

# 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. 5 May 2011

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

## America's Imperious Attitude in Pakistan is Wearing Thin

By DAVE LINDORFF

There was a truly bizarre and telling paragraph at the end of a *Wall Street Journal* news report today on Pakistan's demand that the US bring home hundreds of CIA and Special Forces personnel operating undercover in that country, and that it halt the drone strikes in the border regions abutting Afghanistan, which have been killing countless civilian men, women and children.

Reporters Adam Entous and Matthew Rosenberg, with no sense of irony, wrote:

The US hasn't committed to adjusting the drone program in response to Pakistan's request. The CIA operates covertly, meaning the program doesn't require Islamabad's support, under US law. Some officials say the CIA operates with relative autonomy in the tribal areas. They played down the level of support they now receive from Pakistan.

See PAKISTAN p. 5

## Haiti's Eternal Punishment

*Obama Leads Third Century of Imperial Revenge on Haiti*

By CHRIS FLOYD

The blood and thunder (or is it thud and blunder?) of the American-led intervention in Libya has obscured one of the more revealing episodes of our times — especially for those many millions who still cling to the idea that Barack Obama is somehow an improvement, however slight, over the ruthless, lawless, corroded souls who preceded him in the post of imperial manager.

We speak, of course, of the American rigging of the election in battered, helpless Haiti — a brazen effort to disenfranchise the majority of the population and ensure the election of a vicious — but acquiescent — client to the presidency. This sordid episode comes complete with a personal intervention by the Nobel Peace Laureate himself to try to continue the exile and persecution of the democratically elected Haitian president overthrown by George W. Bush in a brutal coup.

Even as he was scheming with the CIA to put covert American "boots on the ground" in the

See HAITI p. 4

## More Election Fraud, this Time in Wisconsin

By LISA PEASE

I'm still mulling over the recent Wisconsin election in general and the actions of Waukesha County's County Clerk Kathy Nickolaus in particular.

She was the one who forgot to record votes that would have made her former boss, Justice David Prosser, the winner in a hotly contested election.

After my first report on this strange set of circumstances, data surfaced to show that the missing city's data had been reported earlier by the city itself. The numbers Nickolaus reported were an exact match.

So it doesn't look like anyone made up the numbers for the missing town's results in Brookfield. And then there was the stamp of approval from Democratic Party member Ramona Kitzinger who said the numbers "jived" with what she had been shown.

See WISCONSIN p. 8

## Pentagon Worker Sues Bush Officials for 9/11 Injuries

*Bush Cousin Presides Over April Gallop's 9/11 Suit Against Cheney, Rumsfeld, Myers*

By CRAIG MCKEE / GLOBAL RESEARCH

April Gallop's lawsuit went ahead this week (April 4-8) with George Bush's cousin sitting in judgment. He'll play a major part in deciding whether the case goes forward or dies.

No, it's not a joke.

A 9/11 lawsuit against former high officials in the Bush White House is being presided over by a cousin of former president George W. Bush — a shocking and blatant conflict of interest that should embarrass even believers in the official story.

George W. Bush's cousin, Judge John M. Walker of the 2nd Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals, is part of a three-judge panel hearing the case of April Gallop vs. former vice-president Dick Cheney, former defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard Myers.

The case has been ignored by the mainstream media in the weeks leading up to it going to court April 5. And most media have ignored the developments concerning the involvement of Judge Walker. One exception is CNBC, which carried an online story with the headline: "Extraordinary Conflict of Interest: Bush Cousin Presides Over Federal Court Case Against Former Bush Administration Officials." Good for them, but this is an all-too



Former Pentagon worker April Gallop and her infant son were injured in 9/11/2001 explosion.

isolated exception. That the story is being kept almost entirely out of the media further reveals that the idea of a free and vigorous press is largely a fantasy.

Gallop, a former US Army executive administrative assistant (with top secret clearance), is suing for damages in connection

See GALLOP p. 5

## Fukushima: Death Knell for Nuclear Power?

By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

Like most people, I have been following the events at the Japanese nuclear facility since the earthquake last month with a sense of growing concern and sadness. I am sad, foremost for the long suffering Japanese people — the only people ever to suffer the nuclear bomb and now suffering again, this time the failure of a civilian nuclear power facility. I am also sad for the failure of the promise of nuclear power. In a different world, under a different economic system perhaps, we could have harnessed the awesome power of the atom for peaceful purposes; but now that vision is almost certainly doomed. In this article I will explain why.

I was working in Pennsylvania not many miles from the Three Mile Island reactor when it failed in 1979. My overriding memory of that time is of the extent of confusion and misinformation



Damaged Fukushima Reactor

surrounding the event. Almost every official pronouncement made at the time turned out, in retrospect, to be false. Some of that was deliberate spinning of information by the plant operator in an

attempt to underplay the seriousness of the situation, and some was simple ignorance of exactly what the situation was inside the reactor.

The Three Mile Island accident, even though there were no immediate direct casualties and a relatively small amount of radioactive material escaped into the environment, was serious enough that it almost spelled the end of the nuclear industry in the US. The number of reactors under construction in the US declined steadily after TMI and many that had been in the planning stages were canceled. No new reactors were licensed in the US for almost three decades following the Three Mile Island accident.

More recently, in the era of hundred-dollar-per-barrel oil, and fears of global warming, nuclear power started to look attractive again. Since 2007,

See NUCLEAR p. 2

## Libya All About Oil, or Central Banking?

By ELLEN BROWN

Several writers have noted the odd fact that the Libyan rebels took time out from their rebellion in March to create their own central bank - this before they even had a government. Robert Wenzel wrote in the *Economic Policy Journal*:

"I have never before heard of a central bank being created in just a matter of weeks out of a popular uprising. This suggests we have a bit more than a rag tag bunch of rebels running around and that there are some pretty sophisticated influences."

Alex Newman wrote in the *New American*:

"In a statement released last week, the rebels reported on the results of a meeting held on March 19. Among other things, the supposed rag-tag revolutionaries announced the [d]esignation of the Central Bank of Benghazi as a monetary authority competent

in monetary policies in Libya and appointment of a Governor to the Central Bank of Libya, with a temporary headquarters in Benghazi."

Newman quoted CNBC senior editor John Carney, who asked, "Is this the first time a revolutionary group has created a central bank while it is still in the midst of fighting the entrenched political power? It certainly seems to indicate how extraordinarily powerful central bankers have become in our era."

Another anomaly involves the official justification for taking up arms against Libya. Supposedly it's about human rights violations, but the evidence is contradictory. According to an article on the Fox News website on February 28:

"As the United Nations works feverishly to condemn Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi for cracking down on protesters, the body's

Human Rights Council is poised to adopt a report chock-full of praise for Libya's human rights record.

"The review commends Libya for improving educational opportunities, for making human rights a "priority" and for bettering its "constitutional" framework. Several countries, including Iran, Venezuela, North Korea, and Saudi Arabia but also Canada, give Libya positive marks for the legal protections afforded to its citizens - who are now revolting against the regime and facing bloody reprisal."

Whatever might be said of Qaddafi's personal crimes, the Libyan people seem to be thriving. A delegation of medical professionals from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus wrote in an appeal to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev

See LIBYA p. 7

## British Commonwealth Citizens Deported from UK for Supporting London 7/7 Bombing Documentary Filmmaker

By MATTHEW PYE AND PHILIP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

What I would like to share with people, about what has happened to us, is the underlying reasons why we were physically removed from the boat; taken into custody and then deported from the UK, when we did nothing wrong.

The boat, [*Oronsay of Clynder*] of which I, a New Zealand and, therefore, British-Commonwealth citizen, am the owner, is a New Zealand flagged vessel and is, therefore New Zealand territory when in international waters, but falls under the jurisdiction of host nations when inside that nation's territorial waters. Under normal circumstances, if

a foreign-flagged vessel enters a nation's territorial waters and is denied entry into that nation, it is given a set time-period during which it must depart from that nation's territorial-waters, otherwise the vessel can be impounded and its crew and passengers arrested. Since the boat itself is New Zealand territory when in international waters, sending it and us out of British waters would be the quickest and most efficient way of deporting us, minimizing the cost to the tax payers, who had to fork-out thousands of pounds to pay for our deportation.

But in our case, the standard refusal of entry procedure was not taken because there

were political motivations at work.

We [Matthew Pye from New Zealand and Philip Van der Westhuizen from South Africa] are supporters of Mr. John Anthony Hill, who produced a documentary film titled "7/7 Ripple Effect", which was released on the internet on November 5, 2007 and questions the official account of the events surrounding the London tube-train and bus bombings of July 7, 2005. It is available to watch on the Internet by Googling the name "7/7 Ripple Effect".

In 2008, Mr. Hill posted copies of his film "7/7 Ripple Effect" as an "amicus curiae brief"

See DEPORTED p. 5

## The Civilian Surge in Iraq

*US Expands Occupation HQ in Baghdad*

By NICOLAS J. S. DAVIES

President Obama has escalated the war in Afghanistan, killed at least 800 civilians in a major expansion of drone strikes in Pakistan, joined a new war against Libya with the UK and France, and expanded US Special Forces operations from 60 countries to 75 since he took office. Including the 9,000 Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, another 4,000 are deployed in other countries, but only Yemen, the Philippines, Colombia, Somalia and Pakistan have been named, leaving us to scratch our heads over the other 68 'secret' deployments.

Meanwhile Amnesty International laments that the United States remains an "accountability-free zone" for war crimes, with no officer above the rank of Major nor any senior civilian official convicted despite daily and

See SURGE p. 4

## Mother Convicted of Murder for Trying to Protect Her Son from Chemotherapy Faces Life in Prison

By JONATHAN BENSON / NATURALNEWS

The US justice system has turned over a new leaf in judicial insanity with the recent murder conviction of Kristen LaBrie, a 38-year-old woman whose autistic son died of cancer in 2009. According to Essex District Attorney's Office in Massachusetts, LaBrie was found guilty on all charges made against her, including attempted murder, permitting serious bodily injury to a disabled person, permitting substantial injury to a child, and reckless endangerment of a child — all for making the personal medical choice to stop administering deadly chemotherapy drugs to her son.

"I was really scared that he just had had it. He was just not capable of getting through any more chemotherapy ... he was very, very fragile," LaBrie testified in court, referencing the fact that the chemotherapy drugs were essentially killing her son more than the actual cancer was. "I did not want to have to make him get any more sick. If he got any sicker than he was, I thought he would die, and I thought that he would die with me at home."

See CHEMO p. 8

## Eyewitness to Egyptian Revolution

By JOE BROWN / RCFP

Egypt exploded on January 25, 2011 into a people's revolution. For over thirty years, Hosni Mubarak had ruled Egypt with an iron fist. The people had finally had enough!

The following is an interview by Joe Brown of Omar Naamani, a 30-year-old Egyptian-American who, while visiting his sister and friends in Egypt, found himself in the middle of that revolution. Through his eyes and ears, we experience this world-changing event in Tahir Square.

**Joe:** When did you go to Egypt?

**Omar:** I went on January 12, 2011. I was born in Lebanon and moved to Egypt when I was 6 years old. I became a citizen of Egypt when I was 23 years old.

**Joe:** Why did you go to Egypt?

**Omar:** For work.

**Joe:** So, before the beginning of the revolution on January 25<sup>th</sup>, what was happening in Cairo?

**Omar:** Life was normal. People were talking

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# Fukushima: Death Knell for Nuclear Power?

NUCLEAR from p. 1

applications for new reactors are again in the works, and several have been approved. While there is only one reactor currently under construction (Watts Bar, TN), between four and six new reactors are expected to come on-line by 2018 (including Clavert Cliffs, Maryland – see sidebar) and applications are pending for 18 others. A renaissance in nuclear power seemed to be in the offing.

The Fukushima disaster now threatens to bring a halt to the nuclear renaissance before it even gets started. Just last week officials raised the level of the emergency from level 5 (similar to Three Mile Island) to a level 7, the maximum. Specifically, radiation levels measured indicate that enough radioactive material has escaped the plant to put the Fukushima disaster well past the threshold for level 7 – somewhere between one tenth and one half the amount of contamination released by the 1986 Chernobyl explosion, and the disaster is still ongoing, with months to go before containment. The Fukushima facility holds 20 times the amount of radioactive material found at Chernobyl, most of it in the spent fuel pools, so the potential exists for even greater releases.

Once again, the public is getting the run-around from apologists and press flacks of Tokyo Electric who have been trying to downplay the full impact of this nuclear accident. Finally, on Tuesday morning (4/19), Junichi Matsumoto, a senior executive with the Tokyo Electric Power Company, admitted at a news conference that the radiation release from Fukushima could, in time, surpass levels seen in 1986. "The radiation leak has not stopped completely, and our concern is that it could eventually exceed Chernobyl," Mr. Matsumoto said.

For weeks we were told that radionuclide levels outside the evacuation zone were in "safe" or "acceptable" levels, but medical experts agree there are no safe levels of radiation. Every incremental increase in exposure adds an incremental increase to the risk of cancer or other health consequence.

To compound the confusion, there is a big difference between external and internal exposure to radiation. Radioactive elements ingested into the body are much

## Chernobyl Power Station, Ukraine

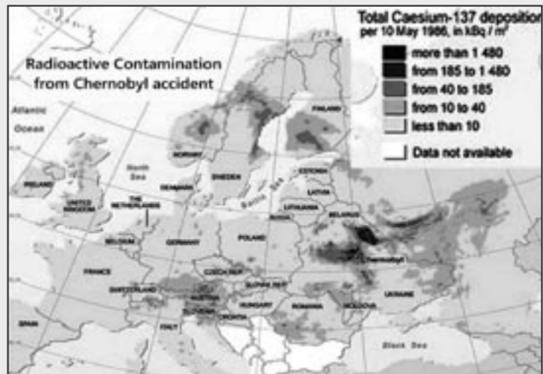
April 24, 1986 Reactor #4 Explodes



- Explosion and fire released large quantities of radioactive contamination into the atmosphere.
- 31 immediate deaths, more follow
- USSR military called in to contain the radiation.
- About 500,000 military and civilian personnel worked in the cleanup of the disaster.
- 350,400 people were evacuated and resettled from the

most severely contaminated areas of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine.

- 4 million acres of farm and forest land contaminated and unusable.
- Pripyat, a city of 50,000 abandoned.
- Damaged reactor is entombed in a huge sarcophagus
- Now, 25 years later, even the sarcophagus is failing. A new, larger structure is being planned to contain the hazard.



children who were evacuated from the Chernobyl exclusion zone, 8,000 had developed thyroid cancer by 2007, and that number is ultimately expected to reach 10,000.

Supporters of the nuclear industry are quick to point out that no one died at Three Mile Island, and technically that's true.

do cause harm-the larger the release, the greater the harm.

The same people who say no one died at Three Mile Island are likely to claim that only 61 people died at Chernobyl. That is a grossly, demonstrably false understatement by many orders of magnitude. At Chernobyl 31 workers and firemen died from acute radiation sickness in the initial explosion. Of the 237 Chernobyl workers diagnosed with acute radiation sickness in the weeks following the accident, about half eventually survived, but only after years of painful treatment including skin grafts. Many were left with deformities and lasting disabilities. Most suffered from radiation induced blindness requiring the removal of the eye lens. These statistics reflect the acute effects from external exposure only, they do not include the known long term effects of the radioactive contamination spread over much of north and central Eurasia entering the food chain.

It is difficult to determine the total number of deaths and injuries caused by Chernobyl but it is easily in the thousands, probably in the tens of thousands, and possibly hundreds of thousands. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organization (WHO) produced a report in 2005 which placed the number at 4,000 dead, but this is considered by many to be a politically motivated understatement of the harm. According to an April 2006 report by the International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear Warfare (IPPNW), entitled "Health Effects of Chernobyl - 20 years after the reactor catastrophe", more than 10,000 people were already affected by thyroid cancer and 50,000 cases were expected. In Europe, the IPPNW claims that 10,000 deformities have been observed in newborns because of Chernobyl's radioactive discharge, with 5,000 deaths among newborn children. They also claim that almost half of the half million people who worked on the site after the disaster are now sick because of radiation, and tens of thousands are dead.

It is clear that we will never know the number of deaths and injuries attributable to Chernobyl, but to say that it was 61 or some

other small number is just as clearly a gross underestimation.

Boosters for the nuclear industry have been explaining for years that nuclear power is clean, safe and "too cheap to meter". How true is that claim?

### Nuclear Power is Clean

Certainly, judging by what comes out the smoke stack at the nuclear plant, nuclear power appears to be very clean. There is virtually no pollution, CO<sub>2</sub> or particulates emitted at the point of power generation. Critics of nuclear power are quick to point out that one has to consider the whole fuel cycle and life cycle of a nuclear power plant to judge how clean it is, and one must include actual and potential releases of radioactivity.

There is no question that the mining of uranium and its enrichment are dirty and energy intensive operations. Even so, they are no where near as dirty and environmentally destructive as coal mining. So if we ignore the radioactive contamination aspect of the nuclear fuel cycle (which we will address shortly) then nuclear power can claim to be cleaner than coal and oil.

### Nuclear Power is Safe

Just how safe is nuclear power compared to the alternative sources of energy? Supporters of nuclear power invariably point out that tens of thousands of Americans are killed by pollution from the coal power industry each year. It is true that burning coal is dirty and produces loads of pollution, the best numbers I could find put the deaths from coal pollution between 10,000 and 20,000 per year, primarily from asthma and heart disease, with concentrations in the vicinity of the smokestacks. That is a horrendous death toll, all the worse because technology exists to significantly reduce harmful smokestack emissions, but the industry has been slow to implement.

Nuclear energy's safety track record so far is not very good either. There are about 450 commercial nuclear reactors world-wide and to date five of them have melted down (TMI, Chernobyl and 3 at Fukushima). That's 1% so far and we're only half way through the working lives of these reactors. At this rate we might expect 5 more

to melt down before these first 450 reactors have been put to rest—a two percent meltdown rate.

### Too Cheap to Meter?

How does the cost of nuclear power compare to conventional sources?

Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) nuclear subsidies report found that despite more than 30 federal subsidies supporting every stage of the nuclear fuel cycle over the last half century, the industry is still not economically viable. Added together, these subsidies often have exceeded the average market price of the electricity the industry produced. "In other words," said Ellen Vancko, UCS's nuclear energy and climate change

Billionaire current US dollars. That is just the direct cost of containing the disaster and cleaning up the site. It does not include: the value of the land, homes and businesses now uninhabitable, the disruption to the lives of 336,000 people displaced nor the medical costs incurred for the hundreds of thousands injured by radiation. If a final dollar amount could be put on such a disaster it would be in the hundreds of billions.

The neighboring country of Belarus estimates their total cost from the accident at 265 Billion. The cost for Ukraine would be even higher. Mikhail Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union at the time of the accident, cites the cost of the Chernobyl disaster as one of

## Calvert Cliffs, Maryland



### Planned New Reactor on Hold

Here in Maryland the Calvert Cliffs nuclear complex is the site of one of the planned new reactors. Calvert Cliffs 3, was to be built by Areva, the French nuclear giant, in partnership with Baltimore based Constellation Energy, but in 2010 the deal hit a financial snag and Constellation backed out. The project has been on hold until Areva can find a new US partner, a prospect that seems even less likely since the Fukushima disaster. At this point Constellation must be thanking its lucky stars.

project manager, "if the government had purchased power on the open market and given it away free, it would have been less costly than subsidizing nuclear power plant construction and operation."

And the costs continue to escalate. We haven't even begun dealing with the long term costs of decommissioning the plants and storing (for thousands of years) the hundreds of tons high level waste produced by each plant.

To an industry that is not even profitable without subsidies, and when you add the cost of an accident like Chernobyl or Fukushima, the economics look bleak.

What was the economic cost of the Chernobyl accident? The Russians estimate the cost of containment at around 40

the prime causes of the breakup of the USSR.

And what will be the final bill for the Fukushima disaster? For starters, the loss of the nuclear complex (\$20 billion) the bankruptcy of the Tokyo Electric Power

company (\$50 billion) the value of the land in the 20km exclusion zone about 200,000 acres (20 billion) and the houses, businesses, property and infrastructure in the exclusion zone (100 billion plus). So we are over two hundred billion dollars and that doesn't include the economic disruption and hardship of the quarter million people displaced nor the health consequences of the disaster. The ultimate economic impact of the disaster could easily exceed half a trillion dollars. Or to put it another way, the economic cost of the Fukushima Dai-ichi disaster will probably be greater than the value of all the electricity generated by all the nuclear power plants in Japan over their entire useful lifetime.

So is nuclear power dead? I will answer that question with another question: What power company would be willing to build a nuclear plant given the historically slim return on investment and given that there is about a 2% chance of a disaster that would bankrupt the company? No company would. On the other hand, what if the federal government subsidizes every aspect of operations, guarantees the loans and accepts all the potential liability for any nuclear accident? That is just what the US has done.

The congress has shielded the nuclear industry from liability for nuclear accidents and provides loan guarantees to fund the construction of new nuclear plants. President Obama has proposed adding 26 billion to the 18 billion already available for new construction.

The Price-Anderson Nuclear Industries Indemnity Act of 1957 limits the liability of the nuclear industry to just 12 billion dollars. The taxpayer is on the hook for any damages above that amount. Without the liability cap and government loans not a single new nuclear plant would be built.

It is clear that the course of the nuclear industry is controlled by politics more than economics. In a truly free market the nuclear power industry would be dead, but because the government has intervened with subsidies, loan guarantees and liability protections it is quite possible that this zombie industry will stumble on.

Matt Sullivan is the editor and publisher of the Rock Creek Free Press in Washington, DC.

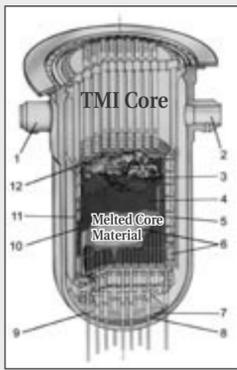
## Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania

March 28, 1979 Reactor #2 Looses Coolant

- Loss of coolant causes overheating in the core, alarm sounds
- Fuel rods begin to melt releasing radioactive products into the cooling water
- Contaminated cooling water floods areas of the reactor building
- Emergency declared, PA Gov. Dick Thornburgh, on the advice of NRC, orders the evacuation of pregnant women and pre-school age children.



- Only a small amount of radioactive material released by the accident
- It was later found that about half the core had melted, and the cladding around 90% of the fuel rods had failed
- The reactor had come very close to total meltdown



more damaging than external radiation exposure. Comparisons of nuclear contamination to things such as chest x-rays or airplane travel are deceptive and misleading. You don't eat the airplane, but you do consume Iodine-131 from contaminated food, and that radioactive iodine concentrates in specific places in the body (thyroid and blood cells), where it causes specific cancers (thyroid cancer and leukemia).

For example, of the 28,000

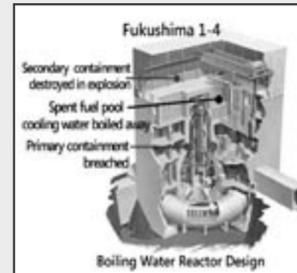
No one died at the plant, but it seems to ignore the well known and documented fact that radioactive contamination released into the food chain and consumed by humans, whether it is cesium-137 in milk or Iodine-131 in water, will increase the likelihood of cancer among the affected population. While it may not be possible to say with certainty that an individual cancer was caused by radiation from Three Mile Island, we know in general that released radionuclides

## Fukushima Dai-ichi, Japan

March 11, 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami



- A magnitude 9 earthquake struck off the coast north-east of the plant.
- Reactors were shut down automatically, were being cooled by emergency generators.
- A tsunami over 10 meters high struck the facility knocking out emergency power.
- Without cooling water, reactors and spent fuel pools begin to overheat. Water covering the fuel boils away.
- Fuel rods exposed to the air produce hydrogen gas. Three of the four plants suffer hydrogen gas explosions.
- Fire engines, helicopters, and cement pumper trucks are used to spray water on the fuel.
- Large amounts of radioactive smoke and water released into environment.



- 20km exclusion zone established, 70,000 people evacuated.
- Nuclear accident declared Level 7 - the highest level, continues to release radioactive contamination.

# Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

## Libya – The US/NATO Agenda and the Next Great War

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

In the 1930s, the US, Great Britain, and the Netherlands set a course for World War II in the Pacific by conspiring against Japan. The three governments seized Japan's bank accounts in their countries that Japan used to pay for imports and cut Japan off from oil, rubber, tin, iron and other vital materials. Was Pearl Harbor, Japan's response?

Now Washington and its NATO puppets are employing the same strategy against China.

Protests in Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, and Yemen arose from the people protesting against Washington's tyrannical puppet governments. However, the protests against Qaddafi, who is not a Western puppet, appear to have been organized by the CIA in the eastern part of Libya where the oil is and where China has substantial energy investments.

Eighty percent of Libya's oil reserves are believed to be in the Sirte Basin in eastern Libya now controlled by rebels supported by Washington. As seventy percent of Libya's GDP is produced by oil, a successful partitioning of Libya would leave Qaddafi's Tripoli-based regime impoverished.

The "People's Daily Online" (March 23) reported that China has 50 large-scale projects in Libya. The outbreak of hostilities has halted these projects and resulted in 30,000 Chinese workers being evacuated from Libya. Chinese companies report that they expect to lose hundreds of millions of yuan.

China is relying on Africa, principally Libya, Angola, and Nigeria, for future energy needs. In response to China's economic engagement with Africa, Washington is engaging the continent militarily with the US African Command (AFRICOM) created by President George W. Bush in 2007. Forty-nine African countries agreed to participate with Washington in AFRICOM, but Qaddafi refused, thus creating a second reason for Washington to target Libya for takeover.

A third reason for targeting Libya is that Libya and Syria are the only two countries with Mediterranean sea coasts that are not under the control or influence of Washington. Suggestively, protests also have broken out in Syria. Whatever Syrians might think of their government, after watching Iraq's fate and now Libya's it is unlikely that Syrians would set themselves up for US military intervention.

Both the CIA and Mossad are known to use social networking sites to foment protests and to spread disinformation. These intelligence services are the likely conspirators that the Syrian and Libyan governments blame for the protests.

Caught off guard by protests in Tunisia and Egypt, Washington realized that protests could be used to remove Qaddafi and Assad. The humanitarian excuse for intervening in Libya is not credible considering Washington's go-ahead to the Saudi military to crush the protests in Bahrain, the home base for the US Fifth Fleet.

If Washington succeeds in overthrowing the Assad government in Syria, Russia would lose its Mediterranean naval base at the Syrian port of Tartus. Thus, Washington has much to gain if it can use the cloak of popular rebellion to eject both China and Russia from the Mediterranean. Rome's mare nostrum ("our sea") would become Washington's mare nostrum.

"Qaddafi must go," declared Obama. How long before we also hear, "Assad must go?"

The American captive press is at work demonizing both Qaddafi and Assad, an eye doctor who returned to Syria from London to head the government after his father's death.

The hypocrisy passes unremarked when Obama calls Qaddafi and Assad dictators. Since the beginning of the 21st century, the American president has been a Caesar. Based on nothing more than a Justice Department memo, George W. Bush was declared to be above US statutory law, international law, and the power of Congress as long as he was acting in his role as commander-in-chief in the "war on terror."

Caesar Obama has done Bush one step better. Caesar Obama has taken the US to war against Libya without even the pretense of asking Congress for authorization. This is an impeachable offense, but an impotent Congress is unable to protect its power. By accepting the claims of executive authority, Congress has acquiesced to Caesarism. The American people have no more control over their government than do people in countries ruled by dictators.

Washington's quest for world hegemony is driving the world toward World War III. China is no less proud than was Japan in the 1930s and is unlikely to submit to being bullied and governed by what China regards as the decadent West. Russia's resentment to its military encirclement is rising. Washington's hubris can lead to fatal miscalculation.

*Paul Craig Roberts is a former Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury and former associate editor of the Wall Street Journal, has been reporting shocking cases of prosecutorial abuse for two decades. A new edition of his book, The Tyranny of Good Intentions, co-authored with Lawrence Stratton, a documented account of how Americans lost the protection of law, has been released by Random House.*



## The Criminality of War

By LAURENCE M. VANCE / LEWROCKWELL.COM

Even without the WikiLeaks revelations that US helicopter pilots gunned down (*Daily Mail*) twelve Iraqi civilians, that US soldiers ignored brutal torture (*Guardian* UK, Oct 2010) carried out by Iraqi security forces, that the US military withheld from the public (*Guardian* UK, Oct 2010) information about 15,000 Iraqi civilian deaths, that US special forces have been secretly embedded (*Guardian*, Nov 2010) with Pakistani military, that the US government massacred children ("RawStory", Dec 2010) and was complicit in the Yemeni government taking the blame for the deed, and that US troops carelessly killed civilians (*Guardian*, July 2010) and then covered it up, there were numerous criminal acts perpetrated by the United States military under the guise of the war on terror.

Here are just a few representative examples:

- Members of Stryker Combat Brigade in Afghanistan Accused of Killing Civilians for Sport (*Washington Post*, Sep 2010).

According to charging documents, the unprovoked, fatal attack on Jan. 15 was the start of a months-long shooting spree against Afghan civilians that resulted in some of the grisliest allegations against American soldiers since the US invasion in 2001. Members of the platoon have been charged with dismembering and photographing corpses, as well as hoarding a skull and other human bones.

- Afghanistan Wedding Party Hit by Massive Bomb (*Guardian*, Jun 2010)

At least 21 people were killed last night and 83 wounded after a massive bomb ripped through a wedding party in a village in Kandahar where US special forces have pioneered a controversial militia programme to encourage people to defend themselves in return for development projects.

- US Troops "Murdered Afghan Civilians and Kept Body Parts" (BBC)

A group of US soldiers murdered a number of Afghan civilians and took body parts as trophies, documents released by military officials allege.

- US Soldiers Charged with Murdering Civilians in Afghanistan War (*CS Monitor*)

A dozen US soldiers have been charged with a series of crimes committed in Afghanistan, including the murder of three Afghan civilians and the subsequent cover-up, according to documents the US Army released Wednesday. CNN reports that the soldiers from the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division out of Washington state have been charged in connection with the attempted cover-up of the murder and assault of Afghan civilians, as well as the mutilation of dead Afghans, and drug use.

- Troops Carrying Out "Battlefield Executions" in Afghanistan, Seymour Hersh Says (*Huffington Post*)

What they've done in the field now is, they tell the troops, you have to make a determination within a day or two or so whether or not the prisoners you have, the detainees, are Taliban. You must extract whatever tactical intelligence you can get, as opposed to strategic, long-range intelligence, immediately. And if you cannot conclude they're Taliban, you must turn them free. What it means is, and I've been told this anecdotally by five or six different people, battlefield executions are taking place. Well, if they can't prove they're Taliban, bam. If we don't do it ourselves, we turn them over to the nearby Afghan troops and by the time we walk three feet the bullets are flying. And that's going on now.

- US Special Forces "Tried to Cover-up" Botched Khataba Raid in Afghanistan (*Times* UK)

US Special Forces soldiers dug bullets out of their victims' bodies in the bloody

aftermath of a botched night raid, and then washed the wounds with alcohol before lying to their superiors about what happened.

- Cluster Bombs, Decapitation Bombing Killed Hundreds (Common Dreams)

Hundreds of civilians were killed by Coalition cluster bombs and air strikes designed to decapitate the Iraqi leadership, according to a new report by New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW), which said the high cost in civilian casualties caused by the two tactics may have violated the laws of war.

- US Army "Kill Team" in Afghanistan Posed for Photos of Murdered Civilians (*Guardian*, Mar 2011)

Commanders in Afghanistan are bracing themselves for possible riots and public fury triggered by the publication of "trophy" photographs of US soldiers posing with the dead bodies of defenseless Afghan civilians they killed.

According to American and Pakistani sources, US drone attacks in Pakistan kill ten civilians for every "militant" killed. And according to US General Stanley McChrystal, of the more than thirty people who have been killed and the eighty who have been wounded in convoy and checkpoint shootings in Afghanistan since the summer of 2009, not one was found to have been a threat: "We have shot an amazing number of people, but to my knowledge, none has ever proven to be a threat," said the general.

But as bad as these war crimes are, it should never be forgotten that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are themselves criminal. It doesn't matter if these crimes were carried out by a few bad apples or rogue outfits, or if they are merely isolated instances or if a majority of US soldiers did not participate. The danger in focusing on the above war crimes — and even terming them crimes — masks the real crime that

See WAR p. 6

## Emperor Obama

By SHELDON RICHMAN

We were warned.

"Who can deny but the president general will be a king to all intents and purposes, and one of the most dangerous kinds too; a king elected to command a standing army.... The President- General, who is to be our king after this government is established, is vested with powers exceeding those of the most despotic monarch we know of in modern times.... I challenge the politicians of the whole continent to find in any period of history a monarch more absolute...."

That was written by Benjamin Workman under the penname "Philadelphiensis," one of the Anti-Federalists who warned in 1787-88 that the proposed Constitution would centralize power to an appalling degree, particularly in the executive branch.

Now here's President Barack Obama defending his unilateral military intervention in the civil war raging in Libya:

"Confronted by this brutal repression and a looming humanitarian crisis, I ordered warships into the Mediterranean. European allies declared their willingness to commit resources to stop the killing.... [At] my direction, America led an effort with our allies at the United Nations Security Council to pass a historic resolution that authorized a no-fly zone to stop the regime's attacks from the air, and further authorized all necessary measures to protect the Libyan people.... We knew that if we waited — if we waited one more day — Benghazi, a city nearly the size of Charlotte, could suffer a massacre that

would have reverberated across the region and stained the conscience of the world.... I refused to let that happen. And so nine days ago, after consulting the bipartisan leadership of Congress, I authorized military action to stop the killing and enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1973.... [As] President, I refused to wait for the images of slaughter and mass graves before taking action.... Of course, there is no question that Libya — and the world — would be better off with Qaddafi out of power. I, along with many other world leaders, have embraced that goal.... The task that I assigned our forces — to protect the Libyan people from immediate danger, and to establish a no-fly zone — carries with it a UN mandate and international support."

You see no reference to a congressional declaration of war or the Constitution. Philadelphiensis and his compatriots would not have been surprised. They saw early on that it wouldn't take much for a president to become an emperor.

Obama continued: "I've made it clear that I will never hesitate to use our military swiftly, decisively, and unilaterally when necessary to defend our people, our homeland, our allies, and our core interests.... But let us also remember that for generations, we have done the hard work of protecting our own people, as well as millions around the globe. We have done so because we know that our own future is safer, our own future is brighter, if more of mankind can live with the bright light of

freedom and dignity".

There in a nutshell is the imperial premise: Our future depends on the condition of the rest of mankind. Therefore, the president may bomb or invade anywhere he likes as long as he believes intervention is feasible. And as long as he can get the US-dominated NATO and UN Security Council on board. (NATO, incidentally, was never established for such a purpose.) Obama's touted "coalition" is cold comfort to those who realize that freedom and fiscal moderation at home are jeopardized by a government run amok in the world.

Once upon a time, people actually believed that a president could not constitutionally commit troops abroad without a declaration of war by Congress. With some exceptions, that belief held presidents in check for a while. But it passed away sometime after 1942, and since then presidents have gone to war — big-time and small — whenever they damn well pleased. Congress has simply been too timid to assert itself against imperial presidents. After the undeclared Vietnam war disaster, a War Powers Resolution was passed in an attempt to limit future presidents, but it was a pale substitute for the war-declaration requirement — and besides, cowardly Congresses have never pushed to enforce the resolution.

The Anti-Federalists saw it coming. We can't say we weren't warned.

*Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation, and editor of The Freeman magazine. Visit his blog "Free Association" at www.sheldonrichman.com.*

## The Justice Dept. Doesn't "Legalize" War with Secret Memos Anymore: Now They're Public

By DAVID SWANSON

In the good old days of Bybee and Yoo, before we let them get away with it, thereby guaranteeing worse things to come, Justice Department memos "legalizing" the crime of aggressive war were secret. Now they're published quickly, and there's a new one out on Libya. It begins:

"The President had the constitutional authority to direct the use of military force in Libya because he could reasonably determine that such use of force was in the national interest. Prior congressional approval was not constitutionally required to use military force in the limited operations under consideration. April 1, 2011."

April Fools! Ha Ha! They had me going.

Actually they mean it. But the memo doesn't offer anything to substantiate the claims. It merely states that the United Nations passed a resolution — a fact that does not legally erase the US Constitution's placement of war powers in the legislature. It also pulls out that old standby so beloved by Yoo and Bybee: "Clinton did it!"

"Earlier opinions of this Office and other historical precedents establish the framework for our analysis. As we explained in 1992, Attorneys General and this Office 'have concluded that the President has the power to commit United States troops abroad,' as well as to 'take military action,' for the purpose of protecting important national interests, even without specific prior authorization from Congress. Authority to Use United States Military Forces in Somalia, 16 Op. O.L.C. 6, 9 (1992) ("Military Forces in Somalia"). This independent authority of the President, which exists at least insofar as Congress has not specifically restricted it, [see Deployment of United States Armed Forces into Haiti, 18

Op. O.L.C. 173, 176 n.4, 178 (1994) ("Haiti Deployment"), derives from the President's "unique responsibility," as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive, for "foreign and military affairs," as well as national security. (Sale v. Haitian Centers Council, Inc., 509 U.S. 155, 188 (1993); U.S. Const. art. II, § 1, cl. 1, § 2, cl. 2.)"

And not just Clinton. Other presidents have done it! And judges have OK'd it — sort of. A Supreme Court opinion stated: "The Constitution, to be sure, divides authority over the military between the President and Congress, assigning to Congress the authority to "declare War," "raise and support Armies," and "provide and maintain a Navy," as well as general authority over the appropriations on which any military operation necessarily depends. (U.S. Const. art. I, § 8, cl. 1, 11-14). Yet, under "the historical gloss on the 'executive Power' vested in Article II of the Constitution," the President bears the "vast share of responsibility for the conduct of our foreign relations," [Am. Ins. Ass'n v. Garamendi, 539 U.S. 396, 414 (2003) (quoting Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer, 343 U.S. 579, 610-11 (1952) (Frankfurter, J., concurring)], and accordingly holds "independent authority 'in the areas of foreign policy and national security.'" Id. at 429 (quoting Haig v. Agee, 453 U.S. 280, 291 (1981)); see also, e.g., Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co., 343 U.S. 6."

That is to say, in violation of the Constitution, past presidents have moved in this direction. The memo goes on to explain that, regardless of what any laws say, presidents have used the military without Congressional approval lots and lots of times. And the presidents have belonged to "both parties!"

The memo then goes on to promote a common lie about the War Powers

Act; namely, that it allows this practice, whereas its whole purpose was to put an end to this practice except in instances where the United States was actually under attack by another nation. That little problem, this memo explains, is solved by declaring part of the War Powers Act, the part forbidding a president to use the military except when the United States is attacked, is merely a "policy statement" and "is not to be viewed as limiting presidential action in any substantive manner."

Plus, these servants of the President assure us, the President believes bombing Libya is in our "national interest," a point the nation clearly need not be asked for an opinion on. Moreover, this surgical little operation isn't big enough to count as a real war. Why? Because previous Justice Department memos have said all sorts of things to the same effect, and nobody has ever put an end to this unconstitutional madness.

The "national interest" turns out to involve regional stability (despite Libya not being in our region of the world) and the credibility of the United Nations. However, the memo stresses, a President does not require any resolution from the United Nations in order to launch unconstitutional wars. Having one just helps provide an excuse in this instance.

The new Yoo or Bybee who signs this rip-off of their work is Caroline D. Krass, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General. I bet her mamma just couldn't be prouder!

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



## The Civilian Surge in Iraq

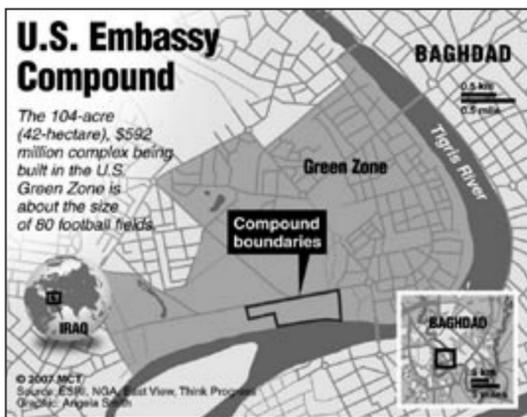
### US Expands Occupation HQ in Baghdad

SURGE from p. 1

systematic violations of the Geneva conventions and international human rights laws wherever US forces have been deployed since 2001. And an expanding gulag of JSOC prisons in Afghanistan have replaced Bush's secret CIA prisons as the destination of choice for US "rendition" flights from around the world.

But despite ratcheting up chaos and violence everywhere else, at least Mr.

billions of dollars on construction at its own military bases in Iraq, and \$736 million to build the crown jewel of the occupation, the new US "Embassy" in Baghdad. This fortified compound is ten times the size of the largest real embassy in the world, the US Embassy in Beijing. It occupies a 104-acre site that was once a nice public park on the bank of the Tigris. The land was given to the United States as a gift from its grateful Iraqi exile and Kurdish allies



Obama is fulfilling his many promises to get the United States out of Iraq, right? Or is he? So far, he has complied with the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) agreement that the Maliki government wrung out of the Bush administration before it left office, by which all US forces are required to be out of Iraq by the end of 2011. But that's not the whole story. US troop withdrawals are being accompanied by a "civilian surge".

In my book, *Blood On Our Hands: the American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq*, I explained that only 24% of the money budgeted by Congress for "reconstruction" in Iraq was ever disbursed, and that much of that was diverted to the Pentagon and mercenaries in the name of security. In reality, instead of spending US tax dollars to rebuild Iraq, US officials and contractors stole Iraqi oil revenues to line their own pockets. Theft, embezzlement and mismanagement of Iraqi oil revenues from a fund set up by the UN was so rampant that it sent KPMG (a US auditing firm) auditors to Baghdad to look for traces of the missing money. When the auditors arrived in Baghdad, US occupation authorities tried to deny them entry to the Green Zone.

Among many other findings, KPMG and a US special inspector general found that \$8.8 billion of Iraq's money was unaccounted for; that customs officials in Lebanon found \$13 million aboard Iraqi-American Interim Interior Minister Falah Naqib's plane; that Paul Bremer kept a \$600 million slush fund with no paperwork; that a US Army officer doubled the price for some work on a hospital and told the hospital's director that the extra money, more than a million dollars, was his "retirement package"; that a US contractor billed an extra \$40 million for rebuilding a cement factory, then told Iraqis who complained that they should be grateful to the US for "saving" them from Saddam Hussein; that a US oil pipeline contractor was paid \$3.4 million for work it didn't do; that 154 out of 198 contract files had no paperwork to show that the work had been done; that Iraqi oil was deliberately not metered, permitting \$4 billion to be sold on the black market; and so on.

The special inspector general examined the records of American "paying agents" around Hillah, and found no accounting for \$96.6 million in cash that they claimed to have disbursed. One agent alone could not account for \$25 million. Another who was challenged over a \$1.9 million discrepancy "found" the missing money and came back with it the next day. The Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) used paying agents like this all over the country. Only those around Hillah were audited. Many didn't submit any paperwork until they were about to leave Iraq, and the CPA just "cleared" huge sums of money.

But the United States has spent

after the Americans captured Baghdad for them.

The contractor on the Embassy project, First Kuwaiti General Trading & Contracting, recruited workers from other parts of Asia by telling them they would be working in Dubai. At the airport in Kuwait, it confiscated their passports and loaded them onto aging, unmarked chartered planes bound for Baghdad. A supervisor from Florida described 2,500 workers living in squalid conditions with poor sanitation, cases of medical malpractice and managers who beat them regularly. Another supervisor said the workers were "treated like dogs." At least two workers died. The contractor only agreed to let some of them go home after the whole project was shut down by a series of strikes and escape attempts. The use of forced labor to build the US "embassy" made Project Censored's annual list of unreported stories in 2008.

The "embassy" compound is cut off from the surrounding 4 square mile Green Zone by nine foot concrete walls and a razor-wire-enclosed kill zone. Its 21 buildings include plush residences for senior officials, 619 one-bedroom apartments for other staff, office space for 1,000, a Marine barracks, a social club and a swimming pool. As Iraqis struggle with power outages, contaminated drinking water and sewage in their streets, the American compound has its own power, water and sewage plants.

But what galls Iraqis even more is the very existence of this massive American fortress at the center of their capital city. They understand that it was not designed as a diplomatic mission to a sovereign country, but as a quasi-colonial headquarters from which its State Department staff planned to manage an Iraqi government that would be independent in name only for many years to come.

"In reality," I wrote in my book, "the United States was building a headquarters for a long-term presence in the heart of the Iraqi government, from which US State Department officials could play a dominant role in the administration of a nominally independent country... The establishment of the occupation headquarters was a central and non-negotiable part of US policy because it fulfilled one of the original, primary goals of the invasion, to establish a puppet Iraqi government supervised by American officials."

Neither the abysmal failure of this policy, nor the change from Bush's Republican administration to Obama's Democratic one, affected the US commitment to this long-standing, primary goal of the invasion. In February 2009, newly appointed Secretary of State Clinton held a town-hall meeting for State Department personnel. One of the first questions was about the understaffing of US embassies all over the world as a result of the bloated deployment of 1,200 State

Department staff to the occupation headquarters in Iraq. Steve Kashkett of the American Foreign Service Association asked, "...have you had any discussions yet about reducing the size of our diplomatic mission in Iraq down to that of a normal diplomatic mission?" Clinton replied only that, "...we're just at the very beginning of that process."

An inspector general's report later that year also recommended reducing the number of staff at the Baghdad "Embassy", but the Obama administration instead announced a "civilian surge", a plan to increase the number of State Department staff deployed in Iraq from 1,200 to 3,000. This has been scaled back to 2,400, but even this doubling of the deployment means relying heavily on private contractors to fill the gaps in an already over-stretched State Department personnel pool. As US military forces leave Iraq, the State Department is hiring a private army of 7,000 mercenaries to protect its quasi-colonial staff. It has submitted a laundry list of military equipment to be left behind by departing US troops to equip its private army, including 1,320 armored vehicles, 60 mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles (MRAPs), four aircraft and 29 helicopters.

But what is the point of this militarized deployment of quasi-colonial officials to a nominally independent country? The Maliki government has been establishing a minimum of legitimacy among the public in Iraq by distancing itself from its American puppet-masters and driving a hard bargain on the Status of Forces agreement, troop withdrawals and oil contracts. This makes the 'civilian surge' nothing but a futile and wasteful effort to salvage a policy that has already failed.

Western oil companies have already given up on the efforts of the US Embassy staff to privatize the Iraqi oil industry, finally settling instead for service contracts worth only \$1 or \$2 per barrel for increases in Iraqi oil production. And the universal hostility of the entire population after years of brutal US occupation means that American firms are virtually shut out of private-sector business in Iraq. New business is instead being snapped up by firms from Turkey, Iran, and even France and Brazil — anyone but the American occupiers!

US firms still earn about \$1 billion per year from government contracts in Iraq, but many of these date back to 2003 and will soon expire. In 2009, FedEx was forced to terminate operations in Iraq after a Russian firm won an exclusive air cargo contract. A \$30 billion contract to rebuild Iraq's railroads was awarded to a British-Italian-Czech consortium. In November 2009, a European ambassador in Baghdad told the New York Times, "Being considered an occupier handicapped us extremely... The farther we are away from that, the more our companies can be accepted on their own merits."

By its brutal invasion and occupation of Iraq, the United States has squandered any chance to become a major commercial player there in the foreseeable future. The "civilian surge" is only consuming more of America's shrinking credibility and resources to rub this self-inflicted lesson into the Kevlar skin of our deluded leaders.

Nicolas J S Davies is the author of *Blood On Our Hands: the American Invasion & Destruction of Iraq*.

## Haiti's Eternal Punishment

### Obama Leads Third Century of Imperial Revenge on Haiti

HAITI from p. 1

Libyan civil war, Obama and his dream team have been maneuvering like mad to put one of a pair of right-wing fanatics into office in Haiti while excluding any other candidates from the running — including those from Haiti's biggest political party. Obama also personally called South African President Jacob Zuma to ask him to keep holding Bush-ousted former Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Africa and prevent him from returning to his native land before the election.

With the sublime hypocrisy that



Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic.

has become the hallmark of this most mendacious militarist administration, an Obama spokesman said the Peace Laureate opposed Aristide's return due to "deep concerns that President Aristide's return to Haiti in the closing days of the election could be destabilizing," adding that the defender of freedom and democracy believes "that the Haitian people deserve the chance to choose their government through peaceful, free and fair elections."

Even from Team Obama, this is pretty rich. After blocking the largest political party from running, then forcing a run-off between two former supporters of vicious coups, Obama said he didn't want Haiti's democratically elected former leader to return to the homeland he was trundled from at gunpoint by Bushist goons in order to give the Haitian people "a free, fair election."

The result has been a record-low turnout and run-off so riddled with corruption that it may be weeks before one of America's hand-picked stooges is declared the winner. Meanwhile, Aristide did return — Zuma told Obama plainly that Astride was a free man, he had a passport from his home country, and "I cannot hold him hostage." He did not interfere with the election. He endorsed no candidate. Most of his supporters simply boycotted the election because of its blatant illegitimacy.

So this is what Barack Obama and his partner in imperialism, the globe-trotting Hillary Clinton, have been up to on the side while they are killing children in Libya and bluntly declaring to Congress that Obama will not acknowledge any restriction on his imperial will to wage war wherever, whenever, and however he damn well pleases. As John Caruso notes in a blistering post:

In an episode that makes the importance of democracy subversion in Haiti eminently clear, even while the popular uprising in Egypt was peaking, our Secretary of State was dispatched to Haiti to ensure that Michel "Sweet

Micky" Martelly advanced to the presidential runoff election rather than Jude Celestin (she flew there literally right after she'd finished putting out the administration's Egypt spin on the Sunday morning talk shows). So just who is this US favorite?

Seven months after his inauguration, President Aristide was overthrown by a US-backed neo-Duvalierist military putsch on 30 September 1991. "Sweet Micky" was one of the principal cheerleaders of this three-year coup, which claimed some 5,000 lives, according to Amnesty International.

In the years following Aristide's restoration to power in 1994, Martelly became obsessed with hatred for the man. In a video from not too long ago, which can be seen on YouTube, the candidate threatens a patron in a bar where he has performed. "All those shits were Aristide's faggots," he says. "I would kill Aristide to stick a dick up your ass."

You can certainly see why Clinton made the trip. And if the Obama administration doesn't manage to get this homicidal, homophobic Duvalierist into power, they'll still end up with the Secretary General of the right-wing Rally of Progressive National Democrats (RDNP) party (and wife of a former right-wing "president" of Haiti). Win-win!

...As I've written before, anyone who feared that our first black president might not be sympathetic to the need to smash the democratic aspirations of the first free black nation in the hemisphere can rest assured: Obama will never let race — or anything else — stop him from doing the empire's dirty work.

No, indeed. Doing the empire's dirty work is the Obama Administration's raison d'etre. Caruso helpfully points us to this incandescent post by Linh Dinh:

As firemen and cops are being fired across America; as teachers are being told they must accept austerity measures — the country is broke, after all; as public radio and television, with their supposed liberal bias, lay on the chopping block; as more homeless sprawl and tent cities spring up; as casinos, a sure sign of desperation, mushroom, the United States has entered another costly war without any fanfare or discussion whatsoever. Obama didn't have to persuade anybody. No sending a Secretary of State to make a fool of herself in front of the United Nations' General Assembly, no congressional vote, which, last time I checked, was supposed to be a Constitutional requirement, no media blitz. No lies even. He simply ordered more than a hundred Tomahawk missiles, so far, to rain down on Libya, with many more to come. In any case, this is not even a war, but merely a "kinetic military action," according to an Obama aide. Such straight faced butchery of language, even as one butchers real people, shows that the United States has entered a deep psychotic state. Upon winning the Nobel Peace Prize, Obama himself declared, "I am living testimony to the moral force of non-violence." ...

The President of the United States is a traveling salesman for the military industrial complex. In 2010, Obama came to India to visit the Mumbai home of Gandhi — a hero of his, someone he would most like to dine with (very touching) — before announcing a mega arms deal of GE fighter jet engines and Boeing military transport planes. Now, as he bombs Libya, Obama tries to sell F-18 fighter planes to Brazil. According to an aide, "President Obama underscored that the F-18 is the best plane on offer" as he made a "strong pitch" to Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff.

The President of the United States is also a spokesman for murderers and crooks. He doesn't rule, but obeys. His main job is to deceive the masses as he serves his enablers. He can say anything at any time, and means none

of it. The President of the United States is the world's most visible actor, in short. Campaigning in 2007, Obama said, "If American workers are being denied their right to organize and collectively bargain when I'm in the White House, I'll put on a comfortable pair of shoes myself. I'll walk on that picket line with you as president of the United States." Quite a performance. This year, as Wisconsin teachers fight to retain their right to collectively bargain, Obama has said absolutely nothing. One would have to be a fool to think he would join them. ...

As Obama fizzes out, as he loses legitimacy, the power brokers will come up with other figureheads and slogans for American liberals and conservatives to become passionate about. These candidates will jabber, jab and insult each other. As in professional wrestling, the battle will appear fierce. Barack, meanwhile, can look forward to a lucrative memoir and six-figure speaking fees. Even that man of malapropisms and snafus, the much despised Bush, is getting \$150,000 each time he opens his mouth these days.

In any case, the latest draconian farce in Haiti is only par for a savage course that Obama and Clinton have been carrying out from the get-go, standing on the shoulders of that giant statesman, Dubya. As I noted here almost two years ago (again following in Caruso's footsteps):

Haiti has been a cursed nation throughout its existence. As I noted in a piece in 2004:

Exactly two hundred years ago, Haitian slaves overthrew their French masters — the first successful national slave revolt in history. What Spartacus dreamed of doing, the Haitian slaves actually accomplished. It was a tremendous achievement — and the white West has never forgiven them for it.

In order to win international recognition for their new country, Haiti was forced to pay "reparations" to the slaveowners — a crushing burden of debt they were still paying off at the end of the 19th century. The United States, which refused to recognize the country for more than 60 years, invaded Haiti in 1915, primarily to open it up to "foreign ownership of local concerns." After 19 years of occupation, the Americans backed a series of bloodthirsty dictatorships to protect these "foreign owners." And still it goes on.

It certainly does — even under the "enlightened" foreign policy of Barack Obama. As John Caruso



Aristide: Now back from exile.

reports (in separate pieces on the websites: [distantocean.com](http://distantocean.com) and [tinyrevolution.com](http://tinyrevolution.com)), Obama and his "superstar" secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, are loudly championing the latest egregious, brutal farce that Washington and the West have foisted upon the uppity natives of Haiti.

Senatorial elections held this month by the government imposed on Haiti after the US-backed coup of 2004 (more on this below) produced a turnout of less than 10 percent of eligible voters: a result that mocks any notion of a popular, legitimate democracy. But this is not because the Haitians are so lazy and uninterested that they couldn't be bothered to vote. Nor is it because they are so satisfied with the benevolent, paternal care of their American-appointed masters that they saw no need to let silly electoral contests trouble their bucolic life.

No, the 90 percent refusal rate was, in fact, a massive protest action, driven chiefly by the fact that the American-backed government would not allow the most popular party — the party of the government ousted by the 2004 coup — to run a slate of candidates in the election. By clerly hook and bureaucratic crook, Haiti's election overseers banned the Fanmi Lavalas slate back in February. At that moment, the April elections became a dead letter, a meaningless farce -- yet another cruel joke played on the people of Haiti.

Another April, another joke -- and a third century of imperial revenge goes on.

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.

**\* Common Sense II \***

**America Betrayed**

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

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**AMERICA BETRAYED**

## Eyewitness to Egyptian Revolution

EGYPT from p. 1

about plans for a demonstration on Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, which was called "Police Day". Since the revolution occurred in Tunisia, a lot more people were planning to join the demonstration, but I didn't really expect that anything significant was going to happen. Usually the people would demonstrate, the police would break up the demonstration, and that would be it.

**Joe:** How were the people organized to go to Tahir Square?

**Omar:** On the first day, there weren't really many people, compared to the days that followed.

**Joe:** When did you experience the demonstration yourself?

**Omar:** I did not go until the following Tuesday, which was February 1<sup>st</sup>. People were talking more and more.

**Joe:** What was the State Television reporting?

**Omar:** You did not really see anything about the demonstration on State TV. It was blacked out. They had regular shows and series on.

**Joe:** When did you realize that something really big was taking place for the people of Egypt?

**Omar:** On Friday morning, January 28<sup>th</sup>. It was called "Anger Friday".

**Joe:** What was your reaction to the attack on the people by the undercover police? Were you concerned by the presence of the military?

**Omar:** At the time, I really didn't know any of this, except when I got a text message from a friend in the United States. The phones were blacked out and there wasn't any internet service. We were 20 kilometers west of Alexandria with no TV. There were five of us. Then a friend texted me and said the military were rolling into the streets of Cairo. This was my first realization that the people were getting really worried.

**Joe:** What similarities do you see in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, and Syria?

**Omar:** The people are finally believing that they can change things. Before, the rulers always kept a tight grip. So, when Tunisia happened, it gave hope to the people of Egypt that they could actually stand up for freedom and keep going.

**Joe:** What does this revolution mean to the poor, some of whom are earning only \$2.00 a day?

**Omar:** It means that more of the money that the Egyptian economy produces will actually go back into the people's pockets.

**Joe:** *Media Worldwide* said that it was "an eighteen-day revolution". What would you say about that?

**Omar:** It was an eighteen-day revolution! It took eighteen days for Mubarek to step down. Before the revolution, you couldn't speak badly [of the government] or you just avoided the subject. You could be beaten up, taken to jail, or just disappeared for a while.

**Joe:** Can you describe the major political groups in the revolution?

**Omar:** There are no major groups. The National Republican Party in Egypt (Mubarek's group) would not allow any other groups. So, when the revolution happened, it was a revolution without a leader. There were people of all ages, races, and religions. Everybody was there! Everybody standing together!

**Joe:** From what you have said, the people of Egypt are very happy that Mubarek is gone.

**Omar:** I would say that 90-95% of the people of Egypt are happy that Mubarek is gone.

**Joe:** I understand that security was set up in the neighborhoods by the people. What can you tell me about that?

**Omar:** Yes, we were doing that. People were patrolling their own neighborhoods. One of the reasons was that a lot of the police had started trouble, such as fires.

**Joe:** How did people get food and other supplies at this time?

**Omar:** It was hard. Although some stores were open, no one had cash. All of the banks were closed, and ATM's were out of cash. There wasn't any gas in the gas stations. The airport was open, except for the first day, but the flight schedules were limited by the curfews, which began about 3:00 pm.

Many people followed the curfew restrictions. If you were inside your own neighborhood, it was no big deal. The people also enforced a curfew.

The banks opened after a couple of weeks, and I was able to get some money, but until then, people managed by lending each other money. The people have never been happier than they were during this time, and the streets have never been cleaner.

**Joe:** Was the Suez Canal ever closed?

**Omar:** The Suez Canal was never in jeopardy of being shut down.

**Joe:** Where were you when the horses and camels came into Tahir Square?

**Omar:** I was in Medicina, about five kilometers from Tahir Square. I was standing on a street corner at a large intersection. The traffic was stopped, and many horses and camels came across. At that time, the parade of animals appeared to be celebratory. The animals, I later

learned, were hired from the tourist area because their owners needed money. The owners were not poor, but the revolution was costing them dearly. They wanted to end it.

**Joe:** When the revolution was happening, President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton were lukewarm about it. Did you feel they should have taken a stronger stand?

**Omar:** Of course, they should have! But their reluctance is understandable because Mubarek was scaring people by warning them that the Muslim Brotherhood would take over if he was not the (Egyptian) President. The US did not want to empower the Muslim Brotherhood.

It was similar to the situation in Palestine when Hamas was voted in, against the wishes of the US government.

Mubarek would organize bombings, as he had done before. Documents have been uncovered recently at the Ministry of the Interior proving this. The [false-flag] bombing at Sharm el-Sheikh (July 23, 2005) was done to scare the Egyptian people.

**Joe:** Thank you for this interview, Omar.

**Omar:** You're welcome.

**UPDATE:** On Friday and Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, there were demonstrations in Egypt, Syria, and Yemen.

In Syria, the government killed seventeen people.

In Egypt, the April 8<sup>th</sup> demonstration was called "The Day of Trial and Cleansing". Thousands of protesters demanded the arrest of Hosni Mubarek and his cabinet.

In the early morning hours of April 9<sup>th</sup>, the military opened fire on the protesters in Tahir Square, killing at least two people and arresting 42.

Since Mubarek stepped down on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the military and police have attacked at least four demonstrations. About a dozen military officers have supported the demonstrations.

Since the Tahir Square protests, Mubarek and his two sons have been brought into the police station for questioning. During questioning, Mubarek reportedly "suffered a heart attack".

On April 16 it was reported that an Egyptian court ordered the dissolution of the former ruling party, the National Democratic Party (NDP), thus meeting a major demand of the protesters. The NDP monopolized Egypt's politics and government for many decades; its disbanding is a victory for the Egyptian people.

*Joe Brown is a lifelong resident of Washington, DC, and the DC metropolitan area. He is a peace/anti-death-penalty activist and a co-founder of the Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen and the Electric Maid Community Living Room in Tacoma Park.*

the Roman Legions behaved in the lands they occupied.

This whole sordid tale in Pakistan came to light because of the outrageous actions of one CIA operative, Raymond Davis, who was arrested and charged with two murders after he slaughtered two young men, apparently operatives of Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence agency, on a busy Lahore boulevard. Davis, whom the US government desperately tried to pretend was merely an embassy employee who had been threatened with robbery when he pulled out one of his two automatic pistols and expertly blasted the two men through his car windshield (later exiting his car to execute one dying man and shoot the other in the back as he tried to flee), was eventually freed from prison and spirited out of Pakistan after the US paid a court-approved \$2.3-million "death payment" to the families of his victims. (Ironies abound in this story. For all the US hyperventilating against Sharia law in Muslim countries, it was by applying Pakistan's Sharia Law on the use of death payments to victims' families that the US got Davis sprung.) But he was not freed before virtually everyone in Pakistan had begun calling for his trial and execution, and not before it became clear that he, and the rest of the US spy army in Pakistan, was actually involved in subverting civil authority in that country.

There will eventually come a day of reckoning for this kind of imperial over-reaching.

Already, the US is losing its war in Afghanistan, largely because its imperial legions treat the whole Afghan population either as the enemy, or as obstacles in the way of its killing machine. Already the US is finally being pushed out of Iraq (another war lost). And things aren't looking that great even for America's latest imperial adventure in the little country (pop.: 6 million!) of Libya.

In fact, as our vast and unprecedentedly expensive military bankrupts the nation, we may someday even find our own country being overrun by the armed agents of other lands, with their robotic aircraft bombing our helpless citizenry. When it does finally come to pass, we will have only our own imperial hubris to blame.

*Dave Lindorff is a Philadelphia-based journalist and columnist. His latest book is The Case for Impeachment (St. Martin's Press, 2006) and now available at [www.thiscantbehappening.net](http://www.thiscantbehappening.net).*

requesting, that Canada stop its drone attacks and bring home its agents and undercover Mounties.

Now read this sentence:

Canada hasn't committed to adjusting the drone program in response to the US request. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) operates covertly, meaning the program doesn't require Washington's support, under Canadian law. Some [Canadian] officials say the CSIS operates with relative autonomy in the US border areas. They played down the level of support they receive from Washington.

Any thoughts on how the Tea Party, the Republican Party, or you yourself would react upon reading such a report in Canada's *Toronto Star* or *Globe & Mail*?

Somehow, we're at a point where even journalists and editors in the US accept without question the notion that the US is somehow free to run military operations anywhere it wants, to kill civilians with impunity, and to ignore the demands not just of foreign governments but of the people of entire nations, at will, and that the issue is not whether CIA and Special Forces activity in a foreign country is legal in that country, but whether it is legal "under US law."

This is the definition of imperialism.

It's what I remember reading about how

## British Commonwealth Citizens Deported from UK for Supporting London 7/7 Bombing Documentary Filmmaker

DEPORTED from p. 1

(friend of the court) to a UK courthouse where a trial was being held for three men who were connected to the original four alleged bombers. He did this because the judge and the prosecuting barrister in that case told the jury that there was no doubt that the four original alleged bombers were guilty of committing those crimes, when that allegation has never been proven in a court of law and millions of people doubt that they did it.

Mr. Hill faces the charge of "attempting to pervert the course of justice, contrary to common law", but he believes he was seeking to prevent a perversion of the course of justice by sending copies of his film; which calls into question whether the four original alleged bombers were actually guilty of committing those crimes; to the courthouse.

Mr. Hill was extradited from his home in Ireland to the UK in November 2010 and was held in prison for 150 days, until he has only recently been granted bail, awaiting his trial which is to be held on the May 9th this year.

We sailed to London from Ireland to support Mr. Hill at his trial. Upon arrival in London and visiting immigration, we were told that we could not be allowed entry into the country because London was not our first port of call and that we should have cleared immigration within 24 hours of entering British waters at our first port of call, which was the remote bird sanctuary called Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel.

Because we hadn't done that, the Immigration officers said they, therefore, could not grant us entry under their rules. They then advised us to go across to Europe and then re-enter the UK again and this time clear immigration within 24 hours of our arrival.

This we did, sailing to Holland, down the Belgium and French coasts, and then back across the channel to the UK, arriving at Weymouth.

Upon arrival at Weymouth, we contacted immigration within 24 hours of arrival as instructed and asked for clearance to enter the country as visitors. Instead of being welcomed into the country as we had hoped, we were forcibly taken off the boat and into custody, with only the clothes we were wearing, and were quickly deported to our respective countries of origin, being denied the right to appeal the deportation.

Although it was not stated directly to us by the British authorities, the friend whom I contacted to come and take care of the boat for me was told by British customs officers, who were searching the vessel when he arrived, that we were being deported from the UK because we are supporters of Mr. John Hill and that his is a politically sensitive court case, in which the state wants a minimal amount of public attention.



The Oronsay of Clynder docked in Weymouth harbor.

This was again confirmed when I landed at the Auckland International Airport in New Zealand and was clearing customs there. The customs officers took me into custody for an interview. During that interview, they stated to me that they were informed by British customs that I was a supporter of a man who is involved in a politically sensitive court case in the UK and that was the primary reason for my deportation.

So, to summarize; although it was not clearly stated to us, or officially recorded as a reason for our deportation, it has become clear that the real reason we have been taken from our home and all our worldly possessions — the boat and contents — and vindictively deported back to our respective countries of origin with nothing but the clothes on our backs, so the authorities could try to steal the boat, instead of the usual procedure of being turned-away and allowed to leave the country on the boat, is because we are supporters of a man in a trial about which the authorities would rather nobody know anything, and they are doing everything in their power to see to it that this is so.

So what exactly was his crime? — Sending a DVD video as a friend of the court, in an attempt to prevent what he saw as being a perversion of the course of justice.

And what exactly was our crime? Supporting that man, in an effort to keep freedom of speech alive and because we believe what he has done is the right thing to do.

If they can do this to him and to us and nobody says anything about it, then no-one is safe, and who will be next? You and yours perhaps?

We are now thousands of miles away from our home, the boat, without the ability to return to collect it, so now will have to sell it where it is, if we can.

*Matthew Pye from New Zealand and Philip Van der Westhuizen from South Africa.*

## America's Imperious Attitude in Pakistan Is Wearing Thin



PAKISTAN from p. 1

Let's parse this astonishing clip a bit. Earlier in the story, in fact in the lead, the article states that Pakistan has "privately demanded" that the CIA halt the drone strikes and pull out most of the CIA and Special Forces personnel operating in the country. But by the end of the article, we learn that the country is "requesting" a halt to attacks by the US on its own territory and people. But even odder is this notion that because the CIA is a covert agency, its operations don't need Pakistan's support under US law.

Excuse me for asking, but what exactly does US law have to do with whether or not the CIA needs another government's support for it to operate in that country legally?

Missile-firing US drones have killed hundreds of innocent civilians in Pakistan.

Let's turn this *Wall Street Journal* paragraph around for a minute, in Chomskian fashion. Suppose we had a small army of Canadian intelligence operatives, heavily armed, in our country, conducting a secret war along our border with Mexico, and that they were also directing a campaign of drone attacks against Mexican drug traffickers in the "tribal regions" of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and southern California--a campaign which was leading to the deaths of hundreds of American civilians. Let's say further that the US government was demanding, or



Judge John M. Walker

GALLOP from p. 1

with injuries she and her newborn son suffered in the supposed terrorist attack at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. The two were injured when the allegedly hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 supposedly slammed into the building. Gallop and many others in the 9/11 Truth movement contend that explosives were planted inside the Pentagon and that Flight 77 never hit the building.

Gallop says a large explosion caused the ceiling above her to collapse. When she regained consciousness, she made her way, son in tow, through the hole the alleged plane was supposed to have created. She says she never saw any evidence that a plane had hit the building. The government claims that 125 people were killed in the Pentagon and another 89 on the plane.

As I reported in a previous post, the Pentagon has refused to help Gallop with surgeries she and her son have required because of the event. They've even tried to stop other agencies like the American Red Cross from helping her, according to David Ray Griffin's account in his book *The New Pearl Harbor Revisited*.

Gallop launched the original lawsuit in 2008 alleging that the 9/11 attacks were planned at the highest levels of the US government, and that they were blamed on fundamentalist Muslims as part of a cover story. She claims that there was plenty of knowledge that employees of the Pentagon were in imminent danger and that, had alarms been sounded, many deaths and injuries

would have been prevented.

The idea that Cheney knew a plane was heading for the Pentagon is supported by the 9/11 Commission hearing testimony of the then transportation secretary, Norman Mineta. Mineta reported to the Commission that Cheney was in the presidential bunker prior to the Pentagon "crash" and was tracking the plane as it approached the Pentagon but not taking action to intercept it.

The original Gallop case was thrown out of court in March 2010. Judge Denny Chin dismissed the suit with prejudice, contending that the complaint was based on "cynical delusion and fantasy." Chin has since been promoted to the very court now hearing the appeal of his ruling.

Gallop's lawyer, William Veale, made a motion this week to have Judge Walker disqualified from hearing the case, but this was denied. Also denied was the request for a continuance to appeal the decision.

Walker was chief justice of the Court of Appeals from 2000-2006 and has been serving as a senior member of the court since then. Many researchers into 9/11 will also point out that another Bush cousin, Wirt D. Walker III, was CEO of Securacom from 1999-2002 — the company that handled security for the World Trade Center. The company installed a new \$8.3-million security system in the towers between 1996 and 2000.

The sheer arrogance of the perpetrators of 9/11 continues to amaze me. These people clearly believe they can get away with anything. And until enough of us get mad, then they're probably right.

I truly hope that this latest travesty will be one too many and will backfire on Bush, Cheney, and their criminal accomplices. If it doesn't, how can we ever take the justice system seriously again?

*Craig McKee has been a journalist in Montreal for 23 years, and has covered news and entertainment. McKee has won eight provincial and national weekly newspaper awards. You can read his articles at his website: [truthandshadows.wordpress.com](http://truthandshadows.wordpress.com).*

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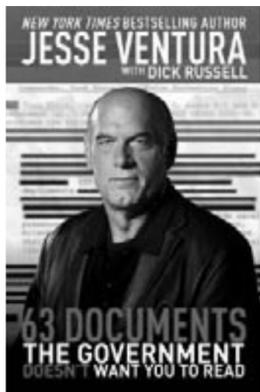
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## Book Review

## Jesse Ventura Exposes 9/11 Stand Down Order Among Other Documents



## 63 Documents the Government Doesn't Want You to Read

By Jesse Ventura and Dick Russell

Skyhorse Publishing (April 4, 2011)

Hardcover 320 pages

ISBN-10: 1616082267

which allows for commanders in the field to provide assistance to save lives in an emergency situation — BUT any requests involving “potentially lethal support” (including “combat and tactical vehicles, vessels or aircraft; or ammunition”) must still be approved by the Secretary of Defense. So again, the ability to respond to a hijacking with intercept orders was removed from commanders in the field.

Of course, on 9/11 no such intercept orders were issued to NORAD, and three of four hijacked airliners were able to hit their targets with precision accuracy, paving the way for a modern military crusade into the Middle East, and now into Africa.

In his book, Ventura analyzes the document, now known as the 9/11 Stand Down Order, and investigates whether it was part of a deliberate plot to prevent the US military from responding in a timely fashion to defend America from the most deadly attack in its history.

Appearing on the Alex Jones show this week [April 4-8] to promote the book, Ventura explained that his motivation for producing it was to open minds, create more transparency, and encourage more whistleblowers to come forward.

The former Governor revealed that during his research for the book he discovered that annually the government classifies as “top secret” over 16 million documents.

“That’s got to be every single document that the government produces!” Ventura surmised.

Ventura scolded the Obama administration, noting that it has been even more aggressive in its crack down on whistleblowers than the previous Bush regime was, despite promising to act as the most transparent government in US history.

Ventura noted that under the PATRIOT ACT, another attack on freedom stemming directly from 9/11, the government has a blank check to operate in a manner completely unaccountable to the American people.

“Where is our Supreme Court here?” Ventura asked. “The President and the Congress cannot simply pass a law and have it supersede the Constitution and the Bill of Rights,” he added.

Steve Watson is the London based writer and editor for Alex Jones’ Infowars.net, and Prisonplanet.com. He has a Masters Degree in International Relations from the School of Politics at The University of Nottingham in England.

By GARY NORTH

On a conservative site last week, the editor wrote this:

“While the Constitution has been largely ignored over the last 80 years, the document is very real, and its purpose is clear: to limit greatly the powers of the federal government.”

Having said this, he went on to a conclusion:

“If Congress proves unwilling to force indiscriminate cost reductions on government, then it should apply constitutional principles to the budget, whereby government functions not enumerated in the Constitution are abolished, privatized, or passed to the states.”

When we begin with a myth, we have a tendency to expect miracles. Let me explain.

The Constitution was established in order to strengthen the powers of the Federal government. It strengthened them vastly beyond what the British had attempted to impose on the colonies in the early 1770s.

Before the American Revolution, the British level of taxation on the colonies was in the range of 1%. There were sales taxes on imported goods, but most people bought domestically produced goods. There were taxes on paper after 1765. This affected mainly lawyers and newspaper publishers. By alienating these two influential groups, the Parliament stirred up a hornets’ nest. When professional talkers and writers get squeezed by the government, the public gets an earful. “The end of liberty is nigh!” On the contrary, the end of a debt-free colonial government was drawing nigh.

Revolutions must be financed. They are always financed with debt and fiat money. Creditors buy the IOUs with good money, then weaker money, and then — at the end of the revolt — worthless money. Then they have a supreme political goal: to get the new government to pay off the worthless IOUs at face value in gold or silver. In the 1780s, it was silver.

The Constitution was deliberately designed to centralize power vastly beyond what the legitimate constitution — the Articles of Confederation — allowed. The Federal government in 1787 was weak. In 1788, it was vastly stronger.

The newly created Federal government immediately did two things. It accepted responsibility to pay off state debts. This was Alexander Hamilton’s proposal. He proposed it specifically to centralize the government by granting enormous profits to the investment class that had bought state debts for practically nothing.

The Wikipedia article on this consolidation of Federal debt is accurate in its discussion of Hamilton’s motives.

Hamilton’s economic plan had multiple goals. First, the debts and honor of the nation would be secured. Hamilton felt that the Federal government would not be able to borrow money from anyone in the future if these debts were not paid. By selling bonds to pay the debt, bondholders would have a direct

ones, and against the American taxpayers who are on the hook for trillions of dollars.

And yet, conservatives gave one of the chief war criminals, Donald Rumsfeld, the “Defender of the Constitution Award” at their annual CPAC. Fittingly, the award was presented by another one of the chief war criminals, Dick Cheney. I stand by what I have said several times about conservatives: The very heart and soul of conservatism is war. Patriotism, Americanism, and being a real conservative are now equated with support for war, torture, and militarism.

Laurence M. Vance writes from central Florida. He is the author of Christianity and War and Other Essays Against the Warfare State. The Revolution that Wasn’t, and Rethinking the Good War. His latest book is The Quatercentenary of the King James Bible.

## History’s Lessons

## The US Constitution Has Always Been a Tool of Centralization and Debt

financial interest helping the new United States government survive and thrive. Creditors who purchased the bonds could use them as collateral for loans, stimulating the economy even more.

Hamilton released a third report, the Report on Manufactures, which encouraged the growth and protection of manufacturing.

By 1791, Hamilton had created a vast Federal debt and the nation’s first

general of his sent him letters that concealed the politics of the revolt. [See Dr. North’s article on this revolt: “John Hancock’s Big Toe.”—ed.]

In 1794, Washington personally led an army of 13,000 to crush a tax revolt in Western Pennsylvania. This was the first and last time a President ever led troops into action. Because so few men volunteered, the Federal government imposed a draft. This was the Whiskey Rebellion.

The revolt was against Hamilton’s 1791 tax on whiskey — a tax used to raise revenues to pay off Federal debts at face value — debts that the holders had purchased for pennies. If this sounds like a replay of Shays’ rebellion and its outcome, that’s because it was, but on a far larger scale.

Centralized power? I guess so.

What Hamilton didn’t do, Federalist Party Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall did do, 1801-1836. Among other things, he wrote the opinion for *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819), which authorized the privately owned Second Bank of the United States to exercise a government-granted monopoly over the monetary system.

In only one fiscal year, 1836, has the US government ever been debt-free.

The Constitution was from day one an instrument to consolidate Federal power and expand it. The Constitution has proven to be a weak reed in every attempt to slow down the expansion of Federal power. It has proven utterly impotent to roll Federal power back as little as a decade, ever.

Therefore, the following is just plain silly, politically speaking:

If Congress proves unwilling to force indiscriminate cost reductions on government, then it should apply constitutional principles to the budget, whereby government functions not enumerated in the Constitution are abolished, privatized, or passed to the states.

I would, of course, love to see this. But I am unaware of any fiscal year since 1790 in which such a rollback of Federal employment and Federal spending took place, other than after a major war, when the soldiers were decommissioned and taxes were cut. If we are talking about civilian employment by the Federal government, I am unaware of any permanent reduction, ever.

There should come a time when the victims of a myth should figure out that they are the victims of a rich and powerful ruling class, which hires the teachers and screens the textbooks to keep the voters docile. But this dawning of enlightenment has yet to come.

When Washington’s checks finally bounce, the day of enlightenment will come of necessity, not principle. Then we will have a shot at abandoning the myth of the Constitution as a restraint on Washington’s power.

Gary North, at the age of 25, was the youngest elected member of the Economists’ National Committee on Monetary Policy. Gary has served as a senior staff member of the Foundation for Economic Education and as a research assistant to US Congressman Ron Paul. Gary North is also the author of *Mises on Money* and the editor of the *Reality Check* free e-letter.



George Washington addressing the first Constitutional Convention, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania May through September 1787.

The plan would also create a bureaucracy of agents across the country who would be tied to the Federal government instead of the individual states. Assuming the debts of the states would likewise couple financial elites in those states with the national government and less so with state governments, thereby reducing the risk of secession. Hamilton’s scheme was called “debt assumption plan,” and it was a radical idea in 1790.

Hamilton’s Report supported ideas of war debt assumption, redemption of Confederate securities at face value, and funding of new national securities as a permanent national debt. Hamilton reasoned that creating a large financial structure, which wealthy citizens would support and belong to, would enhance the revenue and fiscal system of the national government and bring prosperity to the Federal government. He also reckoned that failure to establish the credit worthiness of the Federal government would weaken the United States, and called a permanent, reasonably-sized public debt “the powerful cement of our Union.”

Hamilton’s statements at the time were quite frank about all this.

When Madison and Jefferson opposed the plan, Hamilton bought them off by promising to support the swamp today known as Washington DC as the nation’s Capitol. This was done at a private dinner with only the three in attendance. Jefferson later wrote about it.

Here was the outcome: The Treasury Department quickly grew in stature and personnel, encompassing the United States Customs Service, the United States Revenue Cutter Service, and the network of Treasury agents Hamilton had foreseen. Hamilton immediately followed up his success with the Second Report on Public Credit, containing his plan for the Bank of the United States — a national, privately-operated bank owned in part by the government, which became the forerunner of the Federal Reserve System. In 1791

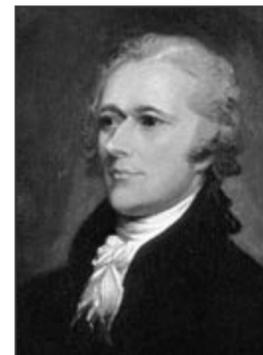
central bank, owned privately.

He had planned it from the beginning. That was why he promoted the Constitution. This was why he wrote most of The Federalist Papers.

The anti-Federalists predicted accurately what was coming in 1787. It came.

There was a conspiracy in Philadelphia in 1787. It was successful. I have written a book on this: *Conspiracy in Philadelphia*, which you can download for free.

To understand the expansion of Federal power in 1788, consider this.



Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the Treasury from 1789 – 1795.

In 1786, the Federal government’s total army was 1,200 men. It was too small to come to the rescue of the state of Massachusetts in putting down Shay’s rebellion. This was a rebellion by rural counties against the state government’s decision in 1786 to pay off state debts in silver, collected from the counties. The governor and most of the members of the legislature had bought these debts for pennies in fiat currency. Now they were about to get very rich at the expense of rural taxpayers, who had little silver. A lot of counties revolted.

That was the trigger that got George Washington to attend the Convention, which he had previously refused to agree to attend. He had been completely misinformed about the motives of the protest. A former

## The Criminality of War

WAR from p. 3

has been perpetrated against Iraq and Afghanistan.

The invasion and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, the destruction of infrastructure in countries that were not a threat to the United States, and the killing and wounding of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans who hadn’t lifted a finger against any Americans until their countries were targeted by the United States is the real crime.

These wars are crimes against not only the Iraq and Afghan peoples, but against the thousands of US soldiers who died in vain and for a lie, against the thousands of US soldiers who needlessly suffered horrific injuries that were not worth it, against the thousands of family members of US soldiers who must unnecessarily endure mental anguish over lost loved

ones, and against the American taxpayers who are on the hook for trillions of dollars.

And yet, conservatives gave one of the chief war criminals, Donald Rumsfeld, the “Defender of the Constitution Award” at their annual CPAC. Fittingly, the award was presented by another one of the chief war criminals, Dick Cheney. I stand by what I have said several times about conservatives: The very heart and soul of conservatism is war. Patriotism, Americanism, and being a real conservative are now equated with support for war, torture, and militarism.

Laurence M. Vance writes from central Florida. He is the author of Christianity and War and Other Essays Against the Warfare State. The Revolution that Wasn’t, and Rethinking the Good War. His latest book is The Quatercentenary of the King James Bible.

## Our Public Schools Are Churning Out Drones for the Corporate State

By CHRIS HEDGES / TRUTHDIG

A nation that destroys its systems of education, degrades its public information, guts its public libraries and turns its airwaves into vehicles for cheap, mindless amusement becomes deaf, dumb and blind. It prizes test scores above critical thinking and literacy. It celebrates rote vocational training and the singular, amoral skill of making money. It churns out stunted human products, lacking the capacity and vocabulary to challenge the assumptions and structures of the corporate state. It funnels them into a caste system of drones and systems managers. It transforms a democratic state into a feudal system of corporate masters and serfs.

Teachers, their unions under attack, are becoming as replaceable as minimum-wage employees at Burger King. We spurn real teachers — those with the capacity to inspire children to think, those who help the young discover their gifts and potential — and replace them with instructors who teach to narrow, standardized tests.

These instructors obey. They teach children to obey. And that is the point. The No Child Left Behind program, modeled on the “Texas Miracle,” is a fraud. It worked no better than our deregulated financial system. But when you shut out debate, these dead ideas are self-perpetuating.

Passing bubble tests celebrates and rewards a peculiar form of analytical intelligence. This kind of intelligence is prized by money managers and corporations. They don’t want employees to ask uncomfortable questions or examine existing structures and assumptions. They want them to serve the system. These tests produce men and women who are just literate and numerate enough to perform basic functions and service jobs. The tests elevate those with the financial means to prepare for them. They reward those who obey the rules, memorize the formulas and pay deference to authority. Rebels, artists, independent thinkers, eccentrics and iconoclasts — those who march to the beat of their own drum — are weeded out.

“Imagine,” said a public school teacher in New York City, who asked that I not use his name, “going to work each day knowing a great deal of what you are doing is fraudulent, knowing in no way are you preparing your students for life in an ever more brutal world, knowing that if you don’t continue along your scripted test prep course and indeed get better at it you will be out of a job. Up until very recently, the principal of a school was something like the conductor of an orchestra: a person who had deep experience and knowledge of the part and place of every member and every instrument. In the past 10 years, we’ve had the emergence of both [Mayor] Mike Bloomberg’s Leadership Academy and Eli Broad’s Superintendents Academy, both created exclusively to produce instant principals and superintendents who model themselves after CEOs. How is this kind of thing even legal? How are such ‘academies’ accredited? What quality of

leader needs a ‘leadership academy’? What kind of society would allow such people to run their children’s schools? The high-stakes tests may be worthless as pedagogy but they are a brilliant mechanism for undermining the school systems, instilling fear and creating a rationale for corporate takeover. There is something grotesque about the fact that education reform is being led not by educators but by financiers and speculators and billionaires.”

Teachers, under assault from every direction, are fleeing the profession. Even before the “reform” blitzkrieg, we were losing half of all teachers within five years after they started work — and these were people who spent years in school and many thousands of dollars to become teachers. How does the country expect to retain dignified, trained professionals under the hostility of current conditions? I suspect that the hedge fund managers behind our charter schools system — whose primary concern is certainly not with education — are delighted to replace real teachers with nonunionized, poorly trained

See DRONES p. 7

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# Our Public Schools Are Churning Out Drones for the Corporate State

DRONES from p. 6

instructors. To truly teach is to instill the values and knowledge which promote the common good and protect a society from the folly of historical amnesia. The utilitarian, corporate ideology embraced by the system of standardized tests and leadership academies has no time for the nuances and moral ambiguities inherent in a liberal arts education. Corporatism is about the cult of the self. It is about personal enrichment and profit as the sole aim of human existence. And those who do not conform are pushed aside.

"It is extremely dispiriting to realize that you are, in effect, lying to these kids by insinuating that this diet of corporate reading programs and standardized tests are preparing them for anything," said this teacher, who feared he would suffer reprisals from school administrators if they knew he was speaking out. "It is even more dispiriting to know that your livelihood depends increasingly on maintaining this lie. You have to ask yourself why are hedge fund managers suddenly so interested in the education of the urban poor. The main purpose of the testing craze is not to grade the students but to grade the teacher."

"I cannot say for certain — not with the certainty of a Bill Gates or a Mike Bloomberg who pontificate with utter certainty over a field in which they know absolutely nothing — but more and more I suspect that a major goal of the reform campaign is to make the work of a teacher so degrading and insulting that the dignified and the truly educated teachers will simply leave while they still retain a modicum of self-respect," he added. "In less than a decade we have been stripped of autonomy and are increasingly micromanaged. Students have been given the power to fire us by failing their tests. Teachers have been likened to pigs at a trough and blamed for the economic collapse of the United States. In New York, principals have been given every incentive, both financial and in terms of control, to replace experienced teachers with 22-year-old untenured rookies. They cost less. They know nothing. They are malleable and they are vulnerable to termination."

The demonizing of teachers is another public relations feint, a way for corporations to deflect attention from the theft of some \$17 billion in wages, savings and earnings among American workers and a landscape where one in six workers is without employment. The speculators on Wall Street looted the US Treasury. They stymied any kind of regulation. They have avoided criminal charges. They are stripping basic social services. And now they are demanding to run our schools and universities.

"Not only have the reformers removed poverty as a factor, they've removed students' aptitude and motivation as factors," said this teacher, who is in a teachers union. "They seem to believe that students are something like plants where you just add water and place them in the sun of your teaching and everything blooms. This is a fantasy that insults both student and teacher. The reformers have come up with a variety of insidious schemes pushed as steps to professionalize the profession of teaching. As they are all businessmen who know nothing of the field, it goes without saying that you do not do this by giving teachers autonomy and respect. They use merit pay in which teachers whose students do well on bubble tests will receive more money and teachers whose students do not do so well on bubble tests will receive less money. Of course, the only way this could conceivably be fair is to have an identical group of students in each class—an impossibility. The real purposes of merit pay are to divide teachers against themselves as they scramble for the brighter and more motivated students and to further institutionalize the idiot notion of standardized tests. There is a certain diabolical intelligence at work in both of these."

"If the Bloomberg administration can be said to have succeeded in anything," he said, "they have succeeded in turning schools into stress factories where teachers are running around wondering if it's possible to please their principals and if their school will be open a year from now, if their union will still be there to offer some kind of protection, if they will still have jobs next year. This is not how you run a school system. It's how you

destroy one. The reformers and their friends in the media have created a Manichean world of bad teachers and effective teachers. In this alternative universe there are no other factors. Or, all other factors — poverty, depraved parents, mental illness and malnutrition — are all excuses of the Bad Teacher that can be overcome by hard work and the Effective Teacher."

The truly educated become conscious. They become self-aware. They do not lie to themselves. They do not pretend that fraud is moral or that corporate greed is good. They do not claim that the demands of the marketplace can morally justify the hunger of children or denial of medical care to the sick. They do not throw 6 million families from their homes as the cost of doing business. Thought is a dialogue with one's inner self. Those who think ask questions, questions those in authority do not want asked. They remember who we are, where we come from and where we should go. They remain eternally skeptical and distrustful of power. And they know that this moral independence is the only protection from the radical evil that results from collective unconsciousness. The capacity to think is the only bulwark against any centralized authority that seeks to impose mindless obedience. There is a huge difference, as Socrates understood, between teaching people what to think and teaching them how to think. Those who are endowed with a moral conscience refuse to commit crimes, even those sanctioned by the corporate state, because they do not in the end want to live with criminals — themselves.

"It is better to be at odds with the whole world than, being one, to be at odds with myself," Socrates said.

Those who can ask the right questions are armed with the capacity to make a moral choice, to defend the good in the face of outside pressure. And this is why the philosopher Immanuel Kant puts the duties we have to ourselves before the duties we have to others. The standard for Kant is not the biblical idea of self-love — love thy neighbor as thyself, do unto others as you would have them do unto you — but self-respect. What brings us meaning and worth as human beings is our ability to stand up and pit ourselves against injustice and the vast, moral indifference of the universe. Once justice perishes, as Kant knew, life loses all meaning. Those who meekly obey laws and rules imposed from the outside — including religious laws — are not moral human beings. The fulfillment of an imposed law is morally neutral. The truly educated make their own will serve the higher call of justice, empathy and reason. Socrates made the same argument when he said it is better to suffer wrong than to do wrong.

"The greatest evil perpetrated," Hannah Arendt wrote, "is the evil committed by nobodies, that is, by human beings who refuse to be persons."

As Arendt pointed out, we must trust only those who have this self-awareness. This self-awareness comes only through consciousness. It comes with the ability to look at a crime being committed and say "I can't." We must fear, Arendt warned, those whose moral system is built around the flimsy structure of blind obedience. We must fear those who cannot think. Unconscious civilizations become totalitarian wastelands.

"The greatest evildoers are those who don't remember because they have never given thought to the matter, and, without remembrance, nothing can hold them back," Arendt writes. "For human beings, thinking of past matters means moving in the dimension of depth, striking roots and thus stabilizing themselves, so as not to be swept away by whatever may occur — the Zeitgeist or History or simple temptation. The greatest evil is not radical, it has no roots, and because it has no roots it has no limitations, it can go to unthinkable extremes and sweep over the whole world."

*Chris Hedges, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, is a senior fellow at the Nation Institute. He writes a regular column for TruthDig every Monday. His latest book is Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle.*

LIBYA from p. 1

and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin that after becoming acquainted with Libyan life, it was their view that in few nations did people live in such comfort:

"[Libyans] are entitled to free treatment, and their hospitals provide the best in the world of medical equipment. Education in Libya is free; capable young people have the opportunity to study abroad at government expense. When marrying, young couples receive 60,000 Libyan dinars (about 50,000 US dollars) of financial assistance. Non-interest state loans, and as practice shows, undated. Due to government subsidies the price of cars is much lower than in Europe, and they are affordable for every family. Gasoline and bread cost a penny, no taxes for those who are engaged in agriculture. The Libyan people are quiet and peaceful; are not inclined to drink; and are very religious."

They maintained that the international community had been misinformed about the struggle against the regime. "Tell us," they said, "who would not like such a regime?"

Even if that is just propaganda, there is no denying at least one very popular achievement of the Libyan government: it brought water to the desert by building the largest and most expensive irrigation project in history, the US \$33 billion GMMR (Great Man-Made River) project. Even more than oil, water is crucial to life in Libya.

The GMMR provides 70% of the population with water for drinking and irrigation, pumping it from Libya's vast underground Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System in the south to populated coastal areas 4,000 kilometers to the north. The Libyan government has done at least some things right.

Another explanation for the assault on Libya is that it is "all about oil", but that theory too is problematic. As noted in the *National Journal*, the country produces only about 2% of the world's oil. Saudi Arabia alone has enough spare capacity to make up for any lost production if Libyan oil were to disappear from the market. And if it's all about oil, why the rush to set up a new central bank?

Another provocative bit of data circulating on the Net is a 2007 "Democracy Now" interview of US General Wesley Clark (Ret). In it he says that about 10 days after September 11, 2001, he was told by a general that the decision had been made to go to war with Iraq. Clark was surprised and asked why. "I don't know!" was the response. "I guess they don't know what else to do!" Later, the same general said they planned to take out seven countries in five years: Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran.

What do these seven countries have in common? In the context of banking, one that sticks out is that none of them is listed among the 56 member banks of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). That evidently puts them outside the long regulatory arm of the central bankers' central bank in Switzerland.

The most renegade of the lot could be Libya and Iraq, the two that have actually been attacked. Kenneth Schortgen Jr, writing on Examiner.com, noted that "[s]ix months before the US moved into Iraq to take down Saddam Hussein, the oil nation had made the move to accept euros instead of dollars for oil, and this became a threat to the global dominance of the dollar as the reserve currency, and its dominion as the petrodollar."

According to a Russian article titled "Bombing of Libya — Punishment for Qaddafi for His Attempt to Refuse US Dollar", Qaddafi made a similarly bold move: he initiated a movement to refuse the dollar and the euro, and called on Arab and African nations to use a new currency instead, the gold dinar. Qaddafi suggested establishing a united African continent, with its 200 million people using this single currency.

During the past year, the idea was approved by many Arab countries and most African countries. The only opponents were the Republic of South Africa and the head of the League of Arab States. The initiative was viewed negatively by the USA and the European Union, with French President Nicolas Sarkozy calling Libya a threat to the financial security of mankind; but Qaddafi was not swayed and continued his push for the creation of a united Africa.

And that brings us back to the puzzle of the Libyan central bank. In an article posted on the *Market Oracle*, Eric Encina observed:

"One seldom mentioned fact by western

# Libya: All About Oil, or Central Banking?



Bank for International Settlements (BIS) Tower Building, Basel

politicians and media pundits: the Central Bank of Libya is 100% State Owned ... Currently, the Libyan government creates its own money, the Libyan Dinar, through the facilities of its own central bank. Few can argue that Libya is a sovereign nation with its own great resources, able to sustain its own economic destiny. One major problem for globalist banking cartels is that in order to do business with Libya, they must go through the Libyan Central Bank and its national currency, a place where they have absolutely zero dominion or power-broking ability. Hence, taking down the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) may not appear in the speeches of Obama, Cameron and Sarkozy but this is certainly at the top of the globalist agenda for absorbing Libya into its hive of compliant nations."

Libya not only has oil. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), its central bank has nearly 144 tons of gold in its vaults. With that sort of asset base, who needs the BIS, the IMF and their rules?

All of which prompts a closer look at the BIS rules and their effect on local economies. An article on the BIS website states that central banks in the Central Bank Governance Network are supposed to have as their single or primary objective "to preserve price stability".

They are to be kept independent from government to make sure that political considerations don't interfere with this mandate. "Price stability" means maintaining a stable money supply, even if that means burdening the people with heavy foreign debts. Central banks are discouraged from increasing the money supply by printing money and using it for the benefit of the state, either directly or as loans.

In a 2002 article in *Asia Times Online* titled "The BIS vs national banks" Henry Liu maintained:

"BIS regulations serve only the single purpose of strengthening the international private banking system, even at the peril of national economies. The BIS does to national banking systems what the IMF has done to national monetary regimes. National economies under financial globalization no longer serve national interests."

"... FDI [foreign direct investment] denominated in foreign currencies, mostly dollars, has condemned many national economies into unbalanced development toward export, merely to make dollar-denominated interest payments to FDI, with little net benefit to the domestic economies."

He added, "Applying the State Theory of Money, any government can fund with its own currency all its domestic developmental needs to maintain full employment without inflation." The "state theory of money" refers to money created by governments rather than private banks.

The presumption of the rule against borrowing from the government's own central bank is that this will be inflationary, while borrowing existing money from foreign banks or the IMF will not. But all banks actually create the money they lend on their books, whether publicly owned or privately owned. Most new money today comes from bank loans. Borrowing it from the government's own central bank has the advantage that the loan is effectively interest-free. Eliminating interest has been shown to reduce the cost of public projects by an average of 50%.

And that appears to be how the Libyan system works. According to Wikipedia, the functions of the Central Bank of Libya include "issuing and regulating banknotes and coins in Libya" and "managing and issuing all state loans." Libya's wholly state-owned bank can and does issue the national currency and lend it for state purposes.

That would explain where Libya gets the money to provide free education and medical care, and to issue each young couple \$50,000 in interest-free state loans. It would also explain where the country found the \$33 billion to build the Great Man-Made River project. Libyans are worried that North Atlantic Treaty Organization-led air strikes are coming perilously close to this pipeline, threatening another humanitarian disaster.

So is this new war all about oil or all about banking? Maybe both - and water as well. With energy, water, and ample credit to develop the infrastructure to access them, a nation can be free of the grip of foreign creditors. And that may be the real threat of Libya: it could show the world what is possible.

Most countries don't have oil, but new technologies are being developed that could make non-oil-producing nations energy-independent, particularly if infrastructure costs are halved by borrowing from the nation's own publicly owned bank. Energy independence would free governments from the web of the international bankers, and of the need to shift production from domestic to foreign markets to service the loans.

If the Qaddafi government goes down, it will be interesting to watch whether the new central bank joins the BIS, whether the nationalized oil industry gets sold off to investors, and whether education and healthcare continue to be free.

*Ellen Brown is an attorney and president of the Public Banking Institute. http://PublicBankingInstitute.org. In Web of Debt, her latest of eleven books, she shows how a private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we the people can get it back. Her websites are http://webofdebt.com and http://ellenbrown.com.*

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## Mother Convicted of Murder for Trying to Protect Her Son from Chemotherapy Faces Life in Prison

CHEMO from p. 1

LaBrie faces up to 20 years in prison for "attempted murder," up to ten years for "permitting serious bodily injury to a disabled person," and up to five years each for "permitting substantial injury to a child" and "reckless endangerment of a child."

The case is a chilling indicator of just how out-of-control the medical/industrial complex has become. Chemotherapy, as many NaturalNews readers know, has a dismal success rate. The poison treatment more often than not kills cancer patients more quickly than they would otherwise die if given no treatment at all. And yet making the personal choice to avoid this fatal poison can get you convicted of murder.

Interestingly, when 27-year-old Gary Foster of Essex, UK, died as a result of chemotherapy several years ago, those administering the drug trial he participated in were not convicted of murder. Instead, the courts merely agreed on a settlement (hush money) to reimburse the family for their loss.

Essex Assistant District Attorney Kate B. MacDougall led the charges against LaBrie, and Superior Court Judge Richard Welch presided over the case. If you wish to contact the Essex District Attorney's Office to express your thoughts, you can do so by calling (978) 745-6610.

Jonathan Benson is a staff writer for NaturalNews.com.



Kristen LaBrie handcuffed after being found guilty on all charges.

## More Election Fraud, this Time in Wisconsin

WISCONSIN from p. 1

Still, questions persist. Is Nickolaus the type to simply miss 14,000 votes? "She's an excellent detail person," State Sen. Joanne Huelsman, R-Waukesha, had said of Nickolaus in 2002. Huelsman had known Nickolaus from her work as a legislative staffer involved in statewide legislative redistricting.

Some activists have privately (and publicly) expressed concerns that the vote was padded elsewhere in the County to give the Republican the needed victory - not just a win, but a win big enough not to trigger an automatic recount. Then, as the theory goes, the County Clerk went looking for a city with the needed number of votes to explain the suddenly increased vote total. Brookfield had the right total.

This starts to sound like a crazy conspiracy theory. And frankly, I was about to dismiss it myself, until I found out that Ms. Nickolaus had lost and found votes in her database once before in an eerily similar way.

In a 2006 election, one of the Republican primary candidates for the 97th Assembly District, Christine Lufter, was declared the winner. But Kathy Nickolaus and her team determined that votes from the city of Waukesha were missing, having been recorded in the "wrong column" in the database, according to one report.

Nickolaus and her team worked until 1:00am to correct the error, which took away Lufter's slim victory and handed it instead to her opponent Bill Kramer by a significant margin. Officials in other counties, who had numerous errors of their own to deal with, had posted their results hours earlier, leading some to question what took Nickolaus and her team so long.

Of course, mistakes really do happen. Innocent mistakes can be made. Some errors are relatively harmless, but others can be damaging.

In 2005, Kathy Nickolaus had to apologize to the electorate for the mistaken publication of a sample ballot with one candidate's name already checked. (The other candidate ultimately won.)

In 2004, the wrong ballots had been given to at least 83 people, resulting in miscast votes. This happened because two polling places shared the same room. Reportedly, there was no way to distinguish which ballots were recorded in the wrong district.

As a onetime election inspector myself, that sounds odd to me, because at least in Los Angeles County, each set of ballots was sequentially numbered. If their ballots were also numbered, and why wouldn't they be (unnumbered ballots would be an invitation to commit fraud by submitting extra ballots), Nickolaus and team should have been able to undo and redo the miscast votes.

Other questions remain: How trustworthy is Nickolaus?

Kathy Nickolaus was granted immunity in 2002 in her capacity as a 13-year data analyst and computer specialist to the Assembly Republican Caucus, which had been charged with illegal campaign activities. Nickolaus' role included building software to average Republican turnouts by ward, a skill that would be really important if someone wanted to rig votes without raising red flags.

That same year, Nickolaus resigned her job and



Kathy Nickolaus Waukesha County Clerk

ran for County Clerk in Waukesha County. (That the good people of Waukesha didn't think there might be a possible conflict of interest there, given her background, seems stunning.)

While she was running for office, she came under suspicion of an ethics violation: Nickolaus had purchased voter lists with state money. Nickolaus claimed the lists were not for her own campaign, and a state Ethics Board eventually concurred.

Is it possible to rig the election via Access? Kathy Nickolaus used the Microsoft Access database, a relatively simple database, to track the county's votes. In a video, available on [www.blackboxvoting.org](http://www.blackboxvoting.org), noted election activist Bev Harris described to Howard Dean just how to manipulate an election. The "central tabulator" referred to is a simple Access database that summarizes the results from the election.

Can you prove an election was rigged? That's the problem. Once you digitize an election and rely on that, instead of the paper ballots, you have something that can be manipulated in undetectable ways. Anything digital can be altered. Votes can be altered.

There have been races reversed due to computer "error." But to my knowledge, no one has yet proved that "errors" represented deliberate fraud. But if the manipulation was expertly done, there would be no evidence. So while we can't say it has actually happened, neither can we say with certainty that it hasn't.

So what are we to make of the "found" votes? Remember Ramona Kitzinger, the Democratic Party member of the official Waukesha canvassing board who ostensibly vouched for the results? Kitzinger is so upset with the way her statement has been used that she issued a new one that, far from corroborating Nickolaus's numbers, raises more questions.

Kitzinger is 80 years old, and, according to her statement, doesn't "understand anything about computers."

Kitzinger's new statement paints a very different picture. Normally, Kitzinger noted, the official canvass begins Thursday morning. For whatever reason, a staffer in Nickolaus's office called Kitzinger, an official observer for the Democratic Party, to the canvassing on Wednesday.

At no point before the press conference did Nickolaus or anyone mention any missing votes from Brookfield.

"In fact," Kitzinger's statement notes, "Brookfield City came up specifically during the course of Thursday's canvass. In retrospect, it seems both shocking and somewhat appalling there was no mention of discovery of this 15,000 vote 'human error' that ultimately had the potential to tip the balance of an entire statewide election. How is this possible?"

Kitzinger explained the situation that led to her apparent endorsement of the "found" Brookfield numbers:

"Once the canvass had been completed and the results were finalized, I was called into Kathy [Nickolaus]'s office along with Pat (the Republican observer) and told of an impending 5:30 pm press conference. It was at that point that I was first made aware of an error Kathy had made in Brookfield City.

"Kathy told us she thought she had saved the Brookfield voter information Tuesday night, but then on Wednesday she said she noticed she had not hit save. Kathy didn't offer an explanation about why she didn't mention anything prior to Thursday afternoon's canvass completion, but showed us different tapes where numbers seemed to add up, though I have no idea where the numbers were coming from.

"I was not told of the magnitude of this error, just that she had made one. I was then instructed that I would not say anything at the press conference, and was actually surprised when I was asked questions by reporters.

"The reason I offer this explanation is that, with the enormous amount of attention this has received over the weekend, many people are offering my statements at the press conference that the 'numbers jibed' as validation they are correct and I can vouch for their accuracy.

"As I told Kathy when I was called into the room, I am 80 years old and I don't understand anything about computers. I don't know where the numbers Kathy was showing me ultimately came from, but they seemed to add up.

"I am still very, very confused about why the canvass was finalized before I was informed of the Brookfield error and it wasn't even until the press conference was happening that I learned it was this enormous mistake that could swing the whole election.

"I was never shown anything that would verify Kathy's statement about the missing vote, and with how events unfolded and people citing me as an authority on this now, I feel like I must speak up."

Computers were supposed to make counting elections easier and more honest. But in the end, a computer is only as honest as the person who is operating it.

The right thing to do here, regardless of the margin of victory, is to do a full hand recount of Waukesha County's ballots. According to the Wisconsin Secretary of State's information, voters voted on paper ballots that were then optically scanned.

Rather than running those ballots through a computer, I and others who care about the integrity of our vote, no matter where we live, would love to see a hand count of all the ballots in that county. If the results hold up, fine.

While a lot of voters were upset by the prospect of a Scott Walker ally keeping his spot on the Supreme Court, their upset would be far greater if there's the chance that Prosser retained his seat through some form of election manipulation. The former, they can accept. The latter would leave them in despair.

Let's hope Kathy Nickolaus does the right thing. Count all the votes. By hand. In front of observers. Only then can people have faith that the vote was correct.

Lisa Pease is a writer who has studied the recent history of voting irregularities, especially those involving computers.

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## News Bites

### 63 Percent Of People Killed In Iraq War Were Civilians: Report

(Xinhua) US-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been causing huge civilian casualties with 63 percent of some 109,000 people killed in the Iraq war being civilians, according to a report on the US human rights record released on April 10.

The figures were released by the Information Office of China's State Council in response to the country reports on Human Rights Practices for 2010 issued by the US Department of State.

The report cited the notorious case on a "kill team" formed by five soldiers from the 5th Stryker Combat Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division of the US forces in Afghanistan. The team had committed at least three murders, where they randomly targeted and killed Afghan civilians, and dismembered the corpses and hoarded the human bones.

In addition, the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops had caused 535 Afghan civilian deaths and injuries in 2009. Among them 113 civilians were shot and killed, an increase of 43 percent over 2008, the report quoted McClatchy Newspapers as saying.

### Icelandic Voters Reject Icesave Debt Repayment Plan

(The Guardian) Iceland could be facing a political and financial crisis after voters appeared to have rejected a referendum on a plan to repay debts to Britain and the Netherlands for a second time.

Final results from five of six constituencies, including the capital, Reykjavik, showed the "no" side taking nearly 60% of the vote, meaning the dispute is likely to end up in a European court.

The debt was incurred when Britain and the Netherlands compensated their nationals who lost 3.9 billion euros in savings in online Icesave accounts owned by Landsbanki, one of three Icelandic banks that collapsed in late 2008.

Economists say uncertainty over the payback deal is hurting efforts to drag Iceland out of recession, end currency controls and boost investment. Many voters cited opposition to taxpayers footing the bill for irresponsible bankers as their reason for voting against the plan.

### Wisconsin "Budget Crisis" a Fraud

(ICH) According to Juan Cole, Professor of History at the University of Michigan, "Wisconsin was not and is not broke. Its pension system gets a gold star for soundness, and it has no enduring structural shortfall in revenues." The budget deficit was caused by Gov. Scott Walker giving a \$500 million tax break to business, then claiming that social spending had to be slashed and public unions destroyed because the state is "broke."

Cole points out that "cutting taxes on the rich is a way of taxing the middle class and imposing extra burdens on working families." Cutting taxes on the rich does not, and has never, created jobs; it just throws more money to the rich. Over the past 20 years the rich have amassed four times as much wealth as they had before, while the average wage of the average worker, in real terms, is virtually where it was in 1970.

Artificial "budget crises" are used to break unions and impoverish the lives of the middle and working classes. This form of bank robbery is a conspiracy promoted by billionaires like the Koch brothers, and promulgated by front organizations like American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and lackeys of the super-rich like Walker, and is the real class warfare.

### Higher Vitamin D Dose Could Help Elderly Protect Eyesight

(Daily Telegraph) Scientists from the University of Buffalo believe Vitamin D can help protect against developing age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The researchers believe that Vitamin D's anti-inflammatory properties can help prevent the incurable condition, by stopping the eyes from being damaged.

AMD is the leading cause of irreversible vision loss in adults and is the leading cause of blindness worldwide. There is no cure for the condition, caused by progressive damage to the center of the retina at the back of the eye, and treatment to reduce the symptoms is limited and costly.

According to Amy E. Millen, PhD, assistant professor in the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions and lead author; "Vitamin D status may significantly affect a woman's odds of developing early AMD." Vitamin D status can easily be increased by spending moderate amounts of time outside, and eating foods rich in vitamin D, or by taking supplements. "This is a promising study, but more still needs to be done," concluded Millen.

The paper was published in the April issue of *Archives of Ophthalmology*, one of the *JAMA/Archives* journals.

### Workforce in US Drops to 27-Year Low

(AllGov) Less than half of all Americans were part of the workforce last year, raising concerns about the nation's long-term ability to support itself.

Only 45.4% of the US population had jobs in 2010, marking the lowest rate since 1983. Also, only 66.8% of men were employed. Up until the 1960s, 80% or more of all adult males worked for a living. In 2010 the figures for individual states ranged from 36.7% for Mississippi to 55.8% for North Dakota.

Reasons for the declining employment numbers included the bad economy, a graying population and a leveling of growth in women workers.

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