thus Cheney and Rumsfeld continued their secret planning when Clinton was president; both men, both Republicans, were heads of major corporations and not even in the government at that time. Moreover, Andrew Cockburn claims that the Clinton administration, according to a Pentagon source, had "no idea what was going on."⁸ (As I shall explain later, this sweeping claim needs some qualification.)

The expanded application of COG to any emergency was envisaged as early as 1984, when, according to *Boston Globe* reporter Ross Gelbspan:

It. Col. Oliver North was working with officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency . . . to draw up a secret contingency plan to surveil political dissenters and to arrange for the detention of hundreds of thousands of undocumented aliens in case of an unspecified national emergency. The plan, part of which was codenamed Rex 84, called for the suspension of the Constitution under a number of scenarios, including a US invasion of Nicaragua.⁹

Clearly 9/11 met the conditions for the imposition of COG measures,

and we know for certain that COG planning was instituted on that day in 2001, before the last plane had crashed in Pennsylvania. The 9/11 Report confirms this twice, on pages 38 and 326.¹⁰ It was under the auspices of COG that Bush stayed out of Washington on that day, and other government leaders like Paul Wolfowitz were swiftly evacuated to Site R, inside a hollowed out mountain near Camp David.¹¹

“...extraordinary emergency measures, originally designed for an America devastated in a nuclear attack, were now to be applied to anything the White House considered an emergency.

What few have recognized is that, nearly a decade later, some aspects of COG remain in effect. COG plans are still authorized by a proclamation of emergency that has been extended each year by presidential authority, most recently by President Obama in September 2009. COG plans are also the probable source for the 1000-page Patriot Act presented to Congress five days after 9/11, and also for the Department of Homeland Security's Project Endgame – a ten-year plan, initiated in September 2001, to expand detention camps, at a cost of \$400 million in Fiscal Year 2007 alone.¹²

At the same time, we have seen the implementation of the plans outlined by Chardy in 1987: the warrantless detentions that Oliver North had planned for in Rex 1984, the warrantless eavesdropping that is their logical counterpart, and the militarization of the domestic United States under a new military command, NORTHCOM.¹³ Through NORTHCOM, the US Army now is engaged with local enforcement to control America, in the same way that through CENTCOM it is engaged with local enforcement to control Afghanistan and Iraq.

We learned that COG planning was still active in 2007, when President Bush issued National Security Presidential Directive 51 (NSPD 51). This, for the sixth time, extended for one year the emergency proclaimed on September 14, 2001. It empowered the President to personally ensure "continuity of government" in the event of any "catastrophic emergency." He announced that NSPD 51 contains "classified Continuity Annexes" which shall "be protected from unauthorized disclosure." Under pressure from his 9/11Truth constituents, Congressman Peter DeFazio of the Homeland Security Committee twice requested to see these Annexes, the second time in a letter signed by the Chair of his committee. His request was denied.

The National Emergencies Act, one of the post-Watergate reforms that Vice-President Cheney so abhorred, specifies that: "Not later than six months after a national emergency is declared, and not later than the end of each six-

month period thereafter that such emergency continues, each House of Congress shall meet to consider a vote on a joint resolution to determine whether that emergency shall be terminated" (50 U.S.C. 1622, 2002). Yet in nine years, Congress has not once met to discuss the State of Emergency declared by George W. Bush in response to 9/11, a State of Emergency that remains in effect today. Appeals to Congress to meet its responsibilities to review COG have fallen on deaf ears.¹⁴

Former Congressman Dan Hamburg and I appealed publicly last year, both to Obama to terminate the emergency, and to Congress to hold the hearings required of them by statute.¹⁵ But Obama, without discussion, extended the 9/11 Emergency again on September 10, 2009;¹⁶ and Congress has continued to ignore its statutory obligations. One Congressman explained to a constituent that the provisions of the National Emergencies Act have now been rendered inoperative by COG. If true, this would seem to justify Chardy's description of COG as suspension of the Constitution. Are there other parts of the Constitution that have been suspended? We do not know, and the Chair of the Homeland Security Committee has been told he cannot find out.

Plans drafted by a secret committee, including corporation heads not in the government, have provided rules that allegedly override public law and the separation of powers that is at the heart of the Constitution. Congress is derelict in addressing this situation. Even Congressman Kucinich, the one Congressman I have met, will not answer my communications on this subject.

Yet, as I see it, the only authorization for the COG planning was a secret decision by President Reagan (NSDD 55 of September 14, 1982) which, in effect, federalized the counterinsurgency planning (called "Cable Splicer"), which he had authorized in California when governor there.

It is clear that the planning by Cheney, Rumsfeld and others in the last two decades was not confined to an immediate response to 9/11. The 1000-page Patriot Act, dropped on Congress as promptly as the Tonkin Gulf Resolution had been back in 1964, is still with us; Congress has never seriously challenged it, and Obama quietly extended it on February 27 of this year.

We should not forget that the Patriot Act was only passed after lethal anthrax letters were mailed to two crucial Democratic Senators – Senators Daschle and Leahy – who had initially questioned the bill. After the anthrax letters, however, they withdrew their initial opposition.¹⁷ Someone – we still do not know who – must have planned those anthrax letters well in advance. This is a fact most Americans do not want to think about.

Someone also must have planned the unusual number of war games taking place on 9/11. COG planners and FEMA had been involved in war games planning over the previous two decades; and on 9/11 FEMA was again involved with other agencies in preparing for Operation Tripod, a bioterrorism exercise in New York City.¹⁸

Someone also must have planned the new more restrictive instructions, on June 1, 2001, determining that military interceptions of hijacked aircraft had to be approved "at the highest levels of government"

(i.e. the President, Vice-President, or Secretary of Defense).¹⁹ The Report attributes this order to a Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Memo of June 1, 2001, entitled "Aircraft Piracy (Hijacking) and Destruction of Derelict Airborne Objects." But

“COG plans are still authorized by a proclamation of emergency that has been extended each year by presidential authority, most recently by President Obama in September 2009.

the written requirements had been less restrictive before June 1, 2001, and I am informed that the change was quietly revoked the following December.

In *The Road to 9/11*, I suggest the change in the JCS memo came from the National Preparedness Review in which President Bush authorized Vice-President Cheney, together with FEMA, "to tackle the... task of dealing with terrorist attacks."²⁰ Not noticed by the press was the fact that Cheney and FEMA had already been working on COG planning as a team throughout the 1980s and 1990s.²¹

As I wrote above, it is necessary to qualify a Pentagon official's claim (to author Andrew Cockburn) that the Clinton administration had "no idea what was going on" in COG. Let me quote from my response to Cockburn's book in my own, *The Road to 9/11*:

[Weiner's] article persuaded authors James Mann and James Bamford that Reagan's COG plans had now been abandoned because "there was, it seemed, no longer any enemy in the world capable of . . . decapitating America's leadership."²² In fact, however, only one phase of COG planning had been terminated, a Pentagon program for response to a nuclear attack. Instead, according to author Andrew Cockburn, a new target was found:

"Although the exercises continued, still budgeted at over \$200 million a year in the Clinton era, the vanished Soviets were now replaced by terrorists. . . . There were other changes, too. In earlier times, the specialists selected to run the "shadow government" had been drawn from across the political spectrum, Democrats and Republicans alike. But now, down in the bunkers, Rumsfeld found himself in politically congenial company, the players' roster being filled almost

“The Pentagon official's description of a "secret government-in-waiting" (which still included both Cheney and Rumsfeld) is very close to the standard definition of a cabal, as a group of persons secretly united to bring about a change or overthrow of government.

exclusively with Republican hawks. . . . "You could say this was a secret government-in-waiting. The Clinton administration was extraordinarily inattentive, [they had] no idea what was going on."

Cockburn's account requires some qualification. Richard Clarke, a Clinton Democrat, makes it clear that he participated in the COG games in the 1990s and indeed drafted Clinton's Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) 67 on "Enduring Constitutional Government and Continuity of Government." But COG planning involved different teams for different purposes. It is quite possible that the Pentagon official was describing the Department of Defense team dealing with retaliation.

The Pentagon official's description of a "secret government-in-waiting" (which still included both Cheney and Rumsfeld) is very close to the standard definition of a cabal, as a group of persons secretly united to bring about a change or overthrow of government. In the same era Cheney and Rumsfeld projected change also by their public lobbying, through the Project for

the New American Century, for a more militant Middle East policy. In light of how COG was actually implemented in 2001, one can legitimately suspect that, however interested this group had been in continuity of government under Reagan, under Clinton the focus of Cheney's and Rumsfeld's COG planning was now a change of government.²³

Understandably, there is great psychological resistance to the extraordinary claim that Cheney and Rumsfeld, even when not in government, were able to help plan successfully for constitutional modifications, which they themselves implemented when back in power. Most people cannot bring themselves even to believe the second, known half of this claim: that on September 11, 2001, COG plans overriding the constitution were indeed implemented. This is why the first two print reviews of *The Road to 9/11*, both favorable and intelligently written, both reported that I speculated that COG had been imposed on 9/11. No, it was not a speculation: the 9/11 Commission Report twice confirms that COG was instituted on the authority of a phone call between Bush and Cheney of which they could find no record. No record, I did speculate, because it took place on a secure COG phone outside the presidential bunker – with such a high classification that the 9/11 Commission was never supplied the phone records.

A footnote in the 9/11 Report says:

The 9/11 crisis tested the U.S. government's plans and capabilities to ensure the continuity of constitutional government and the continuity of government operations. We did not investigate this topic, except as needed to understand the activities and communications of key officials on 9/11. The Chair, Vice Chair, and senior staff were briefed on the general nature and implementation of these continuity plans.²⁴

The other footnotes confirm that no information from COG files was used to document the 9/11 report. At a minimum, these files might resolve the mystery of the missing phone call which simultaneously authorized COG and (in consequence) determined that Bush should continue to stay out of Washington. I suspect that they might tell us a great deal more.

What is the first step out of this current state of affairs, in which the Constitution has, in effect, been superseded by a higher, if less legitimate authority? I submit that it is to get Congress to do what the law requires, and determine whether our present proclamation of emergency "shall be terminated" (50 U.S.C. 1622, 2002).

An earlier polite, judiciously worded appeal to this effect failed. It may be necessary to raise the issue in a larger, albeit more controversial context: the scandal that a small cabal was able to supersede the

Constitution, and Congress has failed, despite repeated requests, to do anything about it. I would hope that Americans concerned about this matter would raise it with all the congressional candidates in the forthcoming elections. At a minimum, candidates should promise to call for a full discussion of the proclaimed national emergency, as the law requires.

Peter Dale Scott, a former Canadian diplomat and English Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, is the author of *Drugs Oil and War, The Road to 9/11, and The War Conspiracy: JFK, 9/11, and the Deep Politics of War. His book, Fueling America's War Machine: Deep Politics and the CIA's Global Drug Connection is in press, due Fall 2010 from Rowman & Littlefield.*

Notes
 [1] New York Times, July 14, 1987.
 [2] James Bamford, A Pretext for War: 9/11, Iraq, and the Abuse of America's Intelligence Agencies (New York: Doubleday, 2004), 74: "The existence of the secret government was so closely held that Congress was completely bypassed. Rather than through legislation, it was created by Top Secret presidential fiat. In fact, Congress would have no role in the new wartime administration. One of the awkward questions we faced," said one of the participants, "was whether to reconstitute Congress after a nuclear attack. It was decided that no, it would be easier to operate without them." Cf. James Mann, The Rise of the Vulcans: The History of Bush's War Cabinet (New York: Viking, 2004), 145.
 [3] Miami Herald, July 5, 1987. In October 1984 Jack Anderson reported that FEMA's plans would "suspend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, effectively eliminate private property, abolish free enterprise, and generally clamp Americans in a totalitarian vise."
 [4] Tim Weiner, New York Times, April 17, 1994.
 [5] Bamford, A Pretext for War, 74; cf. James Mann, The Rise of the Vulcans: The History of Bush's War Cabinet (New York: Viking, 2004), 132-45.
 [6] Scott, The Road to 9/11: Wealth, Empire, and the Future of America (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2007), 183-87.
 [7] The provisions of Executive Order 12656 of Nov. 18, 1988, appear at 53 FR 47491, 3 CFR, 1988 Comp., 55; <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12656.html>. The Washington Post (March 1, 2002) later claimed, falsely, that Executive Order 12656 dealt only with "a nuclear attack." Earlier there was a similar misrepresentation in the New York Times (November 18, 1991).
 [8] Andrew Cockburn, Rumsfeld: His Rise, Fall, and Catastrophic Legacy (New York: Scribner, 2007), 88.
 [9] Ross Gelbspan, Break-ins, Death Threats, and the FBI (Boston: South End Press, 1991), 184; cf. New York Times, November 18, 1991.
 [10] 9/11 Commission Report, 38, 326; Scott, Road to 9/11, 228-29.
 [11] Alfred Goldberg et al., Pentagon 9/11 (Washington: Department of Defense, 2007), 132.
 [12] Scott, Road to 9/11, 238, 240-41.
 [13] U.S. Department of Defense, "U.S. Northern Command," <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/dod/northcom.htm>. Cf. John R. Brinkhoff, PBS, Online Newshour, 9/27/02: "The United States itself is now for the first time since the War of 1812 a theater of war. That means that we should apply, in my view, the same kind of command structure in the United States that we apply in other theaters of war." Brinkhoff had earlier developed the martial law provisions of REX 84 in the Reagan era.
 [14] Cf. Peter Dale Scott and Dan Hamburg, "To All Readers: Help Force Congress To Observe the Law on National Emergencies!!", 9/11Truth.org, March 24, 2009, <http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20090324183053848>.
 [15] Peter Dale Scott, "To All Readers: Help Force Congress To Observe the Law on National Emergencies!!" (with Dan Hamburg), http://www.truth.org/March24_2009, <http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20090324183053848#7>.
 [16] White House Press Release, September 10, 2009, http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Notice-of-continuation-from-the-president-regarding-the-emergency-declared-with-respect-to-the-September-11-2001-terrorist-attacks/. A press briefing by Obama's spokesman Robert Gibbs the same day did not mention the extension.
 [17] Cf. Time, Nov. 26, 2001: "While Daschle, the Senate majority leader, could have been chosen as a representative of all Democrats or of the entire Senate, Leahy is a less obvious choice, most likely targeted for a specific reason. He is head of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is involved in issues ranging from antitrust action to antiterror legislation" (emphasis added). See also Anthony York, "Why Daschle and Leahy?" Salon, November 21, 2001, <http://dl.salon.com/story/politics/feature2001/11/21/anthrax/index.html>.
 [18] Brian Michael Jenkins and Frances Edwards-Winslow, Saving City Lifelines: Lessons Learned in the 9-11 Terrorist Attacks (San Jose, CA: Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose State University, 2003).
 [19] 9/11 Report, 17; cf. fn. 101, 458.
 [20] Houston Chronicle, May 9, 2001; Road to 9/11, 209.
 [21] James Mann, The Rise of the Vulcans: The History of Bush's War Cabinet (New York: Viking, 2004), 139; James Bamford, A Pretext for War: 9/11, Iraq, and the Abuse of America's Intelligence Agencies (New York: Doubleday, 2004).
 [22] Mann, Rise of the Vulcans, 144.
 [23] Scott, The Road to 9/11, 186-87.
 [24] 9/11 Commission Report, 555.
 Peter Dale Scott is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

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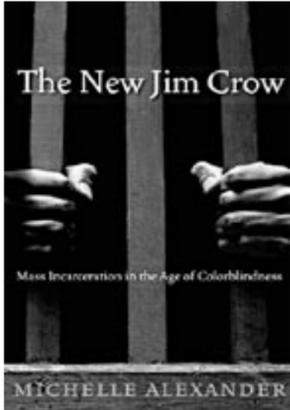
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Book Review

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness



By Michelle Alexander, The New Press, 2010, Hardcover, 279 pages, \$27.95



Everything old – and racist – is new again

REVIEW BY MARY PATERSON/REAL CHANGE NEWS

The New Jim Crow will stress you out and outrage you. Everyone who cares about America should read it.

Author Michelle Alexander's principal argument is this: Although the Civil War ended slavery and the Civil Rights movement ended the Jim Crow era that replaced slavery, we have a new mechanism for marginalizing African Americans and, indeed, all the "have-nots" of our country. That new mechanism of control is what President Nixon first termed the "war on drugs" and what President Reagan officially declared the "War on Drugs" in 1982. At that time, fewer than two percent of Americans perceived drugs as the most important issue facing the nation. In fact, Alexander points out, "Illegal drug use was on the decline."

Still, incredibly, federal funding for a crackdown on illegal drug use was multiplied while funding for drug prevention was slashed. Guerrilla armies in Nicaragua were allowed to smuggle drugs across the border into California, fueling what would become a societal drug problem. And in 1985 (three years after the War on Drugs was declared), the first headlines appeared about a crack cocaine epidemic.

Although studies show that people of all races use and sell illegal drugs at about the same rate (with young white males possibly leading the pack), the War on Drugs has affected African-American communities almost exclusively. In Washington, D.C., for example, three out of four young black men serve prison time, mostly for drug offenses; in Chicago, 55 percent of the total black male population have a felony record.

Since 1980, the number of people in prison or jail for drug offenses in our country has risen 1,100 percent—from 41,100 to approximately 500,000, and most of this growth is the result of arrests, not for the sale of hard drugs, but for marijuana possession only. Our total prison population has risen from 300,000 people nationwide in 1980 to over two million today. We have the highest rate of incarceration in the world, and we imprison more of our African-American population than apartheid South Africa imprisoned its black population. Something is desperately wrong.

Many of us on the outside looking in have heard about the sensationally unjust disparity between sentencing of people caught with crack, the "black" version of cocaine, versus people caught with coke, the "white" version. But Alexander makes us aware of some other crucial facts as well:

•Felons lose their right to vote or to serve on juries for many years after their release from prison — in some states for the rest of their lives.

•Felons — even those whose only crime is possession or selling of marijuana — are automatically excluded from many professions.

•Felons are excluded from public housing and, thanks to President Clinton's embracing of the "get tough on crime" approach, even people who aren't "criminals"

can be evicted from public housing if someone living with them is convicted of a crime, even possessing marijuana.

•Felons must identify themselves as such on housing and job applications, even for non-violent drug offenses, making it likely those applications will be denied.

The effect on an entire generation of African-American families has been devastating: what began in the early 1980s with the disappearance of employment for unskilled workers turned into a massive funneling of unemployed African-American men into the criminal justice system. As Alexander argues, this has positioned them in an "undercaste."

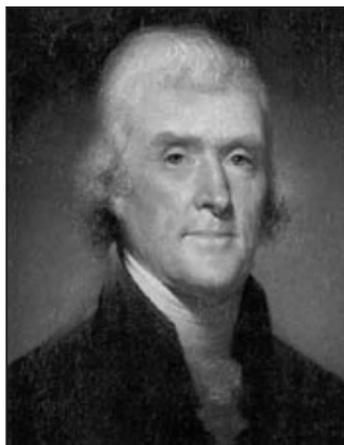
The New Jim Crow places blame for this massive scale of marginalization on many parties: conservatives, liberals and even civil rights organizations. We may think we have entered an era of "colorblindness" with the election of Barack Obama, but Alexander questions both the possibility of colorblindness and whether we should desire it. She poses instead the idea of "color consciousness." "We should hope not for a colorblind society but instead for a world in which we can see each other fully, learn from each other, and do what we can to respond to each other with love," so that once we dismantle this latest manifestation of racism and control, we do not replace it with a new one.

The New Jim Crow is not a beautifully written book. Alexander repeats her main points more than she needs to, leaving less space for developing important discussions. What, for example, would our prisons and communities look like if we decriminalized marijuana, which Alexander advocates? How would African American communities, and all American communities, change if we ceased the "War on Drugs" and replaced it with drug treatment programs and jobs? We need someone to paint that picture.

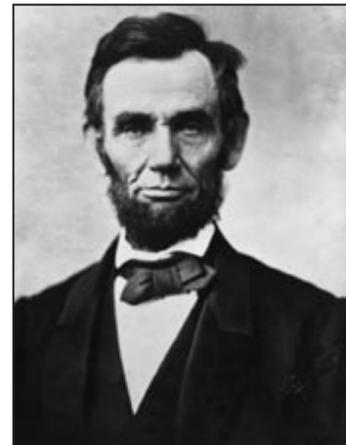
But this is a beautiful book nonetheless. It explains the criminal justice process, from stop and search, to plea bargaining and sentencing, to release and parole. Step-by-step, it discusses relevant Supreme Court decisions. It tells many moving stories about people entrapped by the "War on Drugs", like Clinton Drake, a Vietnam War vet arrested twice, in 1988 and 1993, for possession of marijuana. After accepting a plea bargain and spending five years in prison, he was released owing \$900 in court costs and forbidden from voting until he paid the fine. In 2000 he said, "I know a lot of friends got the same case like I got, not able to vote. A lot of guys doing the same things like I was doing. Just marijuana. They treat marijuana in Alabama like you committed treason or something. I was on the 1965 voting rights march from Selma. I was fifteen years old. At eighteen, I was in Vietnam fighting for my country. And now? Unemployed and they won't allow me to vote."

I read *The New Jim Crow* as an exposé of a huge injustice and a call to action, and I highly recommend it to you.

History's Lessons



Jefferson vs. Lincoln



America Must Choose

By JOSH EBOCH

Over the course of American history, there has been no greater conflict of visions than that between Thomas Jefferson's voluntary republic, founded on the natural right of peaceful secession, and Abraham Lincoln's permanent empire, founded on the violent denial of that same right.

That these two men somehow shared a common commitment to liberty is a lie so monstrous and so absurd that its pervasiveness in popular culture utterly defies logic.

After all, Jefferson stated unequivocally in the Declaration of Independence that, at any point, it may become:

"Necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them..."

And, having done so, he said, it is the people's right:

"To institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Contrast that clear articulation of natural law with Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address, where he flatly rejected the notion that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Instead, Lincoln claimed that, despite the clear wording of the Tenth Amendment,

"No State upon its own mere motion can lawfully get out of the Union; [and] resolves and ordinances [such as the Declaration of Independence] to that effect are legally void..."

King George III agreed.

Furthermore, Lincoln claimed the right of a king to collect his federal tribute, by violence if necessary. Without even bothering to pretend such authority existed in the Constitution, Lincoln offered (and eventually carried out) a thinly veiled threat that:

"Beyond what may be necessary for [collecting taxes], there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere."

In the words of Tony Soprano, "pay up and nobody gets hurt".

But perhaps, as some have said, Jefferson intended his Declaration merely as a political tool to justify American independence from Britain. He surely would never have acknowledged or defended an individual state's

right to secede from the very union he helped to found. Except that he did — in his own first inaugural.

Upon assuming the presidency in 1801, amidst severe political and sectional turmoil, Jefferson said:

"If there be any among us who wish to dissolve the Union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed, as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left

the words and deeds of both men. Despite his occasional use of the Declaration's language, Lincoln himself despised Jefferson; demonstrating by his policies that they occupied polar opposite ends of the ideological spectrum, as do their political descendants today.

But, after decades spent trying to ignore or deny the irreconcilable disconnect between these two figures, the political class has succeeded only in perpetuating the contradictory and inherently dishonest character of modern American government. Though our system is ostensibly rooted in the rule of law and the ideals of liberty, its current nature is really embodied much more accurately by the lawless despotism of our 16th president.

We cannot continue to have it both ways. The preposterous dichotomy between America's founding principles and the actions of her government, from the War Between the States to the War on Drugs, has predictably eroded that government's moral standing at home and its credibility around the world.

As a society, we cannot both revere a man whose fierce dedication to the right of political self-determination formed the philosophical foundations of our republic and, at the same time, worship a dictator whose arrogant and bloody denial of that right transformed our republic into an empire.

It is time to choose. If Americans truly are heirs to the Jeffersonian legacy, then it has always been and must always be, not only our right but our duty as citizens to withdraw consent from any government that becomes destructive of life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness.

If, however, We the People believe ourselves incompetent to judge when that line has been crossed, then we will continue to find no shortage of political masters eager to carry on Lincoln's legacy of contempt for our Constitution and violent suppression of self-government.

Either way, one thing is certain: America will never regain the principles of her founding until her people muster the courage and clarity to separate finally liberty's friends from its foes.

Josh Eboch is a proud "tenth," freelance writer, and activist originally from the Washington, D.C. area. He is the State Chapter Coordinator for the Virginia Tenth Amendment Center.

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Lincoln and Habeas

It is well known that Lincoln suspended the right of habeas corpus during the civil war. Somewhere between 13,000 and 38,000 Americans, including southern sympathizers, draft resisters, and opposition newspaper editors, were imprisoned without charge or recourse to the courts. What is less well known is that when the Supreme Court ruled against him in 1861, the president ordered that the Chief Justice, Roger B. Taney, be arrested. The arrest warrant was issued to the US Marshall for the District of Columbia, Ward Hill Laman.

Cooler heads must have eventually prevailed because the arrest was never carried out.

free to combat it."

In light of these facts, no serious student of history or politics could believe that Jefferson and Lincoln possessed similar visions for America; or that Jefferson would have condoned the violent subjugation of a single sovereign state (let alone 11 of them); or thought Lincoln's disregard for the Constitution in any way legal or justified.

Rather, he would have known at once that what Lincoln spawned through his belligerence was a government capable of violating its own fundamental law at will; of using illegal force to prevent the governed from withdrawing voluntary consent (regardless of their motivation), and thereby destroying consent altogether.

Such a government is incapable of liberty and antithetical to the very existence of Jefferson's America.

For that reason, it is not possible to understand truly, and yet still admire,

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Oil Blob in Gulf Much Worse Than Reported

BLOBS from p. 1

the oil release is far worse than what we were being told.

USA Today now reports: Researchers warned that miles-long underwater plumes of oil from the spill could poison and suffocate sea life across the food chain, with damage that could endure for a decade or more. (USA Today)

That same article also explained: "Researchers have found more underwater plumes of oil than they can count from the blown-out well, said Samantha Joye, a professor of marine sciences at the University of Georgia. She said careful measurements taken of one plume showed it stretching for 10 miles, with a 3-mile width."

The Christian Science Monitor also reports now that as much as 3.4 million gallons of oil may be leaking into the Gulf every day!

"The oil that can be seen from the surface is apparently just a fraction of the oil that has spilled into the Gulf of Mexico since April 20, according to an assessment by the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology. Significant amounts of oil are spreading at various levels throughout the water column... Scientists looking at video of the leak, suggest that as many as 3.4 million gallons of oil could be leaking into the Gulf every day - 16 times more than the current 210,000-gallon-a-day estimate, according to the Times."

The New York Times also chimed in on the topic over the weekend with some absolutely shocking (and disturbing) revelations:

"Scientists are finding enormous oil plumes in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, including one as large as 10 miles long, 3 miles wide and 300 feet thick in spots. The discovery is fresh evidence that the leak from the broken undersea well could be substantially worse than estimates that the government and BP have given.

Scientists studying video of the gushing oil well have tentatively calculated that it could be flowing at a rate of 25,000 to 80,000 barrels of oil a day. The latter figure would be 3.4 million gallons a day. But the government, working from satellite images of the ocean surface, has calculated a flow rate of only 5,000 barrels a day." (NY Times)

In other words, while the government has been telling us the leak is only 5,000 barrels a day, the true volume could be more like 80,000 barrels a day.

Wiping out the Gulf

It hardly needs to be stated that 80,000 barrels of oil a day leaking into the Gulf of Mexico could destroy virtually all marine life in the region.

Oxygen levels have already fallen by 30 percent in waters near the oil. When water loses its oxygen content, it quickly becomes a so-called "dead zone" because marine species simply can't live there anymore. (Fish and other aquatic creatures need oxygen to live, obviously.)

With this volcano of oil still erupting through the ocean floor, we could be witnessing the mass-killing of virtually all marine life in the Gulf of Mexico.

And yet we're faced with a virtual blackout of truly accurate news on the event. Both the oil industry and the Obama administration are desperately trying to limit the videos, photos and stories about the spill, spinning everything to make it seem like it's not really much of a problem at all.

It's much like the media coverage of the War in Iraq, where all video footage had to be vetted by the Pentagon before being released to the public. Remember the uproar over the leaked photos of coffins draped in American flags? That's what the Obama administration no doubt hopes to avoid by suppressing photos of dead dolphins and sea birds in the Gulf of Mexico.

The truth, as usual, is being suppressed. It's just too ugly for the public to see.

Of course, the truth has always been suppressed in the oil industry. Even the inspections on this particular oil rig were, well, rigged. It turns out the rig wasn't even inspected on schedule.

It also turns out that the Obama administration actually gave Deepwater Horizon an award for its history of safety! That was before the whole thing, literally, blew up in their faces.

Corruption in Washington leads to catastrophe

The oil industry, you see, is just like every other industry that's regulated by the federal government: It has a cozy relationship with regulators.

It's the same story with Big Pharma and the FDA, or the meat industry and the USDA, Wall Street and the SEC. Every industry that's regulated eventually turns

the tables on its regulators and ends up rewriting the rules for its own benefit.

The oil industry has been able to get away with so many exemptions and loopholes that the regulatory environment is now lenient at best. Deepwater Horizon, for example, was given all sorts of exemptions to engage in risky drilling operations without following proper safety procedures. And who granted it these exemptions? The US federal government, of course!

So now the US government is just as guilty as the oil industry in this mass-killing of life in the Gulf of Mexico. It is the government that allowed the series of events that led to catastrophe in the first place. And now, this catastrophe could lead to a near-total wipeout of marine life throughout the Gulf (and possibly beyond).

In a worst-case scenario, this could destroy some percentage of life in oceans all around the world. It could be the one final wound to Mother Earth who bleeds her black blood into the oceans for ten thousand years, destroying life as we know it on this planet.

All for profit, of course. Let nothing stand in the way of another billion dollars in oil company profits! (Regulators? Bah!)

Collusion between government and industry always leads to disaster

I hope BP can find a way to suction some of that oil out of the ocean. If they can manage such a solution, they should then turn around and dump the entire slick across the landscape of Washington DC to coat all the bureaucrats in the black slimy shame they no doubt deserve. This isn't about some random accident, you see: It's about a failure of federal regulators to enforce safe drilling practices.

The fishing industries in and around the Gulf of Mexico could be devastated for decades. The diversity of life in the marine ecosystems there may soon find itself on the verge of collapse. And still there is no real solution for stopping the volcano of oil that continues to gush out of this gaping wound in the Earth herself.

I can only wonder what kind of hare-brained ideas these oil men are coming up with now to stop the flow. A nuke bomb expert has reportedly been sent to the area by the Obama administration as part of some sort of "dream team" of super-smart people to find a solution.

But it begs the question: If we were so smart, why are we still running the world on fossil fuels in the first place? There's enough sunlight energy striking the deserts of Arizona to power the entire nation indefinitely! Free energy technology continues to be suppressed in large part by oil company interests (and the arrogant scientific community), and renewable energy technology has received virtually no government support whatsoever.

If we were really smart, we wouldn't be drilling holes in the ocean floor and hoping we can cope with whatever comes gushing out. We would be installing Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) installations across the deserts of America or building more wind power generators. We've been investing in electric cars and alternative fuels rather than burning up our future with fossil fuels.

The smartest thing we could do right now - after capping the volcano of oil, of course - would be to make a commitment to end our world's dependence on fossils fuels forever. But that goes against the financial interests of the oil companies who all want to keep us trapped in their system of fossil fuel dependence no matter what the cost to the environment.

And so we plug along, handcuffed to an outdated fuel source and still running our ridiculously historical internal combustion engines which should have been phased out decades ago and replaced with electric motors.

Humans are slow learners, it turns out. Our modern civilization isn't really that "modern," and it seems to learn only from catastrophe rather than from intelligent planning.

The question remains: How much more damage can our planet handle from Man's arrogant pollution? At what point does all the chemical contamination, fertilizer runoff, carbon emission and runaway oil pollution of the ocean add up to a global extinction event?

We're playing a global game of Russian Roulette right now with the future of human civilization... and the oil companies just can't stop pulling the trigger. There's little question where we're all going to end up if we don't change our ways and find a cleaner way to power our infantile civilization.

Mike Adams is the Health Ranger. NaturalNews.com

The Mysterious CAFRs:

How Stagnant Pools of Government Money Could Help Save the Economy

CAFRS from p. 1

hard to envision how all the municipal governments hoarding their excess money in separate funds could be complicit in a massive government conspiracy. Still, if that is not what is going on, why such an inefficient use of public monies?

A Simpler Explanation

I got a chance to ask that question in April, when I was invited to speak at a conference of Government Finance Officers in Missouri. The friendly public servants at the conference explained that maintaining large "rainy day" funds is simply how local governments must operate. Unlike private businesses, which have bank credit lines they can draw on if they miscalculate their expenses, local governments are required by law to balance their budgets; and if they come up short, public services and government payrolls may be frozen until the voters get around to approving a new bond issue. This has actually happened, bringing local government to a standstill. In emergencies, government officials can try to borrow short-term through "certificates of participation" or tax participation loans, but the interest rates are prohibitively high; and in today's tight credit market, finding willing lenders is difficult.

To avoid those unpredictable contingencies, municipal governments will keep a cushion of from 20% to 75% more than their budgets actually require. This money is invested, but not necessarily lucratively. One finance officer, for example, said that her city had just bid out \$2 million as a 30-day certificate of deposit (CD) to two large banks at a meager annual interest of 0.11%. It was a nice spread for the banks, which could leverage the money into loans at 6% or so; but it was a pretty sparse deal for the city.

Meanwhile, Back in California

That was in Missouri, but the figures in which I was particularly interested were for my own state of California, which was struggling with a budget deficit of \$26.3 billion as of April 2010. Yet the State Treasurer's Web site says that he manages a Pooled Money Investment Account (PMIA) tallying in at nearly \$71 billion as of the same date, including a Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) of \$24 billion. Why isn't this money being used toward the state's deficit? The Treasurer's answer to this question, which he evidently gets frequently, is that legislation forbids it. His Web site states:

Can the State borrow LAIF dollars to resolve the budget deficit? No. California Government Code 16429.3 states that monies placed with the Treasurer for deposit in the LAIF by cities, counties, special districts, nonprofit corporations, or qualified quasi-governmental agencies shall not be subject to either of the following: (a) transfer or loan pursuant to Sections 16310, 16312, or 16313; (b) impoundment or seizure by any state official or state agency.

The non-LAIF money in the pool can't be spent either. It can be borrowed, but it has to be paid back. When Governor Schwarzenegger tried to raid the Public Transportation Account for the state budget, the California Transit Association took him to court and won. The Third District Court of Appeals ruled in June 2009 that diversions from the Public Transportation Account to fill non-transit holes in the General Fund violated a series of statutory and constitutional amendments enacted by voters via four statewide initiatives dating back to 1990.

In short, the use of these funds for the state budget has been blocked by the voters themselves. Bond issues are approved for particular purposes. When excess funds are collected, they are not handed over to the State toward next year's budget. They just sit idly in an earmarked fund, drawing a modest interest.

What's Wrong with This Picture?

California's budget problems have caused its credit rating to be downgraded to just above that of Greece, driving the state's interest tab skyward. In November 2009, the state sold 30-year taxable securities carrying an interest rate of 7.26%. Yet California has never defaulted on its bonds. Meanwhile, the too-big-to-fail banks, which would have defaulted on hundreds of billions of dollars of debt if they had not been bailed out by the states and their citizens, are able to borrow from each other at the extremely low federal funds rate, currently set at 0 to .25% (one quarter of one percent). The banks are also paying the states quite minimal rates for the use of their public monies, and turning around and relending this money, leveraged many times over, to the states and their citizens at much higher rates. That is assuming they lend at all, something they are increasingly reluctant to do, since speculating with the money is more lucrative, and investing it in federal securities is more secure.

Private banks clearly have the upper hand in this game. Local governments have been forced to hoard funds in very inefficient ways, building excessive reserves while slashing services, because they do not have the extensive credit

lines available to the private banking system. States cannot easily incur new debt without voter approval, a process that is cumbersome, time-consuming and uncertain. Banks, on the other hand, need to keep only the slimmest of reserves, because they are backstopped by a central bank with the power to create all the reserves necessary for its member banks, as well as by Congress and the taxpayers themselves, who have been arm-twisted into repeated bailouts of the Wall Street behemoths.

How the CAFR Money Could Be Used Without Spending It

California, then, is in the anomalous position of being \$26 billion in the red and plunging toward bankruptcy, while it has over \$70 billion stashed away in an investment pool that it cannot touch. Those are just the funds managed by the Treasurer. According to California's latest CAFR, the California Public Employees' Retirement Fund (CalPERS) has total investments of \$360 billion, including nearly \$144 billion in "equity securities" and \$37 billion in "private equity." See the State of California Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009, pages 83-84.

This money cannot be spent, but it can be invested - and it can be invested not just in conservative federal securities but in equity, or stocks. Rather than turning this hidden gold mine over to Wall Street banks to earn a very meager interest, California could leverage its excess funds itself, turning the money into much-needed low-interest credit for its own use. How? It could do this by owning its own bank.

Only one state currently does this - North Dakota. North Dakota is also the only state projected to have a budget surplus by 2011. It has not fallen into the Wall Street debt trap afflicting other states because it has been able to generate its own credit through its own state-owned Bank of North Dakota (BND).

An investment in the State Bank of California would not be at risk unless the bank became insolvent, a highly unlikely result since the state has the power to tax. In North Dakota, the BND is a "doing business as" (dba) of the state itself: it is set up as "the State of North Dakota doing business as the Bank of North Dakota." That means the bank cannot go bankrupt unless the state goes bankrupt.

The capital requirement for bank loans is a complicated matter, but it generally works out to be about 7%. (According to Standard & Poor's, the worldwide average risk-adjusted capital ratio stood at 6.7 per cent as of June 30, 2009; but for some major US banks it was much lower: Citigroup's was 2.1 percent; Bank of America's was 5.8 per cent.) At 7%, \$7 of capital can back \$100 in loans. Thus if \$7 billion in CAFR funds were invested as capital in a California state development bank, the bank could generate \$100 billion in loans.

This \$100 billion credit line would allow California to finance its \$26 billion deficit at very minimal interest rates, with \$74 billion left over for infrastructure and other sorely needed projects. Studies have shown that eliminating the interest burden can cut the cost of public projects in half. The loans could be repaid from the profits generated by the projects themselves. Public transportation, low-cost housing, alternative energy sources and the like all generate fees. Meanwhile, the jobs created by these projects would produce additional taxes and stimulate the economy. Commercial loans could also be made, generating interest income that would return to state coffers.

Building a Deposit Base

To start a bank requires not just capital but deposits. Banks can create all the loans they can find creditworthy borrowers for, up to the limit of their capital base; but when the loans leave the bank as checks, the bank needs to replace



Ellen Brown speaking at the Deep Politics Conference in Santa Cruz, May 15, 2010

the deposits taken from its reserve pool in order for the checks to clear. Where would a state-owned bank get the deposits necessary for this purpose?

In North Dakota, all the state's revenues are deposited in the BND by law. Compare California, which has expected revenues for 2010-11 of \$89 billion. The Treasurer's Web site reports that as of June 30, 2009, the state held over \$18 billion on deposit as demand accounts and demand NOW accounts (basically demand accounts carrying a very small interest). These deposits were held in seven commercial banks, most of them Wall Street banks: Bank of America, Union Bank, Bank of the West, US Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, Westamerica Bank, and Citibank. Besides these deposits, the \$64 billion or so left in the Treasurer's investment pool could be invested in State Bank of California CDs. Again, most of the bank CDs in which these funds are now invested are Wall Street or foreign banks. Many private depositors would no doubt choose to bank at the State Bank of California as well, keeping California's money in California. There is already a movement afoot to transfer funds out of Wall Street banks into local banks.

While the new state-owned bank is waiting to accumulate sufficient deposits to clear its outgoing checks, it can do what other startup banks do - borrow deposits from the interbank lending market at the very modest federal funds rate (0 to .25%).

To avoid hurting California's local banks, any state monies held on deposit with local banks could remain there since the State Bank of California should have plenty of potential deposits without these funds. In North Dakota, local banks are not only not threatened by the BND but are actually served by it since the BND partners with them, engaging in "participation loans" that help local banks with their capital requirements.

Taking Back the Money Power

We have too long delegated the power to create our money and our credit to private profiteers, who have plundered and exploited the privilege in ways that are increasingly being exposed in the media. Wall Street may own Congress, but it does not yet own the states. We can take the money power back at the state level by setting up our own publicly-owned banks. We can "spend" our money while conserving it by leveraging it into the credit urgently needed to get the wheels of local production turning once again.

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

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Where Have All the Black Men Gone?



By MICHELLE ALEXANDER
Author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

A recurring question has surfaced in mainstream and ethnic media for more than a decade. The phrasing of the question differs depending on who's asking the question and why, but the question tends to boil down to this: "Where have all the black men gone?" They're missing in churches, missing from their families, missing from college campuses, and absent from work. Black women can't find a man to marry. Black children don't know where to find their fathers. Where are those guys?

On Father's Day 2008, presidential Barack Obama wagged a finger at all the missing black fathers. At the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago he stepped to the podium and said: "If we are honest with ourselves, we'll admit that too many fathers are missing — missing from too many lives and too many homes. Too many fathers are MIA. Too many fathers are AWOL. They have abandoned their responsibilities. They're acting like boys instead of men. And the foundations of our families are weaker because of it. You and I know this is true

everywhere, but nowhere is this more true than in the African American community."

The next day, social critic and sociologist Michael Eric Dyson published a critique of Obama's speech in *Time* magazine. He pointed out that the stereotype of black men being poor fathers may well be false. Research shows that black fathers not living at home are actually more likely to keep in contact with their children than fathers of any other ethnic or racial group. Dyson chided Obama for evoking a black stereotype for political gain, noting that "Obama's words may have been spoken to black folk, but they were aimed at those whites still on the fence about whom to send to the White House." Dyson's critique was a fair one, but like other media commentators, he remained silent about where all the absent black fathers could be found.

Here's a hint for all those still scratching their heads about those missing black fathers: Look in prison.

The mass incarceration of people of color through the "War on Drugs" is a big part of the reason that a black child born today is less likely to be raised by both parents than a black child born during slavery. The absence of

black fathers from families across America is not simply a function of laziness, immaturity, or too much time watching Sports Center. Hundreds of thousands of black men have disappeared into prisons and jails, locked away for drug crimes that are largely ignored when committed by whites.

Most people seem to imagine that the "drug war" — which has swept millions of poor people of color behind bars — has been aimed at rooting out drug kingpins or violent drug offenders. Nothing could be further from the truth. This war has been focused overwhelmingly on low-level drug offenses, like marijuana possession — the very crimes that happen with equal frequency in middle class white communities.

In 2005, for example, 4 out of 5 drug arrests were for possession and only 1 out of 5 were for sales. Most people in state prison for drug offenses have no history of violence or significant selling activity. Nearly 80 percent of the increase in drug arrests in the 1990s — the period of the most dramatic expansion of the drug war — was for marijuana possession, a drug less harmful than alcohol or tobacco. In some states, though, African Americans have comprised 80 to 90 percent of all drug convictions.

This is The New Jim Crow. People of color are rounded up — frequently at young ages — for relatively minor drug offenses, branded felons, and then relegated to a permanent second-class status in which they may be denied the right to vote, automatically excluded from juries, and subjected to legal discrimination in employment, housing, access to education, and public benefits. Those who are lucky enough to get a job upon release from prison find that up to 100 percent of their wages may be garnished to pay fees, fines, and court costs as well as the costs of their imprisonment and accumulated child support. What, realistically, do we expect these folks to do? When those labeled felons fail under this system to make it on the outside — not surprisingly, about 70 percent fail within three years — we throw up our hands and wonder where they all went. Or we chastise them for being poor fathers and for failing to contribute to their families. It's a setup. This system isn't about crime control; it is about racial control. Yes, even in the age of Obama.

This article first appeared on Race-Talk February 22, 2010.

Michelle Alexander is a longtime civil rights advocate and litigator, she holds a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University. Alexander served for several years as director of the Racial Justice Project at the ACLU of Northern California, and subsequently directed the Civil Rights Clinics at Stanford Law School, where she was an associate professor. The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness is her first book.

News Bites

Another Confirmation of Car Bombing at State Department on 9/11

(Washington) Wayne Madsen reports additional confirmation that a mysterious car bombing took place on the morning of the 9/11 attacks. That morning, a car parked on Virginia Avenue, aside the main State Department building in Washington, DC, exploded. The car bombing was referenced in thousands of text messages from 9/11 that were released last year.

A State Department source has revealed that residents of the State Plaza Hotel, which lies across the street from the State Department and the location where the car bomb went off on 9/11, were told to remain in their rooms because, as the source put it, a "car exploded across the street."

The car was immediately towed off by security officers after the explosion before forensics teams could examine the car and the surrounding area.

A "Gift" from Monsanto to Haiti

(Global Research) Monsanto is offering Haitian farmers a deadly gift of 475 tons of genetically-modified (GM) seeds, along with associated fertilizer and pesticides, which will be handed out free by the WINNER project, with the backing of the US embassy in Haiti. GM seeds have been declared dangerous by many countries and often come in kits along with a Monsanto herbicide called Roundup, which contains glyphosate. Monsanto insists its product is biodegradable, but it is being sued for pollution by anti-fraud officials in Lyon, France.

Monsanto has already begun distributing its GM maize seeds in the Haitian towns and cities. Soon there will be only Monsanto seeds in Haiti. Haitian farmers wishing to use Monsanto seeds for future harvests will have to pay royalties to Monsanto.

Supreme Court Bans Life in Prison for Juvenile Non-Murderers

(AllGov.com) Continuing a recent trend of lessening harsh sentences for juvenile offenders, the US Supreme Court has ruled, in a 5-4 decision that States cannot lock away for the rest of their lives young criminals who have not committed murder.

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority in *Graham v. Florida* that sentencing non-homicide juveniles to life without parole is a "grossly disproportionate" punishment that violates the Constitution.

The ruling followed another key decision in 2005 when the Supreme Court said juvenile offenders cannot be executed.

In his dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas suggested that the Court should interpret the law "at the time of the Founding" when, theoretically, capital punishment could be imposed on a person as young as seven years old. Retiring Justice John Paul Stevens responded to Thomas by noting that, "While Justice Thomas would apparently not rule out a death sentence for a \$50 theft by a 7-year-old, the Court wisely rejects his static approach to the law. Standards of decency have evolved....They will never stop doing so."

Rahm Emanuel's Father Specialized in Bus Bombings in Palestine

(Washington) A well-placed British source informed the Wayne Madsen Report that Rahm Emanuel's father, Benjamin Emanuel, specialized in terrorist bombings of buses carrying British troops and policemen during the British mandate in Palestine. British MI-6 files contain information on the elder Emanuel's participation in the terrorist activities of Irgun Zvai Leumi, a Jewish terrorist organization that targeted British forces, UN officials, and Palestinian Arabs in the lead-up to Israeli independence in 1948.

Benjamin Emanuel, a Jew from Russia whose real name was Ezekiel Auerbach, was arrested by British police for terrorist activities in the months prior to Israeli independence. Benjamin Emanuel was permitted by US authorities to immigrate to Chicago from Israel in the 1950s, becoming a citizen. Rahm Emanuel was born in 1959.

Tikkun Founder Rabbi Lerner's Home Vandalized by Zionists

(Berkeley) The home of Rabbi Michael Lerner was attacked late Sunday May 2nd or early morning Sunday May 3rd. The attackers attached posters to his door and around the property of his home attacking Lerner personally, and attacking liberals and progressives as being supporters of terrorism and "Islamofascism." Attackers posted a printed bumper sticker saying "Fight terror-Support Israel" next to a caricature of Judge Richard Goldstone whose UN report on Israel's human rights violations in its attack on Gaza last year has been denounced as anti-Semitic and pro-terror by right wingers in Israel and the US.

Tikkun has condemned the Israeli attack on Gaza last year and called for humane treatment of Palestinians.

This attack and vandalism follows a week filled with Lerner and *Tikkun* staff receiving hate mail. This attack has two worrisome elements: 1. They attack Rabbi Lerner's home, conveying the message that: "We know where you live, we know your house is vulnerable, so don't ignore our threats." 2. By linking Lerner to alleged terrorism, the attackers provide for themselves and other extremists a "right-wing justification" to use violence against Lerner.

CDC Misled District Residents About Lead Levels In Water

(Washington) *The Washington Post* reports that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), knowingly used flawed data to claim that high levels of lead in the District's drinking water did not pose a health risk to the public, a congressional investigation has found. And, investigators determined, the agency has not publicized more thorough internal research showing that the problem harmed children across the city and continues to endanger thousands of D.C. residents.

A House investigative subcommittee concluded that the CDC made "scientifically indefensible" claims in 2004 that high lead in the water was not causing noticeable harm to the health of city residents. The committee learned that three times as many children had elevated lead levels as reported, 954 instead of 315. This means child lead poisoning was rising, not falling or staying the same, as the CDC had claimed.

The CDC declined to directly rebut the House investigators' findings. Instead, it released a brief re-analysis based on the missing tests, which it said confirms the original 2004 findings that residents did not suffer significant harm.

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