

Rock Creek Free Press

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Reign of Terror in Bahrain

By RALPH SCHOENMAN

A three-month State of Emergency declared March 16 in Bahrain by the government of King Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa saw state security forces remove all restraint in a ruthless campaign of carnage directed against the mass of the Bahraini people. Repressive forces of the isolated monarchy were emboldened by thousands of invading Saudi troops, tanks and helicopter gunships, joined swiftly by Special Forces of the emirates and feudal Sheikdoms of the region.

The immediate target was the huge popular demonstrations in the financial district, in central Pearl Square, and in the villages and interior of Bahrain against an isolated, autocratic and corrupt monarchy.

A precipitating factor in the reckless March 15 invasion by the Saudi monarchy and its acolytes was the dramatic emergence of the Bahraini working class as a focal point of resistance through the declaration of an unlimited General Strike by the General Federation of Workers Trade Unions of Bahrain.

See BAHRAIN p. 4

UN to Investigate KLA's 1999 Murder of Serb Civilians for their Organs

By CARLA STEA / RCFP

In 1999, Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), led by Hashim Thaci, current prime minister of Kosovo, held Serb civilians under inhumane conditions in secret prisons before murdering them for their organs.

In February 2011, the UN Security Council discussed the Marty Report, where Carla del Ponte, Chief Prosecutor for the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia "...detailed evidence of the [heinous] smuggling of organs taken from murdered Serb civilians" and rampant murder of witnesses to these war crimes committed after the end of the Kosovo war in 1999 by "Hashim Thaci, heading a mafia-like organization."

All fifteen members of the Security Council called for a thorough and impartial investigation.

See KOSOVO p. 2

How the US Press Corps Lost Its Way

By ROBERT PARRY / CONSORTIUMNEWS.COM

The eulogies for *Washington Post* columnist David Broder and the chaos surrounding National Public Radio have coincided as an unintended commentary on what went wrong with the US news media.

For different reasons, Broder, who died March 9 at the age of 81, and National Public Radio (NPR), which is scrambling to save its federal funding, came to reflect the timidity of American mainstream journalism, unwilling or unable to challenge the corruption of the status quo.

Broder personified the cult of centrism, a faith in "The System" that ignored how hollowed out its institutions had become, at least in terms of any moral or democratic values.

NPR, with its endless attempts to mollify conservatives, demonstrated how slippery the slope can be when a price tag is put on journalism. As NPR slides ever downward in its frantic attempts to appease the Republican House majority — most recently with a cascade of resignations — it's hard not to conclude that the radio network may not be worth saving.

After all, the concept of news within the framework of government support only works if

See PRESS p. 8

Obama Starts War No. 4

Humanitarian fig leaf can't hide real reason: Libya has largest oil reserves in Africa



By WEBSTER G. TARPLEY, PH.D.

Washington DC, March 19 – Late today US and British cruise missiles joined with French and other NATO combat aircraft in Operation Odyssey Dawn/Operation Ellamy, a neo-imperialist bombing attack under fake humanitarian cover against the sovereign state of Libya. Acting under UN Security Council Resolution 1973, US naval forces in the Mediterranean on Saturday night late time fired 112 Cruise Missiles at targets which the Pentagon claimed were related to Libya's air defense system. But Mohammed al-Zawi, the Secretary General of the Libyan Parliament, told a Tripoli press conference

that the "barbaric armed attack" and "savage aggression" had hit residential areas and office buildings as well as military targets, filling the hospitals of Tripoli and Misurata with civilian victims. al-Zawi accused the foreign powers of acting to protect a rebel leadership which contains notorious terrorist elements. The Libyan government repeated its request for the UN to send international observers to report objectively on events in Libya.

The attacking forces are expected to deploy more Cruise Missiles, Predator drones, and bombers, seeking to destroy the Libyan air defense system as a prelude to the systematic decimation of Libyan ground units. International observers have noted that US

intelligence about Libya may be substandard, and that many missiles may indeed have struck non-military targets.

Libya had responded to the UN vote by declaring a cease-fire, but Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron brushed that aside. On March 19, *France 24* and *al-Jazeera* of Qatar, international propaganda networks reporting the attacks, broadcast hysterical reports of Qaddafi's forces allegedly attacking the rebel stronghold of Benghazi. They showed a picture of a jet fighter being shot down and claimed this proved Qaddafi was defying the UN by keeping up his air strikes. It later turned out that the destroyed plane had belonged to the rebel air force and was shot down by rebel

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When the Criminals Control the Cameras

By JAMES CORBETT / THE CORBETT REPORT

It wasn't long after the introduction of the television camera that those in positions of power began using it to track and surveil the public.

The first closed-circuit television camera was deployed by Siemens AG (in 1942 Peenemünde, Germany) — a company that sponsored, funded and collaborated with the Nazi regime — so the Nazis could monitor rocket launches from the safety of a distant bunker. Within seven years, the first commercial CCTV cameras were available in the US. Advertisements for the systems were at pains to point out they required no government permit to operate. That claim in itself is interesting.



It's difficult for us in this age of pervasive surveillance technology to appreciate just how thoroughly these technologies have altered our

sense of the public and private spheres. Today, Google can send Street View vans around the streets of our cities, snapping pictures and Wi-Fi data alike, or the average person can share their most intimate details with social network "friends" who they've never even met. Now, with services like Google Latitude you can even allow these "friends" to track the precise GPS coordinates of your cell phone in real time. But 60 years ago, would-be purchasers of CCTV cameras had to be reassured that they didn't need a special permit from the government to monitor their own property.

The difference between the 1940s understanding of the value of privacy and our current blasé attitude toward electronic

See CAMERAS p. 5

CIA Contractor Raymond Davis Sprung from Murder Rap in Pakistan after US Pays 'Blood Money'

By DAVE LINDORFF

Raymond Davis, the CIA contractor indicted for the murder of two young Pakistani motorcyclists, whom he gunned down in the back in broad daylight through his car windshield in a busy section of Lahore, Pakistan, has been freed, after the payment of \$2.34 million in "blood money," (called *daiyya*), to relatives of the two slain men.

The surprise "deal," which Pakistani news reports are saying appears to have been forced on the relatives, who up to March 15 had insisted they wanted no blood money but only justice, was announced in a court session March 16 in Lahore, at which the prosecution's

case of murder was to have been presented.

There were angry protests in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad upon word of the pardon of Davis. Both US Ambassador, Cameron Munter, who expressed regret for the killings and gratitude to the victims' families for their "generosity" in agreeing to the pardon, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton denied that they had paid any blood money for a deal, but that did not mean the CIA didn't put up the cash. *The New York Times* (which withheld for two weeks at the behest of the White House



Raymond Davis

information it had that Davis was a CIA contractor, even as it reported the official US lie that he was a "diplomat" is reporting that a "new counsel" representing the families of Davis's victims, Raja Irshad, is saying the blood money was paid by the Pakistani government, but it and the *Wall Street Journal* are both also reporting that the US is reimbursing Pakistan. A more likely ultimate source of the funds is the CIA, which operates with a "black budget" free of outside scrutiny.

The integrity of this "deal" is in question,

See DAVIS p. 8

"Mission No. 77": US-Funded False Flag Terrorism in Egypt

By WILLIAM NORMAN GRIGG

Shortly after midnight on the morning of New Year's Day, a green Skoda automobile pulled up outside the Saints Coptic Orthodox Church in Alexandria, Egypt. Two men emerged from the vehicle, one of whom was seen speaking tersely into a mobile phone as they walked briskly from the scene.

A few minutes later a 100-kilogram (220 lbs) bomb detonated inside the car, sending its densely packed, lethal payload of nails, glass and iron balls into the sanctuary. The explosion, which was powerful enough to shatter every window in the neighborhood, killed more than

twenty worshipers gathered for New Year's mass. Nearly a hundred more were seriously wounded. Body parts were propelled into the fourth floor of the church building and onto a neighboring mosque.

An hour before the bomb went off, government security personnel assigned to guard the church quietly withdrew, despite official assurances that the force would be on hand until the end of the worship service. No explanation was given for this oddly-timed dereliction of duty. After the bombing, a group of Muslim radicals quickly materialized to taunt the terrified and infuriated Christian victims with chants of "Allah akbar" (God is Great).

Armored riot police arrived shortly thereafter, firing rubber bullets and tear gas grenades to disperse the crowd.

The immediate official story was that "foreign elements" — either al Qaeda or the Israeli Mossad — were responsible for the atrocity. This explanation was immediately challenged by surviving eyewitnesses who had seen the security force withdrawn and the unidentified vehicle park in a cordoned-off "secure" area. Spokesmen for the long-suffering Coptic Christian population pointed out that on January 6, 2010, security had been withdrawn from a Coptic church in Nag Hammadi shortly

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Tokyo Electric to Build US Nukes

The Inside Info on Japan's Disastrous Nuclear Operators

By GREG PALAST / TRUTHOUT.COM

I need to speak to you, not as a reporter, but in my former capacity as lead investigator in several government nuclear plant fraud and racketeering investigations.

I don't know the law in Japan, so I can't tell you if Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) can plead insanity to the homicides about to happen.

But what will Obama plead? The administration asked Congress in December 2010 to provide a \$4 billion loan guarantee for two new nuclear reactors to be built and operated on the Gulf Coast of Texas — by TEPCO and local partners. As if the Gulf hasn't suffered enough. Here are the facts about TEPCO and the industry you haven't heard on CNN:

The failure of emergency systems at Japan's nuclear plants comes as no surprise to those of us who have worked in the field.

Nuclear plants the world over must be certified for what is called "SQ" or "Seismic Qualification." That is, the owners swear that all components are designed for the maximum conceivable shaking event, be it from an earthquake or an exploding Christmas card from al Qaeda.

The most inexpensive way to meet the SQ is to lie. The nuclear industry does it all the time. The government team I worked with caught them once, in 1988, at the Shoreham plant in New York. Correcting the SQ problem at Shoreham would have cost a cool billion, so engineers were told to change the tests from "failed" to "passed."

The company that put in the false safety report? Stone & Webster, now the nuclear unit of Shaw Construction, which will work with TEPCO to build the Texas plant. Lord help us.

There's more.

March 15, I heard CNN reporters repeat the official line that the tsunami disabled the pumps needed to cool the reactors, implying that water unexpectedly got into the diesel generators that run the pumps.

These safety backup systems are the "EDGs" in nuke-speak: Emergency Diesel Generators. That they didn't work in an emergency is like a fire department telling us they couldn't save a building

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Nuclear Disaster: Could It Happen Here?

By HARVEY WASSERMAN / FREEPRESS.ORG

Had the massive 8.9 Richter-scale earthquake that has just savaged Japan hit off the California coast, it could have ripped apart at least four coastal reactors and sent a lethal cloud of radiation across the entire United States.

The two huge reactors each at San Onofre and Diablo Canyon are not designed to withstand such powerful shocks. All four are extremely close to major faults.

All four reactors are located relatively low to the coast. They are vulnerable to tsunamis like those now expected to hit as many as fifty countries.

San Onofre sits between San Diego and Los Angeles. A radioactive cloud spewing from one or both reactors there would do incalculable damage to either or both urban areas before carrying over the rest of southern and central California.

Diablo Canyon is at Avila Beach, on the coast just west of San Luis Obispo, between Los Angeles and San Francisco. A radioactive eruption there would pour into central California and, depending on the winds, up to the Bay Area or southeast into Santa Barbara and then to Los Angeles. The cloud would at the very least permanently destroy much of the region on which many Americans rely for

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Health: Foods High in Iodine

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Eight Foods Rich in Iodine

Even if you are not concerned about radioactive fallout from the Japanese reactors, iodine is an important element of your diet

By DR. EDWARD GROUP / GLOBAL HEALING CENTER

Iodine is an essential trace mineral crucial in the functioning of the thyroid gland, an organ that stores the minerals needed for the synthesis of our thyroid hormones. It is important to get adequate amounts of iodine in your diet to ensure the proper functioning of this vital gland which controls much of our metabolism, detoxification, growth and development.

Research has shown that a lack of iodine foods in your diet may lead to enlargement of the thyroid gland, lethargy, fatigue, weakness of the immune system, slow metabolism, autism, weight gain and possibly even mental states such as anxiety and depression.

The good news is that there are many popular foods with iodine, all of which are easy to incorporate into your daily diet.

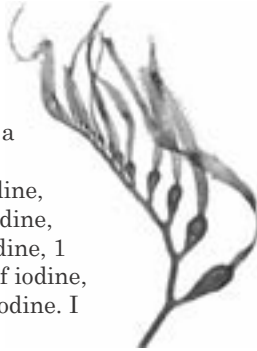
The Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) for iodine is 150 micrograms daily for everybody over the age of 14. The RDA for children ages 1-8 is 90/mcg every day, ages 9-13 is 120/mcg every day. If you're pregnant or breastfeeding, it is recommended that you get 290/mcg every day.

The following list will discuss the top foods with iodine.

1. Sea vegetables

The ocean hosts the largest storehouse for iodine foods, including Kelp, Arame, Hiziki, Kombu, and Wakame. Kelp has the highest amount of iodine on the planet and one serving offers 4 times more than a daily minimum requirement.

1 tablespoon of Kelp contains about 2000/mcg of iodine, 1 tablespoon of Arame contains about 730/mcg of iodine, 1 tablespoon of Hiziki contains about 780/mcg of iodine, 1 one inch piece of Kombu contains about 1450/mcg of iodine, 1 tablespoon of Wakame contains about 80/mcg of iodine. I recommend sprinkling them in soups or on salads.



2. Cranberries

This antioxidant rich fruit is another great source of iodine. About 4 ounces of cranberries contain approximately 400/mcg of iodine. I would recommend buying fresh organic berries or juice. If you buy cranberry juice from the store, be cautious of how much sugar is in it.

3. Organic Yogurt

A natural probiotic, yogurt is an excellent iodine food you should add to your diet. One serving holds more than half of your daily needs. 1 cup contains approximately 90/mcg of iodine.



4. Organic Navy Beans

Many beans are a great food source of iodine, but navy beans may top the list. Just 1/2 cup of these beans contain about 32/mcg of iodine. Beans aren't just an iodine food; they are also incredibly high in fiber.



5. Organic Strawberries

This tasty red fruit packs up to 10% of our daily iodine needs in a single serving. One cup of fresh strawberries has approximately 13/mcg of iodine. Try buying fresh, organic strawberries from your local farmer's market.



6. Himalayan Crystal Salt

This form of salt, also known as gray salt is an excellent source of naturally-occurring iodine. While many types of table salt are iodine-enriched, they are also stripped of all their natural health properties, and are chemically processed. Just one gram of Himalayan salt contains approximately 500/mcg of iodine.

7. Dairy products

Milk and cheese are good sources of iodine, with one cup of milk holding around 55/mcg. To avoid many of the negative digestive effects of eating cow's milk and cheese, I personally would recommend opting for raw organic goat's milk and goat's cheese; a healthier alternative for extracting iodine from dairy.



8. Potatoes

The common potato is an easy addition to most meals, and is one of the richest sources of iodine in the vegetable kingdom. With the skin, one medium-sized baked potato holds 60/mcg of iodine.



Taking Iodine Supplements

If you're not a fan of the iodine foods listed above, then you can always take an iodine supplement. There are many different types of iodine supplements on the market, so knowing the differences between each is wise. I personally recommend taking a nascent iodine supplement, which the body is able to rapidly turn into its own effective mineral iodides for absorption throughout the body.

Dr. Edward Group founded Global Healing Center in 1998. Dr. Group has studied natural healing methods for over 20 years and now teaches individuals and practitioners all around the world. Under his leadership, Global Healing Center, Inc. has earned recognition as one of the largest alternative, natural and organic health resources on the Internet.

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UN to Investigate Kosovo Liberation Army's 1999 Murder of Serb Civilians for their Organs

KOSOVO from p. 1

Vlora Citaku, representing Prime Minister Hashim Thaci, attempted to ridicule and discredit the Marty Report as "free with its imagination but failing to provide any proof whatsoever." She insisted that EULEX (the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo) should investigate Hashim Thaci's alleged war crimes with no involvement of the UN Security Council.

Serbian Foreign Minister Vuc Jeremic stated:

"The Council of European Parliamentary Assembly on January 25, 2011 approved a deeply disturbing report entitled Inhuman Treatment of People and Illicit Trafficking in Human Organs in Kosovo...based on a number of testimonial accounts and what are characterized as the compelling findings of a number of European intelligence and law enforcement agencies together with analysis produced for NATO. It is particularly disturbing that as far back as 1999, to quote from the report, 'international actors chose to turn a blind eye to the war crimes of the Kosovo Liberation Army'. The report concludes by saying that 'certain crimes committed by members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, including some top Kosovo Liberation Army leaders, were effectively concealed and have remained unpunished.'"

"That report states that the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army Drenica Group engaged in money laundering and smuggling of drugs, cigarettes and weapons, as well as human trafficking, and that it bears primary responsibility for the fate of many hundreds of kidnapped civilians...sent from Kosovo to secret detention camps in Northern Albania, where many of them were singled out for forced surgery before being murdered. Their internal organs were extracted and sold on the international black market."

"The report indicates that these events took place before, during, and after the 1999 armed conflict in Kosovo...explicitly identifies Hashim Thaci, Kosovo's sitting Prime Minister, as the group's leader, and lists a number of prominent personalities, including Xhavit Haliti, a senior official of the ruling Democratic Party of Kosovo; Dr. Azam Sylja; and Fatmir Limaj, the Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, as having played vital roles as co-conspirators in various categories of criminal activity. It also identifies Dr. Shaip Muja, one of Thaci's current close advisers, as a leading co-conspirator in the trafficking of human organs."

"For justice to be done, a full and independent criminal investigation of the reported allegations is essential...It must also be able to provide an effective witness protection and relocation program to guarantee credible testimony by all. This is an acute problem in Kosovo, for fear, often to the point of genuine terror" was observed in some of our informants as soon as the subject of our inquiry was broached."

"It is the position of the Republic of Serbia that the solution lies in establishing an ad hoc investigating mechanism created by and accountable to the Security Council. This has been the case in all previous instances involving war

crimes in the Balkans, whichever side the perpetrators belonged to, and irrespective of their political role. It is only through the action of the Security Council that we can prevent the onset of a perception of double standards in the administration of criminal justice. Maintaining a coherent approach on the issue of war crimes is an essential component in the common effort to consolidate peace and stability in the Balkans."

Jeremic insisted that the UN Security Council, with its global mixture of members, be the ultimate guarantor of this investigation into war crimes of which Orthodox Christian Serbs were victims because it is more likely to adjudicate impartially. It includes Orthodox-Christian-friendly Russia, along with China and Gabon—all of whom support UN involvement in the investigation.

EULEX, Vlora Citaku's choice to control the investigation, excludes Russia. It is an organization of the predominantly Catholic and Protestant European Union heavily influenced by the Vatican and historically predisposed against impartiality toward the minority Orthodox Christian Serbians.

During WWII, the Croatian Nazi Ustashe and members of the Roman Catholic clergy, commanded by Archbishop Stepanic—appointed by Pope Pius XII, exterminated almost one million Serbs in the Jasenovac concentration camp.



In 1993, Vladimir Dedijer, Serbian delegate from Yugoslavia to the UN and co-chair of the International Tribunal on War Crimes, published The Yugoslav Auschwitz and the Vatican, documenting the horrors of the massacre of Orthodox Serbs, carried out essentially by the Catholic Church with the Croatian Ustashe.

In the translator's preface, Dedijer states: "In contrast to Auschwitz, the reason for the Yugoslav concentration camp not finding its way into school history books becomes clear immediately when one knows the fascists' accomplices. What is supposed to be hushed up is in no way another crime committed by the Nazis or their Yugoslav accomplices, but rather the leading role played by the Catholic Church in the slaughters carried out not only in Jasenovac, but also in all of Yugoslavia, in which a total of over 800,000 people lost their lives. In contrast to Hitler who lost the war, the Church has maintained its position of power until today more or less unchanged and employs its entire available means to keep its recent crimes under cover."

The Serbs realize that they are fair game in the West. They believe their only hope for justice is an investigation monitored by the UN Security Council.

Carla Stea covers the UN for the Creek. She has written for Covert Action, and War and Peace Digest, also in Komsomolskaya Pravda in the Soviet Union, and in Rabochaya Tribuna and Sovetskaya Rossia, in Russia. Stea also holds press accreditation at the US Dept. of State.



Tokyo Electric to Build US Nuclear Plants

Info on Japan's Disastrous Nuclear Operators

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because "it was on fire."

What dim bulbs designed this system? One of the reactors dancing with death at Fukushima Station 1 was built by Toshiba. Toshiba was also an architect of the emergency diesel system.

Now be afraid. Obama's \$4 billion bailout in the making is called the South Texas Project. It's been sold as a red-white-and-blue way to make power domestically with a reactor from Westinghouse, a great American brand. However, the reactor will be made substantially in Japan by the company that bought the Westinghouse brand name — Toshiba.

I once had a Toshiba computer. I only had to send it in once for warranty work. However, it's kind of hard to mail back a reactor with the warranty slip inside the box if the fuel rods are melted and sinking halfway to the earth's core.

TEPCO and Toshiba don't know what my son learned in eighth grade science class: tsunamis follow Pacific Rim earthquakes. So, these companies are real stupid, eh? Maybe. More likely is that the diesels and related systems wouldn't have worked on a fine, dry afternoon.

Back in the day, when we checked the emergency backup diesels in America, a mind-blowing number flunked. At the New York nuclear plant, for example, the builders swore under oath that their three diesel engines were ready for an emergency. They'd been tested. The tests were faked; the diesels run for just a short time at low speed. When the diesels were put through a real test under emergency-like conditions, the crankshaft on the first one snapped in about an hour, then the second and third. We nicknamed the diesels, "Snap, Crackle and Pop."

(Note: Moments after I wrote that sentence, word came that two of three diesels failed at the Tokai Station as well.)

In the US, we supposedly fixed our diesels after much complaining by the industry. But in Japan, no one tells TEPCO to do anything the Emperor of Electricity doesn't want to do.

I get lots of confidential notes from nuclear industry insiders. One engineer, a big name in the field, is especially concerned that Obama waved the come-hither check to Toshiba and TEPCO to lure them to America. The US has a long history of whistleblowers willing to put themselves on the line to save the public. In our racketeering case in New York, the government only found out about the seismic test fraud because two courageous engineers, Gordon Dick and John Daly, gave our team the documentary evidence.

In Japan, it's simply not done. The culture does not allow the salary men, who work all their lives for one company, to drop the dime.

Not that US law is a wondrous shield: both engineers in the New York case were

fired and blacklisted by the industry. Nevertheless, the government (local, state, federal) brought civil racketeering charges against the builders. The jury didn't buy the corporation's excuses and, in the end, the plant was, thankfully, dismantled.

Am I on some kind of xenophobic anti-Nippon crusade? No. In fact, I'm far more frightened by the American operators in the South Texas nuclear project, especially Shaw. Stone & Webster, now the Shaw nuclear division, was also the firm that conspired to fake the EDG tests in New York. (The company's other exploits have been exposed by their former consultant, John Perkins, in his book, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*.) If the planet wants to shiver, consider this: Toshiba and Shaw have recently signed a deal to become worldwide partners in the construction of nuclear stations.

The other characters involved at the South Texas Plant that Obama is backing should also give you the willies. But as I'm in the middle of investigating the American partners, I'll save that for another day.

So, if we turned to America's own nuclear contractors, would we be safe? Well, two of the melting Japanese reactors, including the one whose building blew sky high, were built by General Electric of the Good Old US of A.

After Texas, you're next. The Obama administration is planning a total of \$56 billion in loans for nuclear reactors all over America.

And now, the homicides: CNN is only interested in body counts, how many workers burnt by radiation, swept away or lost in the explosion. These plants are now releasing radioactive steam into the atmosphere. Be skeptical about the statements that the "levels are not dangerous." These are the same people who said these meltdowns could never happen. Over years, not days, there may be a thousand people, two thousand, ten thousand who will suffer from cancers induced by this radiation.

In my New York investigation, I had the unhappy job of totaling up post-meltdown "morbidity" rates for the county government. It would be irresponsible for me to estimate the number of cancer deaths that will occur from these releases without further information; but it is just plain criminal for the TEPCO shoguns to say that these releases are not dangerous.

Indeed, the fact that residents near the Japanese nuclear plants were not issued iodine pills to keep at the ready shows TEPCO doesn't care who lives and who dies, whether in Japan or the US. The carcinogenic isotopes that are released at Fukushima are already floating to Seattle with effects we simply cannot measure.

Heaven help us. Because Obama won't.

Greg Palast is the author of the New York Times bestseller, *Armed Madhouse* (Penguin Paperback 2007).

Nuclear Disaster:

Could It Happen Here?



DISASTER from p. 1

their winter supply of fresh vegetables.

By the federal Price-Anderson Act of 1957, the owners of the destroyed reactors — including Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison — would be covered by private insurance only up to \$11 billion, a tiny fraction of the trillions of dollars worth of damage that would be done. The rest would become the responsibility of the federal taxpayer

and the fallout victims. Virtually all homeowner insurance policies in the United States exempt the insurers from liability from a reactor disaster.

The most definitive recent study of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster puts the death toll at 985,000. The accident irradiated a remote rural area. The nearest city, Kiev, is 50 miles away.

But San Luis Obispo is some ten miles

directly downwind from Diablo Canyon. The region around San Onofre has become heavily suburbanized.

Heavy radioactive fallout spread from Chernobyl blanketed all of Europe within a matter of days. It covered an area far larger than the United States.

Fallout did hit the jet stream and then the coast of California, thousands of miles away, within ten days. It then carried all the way across the northern tier of the United States.

Chernobyl Unit Four was of comparable size to the two reactors at Diablo Canyon, and somewhat larger than the two at San Onofre

But it was very new when it exploded. California's four coastal reactors have been operating since the 1970s and 1980s. Their accumulated internal radioactive burdens could exceed what was spewed at Chernobyl.

Japanese officials say all affected reactors automatically shut, with no radiation releases. But they are not reliable. In 2007, a smaller earthquake rocked the seven-reactor Kashiwazaki site and forced its lengthy shut-down.

Preliminary reports indicate at least one fire at a Japanese reactor hit by this quake and tsunami.

In 1986, the Perry nuclear plant, east of Cleveland, was rocked by a 5.5 Richter-scale shock, many orders of magnitude weaker than this one. That quake broke pipes and other key equipment within the plant. It took out nearby roads and bridges.

Thankfully, Perry had not yet opened. An official Ohio commission later warned that evacuation during such a quake would be impossible.

Numerous other American reactors sit on or near earthquake faults.

The Obama Administration is now asking Congress for \$36 billion in new loan guarantees to build more commercial reactors.

It has yet to reveal its exact plans for dealing with a major reactor disaster. Nor has it identified the cash or human reserves needed to cover the death and destruction imposed by the reactors' owners.

Harvey Wasserman edits *NukeFree.org*. He is Senior Advisor to Greenpeace USA and the Nuclear Information & Resource Service. He co-authored *Killing Our Own: The Disaster of America's Experience with Atomic Weapons*. Hear his additional thoughts about the nuclear disaster with "Riding the Wave".

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Stealing from Social Security to Pay for Wars and Bailouts

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

The American Empire is failing. A number of its puppet rulers are being overthrown by popular protests, and the almighty dollar will not even buy one Swiss franc, one Canadian dollar, or one Australian dollar. Despite the sovereign debt problem that threatens EU members Greece, Ireland, Spain, and Portugal, it requires \$1.38 dollars to buy one euro, a new currency that was issued in 1999 at parity with the US dollar.

The US dollar's value is likely to fall further in terms of other currencies, because nothing is being done about the US budget and trade deficits. Obama's budget, if passed, doesn't reduce the deficit over the next ten years by enough to cover the projected deficit in the FY 2012 budget.

Indeed, the deficits are likely to be substantially larger than forecast. The military/security complex, about which President Eisenhower warned Americans a half century ago, is more powerful than ever and shows no inclination to halt the wars for US hegemony.

The cost of these wars is enormous. The US media, being good servants for the government, only reports the out-of-pocket or current cost of the wars, which is only about one-third of the real cost. The actual current cost leaves out the cost of lifelong care for the wounded and maimed, the cost of lifelong military pensions of those who fought in the wars, the replacement costs of the destroyed equipment, the opportunity cost of the resources wasted in war, and other costs. The true cost of America's illegal Iraq invasion, which was based entirely on lies, fabrications and deceptions, is at least \$3,000 billion (\$3 trillion) according to economist Joseph Stiglitz and budget expert Linda Bilmes.

The same for the Afghan war, which is ongoing. If the Afghan war lasts as long as the Pentagon says it needs to, the cost will be a multiple of the cost of the Iraq war.

There is not enough non-military discretionary spending in the budget to cover the cost of the wars even if every dollar is cut. As long as the \$1,200 billion (\$1.2 trillion) annual budget for the military/security complex is off limits, nothing can be done about the US budget deficit except to renege on obligations to the elderly, confiscate private assets, or print enough money to inflate away all debts.

The other great contribution to the US deficit is the off-shoring of production for US markets. This practice has enriched corporate management, large shareholders, and Wall Street, but it has eroded the tax base, and thereby tax collections, of local, state, and federal government, halted the growth of real income for everyone but the rich, and disrupted the lives of those Americans whose jobs were sent abroad. When short-term and long-term discouraged workers are added to the U.3 measure of unemployment, the US has an unemployment rate of 22%. A country with more than one-fourth of its work force unemployed has a shrunken tax base and feeble consumer purchasing power.

To put it bluntly, the \$3 trillion cost of the Iraq war, as computed by Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes, is 20% of the size of the US economy in 2010. In other words, the Iraq war alone cost Americans one-fifth of the 2010 gross domestic product. Instead of investing the resources, which would have produced income and jobs growth and solvency for state and local governments, the US government wasted the equivalent of 20% of the production of the economy in 2010 in blowing up infrastructure and people in foreign lands. The US government spent a huge sum of money committing war crimes, while millions of Americans were thrown out of their jobs and foreclosed out of their homes.

The bought-and-paid-for Congress had no qualms about unlimited funding for war, but used the resulting "debt crisis" to refuse help to American citizens who were out of work and out of their homes.

The obvious conclusion is that "our" government does not represent us.

The US government remains a champion of off-shoring, which it calls "globalism." According to the US government and its shills among "free market" economists, destroying American manufacturing and the tax bases of cities, states, and the federal government by moving US jobs and GDP offshore is "good for the economy." It is "free trade."

It is the same sort of "good" that the US government brings to Iraq and Afghanistan by invading those countries and destroying lives, homes and infrastructures. Destruction is good. That's the way our government and its shills see things. In America, destruction is done with jobs off-shoring, financial deregulation, and fraudulent financial instruments. In Iraq and Afghanistan (and now Pakistan), it is done with troops, bombs and drones.

Where is all this leading?

It is leading to the destruction of Social Security and Medicare.

Republicans have convinced a large percentage of voters that America is in trouble, not because it wastes 20% of the annual budget on wars of aggression and Homeland Security porn-scanners, but because of the poor and retirees.

Pundits scapegoat the middle class and blame the struggling middle along with the poor and retirees. Fareed Zakaria, for example, sees no extravagance in a trillion dollar military budget. The real money, he says, is in programs for the middle class, and the middle class "will immediately punish any [politician] who proposes spending cuts in any middle class program." [CNN Transcript February 21, 2010] What does Zakaria think the military/security complex will do to any politician who cuts the military budget? As a well-paid shill, he had rather not say.

Andrew Sullivan also has no concept of reductions in military/security subsidies: "they're big babies. I mean, people keep saying they don't want any tax increases, but they don't want to have their Medicare cut, they don't want to have their Medicaid [cut] or they don't want to have their Social Security touched one inch. Well, it's about time someone tells them, you can't have it, baby."

Niall Ferguson thinks that Americans are so addicted to wars that the US government will default on Social Security and Medicare.

Republicans tell us that our grandchildren are being saddled with impossible debt burdens because of handouts to retirees and the poor. \$3 trillion wars are necessary and have nothing to do with the growth of the public debt. The public debt is due to unnecessary "welfare" that workers paid for with a 15% payroll tax.

When you hear a Republican sneer "entitlement," he or she is referring to Social Security and Medicare, for which people have paid 15% of their wages for their working lifetime. But when a Republican sneers, he or she is saying "welfare." To the

distorted mind of a Republican, Social Security and Medicare are undeserved welfare payments to people who over-consumed for a lifetime and did not save for their old age needs.

America can be strong again once we get rid of these welfare leeches.

Once we are rid of these leeches, we can really fight wars. And show people who is boss.

Republicans regard Social Security as an "unfunded liability," that is, a giveaway that is interfering with our war-making ability.

Alas, Social Security is an unfunded liability, because all the money working people put into it was stolen by Republicans and Democrats in order to pay for wars and bailouts for mega-rich bankers like Goldman Sachs.

What I am about to tell you might come as a shock, but it is the absolute truth, which you can verify for yourself by going online to the government's annual OASDI and HI reports. According to the official 2010 Social Security reports, between 1984 and 2009 the American people contributed \$2 trillion, that is \$2,000 billion, more to Social Security and Medicare in payroll taxes than was paid out in benefits.

What happened to the surplus \$2,000 billion, or \$2,000,000,000,000?

The government spent it.

Over the past quarter century, \$2 trillion in Social Security and Medicare revenues have been used to finance wars and pork-barrel projects of the US government.

Depending on assumptions about population growth, income growth and other factors, Social Security continues to be in the black until after 2025 or 2035 under the "high cost" and "intermediate" assumptions and the current payroll tax rate of 15.3% based on the revenues paid in and the interest on those surplus revenues. Under the low cost scenario, Social Security (OASDI) will have produced surplus revenues of \$31.6 trillion by 2085.

When I was Ronald Reagan's Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury, Deputy Assistant Secretary Steve Entin worked out a way to put Social Security on a sound basis with the current rate of payroll tax without requiring one cent of general revenues. You can read about it in chapter 9 of my book, *The Supply-Side Revolution*, which Harvard University Press has kept in print for more than a quarter century. Entin's solution, or a variation of it, would still work, so Social Security can easily be saved within the current payroll tax rate. Instead of acknowledging this incontrovertible fact, the right-wing wants to terminate the program.

Treasury was blocked from putting Entin's plan into effect by the fact that other parts of the government and the Greenspan Social Security Commission had agendas different from ensuring a sound Social Security system.

Wall Street insisted that the Reagan tax rate reductions would explode consumer spending, cause inflation and destroy the values of stock and bond portfolios. When inflation collapsed instead of exploding, Wall Street said that the deficits, which resulted from inflation's collapse, would cause inflation and destroy the values of stock and bond portfolios. This didn't happen either.

Nevertheless, the Greenspan commission played to these mistaken fears. The "Reagan deficits" could not cause inflation, because they were the result of the unanticipated collapse of inflation (anticipated only by supply-side economists). As I demonstrated in a paper published in the 1980s in the US, UK, Japan, Germany, Italy, and other countries, tax revenues were below the forecast amounts because inflation, and thus nominal GNP, were below forecast. The collapse of inflation also made real government spending higher than intended as the spending figures in the five-year budget were based on higher inflation than was realized.

The subsidy to the US government from the payroll tax is larger than the \$2 trillion in excess revenue collections over payouts. The subsidy of the Social Security payroll tax to the government also includes the fact that \$2.8 trillion of US government debt obligations are not in the market. If the national debt held by the public were \$2.8 trillion larger, so would be the debt service costs and most likely also the interest rate.

The money left over for war would be even smaller. More would have to be borrowed or printed.

The difference between the \$2 trillion in excess Social Security revenues and the \$2.8 trillion figure is the \$0.8 trillion that is the accumulated interest over the years on the mounting \$2 trillion in debt, if the Treasury had had to issue bonds, instead of non-marketable IOUs, to the Social Security Trust Fund. When the budget is in deficit, the Treasury pays interest by issuing new bonds in the amount of the interest due. In other words, the interest on the debt adds to the debt outstanding.

The robbed Social Security Trust Fund can only be made good by the US Treasury issuing another \$2.8 trillion in US government debt to pay off its IOUs to the fund.

When a government is faced with a \$14 trillion public debt growing by trillion dollar deficits as far as the eye can see, how does it add another \$2.8 trillion to the mix?

Only with great difficulty.

Therefore, to avoid repaying the \$2.8 trillion that the government has stolen for its wars and bailouts for mega-rich bankers, the rightwing has selected entitlements as the sacrificial lamb.

A government that runs a deficit too large to finance by borrowing will print money as long as it can. When the printing press begins to push up inflation and push down the exchange value of the dollar, the government will be tempted to reduce its debt by reneging on entitlements or by confiscating private assets such as pension funds. When it has confiscated private assets and reneged on public obligations, nothing is left but the printing press.

We owe the end-time situation that we face to open-ended wars and to an unregulated financial system concentrated in a few hands that produces financial crises by leveraging debt to irresponsible levels.

The government of the United States does not represent the American people. It represents the oligarchs. The way campaign finance and elections are structured, the American people cannot take back their government by voting. A once proud and free people have been reduced to serfdom.

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*.



Senate Bill 5 ... First They Came for the Trade Unionists

By BOB FITRAKIS

Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) apologized after giving a speech on the Senate floor March 4 where he stated the obvious, that Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin and Egyptian President Mubarak all crushed independent labor unions. No need to apologize, Senator Brown. The Republicans never do, as they endorse the policies of union busters. The only thing, Senator, you should be mildly chagrined about, is failing to point out Ohio Governor John Kasich and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's similarities to Mussolini's fascism.

As Kasich takes money from the new corporate robber barons — the Koch brothers and Rupert Murdoch — let's quote Mussolini directly: "Fascism should more appropriately be called Corporatism because it is a merger of state and corporate power." Kasich has just won his battle to privatize economic development in Ohio. Again, the more accurate word would be "corporatize."

The tyrants of the Left and Right like Stalin and Hitler had to destroy trade unionism in order to create totalitarian governments. Independent labor unions are an essential countervailing power in a democratic society. Unions allow people — be they police officers, firefighters, teachers, janitors, or auto workers — to organize and bargain collectively around their own economic interests.

Senator, you are absolutely correct that Hitler destroyed the trade unions in order to destroy democracy. When the general elections for the Reichstag of March 5, 1933 gave Hitler's Nazi Party only 33% of the vote and his rightwing coalition government a slim majority, Hitler went after his political opponents. His brownshirt Nazi thugs destroyed the trade union association ADGB (Allgemeiner Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund) on May 2, 1933. They simply stormed union facilities, arrested and imprisoned union leaders. Other key trade unions were forced to merge into the Hitler-controlled German Labor Front.

So, first they come for the trade unionists because the labor notion of solidarity includes all people, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, and age. Before Hitler could lock up the Jews, gypsies, gays and others, he had to shatter the one organization that sings and believed in the song "Solidarity Forever." The unions must be destroyed because they know that "an injury to one is an injury to all" and they demand the same rights of contract protected in the US Constitution and essential to corporate business. They know that united, they bargain for wages, salaries and working conditions, and that disunited, they beg.

Kasich, Walker and the Koch brothers

idolize a world wherein unnatural persons (corporations) control the state. This is the dream of Mussolini. It should not escape us that Kasich, Walker and the Koch brothers hate liberalism and the ideas of tolerance and reason that it has historically promoted. Let us again quote Mussolini directly: "Fascism is definitely and absolutely opposite to the doctrines of liberalism."

If we look realistically upon what is happening in our nation — the attacks on liberalism, intolerance, imperialist occupation of Iraq, the endless war over oil in Afghanistan, a military greater in firepower than Hitler's in 1939, according to the *New York Times* — why not call it what it is: Fascism.

Sure we can quibble, Senator Brown, and use Bertram Gross's term "friendly fascism." Writing in 1980, Gross, who had worked for the US government, noted that "in the United States, it points toward more concentrated, unscrupulous, repressive, and militaristic control by a big business-big government partnership..." It exists, and "...squelches the rights and liberties of other people both at home and abroad. That is friendly fascism."

The parallels between Kasich, who received less than a majority of the vote, and Mussolini and Hitler are all too clear. Take your meager mandate and smash the only countervailing power that middle-class people have — their trade union organizations. Kasich has spent a lifetime serving wealthy and secretive interests. Earlier in his career Kasich served Richard Nixon and Rev. Sun Myung Moon, two shadowy, paranoid figures — one willing to do anything to be president and one claiming to be the Messiah. Later in his career, Kasich served Rupert Murdoch at News Corp and the firm of Lehman Brothers which sold junk assets, made billions, and helped destroy the US economy before going out of business.

I think I have a reasonable compromise for Senator Brown: agree to apologize for your references to Hitler and Stalin when Kasich agrees to quit acting like them or stop thinking he's the reincarnation of Mussolini. Kasich's actions are those of a fascist movement.

Bob Fittrakis is the editor of the Free Press and ran against Kasich for Congress in 1992. Originally published by <http://freepress.org>.



A Nation Stripped Bare: Fascism Has Come to America

By CHRIS FLOYD

It is a question that has sparked much debate, at least in certain rare quadrants where the unvarnished reality of the American imperium is recognized. But surely now the debate is over. Question it no more; the supposition, the fear, the heartbreaking intimidation is a fact. It is real. It is here.

Fascism has come to America.

And no, it didn't come in jackboots. It didn't come in massed, marching ranks. It didn't come in greasy-haired frothers ranting on a stage.

It came with cool. It came with savvy. It came wearing the mask of past evils redeemed by the image of a persecuted minority elevated to power. It came spouting scripture, hugging bright children, quoting pop music, sporting pricey leisure threads.

It came on Facebook, it came with 269 cable channels blazing, with I-Pad apps offering Catholic confession and YouTube porn. It came with the Super Bowl, with de la Renta gowns on the Oscar carpet, with 36 brands of dips and chips on the bulging shelves of your local Walmart.

It came right in the midst of your ordinary life, as you went to work — or looked for work — as you partied, as you courted, as you watched TV, as you worshipped, as you studied, as you played, as you went about the business of being human.

As you went about the business of being human, this inhuman thing has come. It has come in your name, wrapped in your flag, claiming your security as its *raison d'être*.

And in the guise of a young, hip, educated progressive, it has just now declared that anyone who reveals any hidden evil committed by the fascist state is subject to prosecution for a capital crime. That's right. It has revealed that you — you American citizen, you patriot, you believer in goodness and justice and genuine democracy — you can be killed by the government if you tell the truth.

This is what the administration of President Barack Obama has demonstrated — indeed, has proudly proclaimed — in its treatment of the young man it is avowedly, openly torturing for telling the truth about American war crimes, Bradley Manning. There can be no mistaking the meaning, implications and import of Barack Obama's actions.

PFC Bradley Manning has been charged with leaking "classified material," including a video posted on WikiLeaks that showed American forces gleefully shooting up Iraqi civilians from a helicopter gunship in 2007. Manning is also alleged to have obtained thousands of other files detailing crimes, corruption, cover-ups, lies and deceit by American forces and American diplomats around the world.

Although American officials have repeatedly said that none of leaks attributed to Manning and to WikiLeaks have caused any bodily harm to any agent of American imperial power around the world, Manning is being accused of "threatening national security" and "aiding the enemy."

And who, pray tell, is the "enemy" being aided by the expression of truth? On March 3, the Pentagon very helpfully spelled it out to the *New York Times*:

"The charge sheet did not explain who 'the enemy' was, leading some to speculate that it was a reference to WikiLeaks. On March 3, however, the military said that it instead referred to any hostile forces that could benefit from learning about classified military tactics and procedures."

It could not be clearer. The release of any information that the American government declares might be of any use whatsoever to any possible "hostile" force — real, imagined, or possibly run by American provocateurs — somewhere in the world at some point in time is a crime that can be punishable by death. Thus any person or any entity that reveals embarrassing or criminal facts that the government wishes to keep hidden now stands in the shadow of death.

If that is not fascism, there has never been such a thing on the face of the earth.

To be sure, American officials say that

See FACISM p. 7

The Archdruid Report The Limits of Incantation

By JOHN MICHAEL GREER

Since I started talking about the end of the industrial age in this blog, not quite five years ago, a fair number of my readers have had some difficulty imagining what industrial decline would look like in practice. That's been a hard question to answer, not least because the notion that the only possible futures are progress or catastrophe has been repeated so often that it's become integral to most contemporary worldviews.

Still, events have taken care of the matter. Readers of this blog who still want to know what the decline of an industrial civilization looks like need only take a good look at the latest news.

I could pull out any number of examples from the ongoing flurry of current affairs, but the ones that come readiest to mind are also the ones on most people's minds these days. The cascading series of disasters in Japan is first on the list, of course. Poised unsteadily on a set of volcanic islands in one of the world's most tectonically active areas, the Japanese have been hammered by massive earthquakes and tsunamis at regular intervals since before the dawn of recorded history, with a commensurate cost in death and human suffering. There are good reasons why Japanese culture so insistently stresses the impermanence of life and the transience of worldly things.

This time, though, the ordinary convulsions of the earth and sea intersected with an aging and brittle techno-structure in ways that are amplifying the damage. Exhibit A, of course, is the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. Built in the early 1960s using a design now considered dubiously safe, and pushed past the limits of its safe working life for the usual economic reasons, the plant turned out to be just that little bit too fragile to deal with the tsunami. A breakdown in the cooling system launched a series of cascading systems failures. As I write these words, it's anyone's guess whether the emergency crews who are risking their lives in the face of potentially lethal radiation will be able to get the crisis under control, or whether a chunk of northeastern Japan will get a dusting of high-level nuclear waste.

Meanwhile, large sections of the global economy are quietly grinding to a halt, as products and components from the shattered factory belt of northeastern Japan vanish from the world's shelves. Global supply chains and just-in-time ordering turned out to have the same problem as every other attempt to improve efficiency by eliminating redundancy: they work great, until something goes wrong and you need a fallback option.

Another object lesson in the hazards of too much interconnection is coming from global stock markets, which have been slapped silly by the sensible decision of millions of Japanese to cash in their foreign investments and get some liquidity in place where it counts right now, at home. The yen is up, most stock indexes are down, and another layer of instability has been added to a global economy staggering under the blows it has already received.

Instability of another kind comes from North Africa and the Middle East. In Libya, what looked like yet another canned "color revolution" suddenly had the script torn up by Col. Muammar Qaddafi's unwillingness to play along. Whatever his failings as a person and a head of state, a lack of resolve is clearly not one of them. While Western politicians were smugly dismissing him as a has-been, Qaddafi marshalled his remaining forces, consolidated his position, and then launched a forceful military response that seems for the moment to have turned the civil war in his favor. Proponents of nouveau internet insurgencies take note: tanks, fighter planes, and infantry may be hopelessly old-fashioned, but that doesn't make them ineffective.

Facing a huge popular uprising, the ruling house of Bahrain turned to similar methods when the popular insurgent uprising occupying large sections of the capital turned violent. A call for help to neighboring monarchs brought in troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, who promptly crushed the uprising. The Saudis themselves had gotten on top of a similar rising at a much earlier stage; Western reporters in Saudi Arabia have noted with some discomfort that anyone who tried to organize protest rallies on the internet or the cell phone network could not be contacted shortly thereafter. It's not unreasonable to be appalled at such methods of repression, but it's also worth remembering that the Western heads of state who denounce them, if they were faced with the prospect of an armed insurgency in their own countries, would do exactly the same things.

Behind the spread of insurgencies across the Arab world, in turn, lies the simple mathematics of food prices. In February the cost of food worldwide passed the previous record set in 2008. To most people in America, where food accounts for a small portion of the family budget, that's an inconvenience; to most

people in the nonindustrial world, where it's not uncommon for families to spend half their income putting food on the table, it's an existential threat. Starving people do desperate things, such as trying to overthrow the local government. Autocratic governments with their backs to the wall do equally desperate things, such as calling in air strikes, or shoving dissidents out the back end of a van in the middle of the Arabian desert a couple of hundred miles from the nearest water source, doubtless with a pious wish that Allah will protect the virtuous.

So we've got technological crises, economic crises, and political crises, all driving a variety of feedback loops that intersect with other dimensions of the predicament of industrial society in ways that are hard to predict. Those of my readers who want a model for the long twilight of the industrial age may find this one useful; rinse and repeat, with occasional pauses and intensifications, and you've probably got a decent model for the next couple of centuries. Still, there's another factor in play that's worth a comment or two.

When Qaddafi refused to bow out and the insurgency in Libya tipped over into civil war, my readers will have noticed, President Obama's response was simply to proclaim, as loudly as possible, "Qaddafi must go." He had plenty of company in saying those words, but neither he nor any of his fellow heads of state did anything noticeable to make Qaddafi's departure happen. Meanwhile, Qaddafi's tanks and planes continued to pound the insurgents.

It's not as though the western powers don't have options, either, at least in theory. Any European nation much larger than Belgium could easily stop Qaddafi's offensive in its tracks and take out his air force in the bargain, and we won't even talk about what a spare US carrier group could do. For that matter, a few well-packed plane-loads of munitions landing at Benghazi would probably be enough to turn the tide of the civil war back in the insurgency's favor. The problem is that the situation in the Middle East as a whole is risky enough that any intervention, anywhere, could trigger drastic and highly unwelcome shifts in the balance of power.

At this point, after all, in the wake of the West's abandonment of longtime ally Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, the Arab nations that produce most of the world's oil have got to be asking themselves whether a sudden shift in allegiances might be in their best interests, and Western support of the Libyan insurgents would put ample frosting on top of that cake. If the Saudi monarch were to pick up the phone one fine morning, dial Beijing, and inquire about the possibility of a mutual defense pact, I doubt he'd be put on hold for long. An awareness of this possibility has to be on the minds of policymakers in Washington and Brussels. This likely has much to do with the fact that the titular commander in chief of the world's most expensive military machine has been reduced to mouthing "Qaddafi must go" as though it was an incantation.

In Japan, the same reliance on incantation is playing a significant role in the Kan administration's response to the Fukushima disaster. Right now, to be fair, the only factors that actually matter are the small team of beleaguered technicians who are struggling there at the plant, on the one hand, and the remorseless laws of nuclear physics on the other, so officials in Tokyo really have few other options. Incantations have long counted among the fine arts in Japan — it bears remembering, for example, that the imperial broadcast that announced surrender at the end of the Second World War referred to Japan's total defeat in that conflict by saying, "the war situation has developed not necessarily to Japan's advantage." When a high government official announced a few days ago that one of the containment vessels at Fukushima Dai-ichi was "not necessarily intact," in other words, those who were paying attention knew that it was time to worry — or to relocate.

Still, far and away the most colorful use of incantations in response to the Fukushima disaster has been in the media and the blogosphere here in America, where proponents of nuclear power have worked overtime to try to put their particular spin on a situation that seems to take a perverse pleasure in frustrating their efforts. It's likely that much of this is being bought and paid for by the nuclear industry, using paid internet flacks to saturate social media with a desired message has already become a standard tactic in the worlds of politics and big business.

Still, whether they've been issued by paid cyberflacks or unpaid true believers, the incantations in question make an intriguing spectacle. They started out, in the early days of the crisis, presenting rosy estimates of the situation, even claiming that the results of the tsunami showed just how safe nuclear power is. When reactor buildings started blowing up and made that last claim a bit hard to defend, insisting that the problem was a matter of one obsolete reactor design, and trotting

out various pieces of untested vaporware as the wave of the future became the order of the day. When the situation started really spiraling downhill, it was time for rants about the evils of coal, as though that's the only alternative, and then, inevitably, claims that the only alternative to nuclear power is to slink back to the caves.

There is, of course, another alternative. It's the alternative that we're all going to take anyway, as fossil fuels deplete and the various subsidies that make nuclear power and most of the other alternatives look economically viable go away forever. That alternative is to use much less energy than we do today. Here in the United States, it bears repeating, we use three times as much energy per capita as people in most European countries, to prop up a standard of living that by most measures isn't as good. Fairly modest conservation measures, of the sort discussed in recent posts here, could render every nuclear power plant in America surplus if they were applied nationwide. A more serious national effort aimed at getting down to European levels of consumption could probably manage to turn most of the coal-fired plants into museum pieces as well.

Again, this is what we're going to do anyway, whether we choose that route or not. The vast government subsidies that currently prop up not only nuclear power, but most of the rest of America's energy production and consumption, are not going to be sustainable for all that much longer. Neither, of course, are the "energy subsidies" that every other energy source derives from the immense quantities of cheap petroleum that are used to mine, transport, and provide raw materials for everything from solar panels to nuclear power plants. Equally, the American imperial presence in the Middle East and elsewhere, which currently backstops a global economic system that provides the 5% of us who live in America with 25% of the world's energy resources and around 33% of its raw materials and industrial product, has a relatively short shelf life ahead of it, and as that comes unraveled, we are all going to have to learn to live with much less.

Faced with these unpalatable prospects, and a distinct shortage of practical options for doing anything about them, it's not surprising that incantation has become the order of the day. In the twilight years of civilizations, as political, economic, and technological systems failures hamstring the ability of leaders and pressure groups alike to get their way, it's a fairly common experience. Still, as an archdruid, I have a certain professional interest in incantations, and I find it disappointing to see them applied in situations where they're not going to accomplish anything — say, to unseat a dictator who's proven his willingness to use more robust means to keep himself wedged in place, or to make a brittle, dangerous, unsustainable, overcentralized, and fantastically expensive technology like nuclear power meet the needs of a declining industrial civilization. If any of the people involved would like to learn something about the proper uses and limits of incantations, I'd be happy to provide some tips.

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Reign of Terror Unleashed in Bahrain

BAHRAIN from p. 1

Not only were Bahrain's two largest companies, Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA) and Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO) shut down, but the leadership of the General Federation of Workers Trade Unions (GFWTU) reached out to trade union federations across the Middle East and the world, posing the necessity of a regional general strike.

Bahrain's workers received immediate backing from the AFL-CIO, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the ITUC in Brussels. Support is pending from the Confederation of Arab Trade Unions.

The reckless brutality of the onslaught against the Bahraini people betrays unmistakably panic in the counsels of the discredited Bahraini ruling family but no less so within an increasingly precarious Saudi regime and among Gulf Emirates dependent upon US regional power headquartered in Bahrain.

Mass demonstrations by civilian protesters in recent days of 50,000, 60,000 and 100,000 were met by open gunfire, the widespread use of nerve gas and chemical agents that have been confirmed by doctors and medical specialists.

The pivotal role of hospitals, doctors, surgeons and ambulance crews who have, in the course of the popular uprising, devoted themselves to saving lives and treating an evergrowing stream of gravely wounded prompted a barbarous response from governmental and occupation soldiers.

Bahraini armed forces and Saudi troops took over the major hospitals. Senior medical personnel were targeted specifically. At Salmaniya Hospital and at Sitra hospital, medical staff were taken at gunpoint and held on the second floor. Emergency staff, doctors and surgeons were seized. Many were removed from the hospital at gunpoint, their fate unknown.

A senior medical consultant at Salmaniya, outspoken on atrocities inflicted by army personnel and mercenary police since the massacre of February 17, has disappeared. A noted figure in the popular uprising, this doctor was carried on the shoulders of protesters in his surgical garb as he denounced widespread torture and chemical weapons whose victims' lives he tried to salvage.

He has been targeted by the forces of repression. Where he is and if he is alive remains unknown. Doctors who denounced orders of the regime to close hospital doors to the wounded have disappeared. Since the invasion, soldiers have attacked ambulances, arresting drivers and medical crews. Wounded have been taken away and are presumed dead.

A doctor who documented the use by the military of nerve gas of US origin and who filed a report with Human Rights Watch is under threat of arrest and disappearance.

In Salmaniya and Sitra hospitals, medical personnel have been held on the second floor with many taken away by troops. Others are required to disclose the locations of their homes, villages and family members.

On March 16, sources informed a Bahraini correspondent of a major

European daily that high ranking US officials had granted *carte blanche* to the Bahraini monarchy to break the popular resistance, arrest activists and eliminate outspoken figures.

Saudi and Bahraini armed units fanned out into the countryside, backed by helicopter gunships, and opened fire on homes terrorizing communities. Eyewitnesses confirm that soldiers have gathered up wounded in the streets and in hospitals and taken them off in jeeps and military trucks.

The royal government and the



The destruction of Pearl Square, Manama, Bahrain March 19, 2010.

army claim that there are only one or two injured resulting from violent confrontations with armed demonstrators.

A number of doctors has confirmed that the army has removed the bodies from the tents of protesters in Pearl Square as they also have from hospitals. The army has been seen taking bodies out and planting weapons in their place. Weapons have been placed with bullets that do not match them.

The Bahraini military has issued statements denying the presence of the dead or injured in hospitals they occupy or in the tents of demonstrators they have assaulted.

The scale of this repression is reflected in the interior of reports by major media.

Al Jazeera cited Abdullah al-Hubaishi, in the Manama suburb of Sitra, who recounted that "many wounded protesters" were dumped on the streets. "Most of them have been shot," he informed reporters. He described these military operations succinctly: when the army and security forces spot "anybody in the road, they shoot them. If there is anybody in the road, they enter the houses."

Doctors from a hospital in Manama advised the *Wall Street Journal* that they were confronted by streams of injured: "We see injuries from beatings with heavy objects, swords, knives and rubber bullets."

Ahmed Jamal, a surgeon at Salmaniya hospital, informed the *Wall Street Journal*, "There are hundreds of minor injuries; we have seen fractured skulls as well as people suffering from gas inhalation."

Groups of armed men were seen attacking printing presses of the sole opposition newspaper. Mercenary plainclothes forces of 100,000 are seen attacking demonstrators and residents of neighborhoods and villages with clubs, hatchets and swords.

Barbara Surk and Reem Khalifa wrote in the *Associated Press* (March 17, 2011) that the "authorities detained at least six prominent opposition activists. The Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights said that those taken into custody in pre-dawn raids include Hassan Mushaima and Abdul Jalil al-Sangace, among 25 Shi'ite activists" accused of "trying to overthrow the nation's Sunni rulers."

The case had been dropped but, as the *Associated Press* states, the regime and occupying forces keep "trying to silence the opposition leaders."

The *Associated Press* adds, "The Youth Society group said others detained include Shiite activists Abdul Wahad Hussein and Hassan Hadad and Sunni liberal leader Ibrahim Sharif." Sharif's wife, Farida Guhram stated: "I saw men in black pointing a machine gun at my husband, saying just one thing: 'We are from the state security.'"

In addition, the senior opposition leader, Abdul Jalil Khalil, revealed that "Abdul Hadl al-Mokhdar of Wada was taken into custody. 'This is alarming

... our priority is to stop the bleeding of the country," Khalil said, adding that the opposition is expecting more arrests of leaders.

The *Associated Press* account of the scale of the repression is unmistakable. "Authorities have imposed a 4:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. curfew and restricted movement around the country — limiting efforts by journalists to conduct first-hand reporting."

Parts of central Manama are under full control of security forces. "Tanks and armored personnel carriers outfitted with machine guns watch over strategic intersections. Soldiers wearing black ski masks and helmets manned checkpoints and searched cars. Agents in civilian clothes patrolled wearing green vests and masks."

Soldiers and police overran protesters' encampments in Manama on March 16: "At least five people were killed in the assault on the encampment in Pearl Square."

As to the hospitals, the *Associated Press* account, if truncated, corroborates the dire accounts of medical personnel: "Doctors at the country's main hospital said the facility was controlled by security forces, blocking physicians from leaving. ... 'We are under siege,' said Nihad el-Shirawi, an intensive care doctor who said she had been working for 48 hours. 'We cannot leave, and those on-call cannot come in.' Officials in the hospital confirmed that they took in 107 injured on Wednesday alone. "Nine were in critical condition, officials in the hospital said on condition of anonymity, because they were not authorized to speak to reporters. The Salmaniya hospital also treated 322 injured ... on Tuesday [March 15], the official said."

The account on the BBC, if circumspect, provides a vivid account of the rapid disaffection of even established figures in the government:

"Bahrain's Health Minister has resigned in protest against the government's use of force, and the BBC's Caroline Hawley in Manama says Shia judges have resigned en masse. ... Senior Bahrain opposition MP Abdul Jalil Khalil, quoted by Reuters, described the crackdown as a 'war of annihilation.'"

An eyewitness told the BBC that police were firing bullets "at tents in the square and set fire to cooking oil. People began retreating and when the police saw that we were moving, they ran toward us."

The BBC corroborates the seizure of hospitals: "Sources at Salmaniya hospital said it had been surrounded by troops; no one was allowed in or out." The BBC disclosed that "the wounded are now reportedly being treated in mosques or at home." They might have added, *if* the wounded are able to reach either.

Under the sub-head "Terrified," the BBC recounts, "A doctor there told the BBC that she and her colleagues were hiding from troops who had taken over the building and were shooting at people inside the hospital, threatening the doctors with live ammunition."

"They are all around Salmaniya medical complex with their guns and they are shooting anybody," she said. Meanwhile a surgeon told the BBC's Bill Law that he had been called to a private hospital to operate on a man with gunshot wounds but was forced to turn back. He said that government reports that protesters were not being denied treatment were false.

"I am terrified," he added. *This is a genocide* directed against the Shia."

Finian Cunningham captured this reality in the *Irish Times*, (March 16, 2011): "As hundreds of injured were ferried along the corridors of Salmaniya hospital, there was an atmosphere of dread among medics that the Persian Gulf island regime had lost all restraint under international law."

"This is an all-out war against civilians who are simply demanding democracy," said a doctor. Saudi-led troops arrived in Bahrain. At the same time, the government said it would "never tolerate any disruption of social peace."

This assessment was made in the shadow of the US Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain, the central staging point for the ten-year war on Afghanistan, the twenty-year war on Iraq, and the permanent occupation of each at a cost of two million lives.

The reign of terror unleashed on the people of Bahrain and celebrated in the brutish pronouncements of a decadent feudal regime reflects its master's voice.

Ralph Schoenman has been involved in international resistance to imperialism and active in the workers' movement in the United States for many years. His books include The Hidden History of Zionism, Iraq and Kuwait: A History Suppressed. In addition to "Taking Aim," their weekly broadcast over WBAI-FM in New York, Ralph Schoenman and Mya Shone provide commentary for radio stations in many parts of the United States and Canada.

*** 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 "Pocket" Constitution.*

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AMERICA BETRAYED

When the Criminals Control the Cameras

CAMERAS from p. 1

snooping is perhaps best illustrated by 1984. In this classic dystopic vision, Orwell lays bare the potential horrors of a total surveillance society. Citizens' every movements are tracked and they are never out of sight of the all-seeing, all-hearing telescreens. When someone is acting out of line the telescreen can even bark commands at them.

Today CCTV cameras are ubiquitous, with Londoners estimated to be caught on camera 300 times a day.

CCTV cameras in England are now being equipped with loud speakers so that "anti-social behavior" can be rebuked in a child's voice.

CCTV cameras are now routinely equipped with microphones and are admittedly used by law enforcement to listen in on conversations.

IBM, another company whose German branch actively collaborated with the Nazis in World War II, is developing behavior-monitoring cameras tied to artificial intelligence computers that scan crowds for signs of "terrorist" behavior.

Walmarts and other retailers across the US are showing televised messages from the head of Homeland Security urging Americans to spy on their fellow shoppers.

And now the federal government is announcing it is ready to test technology that has been quietly installed in the back door of every broadcaster in the US allowing the President to interrupt all radio and TV broadcasts at any time.

In the 1940s, this was a nightmare vision of a totalitarian future. In 2011, it's our mundane reality.

Of course this tyranny, like every tyranny, has come cloaked in the mantle of security. The cameras, we are told, are there to keep us safe. They help solve crimes, say the mouthpieces of the technological control grid. When their presence is conspicuous, they say, they can even prevent crimes. Both claims are demonstrably false.

A 2003 study in the *Injury Prevention Journal* concluded that there was no evidence that CCTV cameras have any affect whatsoever in deterring violent crimes.

A 2007 report from Britain's own Home Office admitted that many CCTV cameras that had been installed to "monitor crime" have since been repositioned to serve solely as traffic cameras and record the license plates of passing cars.

Data obtained from the British government under a Freedom of Information Act request in 2007 showed that of the five London boroughs with the highest concentration of CCTV cameras, four of them actually had a below-average rate of apprehending criminals, whereas Sutton, one of the least CCTV-laden areas, had a well above-average apprehension rate.

A 2009 meta-analysis of 41 CCTV studies concluded that CCTV had no substantial impact on crime in the UK despite the globally unprecedented 500 million pounds that local city councils had sunk into the spy cameras in the previous decade.

These and many other studies all point to the falsity of the claims that the CCTV cameras are there for our protection. Time after time, when the facts and figures are analyzed, they show that CCTV has almost no effect in preventing or solving crimes. In the face of this evidence, it becomes all the more perplexing that CCTV surveillance has not only not been abandoned and discredited as a failed technology, but that country after country is following the UK's big brother lead and deploying more and more CCTV cameras on the streets of their cities.

This seeming paradox, like so many others, can be partially answered by the profit motive. Since the mid-1990s, UK CCTV surveillance has become a billion dollar industry. If that success can be repeated in other "markets" then the rich and well-connected stand to make a windfall from whipping the public into a crime wave hysteria and then offering the cameras as a solution.

But there is something more fundamentally troubling about this entire CCTV surveillance grid than mere hucksterism. It is the question of trust in the so-called authorities who are controlling and monitoring the systems. Not just the trust in those currently in charge of the system, but in anyone who will ever control these systems, that they will never abuse this technology or use it for their own ends.

The question of trust can be stated simply: What happens if the criminals are in charge of the cameras?

On the morning of the Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995, there were at least a dozen CCTV cameras in the direct vicinity of the Alfred P. Murrah Building that recorded the approach of the Ryder truck or captured it being parked in front of the building. A source involved in the investigation told the *LA Times* that two of the cameras showed the explosion itself and that two of them showed McVeigh exiting the truck. Yet this slam dunk evidence, evidence that would have made the conviction of McVeigh an open-and-shut case, was never produced in court. It was never shown to a jury. To this day, no member of the public has ever been allowed to see this video. Instead, it and the other surveillance tapes from the area were confiscated and classified by the FBI in the name of national security. But why?

According to the *LA Times*' source, the footage also shows a second man emerging from the cab of the Ryder truck minutes after McVeigh walked away. This man, in a baseball cap with a flame design, answered to the description of John Doe No. 2, the mysterious second suspect who has been identified by dozens of eyewitnesses, but who the FBI, after having released a composite sketch of him, now claims never existed.



A Utah-based attorney named Jesse Trentadue finally managed to sue the government for some of the CCTV tapes from the area. He was ultimately able to secure 30 different surveillance tapes, 4 of which would have had clear views of the Ryder truck's approach that morning. All four of those tapes go blank in the minutes leading up to the bombing, precisely as the truck was passing by. The official explanation: all of the tapes, every single one of them, were being "changed" at the precise moment that the truck was passing.

The tapes of the explosion and of John Doe No. 2 have still never been released. The tapes from the CCTV cameras on the Murrah Building itself, cameras whose footage was being stored off-site and thus were not destroyed in the blast, have never been acknowledged to exist.

The story of the CCTV footage in the London Underground on 7/7 is equally unbelievable.

Just days after the bombing, Andy Trotter, the deputy chief constable of British Transport Police, bragged about the CCTV network in the Underground, claiming that there would be an intense investigation to sort through the images and identify the bombers. As it turned out, the police didn't have much to look at after all.

Of the 76 cameras at King's Cross that morning, 75 were malfunctioning during the 20 minute period which was coincidentally the exact period when the four alleged bombers were passing through the station.

Luckily for investigators, the one camera that was working in the Thameslink tunnel managed to capture an image of the four accused walking two-by-two. We are told that this image is so startling that the police officer who first saw it immediately identified them as the bombers.

Amazingly, this is the last image of three of the four men. There are no images of the supposed bombers buying their tickets for their supposed suicide bombing journey. No images of any of them boarding the trains. No images of them on the trains, despite the availability of CCTV from the trains.

The movements of the bus bomber, Hasib Hussain, are equally amazing. We are told that he entered a McDonald's to insert a fresh 9V battery into his explosives, but there is no footage of this. The manager turned off the shop's cameras before he entered.

He is alleged to have taken a number 91 bus along the Euston Road, but there is no footage from the camera on the bus. The Inspector in charge of the case can no longer even remember why the police were unable to find or use the footage from the bus's cameras. They are simply unavailable.

He is alleged to have boarded the number 30 bus at Euston Station, the bus on which he is alleged to have activated his explosives, but there is no footage of this. The cameras on this bus were malfunctioning, too, and hadn't recorded anything since the previous year.

Again and again we find that the surveillance system that is there to "protect" the public has an uncanny ability to break down just as it is most needed. And even if every one of these malfunction coincidences were actually coincidences, the lesson is still plain: if the criminals control the cameras, they can cover up their own crimes.

The all-seeing eye of the surveillance state does not represent something of benefit to the public. Like any technology, the cameras themselves are neutral and can be used for good or bad. But if we sit idly by while the police state control grid is erected around us, we are ultimately putting into the hands of the authorities of this and every subsequent generation the responsibility of using these systems, and trusting that they will never abuse them.

But if history has taught us anything, it is that an overarching, central police "authority" is the last place we should put that trust.

For The Corbett Report in western Japan, I am James Corbett.

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

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has a 9/11 truth group.
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"Your government killed you."

US Starts War No. 4 in Libya

Humanitarian fig leaf can't hide real reason: Libya has largest oil deposits in Africa.

LIBYA from p. 1

forces. Such coverage provided justification for the bombing attacks starting a few hours later. The parallels to the Kuwait incubator babies hoax of 1990 were evident. Qaddafi loyalists said Saturday's fighting was caused by rebel assaults on government lines in the hopes of provoking an air attack, plus local residents defending themselves against the rebels.

At the UN vote, the Indian delegate correctly pointed out that the decision to start the war had been made on the basis of no reliable information whatsoever, since UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon's envoy to Libya had never reported to the Security Council. The bombing started shortly after a glittering Paris summit "in support of the Libyan people," where Sarkozy, Cameron, Hillary Clinton, Stephen Harper of Canada and other imperialist politicians had strutted and postured.

Token contingents from Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia were supposed to take part in the attack, but were nowhere to be seen, while some Arab states were expected to provide financial support. The minimum estimated cost of maintaining a no-fly zone over Libya for one year is estimated in the neighborhood of \$15 billion – enough to fund Women, Infants and Children (WIC) high-protein meals for impoverished US mothers and infants for two years.

From no-fly zone to regime change

The alleged purpose of the bombing was to establish a no-fly zone and to protect a force of CIA-sponsored Libyan rebels composed of the Moslem Brotherhood, elements of the Libyan government and army subverted by the CIA (including such sinister figures as former Justice Minister Mustafa Abdel-Jalil and former Interior Minister Fattah Younis), and monarchist Senussi tribesmen holding the cities of Benghazi and Tobruk. But twin ultimatums by President Obama and British premier Cameron, plus a speech by Harper, made clear that the goal was the ouster of Colonel Muammar Qaddafi and regime change in the North African oil-producing nation, whose proven reserves of crude are the largest on that continent.

Prospects for military success are uncertain, despite the apparent NATO preponderance. No clear military objective has been articulated, and disagreements about the scope of the war are likely. If Qaddafi's tanks and infantry are engaged in house to house battles with the rebels in cities like Benghazi and Tobruk, it will be hard for NATO to bring its air superiority to bear without massacring large numbers of civilians.

From hope and change to shock and awe

While Obama's action is being widely compared to the Bush-Cheney 2003 attack on Iraq, parallels to the April 1961 Bay of Pigs fiasco are also strong. In that instance, a force of anti-Castro

(AQIM), another CIA front, is trumpeting full support for the rebels on its website.

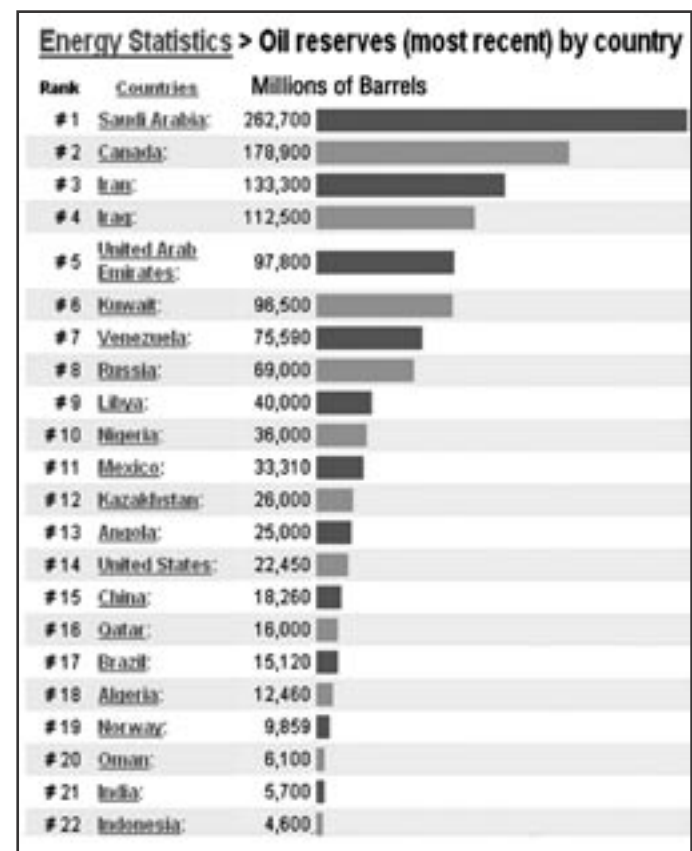
French President Nicolas Sarkozy was first to recognize the Benghazi rebels, calling for a no-fly zone and air strikes a week earlier, seconded by British Prime Minister Cameron. Until about 18 hours before the UN vote, top US officials like Secretary of State Clinton and Defense Secretary Gates were stressing the difficulties of a no-fly zone. French Foreign Minister Juppé lamented that it was already too late for a no-fly zone. Then, the US abruptly demanded a no-fly zone plus a blank check for aerial bombing. Diplomatic observers are puzzled by Obama's turnaround. Was he being blackmailed by the British and the French, the same imperialist coalition that invaded Egypt to seize the Suez Canal back in 1956? Because of Obama's decision, the US is now at war with a fourth Moslem nation after Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan. In Pakistan, the simmering conflict is threatening to escalate into the open at any time in the wake of the scandal around CIA contractor Ray Davis, accused by the Pakistanis as a terrorist controller.

The Arab League, surprising many analysts, had voted unanimously for a no-fly zone over Libya. The African Union, by contrast, has resolutely opposed foreign intervention. Western diplomats have discounted the AU position, giving rise to suspicions of racism. These are reinforced by reports that the anti-Qaddafi rebels have lynched a number of black Africans, claiming that they were mercenaries hired by Qaddafi.

Interference in Libyan internal affairs violates UN Charter
Diplomatic observers were shocked by the sweeping resolution passed by the Security Council, which allows "all necessary measures" to be used against Libya. The United Nations Charter strictly limits Chapter 7 military actions to threats to international peace and security, which Libya has never represented, but rules out interference in internal affairs of member states. The pretext cited in this case was the protection of defenseless civilians, but it is clear that the rebels constitute an armed military force in their own right. Since no state can be an aggressor on its own territory, the

fired two Scud missiles at the US Coast Guard station on the Italian island of Lampedusa, but both missed. Whether Qaddafi has used his immense oil revenues to procure more capable modern anti-ship missiles of Russian design is another question that may be answered soon. A further problem for the aggressors is the March 19 supermoon, which will illuminate the night sky for several days; the preferred time for air attacks is the dark of the new moon.

The propaganda choreography of the



current aggression, designed to mask Obama's warmonger role, requires the right-wing leaders of Britain and France, the Suez 1956 partners, to take the lead. Obama has assumed a low profile, not attending the Paris conference, not making a formal Oval Office address to the American people, and letting the French attack first. Obama is visiting Brazil. This charade is supposed to placate the anti-US hatred of the Arab street. The result is that the inferior Anglo-French military equipment and command structures may contribute to unpleasant reverses for the aggressors, particularly if Sarkozy's Napoleonic delusions lead him to meddle in military decisions.

The Panavia Tornados to be deployed by London are obsolete; seven (6 UK, 1 Italian) were shot down by Saddam Hussein during the first Gulf War twenty years ago. Eurofighter Typhoons are ultra-modern planes, but they have never been tested in real combat. The troubled French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle flies the Dassault Rafale, also largely untested in combat, plus the accident-plagued 30-year old Super-Étendard. Mirage F1s of various vintages, none recent, are expected. This equipment is vulnerable to attrition by Qaddafi's countermeasures.

Anglo-American propaganda portrays Qaddafi as a kleptocrat. In reality, Libya is one of the most advanced developing countries, ranking 53 on the UN Human Development Index, making it the most developed society in Africa. Libya ranks ahead of Russia (65), Ukraine (69), Brazil (73), Venezuela (75) and Tunisia (81). The rate of incarceration is 61st in the world, below that of the Czech Republic, and far below that of the United States (1). Longevity has increased by 20 years under Qaddafi's rule. Qaddafi, while suppressing political challenges, had shared the nation's oil income better than the rest of OPEC.

US bureaucratic resistance to the imperial overstretch involved in a war with Libya on top of the three existing conflicts may also have been overcome thanks to the activation of pro-British networks in the US government. If so, this would repeat a long-established pattern. In 1990, Margaret Thatcher claimed to have performed an emergency "backbone implant" on George H.W. Bush, convincing him to retake Kuwait from Saddam Hussein. In 1999, Tony Blair pressed for the bombing of Serbia and then for a ground invasion; Clinton wisely declined at least the latter. In September 2001, Blair helped convince Bush the younger to use the 9/11 attack as a pretext for an attack on Afghanistan. As we go to press Cameron and Obama continue this pattern by firing missiles on Libya.

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



Cubans organized by the CIA was militarily defeated in an attempt to take over Cuba, resulting in calls from Allen Dulles to President Kennedy for air strikes and a ground invasion. Kennedy rejected those calls and fired the Dulles CIA leadership. Obama, faced by the military collapse of a CIA force in Libya, has ordered such bombing, opening a second phase of the present US debacle.

The rebel region of Cerenaica has long been the scene of Moslem Brotherhood agitation against Qaddafi, much of it fomented from across the Egyptian border with US assistance. After the failed 1995 assassination attempt against the Libyan leader reported by MI-5 defector David Shayler (for which MI-6 paid £100,000 to an al Qaeda subsidiary), eastern Libya was the scene of a protracted Islamist insurrection. In the wake of events in Tunisia and Egypt, it has become clear that the CIA has stipulated a worldwide alliance against existing Arab governments with the reactionary and oligarchical Muslim Brotherhood, which was created by British intelligence in Egypt in the late 1920s. Al Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb

Security Council resolution stands in flagrant violation of the UN Charter. Russia, China, Brazil, Germany, and India abstained. The resolution contains an arms embargo against Libya, which the US is already violating by arming the rebels through Egypt.

Among US officials demanding aggression, UN ambassador Susan Rice, Samantha Power of the National Security Council and Secretary of State Clinton have shown that they are as bellicose as any neocoon of the Rumsfeld-Wolfowitz school.

The Libyan Air Force has 13 airbases and some 374 combat capable aircraft, many of them obsolete. Military observers will be watching the performance of Qaddafi's air defenses, thought to be based largely on older Russian surface to air missiles (SAMs). But Qaddafi also has mobile and hand-held SAMs. During a 1986 bombing raid on Tripoli aimed at killing Qaddafi, the US lost one F-111 to Libyan fire. The Libyan Defense Ministry has warned that Libya would retaliate against incursions by striking at air and maritime traffic over the central Mediterranean. In 1986, Libya

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Book Review

The Perfidy of Government:
Evidence vs. Denial

A Review of Three Books Worthy of Your Consideration

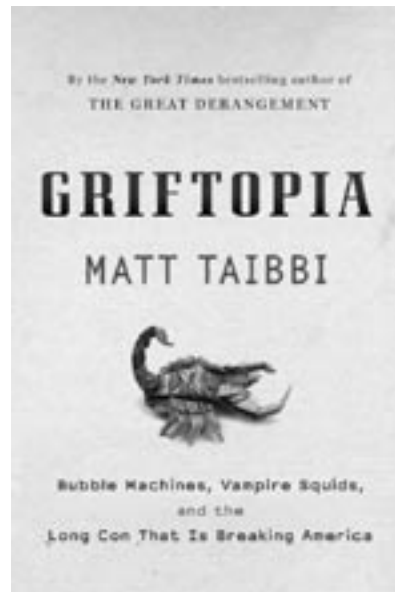
By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

This essay is about three recent books that explain how we lost our economy, the Constitution and our civil liberties, and how peace lost out to war.

Griftopia by Matt Taibbi

Matt Taibbi is the best — certainly the most entertaining — financial/political reporter in the country. There is no better book than, *Griftopia* (2010) to which to turn to understand how stupidity, greed, and criminality, spread evenly among policymakers and Wall Street, created the financial crisis that has left Americans overburdened with both private and public debt. Taibbi walks the reader through the fraudulent financial instruments that littered the American, British, and European financial communities with toxic waste. He has figured it all out, and what in other hands might be an arcane account for MBAs is in Taibbi's hands a highly readable and entertaining story.

For the first 65 pages Taibbi entertains the reader with the inability of the public and politicians to focus on any reality. The financial story begins on page 65 with Fed chairman Alan



Spiegel and Grau: Hardcover, 272p. (2010)

Greenspan undermining the Glass-Steagall Act leading to its repeal by three political stooges, Gramm-Leach-Bliley. This set the stage for the bankers to leverage debt upon debt until the house of cards collapsed. When Brooksley Born, head of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, attempted to do her regulatory job and regulate derivatives, the Federal Reserve, Treasury, and Securities and Exchange Commission got her bounced out of office, to make certain that no other regulator could protect the financial system and its participants from what was coming. Congress deregulated the derivatives markets by passing the Commodity Futures Modernization Act.

As an Ayn Randian mentality of a self-regulating private sector crowded out prudence, the media cheered. Taibbi captures the era in a sentence: "It was in the immediate wake of all these historically disastrous moves—printing 1.7 trillion new dollars in the middle of a massive stock bubble, dismantling the Glass-Steagall Act, deregulating the derivatives market, blowing off his regulatory authority in the middle of an era of rampant fraud—that Greenspan was upheld by the mainstream financial and political press as a hero of almost Caesarian nature. In February 1999, *Time Magazine* put him on the cover."

Mortgage securitization allows lenders such as banks to issue mortgages that can be sold to third parties. Instead of making money from the interest from mortgages in its portfolio, the bank issues mortgages for a fee and sells the mortgages. The mortgages are then combined with mortgages sold by other lenders and resold to investors. This development resulted in lenders being less interested in the credit-worthiness of borrowers.

In order to assure investors about credit-worthiness and to appeal to risk-tolerant hedge funds, the next development was to take a pool of mortgages of varying credit-worthiness and to organize them into three tranches. The mortgages were separated into AAA, B grade, and high-risk stuff. The triple A tranche could be sold to pension funds and institutional investors. Hedge funds would take the high-risk tranche for the high-interest rate that they offered, intending to get rid of the mortgages before they had time to go bad. The middle tranche was the one hard to sell. The interest rate on the B grade tranche was not high enough to appeal to hedge funds, and pension funds were restricted to investment grade.

So what did the banks do? Well, they lumped together all the B grade tranches

and started the process all over. The best of the lot were turned into — you guessed it — AAA, then came the B grade, and then the worst of the lot became the third tranche. And then the process was repeated.

This was bad enough, but even worse was happening. Many of the triple A and B grade mortgages had that rating only because of fraudulent credit scores and rating agencies assigning investment grade ratings to lower grade mortgages. Everyone was focused on short-term profits, from the lenders who churned out mortgages for fees to hedge funds that had no intention of holding the high-risk tranches beyond the short-run. You can see how toxic waste was spread throughout the financial system.

Then it became possible to "insure" the AAA mortgages (many of which were not AAA). Once this happened, financial institutions that were required to maintain reserves against deposits or to capitalize obligations, such as insurance policies, could now substitute higher-paying mortgage derivatives for US Treasury notes and still meet their reserve requirements for a ready cash reserve. Treasury notes are so liquid that they are considered the equivalent of cash, and insured AAA securitized mortgages acquired similar status.

AIG became the big provider of "insurance" in an operation run by Joe Cassano. Cassano's "insurance" product is called a credit default swap. It is not insurance, because AIG did not set aside capital to pay any claims. And claims there would be. Not only were the AAA mortgages that were being insured littered with toxic waste, investment banks and hedge funds could purchase swaps against mortgages that they did not even own. As Taibbi puts it, people were gambling in a casino in which gamblers did not have to cover their bets or own the financial instruments that they were insuring.

While Cassano was collecting fees for bets that he could not cover, Win Neuger on the other side of AIG was lending the insurance giant's long-term portfolio of sound investments to short-sellers for a fee.

Short-selling works like this: A short-seller thinks a company's stock price is going to fall in value. He borrows the stock from AIG by putting up collateral equal to its market price the day the stock is borrowed plus a small fee, sells the stock, pockets the money and waits for the stock to fall. If his hunch or inside information is correct, and the stock falls in value, he buys the stock and returns it to AIG, pocketing the difference in the two prices.

Normally, people who lend stock to short-sellers are content with the fee and with the interest on the collateral (cash) invested in safe instruments like Treasury bills. The lender of the stock cannot take any risk with the cash collateral, because the cash must be returned to the short-seller when he returns the borrowed stock.

Once, however, toxic waste got AAA ratings plus insurance from Cassano, higher-paying insured investment grade toxic waste could displace US Treasuries as a place for Neuger to hold the short-sellers' collateral. You can see the untenable position into which Cassano and Neuger put AIG.

Enter Goldman Sachs as a buyer of swaps from Cassano and a borrower of stocks from Neuger. Once the real estate bubble that the crazed Federal Reserve had caused popped, all the fraud that had been disguised by rising real estate prices appeared in its naked glory. AIG couldn't cover Cassano's swaps, and it could not return the collateral to short-sellers that Neuger had invested, unknowingly, in toxic waste.

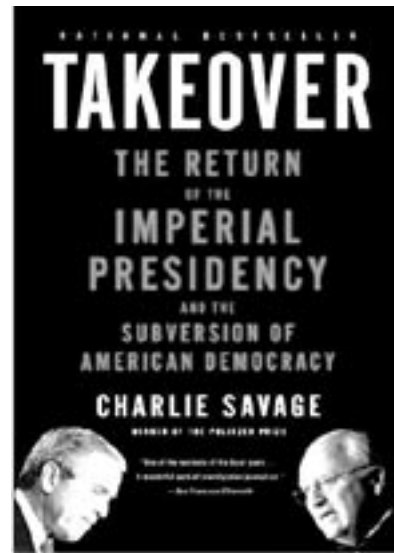
This was the origin of the TARP bailout, which was perceived by Goldman Sachs (whose former executives, as Taibbi relates, controlled the US Treasury, financial regulatory agencies, and the Federal Reserve) as an opportunity not merely to have US taxpayers make good on its exploitation of AIG, but also to fund with free capital supplied by hapless taxpayers more money-making opportunities for "banks too big to fail."

As Taibbi shows, Goldman Sachs had yet more ruin to bring to Americans. Goldman Sachs managed to get the position limits that regulation imposed on speculators (in order to prevent speculation from taking over commodity markets: for example, grains, metals, and oil) secretly repealed. This allowed Goldman Sachs to create a new product, index speculation, which brought hundreds of billions into commodity markets and drove up the price of gasoline in 2008 to \$4.50 per gallon despite the fact that there was no change in supply or consumer demand. It was entirely a profit rip-off from speculation in oil futures contracts.

From here on Taibbi's book really rolls. If the US had a media worthy of the name, instead of mere shells for private oligarchs and propagandists for government, Matt Taibbi would be the editor of an independent Wall Street Journal with a regiment of investigative reporters. Then Americans would have a prospect of reclaiming their country and their economy.

Takeover by Charlie Savage

Charlie Savage is a summa cum laude graduate of Harvard with a Master's degree in law from Yale. As a Boston Globe reporter, he documented the Bush-Cheney-Yoo-Bybee-et.al. destruction of US civil liberties and the constitutional separation of powers as they occurred during the reign of the 43rd president of the United States. Savage draws on this disillusioning experience to give us another important book, *Takeover* (2007). Savage documents completely how American civil liberty was destroyed by Dick Cheney and the traitors he was



Backbay Books: Paperback 448p. (2008)

able to place in key positions in the Bush regime.

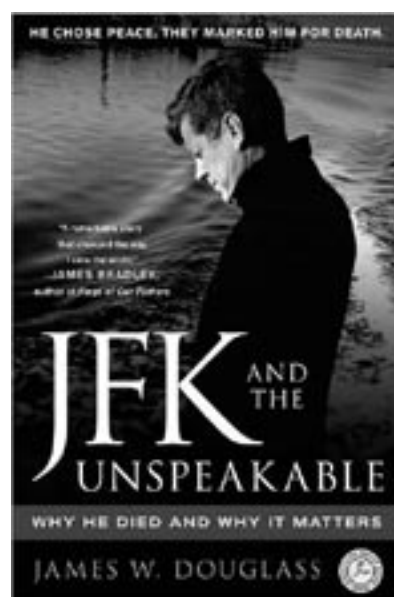
President George W. Bush, an inconsequential person, gloried in the increase in his power that the Cheney forces and the Federalist Society achieved by a fabricated doctrine of "inherent power" that allegedly resides in the presidency. This power, its tyrannical advocates assert, places the President above Congress, the Judiciary, and the law itself during times of war. The advocates of this doctrine used war to advance their claims, but actually believe that the President, as long as he is a Republican, is, in fact, a Caesar who is unaccountable.

Savage is a clear, masterful writer. He shows that the Bush/Cheney traitors have left Americans with an executive branch that is unaccountable to statutory law, treaties, international law such as the Geneva Conventions, and Congress. What one reads in *Takeover* is not opinion but documented fact. There is no better way for gullible flag-waving Americans to sober up than to read *Takeover*.

JFK and the Unspeakable by James Douglass

Anyone who has any remaining faith in the US government after reading the Taibbi and Savage books will lose it completely when they read James W. Douglass' *JFK and the Unspeakable* (2008). Douglass' book is more gripping than the best thriller or murder mystery; yet, it is based on hard evidence documented in 100 pages of footnotes. Douglass presents the solution to the greatest murder mystery of the 20th century—that of President John F. Kennedy.

Douglass is not the first to take on this task. Millions of people in the US and abroad have been convinced by years of investigation by many competent researchers that President Kennedy was murdered by his own government. What differentiates Douglass' book is that he proves it several times over with official government documents that



Touchstone: Hardcover, 560p. (2010)

have been declassified in the years that have passed, with personal and careful interviews with eye-witnesses whose testimony was excluded from the Warren Commission's report and whose mouths were shut by threats that silenced them into old age when they had nothing left to lose, and with circumstantial evidence that is so overwhelming that it could not be a mere coincidence.

See BOOKS p. 7

History's Lessons

The Last Word on Terrorism

By JAMES CORBET/THE CORBET REPORT

In an interview with Bloomberg earlier this month regarding the unfolding political unrest in Egypt, Henry Kissinger made at least one very telling statement:

"The real problem will be; what is the ultimate orientation of Egypt? Because it is in many respects the key to the region. Breaking it out of the radical camp was what brought about peace with Israel and what brought about the support for the anti-terrorist campaign. If they go back to the nationalist orientation of Nasser, then things are going to get really tough."

That Kissinger would equate Nasserism with terrorism is particularly galling to those who are even passingly familiar with the history of the region. As is typical with such pronouncements by the mouthpieces of the global elite, the easily demonstrable truth is precisely the opposite of what Kissinger asserts. He just thinks his audience is too historically ignorant to call him on his lie.

In 1952 British troops in the Suez Canal area became embroiled in a fight with local police, resulting in the slaughter of 50 Egyptian policemen and the wounding of 100 more. The furious Egyptian public, long suffering under the reign of King Farouk, a pro-British regent who lived in opulence while his people struggled, organized into riots and a cadre of Egyptian army officers calling themselves "The Free Officers Movement" overthrew the king and instituted a republic. They were led by Gamal Abdel Nasser Hussein who became the second president of Egypt in 1956.

From the beginning, Nasser was hated and feared by the international oligarchs who had become used to having a puppet regime in power over the key Suez Canal shipping route. Nasser was nothing like King Farouk. Young, charismatic and polished, Nasser set about creating a modern, secular Egyptian state that was to become the template for a new movement, Pan-Arab Nationalism, which threatened the status quo of Western imperial dominance over the region.

Foregoing the royal lifestyle of Egyptian leaders past, Nasser redirected the state's resources into building up housing, education and health services for the Egyptian people. An adherent to neutralism and the Non-aligned movement, Nasser assured the eternal enmity of the imperial powers and the eternal love of the Arab people by nationalizing the Suez Canal in 1956. For the first time the Egyptian people would have control over their most strategic asset.

Naturally, the prospect of a defiant, viable, secular Arab nationalist state as a model for other Arab nations to follow was anathema to British-US-Israeli interests, and plans to derail Nasser were hatched before he had even become President. Among these plans was the now-infamous Lavon Affair, an Israeli military intelligence plot to plant bombs throughout Egypt in order to blame on nationalists, communists, Muslims or "unspecified malcontents" in order to justify continued British occupation of the Suez Canal zone.

The Israeli military-intelligence cell, code-named Unit 131 and led by Colonel Avram Dar, firebombed a post office in Alexandria, and planted bombs in two US Information Agency libraries and a British-owned theater in Cairo. When the outrageous operation was foiled and one of the bombers was apprehended in the act, the truth was exposed. Israeli intelligence was using false-flag terrorism to manipulate public opinion and achieve their desired result: political destabilization that would induce Britain to maintain their military control over the area.

The easily-documented truth, then, is precisely the opposite of Kissinger's fact-free assertion. Nasser was not the cause of terrorism in Egypt, but the target of it. But why would someone like Kissinger, someone whose very reputation depends upon his "historical knowledge" and "political acumen," tell such a transparent lie? The answer is simple. When Kissinger uses the word "terrorism" he is not using it as a descriptive term about acts of political violence and bloodshed. He is using the word itself as a political weapon.

You see, to Kissinger and the other adherents of the globalist ideology, "terrorism" is simply a word for any act or any person or any movement



Indicted war criminal and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Heinz Kissinger should know a thing or two about terrorism, he's sponsored enough of it.

that threatens the agenda of the globalists. In this twisted worldview, those who believe that national autonomy is more important than the needs of international finance capital are terrorists. Those who are opposed to the free trade agreements that have off-shored the manufacturing base of the first world and consigned the developing world to squalor are terrorists. Those who uphold the principle that the people are the arbiters of their own lives and that these lives should not be subject to the whims of multinational corporations are terrorists.

That Nasser was so vehemently and treacherously opposed by the globalists with a vested interest in stopping a stable, secular, Arab state is not surprising, nor is it by any means the only example of this phenomenon. On the contrary, the twentieth century is littered with such examples.

In 1951 Mohammed Mossadegh, the democratically-elected leader of Iran, nationalized British Petroleum interests in the country. Two years later a CIA team led by Kermit Roosevelt, the president's grandson, provocateured, funded and fomented a coup d'état against Mossadegh, a coup that installed the autocratic Shah as leader and paved the way for SAVAK security forces to begin a reign of terror and torture. To the globalists, however, the Shah was the good guy and Mossadegh had been the terrorist.

In 1952 Jacobo Arbenz, the democratically-elected leader of Guatemala, began a series of land reforms that expropriated holdings of the United Fruit Company. In 1953 the CIA began training rebels, recruiting pilots and setting up communications to agitate a coup. The following year Arbenz was overthrown, beginning decades of military dictatorship and civil strife. In the eyes of the globalists, though, Arbenz was the terrorist.

In 1970, Salvador Allende won the Chilean elections against the US-backed and financed Jorge Alessandri. When he began nationalizing US copper firms and large industries, the US backed a coup that ended in Allende's death and the beginning of the brutal reign of General Augusto Pinochet. But in the twisted worldview of the globalists, it was not Pinochet who was the terrorist but Allende.

Numerous other examples exist, but the pattern is obvious and speaks for itself: "terrorism" is a word for anything or anyone opposed to the interests of international capital. The so-called War on Terror has never been about stopping a bunch of Islamic fundamentalists. If the US had wanted that they would have supported Nasser, not undermined him. They would have encouraged Mossadegh, not overthrown him.

If the US had been scared of the scourge of radical Islam, they would not have funded it in Afghanistan in the 1980s. They would not have protected and fostered and funded Mohammed Junaid Babar and Haroon Rashid Aswat and Luai Sakra and Khalid Almidhar and Nawaf Alhazmi and Anwar al-Awlaki and all of the patsies, stooges, informants and operatives that have been paraded in front of the cameras just long enough to identify them as the faces of evil but never long enough for anyone to actually investigate their backgrounds. Because in each and every case, the big, fabulous "terror plots" always tie back to the US-British-Israeli intelligence complex and its tentacles around the world.

No, "terrorism" is only tangentially related to these radical Muslims, and only insofar as they are funded, trained and enabled by their terrorist overlords in the corridors of Langley, Virginia.

Proof of this simple truth has been amply provided time and again since

the inception of this mythical war on terror. In the wake of mass popular protest against the globalist agenda in Seattle in 1999, in Washington and Montreal in 2000, and in Genoa in 2001, the global power elite were desperate for a way to defuse and derail their opposition. In the wake of 9/11, they had their chance. Italian plutocrat and globalist stooge Silvio Berlusconi wasted no time in attempting to use the event to blame the anti-globalization movement: "There is a singular coincidence between this action [9/11] and the anti-globalization movement that has manifested itself for a year now," he said at the time.

Other arms and organs of the elite power structure have been no less strident, if somewhat more subtle, in using the terror paradigm to stigmatize any and all opposition to their agenda.

In 2005, the RAND Corporation released a report on homegrown terror threats in which they identify the terror threat not as one of radicalized Muslims driven by religious fervor, but protestors and activists driven by opposition to the ideals of the globalists.

"Developing imperatives stemming from anti-globalization do appear to be providing a radical domestic context for galvanizing the militancy of both the far right as well as those driven by more specific extremist environmental agendas."

Since then, the entire process of demonizing political opponents through the use of the word-weapon "terrorist" has descended into the most absurd form of political farce, with a flurry of reports from the Missouri Information Analysis Center to the State government of Virginia to the Texas Department of Public Safety claiming increasingly ridiculous indicators of terrorism, such as buying baby formula, wearing blue jeans, or carrying a driver's license.

All of this terror hysteria that the public has been force-fed over the past decade would be utterly incomprehensible if we were to understand "terrorist" to mean what you and I and John Q. Public believe it means. But it does not. You see, in our modern world "terrorism" is not terrorism. It does not describe a tactic; it is not about violence and bloodshed, suicide bombers or Allahu Akbar. It is not a word; it is a weapon, a weapon aimed at those who disagree with the aims of Heinz Kissinger and all of his Bilderberg/CFR/Trilateralist ilk, those who wish for the supremacy of a small, rich elite of financiers and multinational monopoly capital thugs.

Terrorism is not a word, not a concept. It is a weapon that is aimed at you and me.

And that, in the final equation, is our opportunity. We can point out that terrorism is a word, and it does describe the actions of the bloodthirsty elite who kill and maim the innocent, who start wars or overthrow governments or incite violence to achieve their aims. And in that simple action, that reclaiming of the word "terrorism" to identify the globalist kingpins who have been puppeteering international politics for generation after generation, we can disarm Kissinger and all the other pimps of the war on terror hysteria.

For The Corbett Report in western Japan, I am James Corbett.

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

The Perfidy of Government: Evidence v. Denial

A Review of Three Books (continued)

BOOKS from p. 6

In brief, JFK who began political life as a cold warrior was brought face to face with reality in the Cuban missile crisis when the US military insisted that the crisis be resolved by military attack on Cuba and a first-strike nuclear attack on the Soviet Union. Kennedy found his intelligence and humanity isolated within his own government and turned via back channels to Soviet leader Khrushchev for help.

Khrushchev sensed sincerity in JFK's plea and withdrew the Soviet nuclear missiles from Cuba in exchange for Kennedy's promise that the US would not invade Cuba.

Kennedy added the promise to remove US strategic missiles from Turkey in six months but not as a public part of the deal.

The US Joint Chiefs of Staff, the CIA, and even the Secret Service entrusted with the protection of the president concluded that JFK was soft on communism and a national security threat.

Kennedy had not gone along with the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, calling off the US air support. He had nixed the Operation Northwoods project conceived by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to conduct black ops terrorist operations against American citizens in Miami and Washington DC, to hijack and shoot down American airliners ("real and simulated"), to strafe and bomb Cuban refugee ships headed for Florida and to blame it all on Castro in order to create public support for "regime change" in Cuba.

When Kennedy signed the nuclear test ban treaty with Khrushchev, it brought him more condemnation from within his own government. In the eyes of the Joint Chiefs, the CIA, and the Secret Service, America had a national security risk in the White House who was selling out the country to Soviet deceptiveness.

The decision was made to eliminate the security risk. Douglass presents in fascinating detail every inch of the story. I can't reproduce it here. Suffice it to say that Oswald was on both the CIA and FBI payrolls. He was set up as the patsy without realizing it until he was in the Dallas jail where he was shot by Jack Ruby, another CIA asset.

The FBI at headquarters level was not part of the plot, although local offices were infiltrated by the CIA. The CIA had set the assassination up so that the patsy, Oswald, was linked to a KGB assassin and to Castro. The goal was to use Kennedy's murder to enrage the American public and to attack Cuba and the Soviet Union. I know, it sounds to naive Americans like a farfetched conspiracy theory, but I have never seen a better proven case.

After JFK's assassination, J. Edgar Hoover clued in Lyndon Johnson that the linkages of Oswald to the KGB and Cuba were fabricated by the CIA.

The problem for President Johnson was that the CIA had assassinated Kennedy in a manner that was too transparent. The CIA had overdone its setup of Oswald, for example, to the point that it was transparently a CIA operation.

What to do? If Johnson ordered the arrest of the CIA operatives responsible, the responsibility rose high up into the ranks. What would be the effect on the American public during a difficult time of the cold war if they learned that they could not trust their own government not to murder their own president? In addition, liberals were concerned that if the truth came out, Americans' trust in their government would evaporate. Heaven forbid!

Johnson made the decision to cover up the crime and that was the task assigned to the Warren Commission. J. Edgar Hoover knew the truth, but went along with the cover-up.

Johnson and Earl Warren were thinking short-run and did not understand the unintended consequences of the cover-up. They thought that by blaming Oswald as a lone deranged assassin, that they had done service by eliminating the CIA plot to implicate Cuba and the Soviet Union. Johnson did not realize that he had handed the US government over to the CIA, and that he would soon be involved in an escalating war in Vietnam — a war that JFK had ordered wound down — which would deny Johnson a second term.

Evidence continues to pile up that the Warren Commission covered up JFK's murder by a conspiracy within the US government. In his multi-volume *Inside The Assassination Records Review Board*, Douglas P. Horne, Chief Analyst for Military Records, Assassination Records Review Board, provides voluminous incontrovertible evidence that fraud was introduced into the autopsy reports that served as the basis for the Warren Commission's conclusion that JFK was shot from behind by a lone gunman.

Out of JFK's assassination came Robert Kennedy's assassination, the Oklahoma City bombing, Waco, and 9/11.

Niels Harrit, a professor of nano-chemistry at the University of Copenhagen, together with US physicists and engineers published a paper in the *Open Chemical Physics Journal* in 2009 that proves that nano-thermite was used to bring down the World Trade Center towers.

In the US, this startling finding is unreported except on 9/11 truth sites. The researchers say that in the dust from the World Trade Towers destruction they found unreacted nano-thermite, some of which they tested to confirm their identification. The researchers say that they have enough of the unreacted nano-thermite left for others to examine.

There have been no takers in America. Not a single US physics department, most of which are totally dependent on federal government grants, will touch the subject.

The campaign that has been organized against the finding of Harrit and his associates is that the dust has not been in certified custody, and the explosive material could have been added. This claim overlooks the fact that nano-thermite is a material that is not available to anyone except the US military.

In America today, the financial press says we cannot believe Taibbi. Law professors hoping for elevation to the federal bench say we cannot believe Savage. The mainstream media and some leftwing Internet sites say we can't believe Douglass.

It is in this disbelief of hard evidence that America is dissolving.

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.

"But in days past, I was a lawyer. Yes, a lawyer, can you believe it? It seems...ridiculous now, doesn't it? An orderly system meant to govern human society, to establish justice, to advance the progress and enlightenment of the human race. Yet that system, that civil cosmos - to which I was so passionately committed - embraced and protected the most wretched evils, entrenched the powerful in their unjust privilege, oppressed the poor and weak most relentlessly and wickedly, yet at every step - at every step - sang hosannas to itself as some kind of divinity. The "law" - oh, what a hush of reverence surrounded that word, how deeply that reverence and respect penetrated the heart. Well, my heart, anyway. But in these last few years we have seen - in intense, concentrated, microscopic view - the truth about the law, a truth which too often escaped us in the slow unrolling of peacetime. The truth that there is no law, no Platonic Form out there to which we give paltry representation. There is only power: power in conflict with power, power seeking to drive out power, to establish its dominance, maintain its privilege. Power acquires to law - sometimes - but it never, never bows to it. Power goes along with the law when it is convenient to do so, when it is not too restrictive, when it demands little more than the occasional sacrifice - for the powerful are certainly not above throwing one of their own to the mob when circumstances require. But when it comes to the crisis, power shreds the law like a filthy rag and has its own way. And then you see that the law is nothing but a rag, to be torn and patched and fitted to power's aims. The worst atrocities I have seen or heard of in this war have been committed wholly and completely under the law. This thing I held in such reverence was, is, nothing but a scrap soaked with blood and shit."

This is what the administration of President Barack Obama has brought to open fruition in the United States of America. The debate is over. The question is answered. Fascism has come.

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



"Mission No. 77": US - Funded False Flag Terrorism in Egypt

EGYPT from p. 1

before a drive-by shooting. Six Coptic Christians attending Christmas Eve mass, along with a Muslim security guard, were killed in the attack, and nine others were wounded.

Three suspects were arrested by the police a few days after the atrocity in Nag Hammadi. The alleged ringleader, a career criminal named Mohammad Kammouni, was sentenced to death earlier this year by a special "state security" tribunal established under the post-1981 emergency law.

Under that streamlined procedure, the verdict cannot be appealed, and — once the Grand Mufti ratifies the death sentence — Kammouni can be disposed of quickly and cleanly. This is a very tidy way to dispose of a Patsy.

By the time of the New Year's Eve bombing in Alexandria, a growing number of Egyptians — both Christian and Muslim — began to suspect that Mubarak's US-supported police state had cultivated a large pool of patsies to carry out false flag operations intended to foment sectarian conflict. If that was the design, things were working out as planned.

Funerals of Coptic terrorism victims were becoming commonplace, and quickly turning into confrontations between Christians and Muslims. This kept the riot police busy and gave State Security (SS) officials a pretext to round up scores of young Copts as a "preventive" measure. The biggest benefit to the regime was the emergence of a deep and increasingly violent sectarian rift in the Egyptian population.

"Clashes between Muslims and Christians have grown increasingly common in recent years, especially in Upper Egypt, where there is a large Christian population and a strong culture of vendetta killings," reported the *New York Times* following the Nag Hammadi murders. "Those killings typically spring from unexceptional disputes that spiral into full-blown conflicts that have to be settled by security forces."

"Egyptians have been united historically by a strong sense of national identity, allowing the Muslim majority and Coptic Christian minority to live in peace, for the most part," continued the report. "But the recent rise in religious fervor, especially among Muslims, has strained relations and increased reported episodes of religiously inspired violence."

"There is a prevailing atmosphere of sectarianism and religious incitement which has led to this behavior," complained Gamal Asaad, a Coptic Christian and former member of the Egyptian parliament. "People deal with each other now as Muslims or Christians, not as Egyptians."

During the past two decades, according to Egyptian-American human rights activist Magdi Khalil, Egyptian Copts suffered more than 1,500 attacks that killed hundreds and inflicted millions of dollars' worth of property damage. He describes those incidents as "state crimes" perpetrated by the Mubarak regime, which used the Christian minority as a scapegoat "to redirect public anger from its own corruption."

Khalil points out that while the Mubarak regime fomented Islamist terrorist attacks on Christians in the service of its domestic agenda, it exploited the violence for external consumption by blaming it on the apparently all-powerful Muslim Brotherhood. The specter of the much-discussed but little-understood Brotherhood, Khalil points out, was used by Mubarak "as a pretext *vis-à-vis* the West to justify his autocratic regime."

Tragically, the removal of Mubarak and the resignation (for whatever it's worth) of Omar

Suleiman, the Beria-esque head of the Egyptian secret police, didn't entirely extinguish the inter-communal conflict that had been so lovingly nurtured by the regime for the past thirty years. However, during the past year a growing number of young Egyptians — their perceptions sharpened by the ongoing economic collapse — have come to understand how they were being manipulated.

Rejecting the artificial collectivist divisions being promoted by the regime (and subsidized by its unfathomably evil patron in Washington), Egyptians began to communicate and collaborate across religious lines in the interest of saving their country from the government ruling it.

Last January, in defiance of the divide-and-conquer script being followed by the Regime, thousands of Muslims volunteered to attend Coptic Christmas worship services to act as "human shields" protecting their Christian neighbors. During the peaceful anti-government demonstrations in Tahrir Square, Copts returned the favor by forming a human chain protecting their Muslim neighbors during prayers. In seeking to bring down the police state ruling them, those brave and principled people practiced the most effective form of subversion: Loving their neighbors as themselves.

On March 5th, hundreds of Egyptian pro-liberty activists, after learning that State Security officials were destroying documentary evidence of their crimes, laid siege to SS headquarters near Cairo. Although tons of critical documents had been reduced to confetti, thousands of others were seized, many of which have been published on the Web. Some of the material describes the pervasive surveillance of freedom activists by the SS; other documents provide details of official corruption, such as the rigging of local elections by Mubarak's National Democratic Party. Medical reports lay out in terrifying detail numerous cases in which innocent people were tortured to death.

The most significant find, however, was a group of eight documents discussing attacks on Christian churches. Nestled in that batch was a December 2, 2010 memo to the Egyptian Interior Minister outlining "Mission No. 77," an operation in which a jailed Islamist would organize the plot to bomb the Saints Coptic Church in Alexandria during New Year's Eve mass.

Oh, sure — some *bien-pensants* are suggesting that the incriminating documents are cunningly cobbled forgeries. This would mean that the Egyptian SS didn't stage a false-flag operation, but that for some reason somebody in that agency created a false file suggesting as much after the fact.

Given that every spy agency is a roomful of funhouse mirrors, it's possible that the "Mission No. 77" document was manufactured as part of some too-clever-by-half disinformation scheme. In any case, it's worth remembering that the Egyptian SS was trained and funded by the same US government responsible for creating the Operation Northwoods proposal decades ago, which outlined several possible false-flag terrorism campaigns in which Americans would suffer injury or death in order to manipulate public opinion.

In recent years, the Regime in Washington, using what it unblushingly calls terrorism "facilitators," has staged a series of ersatz terrorist plots intended to create the impression that America is under siege by implacable Jihadist enemies.

Whatever the eventual outcome of the uprising in Egypt, this much is worth celebrating: Millions of Egyptians who suffered under Mubarak's police state understand how this game is played, and are refusing to play along any longer. What's our excuse?

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

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A Nation Stripped Bare: Fascism Has Come to America

FACISM from p. 3

they will seek only life imprisonment for Manning — who they are now subjecting to hours of forced nakedness in front of video cameras. But the military judge who will oversee Manning's court martial is entirely free to disregard the prosecutor's stated intention and impose the full penalty for aiding the "enemy."

But again, who is the "enemy"? You are the enemy — if you speak a truth that the government does not want you to reveal. (Of course, if you are an approved and coddled courtier, an eager, scurrying scribe like Bob Woodward, for example, you can reveal all the most secret "classified material" that you like, as long as it comes from savvy insiders "authorized" to praise their bosses and make their rivals look bad.) If you speak this unwanted truth, the government, the president — the cool, savvy, modern, hip, educated progressive president — can throw you in jail, subject you to torture, deprive you of sleep, and finally strip you naked in front of cameras to break you down and humiliate you in their efforts to dehumanize you, to grind you down into a piece of meat.

Here is the *New York Times* report on Manning's treatment — a small, brief story which did not make the front page of the print edition and within a few hours disappeared from the dozens of stories on the front page of the on-line edition:

A lawyer for PFC. Bradley Manning, [David E. Coombs], the Army intelligence analyst accused of leaking secret government files to WikiLeaks, has complained that his client was stripped and left naked in his cell for seven hours on Wednesday. ... The soldier's clothing was returned to him Thursday morning, after he was required to stand naked outside his cell during an inspection, Mr. Coombs said in a posting on his Web site.

"This type of degrading treatment is inexcusable and without justification," Mr. Coombs wrote. "It is an embarrassment to our military justice system and should not be tolerated. PFC. Manning has been told that the same thing will happen to him again tonight. No other detainee at the brig is forced to endure this type of isolation and humiliation."

First Lt. Brian Villiard, a Marine spokesman, said a brig duty supervisor had ordered Private Manning's clothing taken from him. He said that the step was "not punitive" and that it was in accordance with brig rules, but he said that he was not allowed to say more. "It would be inappropriate for me to explain it," Lieutenant Villiard said. "I can confirm that it did happen, but I can't explain it to you without violating the detainee's privacy."

This is rich; this shows a devilish irony at work in the PR boiler rooms of our fascist state. Yes, we tortured Manning, but we can't tell you why — because we want to protect his privacy! We are very concerned about his sacred right to privacy! "I'm sorry," said Sgt. Heinrich Schultz, spokesman for the Auschwitz-Birkenau detention facility. "I can confirm that Mr. Shlomo Stern, formerly of Krakow, was indeed stripped naked by guards here, but it would be inappropriate for me to explain why, because it would violate the detainee's privacy."

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CIA Contractor Raymond Davis Sprung from Murder Rap in Pakistan after US Pays 'Blood Money'

DAVIS from p. 1

though, with Pakistani media reporting that nineteen members of the two families suspiciously "went missing" several days before the hearing, with some having been seen taken away by unidentified men. They were delivered, also by unidentified men, to the court the day of the hearing, where each was asked by the judge if they pardoned Davis, and if they had received the blood money required under the country's Sharia Law. Each reportedly replied affirmatively to both questions.



CIA agent Raymond Davis arrested in Pakistan January 2010.

The nineteen have subsequently vanished, leading to charges in Pakistan that they were compelled to accept a deal, and have subsequently left the country, fearing retaliation from groups that were demanding that Davis face trial for murder.

Lawyers for the families, who disclosed the size of the payment, say they too were held captive before the trial. "I and my associate were kept in forced detention for hours," said the attorney for the family of one of the slain men, Faizan Haider.

A cousin of Haider, Aijaz Ahmed, was quoted in the *Christian Science Monitor* as saying eight members of his immediate family had gone missing since news of the deal.

The *Express Tribune*, an English-language daily in Pakistan partly owned by the *International Herald Tribune*, reports that lawyers for the two families claim both families' members were "forcibly taken to Kot Lakhpat Jail by unidentified men and made to sign papers pardoning Davis."

It appears that the "deal" with the families was brokered by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan's intelligence service. The *Associated Press* reports that an unidentified ISI official says CIA Director Leon Panetta met in a long session with ISI Chief Gen. Schuja Pasha, and that Pasha told Panetta the ISI would agree to a deal freeing Davis and would help broker a blood money payment if the Agency agreed to "identify all the Raymond Davises working in Pakistan behind our backs." Panetta is said to have agreed to the deal "in principle," though the *New York Times* on March 17 reports that "US officials insisted Wednesday the CIA made no pledges to scale back operations in Pakistan or to give the Pakistani intelligence agency a roster of US spies operating in the country — assertions that Pakistani officials disputed."

There had been tremendous pressure brought on President Asif Ali Zardari by the

US, with visits by Senate Foreign Relations Chair John Kerry, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, all of whom threatened the struggling Pakistani government with a cut-off of US aid if Davis was not released and was tried for murder. At the same time, public sentiment across Pakistan in this case has been running high, with one poll suggesting 99 percent of the public wanted Davis tried for murder and if found guilty, executed.

Most US reports on Davis being sprung claimed he had been acquitted. This is incorrect. He was pardoned by the victims' families (blood money was also paid to the family of the 18-year-old wife of one of the two men, who had later committed suicide, saying she did not believe her husband would ever receive justice), which led the Punjab district judge to lift the murder charges. But Davis was fined on a charge of carrying an illegal handgun, and sentenced to time served for that conviction.

The US Department of Justice announced that it would "investigate" the shooting incident, but since the US position remains that Davis had "diplomatic immunity" — a claim the Lahore Court pointedly rejected as being baseless upon the evidence submitted — no one in the US or Pakistan is likely to take that seriously.

There were angry protests in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad following the court's ruling lifting the indictment against Davis. Police clashed with demonstrators outside the US Consulate in Lahore.

Left unanswered is what "all the Raymond Davises" in Pakistan, and Raymond Davis himself, were actually doing. Davis reportedly left the country immediately after the ruling.

What is not in doubt is that Raymond Davis was not "our diplomat" in Pakistan, as President Obama falsely proclaimed at a press conference on Feb. 15, when he demanded that Pakistan grant him immunity under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Immunity of 1961. Nor is

there any doubt about what was found in his car at the time of the shooting incident: masks, makeup, night-vision equipment, several semi-automatic pistols with large-capacity clips, over a hundred killer bullets for both a Glock and Beretta pistol and also an M-16, multiple cell phones, a cell-phone locator, a special GPS with removable chips, wire cutters, batteries and a camera, on the memory card of which police investigators found photos of Pakistani military installations, as well as mosques, madrassas and even a Montessori School. Police say they found over 27 calls on his cell phones to key people in both the Pakistani Taliban and a terror organization called Lashkar-e-Taiba, which has been linked to the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, the kidnaper/assassination of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, as well as, the November 2008 killings in Mumbai.

Pakistani papers, including the *Express Tribune*, have suggested that Davis, a 10-year Army Special Forces veteran, and a former employee of Blackwater/Xe, appears to have been involved in orchestrating terrorism, not just monitoring it.

As I reported initially on February 7, Davis, when arrested, was found to be carrying a photo ID describing him as a Department of Defense contractor. He also had cards on him identifying him as an employee of a US company called Hyperion Protective Consultants LLC, which I discovered had as its address a vacant storefront in Orlando which had not been occupied for several years.

Without any trial, what the CIA has been up to in Pakistan, a country that has been suffering a rash of terror bombings in the last few years, can only be a subject for speculation. But one thing is clear — whatever the CIA was up to will not be going forward. At least not on the scale they have been operating, with as many as several hundred "contractors" and active Special Forces troops, like Davis, reportedly operating in the country undercover.

Press reports say that at least 30 "Raymond Davis"-type US contractors have fled the country since his arrest, and the arrest of a second contractor associated with a murky private mercenary service called Catalyst Services, LLC, an American named Aaron DeHaven (he was picked up and charged with overstaying a visa).

Dave Lindorff is a Philadelphia-based journalist and columnist. His latest book is The Case for Impeachment, St. Martin's Press, (2006) and now available at www.thiscantbe happening.net.

to no avail. They have depleted the people's treasury because of their moral bankruptcy and service to wealthy corporate special interests and a war economy causing suffering and death to millions of innocent people all over the world.

"From the heartland of our republic to North Africa and the Middle East, to the actions of Veterans for Peace, the people are crying out for justice, showing the way to a better world. We are all a part of that interconnected struggle. Working people know that a sustainable world cannot be built through war and empire.

"Today we symbolically bury our Constitution and Bill of Rights to show that our elected leaders have abandoned the principles embodied in these documents. It is our hope that the people will now show the way to peace by raising up true justice and liberty from the ashes of war and destruction wrought by our leaders.

"It is clear. Now is the time. We must act!"

Editor's Note: Do try this at home.

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.

How the US Press Corps Lost Its Way

PRESS from p. 1

there is a genuine barrier between the professional journalists and the political partisans. In the US system, that barrier was supposed to be the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

However, once that barrier breaks down — and it has been under Republican assault for more than three decades — then two things happen: the news bureaucrats cravenly reposition themselves to protect the money and the journalism is watered down and eventually sold out.

Since the 1980s, the Republicans have worked hard to transform the CPB from the institutional protector of honest journalism into the opposite. Mostly, that was done by placing political ideologues on CPB where they could pressure the Public Broadcasting Service and NPR.

The Republican attack line, of course, is that PBS and NPR have a "liberal bias." So, to prove otherwise, PBS and NPR scuttled pretty much any programming that might offend the Republicans. And, once the networks crossed that line, an institutionalized self-censorship took over.

So, NPR, which demonstrated some guts in the 1980s by reporting aggressively about South Africa's white supremacist regime as well as on right-wing "death squads" in Central America, began its gradual retreat into mushier and mushier content.

NPR's stock in trade has become the off-beat feature, like a segment about what kinds of fish thrive in the rivers around Manhattan. Such fluff might be okay if surrounded by sharp-edged journalism, but NPR seemed determined to be as dull as possible, desperate not to offend the Right.

Yet, the Right came for NPR anyway with one of those hidden-camera tricks of James O'Keefe who had some operatives pose as Muslims interested in contributing \$5 million. During a luncheon meeting, NPR fundraiser Ron Schiller criticized the Tea Party as containing "racists."

In the furor that ensued, Schiller resigned, as did NPR's chief executive officer Vivian Schiller (no relation). More than 20 NPR staffers (including stars like Cokie Roberts, Robert Siegel and Susan Stamberg) issued a letter saying they were appalled by Ron Schiller's comments.

"Those comments have done real damage to NPR," the letter said. "But we're confident that the culture of professionalism we have built, and the journalistic values we have upheld for the past four decades, will prevail."

However, the sad truth is that NPR and PBS have been in retreat on those "journalistic values" for many of those decades. They have added so many right-wing commentators and ordered up so many right-wing programs that it's hard to envision very many people fighting passionately to save them.

For instance, in 2007, PBS broadcast a neoconservative series in support of President George W. Bush's "war on terror," including one info-mercial on the Iraq War written and narrated by Richard Perle, a chief war architect. [See Consortiumnews.com's "Time for PBS to Go?"]

Broder's Record

Yet, while NPR and PBS have scurried farther and farther away from their earlier traditions of gutsy journalism, David Broder has long had his feet planted in the muck of mushiness.

Broder's viewpoint was that except for a few bad apples, the Establishment is filled with just stellar people. He was a staunch defender of these Respected Ones, refusing to see how their personal and political corruption was eating away at the pillars of the Republic.

Often called "the Dean of the Washington press corps," Broder was more the efficient police officer who tells the public, "move along, nothing to see here." He forever made excuses for the

crimes of Washington's powerful and discouraged investigations that might expose serious wrongdoing.

In 2009, for instance, he joined many of his *Washington Post* editorial colleagues in objecting to Attorney General Eric Holder's decision to name a special counsel to investigate crimes by CIA interrogators.

"I think it is a matter of regret that Holder asked prosecutor John H. Durham to review the cases of the agents accused of abusive tactics toward some captives," Broder wrote. "It is the first step on a legal trail that could lead to trials — and that is what gives me pause.

"[Vice President Dick] Cheney is not wrong when he asserts that it is a dangerous precedent when a change in power in Washington leads a successor government not just to change the policies of its predecessors but to invoke the criminal justice system against them."

In other words, the torture of detainees — while perhaps a tad unpleasant — didn't warrant the punishment of Washington's great and powerful or their obedient underlings. Nor apparently did any other crime of state.

Often when "The System" was looking really bad, Broder posed as the American "everyman" who didn't want to hear anymore about that.

On Nov. 27, 2005, Broder appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press" to say that there was no need to examine how the Bush administration sold the invasion of Iraq by using false intelligence about Iraq's non-existent WMD stockpiles.

"This whole debate about whether there was just a mistake or misrepresentation or so on is, I think, from the public point of view largely irrelevant," Broder said. "The public's moved past that."

Similarly, Broder rallied to the defense of Bush's political adviser Karl Rove regarding the leaking of Valerie Plame's CIA identity, done as part of a revenge campaign against her husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, for criticizing one false WMD claim.

In an article entitled "One Leak and a Flood of Silliness," Broder declared that publications which had implicated Rove in the Plame Affair "owe Karl Rove an apology. And all of journalism needs to relearn the lesson: Can the conspiracy theories and stick to the facts."

But it was Broder who was ignoring the facts. Though Rove was apparently not the first administration official to leak Plame's classified identity, he was certainly part of the operation — and was involved in the broader campaign to undermine Bush's war critics. [See Consortiumnews.com's "US Press Bigwigs Screw Up, Again."] Broder's determination to protect Bush-43 on war crimes was part of a larger pattern of Broder seeing no evil in other national security cases.

When Rep. Lee Hamilton, (D-IN), led a botched investigation of the so-called "October Surprise" case, ignoring evidence that Ronald Reagan's 1980 campaign had interfered with President Jimmy Carter's hostage negotiations with Iran, Broder hailed Hamilton as the "conscience of Congress" — for reaching a conclusion that was bipartisan, albeit wrong.

To Broder, it didn't matter that Hamilton had miswritten a key chapter of modern American political history. Broder was just happy that the comity of the Washington



David Broder 1929-2011

Establishment hadn't been shaken. [See Consortiumnews.com's "October Surprise Cover-up Unravels."]

Similarly, Broder joined in the deification of Defense Secretary Robert Gates, asserting that Gates is "incapable of dissembling" — when any student of Gates's history could tell you that Gates has been a master of deception and spin since his early days at the CIA. [See Consortiumnews.com's "The Secret World of Robert Gates."]

Steering to the Center

Broder also could be counted on endlessly to urge Democrats to "steer to the center," rather than fight for principles. That was the advice that Broder handed down to President Barack Obama in 2009, urging him to accommodate Republicans on issues such as health care and economic reforms.

Broder always appeared clueless about the true nature of the Republicans and the Right, that they had no intention of making meaningful compromises. If journalism relates to assessing reality as it is — not as you wish it to be — then Broder was a very bad journalist.

Yet, that is surely not the conclusion that Broder's many admirers in the mainstream press will take away. In a lead editorial on March 10, the *Washington Post* wrote:

"Mr. Broder was often called 'the Dean,' a position that is now likely to go unfilled in the Washington press corps. His detractors used the term sarcastically; they came mostly from the political left and found him much too moderate.

"In this, he was probably reflecting not just his temperamental aversion to ideology but what he'd seen of the country over the years — a country whose governing institutions he genuinely loved and worried about.

"But he could thunder at times, and when he did, it counted all the more in public opinion. Mr. Broder had credibility of a kind that is rare today in the world of political discourse."

The hard truth, however, is that Broder did possess an ideology, one of blind "centrism," a viewpoint that failed to detect the corruption that had penetrated to the heart of the Establishment and that was eating away at his beloved governing institutions.

When Broder thundered, it was almost always at those who pointed out this corruption and who understood that simply papering over the rot wouldn't save the Republic.

It was this failure to appreciate the need for honesty — even when it upsets the powerful — that stands, sadly, as Broder's real epitaph. The same failure applies to the Washington press corps, which called Broder its "Dean."

Robert Parry is an American investigative journalist. He was awarded the George Polk Award for National Reporting in 1984. He established Consortium News as an online ezine dedicated to investigative journalism.

Truth Spoken at US Capitol, Rotunda Evacuated

By DAVID SWANSON

On the week that we mark going into another year of war, two peace activists, Joy First and Malachy Kilbride, from the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance interrupted US Capitol tours in the rotunda. While on a tour the activists walked to the center of the rotunda and laid a funeral shroud on the spot where the US Presidents lie in state. They laid a copy of the US Constitution and Bill of Rights on top of the shroud and covered them. They read the statement below. Though the US Capitol police quickly surrounded them and questioned them, the activists were able to walk away. It is important for us to continue speaking out and know that we can do things like this and not get arrested.



Capitol police question Joy First and Malachy Kilbride.

impooverishes us in so many ways. "After 20 years of bombing and waging war on Iraq, almost 10 years of war with Afghanistan, the drone bombing of civilians in Pakistan, illegal detention and torture in Guantanamo, Bagram, and black sites, our violent intervention in the Americas, and military plans for Africa, we come to the Capitol Rotunda, referred to as 'The Temple of Liberty' because liberty and justice are values our government does not share with its people.

"For years we have in so many ways petitioned our Congress calling for peace

"Attention fellow citizens, members of Congress, and friends. We are here today to express our call for peace, our broken heartedness over our wars, and the brokenness of our political system that does not listen to the will of We, the People, but to the military-industrial-corporate-security-congressional-complex which

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