

# Rock Creek Free Press

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

Vol. 5, No. 7 July 2011

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

## Obama Admin Wins Mockery of Open Government Award

By SIBEL EDMONDS

Have you ever tried standing on your head in order to view the world upside down? What if the world stage before you turns upside-down; will you then have to stand on your head to view it right-side up? You see, we have a fraudulent institution that has been standing on its head, and has been trying very hard to get you either to stand on your head to see what they see or simply look the other way and take their word in describing a totally upside down phenomena as right-side up. Enough of riddle-like communication; let me put it all in perspective for you, ok? I'll start with the actors:

We have a very typical Washington DC establishment non-governmental organization (NGO) institution posing as a front, operating under the pretense of advocating for transparency, open government, and whistleblower protections. It receives over a million dollars in grants from the establishment (from Rockefeller to Carnegie to George Soros) to pose as a not-for-profit organization protecting government whistleblowers. It has prospered for over two decades, pocketing large grants from establishment of foundations in exchange for generating lots of noise while ensuring that no establishment feathers are ever ruffled in the process. Congress loves them and knows how to do the pretense dance with them. The executive branch also loves them, and views

See MOCKERY p. 8

## When Cocaine and Monsanto Collide

*War on Drugs Becomes a Genetically-Modified War on Science*

By MEG WHITE / BUZZFLASH

At the intersection of cocaine and Roundup in rural South America, Monsanto and the US government are struggling to keep up appearances. That's becoming more and more difficult as the unanticipated hazards of genetic modification become clearer.

Back in April, Argentinean embryologist Andrés Carrasco gave an interview with a Buenos Aires newspaper describing his recent findings suggesting the chemical glyphosate, a chemical herbicide widely used in agriculture as well as in US anti-narcotic efforts, could cause defects in fetuses in much smaller doses than those to which peasants and farmers in his country were already being exposed. Loud calls for a ban on the substance were issued by Argentinean environmental lawyers, and the country's Ministry of Defense banned the planting of glyphosate-resistant soya crops in its fields.

Then came the backlash. An article in an Argentinean paper recently reported that Carrasco was assaulted in a way he described as "violent" by four men associated with agricultural interests:

Two of the men were said to be members of an agrochemical industry body but refused to give their names. The other two claimed to be a lawyer and notary. They apparently interrogated Dr. Carrasco and demanded to see details of the experiments. They left a

See MONSANTO p. 2

## S.W.A.T. Team Mania

### The War Against the American Citizen



Public servants or occupying army? Thousands of SWAT teams are deployed throughout the US.

By JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

*"He [a federal agent] had his knee on my back and I had no idea why they were there." ~ Anthony Wright, victim of a Dept. of Education SWAT team raid*

The militarization of American police – no doubt a blowback effect of the military empire – has become an unfortunate part of American life. In fact, it says something about our reliance on the military that federal agencies having nothing whatsoever to do with national defense now feel justified in having their own paramilitary units. Among those federal agencies laying claim to their own law enforcement divisions are the State Department, Department of Education, Department of Energy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service, to name just a few. These agencies have secured the services of fully armed agents – often in SWAT team attire – through a

See SWAT p. 7

## Obama Now Waging Five Wars and Counting

*CIA's "Arab Spring" a Prelude to a Long Hot Summer of War  
Pakistan and Saudi Arabia Flee Collapsing US Empire*

By WEBSTER G. TARPLEY PH. D.

Washington DC, June 17- With the previously covert US bombing of Yemen out in the open, the Obama administration is now waging illegal wars against at least five countries – Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Libya, and

Yemen. Given Obama's absurd and Orwellian theory that acts of war from the air and the sea do not constitute hostilities under the terms of the War Powers Act, this list may be incomplete, and stealth US attacks may be going on elsewhere as well. As spring turns into summer along the banks of the Potomac,

there are signs that Obama's next move may be a trifecta of aggression – an attack on Syria which would also embroil the US in war with Iran and with the Hezbollah forces of Lebanon. Or, the Obama rampage may strike Pakistan. The "Arab Spring" of color

See WARS p. 5

## Fukushima: It's Much Worse Than You Think

*Scientific experts believe Japan's nuclear disaster to be far worse than governments are revealing to the public.*

By DAHR JAMAIL

"Fukushima is the biggest industrial catastrophe in the history of mankind," Arnold Gunderson, a former nuclear industry senior vice president, told Al Jazeera.

Japan's 9.0 earthquake on March 11 caused a massive tsunami that crippled the cooling systems at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) nuclear plant in Fukushima, Japan. It also led to hydrogen explosions and reactor meltdowns that forced evacuations of those living within a 20 km radius of the plant.

Gunderson, a licensed reactor operator with 39 years of nuclear power engineering experience while managing and coordinating projects at 70 nuclear power plants around the US, says the Fukushima nuclear plant likely

has more exposed reactor cores than commonly believed.

"Fukushima has three nuclear reactors exposed and four fuel cores exposed," he said, "You probably have the equivalent of 20 nuclear reactor cores because of the fuel cores, and they are all in desperate need of being cooled, and there is no means to cool them effectively."

TEPCO has been spraying water on several of the reactors and fuel cores, but this has led to even greater problems, such as radiation being emitted into the air in steam and evaporated sea water - as well as generating hundreds of thousands of tons of highly radioactive sea water that has to be disposed of.

"The problem is how to keep it cool," says

Gunderson. "They are pouring in water, and the question is what are they going to do with the waste that comes out of that system because it is going to contain plutonium and uranium. Where do you put the water?"

Even though the plant is now shut down, fission products, such as uranium, continue to generate heat and, therefore, require cooling.

"The fuels are now a molten blob at the bottom of the reactor," Gunderson added. "TEPCO announced they had a melt through. A melt down is when the fuel collapses to the bottom of the reactor, and a melt through means it has melted through some layers. That blob is incredibly radioactive, and now you have water on top of it. The water picks up

See FUKUSHIMA p. 4

## Bilderberg: Global Power Elite Confab

*Dear Mainstream Media, We Think You Might Want To Cover This...*

By STEVE WATSON / PRISONPLANET.COM

Detractors routinely contend that the annual elite Bilderberg meetings are nothing more than an outdated irrelevant get together of aging has-beens whose power on the international stage has long since withered.

Take one look at the attendees at this year's confab in St. Moritz, Switzerland, however, and it immediately becomes clear that this is the absolute polar opposite of the truth.

Debating policy at this year's meeting will be the Jeff Bezos, Founder and CEO of Amazon.com, Chris R. Hughes, Co-founder of Facebook, Eric Schmidt, Executive Chairman of Google, Craig J. Mundie, Chief Research and Strategy Officer at Microsoft Corporation, and Reid Hoffman, Co-founder and Executive Chairman of LinkedIn.

There you have heads of the five biggest online companies, indeed five of the biggest

companies on the globe, all in attendance together at a secluded hideaway in the Swiss Alps for the weekend.

That alone should be enough to focus the attention of the mainstream media.

Alas, apparently, no, that is not enough to perk their collective interest.

Then let's factor in that also in attendance are the Vice President of the

See BILDERBERG p. 5

## Thomas Jefferson Dance Revolution

By SZANDOR BLESTMAN

When the Constitution was written way back when, it was supposed to be a blueprint for keeping government tyranny off the backs of the common folk. Part of the way this was supposed to be accomplished was division of power. The federal government was to be divided into three branches of equal power. This was supposed to provide checks and

balances so that one branch or another could not become tyrannical and force its will onto the common folk. In addition, those three branches themselves were to be divided so that power would be shared inside the branches of government, supposedly making it even less likely for tyranny to gain a foothold. For various reasons, this idea failed, sort of, yet there is hope that people can peacefully force the federal government

once again to respect the natural rights with which individuals are born.

There are many freedom advocates who will claim that the Constitution has failed, but my answer to that has almost always been that it is the common folk who have failed to stand up for the law of the Constitution and hold their elected officials accountable for breaking that law. Almost immediately in

See DANCE p. 8

## War Propaganda: Rape in Libya

*America's Recent Wars Have All Been Accompanied by Memorable Falsehoods*

*When the war-going get tough, the professional P.R. campaigns get going*

By PETER DALE SCOTT / GLOBAL RESEARCH

It is a troubled time for NATO's campaign against Libya. President Obama has seen a near-revolt in Congress against the costly war, while Defense Secretary Gates in Brussels has warned his European allies that their tepid response "is putting the Libya mission and the alliance's very future at risk." Back home, according to the *London Daily Mail*, "Mr Gates has requested extra funds for Libya operations, but has been rebuffed by the White House."

The past history of American wars tells us that, when the war-going begins to get tough, the professional public relations (p.r.) campaigns get going, often with wholly invented stories. For example, when in 1990, Defense Secretary Colin Powell was expressing doubts that the United States should attack Kuwait, stories appeared that, as revealed by classified satellite photos, Saddam had amassed 265,000 troops and 1500 tanks at the edge of the Saudi Arabian border. Powell then changed his mind, and the attack proceeded.

See PROPAGANDA p. 4

## War-on-Drugs a Failure

*World leaders denounce failed war on drugs; call for global decriminalization*

By NEEV M. ARNELL / NATURALNEWS

The "War on Drugs" is a failure, with devastating consequences around the world, and it is time to decriminalize drugs and start treating drug problems as health issues, said a group of prominent former world leaders in a new report released June 1.

"Fifty years after the initiation of the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and 40 years after President (Richard) Nixon launched the US government's war on drugs, fundamental reforms in national and global drug control policies are urgently needed," said the report.

The Global Commission on Drug Policy responsible for the report includes: former Brazilian president Fernando Cardoso; former Colombian president Cesar Gaviria; Mexico's former president Ernesto Zedillo; ex-UN chief Kofi Annan; former Chairman of the US Federal Reserve and of the Economic Recovery Board Paul Volcker; former US Secretary of State George Schultz; Mario Vargas Llosa; Carlos Fuentes; and Richard Branson.

The Commission called for loosening restrictions on marijuana and an "end [to] the criminalization, marginalization and stigmatization of people who use drugs but who do no harm to others."

See DRUGS p. 2



*"If Tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy"*

-- James Madison

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# When Cocaine and Monsanto Collide

## War on Drugs Becomes a Genetically-Modified War on Science

MONSANTO from p. 1  
 card: Basílico, Andrada & Santurio, attorneys on behalf of Felipe Alejandro Noël.

It's still unclear who these people are. But the interest in keeping such information quiet or discrediting Carrasco and his findings are strongest with Monsanto, the agricultural company who first patented a glyphosate product (sold as Roundup) and also created genetically-modified crops specifically to resist the herbicide.

GRAIN, an international non-profit supporting small-scale farmers and biodiversity in community agriculture, originally reported the story, evidently before the reports of threats against Carrasco were known. GRAIN has also done extensive reporting on Monsanto's genetically-modified soya crops in Argentina (which, according to the group, have increased five-fold since their introduction there, and have taken over more than half of Argentina's farmland) as well as on the use of glyphosate (which has increased fourteen-fold since its introduction, contrary to Monsanto's promises that its crop would decrease pesticide use). The so-called "Roundup Ready" crops have interbred with other plants, creating "superweeds" which in turn necessitate the use of other poisonous herbicides such as atrazine.

The dangers of glyphosate are hotly debated. The US Environmental Protection Agency does regulate the allowable amount in drinking water, but the data it has on the dangers of the chemical are all nearly two decades old, and many studies were sponsored by Monsanto. Rural agricultural workers across South America have been protesting the spraying for well over a decade, pointing to increases in local cancer rates and birth defects as proof.

The Transnational Institute (TNI), a nonpartisan international group of scholars, has drawn attention to the inconsistencies and basic errors in studies refuting the dangers of glyphosate. This should come as no surprise, since Monsanto has been involved in several known cases of scientific fraud regarding the same chemical, wherein the EPA found multiple instances in which labs were paid to falsify preferred results for the company. Monsanto has also been charged in multiple jurisdictions for disseminating misleading information about its Roundup products.

Yet, glyphosate is still the top-selling herbicide around the world. And it's not just used to kill weeds, either. The US military sprays glyphosate from airplanes onto drug crops as part of its worldwide anti-narcotic strategy. The best known example of such an effort was named Plan Colombia by the Clinton Administration and persists today.

But punishment is meted out unequally. Because glyphosate is an herbicide and is not specifically targeted to work against drug crops

(as is easily deduced by the fact that it's used against coca and poppy plants as well as against household weeds in the US), the spray kills legitimate crops, too.

That is, unless you're growing Monsanto's specially-formulated "Roundup Ready" crops. Then you can spray nearly unlimited amounts of the stuff, which is what it seems farmers (as well as the US military) are doing.

It seems that the whole operation may have backfired though, at least from the perspective of the governments that are promoting such a strategy. The effort has led to coca growers cutting down national forests -- where such spraying is often against the law -- to produce their illicit crops. But Mother Nature may be rebelling against drug policy as well. Coca plants appear to be either evolving on their own (or with the help of coca farmers' active selection) -- or they are possibly crossing with Roundup Ready crops already on the ground -- to produce a glyphosate-resistant crop known as *Boliviana negra*.

One TNI study looked at the political and commercial motives for continuing to spray the chemical on drug crops in South America regardless of findings that the effort is counterproductive at best:

It is true that the United States is behind fumigation, backed by the economic interests of companies such as Monsanto and DynCorp, who share in this lucrative business -- which is one of the reasons it meets with opposition. But it is also true that the disastrous consequences of the current anti-drug policy, of which fumigation is but one component, are a reality that surpasses ideologies, and the nations that suffer its consequences firsthand must find a solution instead of becoming polarized.

Colombia would not fumigate if it weren't for pressure from the US. It would be implementing other forms of eradication or offering alternative development programs that provide income to the population.

TNI suggested that South American countries band together to refuse US anti-narcotic spraying on environmental and human safety grounds, as has been done in Afghanistan.

In 2004, Joshua Davis had the *Boliviana negra* plant tested to determine its provenance from *Wired Magazine*. He concludes that the glyphosate-resistant coca plant he found in Colombia was most likely developed in the fields by farmers grafting on chance genetic mutations.

But the resulting article is perhaps most interesting for the taciturn response on all sides of the issue. Davis suggests that South American authorities don't want to talk about the situation because the revelation might cost countries that receive a large amount of US aid to combat drug traffickers. The US government doesn't want coca farmers who don't already know to find out about the new strain because it can still eradicate old

strains with glyphosate. Drug growers who do have the new strain certainly don't want the status quo to end because, currently, the US government is doing their weeding for free.

But on the larger cost-benefit analysis, the biggest winner is Monsanto. The more Roundup Ready crops there are out there, the more Roundup farmers need to get rid of the weeds, as is evidenced by the GRAIN research in Argentina. The real foe of Monsanto is not drug cartels or government entities; it is scientists.

When you put together the studies referenced above, which show that spraying glyphosate is harmful to

humans and the environment and that it does not hamper the production of coca or weeds, the answer to almost everyone's problems is eliminating Monsanto.

So while there's no solid proof that the men threatening Andrés Carrasco belong to the same corporation that falsified lab results on the harm caused by glyphosate or the group that told lies about Roundup, there's no doubt in my mind that they belong in the same sick club.

*Meg White writes all kinds of things for all types of people, including news, commentary, advocacy, copy, reviews, op-eds, company profiles, recipes.*

# War-on-Drugs a Failure

## World leaders denounce failed war on drugs; call for global decriminalization

DRUGS from p. 1

The group of statesmen and prominent intellectuals said punitive measures had led to a situation where "the global scale of illegal drug markets -- largely controlled by organized crime -- has grown dramatically."

They encourage experimentation by governments with models of legal regulation of drugs (especially cannabis) to undermine the power of organized crime and safeguard the health and security of their citizens.

"Decriminalization initiatives do not result in significant increases in drug use," the report said, citing policies in Australia, Holland and Portugal.

Another priority, the report said, is to work on treatment.

"Let's start by treating drug addiction as a health issue, reducing drug demand through proven educational initiatives and legally regulating rather than criminalizing cannabis," Cardoso said.

### The drug war at home

The report provides an international perspective but certainly hits home in the US too.

The United States has the highest documented incarceration rate in the world. With less than 5 percent of the world's population, we have almost a quarter of the world's prisoners, according to Troy Williams article in the *Fayetteville Observer*.

Several factors may be to blame for the disproportionate rate, according to experts, but it is clear that a large number of incarcerations are for drug-related crimes. President Richard Nixon officially declared the "War on Drugs" in 1971, and by now it has become the longest and most expensive war in American history.

It is impossible to give an accurate account of the "drug war" without spotlighting race. The United States locks up a disproportionate amount of African-Americans by continuing to go after minor drug offenders. The "War on Drugs" has essentially

become a war on African-Americans, said Williams.

These drug policies overcrowd our prisons and contribute to the growing financial crisis. \$100,000 of taxpayer money is spent to support a person sentenced to five years in prison for possession or sale of \$50 worth of drugs. That does not include prosecution expenses.

The "War on Drugs" may be at a hinging point. While federal officials have maintained their stance -- under both Republican and Democratic administrations -- throughout the years, state governments and voters have been approving new medical marijuana laws that are at odds with federal drug statutes.

Even the changing political tides seem to be working against the "War on Drugs". The rise of liberty-minded presidential candidates, such as Congressman Ron Paul and Gary Johnson reflect a portion of American society that seeks less government intervention in the lives of citizens.

In the first GOP presidential debate held in South Carolina, Paul responded to the debate moderator Chris Wallace's shock that he would suggest legalizing drugs, such as heroin.

"What you're inferring is, 'You know what? If I legalize heroin tomorrow, everyone is going to use heroin.' How many people here would use heroin if it were legal? I bet nobody would," said Paul, adding sarcastically, "Oh, yeah. I need the government to take care of me. I don't want to use heroin, so I need these laws [to stop me]."

Paul's response was met with applause.

"I never thought heroin would get an applause in South Carolina," said Wallace.

*Neve M. Arnell writes for NaturalNews.*

# Legalize Milk, Real Milk

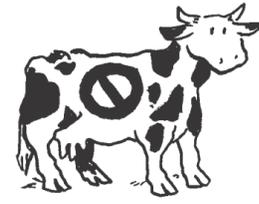
By MARK THORNTON

### Got Milk?

Most Americans think they drink milk on a regular basis. In fact, virtually all these people are consuming pasteurized milk, not milk. Milk in its natural state -- raw milk -- is consumed by very few Americans because it is illegal in many states and thoroughly discouraged by federal health organizations, regulators, and the Big Dairy lobby.

Raw milk is prohibited in Canada and Australia, although raw milk and raw-milk products are legal almost everywhere else. In fact, in countries with the best cuisines, such as France, raw milk and raw-milk products are considered the high-quality choice.

No wonder. Raw milk is fresher, better tasting, and more



nutritious. It is fresher because only refrigeration is used to prevent spoilage, and you immediately know when it is going bad because of the smell and taste. It has to be produced locally or quickly shipped and consumed.

Raw milk is more nutritious than pasteurized milk. Raw milk has living white blood cells, mammary-gland cells, various bacteria (i.e. probiotics), and several active enzymes, which are all destroyed in pasteurization.

There are some European studies that indicate -- although nothing is yet definitive -- that raw milk might be useful in reducing allergies, asthma, and eczema. Raw milk is also more likely to come from "pastured" cows, which only eat their natural diet: grass. Therefore, the cows are less likely to have been regularly treated with antibiotics and growth hormones.

While we are on the topic of nutrition, it should be pointed out that, even though the protein component of milk is one of the best available, the most nutritious part of milk might be the fat component. Butterfat is naturally beneficial. It also contains the fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E, and K, in which many Americans are deficient. So stop buying skim and low-fat milk.

Raw milk is much better tasting, because it does not have the "dead" taste of pasteurized and ultrapasteurized milk. Some people who don't like pasteurized milk like the taste of raw milk, and many people who are lactose intolerant can tolerate raw milk. I think raw milk even smells better. If you have never consumed raw milk, get some and a few Oreo cookies to go with it because you are in for a treat -- that is, only if you don't live in North America and Australia, where raw milk is often illegal and considered dangerous.

Here, pasteurization is imposed by Big Dairy and enforced by the state. Now that the raw-milk movement has started taking off, the state is cracking down on the small dairy producers who are trying to earn a living by bringing the product to market. Law enforcement has even gone so far as destroying milk, much like the keg and still busters of the Prohibition era.

Getting raw milk is difficult. In my case, I had to join a cooperative that arranged for the milk to be shipped in from a state where raw-milk production is still legal. We all meet at a certain date and time at a location off the beaten path to receive and pay for our orders. Other dairies only sell their raw milk and raw-milk products for "nonhuman" consumption. Come on! Chocolate raw milk for nonhuman consumption?

The Food and Drug Administration claims hysterically that raw milk is unsafe to consume, and they make some statements that are clearly untrue. The Center for Disease Control also sees this as an issue that is "black and white." They say raw milk is bad for you, citing four "outbreaks" since 2000. It should be pointed out that pasteurization does not kill off all the illness-causing contaminants,

and this has led to a much-larger number of such outbreaks.

With raw milk, the number of people becoming ill is over 100 per year, and 2 people are said to have died after consuming raw milk over the last decade. So there are real risks, just as with any real food, such as spinach, cantaloupe, and hamburger. At-risk populations, such as the sick and elderly, should probably stay away from raw milk. All the raw-milk dealers I know warn customers of the risks of their products, while pasteurized-milk dealers do not.

I'm sure that some of these reported cases of raw-milk illness should be attributed to the fact that raw milk is illegal. Notice that my raw milk has to be shipped halfway across the country! What happens if the refrigeration unit on the delivery truck fails and goes unnoticed for several hours during transit?

Legalizing raw milk would reduce the risks caused by prohibition. It would also further reduce risks over time by bringing competitive forces to bear on them. The increased numbers of raw-milk producers could result in new discoveries for preventing cows from being exposed to disease. As the market expands, other companies might find it profitable to sell testing equipment so that cows or their milk can be tested before going to market. Over time this could become a very large market associated with very little health risk and substantial health benefits.

The most general point is that government authorities should not be making these decisions for us. They should not prohibit something that has been going on for more than 8,000 years of human civilization. There is no public interest here that might justify government intervention at all.

There is, however, a private-interest elephant in our glass of milk -- Big Dairy. Raw milk is a competitor, however small, to the big corporate and co-op companies that dominate the milk industry. Big Dairy is a powerful special-interest group that is well funded and well organized to maintain its government subsidies.

In the old days, your milk came from cows that you might even see on your way to work. The dairy farmer would have a relatively small number of cows. The farmer would either milk the cows and process the milk himself or sell it to a small co-op, which would process it and deliver to your door the same morning.

Today, dairy farming is organized on a greater scale. The cows are milked and the milk is sent much longer distances to larger processing facilities. The milk is then distributed, not to your door but to supermarkets and grocery stores. The modern approach is a "more roundabout" production process, in the words of Ludwig von Mises's teacher Eugen von Böhm-Bawerk. The process is more roundabout and much more productive and efficient. More milk is produced using fewer resources per gallon. Therefore, the modern process produces cheaper milk. However, it takes more time and therefore requires pasteurization to increase the shelf life.

Raw milk would not work like that; it could not work like that. You basically have a limited time between milking and drinking. Raw milk is much better than processed milk, but there is a catch: it is about twice the price and you have to drink it within a few days.

Therefore, we can let the market decide the issue. You can buy expensive raw milk or inexpensive pasteurized milk. The problem is that Big Dairy does not want you to have this choice. They push legislators, regulators, health officials, and law enforcement to prevent people from having the choice.

When Big Dairy answers the question -- Got Milk? -- the answer is always no.

*Reprinted from Mises.org.*

*Mark Thornton is an economist who lives in Auburn, Alabama. He is author of The Economics of Prohibition, is a senior fellow with the Ludwig von Mises Institute, and is the Book Review Editor for the Quarterly Journal of Austrian Economics. He is co-author of Tariffs, Blockades, and Inflation: The Economics of the Civil War and is the editor of The Quotable Mises.*

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 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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# Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

## Hail Caesar

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

Although the financial press speculates about a downgrade of the US government's credit rating and default if political impasse prevents the debt ceiling from being raised in time, I doubt anyone really believes that the debt ceiling will not be raised. It is just all a part of the political theater of the next couple of months.



Republicans will blame the budget deficit and accumulated national debt on Medicare and Social Security. Wall Street sees billions of profits in privatizing either, and debt rating agencies will oblige their Wall Street paymasters by opining from time to time that US Treasury bonds might be downgraded unless "entitlements can be addressed and the deficit brought under control."

Democrats will say that the budget deficit cannot be addressed without an increase in tax revenues, especially from the rich whose incomes have exploded upward, while their tax rates have declined.

All the while, the pressure of an approaching deadline for default will be used to reshape the US social contract, most likely in the further interest of the rich.

However, regardless of whether the debt ceiling is raised, the US government is not going to go out of business. Why does anyone think that the President, who does not obey the War Powers Act, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, US and international laws against torture, or any of the laws and procedures that guard civil liberty, is going to feel compelled to obey the debt ceiling?

As long as the US is at war, the American President is a Caesar. He is above the law. The US Justice (sic) Department has ruled this, and Congress and the Courts have accepted it.

Moreover, the Federal Reserve is independent of the government. In its approach to regulatory matters and bailouts, the Fed has ceased to follow its own rules. Regardless of the debt ceiling, the Fed will continue to purchase the Treasury's bond issues, and the Treasury will continue to fund the federal deficit with the proceeds. If Goldman Sachs is to big too fail, certainly the US government is.

As Congress has abandoned its powers over war, how can Congress hold on to its powers over spending? It cannot. Indeed, an impasse between the political parties over the debt ceiling would be welcomed by the executive branch as more proof that Congress is incapable of doing its part in governing and, therefore, the task has, of necessity, passed to the executive branch, which already does most of it.

If the President can declare on his own authority, without statutory basis and in defiance of the US Constitution, that he can assassinate US citizens who he considers to be a threat to national security, he certainly can declare that default is a threat to national security and that it is within his powers as commander-in-chief to ignore the debt ceiling.

Indeed, the executive branch would jump at the chance. Then it could reshape the budget to its own pleasing without having to consult Congress on spending, any more than the executive branch consults Congress on war.

The Bush/Cheney regime brought democracy and accountable government to an end. If Obama doesn't finish the process, the next in line will.

*Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury during President Reagan's first term. He was Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal. He has held numerous academic appointments, including the William E. Simon Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University, and Senior Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University.*

## Free State or Police State

By RICHARD SCHWARTZMAN / FUTURE FREEDOM FOUNDATION

The enemies of a free state — and a free people — are at it again. Not that they ever stopped, but a recent US Supreme Court decision, along with a new directive within the FBI and a city council ordinance in Iowa, make it perfectly clear that the Fourth Amendment guarantee against unreasonable searches and seizures is a thing of the past.

The Supreme Court decision, issued in May and based on a case from Kentucky, allows police officers to enter a residence without a warrant if they contend that they smelled marijuana or some other drug odor, knocked, identified themselves as police and then heard noises that sounded like evidence being destroyed.

Note the assumption that police really did smell drugs, as if police never lie.

Consider the case in Philadelphia during the 1990s when several officers from the same North Philly precinct were convicted of planting evidence on innocent people. This current ruling runs the risk of making the Philadelphia situation routine across the country.

The specifics in the Kentucky case are these: Police were following a suspect who allegedly sold crack cocaine to an informant. They followed him into an apartment building, but did not see which apartment he entered.

Smelling marijuana coming from one unit, the police knocked, identified themselves and then heard movement and a toilet flushing. So, the cops broke in and arrested the occupant, who was not the suspect they were following. They did find some powdered cocaine, so the man was arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to 11 years in prison.

The appellate process took the case to the US Supreme Court, where Judge Samuel Alito, Jr., said people don't have to answer the door when police knock, but if police hear movement and the toilet flush, officers may enter without the need for a warrant. In the 8-1 decision, Alito wrote that people who attempt to destroy evidence have only themselves to blame.

The lone dissent came from Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg who said the court has now given police an easy way to ignore fundamental rights. The decision "arms the police with a way routinely to dishonor the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirement in drug cases," she wrote.

Compounding this insidious decision is the FBI's recent decision to permit agents to initiate any investigation or surveillance that they like without any need to show cause for the action.

Judge Andrew Napolitano, on his Freedom Watch program of June 13, said the new policy: "...would permit [FBI] agents on their own to follow and snoop on anyone they wanted, whether there was any suspicion of criminal activity about that person or not; that it would sort through the garbage of anyone it chose, whether there was any suspicious behavior on the part of whoever used the garbage or not; and that it would search any databases it felt like searching about anyone in whom it was interested, whether there was criminal suspicion about that person or not."

(To read Napolitano's complete commentary, go to <http://www.foxbusiness.com/on-air/freedom-watch/2011/06/13/plain-truth-fbi#ixzz1PHrkAZzQ>)

Those two situations would be hideous enough, but now come the lawmakers from Cedar Falls, Iowa. In 2004, the city council in Cedar Falls enacted an ordinance that required lock boxes on commercial buildings and large apartment complexes. On June 13, the council voted 6-1 to expand the policy to include smaller apartment buildings. It went from a six-apartment minimum to a three-unit minimum.

Tenants are required to place a key to the apartment or property in a universal lock box that firefighters can access so, in case of a fire, they can enter without breaking down the door.

One woman speaking against the expanded measure said that if her apartment were on fire, she wouldn't care about whether or not firefighters broke the door.

Another rationalization for the ordinance is that if there's an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) call, responders can gain access. Again, if it's a matter of life or death, the door doesn't matter. Even if it did, those in single dwellings should fork up keys, too. Don't they deserve to be safe? Don't their doors deserve the right to remain hinged?

Cedar Falls council members likely got the measure approved because it doesn't affect the more affluent, those in better neighborhoods with nice houses. It focuses on the poorer in the community, those who rent.

When the law was first passed seven years ago, nobody said a word, and now the ordinance has been expanded. Unless people get their act together and get the law overturned, it will expand again, likely to those single-family homeowners.

Think not? When the income tax went into effect in 1914, only those making more than \$100,000 per year had to pay. Since nobody cared about the rights of the rich, now the middle class and working poor are paying that tax.

Asset-forfeiture laws were only to be used against organized crime members and drug runners, but forfeiture has been abused. Police across the country routinely confiscate cars and cash without ever charging a person with a crime.

The Supreme Court of the US (SCOTUS) decision and the Iowa ordinance unfairly target people who live in apartments and condominiums. People in houses don't have to give spare keys to Cedar Falls authorities — not yet anyway — and folks who live in single-family dwellings have a better chance of keeping suspicious odors from escaping.

To paraphrase Thomas Paine, those who fail to safeguard the rights of others whether it's because of a difference in income, skin color, gender, or for any reason whatsoever, will lose their rights, too.

Regardless, though, the FBI is watching whomever they want, for whatever reason they choose.

Free state or police state, it's your choice.

*Richard Schwartzman is managing editor at Chadds Ford Live in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.*



## The Impossible Distance: A Choice to Kill

On 15 May, thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched on the borders with Israel, in the Palestinian territories, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. They were marking the 63rd anniversary of Nakba, which in Arabic means "catastrophe" - when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians lost their homes amid the fighting after the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

By CHRIS FLOYD / EMPIRE BURLESQUE

I watched them marching toward the border. Row upon row of them in the hot, bright sun. They marched without guns, without tanks and missiles — although some, like the shepherd boy David, did pick up a few rocks to hurl into the impossible distance.

I watched them stream down the green hill toward the heaps of dirt and wire. I saw them, old and young, walk toward the occupied land. I saw them come closer — close enough for the heavily-armed occupying force to have them in range.

From a distance — behind the barbed wire, with the occupiers, where the cameras that showed the scene were set — I heard the dull pops and parps of the guns as they fired. I saw the marchers keep streaming down the hill, although the first wave was now breaking in disarray. I heard the guns again. I saw some marchers fall, others scramble back, and still more coming down.

Pop. Pop. Parp. The dull sounds, intermittent, careful. The bullets whizzed across the distance — the impossible distance, which no stone could traverse. The bullets threw up clouds of dirt, they struck flesh. I saw bodies twisting and going down. The march became a rescue party. The dead and wounded were lifted onto sheets and stretchers as the bullets

kept coming: dull, intermittent, careful. Pop. Pop. Parp.

Finally, as many lay dead and many lay bleeding in bright, hot sun, finally, across the distance, from behind the barbed wire and hot-barreled weapons, I watched the canisters of tear gas sailing through the air, trailing streams of smoke. They landed on the dirt and the green grass, and spewed their painful, irresistible fog.

Now, at last, the marchers — who had kept coming in the face of the bullets — turned and fled. Carrying the dead, the dying and bleeding, they ran back up the green hill.

Then suddenly the scene shifted to an anonymous government office, where a comely young spokeswoman, speaking crisp, American-accented English, explained that these unweaponed marchers walking in the hot, bright sun posed such an overwhelming threat to the heavily-armed occupying forces behind the barriers of barbed wire that there was no alternative, no other choice, but to open fire across the impossible distance that no stone could traverse to fire into the unarmed crowd, to fire again and again, to watch them twist and fall into the mounds of dirt. No choice. No alternative.

Her appearance on the screen lasted almost as long as the time given to the marchers and their dead.

A reporter, who was standing near the border, behind the barbed wire, who had seen it all with his own eyes, dutifully concluded his piece with geopolitical context — one side says this, the other says that, plots and machinations lie behind every public outpouring. But even given all that, even he — speaking as the marchers were fleeing from the noxious clouds behind him — even he could not avoid the obvious question: Why use the tear gas last? Why shoot first? Why fire into the bodies, into the unarmed marchers, and kill them, when all along you were equipped with the proven means to disperse them without death and blood?

It seems, then, there was a choice for the occupying force. And they made the choice. The choice to kill, to speak with death and blood across the impossible distance.

*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.*

## Afghanistan: Why Civilians are Killed

By JAMES PETRAS / AXIS OF LOGIC

The recent rash of civilian killings by NATO forces in occupied Afghanistan raises several basic questions: Why do US/NATO air and ground forces kill so many civilians, so persistently, over such long stretches of time, in regions throughout the country? Why have the number of civilians killed increased in the course of the conflict? Why do NATO/US airplanes continue to bomb civilian housing and village gatherings, and ground troops indiscriminately assault homes and workshops? Why are the pleas of NATO collaborator President Karzai to desist in home bombings unheeded? Finally, knowing that the killing of civilians, entire families — including children, mothers and the elderly — alienates the local population and breeds widespread and profound hostility, why do the NATO/US military refuse to alter their tactics and strategy?

### Explanations and Excuses for Civilian Killings

Apologists for the NATO killings of civilians are as abundant as their explanations are lacking in substance. Pentagon spokespeople speak of "accidents", "errors of war", "collateral damage"; media pundits blame the guerrilla fighters for engaging in warfare in areas populated by civilians; neo-conservative academics and their "think tank" colleagues blame Islamic fundamentalism for converting villagers to their cause and "forcing" NATO to kill civilians in order to create martyrs and to use their deaths as a recruiting device.

These patently phony explanations raise more questions than answers, or in some cases, inadvertently refute the justification for the entire war. The "error of war" argument begs a more basic question: what kind of war is NATO-US engaged in that constantly finds the guerrillas "melting" into the population,

while the occupation breaks down doors and perceives each and every household as a possible sanctuary, or outpost of the resistance? What kind of military relies on high altitude fighter planes and pilotless planes directed from distant command posts to attack population centers, in which commerce, farming and household economies engage the population? Clearly only an army of occupation, an imperial army, is willing repeatedly to sacrifice a multitude of civilians to kill a single or a few suspected combatants. Only a military operating in a hostile civilian environment is going to assume that lodged behind every door of every home there is an "enemy"; that every family is sheltering a combatant; that it is better to "go in shooting" than to risk a bullet in the gut.

'Accidents of war' do not 'just happen' for an entire decade, covering an entire country. The killing of civilians is a result of a war of imperial conquest against

See AFGHANISTAN p. 7

## If the CIA Routinely Lies to the American People...

By SHERWOOD ROSS

If the CIA routinely lies to the American people, maybe that's because its got so much to lie about, like killing millions of innocent human beings around the world. As far back as December 1968, the CIA's own Covert Operations Study Group gave a secret report to president-elect Richard Nixon that conceded, "The impression of many Americans, especially in the intellectual community and among the youth, that the United States is engaging in 'dirty tricks' tends to alienate them from their government." According to Tim Weiner's book *Legacy of Ashes* (Anchor), the report went on to say, "Our credibility and our effectiveness in this role is necessarily damaged to the extent that it becomes known that we are secretly intervening in what may be (or appear to be) the internal affairs of others."

President Bill Clinton, who first gave the CIA the green light to launch its illegal "renditions" (kidnappings), told the nation on the occasion of the Agency's 50th birthday (1997), "By necessity, the American people will never know the full story of your courage." (Courage? For 22 agents to grab one Muslim cleric off the streets of Milan, Italy, and ship him abroad to be tortured?) Anyway, presidents who authorize criminal acts by the CIA, as virtually all have done since its founding in 1947, don't want the truth out, either, lest knowledge of those "dirty tricks" sicken and revolt the American people when they find out what crimes the Agency is perpetrating with their tax dollars. As former CIA agent Philip Agee once put it, "The CIA is the President's secret army." This point was underscored at a luncheon by President

Gerald Ford himself, which he hosted for *New York Times* top editors on Jan. 16, 1975. According to Weiner, Ford told them the reputation of every President since Truman could be ruined if the secrets became public. Asked by an editor, "like what?" Ford replied "Like assassinations."

One reason the Agency seeks to hide its operations is that it sadly is often guilty as charged. For example, take its complicity in the murders of American missionaries in Peru. As Reuters reported Nov. 21, 2008:

"The CIA obstructed inquiries into its role in the shooting down of an aircraft carrying a family of US missionaries in Peru in 2001, the agency's inspector general (IG) has concluded. The (IG's) report said a CIA-backed program in Peru targeting drug runners was so poorly run

See LIES p. 5

# Fukushima: It's Much Worse Than You Think

Scientific experts believe Japan's nuclear disaster to be far worse than governments are revealing to the public.

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enormous amounts of radiation, so you add more water and you are generating hundreds of thousands of tons of highly radioactive water."

Independent scientists have been monitoring the locations of radioactive "hot spots" around Japan, and their findings are disconcerting.

"We have 20 nuclear cores exposed, the fuel pools have several cores each, that is 20 times the potential to be released than Chernobyl," said Gundersen. "The data I'm seeing shows that we are finding hot spots further away than we had from Chernobyl, and the amount of radiation in many of them was the amount that caused areas to be declared no-man's-land for Chernobyl. We are seeing square kilometers being found 60 to 70 kilometers away from the reactor. You can't clean all this up. We still have radioactive wild boar in Germany, 30 years after Chernobyl."

## Radiation monitors for children

Japan's Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters finally admitted earlier this month that reactors 1, 2, and 3 at the Fukushima plant experienced full meltdowns.

TEPCO announced that the accident probably released more radioactive material into the environment than

new calculations show that within the first week of the accident, they released 2.3 times as much radiation as they thought they released in the first 80 days."

According to Gundersen, the exposed reactors and fuel cores are continuing to release microns of caesium, strontium, and plutonium isotopes. These are referred to as "hot particles."

"We are discovering hot particles everywhere in Japan, even in Tokyo," he said. "Scientists are finding these everywhere. Over the last 90 days these hot particles have continued to fall and are being deposited in high concentrations. A lot of people are picking these up in car engine air filters."

Radioactive air filters from cars in Fukushima prefecture and Tokyo are now common, and Gundersen says his sources are finding radioactive air filters in the greater Seattle area of the US as well.

The hot particles on them can eventually lead to cancer.

"These get stuck in your lungs or GI tract, and they are a constant irritant," he explained, "One cigarette doesn't get you, but over time they do. These [hot particles] can cause cancer, but you can't measure them with a Geiger counter. Clearly people in Fukushima prefecture

Nuclear operator Exelon Corporation has been among Barack Obama's biggest campaign donors and is one of the largest employers in Illinois, where

## Airspace Closed over Flooded Nebraska Nuclear Power Plant

VIA: BUSINESS INSIDER

A fire in Nebraska's Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant briefly knocked out the cooling process for spent nuclear fuel rods, ProPublica reports.

The fire occurred on June 7th, and knocked out cooling for approximately 90 minutes. After 88 hours, the cooling pool would boil dry, and highly radioactive materials would be exposed.

On June 6th, the Federal Administration Aviation (FAA) issued a directive banning aircraft from entering the airspace within a two-mile radius of the plant.

"No pilots may operate an aircraft in the areas covered by this NOTAM," referring to the "notice to airmen," effective immediately.

Since last week, the plant has been under a "notification of unusual event" classification, because of the rising Missouri River. That is the lowest level of emergency alert.

The Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) claims the FAA closed airspace over the plant because of the Missouri River flooding. But the FAA ban specifically lists the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant as the location for the flight ban.

The plant is adjacent to the now-flooding river, about 20 minutes outside downtown Omaha, and has been closed since April for refueling.



"But it is going to take a very long time before the fuel can be removed from the reactor," he added. "Dealing with the cracking and compromised structure and dealing with radiation in the area will take several years. There's no question about that."

Dr Sawada is not as clear about how long a cold shutdown could take, and said the problem will be "the effects from caesium-137 that remains in the soil and the polluted water around the power station and underground. It will take a

# War Propaganda

America's Recent Wars Have All Been Accompanied by Memorable Falsehoods

PROPAGANDA from p. 1

But after the invasion a reporter from the *St. Petersburg Times* viewed satellite photos from a commercial satellite, and "she saw no sign of a quarter of a million troops or their tanks."

Hawks in Congress, notably Tom Lantos and Stephen Solarz, secured support for the attack on Iraq with a story from a 15-year-old girl, that she had seen Kuwaiti infants snatched from their incubators by Iraqi soldiers. The story was discredited when it was learned that the girl, the daughter of the Saudi ambassador in Washington, might not have visited the hospital at all. She had been prepped on her story by the p.r. firm Hill & Knowlton, which had a contract for \$11.5 million from the Kuwaiti government.

The history of American foreign interventions is littered with such false stories, from the "Remember the Maine" campaign of the Hearst press in 1898, to the false stories of a North Vietnamese attack on US destroyers in the so-called Second Tonkin Gulf incident of August 4, 1964. We know, furthermore, that in their Operation Northwoods documents, the US Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1962 proposed a series of ways, some of them lethal, to deceive the American people in order to engineer a war against Cuba.

Since the fiasco of the false Iraqi stories in 1990-91, these stories have tended to be floated by foreign sources, usually European. This was conspicuously the case with the forged yellowcake documents from Italy underlying Bush's misleading reference to Iraq in his 2003 State of the Union address. But it was true also of the false stories linking Saddam Hussein to the celebrated anthrax letters of 2001. (Their anthrax was later determined to have come from a US biowarfare laboratory.)

This recurring history of falsified stories to justify interventions should be on our minds as we now face the allegations, as yet neither proven nor disproven, that Gaddafi has been using rape as a method to fight insurrection and may have been guilty of raping victims himself. These charges were made on June 8 by Luis Moreno-Ocampo, chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), who claimed (according to *Time Magazine*)

"...there were indications that Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi had ordered the rape of hundreds of women during his violent crackdown on the rebels and that he had even provided his soldiers with Viagra to stimulate the potential for attacks."

According to *Time*, the rape stories are being circulated by doctors who claim to have met and treated patients but do not have patients' permission to reveal their identities. Earlier, according to a Libyan doctor interviewed in an Al Jazeera video, "many doctors have found Viagra and condoms in the pockets of dead pro-Gaddafi fighters, as well as treated female rape survivors. The doctor insists this clearly indicates

the Gaddafi regime is using rape as a weapon of war."

But what of Moreno's charge that "Now we are getting some information that Gaddafi himself decided to rape, and this is new." This is a sensational charge: until we learn there is a reliable source for it, one can suspect it was made to grab headlines.

One problem in investigating these charges is that Libyan culture is so unkind to rape victims that they are reluctant to come forward. Researchers for Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International were unable to find one woman who said she had been raped. A UN human rights investigator, Cherif Bassiouni, told *Agence France-Presse* that the rape and Viagra stories were being circulated by the Benghazi authorities as "part of a 'massive hysteria.'" In fact he had discovered only three cases.

Military conflict, of course, is normally accompanied by rape. What might constitute a war crime would be whether (to quote *Time*) Gaddafi "had provided his soldiers with Viagra." Moreno actually said, according to the Associated Press, that "some witnesses confirmed that the [Libyan] government was buying containers of Viagra-type drugs 'to enhance the possibility to rape.'"

Others have objected that the purchase of Viagra-type drugs falls far short of indicating a war crime. Former US Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, in Tripoli on an investigative mission, has pointed out in her emails that, to date, the one army known to have distributed Viagra as part of its war operations is the US Army – as a bribe to entice information from aging tribal leaders in Afghanistan.

*Time's* subtle enhancement of Moreno's claim – from purchasing Viagra to providing it to soldiers, reminds us of the sorry record of the US mainstream media in circulating past false stories to justify war. It is painful to say this, but virtually every major US military intervention since Korea has been accompanied by false stories. Mr. Moreno-Ocampo should be pressed to come forward quickly with the supporting evidence for his charges, which should be based on more than the testimony of doctors working for the Benghazi regime.

Reprinted from *Global Research*.

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

## Japanese Seniors Volunteer for Dangerous Cleanup Jobs



Japanese seniors build a database of nuclear industry retiree volunteers.

In 1986, the former Soviet Union was able to muster nearly half a million military personnel to fight the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. Called "liquidators", some of the soviet workers received a lifetime dose of radiation in just minutes of exposure to the most contaminated areas. But Japan doesn't even have half a million troops, and besides, the Fukushima reactors are owned by a corporation, not the state. So who is going to clean-up the Fukushima site? Currently there are about 450 TEPCO workers and contractors at the Fukushima site, but no one has yet dared approach some of the most contaminated areas. Where is TEPCO going to find its army of "liquidators" willing to expose themselves to high levels of radiation in the contaminated reactor buildings?

One group has come forward to volunteer: nuclear industry retirees. Called the "suicide corps" by one official, they say all they want to do is be of service. They are willing to take on the most dangerous tasks in order to spare the lives of younger people. While the government hasn't yet said whether they would accept the offer, talks were reportedly underway.

Obama was senator. Exelon has donated more than \$269,000 to his political campaigns, thus far. Obama also appointed Exelon CEO John Rowe to his Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future.

Dr Shoji Sawada is a theoretical particle physicist and Professor Emeritus at Nagoya University in Japan.

He is concerned about the types of nuclear plants in his country and the fact that most of them are of US design.

"Most of the reactors in Japan were designed by US companies who did not care for the effects of earthquakes," Dr Sawada told Al Jazeera. "I think this problem applies to all nuclear power stations across Japan."

Using nuclear power to produce electricity in Japan is a product of the nuclear policy of the US, something Dr Sawada feels is also a large component of the problem.

"Most of the Japanese scientists at that time, the mid-1950s, considered that the technology of nuclear energy was under development or not established enough, and that it was too early to be put to practical use," he explained. "The Japan Scientists Council recommended the Japanese government not use this technology yet, but the government accepted to use enriched uranium to fuel nuclear power stations and was thus subjected to US government policy."

As a 13-year-old, Dr Sawada experienced the US nuclear attack against Japan from his home, situated just 1400 meters from the hypocenter of the Hiroshima bomb.

"I think the Fukushima accident

year or more time to deal with this".

Gundersen pointed out that the units are still leaking radiation.

"They are still emitting radioactive gases and an enormous amount of radioactive liquid," he said. "It will be at least a year before it stops boiling, and until it stops boiling, it's going to be cranking out radioactive steam and liquids."

Gundersen worries about more earthquake aftershocks, as well as how to cool two of the units.

"Unit four is the most dangerous, it could topple," he said. "After the earthquake in Sumatra there was an 8.6 [aftershock] about 90 days later, so we are not out of the woods yet. And you're at a point where, if that happens, there is no science for this, no one has ever imagined having hot nuclear fuel lying outside the fuel pool. They've not figured out how to cool units three and four."

Gundersen's assessment of solving this crisis is grim.

"Units one through three have nuclear waste on the floor, the melted core, that has plutonium in it, and that has to be removed from the environment for hundreds of thousands of years," he said. "Somehow, robotically, they will have to go in there and manage to put it in a container and store it for infinity, and that technology doesn't exist. Nobody knows how to pick up the molten core from the floor. There is no solution available now for picking that up from the floor."

Dr Sawada says that the creation of nuclear fission generates radioactive materials for which there is simply no knowledge informing us how to dispose of the radioactive waste safely.

"Until we know how to safely dispose of the radioactive materials generated by nuclear plants, we should postpone these activities so as not to cause further harm to future generations," he explained. "To do otherwise is simply an immoral act, and that is my belief, both as a scientist and as a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing."

Gundersen believes it will take experts at least ten years to design and implement the plan.

"So, ten to 15 years from now, maybe we can say the reactors have been dismantled, and, in the meantime, you wind up contaminating the water," Gundersen said. "We are already seeing Strontium [at] 250 times the allowable limits in the water table at Fukushima. Contaminated water tables are incredibly difficult to clean. So I think we will have a contaminated aquifer in the area of the Fukushima site for a long, long time to come."

Unfortunately, the history of nuclear disasters appears to back Gundersen's assessment.

"With Three Mile Island and Chernobyl and now with Fukushima, you can pinpoint the exact day and time they started," he said, "But they never end."

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## Germany Abandons Nuclear Power

Germany, the economic powerhouse of Europe, has announced plans to abandon nuclear power entirely. Half of Germany's nuclear plants have been shut down immediately and the remainder are to be shuttered by 2022.

The decision represents a dramatic reversal for Chancellor Angela Merkel, who had been a proponent of nuclear power before Fukushima. The political reality in Germany is that voters had already decided that nuclear power had to go. The phase-out of nuclear was already in the cards, the only question was timing. Merkel had been pushing to extend the nuclear phase-out beyond the planned 2036 date, but Merkel, who holds a Ph.D. in physics, was convinced by the Japanese disaster that the risks are too high.

To replace the power Germany plans double its production of renewable energy from 17% to 34% and install additional natural gas powered generators.

Italy abandoned nuclear power in 1987, after the Chernobyl disaster and reaffirmed that decision in a vote last month. Switzerland has decided to phase-out nuclear power by 2034 but France, which gets 80% of electric power from nuclear, has no plans to abandon the technology



German Chancellor Merkel

### Blame the US?

In reaction to the Fukushima catastrophe, Germany is phasing out all of its nuclear reactors over the next decade. In a referendum vote this Monday, 95 per cent of Italians voted in favor of blocking a nuclear power revival in their country. A recent newspaper poll in Japan shows nearly three-quarters of respondents favor a phase-out of nuclear power in Japan.

Why have alarms not been sounded about radiation exposure in the US?

has caused the Japanese people to abandon the myth that nuclear power stations are safe," he said. "Now the opinions of the Japanese people have rapidly changed. Well beyond half the population believes Japan should move towards natural electricity."

### A problem of infinite proportions

Dr Ramana expects the plant reactors and fuel cores to be cooled enough for a shutdown within two years.

Chernobyl, making it the worst nuclear accident on record.

Meanwhile, a nuclear waste advisor to the Japanese government reported that about 966 square kilometers near the power station — an area roughly 17 times the size of Manhattan — is now likely uninhabitable.

In the US, physician Janette Sherman, MD, and epidemiologist Joseph Mangano published an essay shedding light on a 35 per cent spike in infant mortality in northwest cities that occurred after the Fukushima meltdown and may well be the result of fallout from the stricken nuclear plant.

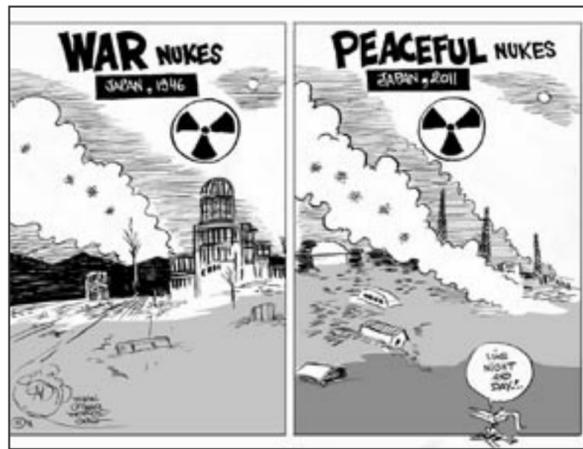
The eight cities included in the report are San Jose, Berkeley, San Francisco, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Portland, Seattle, and Boise, and the time frame of the report included the ten weeks immediately following the disaster.

"There is and should be concern about younger people being exposed, and the Japanese government will be giving out radiation monitors to children," Dr MV Ramana, a physicist with the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University who specializes in issues of nuclear safety, told Al Jazeera.

Dr Ramana explained that he believes the primary radiation threat continues to be mostly for residents living within 50 km of the plant, but added: "There are going to be areas outside of the Japanese government's 20 km mandatory evacuation zone where radiation is higher. So that could mean evacuation zones in those areas as well."

Gundersen points out that far more radiation has been released than has been reported.

"They recalculated the amount of radiation released, but the news is really not talking about this," he said. "The



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# Obama Now Waging Five Wars And Counting

WARS from p. 1

revolutions, military coups, and destabilizations is moving inexorably towards a possible world conflagration whose potential outlines are already visible.

According to military sources speaking on the Alex Jones radio program on June 15, US Special Forces units based at Fort Hood, Texas, have been told to prepare for deployment to Libya no later than July. Also on alert, reportedly for September or October, are the heavy armored units of the First Cavalry Division, currently located in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with other components of the US III Corps at various US bases. Observers point out that US Special Forces have been in Libya since February at the latest. They also note that, while the Libyan destination is highly plausible, some of these units may also find themselves on the way to Yemen, Syria, Iran, or beyond. At the same time, the Russian Foreign Ministry was denouncing the presence of the US Aegis cruiser

*Monterrey* in the Black Sea. The amphibious assault ship *USS Bataan* and its task force are presently off the coast of Syria. One very plausible explanation for these deployments might be that a US attack on Syria, under the pretext of protecting civilians, is imminent.

## Ahmadinejad of Iran to Obama: Only the US Mask Has Changed, Hands Off Syria

On June 8, President Ahmadinejad of Iran warned the US-NATO bloc not to assail Syria: "Syria is a pioneer of resistance. The Syrian government and nation can settle their issues and there is no need for the interference of others," Ahmadinejad said. He cautioned certain US-led countries in the region to "stop interfering in Syria's affairs," and added that Washington will turn against these states immediately after it achieves its objectives in Syria. These warnings may be addressed to Jordan, the Iraqi Kurds, or Turkey, whose territories may have been used to smuggle weapons and commandos into Syria. "The Americans want to gain popularity among the regional nations through the implementation of this plan and portray themselves as the upholder of people's rights," Ahmadinejad went on, and noted that while a new regime took power in the US in 2009, the nature of the ruling system has not changed: "Only the masks have changed. Campaign against terrorism was the mask of the previous US administration, but the mask of the current administration is supporting human rights." More recently, the Iranian Foreign Ministry and leading Iranian generals have issued stern warnings against any aggression at the expense of Syria, which they evidently would regard as *casus belli*. Increased attacks on US forces by Shiite militias in Iraq in recent weeks may be a token of Tehran's alarm over the possible loss of its main ally.

## "Gay Girl in Damascus" a US Hoax – Like Many Reports on Syria and Libya?

On June 14, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton issued an unusual dual condemnation of both Damascus and Tehran, repeating the US line that Iran is assisting in the repression of Syrian protests. "Today in Syria, Iran is supporting the Assad regime's vicious assaults on peaceful protesters and military actions against its own cities," said Clinton. Back in the real world, suspicions were growing up that much media reporting concerning events in Syria represented pure fiction in the tradition of the Kuwait incubator babies and Jessica Lynch: the much-touted "Gay Girl in Damascus" blog, which had been cited as a primary source of information about Syria by mainstream news media across the western world, was exposed as a total hoax. This hoax was the handiwork of Tom McMaster, a 40-year-old American man, and his wife Britta Froelicher, an activist with the American Friends Service Committee, an organization infiltrated by the US intelligence community since the Cold War. How many of the films, photos, and interviews broadcast and posted about supposed war crimes in Libya, Syria, and other countries have also been invented out of whole cloth by this cottage industry of disinformation and black propaganda? How much of the social media hype associated with the "Arab Spring" derives from the trolls at US Cyber Command?

An attack on Syria could come soon. "It has gotten to the point where Qaddafi's behavior and Assad's behavior are indistinguishable," commented GOP Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who noted "You need to put on the table all options, including a model like we have in Libya." This meant war.

## Yemen: Government of Wounded President Saleh Crumbles, US Drone Strikes Begin

Yemen's President Saleh was seriously wounded on June 3 when rockets allegedly fired by insurgent tribesmen struck his palace. Saleh was flown to Saudi Arabia the next day for emergency treatment. While Saleh's relatives and allies tried to hold onto power, the Pentagon exploited the resulting power vacuum to begin large-scale Predator drone attacks in the country. It was revealed that the US Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) and the CIA were operating out of a headquarters in Sanaa, and that the CIA would soon begin a wide-ranging program of Predator drone assassinations outside of any rules of military engagement. There were also reports that the US was building a large Predator drone base for operations in Yemen. In the meantime, Islamic militants of the Ansar al-Sharia group, equated by the US media to "al Qaeda," seized parts of a provincial capital in southern Yemen. It should be remembered that the two leading spokesmen for "Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula"

("AQAP") are US citizen [and Pentagon dinner quest] Anwar Awlaki and Guantanamo alumnus al-Shiri, both obvious US double agents. The purpose of the entire Yemen destabilization is to open an avenue of attack against Saudi Arabia, Yemen's immediate neighbor.

## US Strike Against Pakistan Nukes On Front Burner

Ahmadinejad was also taking seriously the spate of media reports about a coming US attack on Pakistan's nuclear forces. "We have precise information that America wants to sabotage Pakistan's nuclear facilities in order to control Pakistan and to weaken the government and the people of Pakistan," he said on June 6. The US is also seeking to "use the United Nations Security

Council and some other international organizations as a lever to pave the way for its increased presence in Pakistan, with the aim of

undermining Pakistan's national sovereignty," said the Iranian President. The Pakistani government has requested that Iran share with them the detailed intelligence that was the basis for this report.

The Pakistan nukes scenario was the centerpiece of a widely noticed study entitled "Terrorist Tactics in Pakistan Threaten Nuclear Weapons Safety," by British academic Shaun Gregory, published on June 1 in the *CTC Sentinel*, the house organ of the Combating Terrorism Center of the US Military Academy at West Point, NY. Gregory's thesis is that Pakistan, now equipped with over 100 nuclear weapons, will not be able to defend all of them against a determined terrorist attack. He estimates that some 70,000 Pakistanis are now involved in the nation's nuclear program, and that terrorists would inevitably be able to infiltrate and subvert some of this personnel, including the recruitment of rogue commanders of the tactical or battlefield nuclear weapons which Pakistan is currently deploying to guard against an attack by India. Gregory also asserts that it would be enough for terrorists to get possession of fissile materials that would allow the construction of a dirty bomb. Even a failed attack on a nuclear site would cause world hysteria: "The successful location and penetration of such a site by terrorists, even if they were ultimately unsuccessful in accessing nuclear assets, would itself be a transformative event both in terms of the US-Pakistani nuclear relationship and in terms of international anxiety about the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons," writes Gregory.

Reuters commented: "It's a nightmare scenario: al Qaeda militants gain control of a Pakistani nuclear weapon, either through a base assault, theft or a rogue commander's cooperation, possibly in the event of hostilities with nuclear-armed neighbor India. The Pakistanis were on full alert: "We know that the ultimate objective of the United States here is not to get a piece of land but to target our nuclear facilities..." said a Pakistani source quoted by Ansar Abbasi in *News International* on June 9.

US Joint Chiefs of Staff head Admiral Mike Mullen confirmed that this is indeed what the Pentagon has in mind, saying of Pakistan: "It's a country with an awful lot of terrorists on that border... Things that I fear in the future, it's the proliferation of that [nuclear] technology, and it's the opportunity and the potential that it could fall into the hands of terrorists, many of whom are alive and well and seek that in that region."

As if to provide a suitable pretext for such an attack, the US media has been trumpeting the alleged selection of notorious MI-6 asset Ayman al-Zawahiri as Bin Laden's successor as top dog of "al Qaeda." Zawahiri has allegedly sworn to avenge the death of Bin Laden, meaning that the door to new false flag terror events is wide open. This coverage was accompanied by the assurance that Zawahiri's home base was nowhere else but Pakistan. Mullen immediately proclaimed that Zawahiri would soon meet the same fate as his predecessor, meaning that the US is determined to carry out more unilateral attacks on Pakistani territory, despite the virtual certainty that these will meet with Pakistani countermeasures.

## An Anti-US Coup d'Etat by Nationalist Colonels in Islamabad?

On June 15, the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* both published front-page articles highlighting the rapid growth of anti-American resentment in the Pakistani officer corps. *The New York Times* wrote that many military officers were so disgusted by the servility of army chief Kayani towards Washington that "a colonels' coup, while unlikely, was not out of the question," according to "a well-informed Pakistani who has seen the general in recent weeks, as well as an American military official involved with Pakistan for many years."

The neoon *National Review*, genuinely alarmed by the prospect of a new generation of modernizing military officers in the great tradition of Colonel Nasser of Egypt, spun out some grim scenarios and asked, "would the outcome of a break between America and Pakistan be war—whether low-level or outright?" In reality, a regime of progressive colonels might provide a better outcome than Islamic fundamentalists, not just for Pakistan, but also for Egypt.

## Panetta's New Pearl Harbor of Virtual Flag Cyber-Attacks

Islamabad continues to enjoy support from China, which pledged a month ago to regard any attack on Pakistan as an attack on the Middle Kingdom itself. China has military options for retaliation, ranging from ICBMs to sensitive points like the Taiwan Straits, but these are less likely. China could also express displeasure by divesting some US Treasury bonds. More likely might be operations in the cyber-

realm. US sources allege that Lockheed Martin, the CIA, and other websites are under cyber assault, and some commentators have tried to pin this on China. CIA Director Panetta, now moving over to the Pentagon, told a Senate Committee, "The next Pearl Harbor we confront could very well be a cyber attack that cripples our power systems, our grid, our security systems, our financial systems, our governmental systems." Since no known cyber-attack has thus far been able to create such devastating effects, we may assume that Panetta is preparing the way for virtual flag terrorism, in which the US government would simply assert that some catastrophic event had been caused by a country it wishes to target. In a possibly related development, German attorney Thorsten van Geest is in court seeking a temporary restraining order against the Merkel government to shut down all anti-terror drills around the June 26 opening of the World Women's Soccer Championship in Berlin, citing the danger that one of these exercises might be flipped live.

## Saudi Arabia Signals Break from Washington

Saudi Arabia is known to be seeking cooperation with Pakistan and with other countries as part of its attempted exit from the collapsing US empire. Prince Turki al-Faisal, a leading figure of the royal family, signaled Riyadh's broad-based rage against Washington with a June 7 op-ed warning Obama that "there will be disastrous consequences for US-Saudi relations if the United States vetoes UN recognition of a Palestinian state." Turki concluded with a threat: "We Arabs used to say no to peace, and we got our comeuppance in 1967 [with a crushing military defeat] .... Now, it is the Israelis who are saying no. I'd hate to be around when they face their comeuppance." These blunt words caused shock behind closed doors in official Washington.

## NATO Facing Logistical Overstretch in Libya

Resistance by Colonel Qaddafi of Libya against the attacking US-NATO forces has exposed the grave logistical weakness of the supposedly omnipotent Western alliance. A US military source speaking on the Alex Jones broadcast reported that US stocks of depleted uranium (DU) munitions are currently very low. This may be the reality behind outgoing Defense Secretary Gates' complaint last week that NATO is running out of bombs in Libya and similar remarks by French NATO General Stephane Abrial in Belgrade. The US still has some stocks, but how long would these last against Syria, Hezbollah, and Iran?

As Chinese political scientist Kiyul Chung told *Russia Today* (RT) on June 16, the world was at an historic crossroads, on the brink of deciding whether US and NATO military interventions on the Libyan model would subdue the entire world, or whether Russia, China, and other participants in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization would be able to create a worldwide movement to counterbalance the "unilateral, aggressive, and colonial" methods of the western powers.

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# Bilderberg

The most important meeting the US Media won't cover



Bilderberg 2011: Hotel Suvretta House in St. Moritz, Switzerland

BILDERBERG from p. 1

European Commission, the President of the European Council, the Director General of the World Trade Organization, the President of the European Central Bank, the President of The World Bank, and the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme.

No. still not doing it for the world's media.

OK, how about the US Deputy Secretary of State, the Commander of USCYBERCOM, and the Director of the National Security Agency?

Perhaps representatives from every major US think tank? You like to have them on your news output every single day. Right, mainstream media? You know, the guys from the Hudson Institute, the Brookings Institution, the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, and the Institute for Demographic Research – all at Bilderberg.

Turn on the TV, and there is 24-hour news coverage of the ongoing economic crisis. Imagine if senior representatives from every major bank in the world were meeting in the same place, along with the heads of finance from several major countries in the Western world. Oh wait, they are, at Bilderberg.

Bilderberg has senior figures from the National Bank of Belgium, the Nordea Bank of Denmark, the Deutsche Bank of Germany, the Investor AB bank of Sweden, the Oesterreichische Kontrollbank AG of Austria, and the Investimentos bank of Portugal.

They have the Chairman of Barclays bank, the Chairman of

HSBC, the Chairman of Goldman Sachs, the CEO of TD Bank Financial Group, the Vice Chairman of Citigroup and the former Chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank.

Deep breath...

They have the former German Minister of Finance, the current British Chancellor of the Exchequer, the current Greek Minister of Finance (not a great gig at the moment), the current Italian Minister of Economy and Finance, the Governor of the Bank of Canada, the former US Secretary of the Treasury and the former Governor of the Federal Reserve Board.

Throw in a smattering of royalty from the Netherlands, Spain and Norway, and a few high ranking politicians and heads of state from Belgium, Austria, China, Great Britain, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey and you're still only really scratching the surface of the who's who of Bilderberg attendees.

It is clearly asinine to suggest that this group of people hold no power and do not have any sway on the international stage. Their influence is irrefutable. Anyone who makes this argument and then tells you you are delusional is beyond stupid.

Where are you mainstream media? Why are you ignoring this and choosing instead to report on week old pictures of a Congressman's penis?

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# If the CIA Routinely Lies to the American People...

LIES from p. 3

that many suspect aircraft were shot down by Peruvian air force jets without proper checks being made first." A small plane carrying Veronica Bowers, her husband Jim, their son Cory and infant daughter Charity was shot down by a Peruvian jet on April 20, 2001, after it was tracked by a CIA surveillance plane that suspected it was carrying drugs. Veronica and Charity Bowers were killed, while their pilot, Kevin Donaldson, who crash-landed the bullet-riddled plane into the Amazon River, was badly injured. The IG's report said that, in the aftermath of the 2001 incident, the CIA sought to characterize it as a one-time mistake in an otherwise well-run program. "In fact this was not the case. The routine disregard of the required intercept procedures ... led to the rapid shooting down of target aircraft without adequate safeguards to protect against the loss of innocent life," the report from the Agency's own Inspector General (IG) said. (One might ask why the CIA didn't wait for the plane to land to interrogate the passengers?)

The kicker in the Reuters account is "The IG said the CIA found 'sustained and significant' violations of procedure in its own internal investigation but had denied Congress, the National Security Council and the Justice Department access to its findings." This raises the question of whether the CIA has become so powerful it can withhold findings even from the Justice Department and Congress. The answer is that it can, has, and likely continues to do so, because it is indeed both powerful and influential. After all, with the exception of President Clinton, who abetted the CIA's crimes, presidents George H.W. Bush; George W. Bush, Jr.; and Barack Obama all have been directly on the CIA payroll as employees at one time or another. Bush Sr., of course, headed the Agency during 1976-77. Bush, Jr. worked for a CIA front in Alaska, and President Obama worked for CIA front Business International Corporation after he got out of college.

The CIA's influence is such that it can successfully forbid other agencies of government to reveal its crimes if they

find out about them. Example: "The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) knew about and helped cover up the CIA's involvement in Guatemala's drug war murders, a former DEA agent said," the AP reported on July 23, 1996. Although the DEA denied the allegations, Celerino Castillo, who was a special DEA agent assigned to Guatemala, said he and other DEA agents there "were aware of specific murders committed by the Guatemalan military with CIA involvement and were ordered to lie to keep the crimes secret." AP said the Intelligence Oversight Board issued a report stating CIA agents in Guatemala "were credibly alleged" to have ordered, planned or participated in human rights violations such as murder, torture and kidnapping." (i.e., Castillo's charges were true.) So it has long since gotten to the point that officials of other US agencies cannot report the CIA's crimes either, as if they were under a Mafia oath of secrecy.

CIA employees themselves are forbidden by secrecy agreements (under the Intelligence Identities Protection Act passed under President Ronald Reagan) to write anything about the Agency without first clearing it with a CIA publications review board. Accordingly, the CIA recently cracked down on a former officer who wrote under the pseudonym "Ishmael Jones." His "crime" was publishing two years ago *The Human Factor: Inside the CIA's Dysfunctional Intelligence Culture*. The Associated Press quotes Jones as saying, "CIA censors attack this book because it exposes the CIA as a place to get rich, with billions of taxpayer dollars wasted or stolen in espionage programs that produce nothing." Denying the truth, however, is a long established CIA practice. John Stockwell, for 13 years a CIA station chief in Angola or a top man in Viet Nam, said in a lecture, "What I ran into...was corruption in the CIA and the intelligence business...what I found was that the CIA, us, the case officers, were not permitted to report about the corruption in the South Vietnamese army."

Whether the Agency's John Stockwell, Ishmael Jones or DEA's Celerino Castillo, we note that many of the CIA's critics

are former American intelligence officers who have seen too much, men apparently with a conscience and respect for human rights. Stockwell, a former Marine who held high posts in the field for the CIA, was in a position to know that over the years the CIA has killed "millions" of innocents. He says the victims were largely "people of the Third World...that have the misfortune of being born in the Metumba Mountains of the Congo, in the jungles of Southeast Asia...in the hills of northern Nicaragua...most of (whom) couldn't give you an intelligent definition of communism or of capitalism." Stockwell estimated the CIA has perpetrated "10 to 20 thousand covert actions" between 1961, about the time of its Cuban Bay of Pigs fiasco, and 1987.

Stockwell concludes "We are responsible for doing these things on a massive basis to people of the world...we create a CIA, a secret police, we give them a vast budget, and we let them go and run these (covert) programs in our name and we pretend like we don't know it's going on...And we're just as responsible for these 1 to 3 million people we've slaughtered and for all the people we've tortured and made miserable, as the Gestapo was of the people that they slaughtered and killed. Genocide is genocide."

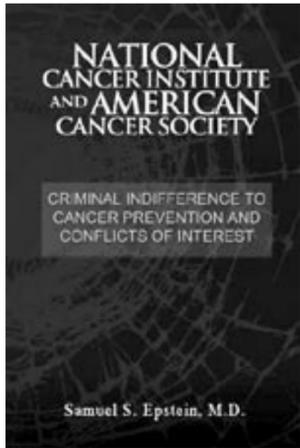
Is it? The Obama administration apparently has no plans to expose and bring to trial past CIA killers and torturers, much less those who obstructed justice by destroying tapes of their torture or lying to Congress about it. This is the same country — which is now waging war in four or five Middle East nations and has been responsible for the violent and bloody overthrow of dozens of foreign governments — that keeps a quarter of a million pot smokers in prison who have never hurt another human being in their lives. Pardon me if I ask whether my native land has not, in fact, become a lunatic asylum run by the criminally insane?

*Sherwood Ross is director of the Anti-War News Service. He formerly worked for major dailies and wire services. To contribute to his news service or comment, reach him at sherwoodross10@gmail.com*

## Book Review

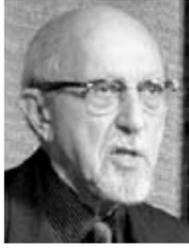
## The Cancer Industry Exposed

National Cancer Institute and American Cancer Society  
skewed in new book by leading cancer expert



**NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE and AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY:**  
Criminal Indifference to Cancer Prevention and Conflicts of Interest

By Samuel S Epstein



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REVIEW BY NEEV M. ARNELL / NATURALNEWS

A new book by leading cancer expert, Dr. Samuel S. Epstein, skewers the National Cancer Institute and American Cancer Society and blames the organizations for America losing the war against cancer.

In the book, *National Cancer Institute and American Cancer Society: Criminal Indifference to Cancer Prevention and Conflicts of Interest*, Epstein argues that the NCI and ACS have spent tens of billions of taxpayer and charity dollars focusing on treatment to the exclusion of prevention, which has allowed cancer rates to skyrocket, with the disease now affecting nearly one in two men and more than one in three women. Furthermore, the author claims that not only do numerous conflicts of interest exist within the NCI and ACS, but the NCI and ACS are also withholding a mass of information on avoidable causes of cancer.

Epstein, who has served as a consultant for the US Senate Committee on Public Works, is an internationally recognized authority on avoidable causes of cancer, particularly carcinogen exposure through conduits such as food, air, water, household products, cosmetics, prescription drugs or industrial carcinogens in the workplace.

Epstein is professor emeritus of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at the University of Illinois School of Public Health and chairman of the Cancer Prevention Coalition. He has published more than 270-peer reviewed articles and 20 books, including the prize-winning 1978 *The Politics of Cancer*, and has appeared on national media, including NPR, 60 Minutes, Face the Nation, Meet the Press, The McNeil/Lehrer News Hour, Good Morning America and The Today Show. He was a key expert in the banning of hazardous products including DDT, chlordane and aldrin. In his new book, he is now the leading critic of the cancer establishment for its indifference to prevention of the disease, which, for the ACS, he claims, borders on hostility.

Cancer funding skyrockets along with cancer rates, followed by exaggerated claims of progress

The cancer industry has made a series of misleading claims about the advances in the war against cancer over the past three decades, wrote Epstein.

Some of the false claims, according to Epstein, include the industry's 1984 announcement by the NCI that cancer mortality would be halved by 2000, the 1998 NCI and ACS Report Card announcement of a reversal in the almost twenty-year trend of increasing cancer incidence and death, and the 2003 pledge by NCI Director and former ACS president-elect Andrew von Eschenbach to "eliminate suffering and death from cancer by 2015."

The NCI, ACS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also claimed that "considerable progress has been made in reducing the [number of people with cancer] in the US population" in its 2003 "Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer, 1975-2000."

The claim, however, is not consistent with NCI's own data, Epstein said, which shows the overall number of people with cancer and incidence rates actually increased by 18 percent. The data also shows a dramatic increase in nonsmoking-related cancers, according to Epstein, including a 104 percent increase in liver cancer, an 88 percent increase in prostate cancer, a 54 percent increase in thyroid and testicular cancer, a 29 percent increase in breast cancer and a 14 percent increase in brain cancer. Epstein also notes the overall cancer mortality rates have remained unchanged and have increased by 6 percent for blacks.

It seems that the more we spend on cancer, the more cancer we get, Epstein said, because while the number of people with cancer goes up, so does the NCI budget paid for by tax payers and charity. The NCI budget has increased 25-fold, from \$220 million to \$4.6 billion, between 1971 and 2000.

## Prevention is the key

The fixation on "damage control" instead of prevention is the root cause of the booming cancer rates in the face of billions of dollars aimed at elimination of the disease, according to Epstein.

He claims the NCI priorities are all wrong. The opening statement of the NCI's 2001 Cancer Facts report says that "cancer prevention is a major component and current priority -- to reduce suffering and death from cancer." Meanwhile the report claimed that only 12 percent of the NCI's then \$3.75 billion budget was allocated to prevention.

Epstein shows that the actual attention to prevention is probably even less, by citing an analysis of a 1992 NCI budget showing that less than 2.5 percent of its then \$2 billion budget was spent on prevention.

Epstein further crucifies NCI stating that prevention tactics defined by NCI only covered the value of avoiding smoking and a bad diet, while wholly ignoring the myriad of environmental and occupational carcinogens.

NCI and ACS withholding a mass of cancer prevention information

The NCI has failed to inform the public of published scientific information on a wide range of avoidable causes of multiple cancers, Epstein said.

According to Epstein, there are three major categories of avoidable causes including:

- Environmental contaminants in air, water, soil, the workplace, and food;
- Carcinogenic ingredients in consumer products, particularly pesticides;
- Carcinogenic prescription drugs and high-dose diagnostic radiation, particularly pediatric CAT scans.

Epstein wrote, "NCI's silence on cancer prevention is in flagrant violation of the 1971 National Cancer Act's specific charge to disseminate cancer information to the public. This silence is in further violation of the 1988 Amendments to the National Cancer Program, which called for an expanded and intensified research program for the prevention of cancer caused by occupational or environmental exposure to carcinogens."

Epstein blamed this NCI failure to inform Congress and regulatory agencies of avoidable carcinogens for encouraging petrochemical and other industries to continue manufacturing products containing carcinogens, and encouraging corporate polluters to continue polluting.

NCI's aversion to publicizing avoidable carcinogens has even gone as far as suppression and denial, Epstein said, quoting the following examples:

"In 1983, the Department of Health and Human Services directed NCI to investigate the risks of thyroid cancer from I-131 radioactive fallout following atom bomb tests in Nevada in the late 1950s and early 1960s."

"NCI released its report in 1997, based on data which had been available for over fourteen years, predicting up to 210,000 thyroid cancers from radioactive fallout. These cancers, whose incidence has almost doubled since 1973, could have been readily prevented had the NCI warned the public in time and advised them to take thyroid medication."

"At a September 1999 hearing by the Senate Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Affairs, former Senator John Glenn (D-OH) charged that the NCI investigation was plagued by lack of public participation and openness. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) charged that NCI's conduct was a travesty."

[Just] as serious is NCI's frank suppression of information. At a 1996 San Francisco Town Hall Meeting on breast cancer, chaired by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), former NCI director Richard Klausner insisted that "low level diagnostic radiation does not demonstrate an increased risk." However, this was contrary to long-term studies on patients with spinal curvature (scoliosis), which showed that such radiation was responsible for 70% excess breast cancer mortality.

## Impeach Now Or Forever Hold Up Peace

By PHILIP C. RESTINO, JR. / CENTRAL FLORIDA VETERANS FOR PEACE

Twenty years ago after US forces had driven the Iraqi military out of Kuwait and back into Iraq, President George H.W. Bush as Commander in Chief ordered the US military to cease-fire on February 28, 1991. Years later in his 1998 memoir "A World Transformed", Bush admitted that the reason he chose to order the cease-fire was because he understood that advancing further into Iraq, a country that had not attacked the US, and overthrowing its government could easily be seen as an illegal war of aggression and thus warrant a call from the American people for his removal from office by the constitutional remedy of impeachment. It was the fear of a call for impeachment by the American people that in effect stopped the President from continuing the war.

Since the presidency of the Democrat Bill Clinton during the 1990's, which immediately followed the Presidency of the Republican George H.W. Bush, the American people have allowed a practice of the president acting as "unitary executive" unaccountable to the rule of law in ordering the US military into unprovoked, illegal wars of aggression and occupations. During the presidency of the Republican George W. Bush, attempts were made to even re-define the office of the President as a "unitary executive" with literally dictatorial powers beyond the rule of law. Now, because the American people have still not spoken up, the current presidency of the Democrat Barack Obama has allowed the President of the United States to order Americans to war without even consulting the American people's representatives in Congress or having to concoct a lie about the US facing a "justifiable" threat to its national security.

President Obama's ordering of the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 attack on Libya, without even consulting Congress, let alone getting a Declaration of War or other type of Congressional approval for the attack, has led to a good amount of discussion as to how the President could very well be impeached

for having unilaterally ordered such an attack. People from both ends of the political spectrum, to include members of Congress, have been quite clear in publicly stating that the President's attack on Libya is not only an impeachable offense, as noted by Democrat Representative and 2008 Presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich from Ohio, but it also makes him accountable for war crimes, as were reminded by Republican Representative and 2012 Presidential candidate Ron Paul from Texas. Notable legal experts and scholars from both the left and the right, including former Democrat US Attorney General Ramsey Clark, former Republican Deputy US Attorney General Bruce Fein, and Professor of Law Francis Boyle, have publicly offered their services to assist in carrying out impeachment proceedings against President Obama over his unconstitutional and otherwise illegal war on Libya to any member of Congress willing to step forward and introduce Articles of Impeachment.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) says he plans to offer an amendment to the upcoming Defense spending bill to cut off funding for military operations in Libya. Kucinich has tried similar tactics earlier in the month. On June 2, he introduced a bill to force an end to funding of the Libya operation only to have it undermined by a competing measure from Republican Speaker Boehner (R-Ohio) when it looked like the Kucinich measure might pass. Not to be deterred, Kucinich has also sought relief in the courts, arguing that the President has exceeded his authority in Libya by sending the military without congressional authorization.

Let us not forget that it was the former Constitutional Law Professor and US Senator Barack H. Obama who said himself during a December 20, 2007 interview with the *Boston Globe* that "The President does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation."

The sovereign nation of Libya posed no such threat whatsoever to the United States,

and Obama's ordering of more than 120 Cruise Missiles fired into Libya in just the first day of his own March 19<sup>th</sup> "Shock and Awe" is nothing less than another outright illegal US war of aggression similar to the illegal US war of aggression on Iraq launched 8 years to the day prior, minus the land invasion which is the next step in the process if the American people don't draw the line and call for a stop to it now.

With such a clear cut case for impeaching President Obama over his war on Libya, and given the legal experts and the political figures ready to proceed with a call for impeachment, then why has there not been a call from the leaders of the national antiwar organizations for impeaching Obama. Making such a call now could actually prevent him from going ahead with a land invasion into Libya and even be enough of a threat of impeachment to force him to finally end the 10-year US wars and occupations by using his unique ability as Commander in Chief to order a cease-fire?

When asked, most Americans want the wars to end and our representatives in government, to include the President of the United States, to once again not be able to act outside the rule of law. Now the American people have a very clear and present opportunity to achieve just that with President Obama's unilaterally ordering the March 19<sup>th</sup> US military attack on Libya. There comes a point in time when we either "use it or lose it", and we are at that point in time now with the constitutional remedy of impeachment. Impeach now or forever hold up peace.

*Restino is co-chair and a founding member of the Central Florida chapter of Veterans For Peace and a member of Military Families Speak Out - Florida. He lives in Port Orange, FL. For more information, visit the chapter website at www.cfveteransforpeace.org or the national VFP website at www.veteransforpeace.org.*

ACS has just as abysmal a track record on prevention as NCI, according to Epstein, and it has been and remains the target of periodic attacks by leading scientists and public interest groups.

One attack in a 1994 press release by the Center for Science in the Public Interest stated, "A group of 24 scientists charged that the ACS was doing little to protect the public from cancer-causing chemicals in the environment and workplace. The scientists urged ACS to revamp its policies and to emphasize prevention in its lobbying and educational campaigns."

The scientists criticized ACS for requiring human evidence of carcinogenic effects before implementing regulation, saying that they had an unrealistically high action threshold. The scientists included: Harvard University Nobel Laureates Matthew Meselson and George Wald; former Occupational Safety and Health Director Eula Bingham; and past president of the Public Health Association, Anthony Robbins.

One major instance of ACS ignoring the science, according to Epstein, was in 1993 when they came out in support of the pesticide industry just before the airing of

"It has always seemed to me that was an issue of control by the ACS over the cancer agenda," Durant said. "They are protecting their own fundraising capacity [from competition by survivor groups.]"

## Conflicts of Interest

But emphasis on treatment looks likely to remain if, as Epstein shows, the ACS and NCI are in bed with those who profit from a treatment focus.

Approximately half of the members of the ACS board are doctors and scientists with close ties to the NCI, Epstein said. Many of the board members and their colleagues obtain funding from both the ACS and NCI, he said. Frank conflicts of interest are evident in many ACS priorities, according to Epstein, including the two major examples of mammography and cancer drugs.

"The ACS has close connections to the mammography industry," Epstein writes. "Five radiologists have served as ACS presidents, and in its every move, the ACS reflects the interests of the major manufacturers of mammogram machines and films ... In fact, if every woman followed the ACS and NCI mammography guidelines, the annual revenue to health care facilities would be a staggering \$5 billion.

ACS promotion continues to lure women of all ages into mammography centers, leading them to believe that mammography is their best hope against breast cancer. A leading Massachusetts

newspaper featured a photograph of two women in their twenties in an ACS advertisement that promised early detection results in a cure "nearly 100 percent of the time."

An ACS communications director responded; "The ad isn't based on a study. When you make an advertisement, you just say what you can to get women in the door. You exaggerate a point. Mammography today is a lucrative [and] highly competitive business."

"The ACS exposes premenopausal women to radiation hazards from mammography with little or no evidence of benefits," Epstein said. "The ACS also fails to tell them that their breasts will change so much over time that the 'baseline' images have little or no future relevance."

The cancer drug industry is even more lucrative than mammography with annual sales over \$12 billion. The intimate association between ACS and the pharmaceutical industry is illustrated, Epstein said, by the unbridled aggression which ACS directs at its critics.

"ACS maintains a Committee on Unproven Methods of Cancer Management, which periodically reviews unorthodox or alternative therapies," Epstein wrote. "This committee is comprised of volunteer health care professionals, carefully selected proponents of orthodox, expensive, and usually toxic drugs patented by major pharmaceutical companies, and opponents of alternative or unproven therapies that are generally cheap, and minimally toxic."

ACS promotion continues to lure women of all ages into mammography centers... exposes premenopausal women to radiation hazards... with little or no evidence of benefits"

the PBS Frontline special, "In Our Children's Food." ACS released a memorandum in which it trivialized pesticides as a cause of childhood cancers, and reassured the public that pesticide residues were safe, even for infants.

Possibly most shocking is the failure of the NCI and ACS to inform the public of the increasing incidence of childhood cancers, which has escalated to alarming rates, according to Epstein. The Cancer Prevention Coalition's 2003 report said that childhood cancers have increased by 32 percent between 1975 and 2000 and that cancer is one of the leading causes of death in children, second only to accidents.

Even more shocking, the NCI claims that "the causes of childhood cancer are largely unknown." This is diametrically opposed to substantial scientific evidence, according to Epstein, which shows that children are exposed to numerous avoidable carcinogens, including everything from X-rays, prescription drugs, pesticides and contaminants in beauty products to petrochemical and industrial pollutants, radioactive pollutants in the air and drinking water, and pollutants from hazardous waste sites.

In 2000, the industry publication *Cancer Letter* had a commentary on ACS' behind-the-scenes creation of a legislative committee to gain major control of national cancer policy, according to Epstein. In the commentary, former executive president of the American Society of Clinical Oncologists Dr. John Durant shared his assessment of ACS behavior.

Periodically, the committee updates its statements on unproven methods, which are then widely disseminated to clinicians, cheerleader science writers, and the public. Once a clinician or oncologist becomes associated with unproven methods, he or she is blackmailed by the cancer establishment. Funding for the accused quack becomes inaccessible, followed by systematic harassment.

"The highly biased ACS witch-hunts against alternative practitioners are in striking contrast to its extravagant and uncritical endorsement of conventional toxic chemotherapy. This despite the absence of any objective evidence of improved survival rates or reduced mortality following chemotherapy for all but some relatively rare cancers."

The cancer industry's favor of pharmaceutical products is evidenced, Epstein said, "by the fact that the US Food and Drug Administration has approved approximately 40 patented drugs for cancer treatment, while it has yet to approve a single nonpatented alternative drug."

According to Epstein, "Dr. Samuel Broder, NCI director from 1989 to 1995, frankly admitted, in a 1998 *Washington Post* interview, that 'the NCI has become what amounts to a government pharmaceutical company.' Taxpayers have funded R & D and expensive clinical trials for over two-thirds of cancer drugs on the market. These drugs are given, with exclusive rights, to the industry, which sells them at inflated prices."

## Epstein calls for change

NCI reform is two decades overdue, Epstein wrote, based in part on "The Stop Cancer Before it Starts Campaign: How to win the Losing War against Cancer," which is a 2003 report sponsored by eight leading cancer prevention experts and endorsed by over one hundred activists and citizen groups.

Numerous NCI reforms were proposed in 1992 at a Cancer Prevention Coalition press conference, a group of 68 leading cancer prevention and public health experts, past directors of federal agencies, and citizen activists across the nation. But prophetically, the press release concluded, "There is no likelihood that such reforms will be implemented without legislative action."

And the ACS has done no better, according to Epstein.

"The verdict is unassailable," Epstein said. "The ACS bears a major decades-long responsibility for losing the winnable war against cancer. Reforming the ACS is, in principle, relatively easy and directly achievable. Boycott the ACS. Instead, give your charitable contributions to public interest and environmental groups involved in cancer prevention. Such a boycott is well overdue and will send the only message this charity can no longer ignore."

*Neeve M. Arnell writes for NaturalNews.*

## Afghanistan: Why Civilians Are Killed

AFGHANISTAN from p. 3

an entire people who resist the occupation in whatever form is appropriate to their circumstance. The pilots and ground troops recognize that they are a hostile alien force, whose presence is commanded from above by generals and politicians dealing with abstract schemes of 'terrorists-linked-to-al Qaeda' that have no relation to the dense web of personal bonds of solidarity between resistance fighters and civilians on the ground in Afghanistan.

Working from these abstract categories, the strategists label extended family compounds as 'hideouts'; family gatherings as 'terrorist meetings'; trade caravans as 'guerilla smugglers'. The conflicting interests of the imperial politicians, generals, strategists and military officers on the one hand and the civilian population and resistance form an immense gap. The greater the number of civilian/combatants killed, the faster the career advances for imperial officers – eager for promotions and prized pensions. "Success", according to the imperial world view, is measured internationally by the number of client rulers; nationally by the number of flags pinned to the war maps denoting 'secure cities'; and locally by the body counts of massacred families.

On the ground, among the millions in intimate family and clan circles, where sorrow and anger co-exist, resistance in all of its manifold forms unfolds: Sacred vows and the profane pledges to 'fight on' grow out of the millions of daily humiliations affecting young and old, wives and husbands, in homes, markets, roads and by-ways. The hostile stare of a mother sheltering an infant from soldiers breaking into a bedroom is as telling as the crackle of gunfire of a sniper hidden in a mountain crevice.

### A People's War: Not a War on Terror

The killing of civilians is not "accidental". The fundamental reason that so many civilians are killed, everyday, in every region for over a decade, is because the civilians and the combatants are indistinguishable. The image of the Afghan combatants as some kind of footloose professional bomb-throwing terrorist is completely off the mark. Most Afghan fighters have families, cultivate farmland and tend herds; they raise families and attend mosque; they are part-time civilians and part-time fighters. Only in the schematic minds of the "great strategists of war" in the Pentagon and NATO headquarters do such distinctions exist. Their deadly military mission to 'save the people from terrorist fundamentalists', a self-serving self-deception, is, in fact, a ladder up the military-political hierarchy. Each step up depends on waging a 'just war' to a successful conclusion.

The civilian-combatants are a mass popular phenomenon. How else can we explain their capacity to sustain armed resistance for over a decade, indeed, advancing with the passing of time? How can we explain their military success against the armed forces and advisers from 40 countries, including the US, Europe and a clutch of Afro-Asian-Latin American

mercenaries? How can we explain the growing resistance despite suffering from military occupation, backed by the most advanced technological instruments of war? How can we explain the ebb of popular support for the war in the Conqueror's country and the growing number of recruits to the Resistance? The combatants have the loyalty of the Afghan people; they do not have to spend billions to buy the spurious 'loyalties' of mercenaries who can and have at any moment 'turned their guns the other way'.

Weddings are bombed because combatants, attend weddings – along with hundreds of relatives and friends. Villages are bombed because peasants cultivate crops, which contribute to the resistance. Civilian shelters become military sanctuaries. Afghanistan is polarized: the US military versus a people in arms. Faced with this reality, the real policy of NATO-Pentagon is to rule or/and ruin. Each bomb killing dozens of civilians in search of one sharpshooter deepens the isolation and discredit of the puppet ruler. "President" Karzai has seen his mission of building a 'civilian base' to reconstruct the country utterly discredited. His impotent complaints to NATO to cease bombing civilian targets fall on deaf ears; because the NATO command knows very well that 'the civilians' are the 'deep resistance' – the vast reserve of support for the combatants; their eyes and ears far excel all the electronic intelligence devices of the Occupier. Just as Karzai cannot convince the civilians to turn against the combatants so he cannot convince the imperial armies to stop bombing civilian homes and gatherings.

Washington knows that, with each withdrawal (or retreat), the terrain, the towns and villages are occupied by resistance fighters who emerge from everywhere. The best that the US-NATO politicians can negotiate is a safe orderly departure. The best that they can hope is that their local collaborators do not defect or flee abroad prematurely, turning over billions of dollars in military ordinance to the resistance. The best the collaborators can hope is that they will secure an exit route, a visa, an overseas account and a comfortable second home abroad. What is absolutely clear is that the US, NATO and its collaborators will have no role to play in the newly independent Afghanistan.

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## S.W.A.T. Team Mania



### The War Against the American Citizen

SWAT from p. 1

typical bureaucratic sleight-of-hand provision allowing for the creation of Offices of Inspectors General (OIG). Each OIG office is supposedly charged with, not only auditing their particular agency's actions, but also uncovering possible misconduct, waste, fraud, theft, or certain types of criminal activity by individuals or groups related to the agency's operation. At present, there are 73 such OIG offices in the federal government that, at times, perpetuate a police state aura about them.

For example, it was heavily armed agents from one such OIG office, working under the auspices of the Department of Education, who forced their way into the home of a California man, handcuffed him, and placed his three children (ages 3, 7, and 11) in a squad car while they conducted a search of his home.

This federal SWAT team raid, which is essentially what it was, on the home of Anthony Wright on June 7, 2011, was allegedly intended to ferret out information on Wright's estranged wife, Michelle, who no longer lives with him and who was suspected of financial aid fraud (early news reports characterized the purpose of the raid as being over Michelle's delinquent student loans).

According to Wright, he was awakened at 6 am by the sound of agents battering down his door and, upon descending the stairs, was immediately subdued by police. One neighbor actually witnessed the team of armed agents surround the house. After forcing entry, they "dragged [Wright] out in his boxer shorts, threw him to the ground and handcuffed him."

This is not the first time a SWAT team has been employed in non-violent scenarios. Nationwide, SWAT teams have been employed to address an astonishingly trivial array of trivial criminal activity or mere community nuisances: angry dogs, domestic disputes, improper paperwork filed by an orchid farmer, and misdemeanor marijuana possession, to give a brief sampling. In some instances, SWAT teams are even employed, in full armament, to perform routine patrols.

How did we allow ourselves to travel so far down the road to a police state? While we are now grappling with a power-hungry police state at the federal level, the militarization of domestic American law enforcement is largely the result of the militarization of local police forces, which are increasingly militaristic in their uniforms, weaponry, language, training, and tactics and have come to rely on SWAT teams in matters that once could have been satisfactorily performed by traditional civilian officers. Even so, this transformation of law enforcement at the local level could not have been possible without substantial assistance and direction from on high.

Frequently justified as vital tools necessary to combat terrorism and deal with rare but extremely dangerous criminal situations, such as those involving hostages, SWAT teams – which first appeared on the scene in California in the 1960s – have now become intrinsic parts of local law enforcement operations, thanks in large part to substantial federal assistance. For example, in 1994, the US Department of Justice and the Department of Defense agreed to a memorandum of understanding that enabled the transfer of federal military technology to local police forces. Following the passage of the Defense Authorization Security Act of 1997, which was intended to accelerate the transfer of military equipment to domestic law enforcement departments, local police acquired military weaponry – gratuitously or at sharp discounts – at astonishing rates. Between 1997 and 1999, the agency created by the Defense Authorization Security Act conveyed 3.4 million orders of military equipment to over 11,000 local police agencies in all 50 states. Not only did this vast abundance of military weaponry contribute to a more militarized police force, but it also helped spur the creation of SWAT teams in jurisdictions across the country.

In one of the few quantitative studies on the subject, criminologist Peter Kraska found in 1997 that close to 90 percent of cities with populations exceeding 50,000 and at least 100 sworn officers had at least one paramilitary unit. In a separate

the people, ordinary Americans are being placed at the mercy of law enforcement. This is what happens when paramilitary forces are used to conduct ordinary policing operations, such as executing warrants on nonviolent defendants. Yet studies indicate that paramilitary raids frequently result in misdemeanor convictions. An investigation by Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* revealed that of the 146 no-knock raids conducted in Denver in 2000, only 49 resulted in charges. And only two resulted in prison sentences for suspects targeted in the raids.

General incompetence, collateral damage, (fatalities, property damage, etc.) and botched raids tend to go hand-in-hand with an overuse of paramilitary forces. In some cases, officers misread the address on the warrant. In others, they simply barge into the wrong house or even the wrong building. In another subset of cases (such as the Department of Education raid on Anthony Wright's home), police conduct a search of a building where the suspect no longer resides. SWAT teams have even on occasion conducted multiple, sequential raids on wrong addresses or executed search warrants despite the fact that the suspect is already in police custody. Police have also raided homes on the basis of mistaking the presence or scent of legal substances for drugs. Incredibly, these substances have included tomatoes, sunflowers, fish, elderberry bushes, kenaf plants, hibiscus, and ragweed.

All too often, botched SWAT team raids have resulted in one tragedy after another for the residents with little consequences for law enforcement. Judges tend to afford extreme levels of deference to police officers who have mistakenly killed innocent civilians, but do not afford similar leniency to civilians who have injured police officers in acts of self-defense. Even homeowners who mistake officers for robbers can be sentenced for assault or murder if they take defensive actions resulting in harm to police.

And as journalist Radley Balko shows in his in-depth study of police militarization, the shock-and-awe tactics utilized by many SWAT teams only increases the likelihood that someone will get hurt.

Drug warrants, for instance, are typically served by paramilitary units late at night or shortly before dawn. Unfortunately, to the unsuspecting homeowner – especially in cases involving mistaken identities or wrong addresses – a raid can appear to be nothing less than a violent home invasion, with armed intruders crashing through their door. The natural reaction would be to engage in self-defense. Yet such a defensive reaction on the part of a homeowner, particularly a gun owner, will spur officers to employ lethal force.

That's exactly what happened to Jose Guarena, the young ex-Marine who was killed after a SWAT team kicked open the door of his Arizona home during a drug raid and opened fire. According to news reports, Guarena, 26 years old and the father of two young children, grabbed a gun in response to the forced invasion but never fired. In fact, the safety was still on his gun when he was killed. Police officers were not as restrained. The young Iraqi war veteran was allegedly fired upon 71 times. Guarena had no prior criminal record, and the police found nothing illegal in his home.

The problems inherent in these situations are further compounded by the fact that SWAT teams are granted "no-knock" warrants at high rates such that the warrants themselves are rendered practically meaningless. This sorry state of affairs is made even worse by recent US Supreme Court rulings that have essentially done away with the need for a "no-knock" warrant altogether, giving the police authority to disregard the protections afforded American citizens by the Fourth Amendment.

In the process, Americans are rendered altogether helpless and terror-stricken as a result of these confrontations with the police. Indeed, "terrorizing" is a mild term to describe the effect on those who survive such vigilante tactics. "It was terrible. It was the most frightening experience of my life. I thought it was a terrorist attack," said 84-year-old Leona Goldberg, a victim of such a raid. Yet this type of "terrorizing" activity is characteristic of the culture that we have created. As author Eugene V. Walker, a former Boston University professor, wrote some years ago, "A society in which people are already isolated and atomized, divided by suspicious and destructive rivalry, would support a system of terror better than a society without much chronic antagonism."

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

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# Obama Admin Makes Mockery of Open Government Award

MOCKERY from p. 1  
them as a predictable and reliable ally that sometimes has to pose as their foe. More importantly, they are adored by the President, who pets them and gives them a bone or two for being good loyal pets.

To recap, we have a president known as the worst president in our nation's history when it comes to transparency and guarding government whistleblowers; one of the, if not the, worst president, when it comes to using and invoking unconstitutional secrecy and executive privileges to cover

*President Obama finally and quietly accepted his 'transparency' award... in a closed, undisclosed meeting"*

indisputably has the worst record in our nation's history when it comes to ensuring and practicing government transparency and protecting government whistleblowers. We have a president who loves unconstitutional secrecy and uses imaginary presidential executive powers to quash transparency and accountability. We have a president who has utter disdain for First Amendment practices such as peaceful protests.

up his secret illegal actions and practices; the worst president in the last three decades when it comes to arresting peaceful protestors; the only president who intercepts and burns book(s); the first president to ever surpass the \$10 billion dollar threshold in creating and keeping secret documents.

Obama is the worst president in US history in persecuting, prosecuting and jailing government whistleblowers and truth-tellers.

Now, ladies and gentleman, this is where the above world stage turns upside down, and does so in secrecy. Less than two months ago the Project on Government Oversight (POGO), along with four other NGOs, put together an award, Anti-Secrecy & Transparency Award, walked to the White House, and presented this award to the worst president when it comes to government whistleblowers & truth-tellers, and unconstitutional executive privileges and secrecy. Wait, that's not all, they go along with the president to keep the meeting secret.

The list of his known whistleblower victims so far includes Thomas Drake, Bradley Manning, and Jeffrey Sterling, but these are only known ones, and the President has been busy going after reporters and forming Grand Juries in order to hunt more.

*[Obama is] the only president who has reenacted Fahrenheit 451 by actually collecting and burning a book (Dark Heart)"*

Obama is one of the worst presidents when it comes to invoking baseless and unconstitutional executive secrecy to quash inquiries into secret illegalities.

President Obama finally and quietly accepted his "transparency" award from the open government community in June — in a closed, undisclosed meeting at the White House.

The list of this president's known invocations of unconstitutional secrecy called, State Secrets Privilege, so far includes NSA Illegal Wiretapping (Jewel vs. NSA & Shubert vs. Obama); covering up rendition & assassination case (Anwar al-Aulaqi); illegal torture case Binyam Mohamed. Just remember, these are only the publicly known and proven cases of this president's unconstitutional secrecy record. There are many others whose existence has been secret.

The secret presentation happened almost two weeks after the White House inexplicably postponed the ceremony, which was expected to be open to the press pool.

Obama is the only president who has reenacted Fahrenheit 451 by actually collecting and burning a book with a never-justified secrecy and classification excuse: Lt. Col Tony Shaffer's book Operation Dark Heart.

This time Obama met quietly in the Oval Office with Gary Bass of OMB Watch, Tom Blanton of the National Security Archive, Danielle Brian of the Project on Government Oversight, Lucy Dalglish of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and Patrice McDermott of OpenTheGovernment.org, without disclosing the meeting on his public schedule or letting photographers or print reporters into the room.

A president who has been a staunch supporter of jailing peaceful protestors on his way to becoming president: there have been over two thousand six hundred (2600), arrests of activists protesting in the US: 670 people in 2011, over 1290 in 2010, and 665 in 2009.

The transparency advocates who presented the award to Obama say that the recognition is important, because, despite the work left to be done, Obama has done a lot to change the government's posture toward openness issues.

A president under whom FOIA secrecy has been increasing drastically, and for the first time ever this secrecy's costs have surpassed \$10 billion.

That's right. During the worst period ever for government whistleblowers, when they are facing jail and torture, in the midst of Kafkaesque government practices- torture, state secrets privilege, raids on and arrest of peaceful protestors, POGO, a phony NGO that has been milking government whistleblowers' suffering for decades, goes about appeasing their grant-giving establishment masters and emboldening a ruthless totalitarian president by presenting him with a mockery of an award, an Anti-Secrecy & Transparency Award. Maybe less than a few public spectators were permitted to know about and cheer this mockery, but nonetheless, it is a despicable act against all government whistleblowers and all peaceful protestors who have come under this totalitarian president's raids and arrests. It is a disgrace to transparency and open government advocacy. It is an insult to all liberty-loving Americans.

In case you are wondering why I have singled out POGO among the disgraced group of five, I've known this organization for years. Many government whistleblowers I represent have known and seen through this establishment institution. For years they have sabotaged many of our activities in Congress by making behind-the-closed-door deals with establishment guardian representatives and senators. They have used our cases and names to further their whistleblowers-defeating agenda. They have enriched themselves handsomely by serving their Carnegie-Rockefeller-Soros masters handsomely. More

importantly, they have created a false illusion of whistleblowers and transparency advocacy, robbing the public of their trust and assurance. For the last few years I've been practicing the excruciatingly painful exercise of 'biting my tongue' in the face of their anti-whistleblower and anti-public operations and justifying it under the 'prioritizing one's battles' mantra. This ridiculous assault they launched against transparency and whistleblowers was the last straw for me, as it should be for any American who values integrity, transparency and accountability.

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



# Thomas Jefferson Dance Revolution

DANCE from p. 1  
our history the Constitution began to undergo changes. In the early 19th century, it was changed to allow for a presidential/vice presidential ticket rather than selecting the two separately. Many say the reason for this was to prevent a coup d'etat from taking place. Its real effect was to begin the slow consolidation of power in the executive and the political conversion from individuals discussing the issues of the day to a two party system where certain issues were buried and hidden from public scrutiny.

Ever since, the three branches of government have been colluding to increase their own powers rather than fighting to keep the others in check, as was the original intention. When I say that, I don't mean that they have been secretly plotting with each other, but it seems to be a natural progression of government to use the force of law entrusted to it to stifle competition for the services it provides.

Thus, it should come as no surprise when government begins to disrespect the natural rights of the populace it is constitutionally bound to protect. Government is simply trying to grow in strength and power as is its wont and will continue to do so until the governed decide to keep it in check. The governed, who are mostly the common folk, cannot depend on government to keep itself in check, no matter how many branches it is split into, nor can they depend on words written on a piece of paper to do so; this is simply not in the nature of government. In order to keep government in check and prevent it from becoming tyrannical, the people themselves must take action.

Traditionally, it has been the judicial branch to which the common folk looked to for remedy against government abuse. This has always been folly, but it seems to have become worse of late. Lysander Spooner is a good example of the failure of the judicial to protect the natural rights of individuals. In the 1830s, he formed a postal service to compete with that of the federal government. His service was quite adaptable and did quite well, taking many customers from the federal system. The feds didn't like having their toes stepped upon. They didn't like a private individual showing initiative and directly competing with one of their services. They didn't like having their monopoly privilege challenged, so they had their agents, probably men with guns who obeyed orders without question and imagined they were doing the right thing, shut down Lysander Spooner's operation.

Mr. Spooner exercised the only option he felt he had for remedy; he took his case to the federal courts. These were the courts that were supposed to protect the rights of individuals. Mr. Spooner felt many of his rights had been violated by government, not the least of which

was the right to conduct business on a voluntary basis, to make a living and to acquire private property with the earnings from such business dealings. These rights aren't spelled out in the Constitution, but they seem pretty apparent to me. The ninth and tenth amendments to the Constitution leave no doubt that not all rights are spelled out in the previous amendments, but they do exist nonetheless.

Nevertheless the federal courts did not side with Mr. Spooner. They did not protect his individual rights. They did not bite the hand that feeds them. Instead, they protected the monopoly

When an appeals court upheld a ban on silently dancing at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC, a small contingent of individuals decided they did not agree with that decision. They decided that this law was a violation of individual rights as well as a silly prohibition on a harmless human activity. They decided to do something about it rather than wasting time and money taking it through the government's court system that so often sides with the government.

What resulted was an exposure of the violent nature of government.



Park Police keep watch over dancers at Jefferson Memorial.

Peaceful people who had harmed no one were arrested, one after being slammed to the ground and choked, and hauled away for doing something about which no one had even complained. The arrests happened because people refused simply to do as the police dictated, not because dancing at a public monument

privilege of the federal government. They helped increase its power.

is an inherently dangerous activity that needs to be stopped.

The question becomes, how much tyranny will the common folk take? What line must government cross before they decide it is worth their time and effort to get off their butts and take action, to do something to restore the freedoms and rights every

The above arrests led to an outcry, fortunately. It's about time such an outcry took place. Hundreds of people showed up the next Saturday to proclaim that they could dance if they wanted to, and it didn't matter what the courts or the police said.



This shows that it is not the courts that are going to protect individual rights from the intrusions of the government; it's you. The police aren't going to honor your rights, they will not honor their oaths to the Constitution. They will mindlessly obey anyone they consider their superior and enforce the law, no matter how unjust, unconstitutional, poorly written or just plain immoral. The only way they will ever learn better is for the people to take action and expose them as the jack booted thugs they are. The only way our rights will be honored by the political elite is for the common folk to insist upon it.

human should enjoy by nature of his being? Well, it could well be that we have found that line. Apparently, enough people believe that individuals should be able to express themselves through silently dancing at memorials that they have decided to take part in civil disobedience. This in response to a judge's ruling to the contrary.

This was a victory for the freedom movement. It was a victory for the indomitable spirit of the common folk. There will be another dance party on July 4th, Independence Day. If you can make it out to show your independence and promote freedom, you should. This is the kind of involvement that is necessary to send a message to the federal government that we are not sheep waiting to be sheered and we will not simply roll over and let them get away with anything they want. My hope is that this will grow into something bigger. My hope is to see some day soon such a movement demanding the rollback of all intrusive government laws and agencies. We should not only dance at national monuments, but even in airports if we choose. Let freedom ring across this great nation of ours, and let us dance to the ringing we hear.

It started with an unnecessary arrest, as happens more often in this nation than some might guess, and snowballed into a quest for real freedom. Like so many arrests, this one wasn't really about what they claim it was about, it was about questioning authority and not obeying questionable orders. Being an individual, expressing one's own thoughts and feelings, and thinking for one's self seems to be considered a crime in this nation more and more often these days.

Scandor Blestman's archived articles are available at [scandorblestman.com](http://scandorblestman.com). Please visit there to help his efforts. He also has an ebook available entitled The Oujitiers by Matthew Wayne.

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