

Rock Creek Free Press

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Vol. 4, No. 11 November 2010

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Mumbai-Style Terror = State Sponsored False-Flag Terror

Feds Confirm Mumbai Plotter Worked for DEA

By SEBASTIAN ROTELLA / PROPUBLICA

Federal officials acknowledged October 16 that David Coleman Headley, the US businessman who confessed to being a terrorist scout in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, was working as a DEA informant while he was training with terrorists in Pakistan.

Federal officials, who spoke only on background because of the sensitivity of the Headley case, also said they suspect a link between Headley and the al Qaeda figures whose activities have sparked recent terror threats against Europe.

The revelations came after a report October 15 by ProPublica and the *Washington Post* that the FBI had been warned about Headley's terrorist ties three years before the Mumbai attacks. Headley wasn't arrested until eleven months after the attack.

After Headley was arrested in a 2005 domestic dispute in New York City, his wife told federal investigators about his long involvement with the terrorist group

See MUMBAI p. 2

CIA Lying About Drone Attacks

By GARETH PORTER / ASIA TIMES

New information on the Central Intelligence Agency's campaign of drone strikes in northwest Pakistan directly contradicts the image the Barack Obama administration and the CIA have sought to establish in the news media of a program based on highly accurate targeting that is effective in disrupting al Qaeda's terrorist plots against the United States.

A new report on civilian casualties in the war in Pakistan has revealed direct evidence that a house was targeted for a drone attack merely because it had been visited by a group of Taliban soldiers.

The report came shortly after publication of the results of a survey of opinion within the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)

See DRONE ATTACKS p. 2

In 1932, Fox Helped Make Propaganda Films For Hitler

By WEBSTER GRIFFIN TARPLEY, PH.D.

Observers of the current US election season have noted the prominent role of Rupert Murdoch's reactionary Fox News Channel, which currently employs GOP and "Tea Party" partisans Sarah Palin, Glenn Beck, Mike Huckabee, Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum, Sean Hannity, and others. Some have alleged that a television network carrying so many potential political candidates and propagandists on its payroll is unprecedented. But there is a precedent for large-scale Fox intervention into a political campaign.

In 1932, the German newsreel subsidiary of Fox News Channel's corporate ancestor, Fox Films, intervened in national elections in Germany.

See FOX p. 7

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Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear



Funnymen Come To Washington

Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert announced on October 14 that their separate rallies have been combined into one, now called "The Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear." The rallies first came to public attention on September 10, when Jon Stewart told "The Daily Show" audience that he was "announcing that I will have an announcement sometime in the near to not-so-near future." The same night, on "The Colbert Report," Stephen Colbert stated that if Stewart made an announcement, that he would make an even more important counter-announcement.

Billed as a "rally for people who've been too busy to go to rallies," the event is a light-hearted comment on the state of political acrimony in this city, and the constant drumbeat of fear promoted by the Fox News conservative mantra: terror, terrorism, Osama bin Laden, be afraid, be very afraid, the evil Muslims are gonna getcha! Boo!

Take a break and have some fun. See page 8 for a map of the rally location.



Injustice in the Age of Obama

Barack Obama, a former law professor, should have a healthy respect for civil liberties, but his actions suggest otherwise.

By CINDY SHEEHAN / AL-JAZEERA

Since being the defendant in about six trials after I was arrested for protesting the Iraq and Afghanistan occupations, it's my experience that the police lie. Period.

However the lies don't stop at street law enforcement level. From lies about WMD and connections to "al Qaeda," almost every institution of so-called authority — the Pentagon, State Department, CIA, FBI, all the way up to the Oval Office and back down — lie. Not white lies, but big, Mother of all BS (MOAB) lies that lead to the destruction of innocent lives. I.F. Stone was most definitely on the ball when he proclaimed, "Governments lie."

Having clarified that, I would now like to examine a case that should be enshrined in the travesty of the US Justice Hall of Shame.

In February of this year, Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani mother of three, was convicted in US Federal (kangaroo) Court of seven counts, including two counts of "attempted murder"

See AAFA SIDDIQUI p. 5

Foreclosuregate: Time to Break Up the Too-Big-to-Fail Banks

With risky behavior by big finance again threatening economic stability, how can we get things right this time?

By ELLEN BROWN

Looming losses from the mortgage scandal dubbed "foreclosuregate" may qualify as the sort of systemic risk that, under the new financial reform bill, warrants the breakup of the too-big-to-fail banks. The Kanjorski amendment allows federal regulators to break up preemptively large financial institutions that — for any reason — pose a threat to US financial or economic stability.

Although downplayed by most media accounts and popular financial analysts, crippling bank losses from foreclosure flaws appear to be imminent and unavoidable. The defects prompting the "RoboSigning Scandal" are not mere technicalities but

are inherent in the securitization process. They cannot be cured. This deep-seated fraud is already explicitly outlined in publicly available lawsuits.

There is, however, no need to panic, no need for TARP II, and no need for legislation to further conceal the fraud and push the inevitable failure of the too-big-to-fail banks into the future.

Federal regulators now have the tools to take control and set things right. The Wall Street giants escaped the Volcker Rule, which would have limited their size, and the Brown-Kaufman amendment, which would have broken up the largest six banks outright; but the financial reform bill has us covered. The Kanjorski amendment — which slipped past lobbyists

largely unnoticed — allows federal regulators to break up large financial institutions before they pose a threat to US financial or economic stability.

Rep. Grayson's Call for a Moratorium

The new Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) probably didn't expect to have its authority called on quite so soon, but Rep. Alan Grayson (D-FL) has just put the amendment to the test. On October 7, in a letter addressed to Timothy Geithner, Sheila Bair (Chairman US FDIC), Ben Bernanke, Mary Schapiro (Chairperson SEC), John Walsh (Acting Comptroller of the Currency), Gary Gensler (Chairman

See FORECLOSURES p. 4

Pakistani General: America Cannot Win in Afghanistan

an Interview with Former Head of Pakistani Intelligence, Hamid Gul



FROM GUNS&BUTTER RADIO

(Edited transcript of an interview with General Hamid Gul on "Guns and Butter," KPFA-FM, Berkeley, CA, September 8, 2010.)

Bonnie Faulkner, host: The US appears to be sinking into a quagmire in Afghanistan. The operation in the Helmand River valley around Marja didn't succeed in permanently removing resistance fighters. Since that was its sole purpose, it was a failure. The planned attack on Kandahar has been delayed. Isn't the United States losing the war on the

ground in Afghanistan?

General Gul: Bonnie, right from the beginning, this war was a lost war. There was no way that it could be won. And I think we need to review this. Now, from the beginning, the premise on which the American case stands against Afghanistan was totally wrong because not a single Afghan was ever involved in any act of terrorism outside the boundaries of Afghanistan. So first, the premise has to be correct for going to war. That wasn't correct at all. And I think it was based on lies. 9/11 is, in my opinion, still

a huge, big fraud which has been perpetrated on the world, but more than that, on the American people themselves. And because they could not win a vote to support a war of this kind, so they had to create an excuse so that there would be world sympathy, which there was after 9/11, and the American people would be so angry, annoyed and alarmed that they would not question their government about their credentials and the veracity of what happened on 9/11.

See HAMID GUL p. 5

Is Leading 9/11 Truth Site Working For The Other Side?

By RCFP STAFF WRITERS

In the nine years since the attacks of September 11, 2010, 9/11 truth has become a significant social movement, with hundreds of millions of adherents worldwide. A Scripps Howard/Oregon University poll in 2006 found that 36% of Americans believe that the US government either promoted the attacks, or intentionally sat on its hands and let the attacks unfold.

Since 2005, the leading portal for news and discussion about 9/11 has been 911blogger.com. Of the many websites for researchers investigating the events of 9/11 (a Google search for "9/11truth" brings up over a half a million results), 911blogger is the most heavily trafficked. The content is user-generated; registered users post items of interest and other users post comments.

But over the past two years, many well-respected 9/11 truth activists and scholars

have been banned from 911blogger without explanation or cause, while the moderators have become heavy-handed in squelching the views of one particular group. These actions have caused many of the banned activists to suspect that Blogger has been infiltrated by agents working for the other side, i.e., those tasked with keeping the

truth about 9/11 from gaining widespread acceptance.

The mass bannings are not random, but directed at, among others, users who support the work of Citizen Investigation Team (CIT). (The RCFP ran front page articles about CIT in the April 2009 and July 2009 issues. All back issues are available as PDFs at rockcreekfreepress.com.)

The uninformed are urged to read those 2009 articles to get the full picture, but a drastically reduced summary is: no plane hit the Pentagon on 9/11. CIT showed, through interviews of seventeen eyewitnesses, that the plane that was seen approaching the Pentagon flew over it and away, as explosives simultaneously detonated inside the building. This created an enormous fireball, filling the sky with dense, black smoke, which obscured the escaping plane. Observers who saw the plane head toward the Pentagon, and next saw the fireball, falsely but understandably concluded that the plane had hit the building. However, the airliner was seen after the fireball by several people, including a Pentagon police officer.

CIT has been endorsed by many of the leading figures of the 9/11 truth movement, including Richard Gage, founder of Architects & Engineers for 911 Truth,

See BLOGGER p. 8

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INSIDE

Fluoride

If there's any doubt, get it out!

www.FluorideACTION.net

ADA Confirms Dangers of Fluoridated Water Especially for Babies

FLUORIDE from p. 1

the first year more important." They went on to warn that "infant formulas reconstituted with higher fluoride water can provide 100 to 200 times more fluoride than breast milk, or cow's milk."

In other words, young children have the highest risk of severe tooth damage from fluoride, especially those that are six months of age or younger, a time during which children's blood-brain barriers have not fully formed. Even low ingestion levels cause the direct depositing of fluoride into the teeth, brain and other bodily tissues and organs which, besides causing fluorosis, also causes disorders of the brain and nervous system, kidneys and bones.

And the American Dental Association (ADA) has known that fluoride exposure causes dental fluorosis since at least 2006, but the group has done nothing to warn the 200 million Americans that live in communities with fluoridated water to avoid its use in baby and infant food. Many dentists still recommend that children and adults not only drink fluoridated water, but even advise parents to add fluoride drops to their children's drinking water if the family lives in unfluoridated areas or drinks private well water.

Fluoride causes serious health problems

In 2006, a study published in *The Lancet* identified fluoride as "an emerging neurotoxic substance" that causes severe brain damage. The National Research Council (NRC) wrote that "it is apparent that fluorides have the ability to interfere with the functions of the brain and the body by direct and indirect means."

About a month later, another study published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* found a definitive link between fluoride intake and reduced IQ levels, indicating once again that fluoride intake causes cognitive damage.

At Harvard University, researchers identified a link between fluoride and bone cancer. Published fourteen years after it began, the study found that the highest rates of osteosarcoma, a fatal form of bone cancer, were occurring most in populations drinking fluoridated water. The findings confirmed those of a prior government study back in 1990 that involved fluoride-treated rats.

Kidney disease is another hallmark of fluoride poisoning. Multiple animal studies have

found that fluoride levels as low as 1 part per million (ppm) — which is the amount added to most fluoridated water systems — cause kidney damage. And a Chinese study found that children exposed to slightly higher fluoride levels had biological markers in their blood indicative of kidney damage.

The NRC has also found that fluoride impairs proper thyroid function and debilitates the endocrine system. Up until the 1970s, fluoride was used in Europe as a thyroid-suppressing medication because it lowers thyroid function. Many experts believe that widespread hypothyroidism today is a result of overexposure to fluoride.

Since fluoride is present in most municipal water supplies in North America, it is absurd even to suggest that parents avoid giving it to their young children. How are parents supposed to avoid it unless they install a whole-house reverse osmosis water filtration system? And even if families install such a system, fluoride is found in all sorts of food and beverages, not to mention that it is absorbed through the skin every time people wash their hands with or take a shower in fluoridated water. Perhaps these are some of the reasons why the ADA has said nothing about the issue despite the findings.

There simply is no legitimate reason to fluoridate water. Doing so forcibly medicates an entire population with a carcinogenic, chemical drug. There really is no effective way to avoid it entirely, and nobody really knows how much is ingested or absorbed on a daily basis because exposure is too widespread to calculate. But political pressure and bad science have continued to justify water fluoridation in most major cities, despite growing mountains of evidence showing its dangers.

Ending water fluoridation is a difficult task, but concerted efforts by citizens, local authorities, and even dentists, have resulted in some significant victories. To learn more about fluoride, check out the Fluoride Action Network (FAN):

<http://www.fluoridealert.org>
Sources for this story include:
<http://www.prnewswire.com>
<http://jada.ada.org>
<http://www.fluoridealert.org>

Ethan A. Huff is a freelance writer and health enthusiast who loves exploring the vast world of natural foods and health, digging deep to get to the truth. He runs an online health publication of his own at <http://wholesomeherald.blogspot.com>.

DRONE ATTACKS from p. 1

of Pakistan showing overwhelming popular opposition to the drone strikes and majority support for suicide attacks on US and allied forces under some circumstances.

Meanwhile, data on targeting of the drone strikes in Pakistan indicate that they have now become primarily an adjunct of the US war in Afghanistan, targeting almost entirely militant groups involved in the Afghan insurgency rather than al Qaeda officials purportedly involved in plotting global terrorism.

The new report published by the Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict (CIVIC) last week offers the first glimpse of the drone strikes based on actual interviews with civilian victims of the strikes.

In an interview with a researcher for CIVIC, a civilian victim of a drone strike in North Waziristan carried out under the Obama administration recounted how his home had been visited by Taliban troops asking for lunch. He said he had agreed out of fear of refusing them.

The very next day, he recalled, the house was destroyed by a missile from a drone, killing his only son.

The CIVIC researcher, Christopher Rogers, investigated nine of the 139 drone strikes carried out since the beginning of 2009 and found that a total of 30 civilians had been killed in those strikes, including fourteen women and children.

If that average rate of 3.33 civilian casualties for each drone bombing is typical of all the strikes since the rules for the strikes were loosened in early 2008, it would suggest that roughly 460 civilians have been killed in the drone campaign during that period.

The total number of deaths from the drone war in Pakistan since early 2008 is unknown, but has been estimated by Peter Bergen and Katherine Tiedemann of the New America Foundation at between 1,109 and 1,734.

Only 66 leading officials in al Qaeda or other anti-US groups have been killed in the bombings. Reports on the bombings have listed the vast majority of the victims as "militants," without further explanation.

The victim's account of a drone attack based on the flimsiest rationale is consistent with the revelation in *New York Times* reporter David Sanger's book, *The Inheritance*, that the CIA was given much greater freedom in early 2008 to hit targets that logically would involve killing innocent civilians.

The original rationale of the drone campaign was to "decapitate" al Qaeda by targeting a list of high-ranking al Qaeda officials. The official rules of engagement required firm evidence that there were no civilians at the location who would be killed by the strike.

But in January 2008, the CIA persuaded then president George W. Bush to approve a set of "permissions" proposed by the CIA that same month which allowed the agency to target locations rather than identified al Qaeda leaders if those locations were linked to a "signature" — a pattern of behavior on the part of al Qaeda officials that had been observed over time.

That meant the CIA could now bomb a motorcade or a house if it was believed to be linked to al Qaeda, without identifying any particular individual target.

A high-ranking Bush administration national-security official told Sanger that Bush later authorized even further widening of the power of the CIA's operations directorate to make life or death decisions based on inferences rather than hard evidence. The official acknowledged that giving the CIA

CIA Lying About Drone Attacks



so much latitude was "risky" because "you can make more mistakes — you can hit the wrong house, or misidentify the motorcade".

The extraordinary power ceded to the CIA operations directorate under the program provoked serious concerns in the intelligence community, according to one former intelligence official. It allowed that directorate to collect the intelligence on potential targets in the FATA, interpret its own intelligence and then make lethal decisions based on that interpretation — all without any outside check on the judgments it was making, even from the CIA's own directorate of intelligence.

Officials from other intelligence agencies have sought repeatedly to learn more about how the operations directorate was making targeting decisions but were rebuffed, according to the source.

Some national security officials, including mid-level officials involved in the drone program itself, have warned in the past that the drone strikes have increased anti-Americanism and boosted recruitment for the Pakistani Taliban and al Qaeda. New support for that conclusion has now come from the results of a survey of opinion on the strikes in the FATA published by the New American Foundation and Terror Free Tomorrow.

The survey shows that 76% of the 1,000 FATA residents surveyed opposed drone strikes and that nearly half of those surveyed believed they killed mostly civilians.

Sixty percent of those surveyed believed that suicide bombings against the US military are "often or sometimes justified".

Meanwhile, data on the targeting of drone strikes make it clear that the program, which the Obama administration and the CIA have justified as effective in disrupting al Qaeda terrorism, is now focused on areas where Afghan and Pakistani militants are engaged in the war in Afghanistan.

Most al Qaeda leaders and the Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud, who has been closely allied with al Qaeda against the Pakistani government, have operated in South Waziristan.

North Waziristan is where the Haqqani network provides safe havens to Pashtun insurgents fighting US-NATO troops in Afghanistan. It is also where Hafiz Gul Bahadur, leader of a Pakistani



Taliban faction who has called for supporting the Afghan insurgency rather than jihad against the Pakistani government, operates.

Last year, just over half the drone strikes were still carried out in South Waziristan. But in 2010, 90% of the 86 drone strikes carried out thus far have been in North Waziristan, according to data collected by Bill Roggin and Alexander Mayer and published on the web site of the *Long War Journal*, which supports the drone campaign.

The dramatic shift in targeting came after al Qaeda officials were reported to have fled from South Waziristan to Karachi and other major cities.

A different picture emerges

from a law enforcement document describing the New York tip and from interviews with anti-terror officials and a person close to the case. Headley's US wife described her husband's frequent trips to Pakistan, his training stints at a Lashkar camp near Muzaffarabad, and his recruiting and fund-raising for Lashkar.

Although the claims of an angry spouse might be suspect, the wife's in-depth knowledge of Lashkar would have reinforced her credibility because the Pakistani extremist group is not well known to the average American.

Headley is the son of a Pakistani father and an American mother. He became a DEA informant in the late 1990s, after he was arrested on heroin charges. His US wife told investigators that he told her that he started training with Lashkar in early 2002 as part of a secret mission for the US government. A federal official said Headley's work as an informant appears to have lasted until sometime between 2003 and 2005.

Another federal official said

Headley was a DEA informant in the early 2000s."

"I couldn't say it continued into

2005, but he was definitely an informant post-9/11," the official said.

North Waziristan.

When asked whether the drone campaign was now primarily about the war in Afghanistan rather than al Qaeda terrorism, Peter Bergin of the New America Foundation's Counterterrorism Strategy Initiative told Inter Press Service: "I think that's a reasonable conclusion."

Bergin has defended the drone campaign in the past as "the only game in town" in combating terrorism by al Qaeda.

Gareth Porter is an investigative historian and journalist specializing in US national security policy. The paperback edition of his latest book, *Perils of Dominance: Imbalance of Power and the Road to War in Vietnam*, was published in 2006.



The Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai was bombed November 26, 2008, hotel reopened August 2010

Mumbai-Style Terror = State Sponsored False-Flag Terror

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Lashkar-i-Taiba and his extensive training in its Pakistani camps. She also told them he had bragged about being a paid US informant while undergoing terrorist training.

Despite a federal inquiry into the tip, Headley spent the next four years doing terrorist reconnaissance around the world. Between 2006 and 2008, he did five spying missions in Mumbai scouting targets for the attack by Lashkar that killed 166 people, including six Americans.

On October 16, the *New York Times* reported that another of Headley's wives — he apparently was married to three women at the same time — had also warned US officials about his terrorism involvement. In December 2007, the Moroccan woman met with officials at the US embassy in Pakistan and told them about Headley's friendship with Lashkar members, his hatred of India and her trips with him to the Taj Mahal Hotel, a prime target of the Mumbai attacks, the *Times* reported.

On October 16, federal officials said the women's tips lacked specificity.

"US authorities took seriously what Headley's former wives said," a senior administration official said. "Their information was of a general nature and did not suggest any particular terrorist plot."

Similarly, a federal official described the 2005 tip from Headley's US wife to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) in New York City as "general in nature."

"The JTTF could not link the information to a specific threat, plot or terrorist group," the official said.

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2005, but he was definitely an informant post-9/11," the official said.

Kashmiri is directly linked to those threats, especially involving Britain and British Pakistanis," the federal official said. "There is some linkage to Headley."

For weeks, US anti-terror officials have been alarmed about intelligence that Kashmire has a network in Europe of about 15 operatives with Western passports, according to two US law enforcement officials. Headley had contact with Kashmire's network, but it is not clear if he met with the same European operatives involved in the recent plots, the officials said.

Kashmire's network has played a central role in sparking the recent US alert about intelligence that al Qaeda is plotting "Mumbai-style attacks" in Europe, US officials told ProPublica.

"Kashmire is directly linked to those threats, especially involving Britain and British Pakistanis," the federal official said. "There is some linkage to Headley."

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The War On Terror Is a Fraud

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

Does anyone remember the "cakewalk war" that would last six weeks, cost \$50-\$60 billion, and be paid for out of Iraqi oil revenues?

Does anyone remember that White House economist Lawrence Lindsey was fired by Dubya because Lindsey estimated that the Iraq war could cost as much as \$200 billion?

Lindsey was fired for over-estimating the cost of a war that, according to Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes, has cost 15 times more than Lindsey estimated. And the US still has 50,000 troops in Iraq.

Does anyone remember that, just prior to the US invasion of Iraq, the US government declared victory over the Taliban in Afghanistan?

Does anyone remember that the reason Dubya gave for invading Iraq was Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, weapons that the US government knew did not exist?

Are Americans aware that the same neo-conservatives who made these fantastic mistakes, or told these fabulous lies, are still in control of the government in Washington?

The "war on terror" is now in its tenth year. What is it really all about?

The bottom line answer is that the "war on terror" is about creating real terrorists. The US government desperately needs real terrorists in order to justify its expansion of its wars against Muslim countries and to keep the American people sufficiently fearful that they continue to accept the police state that provides "security from terrorists," but not from the government that has discarded civil liberties.

The US government creates terrorists by invading Muslim countries, wrecking infrastructure and killing vast numbers of civilians. The US also creates terrorists by installing puppet governments to rule over Muslims and by using the puppet governments to murder and persecute citizens, as is occurring on a vast scale in Pakistan today.

Neo-conservatives used 9/11 to launch their plan for US world hegemony. Their plan fit with the interests of America's ruling oligarchies. Wars are good for the profits of the military/security complex, about which President Eisenhower warned us in vain a half century ago. American hegemony is good for the oil industry's control over resources and resource flows. The transformation of the Middle East into a vast American puppet state serves well the Israel Lobby's Zionist aspirations for Israeli territorial expansion.

Most Americans cannot see what is happening because of their conditioning. Most Americans believe that their government is the best on earth, that it is morally motivated to help others and to do good, that it rushes aid to countries where there are famine and natural catastrophes. Most believe that their presidents tell the truth, except about their sexual affairs.

The persistence of these delusions is extraordinary in the face of daily headlines that report US government bullying of, and interference with, virtually every country on earth. The US policy is to buy off, overthrow, or make war on leaders of other countries who represent their peoples' interests instead of American interests. A recent victim was the president of Honduras who had the wild idea that the Honduran government should serve the Honduran people.

The American government was able to have the Honduran president discarded because the Honduran military is trained and supplied by the US military. It is the same case in Pakistan, where the US government has the Pakistani government making war on its own people by invading tribal areas that the Americans consider to be friendly to the Taliban, al Qaeda, "militants" and "terrorists."

Earlier this year, a deputy US Treasury secretary ordered Pakistan to raise taxes so that the Pakistani government could more effectively make war on its own citizens for the Americans. On October 14, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ordered Pakistan to again raise taxes or the US would withhold flood aid. Clinton pressured America's European puppet states to do the same, expressing in the same breath that the US government was worried by British cuts in its military budget. God forbid that the hard-pressed British, still reeling from American financial fraud, don't allocate enough money to fight America's wars.

On Washington's orders, the Pakistani government launched a military offensive against Pakistani citizens in the Swat Valley that killed large numbers of Pakistanis and drove millions of civilians from their homes. Last July, the US instructed Pakistan to send its troops against the Pakistani residents of North Waziristan. On July 6, Jason Ditz reported on antiwar.com that "at America's behest, Pakistan has launched offensives against [the Pakistani provinces of] Swat Valley, Bajaur, South Waziristan, Orakzai, and Khyber."

A week later, Israel's US Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) called for escalating the Obama Administration's policies of US airstrikes against Pakistan's tribal areas. On September 30, the Pakistani newspaper, *The Frontier Post*, wrote that the American air strikes "are plain and simple, a naked aggression against Pakistan."

The US claims that its forces in Afghanistan have the right to cross into Pakistan in pursuit of "militants". Recently, US helicopter gunships killed three Pakistani soldiers who they mistook for Taliban. Pakistan closed the main US supply route to Afghanistan until the Americans apologized.

Pakistan warned Washington against future attacks. However, US military officials, under pressure from Obama to show progress in the endless Afghan war, responded to Pakistan's warning by calling for expanding the Afghan war into Pakistan. On October 5, the Canadian journalist Eric Margolis wrote that "the US edges closer to invading Pakistan."

In his book, *Obama's Wars*, Bob Woodward reports that America's puppet president of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, believes that terrorist bombing attacks inside Pakistan for which the Taliban are blamed, are in fact, CIA operations designed to destabilize Pakistan and allow Washington to seize Pakistan's nuclear weapons.

To keep Pakistan in line, the US government changed its position that the "Times Square Bombing" was the work of a "lone wolf". Attorney General Eric Holder switched the blame to the "Pakistani Taliban", and Secretary of State Clinton threatened Pakistan with "very serious consequences" for the unsuccessful Times Square bombing, which likely was a false flag operation aimed at Pakistan.

To further heighten tensions, on September 1 the eight members of a high-ranking Pakistani military delegation en route to a meeting in Tampa, Florida, with US Central Command, were rudely treated and detained as terrorist suspects at Washington DC's Dulles Airport.

For decades, the US government has enabled repeated Israeli military aggression against Lebanon and now appears to be getting into gear for another Israeli assault on the former American protectorate of Lebanon. On October 14, the US government expressed its "outrage" that the Lebanese government had permitted a visit by Iranian President Ahmadinejad, who is the focus of Washington's intense demonization efforts. Israel's representatives in the US Congress threatened to stop US military aid to Lebanon, forgetting that US Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) has had aid to Lebanon blocked since last August to punish Lebanon for a border clash with Israel.

Perhaps the most telling headline of all is the October 14 report, "Somalia's New American Primer Minister." An American has been installed as the Prime Minister of Somalia, an American puppet government in Mogadishu backed up by thousands of Ugandan troops paid by Washington.

This barely scratches the surface of Washington's "benevolence" toward other countries and respect for their rights, borders, and lives of their citizens.

Meanwhile, to silence WikiLeaks and to prevent any more revelations of American war crimes, the "freedom and democracy" government in DC has closed down WikiLeaks' donations by placing the organization on its "watch list" and by having the Australian puppet government blacklist WikiLeaks.

Wikileaks is now akin to a terrorist organization. The American government's practice of silencing critics will spread across the Internet.

Remember, they hate us because we have freedom and democracy, First Amendment rights, *habeas corpus*, and respect for human rights, and we show justice and mercy to all.

Paul Craig Roberts was an editor of the Wall Street Journal and an Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury. His latest book, How the Economy Was Lost, has just been published by CounterPunch/AK Press



US Threat To Attack Iran With Nukes Is "Criminal"

By SHERWOOD ROSS

The US today is threatening to attack Iran "under the completely bogus pretext" that it might have a nuclear weapon, a distinguished American international legal authority says.

When Obama administration officials, like those of the Bush regime before it, say "all options are on the table," they are threatening nuclear war, and that is prohibited by international law, says Francis Boyle, professor of international law at the University of Illinois at Champaign.

Not only has the International Atomic Energy Commission said this charge against Iran "is simply not true," Boyle pointed out, but threatening Iran with nuclear war in itself constitutes an international crime.

"If we don't act now, Obama and his people could very well set off a Third World War over Iran that has already been threatened publicly by [President George W.] Bush Jr.," he asserted.

In a speech on nuclear deterrence to the 18th conference on "Direct Democracy" in Feldkirch, Austria, Boyle said it has been estimated an attack on Iran with tactical nuclear weapons by the US and Israel could kill nearly 3-million people.

(Boyle charges the US has already committed "acts of aggression against Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, and Yemen, and has authorized, armed, equipped, and supplied Israel to commit...outright genocide against Lebanon and Palestine.")

Nuclear weapons and "nuclear deterrence" have "never been legitimate

instruments of state policy but have always constituted instrumentalities of internationally lawless and criminal behavior," Boyle said.

Thus, the governments of all the nuclear weapons states are "criminal" for threatening to exterminate humanity. Boyle named the US, Russia, France, Britain, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel. He reminded us: "If mass extermination of human beings is a crime, the threat to commit mass extermination is also a crime."

The whole [George W.] Bush Doctrine of preventive warfare, which has yet to be officially repealed by Obama now after 18 months, was made by the Nazi lawyers for the Nazi defendants at Nuremberg, and it was

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Jewistan: Finally Recognizing Israel as the Jewish State

By FRANCIS A. BOYLE

Israel's Likudnik Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reached into his bag of Zionist tricks and pulled out a brand-new demand that had never surfaced before in the history of the Middle East Peace Process, going all the way back to its beginning with the negotiation of the original Camp David Accords conducted under the personal auspices of US President Jimmy Carter in 1978: The Palestinians must recognize Israel as "the Jewish State."

Not surprisingly, the Zionist controlled and funded Obama administration publicly endorsed this latest roadblock to peace that was maliciously constructed by Israel.

Netanyahu deliberately shifted the goal-posts on the Palestinians. It would be as if the United States of America demanded that Iran recognize it as the White Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) State as a condition for negotiating and then concluding any comprehensive peace settlement with it. Of course such demands are racist and premeditated non-starters to begin with.

Netanyahu's racist ultimatum would lead to the denationalization of the 1.5 million Palestinians, who are already less than third-class citizens of Israel, and set the stage for their mass expulsion to the Palestinian Bantustan envisioned by Netanyahu as the "final solution" to Zionism's "demographic problem" created by the very existence of the Palestinians. This racist and genocidal demand would also illegally terminate the well-recognized Right of Return for five million Palestinian refugees living around the world as required by UN General Assembly Resolution 194(III) of 1948, by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 13(2) (1948), and by general principles of public international law, international humanitarian law, and human rights law. This would doom all prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians forever, and pave the way for the creation of "Greater Israel" dominating the entire former Mandate for Palestine, both of which objectives have been the intention of Netanyahu and Likud all along.

But if Netanyahu is really serious about Israel being recognized internationally as "the Jewish State" then there is a simple manner by which this universal diplomatic status can instantly be achieved unilaterally and without the consent of the Palestinians.

Under basic principles of international law, every state is free to change its own name if it so desires: e.g., from Congo to Zaire then back to Congo. Therefore Israel is free to change its name to Jewistan — the State of the Jews.

Thereafter, every state in the world that has diplomatic relations and treaty relations with Israel will henceforth necessarily have to recognize it as Jewistan — the State of Jews — and deal with it as such by that name on a daily basis. The name of Jewistan would automatically replace the name of Israel in the United Nations System,

at all other concerned international organizations, and on all bilateral and multilateral treaties to which Israel is currently a contracting party. Indeed, in the aftermath of its serial genocidal atrocities perpetrated against the Palestinians and the Lebanese, Israel has quite understandably been seeking to "re-brand" itself. Jewistan is Israel's new moniker.

In fact, Israel has never been anything but a Bantustan for Jews setup in the Middle East by the White

racist and genocidal Western colonial imperial powers in order to serve as their racist attack dog and genocidal enforcer against the Arab and Muslim world. From the very moment of Western imperialism's genocidal conception of Israel in 1947-1948, Israel has historically always functioned as Jewistan — the world's Bantustan for the Jews. So Israel might as well finally change its name today to Jewistan, own up to its racist birthright, and make it official for the rest of the world to acknowledge.

Of course, all the Black Bantustans in racist criminal apartheid South Africa were eventually dismantled and no longer exist. The same will eventually happen to the racist criminal apartheid Jewish Bantustan in the Middle East, no matter what name they call themselves. Actually, Jewistan/Israel is more closely analogous to the genocidal Yugoslavia that collapsed as a State, lost its UN membership, and no longer exists as a State for that precise reason.

In either event, when this Israeli Bantustan for Jews predictably collapses as a State, all the Palestinian refugees living in their Diaspora around the world will be able to return to their homes as guaranteed by Resolution 194. Such is the ultimate solution for securing the Palestinian Right of Return under International Law. In the meantime, the Palestinians should sign nothing with Jewistan/Israel and let this Bantustan for Jews collapse of its own racist and genocidal weight. Good riddance!

Professor Francis A. Boyle served as Legal Adviser to the Palestinian Delegation to the Middle East Peace Negotiations from 1991 to 1993. This is the Preface to his forthcoming book The Palestinian Right of Return under International Law (Clear Day Books).

Palestinians to Israel: "Show Us The Map"

By ALAN HART / VETERANS TODAY

Better late than never, a very senior Palestinian official in Ramallah, Yasser Abed Rabbo, found the right way to challenge Israel and the US as reported by Agence France-Presse (AFP) on 13 October, he said, "We officially demand that the US administration and the Israeli government provide a map of the borders of the state of Israel which they want us to recognize."

That's a completely logical and totally reasonable demand.

If Israel was interested in peace on terms virtually all Palestinians and most other Arabs and Muslims everywhere could accept, the map provided would show Israel with borders as they were on the eve of the 1967 war. An accompanying note would say that, subject to agreement in final negotiations, Israel seeks minor border

adjustments here and there. The note would also propose that Jerusalem should be an open, undivided city and the capital of two states.

If such a map, with the note as above was presented, it would open the door to peace.

But the implementation of such a land-for-peace deal would require the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) to confront and forcibly remove illegal Jewish settlers who refused to leave; and that would open the door to a Jewish civil war — the price Israel's Jews would have to pay for 62 years of contempt for and defiance of international law.

Of course it won't happen. As I reveal in my book, *Zionism: The Real Enemy of the Jews*, why not was explained to me as far back as 1980 by Shimon Peres. At the time he was the leader of the Labour Party, the main opposition to Prime

Minister Menachem Begin's Likud-led coalition. Peres was hoping to win Israel's next election and deny Begin a second term in office. (President Carter was hoping and possibly praying for such an outcome.) My purpose in talking with Peres in private was to establish whether or not he was interested in me acting as the linkman in a secret, exploratory dialogue between himself and PLO Chairman Arafat. Peres was interested, but, before I went off to Beirut to seek Arafat's agreement to participate in a little conspiracy for peace, he said to me, "I fear it's already too late."

I asked Peres what he meant and this was his answer:

"Every day that passes sees new bricks on new settlements. Begin is stuffing exactly what he's doing. He's stuffing

See MAP p. 7



Foreclosuregate: Time to Break Up the Too-Big-to-Fail Banks

FORECLOSURES from p. 1

US Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Ed DeMarco (Deputy Director & Chief Operating Officer of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, and Debbie Matz (National Credit Union Administration), he asked for an emergency task force on foreclosure fraud. He said:

"The liability here for the major banks is potentially enormous, and can lead to a systemic risk. Fortunately, the Dodd-Frank financial reform legislation includes a resolution process for these banks. More importantly, these foreclosures are devastating neighborhoods, families, and cities all over the country. Each foreclosure costs tens of thousands of dollars to a municipality, lowers property values, and makes bank failures more likely."

Grayson sought a foreclosure moratorium on all mortgages originated and securitized between 2005-2008, until such time as the FSOC task force was able to understand and mitigate the systemic risk posed by the foreclosure fraud crisis. But, White House adviser David Axelrod downplayed the need for a national foreclosure moratorium, saying the Administration was pressing lenders to accelerate their reviews of foreclosures to determine which ones have flawed documentation. "Our hope is this moves rapidly and that this gets unwound very, very quickly," he said.

Why are mortgage holders suspending foreclosures? And what will happen to homeowners?

According to Brian Moynihan, chief executive of Bank of America, "The amount of work required is a matter of a few weeks. A few weeks we'll be through the process of double checking the pieces of paper we need to double check."

"Absurd," say critics such as Max Gardner III of Shelby, North Carolina. Gardner is considered one of the country's top consumer bankruptcy attorneys. "This is not an oops. This is not a technical problem. This is not even sloppiness. The problem is endemic, and its effects will be felt for years."

Rep. Grayson makes similar allegations. He writes:

"The banks didn't keep good records, and there is good reason to believe in many if not virtually all cases during this period, failed to transfer the notes, which is the borrower IOUs in accordance with the requirements of their own pooling and servicing agreements. As a result, the notes may be put out of eligibility for the trust under New York law, which governs these securitizations. Potential cures for the note may, according to certain legal experts, be contrary to IRS rules governing Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits (REMICs). As a result, loan servicers and trusts simply lack standing to foreclose. The remedy has been foreclosure fraud, including the acknowledged and widespread fabrication of documents."

"There are now trillions of dollars of securitizations of these loans in the hands of investors. The trusts holding these loans are in a legal gray area, as the mortgage titles were never officially transferred to the trusts. The result of this is foreclosure fraud on a massive scale, including foreclosures on people without mortgages or who are on time with their payments."

Why Wasn't It Done Right in the First Place?

That raises the question, why were the notes not assigned? Grayson says the banks were not interested in repayment; they were



just churning loans as fast as they could in order to generate fees. Financial blogger Karl Denninger says, "I believe a big part of why it was not done is that if it had been done the original paperwork would have been available to the trustee and ultimately the MBS owners, who would have immediately discovered that the representations and warranties as to the quality of the conveyed paper were being wantonly violated." He says, "You can't audit what you don't have."

Both are probably right, yet these explanations seem insufficient. If it were just a matter of negligence or covering up dubious collateral, surely some of the assignments by some of the banks would have been done properly. Why would they all be defective?

The reason the mortgage notes were never assigned may be that there was no party legally capable of accepting the assignments.

Securitization was originally set up as a tax dodge; to qualify for the tax exemption, the conduits between the original lender and the investors could own nothing. The conduits are "special purpose vehicles" set up by the banks, a form of Mortgage Backed Security (MBS) called REMICs (Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits). They hold commercial and residential mortgages in trust for the investors. They don't own them; they are just trustees.

The problem was nailed in a

asset "pass through" entities wherein they can never own the mortgage loan assets in the MBS. This allows them to qualify as a Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduit ("REMIC") rather than an ordinary Real Estate Investment Trust ("REIT"). As long as the MBS is a qualified REMIC, no income tax will be charged to the MBS. For purposes of this action, "Trust" and MBS are interchangeable...

56. REMICS were newly invented in 1987 as a tax avoidance measure by Investment Banks. To file as a REMIC, and in order to avoid one hundred percent (100%) taxation by the IRS and the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet, an MBS REMIC could not engage in any prohibited action. The "Trustee" can not own the assets of the REMIC. A REMIC Trustee could never claim it owned a mortgage loan. Hence, it can never be the owner of a mortgage loan.

57. Additionally, and important to the issues presented with this particular action, is the fact that in order to keep its tax status and to fund the "Trust" and legally collect money from investors, who bought into the REMIC, the "Trustee" or the more properly named, Custodian of the REMIC, had to have possession of ALL the original blue ink Promissory Notes and original allonges and assignments of the Notes, showing a complete paper chain of title.

58. Most importantly for this action, the "Trustee"/Custodian MUST have the mortgages recorded in the investors name as the beneficiaries of a MBS in the year the MBS "closed." [Emphasis added.]

Only the beneficiaries — the investors who advanced the funds — can claim ownership. And the mortgages had to have been recorded in the name of the beneficiaries the year the MBS closed. The problem is, who are the beneficiaries who advanced the funds? In the securitization market, they come and go. Properties get sold and resold daily. They can be sliced up and sold to multiple investors at the same time. Which investors could be said to have put up the money for a particular home that goes into foreclosure? MBS are divided into "tranches" or related categories according to level of risk, typically from AAA to BBB. The BBB investors take the first losses, on up to the AAAs. But when the REMIC is set up, no one knows which homes will default first. The losses are taken collectively by the pool as they hit; the BBBs simply don't get paid. But the "pool" is the trust, and to qualify as a REMIC trust, it can own nothing.

The complaint alleges:

53. The "Trusts" coming to Court are actually Mortgage Backed Securities ("MBS"). The Servicers, like GMAC, are merely administrative entities which collect the mortgage payments and escrow funds. The MBS have signed themselves up under oath with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC,") and the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS,") as mortgage

The lenders were trying to have it both ways; and to conceal what was going on, they dropped an electronic curtain over their sleight of hand, called Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems or "MERS." MERS is simply an electronic data base. On its website and in assorted court pleadings, it too declares that it owns nothing. It was set up that way so it would be "bankruptcy-remote," something required by the credit rating agencies in order to turn the mortgages passing through it into highly rated securities that could be sold to investors. According to the MERS website, it was also set up that way to save on recording fees, which means dodging state statutes requiring a fee to be paid to establish a formal record each time title changes hands.

Enter the Courts and the Robosigners

The arrangement satisfied the ratings agencies, but it has not satisfied the courts. Real estate

law dating back hundreds of years requires that to foreclose on real property, the foreclosing party must produce signed documentation establishing a chain of title to the property, and that has not been done. Increasingly, judges are holding that if MERS owns nothing, it cannot foreclose, and it cannot convey title by assignment so that the trustee for the investors can foreclose. MERS breaks the chain of title so that no one has standing to

foreclose. MERS breaks the chain of title so that no one has standing to foreclose. Sixty-two million mortgages are now held in the name of MERS, a ploy that the banks have realized won't work; so Plan B has been to try to fabricate documents to cure the defect. Enter the RoboSigners, a small group of people signing thousands of documents a month, admittedly without knowing what was in them. Interestingly, it wasn't just one bank engaging in this pattern of cover-up and fraud but many banks, suggesting the sort of "organized crime" that would qualify under the RICO statute.

However, that ploy won't work either, because it's too late to assign properties to trusts that have already been set up without violating the tax code for REMICS, and the trusts themselves aren't allowed to own anything under the tax code. If the trusts violate the tax laws, the banks setting them up will owe millions of dollars in back taxes. Whether the banks are out of the real estate or the taxes, they could well be looking at insolvency, posing the sort of serious systemic risk that would bring them under the purview of the new Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC).

No need for disaster

As comedian Jon Stewart said in an insightful segment called "Foreclosure Crisis" on October 7, "We're back to square one." While we're working it all out, an extended foreclosure moratorium probably is in the works. But this needn't be the economic disaster that some are predicting — not if the FSOC is allowed to do its job. We've been here before, and not just in 2008.

In 1934, Congress enacted the Frazier-Lemke Farm Bankruptcy Act to enable the nation's debt-ridden farmers to scale down their mortgages. The act delayed foreclosure of a bankrupt farmer's property for five years, during which time the farmer made rental payments. The farmer could then buy back the property at its currently appraised value over six years at 1 percent interest, or remain in possession as a paying tenant. Interestingly, according to Marian McKenna in *Franklin Roosevelt and the Great Constitutional War* (2002), "The federal government was empowered to buy up farm mortgages and issue non-interest-bearing treasury notes in exchange." Non-interest-bearing treasury notes are what President Lincoln issued during the Civil War, when they were called "Greenbacks."

Penny Auction People Power Drove the New Deal

Roosevelt didn't come up with all those progressive programs on his own.

The 1934 Act was subsequently challenged by secured creditors as violating the Fifth Amendment's due process guarantee of just compensation, a fundamental right of mortgage holders. (Note that this would probably not be a valid challenge today, since there don't seem to be legitimate mortgage holders in these securitization cases. There are just investors with unsecured claims for relief in equity for money damages.) The Supreme Court voided the 1934 Act, and Congress responded with the "Farm Mortgage Moratorium Act" in 1935. The terms were modified, limiting the moratorium to a three-year period, and the revision gave secured creditors the opportunity to force a public sale, with the proviso that the farmer could redeem the property by paying the sale amount. The Act was renewed four times until 1949, when it expired. During the 15 years the Act was in place, farm prices stabilized and the economy took off, retooling the country for its role as a global industrial power during the remainder of the century.

We've come full circle again. We didn't get it right in 2008, but with the newly-empowered Financial Stability Oversight Council, we already have the ready-made vehicle to avoid another taxpayer



US Income Gap Highest On Record

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the second consecutive year in which household incomes dropped. Median income declined in 34 states, and increased only in sparsely populated North Dakota.

"Thirty-one states saw increases in both the number and percentage of people in poverty between 2008 and 2009," reported the Census Bureau in a press release. "No state had a statistically significant decline in either the number in poverty or the poverty rate."

National median income is down 4 percent from its peak when the recession officially began in December 2007. Last year alone, noted the *Washington Post*, accounted for \$1,500 of that average loss.

The Associated Press, based on an analysis of the Census Bureau numbers, reports that the income gap between the rich and the poor "grew last year to its widest amount on record as young adults and children in particular struggled to stay afloat in the recession." The US also has the greatest income disparity among the advanced capitalist countries.

The proportion of Americans living in extreme poverty, defined as half the derisory official poverty line, or \$10,977 for a family of four, rose from 5.7 percent in 2008 to 6.3 percent last year, an 11 percent increase in the number of people living in dire circumstances in one year. The 2009 figure was the highest level since the US government began tracking the very poor in 1975. To the everlasting shame of the American political establishment, the District of Columbia, home to the US government, has the highest proportion of residents living in extreme poverty of any state or district, 10.7 percent.

The top 20 percent of the population, those making more than \$100,000 a year, took in nearly 50 percent of all income generated in the US in 2009, while the 44 million people living below the poverty line received only 3.4 percent. "That ratio of 14.5-to-1 was an increase from 13.6 in 2008 and nearly double a low of 7.69 in 1968" (AP).

The top 5 percent of the US population in terms of income, those making \$180,000 or more, added slightly to their annual incomes last year.

The most revealing statistics, however, relate to the wealthiest 1 percent, 1/10 of 1 percent and 1/100 of 1 percent of the population — no news about their gains in 2009 has been reported yet.

New York, Connecticut, Texas and the District of Columbia, along with the territory of Puerto Rico, had the largest gaps between rich and poor. Similar income gaps, reported AP, existed in major cities such as New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Boston and Atlanta. Some 22 percent of Mississippians live in poverty, the highest proportion of any state's population, and only five states (Alaska, Connecticut, Maryland, New Hampshire and New Jersey) had fewer than one in 10 residents living in poverty in 2009.

Other social phenomena reported by the Census Bureau are associated with job losses and declining incomes:

• Median property values for owner-occupied homes dropped 5.8 percent in 2009 when adjusted for inflation. More homes are empty, as the share of vacant units has grown every year since 2006, to 12.6 percent in 2009. Fewer people are moving, either from their current homes or their current states. Home ownership declined for the third year in a row to 65.9 percent, from a peak of 67.3 percent in 2006. The average size of a household living in a rental unit has increased since 2006.

• People are delaying marriage, especially in the working class. For the first time since the government began recording such data, less than 50 percent of women 18 and over were married in 2009. The share of adults 25 to 34 who have never been married climbed to 46.3 percent in 2009. "The decline in marriage is greater among the poor and less educated" (USA Today).

• Americans have fewer cars, as the percentage of homes with more

than one automobile declined in 2009.

• The poverty gap between young and old has doubled since 2000. Official child poverty is now 21 percent, compared to 9 percent for older Americans. The figures in 2000 were 16 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

• The AP reports research indicating that "lower-skilled adults ages 18 to 34" suffered the "largest jumps in poverty last year as employers kept or hired older workers for the dwindling jobs available."

• The number of US households receiving food stamps rose by 2 million in 2009 to 11.7 million, the highest level on record. Forty-six states experienced increases in food stamp use.

As noted above, the US Midwest has been especially ravaged by the current economic slump. More than 9 million people in the region lived in poverty in 2009, 1 million more than the year before, and up from 6.3 million in 1999.

Four million people in the Midwest, once a global industrial and economic center, live in extreme poverty, an increase of half a million in 12 months.

Nearly 3 million children live in poverty in the area, an increase of almost a third in a decade. Median household income in the US Midwest declined from \$54,600 in 1999 to \$48,400 in 2009. Eight million people in the region have no health insurance.

The *Detroit News* noted September 28 that, "Michigan families have been hit the hardest by the recession, with incomes plummeting and poverty rising at rates seen nowhere else in the country." Median household income in the state has dropped nearly 21 percent since 2000, or almost \$12,000, the biggest decline in the country.

The ranks of the poor swelled in Michigan by 159,000 in 2009 alone. The number of children living in poverty in the state rose to more than half a million in 2009, or 22.1 percent. Approximately 30,000 single-mother households with children in Michigan were poor last year. The state's national ranking in household income fell from 16th in 2000 to 35th in 2009.

According to US census officials in Detroit the overall poverty rate in the city is 37 percent, for those under 18 it is 51 percent.

In neighboring Ohio, the official poverty level reached nearly 16 percent in 2009, or one in six residents. Nearly 1.5 million people in Ohio are now counted as poor, up from 1.2 million in 1999. Seven percent of the population (800,000 people) lives in extreme poverty in the state, an increase of 45 percent. Nearly 200,000 more Ohio children were poor in 2009 than in 1999. Median household income fell more than \$7,000 over the same period.

In Indiana, 14.4 percent of the population lives in poverty, or some 900,000 people, up from 560,000 in 1999. The number of those in extreme poverty in Indiana in 2009 (400,000) was up 60 percent over 1999 (250,000). The child poverty rate increased by 68 percent (from 11.7 to 19.7 percent) in the decade 1999-2009.

Poverty increased among Illinois residents by nearly a quarter during the same 10-year period. In Chicago in 2009, more than 10 percent of the population lived in desperate poverty and 31.2 percent of children were categorized as poor.

Florida experienced the second sharpest decline in household income in 2009 after Michigan, 5.7 percent, while in California in 2009 one in seven people lived in poverty.

In the face of widespread — and growing — economic suffering, the American political establishment remains cold and indifferent, concerned only with defending the wealth and privileges of a tiny minority. As we go to press neither the White House nor any leading Democratic Party website carried a response to the Census Bureau figures, which register a portion of the impact of the greatest economic crisis since the Depression of the 1930s.

David Walsh is a frequent contributor to Global Research and World Socialist Web Site.



Pakistani General: America Cannot Win in Afghanistan

an Interview with Former ISI Chief Hamid Gul



HAMID GUL from p. 1

That apart, now we come to the situation and judge it militarily. So Americans, when they go to war, the first thing that they have to ensure is a line of communication. The communication has to be good. Now there is a line of communication which passes through Pakistan on two routes. One is from Karachi to Chaman; that is to the south of Afghanistan. And the other is from Karachi to Tor Kham [Khyber Pass], which is to the center of Afghanistan. The line that runs from Karachi to Tor Kham is about 1,100 miles long. And the other one is about 1,300 miles long. So these are long and tenuous lines of communication. There is an anti-American sentiment also, very rampant I think. Sixty-eight percent of Pakistanis have outrightly said that they hate America. Now in this situation these lines of communication are not sustainable. So, there is no way that you can fight a war and win without a secure and very easy line of communication and a short line of communication. In this case the lines of communication are both insecure and also very long.

The second important thing outside the battle zone is the intelligence input. If the intelligence input is faulty, then how do you hope to win the war? And why the intelligence failure has been there is because the human intelligence is not provided if it is not accurate. You are not able to collect the information through only electronic means. Your satellites flying overhead that will pick up the signals, it has failed. If that was the analogy, if that was the thesis, that our technical intelligence, or electronic and signals intelligence, would fully supplant the human intelligence, then this has not worked. And you don't win wars, in Third World countries particularly, where technical intelligence does not work. You have to have reliable sources. Then, on top of it, to gather intelligence you rely on security contractors. For God's sake, what is this? I mean, I was aghast when someone came and mentioned to me that they wanted to mix the CIA with some of the security contractors, with Navy SEALs and with the Marines and the Army — then this conglomeration or this admixture of these forces, that they would carry out the intelligence work. It's never done. And therefore intelligence was a failure.

Now let's come to the battle zone. I think in the battle zone the opposition was underestimated. I don't think the policy planners in America read the history of the Afghans. And it is amazing. Why? Because they were in a war with the Afghans during an earlier decade of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. So why would the American policy makers not have been able to read into the Afghan character, that they don't give up? That the war in Afghanistan begins only after the occupation has taken place? It is amazing that the war in Afghanistan begins only after the occupation forces have declared themselves victorious. And then the war begins. Because this is a war of attrition. This is a war of nibbling away, slowly, gradually, building up your strength. So, really, the proper study was not carried out; the proper assessment was not carried out.

Then they started supporting those people who were corrupt. They thought that with the help of those corrupt people they would be able to win the war. And what is disastrous, is that in the beginning the declared objective, which was the capture of Osama bin Laden or killing him, for him they had outsourced rather than use their own military for such an important target. They picked up a commander called Hazrat Ali from Jalalabad, and gave him tons of money, dollars, and said, "You surround Tora Bora," where daisy cutters and thermobaric bombs were used against the civilian population, very unfortunate. So the civilian population turned against them. Then Hazrat Ali and company were receiving money from one side, [and] they were receiving money from both sides. They should have known that Afghan characters like that, they would take money from both sides. So they outsourced; in the most critical area in which they should have gone themselves physically, they were reluctant to go in. That was the prime objective, and that was lost. And you don't know where he is now, and you are still carrying out what is called the clearing of shadows.

OK, now we come to the battlefield. Selection of objective. At one time, it was said that Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda — al Qaeda to be dispersed out of Afghanistan, and Osama bin Laden to be captured — [were] the objective of our operations. The Afghans and the Taliban were not the objective. Sometimes they [would] say, well there may be 60 to 100 [al Qaeda] operators in the area spread between Pakistan and Afghanistan. And do you know how big this area is? As far as the numbers are concerned, 60 to 70 al Qaeda operators may

be present in any of the European countries if you like — in France, in Germany, in UK — so many of these may be present even in those countries, so why not attack them? So it really doesn't click, the logic.

And now, the objectives have been totally changed. From catching Osama bin Laden, killing him, and dispersing the al Qaeda, now you have shifted so the American objectives are to reverse the momentum of the Taliban. The Taliban movement is not restricted now only to the Taliban cadres, it has become a veritable national resistance movement. That means the objective now, implicitly, is to defeat the Afghan nation. And that is not possible. Because the Afghan nation, when it comes to resist, it cannot be defeated. So you have set yourself a new goal, and this is disastrous. Anybody, any soldier who has any inkling of elementary military knowledge, of military history, of military principle, would tell you that selection of a correct aim, and maintenance of that single aim, is very important. So this is a fundamental mistake. No army in the world, when it starts changing, shifting from one goal to another one, can ever hope to win.

start killing the NATO forces. Their morale is low, they are not prepared to fight. The Afghan police are still not up to the level. So there are a lot of problems on that score as well. Out of three, we have discussed two.

The third factor is the time factor. Now you have already said, that you put a time limit, we will start drawing down from July, 2011. And everyone knew that this time cannot be unlimited. Some Afghan commander very rightly said that "Americans have the watch, but we have the time." So time is a factor on their side. So really, out of the three factors of time, space and relative strength, two-and-a-half factors are in the control of the Taliban or the opposition fighters, and only one-half factor is in favor of America. With this kind of a combination, with this kind of interplay of these factors, tell me, how are you going to win this war?

Faulkner: Can you compare the present situation of the NATO forces to any particular period in the Soviet attempt to conquer Afghanistan? What parallels between the two occupations are evident to you?

Gul: The Soviet Union when they



But now come to the chief determinants of the situation on the battlefield. These are three factors. One is time, the other is space, and the third is relative strength. Interplay of these three factors decides the outcome of the war, victory or defeat. There are two aspects to relative strength: number of men that are fighting, that is one important aspect (and number of men means their morale also, and their commitment to the cause); and the other is the firepower, so manpower and the firepower together constitute the factor of relative strength. Now undoubtedly in the area of firepower, there is no match to America. But that firepower cannot be actualized in the hills and dales of Afghanistan for the obvious reason that the target is not there. Firepower can be used only when you know the target, the exact location of the target. So it turns out that whenever you use firepower, you kill civilians. So firepower is not really as effective as it could be.

And now we come to the manpower. The American commanders in Afghanistan have been demanding more troops, surge, they have been asking for a surge. Initially a

surge of 21,000, so as President Obama stepped into the Oval Office he provided 21,000 more troops. That would not make any difference. And then another 40,000 troops were asked for by McChrystal. So McChrystal continued to ask. Everyone knows what happened to [Operation] Marja, and you mentioned about Kandahar not taking off from the ground. So if additional manpower has not worked, we would term it as "reinforcing the failure," that you have been reinforcing your troops, but you have been reinforcing basically what has already been, practically become, a failure. Or call it "investment in error," both terms are used in the military; they are reinforcing the failure or investing in the error. If instead of 40,000, if you would put in 400,000 more troops, still you cannot win in Afghanistan where the situation stands. Because the initiative is now with the opposition, the Afghan Mujahedin, and more and more recruits are joining up their ranks. Because they are smelling victory, and therefore, their ranks are swelling. Whereas the Americans have already said that from next year onward we'll start drawing down on the presence of troops. And we are not here to stay forever; that is the policy. So obviously the other side would attract more recruitment, and that is what is happening. So on the scales of relative strength you can say, half the factor is in favor of America, the other half is not.

Now we come to the two other factors. So let's come to the space. The spaces are with the freedom fighters. They are with the Taliban. They control the countryside, and everyone knows that the countryside is totally in their control. Where the road ends, there the Taliban territory begins. And it is there, and their prowess in that area is so much, that the people simply support them. So spaces are totally in their control. The NATO and the ISAF forces, they are all confined to the garrison towns. They are being squeezed into the garrison towns, and they dare not venture out. Now what is the condition of the Afghan soldiers in this case? They are not fighting. Wherever they find an opportunity they

came in, they had a tremendous amount of political support among the Communist cadres. The Communist Party, which was split into two factions, known as Parcham and Khalq, had [one] objective: a Communist order established in Afghanistan. And the ragtag Mujahedin at that time, they were resisting them on their own. But they were able to trounce this government, or almost trounce this government. The Soviet Union got alarmed back in December of 1979, and they struck Afghanistan with a direct invasion, with 140,000 troops. So the figure is the same. But interestingly, at that time nearly a quarter million Afghan forces existed at that time. They were well-equipped, with APCs and tanks, with everything that you can name, they had tons of equipment at their disposal, and their number was a quarter million. So 150,000 Soviet Union troops and a quarter million of the Afghan, and trained, highly trained. The police force was, in addition to it, about 100,000. So altogether there was an infrastructure which was available to the Soviet Union, and they were politically motivated.

Now, come to compare this with now.

Same volume of troops, same quantity of troops as the Soviet Union — I mean, they were 140,000 at the peak. But now, the Afghan forces, so far, over the last nine years that you have been able to build in Afghanistan, they number no more than 70 to 80 thousand. That's all. Compare this to a well-trained quarter million Afghan forces at that time. And there is no political motivation here; these forces are only out to take money, to grab dollars.

If you know that this is a foregone conclusion, you cannot win in Afghanistan, then it is time to cut your losses. I think it's time for showing some sagacity, some wisdom, and changing the paradigm, which is very important. So I don't know why Americans are delaying the major decision that they have to take. There has to be a paradigm shift before long, and the sooner it comes, the better.

General Gul had a 36-year military career in the Pakistani Army. The highest attainment of his long and distinguished career was his command of Inter-Services Intelligence, ISI, from 1987 to 1989, during the fateful period of Afghan jihad against the Soviet occupation of that country. He has written hundreds of columns, mostly for Pakistan Urdu Press, but also for the English readership within Pakistan and abroad.

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Injustice in the Age of Obama

AAFIA SIDDIQUI from p. 1

of an American." On September 23, Judge Berman, who displayed an open bias against Dr. Siddiqui, sentenced her to 86 years in prison.

The tapestry of lies about Dr. Siddiqui — a cognitive neuroscientist, schooled at MIT and Brandeis — was woven during the Bush regime but fully maintained during her trial and sentencing this year by the Obama (In)Justice Department.

Before 9/11/2001, Aafia lived in Massachusetts with her husband, also a Pakistani citizen, and their two children. According to all reports, she was a quietly pious Muslim (which is still not a crime here in the States), who hosted play dates for her children. She was a good student who studied hard and maintained an exemplary record, causing little harm to anything, let alone anyone.

After 9/11, when she was pregnant with her third child, she encouraged her husband to move back to Pakistan to avoid the backlash against her Muslim children — which was a very prescient thing to do considering the Islamophobia that has only increased in this country since then.

Tortured 'truth'

Following the move to Pakistan, Dr. Siddiqui and her husband divorced. Her life took a horrendous turn just after. While Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (KSM) — supposed mastermind of the 9/11 plot — was being water-boarded by the CIA 183 times in one month, he gave Dr. Siddiqui up as a member of al Qaeda. Was this a case of stolen identity, or was Mohammed just saying random words like you or I would to stop the torture?

There is some disputed "intelligence" that Aafia had married KSM's nephew, a tenuous allegation at best, and even so, guilt by association has no place in the hallowed US legal system.

Following KSM's torture-induced 'insights', Dr. Siddiqui was listed by Bush's Justice Department as one of the seven most dangerous al Qaeda operatives in the world. A mother of three equipped with a lethal ability to 'thin-slice' your cognitive personality in seconds. If alleged association and a healthy interest in neuro-psychology are the definitive hallmarks of a 'terrorist operative,' then Malcolm Gladwell better start making some phone calls to Crane, Poole and Schmidt.

A culture of falsehoods

Face it; we all know that since 9/11, there have been numerous false "terror" alerts and lies leading to the capture and torture of hundreds of innocent individuals — and the heinous treatment we have all witnessed from Abu Ghraib. Additionally, we are supposed to believe that multi-war criminal, Colin Powell, was "fooled" by faulty intelligence so much so that he paved the way for the invasion of Iraq by his false testimony at the UN but we are also supposed to unquestioningly believe the US intelligence apparatus when they lie about others such as Dr. Siddiqui.

In any case, in a bizarre scenario — to make a very long story short — Dr. Siddiqui and her three children disappeared for five years from 2003 to 2008, resurfacing in Ghazni, Afghanistan with her oldest child, a son who was then eleven. She claimed that for the years she was missing, she was being held in various Pakistani and US prisons being tortured and repeatedly raped. Many prisoners, including Yvonne Ridley, maintain she was incarcerated in Bagram AFB and tortured for at least part of the five missing years.

After Dr. Siddiqui resurfaced, she was arrested and taken to an Afghan police station where four Americans - two military and two FBI agents — rushed to "question" her through interpreters. The FBI and military claim that they were taken to a room that had a curtain at one end and that they did not know that Dr. Siddiqui was lying asleep on a bed at the other side of the curtain. As you read below it will become blatantly obvious that personnel involved from both institutions totally fabricated their stories.

This is the Americans' version: They entered the room and one of the military dudes said he laid his weapon down (remember, they were there to interrogate one of the top most dangerous people in the world), and Siddiqui got up, grabbed the weapon, yelling obscenities and that she wanted to "kill Americans" All 53" of her raised the weapon to fire and she fired the rifle twice, missing everyone in the small room — in fact she even missed the walls, floor and ceiling since no bullets from the rifle were ever recovered.



Dr. Aafia Siddiqui

Then one of the Americans shot her twice in the stomach "in self-defense." It was shown at the trial that her fingerprints were not even on the weapon. The only bullets that were found that day were in Dr. Aafia's body. How many stories of military cover-ups have we heard about since 9/11? I can think of two right away without even trying hard: Pat Tillman and Jessica Lynch.

Hopeless injustice

Dr. Aafia's side is this: After she was arrested, she was again beaten and she fell asleep on a bed when she heard talking in the room she was in so she got out of the bed and someone shouted: "Oh no, she's loose!" Then she was shot — when she was wavering in and out of consciousness, she heard someone else say: "We could lose our jobs over this."

Even with no evidence that she fired any weapon, she was convicted (the jury found no pre-meditation) by a jury and sentenced to the aforementioned 86 years. It's interesting that the Feds did not pursue "terrorist" charges against Dr. Siddiqui because they were aware that the only evidence that existed was tortured out of KSM — so they literally ganged up on her to press the assault and attempted murder charges.

Even if Dr. Siddiqui did shoot at the Americans, reflect on this. Say this case was being tried in Pakistan under similar circumstances for an American woman named Dr. Betty Brown who was captured and repeatedly tortured and raped by the ISI — here in the states that woman would be a hero if she shot at her captors — not demonized and taken away from her life and her children.

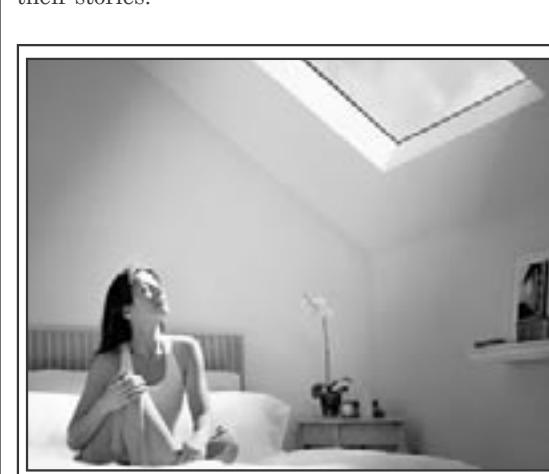
I believe Dr. Aafia Siddiqui is a political prisoner and now the political bogey-woman for two US regimes.

In Pakistan, the response to her verdict and sentencing brought the predictable mass protests, burning of American flags and effigies of Obama and calls for Pakistan to repatriate Dr. Siddiqui. They know who the real criminals are and who should be in prison for life! At present, Hilary's state department harps on about 'soft power' and diplomacy, but what better way to quell US distrust in the Muslim world than to try such cases with due diligence and integrity.

In the US, not many people know about this case. Obviously many people were Hope-noticed by the millions of dollars poured into the Obama PR machine — and believed when he said that his administration would be more transparent and lawful than the outlaws of the Bush era.

I guess they were mistaken.

Cindy Sheehan is the mother of Specialist Casey A. Sheehan, who was killed in Iraq on April 4, 2004. Since then, she has been an activist for peace and human rights. She has published five books, has her own Internet radio show, Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox, and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Cindy lives in Oakland, CA, and loves to spend time with her three grand-babies. You can learn more about Cindy at Peace of the Action.



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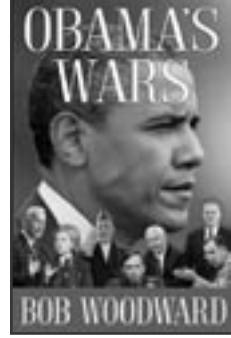
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Books

"Obama's Wars"



**The Real Story
Bob Woodward
Won't Tell**



By RUSS BAKER

Just one year before the publication of *Obama's Wars*, Bob Woodward became a player in his own book-in-progress. He morphed into his true identity: Warrior Bob. Actually, there's an even deeper persona, Agent Woodward—but we're getting ahead of ourselves.

In June of 2009, Woodward traveled to Afghanistan with General Jim Jones, President Obama's National Security adviser, to meet with General Stanley McChrystal, then the commander of forces in Afghanistan. Why did Jones allow this journalist to accompany him? Because Jones knew that Woodward could be counted on to deliver the company line—the military line. In fact, Jones was essentially Woodward's patron.

The *New Republic*'s Gabriel Sherman wrote at the time that

"...Jones was a guest of Woodward at his wife Elsa Walsh's fiftieth birthday party held at Sally Quinn and Ben Bradlee's house [in Washington, DC]. He and Elsa were glued to Jones at the cocktail party before the dinner started..."

In September of last year, McChrystal (or someone close to him) leaked to Woodward a document that essentially forced President Obama's hand. Obama wanted time to consider all options on what to do about Afghanistan. But the leak, publicizing the military's "confidential" assertion that a troop increase was essential, cast the die, and Obama had to go along. Nobody was happier than the Pentagon—and, it should be said, its allies in the vast military contracting establishment.

The website Firedoglake chronicled the developments in a pungent essay: "Apparently General McChrystal and the Petraeus cabal aren't willing to wait for their Commander in Chief to set the strategy. Prior to the President's interviews, McChrystal's people were already telling journalists that they were 'impatient with Obama' as Nancy Youssef reported. This 'Power Play,' as I mentioned last night, included a veiled threat that McChrystal would resign if he didn't get his way."

"And sure enough, just hours after the Commander in Chief was on the airwaves, somehow McChrystal's classified report hit the *Washington Post* ... compliments of Bob Woodward no less."

Wow, what a coincidence!"

This episode highlights a crucial aspect of Bob Woodward's career that has been ignored by most of the media. Simply put, Woodward is the military's man, and always has been.

For almost four decades, under cover of his supposedly "objective" reporting, Woodward has represented the viewpoints of the military and intelligence establishments. Often he has done so in the context of complex inside maneuvering of which he gives his readers little clue. He did it with the 1987 book, *Veil*, about CIA director William Casey, in which he relied on Admiral Bobby Ray Inman, a rival of Casey's, as his key source. (Inman, from Texas, was closely identified with the Bush faction of the CIA.) The book was based in part on a "deathbed interview" with Casey that Casey's widow and former CIA guards said never took place.

Typically, Woodward uses information he gets from his main sources to gain access to others. He then gets more secrets from them, and so on down the line. His stature—if that's the word—as a repository of this inside dope has been key to the relentless success machine that his media colleagues have perpetuated. The *New York Times* review of his Obama book laid out the formula:

"*Obama's Wars*, Mr. Woodward, as usual, eschews analysis and commentary. Instead, he hews to his I Am a Tape Recorder technique, using his insider access to give readers interested in inside-the-Beltway politics lots of granular detail harvested from interviews conducted on background, as well as leaked memos, meeting notes and other documents. Some of this information is revealing about the interplay of personality and policy and politics in Washington; some of it is just self-serving spin. As he's done in his earlier books, Mr. Woodward acknowledges that attributions of thoughts, conclusions or feelings

to a person were in some cases not obtained directly from that person, but from notes or from a colleague whom the person told—a questionable but increasingly popular method, which means the reader should take the reconstructed scenes with a grain of salt."

And then, thanks to all this attention, and even with that grain of salt, the book went to #1.

But might there be more to Woodward and his *oeuvre* than just questionable work practices? Well, let's see. Woodward granted former CIA director George H.W. Bush a pass by excluding him from accounts of Iran-Contra, which occurred while the notorious intriguer was vice president under the notoriously hands-off Ronald Reagan. (When I asked Woodward about this for my book *Family of Secrets* (2009), he replied, "Bush was...What was it he said at the time? I was out of the loop?") Later Woodward got exclusive access to H.W.'s son. He spent more time with George W. Bush than did any other journalist, writing several largely sympathetic books about his handling of Iraq and Afghanistan before playing catch-up with prevailing sentiment and essentially reversing course.

Now, for a bit of cognitive dissonance, Woodward's signature achievement together with his *Washington Post* colleague Carl Bernstein—bringing down Richard Nixon—turns out not to be what we all thought. If that comes as a surprise, you have missed a few books, including bestsellers, that put pieces of this puzzle together. (*Family of Secrets* has several chapters on the real Watergate story, but there are others that present detailed information, including those by Len Colodny and Robert Getlin, James Rosen, Jim Hougan and others.)

Here's the deal: Bob, top secret Naval officer, gets sent to work in the Nixon White House while still on military duty. Then, with no journalistic credentials to speak of, and with a boost from White House staffers, he lands a job at the *Washington Post*. Not long thereafter he starts to take down Richard Nixon. Meanwhile, Woodward's military bosses are running a spy ring inside the White House that is monitoring Nixon and Kissinger's secret negotiations with America's enemies (China, Soviet Union, etc), stealing documents and funneling them back to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They then give what they stole to columnist Jack Anderson and others in the press.

That's not the iconic Woodward of legend, of course—so it takes a while for this notion to settle in the mind. But there's more—and it's even more troubling. Did you know there was really no Deep Throat, that the Mark Felt story was conjured up as yet another layer of cover in what became a daisy chain of disinformation? Did you know that Richard Nixon was loathed and feared by the military brass, that they and their allies were desperate to get Nixon out and halt his rapprochement with the Communists? That a bunch of operatives with direct or indirect CIA/military connections, from E. Howard Hunt to Alexander Butterfield to John Dean—worned their way into key White House posts, and started up the Keystone Kops operations that would be laid at Nixon's office door?

Believe me, I understand. It sounds like the "conspiracy theory" stuff that we have been trained to dismiss. But I've just spent five years on a heavily documented forensic dig into this missing strata of American history, and I myself have had to come to terms with the enormous gap between reality and the "reality" presented by the media and various establishment gatekeepers who tell us what's what.

Given this complicity, it's no surprise that when it comes to Woodward's latest work, the myth-making machine is on auto pilot. The public, of course, will end up as confused and manipulated as ever. And so things will continue, same as they ever were. Endless war, no substantive reforms. Unless we wake up to our own victimhood.

Russ Baker is an award-winning investigative reporter and founder of WhoWhatWhy.com. He has written for the New Yorker, Vanity Fair, the Nation, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Village Voice and Esquire.

By GARY KOHLS

Excerpts from Milton Mayer's They Thought They Were Free: The Germans, 1933-45

What no one seemed to notice was the ever widening gap, after 1933, between the government and the people. You know, it doesn't make people close to their government to be told that this is a people's government, a true democracy. How is this to be done even by extraordinary men?

"What happened here was the gradual habituation of the people to being governed by surprise; to receiving decisions deliberated in secret; to believing that the situation was so complicated that the government had to act on information which the people could not understand, or was so dangerous that, even if the people could understand it, it could not be released because of national security.

"This separation of government from people, this widening of the gap, took place so gradually and so insensibly, each step disguised (perhaps not even intentionally) as a temporary emergency measure or associated with true patriotic allegiance or with real social purposes. And all the crises and reforms so occupied the people that they did not see the slow motion underneath, of the whole process of government growing remoter and remoter.

No One had Time to Think - There was so Much Going on

"The dictatorship, and the whole process of its coming into being, was, above all, diverting. It provided an excuse not to think for people who did not want to think anyway. Most of us did not want to think about fundamental things, and we never had. Nazism gave us some dreadful, fundamental things to think about. We were decent people—and the fascists kept us so busy with continuous changes and 'crises' and 'national enemies' without and within, that we had no time to think about these dreadful things that were growing, little by little, all around us."

"To live in this process is absolutely not to be able to notice it unless one has a much greater degree of political awareness than most of us had ever had occasion to develop. Each step was so small, so inconsequential, so well explained or, on occasion, 'regretted,' that, unless one were detached from the whole process from the beginning, one no more saw it developing from day to day than a farmer in his field sees the corn growing. One day it is over his head.

"How is this to be avoided,

among ordinary men, even highly educated ordinary men? Many, many times since it all happened I have pondered that pair of great maxims, *Principia obsta* and *Finem respice* — Resist the beginnings' and 'Consider the end.' But one must foresee the end in order to resist, or even see, the beginnings. One must foresee the end clearly and certainly. How is this to be done even by extraordinary men?

Niemoller's Lesson: Act Before it's too Late

"Your 'little men,' your Nazi friends, were not against National Socialism in principle. Men like me, who were the greater offenders, not because we knew better but because we sensed better. Pastor Niemöller spoke for the thousands and thousands of men like me when he spoke and said that, when the Nazis attacked the Communists, he was a little uneasy, but, after all, he was not a Communist, and so he did nothing; and then they attacked the Socialists, and he was a little uneasier, but, still, he was not a Socialist, and he did nothing; and then the schools, the press, the Jews, and so on, and he was always uneasier, but still he did nothing. And then they attacked the Church, and he was a Churchman, and he did something—but then it was too late."

"...one doesn't see exactly where or how to move. Each act, each occasion, is worse than the last, but only a little worse. You wait for the next and the next. You wait for one great shocking occasion, thinking that others, when such a shock comes, will join with you in resisting somehow. You don't want to act, or even talk, alone; you don't want to go out of your way to make trouble; you are not in the habit of doing that.

"Outside, in the streets, 'everyone' is happy. One hears no protest, and certainly sees none. In France or Italy there would be slogans against the government painted on walls and fences. In the university community, in your own community, you speak privately to your colleagues, some of whom certainly feel as you do; but what do they say? They say, 'It's not so bad' or 'You're seeing things' or 'You're an alarmist.'

"And you are an alarmist. You are saying that this must lead to this, but you can't prove it. These are the beginnings, yes; but how do you know for sure when you don't know the end? On the one hand, your enemies, the law, the regime, the Party, intimidate you. On the other, your colleagues

organizations themselves wither.

Now, in small gatherings of your oldest friends, you feel that you are talking to yourselves, that you are isolated from the reality of things. This weakens your confidence still further and serves as a further deterrent. It is clearer all the time that, if you are going to do anything, you must make an occasion to do it, and then you are obviously a troublemaker. So you wait, and you wait.

"But the one great shocking occasion, when tens or hundreds or thousands will join with you, never comes. That's the difficulty. If the last and worst act of the whole regime had come immediately after the first and smallest, thousands, yes, millions would have been sufficiently shocked—if, let us say, the gassing of the Jews in '43 had come immediately after the 'German Firm' stickers on the windows of non-Jewish shops in '33. But of course this isn't the way it happens. In between come all the hundreds of little steps, some of them imperceptible, each of them preparing you not to be shocked by the next. Step C is not so much worse than Step B, and, if you did not make a stand at Step B, why should you at Step C? And so on to Step D.

Suddenly Living in a World of Hate and Fear

"And one day, too late, your

principles, if you were ever sensible of them, all rush in upon you. The burden of self-deception has grown too heavy, and some minor incident, in my case my little boy, hardly more than a baby, saying 'Jewish swine,' collapses it all at once, and you see that everything has changed and changed completely under your nose. The world you live in—your nation, your people—is not the world you were born in at all. Now you live in a world of hate and fear, and the people who hate and fear do not even know it themselves. When everyone is transformed, no one is transformed. Now you live in a system that rules without responsibility.

"You have accepted things you would not have accepted five years ago, a year ago, things that your father, even in Germany, could not have imagined.

All That was Required of us was That we did Nothing

"Suddenly it all comes down, all at once. You see what you are, what you have done, or, more accurately, what you haven't done (for that was all that was required of most of us: that we do nothing). You remember those early meetings of your department in the university when, if one had stood, others would have stood, but no one stood. You remember everything now, and your heart breaks. Too late. You are compromised beyond repair.

"Once the war began, resistance, protest, criticism, complaint, all carried with them a multiplied likelihood of the greatest punishment. Mere lack of enthusiasm, or failure to show it in public, was defeatism. You assumed that there were lists of those who would be 'dealt with' later, after the victory. Goebbels was very clever here, too. He continually promised a 'victory orgy' to 'take care of those who thought that their 'treasonable attitude' had escaped notice.

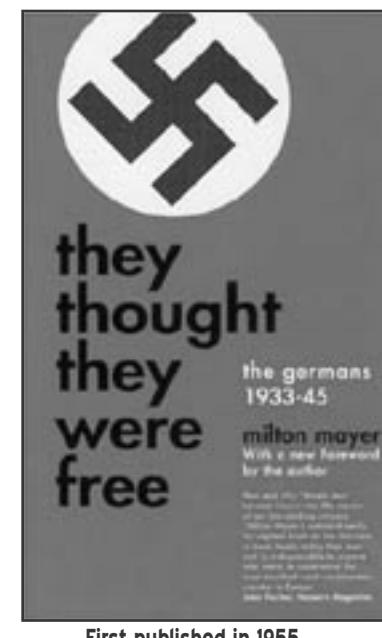
"Once the war began, the government could do 'anything necessary' to win it; so it was with the 'final solution of the Jewish problem,' which the Nazis always talked about but never dared undertake until war and its 'necessities' gave them the knowledge that they could get away with it."

Gary Kohls is a retired physician from Duluth, MN who writes about peace, justice, health and religious issues. He is also a founding member of Every Church A Peace Church, www.ecapc.org

History's Lessons

Lessons from History to Guide Anti-Fascist Voters

What Can Happen if We the People Let Down our Guard and Vote for Our Future Oppressors



First published in 1955



US Army Gen. David Petraeus, commander of the US Central Command, at a Senate Committee hearing, March, 2010

By Chris Floyd / EmpireBurlesque.com

Pentagon brass and their sycophants in mufti are now making the media rounds, laying the groundwork for the next great move by the world-historical military genius David Petraeus, the most-lauded general never to, er, actually win a war: moving ground troops into Pakistan. The *Los Angeles Times* has the story (10/11/2010).

First, of course, there will be the usual push to make the Pakistani military kill massive amounts of their own people. This will, as always, inflame the situation; exacerbate extremism and violent reaction, thus nicely setting the stage for American troops to step in—oh, as a last resort, of course—and take

control of the "deteriorating situation."

Obviously, given what happened to Stanley McChrystal when he let his aides wag their tongues a bit too much in a Paris bistro, Pentagon staffers are not about to be caught "off message" these days. So the dispatch of anonymous briefers in this case can only be seen as a planned reconnaissance in force to "prepare the battlefield." Not the actual fields in Central Asia where Petraeus is now killing civilians (and throwing away American lives) at a rising clip, of course; no, we mean the battlegrounds of the Beltway, where the Pentagon bureaucrats like Winless Davy do their real fighting.

The move is being sold as a way to "show improvement" in the war before Obama's re-

lection, but that's all a sham. Obama surely knows what is painfully obvious to any sentient being: an expansion of the ground war into Pakistan will result in a maelstrom of blood and hate that will extend and deepen the Central Asian quagmire for years, decades.

But of course, that is precisely what our war-profligate, empire-addicted militarists want. As court stenographer Bob Woodward duly recorded, Petraeus himself told Obama: "You have to recognize also that I don't think you win this war. I think you keep fighting ... You have to stay after it. This is the kind of fight we're in for the rest of our lives and probably our kids' lives."

This is the mindset that rules Washington now. From all the evidence, Obama fully shares this vision. Those who think otherwise must cling to the spin that Obama's aides propagated through the obliging stovepipe of Woodward: that the president is a limp rag who can easily be rolled by the boys in Hell's Bottom. (It is astounding that Obama's people, who have praised the book, think this is some kind of positive image of their boss.) But even in the highly unlikely case that Obama is some kind of "prisoner" of the Pentagon, with his peace-loving hands tied by military meanies, it doesn't matter. Prisoner or willing participant, the result is the same: the militarists are in charge, and they will not stop, no matter how much death and ruin they wreak around the world—and at home.

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. His work appears regularly in CounterPunch, Floyd co-founded the blog Empire Burlesque with webmaster Richard Kastelein.



FOX from p. 1

The candidate Fox supported was Nazi leader Adolf Hitler

The basic facts are available in German historian Hans Mommsen's authoritative study entitled *The Rise and Fall of Weimar Democracy*, which is translated into English and widely available in over five hundred libraries in this country. Mommsen, one of the most distinguished postwar German historians, is now Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Bochum.

In Mommsen's account of Nazi propaganda techniques, we find the following: "There was nothing that escaped the ingenuity of Nazi propagandists. A case in point was the use of film. Under Goebbels' influence, the party had begun to exploit the potential of the political propaganda film to an unprecedented extent as early as 1930. Such films were shown mostly in places where Hitler and other prominent party leaders were not able to appear as speakers. For the manufacture of outdoor sound film, the NSDAP (the Nazi Party) turned to an American company, Twentieth Century Fox."

Scholar William G. Chrystal confirms this account and provides further important details in his 1975 article on "Nazi Party Election Films, 1927-1938." Chrystal writes: "Support for two additional 1932 election films, 'Der Führer' ('The Leader') and 'Hitlers Kampf um Deutschland' ('Hitler's Struggle for Germany') came from the German-based subsidiary of Twentieth Century Fox, Fox Tönende Wochenschau (Fox Weekly Sound Newsreel [i.e., Fox Movietone News]). In addition, they also supplied some mobile sound film vans to be used during the campaign. Thus, at least part of Hitler's support in that critical time was the result of Fox's help. The background for this assistance is unknown since Fox Tönende Wochenschau records were destroyed during the war," according to a July 9, 1974 letter to Chrystal from Joseph Bellfort, who was at that time the vice president of the Twentieth Century Fox International Film Corporation.

Fox Helped Hitler's Voice Reach Many Germans for the First Time

Of the first of these two films, Chrystal writes: "...Der Führer ('The Leader') was one of two sound films subsidized by Fox Tönende Wochenschau. Released on April 13, 1932, it was originally titled 'Volk und Führer' ('Nation and Leader'). It was a relatively

In 1932, Fox Helped Make Propaganda Films For the Nazis

(Now Fox News Makes Propaganda TV for the Homeland)

short film, 263 meters long, but it provided many people with their first opportunity to hear Hitler speak. These films were accompanied by an apparently popular tide which enabled their wider dissemination. In his



Fox sponsored weekly news reels in German.

diary on March 6, 1932, [Nazi propaganda boss Joseph] Goebbels noted: "We now also win the movie theater for our propaganda."



Adolf Hitler campaign speech at the Lustgarten in Berlin April 1932. Hitler lost the election to incumbent President, Hindenburg. Photo: German Federal Archive

"Der Führer" lasts about five minutes. In it, Hitler, speaking in Berlin on April 4, 1932, develops his characteristic theme that the German army was betrayed and stabbed in the back in November 1918, by the Weimar politicians, especially the Social Democrats. This speech was part of Hitler's campaign for president, in which he was defeated on April 10, 1932, by von Hindenburg but nevertheless received almost 37% of the votes, which represented a new high in Nazi support up to that time. In the subsequent parliamentary election, held on July 31, 1932, the Nazis added 19% to their previous totals to emerge for the first time as the largest single party in Germany with 38% of the votes – thanks, in part, to the assistance rendered to Hitler by Fox Movietone News.

Concerning the second film Fox made for Hitler, Chrystal writes: "...new Reichstag elections were called for November 6, 1932.... The second of the Fox-subsidized productions, 'Hitlers Kampf um Deutschland' ('Hitler's Struggle for Germany'), appeared on August 30. It comprised 606

meters of Hitler's July, 1932 Eberswalde speech. An indication of the effectiveness of this speech and its film record can be found in its later use. When Reichstag elections were held again in March 1933, this same film was re-issued under a new title, "Reichskanzler Adolf Hitler Spricht" ("Reich Chancellor Adolf Hitler Speaks")."

Hitler's speech in the Brandenburg Stadium in Eberswalde on July 27, 1932, one of three he gave that day, is a classic demagogic performance. As Mommsen points out, "in the hectic 1932 election campaign" [the Nazis organized mass rallies featuring] "speeches that Hitler tailored specifically to the psychotic public mood that had been created by the deepening crisis." (Mommsen, p. 338) "We are intolerant," raved Hitler, promising to drive more than thirty other political parties out of Germany. "We have one goal before us, to fanatically and ruthlessly shove all these parties into the grave," he added. This was the message which Fox Movietone News helped deliver to the German public. Six months after he gave this speech, Hitler seized power as chancellor and began consolidating his power as dictator – once again, thanks in part to the help of Fox Movietone News.

Note that Chrystal speaks of Fox as having "subsidized" Hitler's critical 1932 election campaigns. This can be considered as the 1930s equivalent of illicit contributions in kind to a politician under current US election law, which is the charge often made against Fox News today, as, for example, in a recent filing by the Democratic Governors' Association in regard to the Kasich gubernatorial campaign in Ohio.

Fox Movietone News and the Rise of European Fascism

Robert Edwin Herzstein, in his article entitled "Movietone News and the Rise of Fascism in Europe, 1930-1935," explored the partial archive of Fox Movietone News for these years, now at the Thomas Cooper Library at the University of South Carolina. It is clear from this article that the regular weekly Fox Movietone newsreels also played into the hands of the Nazi and fascist media strategy. Proud of this record, "Fox called its newsreels the mightiest of them all." (Herzstein, p. 314)

In the Fox Movietone newsreels and outtakes of Nazi rallies, says Herzstein, "one senses the enthusiasm, the communion



between leader and masses.... Hitler is often seen standing in the presence of his friend and foreign press chief Ernst Hanfstaengl, apparently oblivious to the prying movie camera.... Hitler, in part a media creation, was better equipped to manipulate the masses by putting them on the movie screen. He made them part of the media action, and the outtakes show us how that was done." (Herzstein, p. 317) Hitler's rivals and adversaries, including his predecessor as chancellor, von Papen, the Austrian leader Dollfuss, and the Social Democrat Dittman all appear in the Fox footage in a negative or unflattering light by comparison.

One big fan of Fox Movietone News was the Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, who was given the opportunity to make one of his famous bravura speeches for the Fox camera. According to Herzstein, one of the first sound newsreels shown in the United States depicted Mussolini in March 1929 speaking in English directly to the American people, saying: "Your talking newsreel has tremendous possibilities. Let me speak through it in twenty cities in Italy once a week and I need no other power." (Herzstein, p. 318) In the mind of the Duce, newsfilm was thus already the handmaiden of fascist power. Herzstein's extensive survey of the Fox Movietone archive for 1930-1935 apparently yielded no examples of any criticism or unfavorable coverage of the fascist dictators, since none is mentioned in his article.

The last Fox Movietone newsreels appeared in the United States in 1963. According to the Wikipedia article on Movietone News, parts of the Fox Movietone newsreel collection are still "owned and managed by the Fox Film Corporation's corporate successor (and namesake), Fox News Channel. The majority of the collection is stored in New Jersey, mostly unseen since the newsreels were originally shown in theatres. During its early years, Fox News Channel had a weekend show which played the newsreels."

As the philosopher George Santayana rightly observed in 1905, "when experience is not retained, as among savages, infancy is perpetual. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Webster G. Tarpley is an economic historian, radio host and author of 9/11 Synthetic Terror: Made in USA, Obama, The Postmodern Coup and Surviving The Cataclysm and many other books.

Co-authors Oliver Meier and Paul Ingram point out that NATO's 28 states "remain divided" over key issues,



"I have to say, the nuclear capability makes her even scarier."

US Threat To Attack Iran With Nukes Is "Criminal"

CRIMINAL from p. 3

rejected," Boyle said

He noted that Article 2 of the UN Charter prohibits both the threat and the use of force except in cases of legitimate self-defense" and the US wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan, "do not qualify under that definition." He adds that the US today is engaged in "ongoing international criminal activity" for "planning, preparation, solicitation, and conspiracy to commit Nuremberg crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide."

What's more, "the design, research, testing, production, manufacture, fabrication, transportation, deployment, installation, storing, stockpile, sale, and purchase and the threat to use nuclear weapons are criminal under well-recognized principles of international law," Boyle said.

And the leaders of NATO states that go along with US nuclear policies "are all accomplices as well," Boyle said, noting that pressure is mounting within Germany for the removal of US nuclear warheads and that public opinion in much of Europe favors the elimination of nuclear arsenals.

The expansion of NATO, Boyle says, has now drawn in "almost all of Europe" and that even Sweden, Austria, and Finland have basically abandoned their neutrality. "Even Ireland," Boyle says, has been compelled to join the so-called Partnership For Peace and send troops to Afghanistan. "The only state in Europe still holding out is Switzerland," he continues, and, because it refuses to commit troops to the wars in the Middle East, it has been subjected to much pressure by the US, "including an attack on its banking and financial system."

The nonpartisan Arms Control Association of Washington, meanwhile, has published an article in the October issue of "Arms Control Today" calling for NATO ministers at their forthcoming October 14th session "to initiate a comprehensive review of outdated NATO nuclear policy" to "reduce the role and salience of nuclear weapons and support reductions of US and Russian tactical nuclear bombs."

Sherwood Ross is director of the Anti-War News Service, of Coral Gables, Florida. To comment on this article or contribute to the news service, reach him at Sherwoodross10@gmail.com. Ross worked as a reporter for the Chicago Daily News and contributed weekly columns for many years to several wire services.

including "the future role of nuclear weapons in NATO's defense posture." What's more, they say, in Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands "there now exists broad parliamentary and popular support for a withdrawal of US nuclear weapons from their territories."

In a related development, the Associated Press reported October 9, "From the 1950s' Pentagon to today's Obama administration, the United States has repeatedly pondered, planned and threatened use of nuclear weapons against North Korea, according to declassified and other US government documents released in this 60th-anniversary year of the Korean War."

"Just this past April," AP writers Charles Hanley and Randy Herschaft said, "issuing a US Nuclear Posture Review, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said 'all options are on the table' for dealing with Pyongyang — meaning US nuclear strikes are not ruled out."

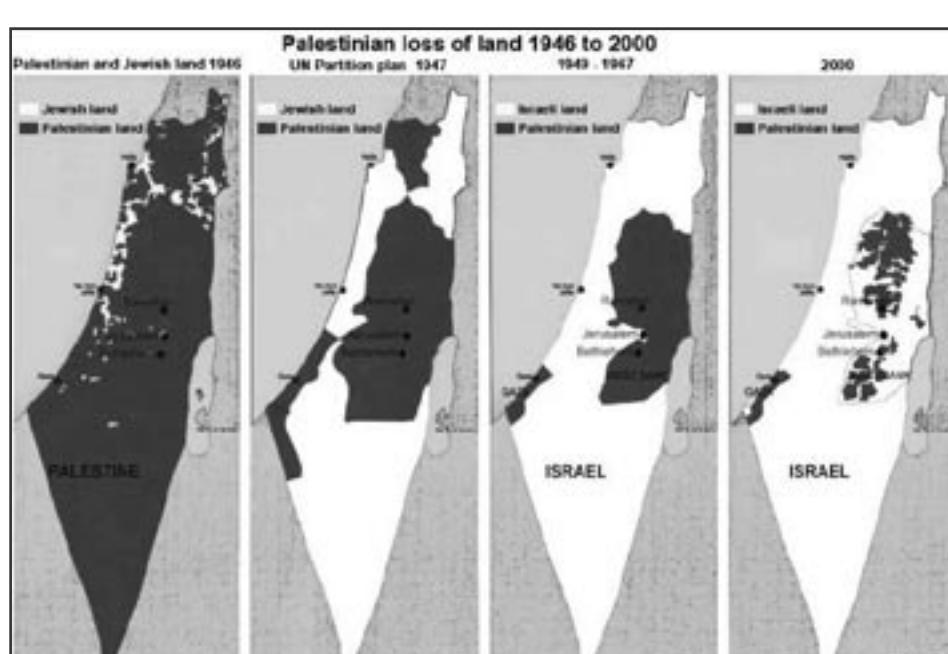
During the Korean War (1950-53), US Air Force bombers flew nuclear rehearsal runs over North Korea's capital, and on August 20, 1953, after the fighting ended, the Strategic Air Command sent Air Force headquarters a plan for "an air atomic offensive against China, Manchuria, and North Korea" if the Communists resumed hostilities. Called *OpPlan 8-53*, it advocated use of "large numbers of atomic weapons".

President Jimmy Carter scaled back the US nuclear arsenal in South Korea, and its complete withdrawal was announced in 1991, "although the North Koreans at times accuse the US of maintaining a secret nuclear stockpile," AP says. Korea specialists generally accept Pyongyang's stated rationale that it sought its own bomb for defensive reasons in response to US positioning of nuclear weapons in South Korea, AP reported.

Professor Boyle is the author of *The Criminality of Nuclear Deterrence and Destroying World Order*, both published by Clarity Press.

Sherwood Ross is director of the Anti-War News Service, of Coral Gables, Florida. To comment on this article or contribute to the news service, reach him at Sherwoodross10@gmail.com. Ross worked as a reporter for the Chicago Daily News and contributed weekly columns for many years to several wire services.

Palestinians to Israel: "Show Us The Map"



MAP from p. 3

the West Bank with settlers to create the conditions for a Jewish civil war. He knows that no Israeli prime minister is going down in history as the one who gave the order to the Jewish army to shoot Jews out of the West Bank" [pause] "I'm not."

When Peres spoke those words to me, there were 70,000 illegal Jewish settlers on the occupied West Bank. If it was "too late" then, in 1980, how much more too late is it today when the number of illegal Jewish settlers is in excess of 500,000 and rising on a daily basis?

Some weeks after that conversation with Peres, I had reason to talk in private with Ezer Weizman, then serving as Defense Minister in Begin's first-term government. He gave me extraordinary and frightening

insight into why any future Israeli prime minister would not and possibly could not order the IDF to remove settlers from the West Bank by whatever force was necessary. At a point in our conversation he said the following, very slowly and with quiet emphasis:

"This lunchtime, Sharon convened a secret meeting of some of our generals and other top military and security people. They signed in blood an oath which commits them to join with the settlers and fight to the death to prevent any government of Israel withdrawing from the West Bank" [pause] "I know that's what happened at the meeting because I've checked it out and that's why I was late for this appointment with you." (I tell the full story of this conversation with Weizman in "The Blood Oath", Chapter 12 of Volume Three of the American edition of

Zionism: The Real Enemy of the Jews).

So no, there won't be a Jewish civil war because no Israeli prime minister is ever going to risk provoking it.

So there will be no map. (I mean not one that could come even close to satisfying the Palestinian demand and need.) Yasser Abed Rabbo knew that when he put the demand into words.

So what was the point of his challenge?

I presume he was hoping that Israel's refusal to come up with a map based on more or less pre-June 1967 borders will help to convince more and more people, Americans especially, that Israel simply is not interested in peace on terms virtually all Palestinians and most other Arabs and Muslims everywhere could accept, and for which there is universal support (minus only the opposition of the Zionists and the mad, fundamentalist Christians who support them right or wrong — an opposition which in numbers of people is only a tiny, almost invisible fraction of the global whole).

If it does that, the challenge will not have been made in vain.

Footnote:

The day after Yasser Abed Rabbo issued the challenge, Israeli foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman had the gall (*chutzpah*) to say that Israel "has already made many gestures to the Palestinian Authority to facilitate restarting direct negotiations," and now "the other side must show goodwill." In one sense, Liberman was right. Israel has made many gestures to the Palestinians. But all of them have been of the "Go to hell" type.

Alan Hart is a former ITN and BBC Panorama foreign correspondent who has covered wars and conflicts wherever they were taking place in the world and specialized in the Middle East. His latest book *Zionism: The Real Enemy of the Jews* is a three-volume epic in its American edition. He blogs on AlanHart.com.

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Is the Leading 9/11 Truth Site Working For the Other Side?

BLOGGER from p. 1

University of California at Berkeley professor and author Peter Dale Scott, author David Ray Griffin, and actor Ed Asner. In the 9/11 truth community, even among those who are not familiar with CIT, the general consensus is that no plane hit the Pentagon. For starters, plane crashes leave wreckage, and there was no wreckage at the Pentagon. No wings or tail, no fuselage, no luggage or bodies, no skid or burn marks on the pristine green Pentagon lawn.

Many 9/11 truth researchers had strongly suspected for years that no plane hit the Pentagon, then CIT came along and proved it: the plane flew away. And yet, the leading 9/11 truth site is actively suppressing CIT's evidence and aggressively promoting the view that the plane hit. What is going on?

Before looking at the evidence that 911blogger is censoring the truth about the Pentagon and promoting disinformation, let's look briefly at why this matters and what their motivations might be.

Although the entire 9/11 story is full of holes, the evidence proving that no plane hit the Pentagon stands in a class by itself, because a deception at the Pentagon is unspinnable. It may be possible to convince the American public that al Qaeda placed bombs in the World Trade Center towers, but the public will never believe, (nor should they) that al Qaeda planted bombs in the Pentagon. The military headquarters for the most powerful nation on earth is a very secure place, and evidence of an elaborate deception at the Pentagon is iron clad proof of complicity at the highest levels of government. Hence, for those trying to keep a lid on the truth, it is absolutely imperative that the facts about what happened at the Pentagon not get out.

Infiltration of the enemy is a common tool of warfare, and it would be surprising if the perpetrators of 9/11 had not attempted to infiltrate and subvert the 9/11 truth movement, to prevent it from doing them (the perps) any damage.

Why activists are so alarmed

Barrie Zwicker is an award-winning journalist, lecturer, author and documentary producer. He was astute enough to question the official 9/11 story from day one, as it was happening. He produced one of the first 9/11 Truth documentaries, "The Great Conspiracy", in 2003. His most recent book, *Towers of Deception*, explores the media's role in covering up the truth about 9/11. Based in Toronto, Canada, Zwicker is an expert on the subject of infiltration of social movements. When Zwicker speaks, people listen.

This summer, via YouTube, Zwicker created a ringing endorsement of CIT's "National Security Alert" video. He not only enthusiastically applauded CIT's work and their conclusion (that the plane seen at the Pentagon overflowed the building as explosives were detonated), Zwicker delivered a stinging rebuke to CIT's detractors:

"To me, two most important questions now, almost nine years after the events, urgently call out for investigation. First, who are those behind the vicious attempts to discredit the work of the Citizen Investigation Team? Second, what are the motives of the would-be discreditors and those behind them? And I say "attempts" because careful examination of the arguments of CIT's tormentors show them to be tricky and unreliable, in fact as flimsy as the official story they try to defend."

Zwicker submitted the video endorsement to 911Blogger on July 22, 2010.

Now, this is big news in the truth community. For someone of Zwicker's stature to provide unambiguously

enthusiastic support of citizen investigators, on an issue that has not (until now) had clear answers (namely, what happened at the Pentagon), is important to everyone in the truth community. But incredibly, Zwicker's post to 911blogger was never published.

Zwicker, ever the gentleman, politely emailed the 911blogger moderators, asking why his entry wasn't approved. He never received a reply from any of the four moderators.

However, just ten days later, 911blogger published a 3100 word article from an anonymous poster, titled "CIT is useless." The amateurish writing and ad hominem attacks are evident from the very first paragraph:

"Some time ago I wrote an article about not wasting time on CIT. Most of their followers are impossible to convince and consequently the

...many well respected 9/11 truth activists and scholars have been banned from 911 blogger without explanation or cause..."

endless debates with them are entirely fruitless, resulting in nothing more than distraction. But that's not to say we should ignore them completely. Just because we ignore them doesn't mean they won't be zipping around spouting their flawed testimony, their aggressive behavior, anything that discredits those of us who are careful and have realistic standards of evidence."

In part because of this decision by 911blogger, to reject Barrie Zwicker's endorsement of CIT while publishing a childish hit piece from an anonymous source, Southern California 9/11 truth activist and We Are Change LA member Adam Ruff wrote:

"In my view it is now 100% confirmed that 911blogger is an enemy of the truth movement as a whole and is engaged in an open campaign of attack on good truthers."

The RCFP interviewed Zwicker via email

RCFP: What do you find most compelling about CIT's work?

Zwicker: A historically significant deception has been revealed by these eyewitnesses. The simplicity of CIT's findings is also significant, as they don't lend themselves to being undermined by obfuscations or convoluted scientific discussion. It comes down to this: South side of the gas station = official story, North side = inside job. Not even CIT's detractors have found a way around this, try as they might. Any honest person who watches the interviews has to agree that the plane was on the north side proving inside job. It's as good an example as any of critical truth, the primary goal of the 9/11 Truth movement.

RCFP: What do you make of those who say they appreciate CIT's work but do not think they proved "flyover"?

Zwicker: Commercial airliners cannot make startling turns to left or right in such limited airspace, nor can they vanish into thin air. Flyover is the only rational explanation, not to mention that CIT provides a witness who saw the plane flying away. If this ever gets to a fair and uncorrupted court of law, I am as confident as I am of anything, that such a court will determine this plane overflowed the Pentagon.

RCFP: Have you read the criticisms of CIT's work from Arabesque, Jim Hoffman and Victoria Ashley, and do you think they have merit?

Zwicker: They lack merit because they do not provide counter-evidence. They have no firsthand eyewitness interviews from people who specifically place the plane to the south side of the gas station. Those I could weigh against the eyewitnesses interviewed by CIT. As far as I can see, Arabesque, whoever

that is (I don't care for anonymity), Hoffman and Ashley have provided none at all. They take snippets of third-hand printed media quotes, none of which are actually South of Citgo witnesses, just statements by people who said they saw the plane hit the building. Indeed, one particular detractor blog by "Caustic Logic" quotes a few people as "witnesses" who were not even in the area at the time of the attack! One was in North Carolina, arrived in DC the afternoon of 9/11, saw the downed light poles, and was thus presented as a "light pole witness." This is in a blog entry titled "The South Path Impact: Documented."

RCFP: What conclusions do you draw from 911blogger refusing to post your endorsement of CIT?

Zwicker: Actually, my endorsement was briefly posted for about 30 minutes, then withdrawn.

It's painful for me to learn that 911blogger, which I consider to be the premiere 9/11Truth site, is censoring CIT and those who support CIT. Even more distressing is that 911blogger has failed to censor some quite rude comments about CIT's work and its team members. So it's clearly one-sided.

One conclusion that can be drawn is that there are players behind the scenes who have prevailed upon the moderators at 911blogger to stultify CIT and its findings. Since the censorship is so blatant and carries with it obvious penalties in the form of loss of credibility, those behind the censorship orders must really have their knickers in a knot about something.

It's a clear sign that those who control that website are trying to control thought when it comes to the Pentagon. Most people in the truth movement that I talk to in the real world are agreed that no plane hit the Pentagon. That the most visited 9/11 truth website would be so hostile towards evidence that supports this widely held belief within the ranks of Truthers is at the least disconcerting.

A little more than a month after Zwicker's endorsement of CIT was rejected, the situation repeated itself, when retired NASA aeronautical engineer Dwain Deets recorded a video endorsement of CIT on August 30, 2010 and submitted it to 911blogger. Once again, 911blogger refused, without explanation, to post the endorsement of a highly qualified professional.

Prior to 911blogger rejecting these video endorsements from Zwicker and Deets, nearly all users at 911blogger who were vocal in their support of CIT had been banned. An informal poll easily came up with 25 former users of 911blogger who had been banned without explanation—about half of whom are CIT supporters.

Three of the most well-informed, articulate and prolific CIT supporters were banned simultaneously on May 24, 2010, while in the midst of a heated online debate with 911blogger moderator Erik Larson (aka Loose Nuke). Truth activist Stefan S. of London, England explains it:

"The exact moment that Adam Syed, Adam Ruff and I were banned, we were in mid-debate with Erik Larson. Nothing remotely offensive or rule breaking was being said by any one of us, let alone all three of us at the exact same time.

"What was happening was that Larson had been backed into a corner over a blog entry of his, which was a listing of what he claimed were witnesses to the plane flying south of the Citgo station prior to it striking the Pentagon.

Not a single one of those witnesses even mentioned Citgo, it was just a collection of laughably tenuous arguments for why ambiguous witness statements must be supportive of the official story. The list was submitted to

an intensive analysis and it was shown conclusively that none of the witnesses supported the official flight path, that the list included several witnesses who stated that the plane flew to the north of Citgo, and most strikingly, several who explicitly stated that they were not even in the vicinity at the time of the attack.

The discussion was drifting into increasingly embarrassing territory for Larson when — presto — all three of us were banned and Larson, in a completely childish fashion, proceeded to have the "last word" in full knowledge that he had just stopped the people he was addressing from being able to respond.

Larson's articles are disinformation; the information he puts out there is deliberately false with a motive to undermine genuine research. 911blogger is no longer a 9/11 truth site, that much is clear."

Response from 911blogger

Other than from moderator John Wright (aka LeftWright), who stressed that he was giving only his own personal views, not those of the website, there has been no response from 911blogger to questions emailed to them on September 15, 2010 about their treatment of Citizen Investigation Team. The email, which stated that the Rock Creek Free Press was working on an article about 911blogger and wanted to include their side of the story, was sent to the current email addresses for site owner Justin Keogh and moderators Erik Larson, Ted Tilton, Jr. and John Wright, as well as to the joint email address for the "blogger team."

John Wright stated on September 16 that he was available for a phone interview, but, as of press time on October 23, has not replied to an email sent on October 5 to arrange that interview.

The lengthy emails from Wright explaining his view of why CIT has been treated so badly at 911blogger amount, in our view, to implausible excuses: he's been busy; as a fulltime truth activist he has higher priorities; despite their best efforts, rules are not always enforced fairly; the site has been in a state of transition; and personality conflicts have gotten out of hand.

Most shockingly, Wright claims that Barrie Zwicker broke the site rules by stating in his endorsement that there is a "cadre of disinformation agents who are in the business of attempting to mislead and confuse honest authentic people everywhere about 9/11." Is Wright really saying that the leading 9/11 truth site will not allow discussion of disinformation or even acknowledge that such a thing exists?

Truth activist and professional orchestral musician Adam Syed of Cincinnati, Ohio, who was banned during the debate with Larson in May, offered this comment on the censorship at 911blogger:

"Arguments in an online forum may at first glance seem to be of interest only to diehard keyboard warriors. But without the Internet, most of us would never have learned about 9/11—certainly the traditional media won't go near it. 9/11 truth lives or dies on the Internet, and when the most heavily trafficked truth site decides to suppress certain evidence, it obviously makes it harder for people to learn the truth and figure out what happened. In the case of CIT, we are being told to disregard one of the most incriminating facts about 9/11: no plane hit the Pentagon. Now, why would any genuine truther ask us to turn our backs on such damning, unspinnable evidence?"

Answer: they wouldn't.

Editor's note: We welcome your comments on the situation at 911blogger; please send them to editor@rockcreekfreepress.com.

News Bites

Video: 9/11 Firefighters Reveal Huge Explosions before Towers Collapsed

(Infowars.com) Newly obtained video that was reluctantly released by NIST after a lawsuit by the International Center for 9/11 Studies shows two firefighters on 9/11 discussing how secondary explosions occurred immediately before the collapse of the twin towers, providing damning new evidence that explosive devices were used to bring down the buildings.

Australian Trade Union President, Kevin Bracken, stands by his 9/11Truth Views

(Herald Sun) Victorian Trades Hall president Kevin Bracken remains unrepentant after his controversial comments about the 9/11 attacks made news around the world.

Kevin Bracken sparked outrage October 20 when he told Jon Faine's ABC talk-back program the 9/11 attacks were not the result of terrorist activity. He said the official story was a conspiracy that "didn't stand up" to scientific scrutiny.

On October 21 Mr. Bracken phoned into Faine's program again for a right of reply. Mr. Bracken stood by his comments and said he had the support of 50 per cent of the community.

As of this writing the *Herald Sun* poll question: Do you think Kevin Bracken's comments were reasonable? Yes: 74.67%; No: 25.33%; Total votes: 9685

This is not the first time Mr. Bracken has voiced his controversial opinions on the attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon. In 2006 he told *The Australian* he believed the attacks only worked because the US government was in some way involved. "If they want to stop terrorism they've got to look at who was really behind September 11," Mr. Bracken said at the time.

"It couldn't have happened unless there was participation from key elements of the American military and government and security services. I am not saying the whole lot were involved. But I believe the official story for September 11 doesn't stack up."

Afghanistan And Pakistan Presidents Believe The US Is Covertly Behind 'Suicide Bombing' Attacks

(AntiWar.com) Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari believes that the United States has been secretly behind a number of Taliban suicide attacks across the nation.

According to Bob Woodward's new book, *Obama's Wars*, Zardari expressed this concern to then-US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad during a dinner.

Zardari went on to explain that it was part of a US plot to "destabilize Pakistan so that the US could invade and seize its nuclear weapons." Zardari also apparently claimed that Afghan President Hamid Karzai had told him the US was responsible for the attacks.

Blueberries Halt Hardening Of The Arteries

(NaturalNews) Scientists now have direct evidence that blueberries can help prevent harmful atherosclerotic plaques from increasing in size and narrowing arteries.

Principal investigator Xianli Wu, who works with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center in Little Rock and with the University of Arkansas Center for Medical Sciences, led the new study which was just reported in the current issue of the *Journal of Nutrition*. Dr. Wu's research team compared the size of atherosclerotic lesions in 30 young laboratory mice with heart disease. Plaques measured at two sites on the aorta (arteries leading from the heart) were 39 and 58 percent smaller in the mice who ate the blueberry powder compared to the plaque lesions in the animals whose diet did not contain blueberry powder.

More Drug Companies Exposed For Paying Off Doctors To Illegally Prescribe Drugs

(NaturalNews) According to a new report conducted by ProPublica, Consumer Reports, and National Public Radio (NPR), the drug industry has spent roughly \$7 billion in the past three years to pay out settlements for such practices as off-label prescribing, drug company-funded speaking engagements, and illegal monetary and gift compensation programs. Many of these lawsuits were brought forth by former drug company sales representatives that witnessed the activity. According to these whistle-blowers, drug companies routinely break the law to increase drug sales, even after they have signed compliance agreements promising to follow the law.

Companies implicated in the illegal activity include Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, which is now owned by Pfizer, Allergan, maker of Botox, Cephalon, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Eli Lilly, Ortho-McNeil, Forest Laboratories and Merck.

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