

Rock Creek Free Press

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Vol. 5, No. 3 March 2011

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Bush's Travel Restricted by International Arrest Warrants

W Forged to Cancel Speech in Switzerland For Fear of Arrest

By INDICTBUSHNOW

George W. Bush has his back to the wall. He cancelled a February 12 speech in Switzerland due to fear of mass protests and his arrest for authorizing the torture of detainees at Guantánamo Bay.

Bush is afraid of another Pinochet incident. In 1998, late Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet was arrested in London on a warrant from Spain for multiple crimes committed during his brutal, bloody reign.

Human rights activists all over the world have pledged to seek arrest warrants wherever Bush travels outside the United States. Already, legal proceedings in Spain and Germany target Bush

See RESTRICTED p. 7

Resurrecting the Neo-cons

Marc Grossman in ... Richard Perle & Douglas Feith on deck.

By SIBEL EDMONDS

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has chosen a new special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan: a long-time controversial neo-con, a man who has been famous for parading as a foreign agent in the lobby circuit, the scandalous former diplomat Marc Grossman. The not-so-gradual resurrection of the old neo-con cabal under the Obama administration, led by Hillary Clinton, should not come as a surprise. According to Washington insiders, Richard Perle and Douglas Feith have been consulted more than a few times in their 'unofficial' capacity, but are not far down in the queue to receive 'official' acknowledgement. Not unexpected; at least to those who've been following the steady momentum building at the Obama White House toward a soon-to-come Neo-con Easter.

See NEO-CONS p. 7

What About America's Oligarchs?

By RUSS BAKER / WHOWHATWHY.COM

With all the attention on crowds of ordinary people rising up and asserting themselves against corruption and self-dealing by an oligarchy, we're missing what the oligarchs are doing right at home. Take, for example, the activities of one of our biggest banks, JPMorgan Chase.

Newly released documents show that high officials of the bank knew for a long time that Bernard Madoff was running a Ponzi scheme, but did nothing to protect his investors – though they did protect their own investments tied to him. As reported in *The New York Times* in an article that, unfortunately, was missed by many distracted by all the other recent headlines:

"Senior executives at JPMorgan Chase expressed serious doubts about the legitimacy of Bernard L. Madoff's investment business more than 18 months before his Ponzi scheme collapsed but continued to do business with him, according to internal bank documents made public in a lawsuit.

See OLIGARCHS p. 4

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By JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

What we are witnessing, thanks in large part to zero tolerance policies that were intended to make schools safer by discouraging the use of actual drugs and weapons by students, is the inhumane treatment of young people and the criminalization of childish behavior.

Ninth grader Andrew Mikel is merely the latest in a long line of victims whose educations have been senselessly derailed by school administrators lacking in both

pedagogical common sense and compassion. A freshman at Spotsylvania High School in Virginia, Andrew was expelled in December 2010 for shooting a handful of small pellets akin to plastic spit wads at fellow students in the school hallway during lunch period. Although the initial punishment was only for 10 days, the school board later extended it to the rest of the school year. School officials also referred the matter to local law enforcement, which initiated juvenile proceedings for criminal assault against young Andrew.

Andrew is not alone. Nine-year-old Patrick Timoney was sent to the principal's office and threatened with suspension from his New York school, after school officials discovered that one of his LEGO toys was holding a 2-inch toy gun. That particular LEGO, a policeman, was Patrick's favorite because his father is a retired police officer. David Morales, an 8-year-old Rhode Island student, ran afoul of his school's zero tolerance policies after he wore a hat to school decorated with an American flag

See SCHOOLS p. 8

FBI Anthrax Case Falls Short

By ELAINE SULLIVAN / RCFP

The National Academy of Sciences released a report February 15 which casts doubt on the evidence used by the FBI in its case against US Army biodefense expert, Bruce Ivins. Ivins was the FBI's chief suspect in the deadly 2001 anthrax mailings. On September 18, 2001, a series of letters containing lethal anthrax spores was sent to several government offices and news outlets, killing five and injuring seventeen people. Ivins died of an alleged suicide in 2008 shortly before the FBI announced that he was the sole suspect in the case.

As Glenn Greenwald wrote in *Salon* February 16; "It is hard to overstate the political significance of the anthrax attacks. For reasons I've described at length, that event played at least as much of a role as the 9/11 attacks in elevating the Terrorism



Bruce Ivins

feared levels which, through today, sustain endless wars, massive defense and homeland security budgets, and relentless civil liberties erosions. The pithy version of the vital role played by anthrax was supplied by Atrios [at Eschatonblog.com]; in essence, it was anthrax that convinced large numbers of Americans that Terrorism was something that could show up without warning at their doorstep — though something as innocuous as their mailbox — in the form of James-Bond-like attacks featuring invisible, lethal powder. Moreover, anthrax was exploited in the aftermath of 9/11 to ratchet up the fear levels toward Saddam Hussein, as ABC News' Brian Ross spent a full week screeching to the country — falsely — that bentonite had been found in the anthrax and that this agent was the telltale sign of Iraq's chemical weapons program, while George Bush throughout 2002

See ANTHRAX p. 5



Depleted Uranium – Toxic Legacy



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Most Americans have no idea that depleted uranium munitions used by the US military are causing one of the greatest environmental nightmares in the history of the world. In fact, most Americans have no idea what depleted uranium even is. But while many Americans gobble down their burgers, and french fries and pizza and enjoy the "good life" watching

their big screen televisions, an entirely different story is being written on the other side of the world. In Iraq and Afghanistan today, there are some areas that have been so polluted by depleted uranium (DU) that they have literally become uninhabitable hellholes. Americans like to think of themselves as "environmentally conscious", but the truth is that one of the greatest environmental

tragedies of all time is being caused by the US military, and yet nobody seems to care.

But now, some of the victims are starting to fight back — at least in court. According to one Iraqi minister, Iraq's Ministry for Human Rights will file a lawsuit against the United States and the United Kingdom over their use of depleted uranium munitions in Iraq.

Iraq's Minister of Human Rights, Wijdan

See LEGACY p. 2

Hackers Expose Security Firm Plot Against WikiLeaks

HBGary Proposed Planting Misinformation, Using Press Intimidation

By IAIN THOMSON

Data released as part of a hacking attack by the Anonymous group has shown what appears to be a corporate plan to destroy WikiLeaks.

Aaron Barr, head of security services firm HBGary Federal, claimed last week to have infiltrated the Anonymous hacking group's leadership and to have identified key players.

Less than 24 hours later, the group attacked HBGary Federal's servers and posted their content on file sharing sites.

An analysis of the content revealed what appears to be a proposal, written for leading US legal firm Hunton & Williams by HBGary Federal, on how to bring down WikiLeaks through a combination of hacking and disinformation.

The proposal was prepared in conjunction with data analysis firm Palantir Technologies and consultants Berico Technologies.

The document suggests a campaign of misinformation involving feeding false

documents into WikiLeaks and exposing them to discredit the site's output. Hacking attacks against the central WikiLeaks document server in Sweden were also suggested.

The presentation recommended researching the backgrounds of those involved in WikiLeaks to identify "risky behavior," and a media campaign which would "create concern and doubt among moderates."

This media campaign may also have included attacks on journalists perceived as

See HACKERS p. 7

US Officials Knew "Interrogation Methods" Were Torture

By SHERWOOD ROSS

The CIA and Pentagon used "enhanced interrogation techniques"(EIT) on Middle East prisoners knowing they were illegal and considered to be torture by the United Nations, according to an article published in the January issue of the *American* magazine *Science*.

Tortures including sensory deprivation,

forced nudity, and painful body positions were "routinely applied to detainees in US custody in at least three theaters of operation and an unknown number of CIA 'black sites,'" the article states. The US did this "despite the fact that each EIT were considered torture by the United Nations and the United States (had) recognized them as such in its reports on human rights practices."

Entitled, "Bad Science Used to Support

Torture and Human Experimentation," the *Science* article was written by physicians Vincent Iacopino, Scott Allen, and Allen S. Keller. Dr. Iacopino is a professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine; Dr. Keller is director of the Bellevue/ NYU Program for Survivors of Torture; and Dr. Scott Allen, associate professor of medicine and co-director of the Center for Prisoner

See TORTURE p. 2

Fox News Dirty Tricks Against Ron Paul No "Mistake"



By PAUL JOSEPH WATSON / INFOWARS.COM

Forgive me for being cynical, but Fox News' claim that airing the wrong Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) footage and then introducing an interview with Ron Paul on the false premise that he had been booted was merely a "mistake," rings somewhat hollow, especially given the fact that Fox, along with the rest of the establishment media networks, has for years consistently denigrated the Congressman's presidential aspirations with myriad dirty tricks, lies and smear campaigns.

See DIRTY TRICKS p. 5

Ray McGovern, Peace Activist, Ex-CIA Analyst Bloodied and Arrested at Clinton Speech

PARTNERSHIP FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave her speech at George Washington University February 15 condemning governments that arrest protestors and do not allow free expression, 71-year-old Ray McGovern was grabbed from the audience in plain view of her by police and an unidentified official in plain clothes, brutalized and left bleeding in jail. She never paused speaking. When Secretary Clinton began her speech, Mr. McGovern remained standing silently in the audience and turned his back. Mr. McGovern, a veteran Army officer who also worked as a CIA analyst for 27 years, was wearing a Veterans for Peace t-shirt.

Blind-sided by security officers who pounced upon him, Mr. McGovern remarked, as he was hauled out the door, "So this is America?" Mr.

See BLOODIED p. 2

Lithuanian Candidate for Parliament Arrested for Reporting False-Flag Attack

Correction: Mr Paleckis is not in jail for now, pending a future court ruling in the case.

By CARLA STEA / RCFP

On January 13, 1991, in Vilnius, Lithuania, Lithuanian provocateurs clashed with Soviet troops, killed 14 Lithuanians, buried the victims hastily without investigation, and blamed the deaths on the Soviet troops who had killed no one. Later, they admitted instigating these clashes deliberately to rally support for the year-old Lithuanian independence movement. Now, Algirdas Paleckis — leader of the moderate Socialist party, "Frontas," current candidate for the Lithuanian Parliament, and Vice Chairman of the organization Lithuania Without Nazism — sits in prison for raising questions about his government's cover-up of this key false-flag event.

The World Human Rights Movement has requested the assistance of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon in investigating this case of what Geneva has described as "arbitrary detention".

If the instantaneous attribution of blame

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Depleted Uranium – Toxic Legacy

LEGACY from p. 1

Mikhail Salim, told the *Assabah* newspaper that the lawsuit will be based on reports from the Iraqi Ministries of Science and the Environment. These reports allege that the US and the UK used nearly 2,000 tons of depleted uranium bombs during the early years of the Iraq war. Depleted uranium is still in active use.

In fact, one official Iraqi study has found that more than 40 sites across Iraq are currently contaminated with high levels of radiation and dioxins.

So who is responsible for that? We are.

In areas where depleted uranium use was the highest, Iraqi doctors have reported a massive rise in the number of babies born with severe birth defects and they have seen the number of cancer cases among Iraqi citizens absolutely skyrocket.

In fact, what is happening to babies in the city of Fallujah is beyond horrifying. A November 2009 article in *The Independent* described the situation this way:

"In September [2009]...170 children were born at Fallujah General Hospital, 24 per cent of whom died within seven days. Three-quarters of these exhibited deformities, including 'children born with two head, no heads, a single eye in their foreheads, or missing limbs'. The comparable data for August 2002 – before the invasion – records 530 births, of whom six died and only one of whom was deformed." (David Randall, "Toxic munitions may be cause of baby deaths and deformities in Falluja", *The Independent*, 15 November 2009).

The top brass in the US and the UK militaries know full well the impact that depleted uranium munitions have had on many areas of Iraq, but they simply do not care.

So, what exactly, are depleted uranium munitions?

They are essentially "dirty bombs" made from nuclear waste.

Depleted uranium is a waste product of the nuclear enrichment process. Despite claims that depleted uranium is much less radioactive than natural uranium, the truth is that it actually emits about 75% as much radioactivity as natural uranium.

This makes it highly toxic to humans.

When depleted uranium munitions impact a target, the uranium coating of these weapons becomes a powder which easily contaminates the surrounding air, soil and water.

Depleted uranium is both chemically toxic and highly radioactive. In laboratory tests it severely damages human cells, causes DNA mutations and has other carcinogenic effects.

Depleted uranium poisoning has been linked to a vast array of illnesses and diseases including severe skin rashes, intense muscle and joint pain, major birth defects, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, brain tumors and just about every type of cancer. Depleted uranium also replaces calcium in the body, thus destroying both teeth and bones.

As a result of the massive depleted uranium contamination in Iraq and Afghanistan, severe birth defects and cancer have dramatically increased not only among civilians living in the affected areas, but also among US troops who served in areas where depleted uranium munitions were used.

Depleted uranium munitions are classified by the United Nations as illegal weapons of mass destruction, and yet the US and the UK continue to use them.

The uranium used in depleted uranium munitions has a half-life of 4.5 billion years, so the environmental hell that the invading armies have caused in Iraq and Afghanistan will be a gift that keeps on giving.

Forever. It has been said that when a woman delivers a baby in Iraq now, the first question she asks is typically



not if it is a boy or a girl. Instead the most typical first question now is this: "Is it normal?"

But it is not just those in other nations who are suffering from the effects of depleted uranium.

Most Americans have no idea that thousands upon thousands of our own troops are getting sick and dying from depleted uranium exposure.

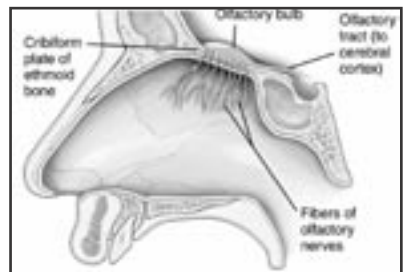
According to official (but unpublicized) US government data, there have been over 70,000 deaths and over one million disabilities among US troops, as a result of America's wars in the Middle East.

The truth is that we have been slowly nuking our own troops and most Americans don't even realize it.

In her excellent article entitled "Death By Slow Burn: How America Nukes Its Own Troops," Amy Worthington painted a very graphic picture of the effect that exposure to depleted uranium is having on US and British troops:

"US and British troops deployed to the area are the walking dead. Humans and animals, friends and foes in the fallout zone are destined to a long downhill spiral of chronic illness and disability.

"Kidney dysfunction, lung damage, bloody stools, extreme fatigue, joint



A 2009 study showed that Uranium travels in nerves from nose to brain.

pain, unsteady gait, memory loss and rashes and, ultimately, cancer and premature death await those exposed to DU.

"Award-winning journalist Will Thomas wrote: 'As the last Gulf conflict so savagely demonstrated, GI immune systems reeling from multiple doses of experimental vaccines offer little defense against further exposure to chemical weapons, industrial toxins, stress, caffeine, insect repellent and radiation left over from the last war. This is a war even the victors will lose.'

"When a DU shell is fired, it ignites upon impact. Uranium, plus traces of plutonium and americium, vaporizes into tiny, ceramic particles of radioactive dust. Once inhaled, uranium oxides lodge in the body and emit radiation indefinitely.

"A single particle of DU lodged in a lymph node can devastate the entire immune system, according to British radiation expert Roger Coghill. The Royal Society of England published data showing that battlefield soldiers who inhale or swallow high levels of DU can suffer kidney failure within days. Any soldier now in Iraq who has not inhaled lethal radioactive dust is not breathing."

In fact, the vast majority of veterans who have served in the Gulf

War, Iraq or Afghanistan either have already developed incapacitating illnesses or they will eventually develop them. As Worthington explained in her article:

"The Gulf War Veterans Association reports that at least 300,000 Gulf War I vets have now developed incapacitating illnesses. To date, 209,000 vets have filed claims for disability benefits based on service-connected injuries and illnesses from combat in that war.

"Dr. Asaf Durakovic, a professor of nuclear medicine at Georgetown University, is a former army medical expert. He told nuclear scientists in Paris 2002 that tens of thousands of sick British and American soldiers are now dying from radiation they encountered during Gulf War I. He found that 62 percent of sick vets tested have uranium isotopes in their organs, bones, brains and urine. Laboratories in Switzerland and Finland corroborated his findings.

"In other studies, some sick vets were found to be expressing uranium in even their semen. Their sexual partners often complained of a burning sensation during intercourse, followed by their own debilitating illnesses."

How in the world can we possibly do this to our own troops too?

Is our government simply this cold?

What in the world are we becoming?

The following is just one testimony from one of our soldiers who has had his life changed forever by depleted uranium. (from the *New York Daily News*):

"In early September 2003, Army National Guard Spec. Gerard Darren Matthew was sent home from Iraq, stricken by a sudden illness.

"One side of Matthew's face would swell up each morning. He had constant migraine headaches, blurred vision, blackouts and a burning sensation whenever he urinated.

"The Army transferred him to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington for further tests, but doctors there could not explain what was wrong.

"Shortly after his return, his wife, Janice, became pregnant. On June 29, she gave birth to a baby girl, Victoria Claudette. The baby was missing three fingers and most of her right hand.

"Matthew and his wife believe Victoria's shocking deformity has something to do with her father's illness and the war — especially since there is no history of birth defects in either of their families.

"They have seen photos of Iraqi babies born with deformities that are eerily similar.

"In June, Matthew contacted the

Daily News and asked us to arrange independent laboratory screening for his urine. This was after *The News* had reported that four of seven soldiers from another National Guard unit, the 442nd Military Police, had tested positive for depleted uranium (DU).

"The independent test of Matthew's urine found him positive for DU — low-level radioactive waste produced in nuclear plants during the enrichment of natural uranium."

What have we done? This is one of the greatest environmental tragedies imaginable, and yet nobody is talking about it.

What does it say about us when we live in a world where we can knowingly create this kind of environmental nightmare and no one seems to care?

The truth is that we owe the world an apology of unprecedented magnitude for using depleted uranium munitions. This is one of the biggest environmental crimes in the history of the planet, and it must stop now.

Dr. Doug Rokke served as a member of the 3rd US Army Medical Command's Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) teaching, medical response, and special operations team; the 3rd US Army captured equipment project team; and the 3rd US Army Depleted Uranium Assessment team during Gulf War I.

These teams were among the first assigned to try to clean up some of the depleted uranium contamination in Iraq. Of the 100 people on Dr. Rokke's decontamination team, 30 have already dropped dead.

Dr. Rokke himself is seriously ill



Victoria Claudette and Gerard Matthew

with radiation damage to his lungs and kidneys. He also has severe brain lesions, skin pustules, chronic fatigue, continual wheezing and painful fibromyalgia. He is not just an expert on depleted uranium, he is also living through the horror of DU poisoning.

The stories of US military veterans who have had their lives destroyed by depleted uranium exposure could literally fill a phone book. We have turned Iraq, Afghanistan and a number of other areas across the globe (including the Puerto Rican island Vieques) into environmental wastelands.

And yet the US and UK military continues to use depleted uranium and continues to insist that there is nothing wrong with it.

Depleted uranium needs to become one of the top priorities for every environmental advocacy organization in the entire world. The environmental damage that is being caused by these weapons is of an unprecedented magnitude and we will never be able to clean it up.

It is time to wake up and start making this a central issue. Now that you know the truth, you can be part of the solution.

But will you?



Fig. 341.—The Water Torture.—Fac-simile of a Woodcut in J. Dambouille's "Praxis Iurum Criminum;" in 4to, Antwerp, 1596.

US Officials Knew Interrogation Methods Were "Torture"

TORTURE from p. 1

Health and Human Rights at Alpert Medical School, Brown University. All three are consultants to Physicians for Human Rights, of Cambridge, Mass.

Dr. Keller has long treated torture victims and, in earlier testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, elaborated on the extensive use of enhanced interrogation techniques (EITs), as follows: "While the full spectrum of such techniques used by US authorities, including the Central Intelligence Agency, has not been disclosed, there have been reports that the 'enhanced' interrogation program includes such methods as stress positions, shaking and beating, temperature manipulation, threats of harm to person or loved ones, prolonged isolation, sleep deprivation, sensory overload, sensory deprivation, sexual humiliation, exploitation of fears and phobias, cultural or religious humiliation, and water-boarding. From a medical, scientific and health perspective, there is nothing benign about them. Such techniques are gruesome, dehumanizing and dangerous."

EITs were authorized by the CIA in January 2003 and by the Pentagon two months later. Jay Bybee, an Assistant Attorney General in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, in an official memo, revised the definition of torture to allow for the above-cited cruelties and stated that any interrogator who inflicted them was blameless unless there was "specific intent" to torture. Bybee's definition of "specific intent," the physicians write, "undermined any meaningful definition of torture for medical personnel charged with recognizing it."

The article blasted health professionals charged with ensuring detainees' safety but who were instead "calibrating the harm" inflicted upon them. Also, there is evidence in official detainee medical records that medical

doctors and mental health personnel assigned to the DOD (Department of Defense) "neglected and/or concealed medical evidence of intentional harm."

"Any scientist or clinician should know that intentional infliction of harm without consent of and/or direct benefit to the individual cannot be construed as 'ensuring safety' and that complicity in torture and ill treatment, including by military personnel, can never be justified," the *Science* article said.

The physicians say the science used to justify the torture did not assess its long-term physical and mental impact. Example: a Bybee memo "explicitly referred to long-term impacts, and thus appears to have been inappropriately used to justify a predetermined conclusion that torture could be safe, legal, and effective."

Among their many recommendations, the doctors called for requiring military medical personnel to comply "with all civilian medical ethics standards," for requiring them to be independent "from the security chain of command," and for making them comply with the Nuremberg Code, the Geneva Conventions, and the United Nations Convention Against Torture. As for those who transgress, the physicians recommend "Punitive sanctions in accordance with the law."

The doctors also said that a health professional that becomes aware of abusive or coercive practices has a duty to report such practices to appropriate authorities. The American Psychological Association has specifically banned its members from participation in the tactics that allegedly make up the CIA's "enhanced" interrogation program.

Sherwood Ross is a public relations consultant for good causes and a columnist residing in south Florida. He formerly reported for the Chicago Daily News, has contributed extensively to wire services, and worked in a professional capacity in the civil rights movement.



Ray McGovern, Peace Activist, Ex-CIA Analyst Bloodied and Arrested at Clinton Speech

BLOODIED from p. 1

McGovern is covered with bruises, lacerations and contusions inflicted in the assault.

Mr. McGovern is being represented by the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund (PCJF). "It is the ultimate definition of lip service that Secretary of State Clinton would be trumpeting the US government's supposed concerns for free speech rights and this man would be simultaneously brutalized and arrested for engaging in a peaceful act of dissent at her speech," stated attorney Mara Verheyden-Hilliard of the PCJF.

Contacted several days after the incident, Mr. McGovern said he has recovered and suffered no lasting injury.

McGovern now works for Tell

the Word, a publishing arm of the ecumenical Church of the Saviour in the Adams Morgan neighborhood of Washington, DC.

(To see a video of the event go to: www.rawstory.com.)



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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Americans Are Oppressed, Too

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

Police in the US now rival criminals, and exceed terrorists, as the greatest threat to the American public. Rogelio Serrato is the latest case to be in the news of an innocent person murdered by the police. Serrato was the wrong man, but the Monterey County, California, SWAT team killed the 31-year old father of four and left the family home a charred ruin.

The fact that SWAT teams often go to the wrong door shows the carelessness with which excessive force is used. In one instance, the police even confused the town's mayor with a drug dealer, broke into his home, shot dead the family's pet dogs, and held the mayor and his wife and children at gunpoint. But most cases of police brutality never make the news.

Most who suffer abuse from the police don't bother to complain. They know that to make an enemy of the police brings a lifetime of troubles. Those who do file complaints find that police departments tend to be self-protective and that the naive and gullible public tends to side with the police.

However, you can find plenty of examples of police brutality on YouTube, more than you can watch in a lifetime. I have just searched Google for "YouTube police brutality" and the result is: "497,000 results." There's everything from police shooting a guy in a wheelchair to body slamming a befuddled 89-year old great grandmother to tasing kids and mothers with small children. The fat goon cops love to beat up on women, kids, and old people.

The 497,000 Google results may contain duplicates as more than one person might have posted a video of the same event, and the incidents occurred over more than one year. However, probably only a small percentage of incidents are captured on video by onlookers and many incidents of police brutality have no witnesses. What the videos reveal is that a large percentage of police move with alacrity to assault the public. The number of incidences could be very high. One million annually would not be an exaggeration.

In contrast, according to the US Department of Justice, in 2009 (the most recent year for which data is compiled), there were 806,000 aggravated assaults (not including assaults by police against the public) by criminals against the public, of which 216,814 were committed by hands and feet and not by weapons. (In the US if you merely push a person or grab their arm, you have committed assault. "Freedom and democracy" America uses any excuse to multiply the number of felons.)

Considering the data, one might conclude that the police are a greater danger to the public than are criminals.

Indeed, the trauma from police assault can be worse than from assault by criminals. The public thinks the police are there to protect them. Thus, the emotional and psychological shock from assault by police is greater than the trauma from being mugged because you stupidly wandered into the wrong part of town.

Why are the police so aggressive toward the public? In part because their ranks attract bullies, sociopaths and psychopaths. Even normal cops are proud of their authority and expect deference. Even cops who are not primed to be set off can turn nasty in a heartbeat.

In part, because police are not accountable. The effort decades ago to have civilian police review boards was beat back by "law and order" conservatives.

In part, because the police have been militarized by the federal government, equipped with military weapons, and trained to view the public as the enemy.

In part, because the Bush/Cheney/Obama regimes have made every American a suspect. The only civil liberty that has any force in the US today is the law against racial discrimination. This law requires that every American citizen be treated as if he were a Muslim terrorist. The Transportation Security Administration

rigorously enforces the refusal to discriminate between terrorist and citizen at airports and is now taking its Gestapo violations of privacy into every form of travel and congregation: trucking, bus and train travel, sports events, and, without doubt, shopping centers and automobile traffic. <http://www.gcnlive.com/wp/2011/02/01/tsa-invades-roads-highways-with-vipr-checkpoints/>

This despite the fact that there have been no terrorist incidents that could be used to justify such an expansive intrusion into privacy and freedom of movement.

The TSA has not caught a single terrorist. However, it has abused and inconvenienced several hundred thousand innocent American citizens.

The abuse happens because people with authority are dying to use the authority. The absence of terrorists means that the TSA turns innocent Americans into terrorists. There have been so many absurd cases. One woman traveling with her ill and dying mother, who required special food, had contacted the TSA prior to the flight, explained the situation, and was given permission to take the special food onboard. But when she went through "security," the food was taken away, and when she protested, she was arrested and hauled off, leaving the elderly mother in a wheelchair deserted.

Others have been arrested because a member of the household used a suitcase or carry bag to take guns and ammunition to the gun club or on a hunting trip and forgot to remove all the ammo, or the explosives test detected gunpowder residuals. Boy Scouts forgot to remove pocket knives from backpacks that they took on camping trips. Lactating mothers have been forced to give up breast milk. And so on.

These are the "great dangers" from which the TSA protect the American sheeple, and the sheeple submit, even servilely thanking their oppressors for protecting them.

Submission is what the government and the police want. Anyone who argues with TSA or the police will be abused. An American who stands up for his rights is likely to be beaten. TSA has announced that such Americans are "suspects" and will be held in indefinite detention.

And "our" government assures us that we have "freedom and democracy." We have a police state, and everyone who forgets it is in deep trouble.

The American police state is closely allied with police states all over the world — Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Israel in the Middle East and former constituent parts of the Soviet Empire in Central Asia. The US government never lifts a finger on behalf of democracy anywhere. In fact, the US government quickly moves to overthrow democracy wherever it rears its head, as the US recently did in Honduras. Before Honduras, it was Palestine, where the US overturned the election that brought Hamas to power. Now Washington is targeting Lebanon, where Hezbollah has gained.

Everywhere on earth, the US government prefers an autocracy that it can purchase, to free elections that bring to power candidates unwilling to serve as American puppets.

The US government is the most determined foe of democracy in the world. Yet, Washington lectures China, which has more civil liberties than Bush/Cheney/Obama permit Americans.

If Americans ever find the emotional strength to acknowledge the oppression under which they live, they, too, will be in the streets.

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan administration. He was Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal editorial page and Contributing Editor of National Review. He is coauthor of The Tyranny of Good Intentions. He has held numerous academic appointments, including the William E. Simon Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University, and Senior Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University.



The Limits of Social Movements

The mass movements which forced the removal of Mubarak reveal both the strengths and the weaknesses of spontaneous uprisings.

By JAMES PETRAS

On the one hand, the social movements in the Middle East demonstrated their capacity to mobilize hundreds of thousands, if not millions, in a successful sustained struggle, culminating in the overthrow of the dictator in a way that pre-existent opposition parties and personalities were unable or unwilling to do.

On the other hand, lacking any national political leadership, the movements were not able to take political power and realize their demands, allowing the Mubarak military high command to seize power and define the "post-Mubarak" process, ensuring the continuation of Egypt's subordination to the US and the protection of the illicit wealth of the Mubarak clan (\$70 billion), the military elite's numerous corporations, and the upper class. The millions mobilized by the social movements to overthrow the

dictatorship were effectively excluded by the new self-styled "revolutionary" military junta in defining the political institutions and policies, let alone the socio-economic reforms needed to address the basic needs of the population (40% live on less than \$2 USD a day; youth unemployment runs over 30%). The student and popular social movements against the dictatorship of Egypt, like those of South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Indonesia, demonstrate that the lack of a national political organization allows neo-liberal and conservative "opposition" personalities and parties to replace the regime. They proceed to set up an electoral regime which continues to serve imperial interests and to depend on and defend the existing state apparatus. In some cases, they replace old crony capitalists with new ones. It is no accident that the mass media praise the 'spontaneous' nature of the struggles (not the socio-economic

demands) and put a favorable spin on the role of military (masking its 30 years as a bulwark of the dictatorship). The masses are praised for their "heroism", the youth for their "idealism", but are never proposed as central political actors in the new regime. Once the dictatorship fell, the military and the opposition electoralists "celebrated" the success of the revolution and moved swiftly to demobilize and dismantle the spontaneous movement, in order to make way for negotiations between the liberal electoral politicians, Washington, Tel Aviv, and the ruling military elite.

While the White House may tolerate or even promote social movements in ousting ("sacrificing") dictatorships, they have every intention to preserve the state. In the case of Egypt, the main strategic ally of US imperialism was not Mubarak, it is the military, with whom Washington was in

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Egypt's Faux Revolution: Bait and Switch on the Nile

By ERIC MARGOLIS

"Plus ça change," say the cynical French, "plus c'est la même chose."

Many thoughtful Egyptians will be recalling this "bon mot" as they watch one ruler, the ousted Hosni Mubarak, replaced by a military junta led by Field Marshall Mohammed Tantawi.

Egyptians are getting more Mubarakism, sans Mubarak, at least for now. This is not what most Egyptians want or deserve.

The new military junta just proclaimed it would support the hated Israeli-Egyptian peace deal signed by Anwar Sadat, thus assuaging fears in the US and Israel. In an example of typical post-coup talk, the junta says elections will be held sometime in the future.

Many Egyptians are still euphoric over the ouster of Gen. Mubarak, known to one and all as "pharaoh."

Most of them do not yet seem to have realized that the people who have taken over the regime are the very same generals,

policemen and tycoons who ran it under Mubarak.

The dreaded secret police, or "Mukhabarat," is commanded by Gen. Omar Suleiman, who is widely viewed as America's and Israel's man in Cairo. Alongside him are Marshall Tantawi, chief of staff Lieutenant General Enan and Ahmed Shafik, also seen as America's men on the Nile. The US usually had a backup for its favorite dictators; this writer noted last April that Gen. Omar Suleiman was Mubarak's US-anointed successor. After Anwar Sadat's assassination, Gen. Mubarak was quickly engineered into power.

The latter two generals attended the Pentagon's updated version of the US military's School of the Americas in Panama that recruited Latin American officers for the CIA. Senior ranks of Egypt's 465,000-man armed forces and the secret police are believed to receive sizable secret stipends from the CIA and the Pentagon.

Egypt's senior generals are part of the

ruling establishment. Many spend more time managing their business affairs than military matters. Such is also the case in many other Arab one-party states.

As in Pakistan, Egypt's army is up to its helmets in big business: shopping centers, tourism, property, hotels, steel, telecoms. Few among Egypt's top brass want to end their gravy train by changing the status quo. They are ready to fight to the last mall or stock split.

The US has paid Egypt's military \$1.4 billion annually since 1979 not to confront Israel, one of the biggest bribes in history. On top of this, Egypt receives some \$600 million more annually in economic aid, subsidized US wheat, and a host of other goodies — all to make nice to Israel and keep Egypt from supporting the Palestinians.

Egypt's large armed forces were reconfigured after the Camp David accords, turning it under US supervision from a force designed to defend Egypt's borders and

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Recognizing the Language of Tyranny

By CHRIS HEDGES / DANDELION SALAD

Empires communicate in two languages. One language is expressed in imperatives. It is the language of command and force. This militarized language disdains human life and celebrates hyper masculinity. It demands. It makes no attempt to justify the flagrant theft of natural resources and wealth or the use of indiscriminate violence. When families are gunned down at a checkpoint in Iraq, they are referred to as having been "lit up." So it goes. The other language of empire is softer. It employs the vocabulary of ideals and lofty goals and insists that the power of empire is noble and benevolent. The language of beneficence is used to speak to those outside the centers of death and pillage, those who have not yet been totally broken, those who still must be seduced to hand over power to predators. The road traveled to total disempowerment, however, ends at the same place. It is the language used to get there that is different.

This language of blind obedience and retribution is used by authority in our inner cities, from Detroit to Oakland, as well as our prison systems. It is a language Iraqis and Afghans know intimately. But to the members of our dwindling middle class — as well as those in the working class who have yet to confront our new political and economic configuration — the

powerful use phrases like "the consent of the governed" and "democracy" that help lull us into complacency. The longer we believe in the fiction that we are included in the corporate power structure, the more easily corporations pillage the country without the threat of rebellion. Those who know the truth are crushed. Those who do not are lied to. Those who consume and perpetuate the lies — including the liberal institutions of the press, the church, education, culture, labor and the Democratic Party — abet our disempowerment. No system of total control, including corporate control, exhibits its extreme forms at the beginning. These forms expand as they fail to encounter resistance.

The tactic of speaking in two languages is as old as empire itself. The ancient Greeks and the Romans did it. So did the Spanish conquistadors, the Ottomans, the French and later the British. Those who inhabit exploited zones on the peripheries of empire see and hear the truth. But the cries of those who are exploited are ignored or demonized. The rage they express does not resonate with those trapped in self-delusion, those who continue to trust in the ultimate goodness of empire. This is the truth articulated in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*. These writers understood that empire is about violence and theft. And the longer

the theft continues, the more brutal empire becomes. The tyranny that empire imposes on others, it finally imposes on itself. The predatory forces unleashed by empire consume the host. Look around you.

The narratives we hear are those fabricated for us by the state, Hollywood and the mainstream media. These narratives are taught in our schools, preached in our pulpits and celebrated in war documentaries such as "Restrepo." These narratives humanize and ennoble the enforcers of empire. The government, the military, the police and intelligence agents are lionized. These control groups, we are assured, are the guardians of our virtues and our protectors. They produce our heroes. And those who challenge this narrative — who denounce the lies — become the enemy.

Those who administer empire — elected officials, corporate managers, generals and the celebrity courtiers who disseminate the propaganda — become very wealthy. They make immens e fortunes whether they deliver the nightly news, sit on the boards of corporations, or rise, lavished with corporate endorsements, within the vast industry of spectacle and entertainment. They all pay homage, even in moments defined as criticism, to the essential goodness of corporate power. They shut out all real debate. They ignore flagrant injustices

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The Limits of Social Movements

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constant collaboration before, during and after the ouster of Mubarak, ensuring that the “transition” to democracy (sic) guarantees the continued subordination of Egypt to US and Israeli Middle East policies and interests.

The Revolt of the People: The Failures of the CIA and MOSSAD

The Arab revolt demonstrates once again several strategic failures in the much vaunted secret police, special forces and intelligence agencies of the US and Israeli state apparatus, none of which anticipated, let alone intervened, to preclude successful mobilization against their governments’ policies toward the client rulers, under attack.

The image which most writers, academics and journalists project of the invincibility of the Israeli Mossad and of the omnipotent CIA have been severely tested by their admitted failure to recognize the scope, depth and intensity of the multi-million member movement to oust the Mubarak dictatorship. The Mossad, pride and joy of Hollywood producers, presented as a ‘model of efficiency’ by their organized Zionist colleagues, were not able to detect the growth of a mass movement in a country right next door. The Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was shocked and dismayed by the precarious situation of Mubarak and the collapse of his most prominent Arab client – because of Mossad’s faulty intelligence. Likewise, Washington was totally unprepared by the 27 US intelligence agencies, with their hundreds of thousands of paid operatives and multi-billion dollar budgets, for the forthcoming massive popular uprisings and emerging movements.

Several theoretical observations are in order. The notion that highly repressive rulers receiving billions of dollars of US military aid and with close to a million police, military and paramilitary forces are the best guarantors of imperial hegemony has been demonstrated to be false. The assumption that large-scale, long-term links with such dictatorial rulers, who safeguard US imperial interests has been disproven.

Israeli arrogance and presumption of Jewish organizational, strategic and political superiority over “the Arabs”, has been severely deflated. The Israeli state, its experts, undercover operatives, and Ivy League academics were blind to the unfolding realities, ignorant of the depth of disaffection and impotent to prevent the mass opposition to their most valued client. Israel’s publicists in the US, who scarcely resist the opportunity to promote the “brilliance” of Israel’s security forces, whether they are assassinating an Arab leader in Lebanon or Dubai, or bombing a military facility in Syria, were temporarily speechless.

The fall of Mubarak and the possible emergence of an independent and democratic government would mean that Israel could lose its major ‘cop on the beat’. A democratic public will not cooperate with Israel in maintaining the blockade of Gaza – starving Palestinians to break their will to resist. Israel will not be able to count on a democratic government, to back its violent land seizures in the West Bank and its stooge Palestinian regime. Nor can the US count on a democratic Egypt to back its intrigues in Lebanon, its wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, its sanctions against Iran. Moreover, the Egyptian uprising has served as an example for popular movements against other US client dictatorships in Jordan, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. For all these reasons, Washington backed the military takeover in order to shape a political transition according to its liking and imperial interests.

The weakening of the principal pillar of US imperial and Israeli colonial power in North Africa and the Middle East reveals the essential role of imperial collaborator regimes. The dictatorial character of these regimes is a direct result of the role they play in upholding imperial interests. And the major military aid packages which corrupt and enrich the ruling elites are the rewards for being willing collaborators of imperial and colonial states. Given the strategic importance of the Egyptian

dictatorship, how do we explain the failure of the US and Israeli intelligence agencies to anticipate the uprisings?

Both the CIA and the Mossad worked closely with the Egyptian intelligence agencies and relied on them for their information, confiding in their self-serving reports that “everything was under control”: the opposition parties were weak, decimated by repression and infiltration, their militants languishing in jail, or suffering fatal “heart attacks” because of harsh “interrogation techniques”. The elections were rigged to elect US and Israeli clients – no democratic surprises on the immediate or medium term horizon.

Egyptian intelligence agencies are trained and financed by Israeli and US operatives and are amenable to pursuing their masters’ will. They were so compliant in turning in reports which pleased their mentors, that they ignored any accounts of growing popular unrest or of internet agitation. The CIA and Mossad were so embedded in Mubarak’s vast security apparatus that they were incapable of securing any other information from the grassroots, decentralized, burgeoning movements which were independent of the “controlled” traditional electoral opposition.

When the extra-parliamentary mass movements burst forward, the Mossad and the CIA counted on the Mubarak state apparatus to take control via the typical carrot and stick operation: transient token concessions and calling out the army, police and death squads. As the movement grew from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands, to millions, the Mossad and leading US Congressional backers of Israel urged Mubarak to “hold on”. The CIA was reduced to presenting the White House with political profiles of reliable military officials and pliable “transitional” political personages, willing to follow in Mubarak’s footsteps.

Once again the CIA and Mossad demonstrated their dependence on the Mubarak apparatus for intelligence of who might be a “viable” (pro-US/Israel) alternative, ignoring the elementary

demands of the masses. The attempt to co-opt the old guard electoralist Muslim Brotherhood via negotiations with Vice-President Suleiman failed, in part because the Brotherhood was not in control of the movement and because Israel and their US backers objected. Moreover, the youth wing of the Brotherhood pressured them to withdraw from the negotiations.

The intelligence failure complicated Washington and Tel Aviv’s efforts to sacrifice the dictatorial regime to save the state: the CIA and MOSSAD did not develop ties to any of the new emerging leaders. The Israelis could not find any ‘new face’ with a popular following willing to serve as a crass collaborator to colonial oppression. The CIA had been entirely engaged in using the Egyptian secret police for torturing terror suspects (“exceptional rendition”) and in policing neighboring Arab countries. As a result both Washington and Israel looked to and promoted the military takeover to preempt further radicalization.

Ultimately the failure of the CIA and MOSSAD to detect and prevent the rise of the popular democratic movement, reveals the precarious basis of imperial and colonial power. Over the long-run it is not arms, billions of dollars, secret police and torture chambers that decide history. Democratic revolutions occur when the vast majority of a people arise and say “enough”, take the streets, paralyze the economy, and dismantle the authoritarian state and demand freedom and democratic institutions, without imperial tutelage and colonial subservience.

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Egypt’s Faux Revolution: Bait and Switch on the Nile



Tahrir Square, site of Egypt’s revolution, with and without protesters.



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regional interests to one whose primary function was to control the population and protect the US-backed regime. The military’s stocks of munitions and spare parts for its US arms were kept to a bare minimum to ensure Egypt could not go to war with Israel.

As I watch Egypt’s slow-motion revolution, I wonder if somewhere among the armed forces is another young colonel who loves his people even more than he loves real estate. The Muslim Brotherhood, an object of ill-informed hysteria in the US, wants to reallocate arms spending to social needs.

Egypt’s younger officers must be thinking about the example of Gamal Abdel Nasser, who seized power in 1952 after Egypt’s disastrous war with Israel in 1947–48. Perhaps there is a young colonel or even a major who may try to seize power and emulate Nasser, who is still adored by many Egyptians in spite of his disastrous mistakes. People have forgotten many of them. What they do remember was that when Nasser died of a heart attack in 1970, his family had little money, and they recall that Nasser spoke for Egypt, not to foreign powers.

So far, the so-called Egyptian Revolution has only been a game of musical chairs. The United States still dominates Egypt’s military, policy, and

economy. Washington provides wheat without which Egypt cannot feed itself.

Israel still exercises powerful influence over Egypt thanks to its supporters in the US Congress. An angry word from Jerusalem, and Egypt’s wheat could be cut off. Egyptian and Israeli intelligence are as entwined as was Israel’s Mossad with the Iranian SAVAK secret police.

The massive pyramid of Egypt’s police state – to use a fine metaphor from the brilliant Albanian writer Ismail Kadere – will not be easily lifted, perhaps without a full scale, violent revolution. To date, the revolt on the Nile has not even produced a Kerensky, never mind a Lenin.

If Egyptians feel cheated by the change of power in Cairo, as many will, and violent demonstrations begin, what will happen if the junta orders a battalion commanded by a colonel to open fire on protesters?

The first young officer who refuses and orders his men to join the demonstrators could become Egypt’s new hero. Nasser’s ghost haunts Cairo.

Eric Margolis is the author of War at the Top of the World and the new book, American Raj: Liberation or Domination?: Resolving the Conflict Between the West and the Muslim World.

Recognizing the Language of Tyranny



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and abuse. They peddle the illusions that keep us passive and amused. But as our society is reconfigured into an oligarchic system, with a permanent and vast underclass, along with a shrinking and unstable middle class, these illusions lose their power. The language of pleasant deception must be replaced with the overt language of force. It is hard to continue to live in a state of self-delusion once unemployment benefits run out, once the only job available comes without benefits or a living wage, once the future no longer conforms to the happy talk that saturates our airwaves. At this point rage becomes the engine of response, and whoever can channel that rage inherits power. The manipulation of that rage has become the newest task of the corporate propagandists, and the failure of the liberal class to defend core liberal values has left its members with nothing to contribute to the debate.

The Belgian King Leopold, promising to abolish slavery and usher the Congolese into the “modern” era, was permitted by his European allies to form the Congo Free State in 1885. It was touted as a humanitarian gesture, as was the Spanish conquest of the Americas, as was our own occupation of Iraq.

Leopold organized a ruthless force of native and foreign overseers – not unlike our own mercenary armies – to loot the Congo of ivory and rubber. By the time the Belgian monarch was done, some 5 million to 8 million Congolese had been slaughtered. It was the largest act of genocide in the modern era until the Nazi Holocaust. Leopold, even in the midst of his rampage, was lionized in Europe for his virtue. He

was loathed in the periphery—as we are in Iraq and Afghanistan—where the Congolese and others understood what he was about. But these voices, like the voices of those we oppress, were almost never heard.

The Nazis, for whom the Holocaust was as much a campaign of plunder as it was a campaign to rid Europe of Jews, had two methods for greeting arrivals at their four extermination camps. If the transports came from Western Europe, the savage Ukrainian and Lithuanian guards, with their whips, dogs and clubs, were kept out of sight. The wealthier European Jews were politely ushered into an elaborate ruse, including fake railway stations complete with flower beds, until once stripped naked they became incapable of resistance and could be herded in rows of five under whips into the gas chambers. The Nazis knew that those who had not been broken, those who possessed a belief in their own personal empowerment, would fight back. When the transports came from the east, where Jews had long lived in fear, tremendous poverty and terror, there was no need for such theatrics. Mothers, fathers, the elderly and children, accustomed to overt repression and the language of command and retribution, were brutally driven from the transports by sadistic guards. The object was to create mass hysteria. The fate of the two groups was the same. It was the tactic that differed.

All centralized power, once restraints and regulations are abolished, once it is no longer accountable to citizens, knows no limit to internal and external plunder. The corporate state, which has emasculated our government, is

creating a new form of feudalism, a world of masters and serfs. It speaks to those who remain in a state of self-delusion in the comforting and familiar language of liberty, freedom, prosperity and electoral democracy. It speaks to the poor and the oppressed in the language of naked coercion. But, here too, all will end up in the same place.

Those trapped in the blighted inner cities that are our internal colonies or brutalized in our prison system, especially African-Americans, see what awaits us all. So do the inhabitants in southern West Virginia, where coal companies have turned hundreds of thousands of acres into uninhabitable and poisoned wastelands. Poverty, repression and despair in these peripheral parts of empire are as common as drug addiction and cancer. Iraqis, Afghans, Pakistanis and Palestinians can also tell us who we are. They know that once self-delusion no longer works it is the iron fist that speaks. The solitary and courageous voices that rise up from these internal and external colonies of devastation are silenced or discredited by the courtiers who serve corporate power. And even those who do hear these voices of dissent often cannot handle the truth. They prefer the Potemkin facade. They recoil at the “negativity.” Reality, especially when you grasp what corporations are doing in the name of profit to the planet’s ecosystem, is terrifying.

All tyrannies come endowed with their own peculiarities. This makes it hard to say one form of totalitarianism is like another. There are always enough differences to make us unsure that history is repeating itself. The corporate state does not have a Politburo. It does not dress its Homeland Security agents in jackboots. There is no raving dictator. American democracy – like the garishly painted train station at the Nazi extermination camp Treblinka – looks real, even as the levers of power are in the hands of corporations. But there is one aspect the corporate state shares with despotic regimes and the collapsed empires that have plagued human history. It too communicates in two distinct languages, that is until it does not have to, at which point it will be too late.

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Chris Hedges spent two decades as a foreign reporter covering wars in Latin America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. He has written nine books, including Death of the Liberal Class, Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle (2009) and War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning (2003).

What About America’s Oligarchs?

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“On June 15, 2007, an evidently high-level risk management officer for Chase’s investment bank sent a lunchtime e-mail to colleagues to report that another bank executive “just told me that there is a well-known cloud over the head of Madoff and that his returns are speculated to be part of a Ponzi scheme.”

“Even before that, a top private banking executive had been consistently steering clients away from investments linked to Mr. Madoff because his “Oz-like signals” were “too difficult to ignore.” And the first Chase risk analyst to look at a Madoff feeder fund, in February 2006, reported to his superiors that its returns did not make sense because it did far better than the securities that were supposedly in its portfolio.

“Despite those suspicions and many more, the bank allowed Mr. Madoff to move billions of dollars of investors’ cash in and out of his Chase bank accounts right until the day of his arrest in December 2008 – although by then, the bank had withdrawn all but \$35 million of the \$276 million it had invested in Madoff-linked hedge funds, according to the litigation...”

This is not the only recent example of practices that are, to put it kindly, ethically dubious. In another blog post, I recount how the American operations of Deutsche Bank improperly foreclosed on an American soldier while he

was away serving his country. And in yet another, I noted how JPMorgan Chase (them again) were overcharging thousands of military families for their mortgages – and had improperly foreclosed on more than a dozen such families.

So there we have President Obama expressing guarded support for the Egyptian people in their uprising against those corrupt, entrenched interests, while at home, he’s unable to do terribly much about interests like Morgan. For one thing, they’ve got the government pretty well sewn up. Not bad to have an executive from your bank (Bill Daley) recently appointed as the president’s Chief of Staff, and to have your bank’s CEO (Jamie Dimon) on particularly friendly terms with the Treasury Secretary.

It’s not just Chase. Above, I mentioned Deutsche Bank. Yet another bank mentioned as having known about and done nothing about Madoff is UBS. That bank is so close with Obama it goes on vacation with him.

If we’re going to stop being hypocrites, we have to apply the same standards to rotten institutions wherever they are. That doesn’t mean we have to necessarily stop dealing with Morgan, which is pretty ubiquitous, but we do have to demand better scrutiny of their underlying practices, and much more aggressive action to limit their potential for harm.

That’s one reason real change

is so difficult. Everything is woven into everything else. Mubarak could have learned a lesson in this. Get everyone to have some stake in the problem institutions, and watch your worries melt away.

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Russ Baker is an award-winning investigative reporter. He has written for The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, The Nation, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Village Voice and Esquire and dozens of other major domestic and foreign publications. He has also served as a contributing editor to the Columbia Journalism Review. Baker received a 2005 Deadline Club award for his exclusive reporting on George W. Bush’s military record. He is the author of Family of Secrets: The Bush Dynasty, the Powerful Forces That Put It in the White House, and What Their Influence Means for America (Bloomsbury Press, 2009); it was released in paperback as Family of Secrets: The Bush Dynasty, America’s Invisible Government and the Hidden History of the Last Fifty Years. For more information on Russ’s work, see his sites, www.familyofsecrets.com and www.russbaker.com.



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Lithuanian Candidate for Parliament Arrested for Reporting Government False-Flag Attack on Protestors



Algirdas Paleckis, candidate for Lithuania's parliament, now in prison for speaking the truth in a radio interview.

Correction: Mr Paleckis is not in jail for now, pending a future court ruling in the case.

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to the Soviet soldiers without evidence or investigation does not raise troubling questions, the following exchange on May 12, 2000, between British journalists for *Ozbor* (O) and former Lithuanian defense minister Butkevicius (B) should:

O: Naturally, you were planning the victims of the events in January.

B: Yes, I simply played the game with a clear idea of what was going to happen.

O: You were a kind of psychological provocateur. You simply instigated it.

B: Of course. Yes, yes, I pursued it from the beginning, contemplating the acts that were supposed to follow, knowing what the game will look like, and the game was played that way.

In another interview in 2000:

O: Did you plan the victims of the January events?

B: Yes.

O: That is, you intentionally resolved to have the victims killed.

B: Yes.

O: And you did not feel any remorse over the fact that you actually used these people?

B: I simply played the game with a clear understanding of what was going to happen. These were very minor sacrifices...These victims gave the two main pillars of the Soviet authority – the army and the KGB – such a big blow that they were discredited.

There it is. The Lithuanian defense minister of the “independence” movement, in an act of diabolic cynicism, premeditatedly arranged for the murder of 14 Lithuanian citizens – “minor sacrifices”— and false accusation of the Soviet Union to elicit international sympathy.

In his book, *Durniu Laivas* (*Ship of Fools*, 2003), Vyutas Petkevicius, Chairman of the Committee of National Security and Defense in Lithuania's Parliament, 1992-1996, confirmed that the murders were committed by Lithuanians and that the Soviets were not involved. Landsbergis and Butkevicius — the highest officials of Lithuania's “independence” movement and subsequent government authority

— conceived the plan and ordered Lithuanian border-guards to fire on the independence demonstrators. The guards fired on the crowd from a television tower above the demonstration. The guards were never held accountable.

Idealistic young supporters, who left the independence movement when they learned of the criminal activities of their leaders, were sworn to secrecy under the threat of death to themselves and their families. Nevertheless, a few courageous whistle-blowers disclosed that:

- Landsbergis's security forces executed additional false-flag operations blamed on the Soviets, including the Medininkai massacre of Lithuanian border guards and the detonations of Brazuloe Bridge and Abramavicius.

- Landsbergis's team of criminal gangs, commanded by Butkevicius, infiltrated all the structures of the Lithuanian government (intelligence, security, police), smuggled explosives and red mercury, and sold nuclear waste from the Ignalina power plant to terrorist organizations for dirty bombs.

The World Human Rights Movement's letter to Ban Ki-Moon compares the Lithuanian leadership's condemnation of Mr. Paleckis with the infamous false conviction of Alfred Dreyfus in 1894 that made France a global pariah and was overturned in 1906 after Emile Zola (assassinated in 1902) risked his life to publish the truth, and the French public demanded justice.

Lithuania is repeating the barbaric and obscene history of condemning an innocent man in order to cover up the heinous crimes of guilty leaders. Will the UN and United States take action, or will they stand by silently, accessories to Lithuania's crimes and contempt for Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the crucifixion of an innocent man of honor, Algirdas Paleckis?

Carla Stea covers the UN for RCFP. She has written for Covert Action, and War and Peace Digest, and numerous other publications in the USA, also in Komsomolskaya Pravda in the Soviet Union, and in Rabochaya Tribuna and Sovetskaya Rossia, in Russia, as well as in publications in England and Latin America. Stea also holds press accreditation at the US Department of State.



*** Common Sense II *
America Betrayed**

Thomas Paine's anonymously published 1776 pamphlet "Common Sense" rallied the American colonists around the idea of independence from British tyranny. *Common Sense II*, now in its fifth printing (2011), was designed to rally the American people one more time around the idea of independence - this time we are resisting U.S. tyranny. This booklet is tailored to be a companion to the "Rocket" Constitution.

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FBI Anthrax Case Falls Short

ANTHRAX from p. 1

routinely featured “anthrax” as one of Saddam's scary weapons.” (“Serious doubt cast on FBI's anthrax case against Bruce Ivins,” February 16, 2011, Salon.com)

Although the FBI claimed, at the time of its investigations, that it had conducted “...an investigation of almost unprecedented scope, complexity, and duration,” a report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) maintains that the FBI made several mistakes by focusing only on Ivins. Although the NAS report confirms that the FBI had correctly identified the dominant organism found in the letters as the Ames strain of *B. anthracis*, the report states that the FBI did not have a complete repository of samples of the anthrax strain before it reached its conclusion. The samples that were obtained were sent in voluntarily by scientists instead of being obtained by FBI agents. This suggests that some sources of the bacterium may not have been investigated and the samples sent in by other researchers could have been tampered with.

Ivins' lawyer, Paul Kemp, told the *Washington Post*; “This shows what we've been saying all along: that it was all supposition based on conjecture based on guesswork, without any proof whatsoever.” The FBI countered in a statement; “The FBI has long maintained that while science played a significant role, it was the totality of the investigative process that determined the outcome of the anthrax case.”

The FBI claims that there was overwhelming evidence linking Ivins to the letters. According to the *Washington Post*; before the letters were sent, Ivins allegedly exhibited erratic and agitated behavior, clocked uncharacteristic late-night hours at the lab, and he was absent for long, unexplained periods of time, during which investigators believe he drove to New Jersey to mail the letters.

However, there remain several holes in the FBI's case; as summarized by an August 2, 2008, *World Net Daily* article: “Anthrax suspect passed 2 polygraphs: Handwriting analysis also failed to tie Ivins to letters”:

- Bruce Ivins passed two polygraph tests and a handwriting analysis comparing samples of his handwriting to writing contained in the anthrax letters;
- Officials confirm that FBI handwriting analysts were unable to conclusively match samples of Ivins' handwriting with the writing on the anthrax envelopes and letters;
- No textile fibers were found in his office, residence or vehicles matching fibers found on the scotch tape used to seal the envelopes;
- No pens were found matching the ink used to address the envelopes;

- Samples of his hair failed to match hair follicles found inside the Princeton, NJ, mailbox used to mail the letters;
- The FBI could not place Ivins at the crime scene with evidence, such as gas station or other receipts, at the time the letters were mailed in September and October 2001;
- FBI officers never found fingerprints on the letters or traces of the anthrax in Ivins' car or home.

Dr. Meryl Nass, a Maine physician and expert on bioterrorism, biodefense, anthrax, and anthrax vaccine injuries, has provided expert testimony on anthrax, bioterrorism, Gulf War illnesses and other complex disorders in the Senate and House over the past twelve years. Dr. Nass points out many more failings of the FBI investigation of the anthrax letters:

[The] FBI fails to provide any discussion of why no autopsy was performed, nor why, with Ivins under 24/7 surveillance from the house next door, with even his garbage being combed through, the FBI failed to notice that he overdosed and went into a coma. Nor is there any discussion of why the FBI didn't immediately identify Tylenol as the overdose substance, and notify the hospital, so that a well-known antidote for tylenol toxicity could be given (N-acetyl cysteine, or alternatively glutathione). These omissions support the suggestion that Ivins' suicide was a convenience for the FBI. It enabled them to conclude the anthrax case, in the absence of evidence that would satisfy the courts.

The FBI's alleged motive is bogus. In 2001, Bioport's anthrax vaccine could not be (legally) relicensed due to potency failures, and its impending demise provided room for Ivins' newer anthrax vaccines to fill the gap. Ivins had nothing to do with developing Bioport's vaccine, although in addition to his duties working on newer vaccines, he was charged with assisting Bioport to get through licensure.

The FBI report claims the anthrax letter's envelopes were sold in Frederick, MD. Later it admits that millions of indistinguishable envelopes were made, with sales in Maryland and Virginia.

[The] FBI emphasizes Ivins' access to a photocopy machine, but fails to mention it was not the machine from which the notes that accompanied the spores were printed.

[The] FBI asserts that Bioport and USAMRIID [United States Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases] were nearly out of anthrax vaccine; to the point researchers might not have enough to vaccinate themselves.

FBI further asserts this would end all anthrax research, derailing Ivins' career. In fact, USAMRIID has developed many dozens of vaccines (including those for anthrax) that were never licensed, but have been used by researchers to vaccinate themselves. There would be no vaccine shortage for researchers.

[The] FBI obtained a voluntary collection of anthrax samples. Is that the way to conduct a multiple murder investigation: ask the scientists to supply you with the evidence to convict them? There is no report that spores were seized from anyone but Ivins, about 6 years after the attacks. This is a huge hole in the FBI's 'scientific' methodology.

Dr. Nass wrote on February 16: “The FBI responded that their case was based on a totality of the evidence, not just the science. But when the rest of the FBI's evidence is examined, one finds only smoke. There has been no physical evidence tying Ivins to the case. The totality of the FBI case against Ivins rests on colorful and sometimes exaggerated alleged personal quirks and odd habits. The FBI has presented no convincing evidence that Ivins had the means, motive, or opportunity to commit the letters crime.”

On February 15, Rep. Rush Holt reintroduced “...the Anthrax Attacks Investigation Act, legislation that would establish a Congressional commission to investigate the 2001 anthrax attacks and the federal government's response to and investigation of the attacks.” Holt introduced the bill on the same day that the National Academy of Sciences issued its report raising questions about the FBI's scientific conclusions in the “Amerithrax” case. Holt first introduced the legislation in September 2008.

Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) released the following statement after the February 16 release of the National Academy of Sciences report:

“For years the FBI has claimed scientific evidence for its conclusion that that anthrax spores found in the letters were linked to the anthrax bacteria found in Dr. Ivins' lab. The National Academy of Sciences report released today shows that the science is not necessarily a slam dunk. There are no more excuses for avoiding an independent review and assessment of how the FBI handled its investigation in the anthrax case.”

Thanks to George Washington's Blog for research material for this article.

Fox News Dirty Tricks Against Ron Paul No “Mistake”



Fox News has a history of slighting Ron Paul as illustrated in this satirical graphic from 2008.

DIRTY TRICKS from p. 1

In a shocking act of mass public deception, Fox News attempted to skew Ron Paul's 2011 CPAC straw poll win by representing it with footage from the previous year's CPAC event, at which Mitt Romney supporters had loudly booed the result and Paul supporters had been absent due to a Campaign for Liberty meeting running late.

Fox News host Bill Hemmer framed his interview with Paul by immediately bringing up the boos, despite the fact that the real footage of this year's CPAC poll result showed Paul's victory being met with a loud chorus of cheers and applause.

In a statement provided to Mediaite.com (a news and opinion blog and aggregator for the media industry), Fox's Senior Vice President of News Michael Clemente attempted to defuse the growing controversy over the incident by claiming it was all a harmless broadcasting error.

“We made a mistake with some of the video we aired and plan on issuing a correction on America's Newsroom tomorrow morning, explaining exactly what happened,” said Clemente.

Really? Is it plausible that this was just another “mistake”? How about the myriad other “mistakes” Fox News makes a habit of committing, mistakes that coincidentally all serve to disparage Congressman Paul's message of liberty and freedom, along with his chances of becoming president?

“It's certainly plausible that Fox News merely made a mistake in pulling up the wrong video,” adds Mediaite, noting that the explanation is unlikely to “Satisfy Paul supporters who seem to believe the network tried to disguise how much support the congressman has amongst the GOP base.”

•Was it another “mistake” to omit Paul's name entirely from a Fox News survey last week that asked who would make the best president? Was it a “mistake” that relative nobodies like John Thune and Jon Huntsman were included in the Fox poll and yet Paul was blacklisted entirely despite his CPAC success two years running?

•Was it another “mistake” on behalf of Fox News to exclude Paul from a January 6, 2008 presidential forum event because they saw the prospect of anti-war opinions being voiced by the most conservative member of the House as a “threat”?

•Was it a “mistake” for Fox News to claim that their own May 2007 presidential poll, which Ron Paul won, was unreliable, because online Paul supporters had skewed the result, despite the fact that the survey was conducted via cell phone text messaging and no online votes were taken?

•Was it a mere “mistake” for Fox News host Sean Hannity to deride the Texas Congressman's runaway success in the text messaging poll as nothing more than “Paulites” flood voting, when in reality only one vote per cell phone number was allowed? Hannity's contention that Ron Paul supporters “were simply dialing in over and over again” was nothing more than a brazen lie intended to dismiss the Congressman's widespread popularity. No one at Fox News bothered to correct Hannity and no retraction was issued.

•Was it another “mistake” when Fox News started editing Ron Paul's name out of Associated Press stories they syndicated before the 2008 presidential campaign?

•Was it a “mistake” for Fox News to denigrate the fact that Ron Paul received the most campaign donations from members of the US

military by attributing it to “libertarian mailing lists”?

•Was it a “mistake” when Fox News attempted to smear Ron Paul for having the audacity to appear on the Alex Jones Show and the nerve merely to converse with people who commit the thought crime of not completely trusting the official government version of 9/11?

•Was it a “mistake” when Fox News rigged the structure of their entire May 2007 presidential debate and used it as a vehicle for all the other candidates to viciously attack Ron Paul, while Fox's pre-screened audience rapaciously applauded calls for torture and warmongering?

•Was it a mistake when Fox News directors conspired to censor Ron Paul supporters from appearing in camera shots during the Mackinac Republican Conference on September 22, 2007, when they were caught on film stating, “I don't want these Ron Paul people, but I need shots of audience”?

•Was it a “mistake” for Fox News to ignore a story every other news outlet was obliged to report, the record-breaking \$4.2 million in campaign donations that Ron Paul achieved in a single day, while instead choosing to obsess about a man in Texas who sat in a bath tub full of snakes?

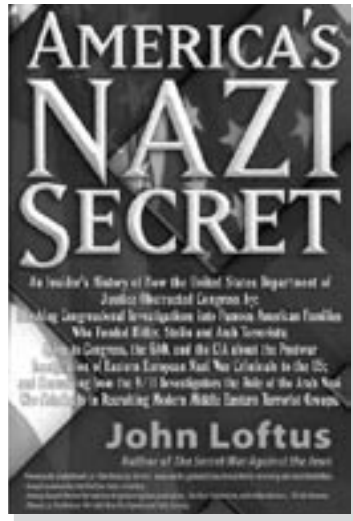
Were all of the examples showing rampant Fox News and other networks' bias against Ron Paul simply “mistakes” or something more? Are they hard evidence of the fact that Fox News, in alliance with every other establishment media news network, has a deeply ingrained bias against Ron Paul's message and is scared stiff of him ever building enough momentum to have a chance of becoming president?

Paul Joseph Watson is the editor and writer for *Prison Planet.com*. He is the author of *Order Out Of Chaos*. Watson is also a fill-in host for *The Alex Jones Show*.

Book Review

America's Nazi Secret: An Insider's History

Book by John Loftus



John Loftus
America's Nazi Secret
 Paperback: 336 pages
 Trine Day; Second ed. (Nov. 2010)
 ISBN-10: 1936296047

REVIEW BY RUSS BAKER

America's Nazi Secret is not what you'd call extremely reader-friendly material. Sometimes it feels like a chore to read it. But wow—does it ever provide powerful insight into the “deep politics” of US policy.

Born of the Boston Irish, John Loftus never imagined that he would end up tracking down Byelorussian Nazi collaborators living in the US. And he certainly could not have conceived of doing so with a passion that would continue decades past his departure from the federal government.

After serving as an Army Intelligence officer and graduating law school, in 1977 Loftus had gotten a job with the Justice Department. He saw an internal posting for a position with the Office of Special Investigations (charged with prosecuting and deporting Nazi war criminals from the United States), and thought it would be a good career move. Only later did he become obsessed with his mission.

In 1979, Loftus was assigned to head the “Belarus Project,” which he says was “ostensibly a comprehensive review of American and German files pertaining to the Holocaust in Byelorussia, or Belarus as the Nazis called it. Privately, my secret assignment...was to find out who was responsible for sabotaging the postwar investigations of Nazi bankers at the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg.”

In essence, Loftus found that, in contravention of official US policy, figures and sections within his own agency (the Justice Department), as well as the State Department and the intelligence apparatus, had knowingly falsified records so as to bring some of the worst butchers of World War II to the US. The goal was to enlist them and their associates in anti-Soviet espionage. But once the records of these individuals were cleaned up and they were allowed to stay, they provided what would turn out to be largely useless intelligence, and in many cases they or their own east-bloc spy networks were discovered to have been massively penetrated by the Soviets.

Loftus goes down into the darkest basements of the US government, where one branch is snookering the next, where operations are being subverted by their own members, and individuals, under orders, cover up for some colleagues' illegal acts and obstruct the congressionally-mandated work of others.

It's all ultimately supposed to be for the Cold War cause, but Loftus raises more sinister motives. These include a frenetic effort by powerful US industrialists and bankers to hide their own business ties with the Nazis. They would do this, Loftus asserts, by getting the government to create a super-secret de facto policy of covering up dealings with the Nazis—for anyone who could play a role in the battle against the Communist threat.

His detailing of the deceptive practices, incompetence and ruthlessness found in these dark chambers of the US government are compelling. Among other things, Loftus provides a fresh account of the forced merger of the spectacularly devious covert operations unit, Office of Policy Coordination (OPC), into the CIA, and how OPC managed from 1944 until its dissolution in 1952 to maintain its own independent files, agents and networks and to mislead their CIA colleagues on a host of issues. Other agencies were

involved as well in the games. As he writes:

“...the Attorney General... had personally approved the immigration of Mykola Lebed. Arguably the highest-ranking Nazi war criminal ever to enter the United States, Lebed was the head of the SB, the Ukrainian version of the Gestapo, and one of the top twenty war criminals wanted by the Soviet Union. Justice had given a false biography to the CIA. CIA thought Lebed was an anti-Nazi resistance leader....Indeed...the CIA and Congress were thoroughly suckered in. Lebed's... men murdered tens of thousands of Polish, Jewish, and Ukrainian citizens. I know this is true because I found the original files of Mykola Lebed in the Army Intelligence vaults at Suitland, Maryland, and showed them to my superiors at the Justice Department....”

Especially horrific and therefore powerful are his accounts of the atrocities ordered or carried out by individuals who ended up quietly living their lives out in small towns in New Jersey and the Midwest.

The downside is that this is a long book, with a lot of characters with strange foreign names, a great deal of technical material as a way of proving Loftus's case, and a sense that it cried out for a good editor. A good deal of the most interesting material is in the footnotes, including some really explosive claims, unfortunately rendered too briefly and usually not backed up with supporting material. Loftus is sloppy with details, misspells some really obvious words and names (e.g. the commoner wife for whom King Edward VIII abdicated becomes “Wallace” Simpson instead of “Wallis.” This does not inspire confidence. Still, it's hard to dispute the things that he personally uncovered—armed with a security clearance several levels above “top secret”—in the bowels of long-ignored federal records storage facilities. *America's Nazi Secret* includes copies of actual documents for verification.

You'll find the presentation odd. He has an extremely long introduction, followed by a preface and a prologue. But there's a reason for this. When much of this material was first published in 1982, as *The Belarus Secret*, it was heavily censored by the government. This time around, he's updating the manuscript with material he couldn't include before, and some of the most important information is found in the parts preceding the main chapters.

None of this has been easy for Loftus, and he deserves our respect. He has been jumping hurdles with almost superhuman resolve ever since he started down this path three decades ago. For example, “the Justice Department had directly threatened me with disbarment if I disclosed what I knew about any living Nazi working for US or British intelligence.”

Of particular interest these days, with developments in Egypt (but only briefly detailed in the book), is his material on the Muslim Brotherhood and its ties to the Nazis.

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 DAVID SWANSON

In the wake of newly-admitted WMD-liar ‘Curveball’s’ videotaped confession, Colin Powell is demanding to know why nobody warned him about Curveball’s unreliability. The trouble is, they did.

Can you imagine having an opportunity to address the United Nations Security Council about a matter of great global importance, with all the world’s media watching, and using it to... well, to make shit up – to lie with a straight face, and with a CIA director propped up behind you, I mean to spew one world-class, for-the-record-books stream of bull, to utter nary a breath without a couple of whoppers in it, and to look like you really mean it all? What gall. What an insult to the entire world that would be.

Colin Powell doesn't have to imagine such a thing. He has to live with it. He did it on February 5, 2003. It's on videotape.

I tried to ask him about it in the summer of 2004. He was speaking to the Unity Journalists of Color convention in Washington, DC. The event had been advertised as including questions from the floor, but for some reason that plan was revised. Speakers from the floor were permitted to ask questions of four safe and vetted journalists of color before Powell showed up, and then those four individuals could choose to ask him something related – which of course they did not, in any instance, do.

Bush and Kerry spoke as well. The panel of journalists who asked Bush questions when he showed up had not been properly vetted. Roland Martin of the *Chicago Defender* had slipped onto it somehow (which won't happen again!). Martin asked Bush whether he was opposed to preferential college admissions for the kids of alumni and whether he cared more about voting rights in Afghanistan than in Florida. Bush looked like a deer in the headlights, only without the intelligence. He stumbled so badly that the room openly laughed at him.

But the panel that had been assembled to lob softballs at Powell served its purpose well. It was moderated by Gwen Ifill. I asked Ifill (and Powell could watch it later on C-Span if he wanted to) whether Powell had any explanation for the way in which he had relied on the testimony of Saddam Hussein's son-in-law. Powell had recited the claims about weapons of mass destruction but carefully left out the part where the son-in-law had testified that all of Iraq's WMDs had been destroyed. Ifill thanked me, and said nothing. Hillary Clinton was not present and nobody beat me up.

I wonder what Powell would say if someone were to actually ask him that question, even today, or next year, or ten years from now. Someone tells you about a bunch of old weapons and at the same time tells you they've been destroyed, and you choose to repeat the part about the weapons and censor the part about their destruction. How would you explain that?

Well, it's a sin of omission, so ultimately Powell could claim he forgot. “Oh yeah, I meant to say that, but it slipped my mind.”

But how would he explain this:

During his presentation at the United Nations, Powell provided this translation of an intercepted conversation between Iraqi army officers:

“They're inspecting the ammunition you have, yes.

“Yes.
 “For the possibility there are forbidden ammo.

“For the possibility there is by chance forbidden ammo?

“Yes.
 “And we sent you a message yesterday to clean out all of the areas, the scrap areas, the abandoned areas. Make sure there is nothing there.”

The incriminating phrases “clean all of the areas” and “Make sure there is nothing there” do not appear in the official State Department translation of the exchange:

Powell was writing fictional dialogue. He put those extra lines in there and pretended somebody had said them. Here's what Bob Woodward said about this in his book “Plan of Attack.”

“[Powell] had decided to add his personal interpretation of the intercepts to rehearsed script, taking them substantially further and casting them in the most negative light. Concerning the intercept about inspecting for the possibility of ‘forbidden ammo,’ Powell took the interpretation further: ‘Clean out all of the areas. . . . Make sure there is nothing there.’ None of this was in the intercept.”

For most of his presentation, Powell wasn't inventing dialogue, but he was presenting as facts numerous claims that his own staff had warned him were weak and indefensible.

Powell told the UN and the world: “We

History's Lessons

Colin Powell's Staff Warned Him Against His War Lies



George Tenet, Colin Powell and John Negroponte

know that Saddam's son, Qusay, ordered the removal of all prohibited weapons from Saddam's numerous palace complexes.” The January 31, 2003, evaluation of Powell's draft remarks prepared for him by the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (“INR”) flagged this claim as “WEAK.”

Regarding alleged Iraqi concealment of key files, Powell said: “key files from military and scientific establishments have been placed in cars that are being driven around the countryside by Iraqi

missiles or biological warheads.”

This claim was again flagged in the February 3, 2003, evaluation of a subsequent draft of Powell's presentation: “Page 5, first para, claim re missile brigade dispersing rocket launchers and BW warheads. This claim too is highly questionable and might be subjected to criticism by UN inspection officials.”

That didn't stop Colin. In fact, he brought out visual aids to help with his lying.

Powell showed a slide of a satellite

“Curveball” Finally Admits WMD Claims Were All Lies Iraqi Defector's Lies Were Used By Bush Administration to Justify Invasion of Iraq



FROM ALLGOV.COM

Defector Rafid Ahmed Alwan al-Janabi has admitted he lied when he told European intelligence agents in 2000 that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction. Janabi's lie proved monumental as the false information was used by the Bush administration to justify its invasion of Iraq three years later, even though no American official bothered to personally interview him before committing to war.

In an interview with *The Guardian*, Janabi said he told German intelligence about the existence of mobile bioweapons trucks and hidden factories in the hopes it would bring down the regime of Saddam Hussein. But he was surprised when the US so thoroughly bought his phony tale without ever seeking first-hand testimony from him, and instead relied on what German and British intelligence had gathered.

Janabi, codenamed Curveball by Western spies, was exposed as a liar as early as mid-2000, when German and British agents tried unsuccessfully to corroborate some of his story with his Iraqi boss, Dr. Basill Latif, who also had left the country. However, this development did not result in the Germans discrediting his claims, which opened the way for then-Secretary of State Colin Powell to make the administration's case before the United Nations on February 5, 2003, that Hussein was a threat who had to go.

To support his argument, Powell claimed that Janabi “supervised one of these facilities,” adding that Janabi, “actually was present during biological agent production runs and was also at the site when an accident occurred in 1998. Twelve technicians died” None of this was true. Powell's presentation included a computer-generated image of the non-existent mobile biological weapons laboratory.

Janabi had claimed that Saddam Hussein was operating a bioweapons program in Djerf al-Nadaf in south-east Baghdad. In fact, the alleged weapons center was a birdseed purification plant.

-Noel Brinkerhoff, David Wallechinsky

intelligence agents to avoid detection.” The January 31, 2003 INR evaluation flagged this claim as “WEAK” and added “Plausibility open to question.” A Feb. 3, 2003, INR evaluation of a subsequent draft of Powell's remarks noted:

“Page 4, last bullet, re key files being driven around in cars to avoid inspectors. This claim is highly questionable and promises to be targeted by critics and possibly UN inspection officials as well.”

That didn't stop Colin from stating it as fact and apparently hoping that, even if UN inspectors thought he was a brazen liar, US media outlets wouldn't tell anyone.

On the issue of biological weapons and dispersal equipment, Powell said: “we know from sources that a missile brigade outside Baghdad was dispersing rocket launchers and warheads containing biological warfare agents to various locations, distributing them to various locations in western Iraq.”

The January 31, 2003, INR evaluation flagged this claim as “WEAK”:

“WEAK. Missiles with biological warheads reportedly dispersed. This would be somewhat true in terms of short-range missiles with conventional warheads, but is questionable in terms of longer-range

photograph of an Iraqi munitions bunker, and lied:

“The two arrows indicate the presence of sure signs that the bunkers are storing chemical munitions . . . [t]he truck you [...] see is a signature item. It's a decontamination vehicle in case something goes wrong.”

The January 31, 2003, INR evaluation flagged this claim as “WEAK” and added: “We support much of this discussion, but



Colin Powell's Non-Existent Iraqi Mobile Biological Weapons Laboratory.

we note that decontamination vehicles – cited several times in the text – are water trucks that can have legitimate uses... Iraq has given United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission

(UNMOVIC) what may be a plausible account for this activity – that this was an exercise involving the movement of conventional explosives; presence of a fire safety truck (water truck, which could also be used as a decontamination vehicle) is common in such an event.”

Powell's own staff had told him the thing was a water truck, but he told the UN it was “a signature item...a decontamination vehicle.” The UN was going to need a decontamination vehicle itself by the time Powell finished weaving his lies and disgracing his country.

He just kept piling it on: “UAVs [Unmanned Aerial Vehicles] outfitted with spray tanks constitute an ideal method for launching a terrorist attack using biological weapons,” he said.

The January 31, 2003, INR evaluation flagged this statement as “WEAK” and added: “the claim that experts agree UAVs fitted with spray tanks are ‘an ideal method for launching a terrorist attack using biological weapons’ is WEAK.”

In other words, experts did NOT agree with that claim.

Powell kept going, announcing “in mid-December weapons experts at one facility were replaced by Iraqi intelligence agents who were to deceive inspectors about the work that was being done there.”

The January 31, 2003, INR evaluation flagged this claim as “WEAK” and “not credible” and “open to criticism, particularly by the UN inspectorates.”

His staff was warning him that what he planned to say would not be believed by his audience, which would include the people with actual knowledge of the matter.

To Powell that was no matter. Powell, no doubt figuring he was in deep already, so what did he have to lose, went on to tell the UN: “On orders from Saddam Hussein, Iraqi officials issued a false death certificate for one scientist, and he was sent into hiding.”

The January 31, 2003, INR evaluation flagged this claim as “WEAK” and called it “Not implausible, but UN inspectors might question it. (Note: Draft states it as fact.)”

And Powell stated it as fact. Notice that his staff was not able to say there was any evidence for the claim, but rather that it was “not implausible.” That was the best they could come up with. In other words: “They might buy this one, Sir, but don't count on it.”

Powell, however, wasn't satisfied lying about one scientist. He had to have a dozen. He told the United Nations: “A dozen [WMD] experts have been placed under house arrest, not in their own homes, but as a group at one of Saddam Hussein's guest houses.”

The January 31, 2003, INR evaluation flagged this claim as “WEAK” and “Highly questionable.” This one didn't even merit a “Not implausible.”

Powell also said: “In the middle of January, experts at one facility that was related to weapons of mass destruction, those experts had been ordered to stay home from work to avoid the inspectors. Workers from other Iraqi military facilities not engaged in illicit weapons projects were to replace the workers who'd been sent home.”

Powell's staff called this “WEAK,” with “Plausibility open to question.”

All of this stuff sounded plausible enough to viewers of Fox, CNN, and MSNBC. And that, we can see now, was what interested Colin. But it must have sounded highly implausible to the UN inspectors. Here was a guy who had not been with them on any of their inspections coming in to tell them what had happened.

We know from Scott Ritter, who led many UNSCOM inspections in Iraq, that US inspectors had used the access that the inspection process afforded them to spy for, and to set up means of data collection for, the CIA. So there was some plausibility to the idea that an American could come back to the UN and inform the UN what had really happened on its inspections.

Yet, repeatedly, Powell's staff warned him that the specific claims he wanted to make were not going to even sound plausible. They will be recorded by history more simply as blatant lies.

The examples of Powell's lying listed above are taken from an extensive report released by Congressman John Conyers: “The Constitution in Crisis; The Downing Street Minutes and Deception, Manipulation, Torture, Retribution, and Coverups in the Iraq War.”

David Swanson is a Washington peace activist and founder of *After Downing Street*, a nonpartisan coalition working to expose the lies that create and sustain wars and occupations and to hold accountable those responsible.

Resurrecting the Neo-cons



Richard Perle Marc Grossman Doug Feith

NEO-CONS from p. 1

Hillary Clinton appointed Dennis Ross as Special Advisor for the Persian Gulf and Southwest Asia; a man well-known as a hard-core neo-con, Paul Wolfowitz protégé, cofounder of the AIPAC sponsored Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and one of the loudest advocates for the Israel lobby. A man who is known to consider himself more Israeli than American; a Jewish American who is known to have spent 'a lot of time' in Israel to find his real identity-nationality.

We had Frederick Kagan, a neo-con of choice for Mr. Obama, who was hired to manage General Petraeus on Afghanistan. A man whose father was born into a Jewish family in Lithuania; a man cherished by his bosses at the American Enterprise Institute; a man who authored the book, *While America Sleeps*, arguing in favor of a large increase in military spending and warned of future threats, including the imaginary WMD program in Iraq. We are talking about the man who was one of the main signatories of Project for the New American Century manifesto – the Neo-con Bible. The man who was one of the Bush-Cheney administration's favorite masterminds when it came to perpetual wars.

Let's jump to our newest and by far the boldest Neo-con addition to the Obama-Clinton Whitehouse. Marc Grossman is chosen by the administration to fill the seat vacated by Richard Holbrooke; another Jewish American Neo-con who had been a man of choice for every administration in the last four decades. I suggest you read the article titled 'Obama's Neo-con' if you want to know a bit more about the old neo-con shoes Mr. Grossman will be filling. As for our media's usual sanitized version for Mr. Grossman's background, the following by the neo-con circle PR machine, the Washington Post, sums it up well:

"In a nearly three-decade career at the State Department, Grossman served as assistant secretary of state for Europe and ambassador to Turkey. His last assignment, before retiring from the Foreign Service in 2005, was undersecretary for political affairs during the first administration of George W. Bush.

"He now is vice chairman of the Cohen Group, which advises international business clients on overseas enterprises. Although the consulting group, headed by former defense secretary William Cohen, has several clients with contracts in South Asia, administration officials said they did not foresee any problem in clearing Grossman for the post."

From the mainstream media reporting similar to the above, ordinary Americans should at least gather this much:

Mr. Grossman had to be a Bush-Cheney administration favorite to be appointed as the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, the State Department's third-ranking official, in 2001. In 2004, Grossman attained the Foreign Service's highest rank when the President appointed him to the rank of Career Ambassador.

Grossman works for the sin city's (Washington DC) lobby industry. Not only that, he actually represents foreign governments, foreign businesses and interests. The Cohen Group represents some of the country's largest weapons manufacturers, companies that stand to benefit from weapons sales: Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, Sikorsky...among others. Their list of controversial and/or criminal entities includes companies such as DynCorp International. Through their partnership with DLA Piper, the Cohen group also serves foreign clients such as

the Turkish government and business interest groups, Australia's scandalous AWB, India and UAE.

And here is what many Americans won't be getting from the US media:

An investigative report on historycommons.org about Marc Grossman and his role in planting moles in US nuclear facilities:

"An unnamed high-ranking State Department official helps a nuclear smuggling ring (connected to Pakistani nuclear scientist A. Q. Khan and Pakistan's ISI) to plant "moles" in US military and academic institutions that handle nuclear technology, according to FBI translator Sibel Edmonds. The State Department official apparently arranges security clearance for some of the moles, enabling them to work in sensitive nuclear research facilities, including the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory in New Mexico, which is responsible for the security of the US nuclear deterrent. The high-ranking State Department official who is not named by Britain's Sunday Times is said to be Marc Grossman..."

"John M. Cole, a former FBI Counterintelligence and Counterespionage Manager, has publicly confirmed the FBI's decade long investigation of the former State Department Official Marc Grossman. Cole worked for 18 years in the FBI's Counterintelligence Division. According to Cole, as in over one hundred cases involving Israeli espionage activities directed against the US government, the Grossman case was covered up and buried despite mountains of evidence that was collected."

Here is the public response from John Cole after the publication of The American Conservative magazine's cover story:

"I read the recent cover story by The American Conservative magazine. I applaud their courage in publishing this significant interview. I am fully aware of the FBI's decade-long investigation of the high-level State Department Official named in this article, Marc Grossman, which ultimately was buried and covered up. It is long past time to investigate this case and bring about accountability..."

Marc Grossman was the originator of the Plame Leak:

"Marc Grossman, the undersecretary of state for political affairs, prepares a memo about former ambassador Joseph Wilson's trip to Niger to ascertain the truth or falsity of claims that Iraq had attempted to purchase uranium from that nation (see February 21, 2002-March 4, 2002). The memo refers explicitly to Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame Wilson, as a CIA official and identifies her as Wilson's wife, using the name "Valerie Wilson." The second paragraph of the memo is marked with an "S," denoting that Wilson is a covert operative for the agency."

In late December 2005, Grossman joined Ihlas Holding, a large and alleged shady Turkish company which is also active in several Central Asian countries. Grossman is reported to receive \$100,000 per month for his advisory position with Ihlas.

In May 2010, DLA Piper, one of the world's largest international lobby-law firms, hired Marc Grossman as their front man for their Turkish operations. The man in charge of one of DLA Piper major accounts-Turkey is none other than our good ole Dennis Hastert. That makes two former FBI criminal targets for one firm.

Now, with all these murky qualifications, you'd think the mainstream media would have a field day with Marc Grossman's appointment by the Hillary-Obama administration; right?

Wrong. So far, not a peep from the US media and that includes both the 'R' and the 'D' fronts. Same goes for the quasi alternatives. Not even a word about the 'revolving door' aspect of this scandalous appointment: A Foreign Agent, A Lobbyist, A man on the payroll of a shady foreign company for over \$1 million a year...But then again, less than a month ago we witnessed another envoy, another appointment, with a major 'CONFLICT OF INTEREST' flag rising to its top that went completely censored in the US media. The scandal was widely reported by foreign media, such as the Independent, who actually broke the story, and even after that, we barely heard a peep:

"Frank Wisner, President Barack Obama's envoy to Cairo who infuriated the White House this weekend by urging Hosni Mubarak to remain President of Egypt, works for a New York and Washington law firm which works for the dictator's own Egyptian government.

"The US State Department and Mr. Wisner himself have now both claimed that his remarks were made in a "personal capacity". But there is nothing "personal" about Mr. Wisner's connections with the litigation firm Patton Boggs, which openly boasts that it advises "the Egyptian military, the Egyptian Economic Development Agency, and has handled arbitrations and litigation on the [Mubarak] government's behalf in Europe and the US". Oddly, not a single journalist raised this extraordinary connection with US government officials – nor the blatant conflict of interest it appears to represent."

Mr. Wisner is a retired State Department 36-year career diplomat – he served as US ambassador to Egypt, Zambia, the Philippines and India under eight American presidents. In other words, he was not a political appointee. But it is inconceivable Hillary Clinton did not know of his employment by a company that works for the very dictator which Mr. Wisner now defends in the face of a massive democratic opposition in Egypt. So why on earth was he sent to talk to Mubarak, who is in effect a client of Mr. Wisner's current employers?

Patton Boggs states that its attorneys "represent some of the leading Egyptian commercial families and their companies" and "have been involved in oil and gas and telecommunications infrastructure projects on their behalf". One of its partners served as chairman of the US-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce promoting foreign investment in the Egyptian economy. The company has also managed contractor disputes in military-sales agreements arising under the US Foreign Military Sales Act. Washington gives around \$1.3bn (£800m) a year to the Egyptian military.

Mr. Wisner joined Patton Boggs almost two years ago – more than enough time for both the White House and the State Department to learn of his company's intimate connections with the Mubarak regime. *The New York Times* ran a glowing profile of Mr. Wisner in its pages two weeks ago – but mysteriously did not mention his ties to Egypt.

I find this sentence in the above quotes really funny: "Oddly, not a single journalist raised this extraordinary connection with US government officials" As far as our media goes, what's odd about that?! They've been really consistent at remaining very 'odd' when it comes to reporting on 'crucial, troublesome & very relevant' facts like this one. And, Marc Grossman's recent unofficial appointment to be official this Friday is another perfect example:

A long-time neo-con, a Jewish-American with questionably strong ties to Israel, a long-term target of FBI counterespionage and counterintelligence investigations, a lobbyist, a foreign agent, an employee of a shady foreign business, a man associated with major treason scandals, Marc Grossman, is making his way back to the 'new' administration, following his several other "neo-con co-species" who've been sitting inside, leading the way for the rest of the co-species who've been eagerly waiting to be granted official entry cards. Thanks to the media, while the public is sitting in the dark, the Obama-Hillary White House is changing color to pastels, getting ready for their Neo-con Easter and the resurrection of the previously, and dubiously, advertised as long-gone and dead breed – Neo-cons.

Sibel Edmonds is the founder and president of the National Security Whistleblowers Coalition (NSWBC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to aiding national security whistleblowers. She has appeared on national radio and TV as a commentator on matters related to whistleblowers, national security, and excessive secrecy & classification, and has been featured on CBS 60 Minutes, CNN, MSNBC, NPR, and in the New York Times, Washington Post, Vanity Fair, The American Conservative, and others. Edmonds co-authored, Shooting the Messenger, with Professor William Weaver (Kansas University Press 2010).

Hackers Expose Security Firm Plot Against WikiLeaks

HACKERS from p. 1

pro-WikiLeaks. The presentation highlighted Glenn Greenwald of Salon.com as a key target.

"These are established professionals that have a liberal bent, but ultimately most of them if pushed will choose professional preservation over cause, such is the mentality of most business professionals," it reads. "Without the support of people like Glenn, WikiLeaks would fold."

HBGary Federal told *The New York Times* in a statement that some of the files stolen and displayed may have been falsified, but the two other companies mentioned in the presentation have now issued statements on the matter.

Berico Technologies confirmed in a statement that it had done initial work on a proposal for a law firm on "information security and public relations challenges."

"Our leadership does not condone or support any effort that proactively targets American firms, organizations or individuals," said founders Guy Filippelli and Nick Hallam

"We find such actions reprehensible and are deeply committed to partnering with the best companies in our industry that share our core values. Therefore, we have discontinued all ties with HBGary Federal."

Palantir Technologies has also said that it is severing ties with HBGary Federal.

"The right to free speech and the right to privacy are critical to a flourishing democracy. From its inception, Palantir Technologies has supported these ideals and demonstrated a commitment to building software that protects



privacy and civil liberties," said co-founder Alex Carp in a statement.

"Furthermore, personally and on behalf of the entire company, I want to publicly apologize to progressive organizations in general, and Mr. Greenwald in particular, for any involvement that we may have had in these matters."

According to the emails, the presentation was prepared for Hunton & Williams, which counts Bank of America among its clients. Hunton & Williams has reportedly declined to comment, but Bank of America issued a statement yesterday denying involvement in the presentation.

"We have not engaged in, nor do we have any plans to engage in, the practices discussed in this alleged presentation by HBGary," said Lawrence DiRita, a Bank of America spokesman.

In another set of documents, HBGary Federal appears to have offered a plan for the US Chamber of Commerce to "mitigate the effect of adversarial groups" like US Chamber Watch. The plan suggested a strategy to "discredit, confuse, shame, combat, infiltrate and fracture" these groups.

"The leaked emails appear to show that HBGary Federal was willing to propose questionable actions in an attempt to drum up business, but the Chamber was not aware of these proposals until HBGary's emails leaked," Tom Collamore, a Chamber of Commerce spokesman, told *The New York Times*.

Iain Thomson is the US editor of V3.co.uk based in San Francisco. Iain has been a part of the V3.co.uk team since 2002 and was previously technical editor of PC Magazine, reviews editor of PC Advisor and editor of Aviation Informatics. He also appears as an occasional commentator on BBC television and radio, ITV and Bloomberg.

Bush's Travel Restricted by International Arrest Warrants

RESTRICTED from p. 1

and his henchmen for their crimes. Bush cannot hide, just like Pinochet couldn't.

We owe the people of Switzerland, Spain and Germany a debt of gratitude for their steadfastness and continued activity to bring Bush to justice. We can do no less.

This is truly a global movement for accountability and justice. The American people have a special responsibility to continue to expose Bush and keep the pressure on.

Bush and Cheney were hoping that the outrage against them would die, but it never will.

We in the IndictBushNow movement are committed to ensure that Bush will be pursued wherever he goes for his war crimes, torture policies and attacks on civil rights and civil liberties. We demand justice.



For Bush future travel will be restricted to undemocratic client states such as Saudi Arabia... even post-revolution Egypt may now be off the Bush itinerary.

IndictBushNow is organizing around the country for IndictBushNow contingents at the upcoming March 19 anti-war protests and at many other upcoming events. Banners reading "Guilty of War Crimes: IndictBushNow.org" will be seen by tens of thousands of people.

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Are Our Schools Becoming Police States?

SCHOOLS from p. 1

and tiny plastic Army figures in honor of American troops. School officials declared the hat out of bounds because the toy soldiers were carrying miniature guns. A 7-year-old New Jersey boy, described by school officials as "a nice kid" and "a good student," was reported to the police and charged with possessing an imitation firearm after he brought a toy Nerf-style gun to school. The gun shoots soft ping pong-type balls.

Things have gotten so bad that it doesn't even take a toy gun to raise the ire of school officials. A high school sophomore was suspended for violating the school's no-cell-phone policy after he took a call from his father, a master sergeant in the US Army who was serving in Iraq at the time. A 12-year-old New York student was hauled out of school in handcuffs for doodling on her desk with an erasable marker. In Houston, an 8th grader was suspended for wearing rosary beads to school in memory of her grandmother (the school has a zero tolerance policy against the rosary, which the school insists can be interpreted as a sign of gang involvement). Six-year-old Cub Scout Zachary Christie was sentenced to 45 days in reform school after bringing a camping utensil to school that can serve as a fork, knife or spoon. And in Oklahoma, school officials suspended a first grader simply for using his hand to simulate a gun.

What these incidents, all the result of overzealous school officials and inflexible zero tolerance policies, make clear is that we have moved into a new paradigm in America where young people are increasingly viewed as suspects and treated as criminals by school officials and law enforcement alike.

Adopted in the wake of Congress' passage of the 1994 Gun-Free Schools Act, which required a one-year expulsion for any child bringing a firearm or bomb to school, school zero tolerance policies were initially intended to address and prevent serious problems involving weapons, violence and drug and alcohol use in the schools. However, since the April 13, 2009 Columbine school shootings, nervous legislators and school boards have tightened their zero tolerance policies to such an extent that school officials are now empowered to



punish all offenses severely, no matter how minor. Hence, an elementary school student is punished in the same way that a high school senior is punished. And a student who actually intends to harm others is treated the same as one who breaks the rules accidentally – or is perceived as breaking the rules.

For instance, after students at a Texas school were assigned to write a "scary" Halloween story, one 13-year-old chose to write about shooting up a school. Although he received a passing grade on the story, school officials reported him to the police, resulting in his spending six days in jail before it was determined that no crime had been committed. Equally outrageous was the case in New Jersey where several kindergartners were suspended from school for three days for playing a make-believe game of "cops and robbers" during recess and using their fingers as guns.

With the distinctions between student offenses erased, and all offenses expellable, we now find ourselves in the midst of what *Time* magazine described as a "national crackdown on Alka-Seltzer." Indeed, at least 20 children in four states have been suspended from school for possession of the fizzy tablets in violation of zero tolerance drug policies. In some jurisdictions, carrying cough drops, wearing black lipstick or dying your hair blue are actually expellable offenses. Students have also been penalized for such inane "crimes" as bringing nail clippers to school, using Listerine or Scope, and carrying fold-out combs that resemble switchblades.

A 13-year-old boy in Manassas, Virginia, who accepted a Certs breath mint from a classmate, was actually suspended and required to attend drug-awareness classes, while a 12-year-old boy who said he brought powdered sugar to school for a science project was charged with a felony for possessing a look-alike drug. Another 12-year-old was handcuffed and jailed after he stomped in a puddle, splashing classmates.

The American Bar Association has rightly condemned these zero tolerance policies as being "a one-size-fits-all solution to all the problems that schools confront." Unfortunately, when challenged about the fact that under these draconian policies, a kid who shoots a spitball is punished the same as the kid who brings a gun to school, school officials often insist that their hands are tied. That rationale, however, falls apart on several counts.

First, such policies completely fail to take into account the student's intentions, nor do they take into account the long-term damage inflicted on school children. For example, as a result of the criminal charges against him, Andrew Mikel, an honor student active in Junior ROTC and in his church who had hoped to attend the U.S. Naval Academy, can no longer be considered as an applicant.

Second, these one-strike-and-you're-out policies have proven to be largely unsuccessful and been heavily criticized by such professional organizations as the National Association of School Psychologists: "[R]esearch indicates that, as implemented, zero tolerance policies are ineffective in the long run and are related to a number of negative consequences, including increased rates of school drop out and discriminatory application of school discipline practices."

Third, with the emergence of zero

tolerance policies, school officials have forsaken the time-honored distinction between punishment and discipline. Namely, that schools exist to educate students about their rights and the law and discipline those who need it, while prisons exist to punish criminals who have been tried and found guilty of breaking the law. And, as a result, many American schools now resemble prisons with both barbed wire perimeters and police walking the halls.

Fourth, such policies criminalize childish, otherwise innocent behavior and in many cases create a permanent record that will haunt that child into adulthood. Moreover, by involving the police in incidents that should never leave the environs of the school, it turns the schools into little more than a police state. For example, 9-year-old Michael Parson was suspended from a New Jersey school for a day and ordered to undergo a psychological evaluation after mentioning to a classmate his intent to "shoot" a fellow classmate with a wad of paper. Despite the fact that the "weapon" considered suspect consisted of a wadded-up piece of moistened paper and a rubber band with which to launch it, district officials notified local police, suspended Michael under the school's zero tolerance policy, and required him to undergo a psychological evaluation before returning to class. Incredibly, local police also went to Michael's home after midnight in order to question the fourth grader about the so-called "shooting" incident.

Finally, these policies, and the school administrators who relentlessly enforce them, render young people woefully ignorant of the rights they intrinsically possess as American citizens. What's more, having failed to learn much in the way of civic education while in school, young people are being browbeaten into believing that they have no true rights and government authorities have total power and can violate constitutional rights whenever they see fit.

There's an old axiom that what children learn in school today will be the philosophy of government tomorrow. As surveillance cameras, metal detectors, police patrols, zero tolerance policies, lock downs, drug sniffing dogs and strip searches become the norm in elementary, middle and high schools across the nation, America is on a fast track to raising up an Orwellian generation – one populated by compliant citizens accustomed to living in a police state and who march in lockstep to the dictates of the government. In other words, the schools are teaching our young people how to be obedient subjects in a totalitarian society.

Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He is the author of The Change Manifesto.

News Bites

Zinc Supplements Fight Colds

The Telegraph (UK) - A review of 15 clinical trials published since 1984 has concluded that taking zinc supplements can reduce the length of a cold and help ward one off in the first place. The conclusions of the Cochrane Collaboration, an Oxford-based not-for-profit institution that reviews existing studies to spot trends missed by looking at them individually, could lead in time to zinc replacing vitamin C as the cold 'cure' of choice.

The latest Cochrane Review found that people who took a zinc syrup solution or lozenge every two hours while they had a cold were twice as likely to have shed it within a week as those who took a placebo. Children who took a zinc tablet once a day for at least five months were also a third less likely to get colds as those who took a placebo. The scientists concluded:

However, the scientists cautioned that they did not yet know what dose was best, and said some zinc formulations had side effects including nausea, bad taste and diarrhea. Because of these problems, they said it was "difficult to make firm recommendations about the dose, formulation and duration that should be used".

Pakistan's Ex-President Musharraf Wanted for Bhutto Assassination

CBS - ISLAMABAD - An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has issued a warrant for the arrest of the country's former president, General Pervez Musharraf in connection with the 2007 killing of the late Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in a move that potentially reopens a bitter chapter from the country's troubled political history.

Musharraf, a close ally of former US President George W Bush, has lived in exile since 2008, dividing his time between the UK and Dubai, after he resigned to avoid a parliamentary impeachment by newly-elected politicians.

Bhutto, a westernized liberal politician, was killed in a 2007 gun and grenade attack, right after she emerged from a high profile political rally in Rawalpindi, the main suburb of Islamabad, ahead of the country's national elections.

Chinese Companies Mass Producing Fake Rice out of Plastic

NaturalNews - According to a report in the Korean-language *Weekly Hong Kong*, the manufacturers are blending potatoes, sweet potatoes, and plastic industrial resin to produce the imitation rice.

A report in *Very Vietnam* states that an official from the Chinese Restaurant Association has announced that eating three bowls of this fake rice is the equivalent of eating an entire plastic bag. Consuming such plastic material is obviously a serious health hazard, and officials are allegedly gearing up to conduct an investigation into the factories accused of producing the phony rice.

China has a long legacy food problems, including the 2008 melamine-tainted milk incident where roughly 300,000 people were injured and at least six infants died as a result of being poisoned by the toxic chemical.

Many US Processed Foods Contain Fake Blueberries

NaturalNews - Award-winning investigative journalist Mike Adams, the Health Ranger, exposes the deceptive chemical ingredients and dishonest marketing of "blueberry" products from big-name food and cereal companies. The blueberries, it turns out, are made from artificial colors, hydrogenated oils and liquid sugars.

Name brand food items such as blueberry bagels sold at Target, Total Blueberry Pomegranate Cereal, Kellogg's Blueberry Pop Tarts, and many more products prominently display bagels, muffins, and pop tarts with yummy blueberries and blueberry fillings. But the ingredients of these "blueberries" include sugar, corn cereal, modified food starch, partially hydrogenated vegetable oil, artificial flavor, and cellulose gum, salt and artificial colors like Blue #2, Red #40, Green #3 and Blue #1 but no blueberries.

A lot of products that imply they're made with blueberries contain no blueberries at all. Consumers don't realize they're actually buying blue coloring chemicals mixed with hydrogenated oils and liquid sugars. That's why this common industry practice of faking the blueberries is so deceptive.

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