

DC Anthrax Attacks

Seven Years, Still No Answers

BY ERIC BREWER / RAWSTORY

It's been almost seven years since — in the weeks immediately following 9/11 — anthrax powder sent through the mail killed five people, threatened the lives of two Democratic senators, terrorized the entire nation, and helped prod a panicky Congress into passing the so-called USA Patriot Act.

In the intervening years, not only has the killer remained free, but missteps in the investigation have had major negative consequences. Just last month, in fact, the Department of Justice agreed to pay \$4.6 million to former bioweapons expert Stephen Hatfill to settle a lawsuit Hatfill brought against the Justice Department, the FBI, and

former Attorney General John Ashcroft for destroying his reputation and career by publicly implicating him in the case. Constitutional lawyer Glenn Greenwald has pointed out that in 2001, ABC News was fed false information by several “well-placed sources” (presumably officials in the Bush administration) suggesting an Iraq-anthrax link. That imaginary link was widely cited by pro-war cheerleaders.

At a recent White House briefing, I asked if President Bush was satisfied with the progress of the investigation into the attacks. Press Secretary Dana Perino told me that she didn't even “know if he has had an update on it.”

Here is our exchange:

see Anthrax p. 2

Ashcroft Testimony Contradicts CIA Interrogation Timeline

BY KATE KLONICK / TPM

Did the CIA start using torture before the DOJ authorized it in the infamous “torture” memos?

That's what it sounded like according to former Attorney General John Ashcroft, who was on the Hill July 17 testifying on interrogation techniques before the House Judiciary Committee.

It was during Ashcroft's years as attorney general that the infamous “torture” memos were written. The memos approved the use of waterboarding and other forms of interrogation

as long as they did not “cause pain similar in intensity to that caused by death or organ failure.” The first memo — often called the Bybee memo — was dated August 1, 2002 and was written by former Deputy Assistant Attorney General John Yoo, who also testified before the Judiciary Committee in an earlier hearing in the series on torture.

But at least four months prior to the publication of that memo, the CIA captured al Qaeda operative Abu Zubaydah on March 28, 2002. Zubaydah's detention and interrogation

see Ashcroft p. 7

Corporate Media Blackouts Continue

BY DAVE LINDORFF

The sorry performance of the US corporate media has continued to black out stories questioning the official line on the so-called “Iraq Threat” until the nation was deeply mired in pointless, bloody war in that country, and while almost completely ignoring a three-year, nationwide movement calling for the impeachment of George Bush and Dick Cheney.

Search far and wide, and you will find no reporting on the fact that Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), who has filed a total 36 proposed articles of impeachment against President Bush, is finally going to get to formally present his case to the House Judiciary Committee, beginning on July 25. Although this is not a formal impeachment hearing, it is putting impeachment “on the table,” from which it has been banned for two years by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Although the House voted 251-166 to send Kucinich's articles to the Judiciary Committee for hearings, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and the nation's television news organizations ignored this breakthrough (which included 24 Republicans voting for the measure). Only *USA Today*, in its online edition at least, even mentioned it, with a headline saying “Pelosi cracks door open on impeachment resolution,” and that was just a five-paragraph story.

Another critically important story that is being blacked out by the corporate media is the Bush/Cheney administration's march toward war with Iran. On July 13, the *London Times* ran a well-researched and reported piece headlined “President George W. Bush backs Israeli plan for strike on Iran”, saying that Bush has given the “amber light” to Israel to get its air force ready for an aerial assault on Iran's nuclear facilities. The article, which quoted an unnamed “senior Pentagon official,” reported that while an actual attack would require a further “green light” from the president, the “amber light” meant planning could proceed.

see Media p. 7

FISA Compromise Violates Fourth Amendment

BY LARRY CHIN / GLOBAL RESEARCH

On July 9, 2008, the US Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation permitting government spying, including immunity to telecommunications companies involved in secret domestic surveillance programs. With the stroke of George W. Bush's pen, the US is now a police state by definition.

The extent of the spying program, and its larger implications, have been revealed by Mark Klein, who blew the whistle on secret domestic spying program of the Bush/Cheney's National Security Agency (NSA) and AT&T:

The update of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, called the “FISA compromise,” or more appropriately, the “spy bill,” largely completes the triumph of the Bush-Cheney administration and a bipartisan “criminal” consensus. By convenient design, the FISA revision details pending law suits filed against the Bush administration's corporate

spying partners (AT&T, Sprint Nextel, and Verizon), silences (the largely empty-to-begin-with) congressional investigations into the

The Fourth Amendment

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Bush administration's illegal domestic spying program. Presidential nominee Barack Obama and the Democrats have now moved to silence all discussion about the issue.

Between the false flag mass murder of 9/11 and the creation of the “war on terrorism”, the USA Patriot Act and this new FISA revision, the Bush-Cheney administration and

its enthusiastically complicit congressional partners, have achieved total victory — world war, open criminality, and the end of constitutional law itself.

It gives the US government unprecedented new spying powers and sweeping new legal cover for spying that goes well beyond even the original FISA law — which itself was an abomination that already permitted the US president broad surveillance powers.

Given the fact that the US government is a wholly corrupted criminal organization by definition, the political spin over “oversight,” warrants, the involvement of the Inspector General, etc. is all the more transparently ridiculous: the operatives of such apparatuses do not investigate or punish their own. Nor do they voluntarily stop the lucrative and intoxicating criminal activity that is their lifeblood.

see FISA p. 8

GI Haunted by Iraq War Demons

US Soldier Who Was Subject of Iconic Photo Dies After Struggling With Memories of Iraq

BY MARTIN C. EVANS / TORONTO STAR

MELVILLE, NY - The March 2003 image became one of the most iconic of the US invasion of Iraq: that of a bespectacled American soldier carrying an Iraqi child to safety. The photograph of army Private Joseph Dwyer was used by news outlets around the world.

After being lionized by many as the human face of the US effort to rebuild a troubled Iraq, Dwyer brought the battlefield home with him, often grappling violently with delusions that he was being hunted by Iraqi killers.

His internal terror got so bad that in 2005, the Long Island native shot up his El Paso, Texas, apartment and held police at bay for three hours with a 9-mm handgun, believing Iraqis were trying to get in.

On June 28, police in Pinehurst, NC, who responded to Dwyer's home, said the 31-year-old collapsed and died after ingesting a computer cleaner aerosol. Dwyer had moved to North Carolina after living in Texas.

Dwyer, joined the army two days after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and was assigned to a unit of the 3rd Infantry Division

see War Demons p. 4



Private Joseph Dwyer, shown here when he was 28, carries a young Iraqi boy injured during a battle between Iraqi and US forces. Dwyer died at his home in North Carolina (Photo: Warren Zinn)

Water Fluoridation Linked to Cancer

BY MICHAEL F. DOLAN, PH.D.

The last few years have not been good ones for proponents of water fluoridation. A massive National Research Council study undermined the safety standard for fluoride. Harvard School of Dental Medicine's epidemiological study found an association between fluoridated water and bone cancer, and the country's leading proponents of fluoridated water had to concede that infants should not be given any fluoride. The situation has become so desperate that public health bureaucrats and their dental association allies have been forced to openly reveal their opposition to democracy, and try to win the only way they can — by taking away people's right to vote on water fluoridation.

The release of the National Research Council study, Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA's Standard in March 2006 signaled the turning of the tide against water fluoridation in the USA. The report completely vindicated (20 years later) the union of scientists at EPA Headquarters who oppose fluoridation because it violates the Safe Drinking Water Act. These scientists were witnesses to the subversion of the Act when the maximum contaminant level for fluoride was set at the absurdly high level of 4000 parts per billion (ppb). (Lead and arsenic, which have comparable toxicity to fluoride, are regulated at 10-20 ppb.). Since fluoridated water is delivered at a so-called

optimal concentration of 1000 ppb, and a new maximum contaminant level must be set below 4000 ppb, it has become impossibly difficult to preserve fluoridation and maintain a regulation, with a sufficient margin of safety, that any but the most indoctrinated bureaucrat could find acceptable.

While the NRC report was being compiled, activists from the Fluoride Action Network made a remarkable find in the Rare Book section of Harvard's Library. There was doctoral student Elise Bassin's 2001 dissertation, a highly refined epidemiological study that found that boys who were reared on fluoridated water had a seven-fold increased

see Fluoride p. 2

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Fluoride from p. 1

risk of developing bone cancer a rare, but often fatal cancer that often results in limb amputation or death. This result independently confirmed the findings of the National Toxicological Program in 1990 that sodium fluoride caused bone cancer in male rats. (The downgrading of these cancer findings to save fluoridation was another reason the EPA scientists’ union is against water fluoridation). After the release of these findings the union at EPA Headquarters in Washington and at Regional Headquarters in New York, San Francisco, Atlanta, Boston and Philadelphia issued a letter to Congress calling for the end of water fluoridation in the USA. Bassin’s study, which was first attacked, but later published in Harvard’s own journal Cancer Causes and Control, also lead the excellent Washington-based activist organization, the Environmental Working Group, to enter the fight against fluoridation.

Troubles were still mounting though for the American Dental Association and the Centers for Disease Control, the two main proponents of water fluoridation. As a result of the NRC study these two proponents were forced to admit that infants one year old and younger should be given no fluoridated water. Reconstitute infant formula should not be made with fluoridated water. It must have been a bitter pill for them to swallow as it marks the first time they have had to admit that fluoridated water is not safe for all people, a direct violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and sufficient

justification to end the practice. But no, the proponents marched on, in Massachusetts and New Jersey, in an attempt to pass statewide mandates that would take away the right of citizens to vote to reject fluoridation. These efforts were defeated by dedicated grass-roots activists and by the fact that water fluoridation has become too hot to handle for many politicians who seek to be re-elected every two years. The struggle continues and battles have been lost. The massive southern California water systems in Los Angeles and San Diego have recently become fluoridated. Louisiana just passed a statewide mandate to fluoridate. There are new statewide mandate battles brewing in Pennsylvania, and a bizarre tri-state campaign in Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire called “Watch Your Mouth”. But the events of the last few years have moved us closer to the day when the fight to maintain our freedom to choose what drugs we take will be won, and water fluoridation will be consigned to history with the other unacceptable chemical hazards of the 20th century – lead paint, leaded gasoline and asbestos.

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DC Anthrax Attacks

Seven Years Later, Still No Answers

Anthrax from p. 1

Q Is the president satisfied with the progress of the investigation into the anthrax attacks?

MS. PERINO: I don’t know if he has had an update on it. But obviously this is something that the FBI is doing. We don’t do the investigation from the White House.

Q Well, is he following the progress?

MS. PERINO: You know, I’m sure he — he gets updated by Director Mueller once a week on a variety of issues. And if that comes up, I’m sure he gets an update.

Q You don’t know if he’s satisfied with the progress?

MS. PERINO: I don’t.

One reason I thought the White House might need to be reminded of this issue is because as recently as last January, in his 2008 State of the Union address, the President appeared to have completely forgotten about the attacks, stating, “We are grateful that there has not been another attack on our soil since 9/11.” The anthrax letters, of course, were postmarked on September 18 and October 9, 2001, one to four weeks after 9/11. In his radio address to the nation on November 3, 2001, Bush called them “a second wave of terrorist attacks,” and promised that “we will solve these crimes, and we will punish those responsible.”

But just a few months later, the White House was already stalling. Asked about the pace of the investigation on February 25, 2002, then-Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said, “The President would like to get this, obviously, resolved as quickly as is possible. The pace of justice is a methodical one...the President believes the

FBI is doing a good, solid job.”

The question didn’t come up again at a White House briefing until more than three years later, when a reporter asked Scott McClellan, “Why have we not found the person or persons responsible for the anthrax attacks of 2001?” Scott’s reply: “That’s a matter that remains a priority. It remains under investigation. The FBI continues to pursue it.”

So it’s incredible that now, after three more years, all the White House spokesperson has to say is, “If that comes up, I’m sure he gets an update.” Not “he believes the FBI is doing a good job.” Not even “that matter remains a priority.” Just “if it comes up, he gets an update.”

That’s simply unacceptable. Why isn’t THE PRESIDENT bringing it up? And almost as bad, why hasn’t the establishment media pressed the administration harder on this issue? Especially after this story by David Willman in the *L.A. Times* revealed that Justice Department officials kept the investigation focused on Hatfill for almost five years, even though investigators never found any evidence linking him to the attacks, and that many experts who have been involved in the case now believe that it will never be solved.

When the Ramsey family was cleared in the JonBenet Ramsey murder case, the media went wild. I can only suppose that one more Bush failure is no longer considered newsworthy.

The preceding article was a White House report from Eric Brewer, who will periodically attend White House press briefings for Raw Story. Brewer is also a contributor at BTC News. He was the first reporter to ask about the Downing Street memo and the Pentagon analysts scandal at White House briefings.



The Top Ten Connections Between NIST and Nano-Thermites

“Was the steel tested for explosives or thermite residues? ... NIST did not test for the residue of these compounds in the steel.”
NIST Responses to FAQs, August 2006

By KEVIN R. RYAN

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has had considerable difficulty determining a politically correct sequence of events for the unprecedented destruction of three World Trade Center (WTC) buildings on 9/11 (Douglas 2006, Ryan 2006, Gourley 2007). But despite a number of variations in NIST’s story, it never considered explosives or pyrotechnic materials in any of its hypotheses. This omission is at odds with several other striking facts; first, the requirement of the national standard for fire investigation (NFPA 921), which calls for testing related to thermite and other pyrotechnics, and second, the extensive experience NIST investigators have with explosive and thermite materials.

One of the most intriguing aspects of NIST’s diversionary posture has been their total lack of interest in explosive or pyrotechnic features in their explanations. Despite the substantial evidence for the use of explosives at the WTC (Jones 2006, Legge and Szamboti 2007), and the extensive expertise in explosives among NIST investigators (Ryan 2007), explosives were never considered in the NIST WTC investigation. Only after considerable criticism of this fact did NIST deign to add one small disclaimer to their final report on the towers, suggesting they found no evidence for explosives.

The extensive evidence that explosives were used at the WTC includes witness testimony (MacQueen 2006), overwhelming physical evidence (Griffin 2005, Hoffman et al 2005, Jones and Legge et al 2008) and simple common sense (Legge 2007). There is also substantial evidence that aluminothermic (thermite) materials were present at the WTC (Jones 2007), and the presence of such materials can explain the existence of intense fire where it would not otherwise have existed. Additionally, despite agreement from all parties that the assumed availability of fuel allowed for the fires in any given location of each of the WTC buildings to last only twenty minutes (NIST 2007), the fires lasted much longer and produced extreme temperatures (Jones and Farrer et al 2008).

These inexplicable fires are a reminder that the WTC buildings were not simply demolished, but were demolished in a deceptive way. That is, the buildings were brought down so as to make it look like the impact of the planes and the resulting fires might have caused their unprecedented, symmetrical destruction. Therefore, shaped charges and other typical explosive configurations were likely used, but there was more to it than that. Those committing the crimes needed to create fire where it would not have existed otherwise, and draw attention toward the part of the buildings where the planes impacted (or in the case of WTC 7, away from the building altogether).

This was most probably accomplished through the use of nano-thermites, which are high-tech energetic materials made by mixing ultra fine grain (UFG) aluminum and UFG metal oxides; usually iron oxide, molybdenum oxide or copper oxide, although other compounds can be used (Prakash 2005, Rai 2005). The mixing is accomplished by adding these reactants to a liquid solution where they form what are called “sols”, and then adding a gelling agent that captures these tiny reactive combinations in their intimately mixed state (LLNL 2000). The resulting “sol-gel” is then dried to form a porous reactive material that can be ignited in a number of ways.

The high surface area of the reactants within energetic sol-gels allows for the far higher rate of energy release than is seen in “macro” thermite mixtures, making nano-thermites “high explosives” as well as pyrotechnic materials (Tillitson et al 1999). Sol-gel nano-thermites, are often called energetic nanocomposites, metastable intermolecular composites (MICs) or superthermite (COEM 2004, Son et al 2007), and silica is often used to create the porous, structural framework (Clapsaddle et al 2004, Zhao et al 2004). Nano-thermites have also been made with RDX (Pivkina et al 2004), and with thermoplastic elastomers (Diaz et al 2003). But it is important to remember that, despite the name, nano-thermites pack a much bigger punch than typical thermite materials.

It turns out that explosive, sol-gel nano-thermites were developed by US government scientists, at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories (LLNL) (Tillitson et al 1998, Gash et al 2000, Gash et al 2002). These LLNL scientists reported that:

“The sol-gel process is very amenable to dip-, spin-, and spray-coating technologies to coat surfaces. We have utilized this property to dip-coat various substrates to make sol-gel Fe₂O₃/Al/Viton coatings. The energetic coating dries to give a nice adherent film. Preliminary experiments indicate that films of the hybrid material are self-propagating when ignited by thermal stimulus” (Gash et al 2002).

The amazing correlation between floors of impact and floors of apparent failure suggests that spray-on nano-thermite materials may have been applied to the steel components of the WTC buildings, underneath the upgraded fireproofing (Ryan 2008). This could have been done in such a way that very few people knew what was happening. The Port Authority’s engineering consultant Buro Happold, helping with evaluation of the fireproofing upgrades, suggested the use of “alternative materials”

(NIST 2005). Such alternative materials could have been spray-on nano-thermites substituted for intumescent paint or Interchar-like fireproofing primers (NASA 2006). It seems quite possible that this kind of substitution could have been made with few people noticing.

Regardless of how thermite materials were installed in the WTC, it is strange that NIST has been so blind to any such possibility. In fact, when reading NIST’s reports on the WTC, and its periodic responses to FAQs from the public, one might get the idea that no one in the NIST organization had ever heard of nano-thermites before. But the truth is, many of the scientists and organizations involved in the NIST WTC investigation were not only well aware of nano-thermites they actually had considerable connection to, and in some cases expertise in, this exact technology.

Here are the top ten reasons why nano-thermites, and nano-thermite coatings, should have come to mind quickly for the NIST WTC investigators.

1. NIST was working with LLNL to test and characterize these sol-gel nano-thermites, at least as early as 1999 (Tillitson et al 1999).

2. Forman Williams, the lead engineer on NIST’s advisory committee, and the most prominent engineering expert for *Popular Mechanics*, is an expert on the deflagration of energetic materials and the “ignition of porous energetic materials” (Margolis and Williams 1996, Telengator et al 1998, Margolis and Williams 1999). Nano-thermites are porous energetic materials. Additionally, Williams’ research partner, Stephen Margolis, has presented at conferences where nano-energetics are the focus (Gordon 1999). Some of Williams’ other colleagues at the University of California San Diego, like David J. Benson, are also experts on nano-thermite materials (Choi et al 2005, Jordan et al 2007).

3. Science Applications International (SAIC) is the DOD and Homeland Security contractor that supplied the largest contingent of non-governmental investigators to the NIST WTC investigation. SAIC has extensive links to nano-thermites, developing and judging nano-thermite research proposals for the military and other military contractors, and developing and formulating nano-thermites directly (Army 2008, DOD 2007). SAIC’s subsidiary Applied Ordnance Technology has done research on the ignition of nanothermites with lasers (Howard et al 2005).

In an interesting coincidence, SAIC was the firm that investigated the 1993 WTC bombing, boasting that -- “After the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, our blast analyses produced tangible results that helped identify those responsible (SAIC 2004).” And the coincidences with this company don’t stop there, as SAIC was responsible for evaluating the WTC for terrorism risks in 1986 as well (CRHC 2008). SAIC is also linked to the late 1990s security upgrades at the WTC, the Rudy Giuliani administration, and the anthrax incidents after 9/11, through former employees Jerome Hauer and Steven Hatfill.

4. Arden Bement, the metallurgist and expert on fuels and materials who was nominated as NIST Director by President George W. Bush in October 2001, was former deputy secretary of defense, former director of DARPA’s office of materials science, and former TRW director.

Of course, DOD and DARPA are both leaders in the production and use of nano-thermites (Amptiac 2002, DOD 2005). And military and aerospace contractor TRW has had a long collaboration with NASA laboratories in the development of energetic materials that are components of advanced propellants, like nano-gelled explosive materials (NASA 2001). TRW Aeronautics also made fireproof composites and high performance elastomer formulations, and worked with NASA to make energetic aerogels.

Additionally, Bement was a professor at Purdue and MIT. Purdue has a thriving program for nano-thermites (Son 2008). And interestingly, at MIT’s Institute for Soldier Nanotechnology, we find Martin Z. Bazant, son of notable “conspiracy debunker” Zdenek P. Bazant (MIT 2008), who does research on granular flows, and the electrochemical interactions of silicon. Zdenek P. Bazant is interested in nanocomposites as well (Northwestern 2008), and how they relate to naval warfare (ONR 2008). MIT was represented at nano-energetics conferences as early as 1998 (Gordon 1998).

Bement was also a director at both Battelle and the Lord Corporation. Battelle (where the anthrax was made) is an organization of “experts in fundamental technologies from the five National Laboratories we manage or co-manage for the US DOE.” Battelle advertises their specialization in nanocomposite coatings (Battelle 2008). The Lord Corporation also makes high-tech coatings for military applications (Lord 2008). In 1999, Lord Corp was working with the Army and NASA on “advanced polymer composites, advanced metals, and multifunctional materials” (Army 1999).

5. Hratch Semerjian, long-time director of NIST’s chemical division, was promoted to acting director of NIST in November 2004, and took over the WTC investigation until the completion of the report on the towers. Semerjian is closely linked to former NIST employee Michael Zachariah, perhaps the

world’s most prominent expert on nano-thermites (Zachariah 2008). In fact, Semerjian and Zachariah co-authored ten papers that focus on nano-particles made of silica, ceramics and refractory particles. Zachariah was a major player in the Defense University Research Initiative on Nanotechnology (DURINT), a groundbreaking research effort for nano-thermites.

6. NIST has a long-standing partnership with NASA for the development of new nano-thermites and other nano-technological materials. In fact, Michael Zachariah coordinates this partnership (CNMM 2008).

7. In 2003, two years before the NIST WTC report was issued, the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) and NIST signed a memorandum of understanding to develop nano-technologies like nano-thermites (NIST 2003). Together, NIST and UMCP have done much work on nano-thermites (NM2 2008).

8. NIST has their own Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST 2008). Additionally, NIST’s Reactive Flows Group did research on nanostructured materials and high temperature reactions in the mid-nineties (NRFG 1996).

9. Richard Gann, who did the final editing of the NIST WTC report, managed a project called “Next-Generation Fire Suppression Technology Program”, both before and after 9/11. Andrzej Miziolek, another of the world’s leading experts on nano-thermites (Amptiac 2002), is the author of “Defense Applications of Nanomaterials”, and also worked on Richard Gann’s fire suppression project (Gann 2002). Gann’s project was sponsored by DOD’s Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP), an organization that sponsored a number of LLNL’s nano-thermite projects (Simpson 2002, Gash et al 2003).

10. As part of the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer, NIST partners with the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Indian Head (NSWC-IH) on Chemical Science and Technology (FLCTT 2008). NSWC-IH is probably the most prominent US center for nano-thermite technology (NSWC 2008). In 1999, Jan Puszynski, a scientist working for the DURINT program, helped NSWC-IH design a pilot plant to produce nano-size aluminum powder. It was reported that “At that time, this was [the] only reliable source of aluminum nanopowders in the United States” (SDSMT 2001), however, private companies like Argonide and Technanogy were also known to have such capabilities.

Among an interesting group of contractors that NSWC-IH hired in 1999 were SAIC, Applied Ordnance, Battelle, Booz Allen Hamilton, Mantech, Titan, Pacific Scientific Energetic (see below), and R Stresau Laboratories for “demolition materials” (NSWC 2000).

A tragic coincidence left William Caswell, an employee of NSWC-IH, dead on the plane said to have hit the Pentagon (Flight 77). He had for many years worked on “deep-black” projects at NSWC-IH (Leaf 2007).

The presence of Pacific Scientific Energetics (PSE) in this list of 1999 NSWC-IH contractors is interesting because PSE was the parent company of Special Devices, Inc. (SDI). SDI specializes in explosives for defense, aerospace and mining applications, and was acquired in 1998 by John Lehman, 9/11 Commissioner, member of the Project for a New American Century, and former Secretary of the Navy (SDI 2008). Lehman allegedly divested in 2001.

With this in mind, it is worthwhile to reiterate that nano-thermite materials were very likely used in the deceptive demolition of the WTC buildings, but most certainly played only a part in the plan. However, other high-tech explosives were available to those who had access to nano-thermite materials at the time. Like SDI, several other organizations with links to military, space and intelligence programs (e.g. In-Q-Tel, Orbital Science) have access to many types of high-tech explosives to cut high-strength bolts and produce pyrotechnic events (Goldstein 2006). These organizations also have connections to those who could have accessed the buildings, like WTC tenant Marsh & McLennan and former NASA administrator and Securacom director, James Abrahamson.

In any case, it is important for those seeking the truth about 9/11 to consider what organizations and people had access to the technologies that were used to accomplish the deceptive demolition of the WTC buildings. It is also important to recognize the links between those who had access to the technologies, those who had access to the buildings, and those who produced the clearly false official reports.

To that end, we should note that NIST had considerable connections to nano-thermites, both before and during the WTC investigation. It is therefore inexplicable why NIST did not consider such materials as an explanation for the fires that burned on 9/11, and long afterward at Ground Zero. This fact would not be inexplicable, of course, if those managing the NIST investigation knew to not look, or test, for such materials.

Kevin Ryan was fired from his management position at Undervriters Laboratory (UL) when he questioned the fire-induced collapse explanation for the WTC. UL had tested and certified the steel used in the WTC to easily withstand such fires.



Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Enabling Tyranny—Brigitte Bardot And Other Victims

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS
I recently read that Brigitte Bardot, now in her 70s, has been arrested as a hate criminal for complaining that Muslims in France slaughter sheep without first stunning them. The famous actress is known for her sympathy with animals, but the French government preferred to interpret her remarks as hatred for Muslims. Prosecutor Anne de Fontette promised to throw the book at Bardot. [“Brigitte Bardot in race hate row,” *Daily Telegraph*, (London) April 18, 2008]

There are many incongruities here. The French are persecuting one of their own for taking exception to the practices of an alien culture. But then, perhaps this is just being broad-minded. What really jumps out is: if Bardot’s animal rights position makes her a hate criminal, what does French President Nicholas Sarkozy’s foreign policy position make him?

According to Information Clearing House’s running tally as of July 12, 1,236,604 Iraqis have been slaughtered as a result of the Sarkozy-supported US invasion and occupation of Iraq. If Bardot is a hate criminal under French law for complaining about how Muslims prepare their mutton, why isn’t President Sarkozy a hate criminal for supporting an American policy that has resulted in the deaths of 1,236,604 Muslims and the displacement of 4 million Iraqis?

Such incongruities are everywhere. It is as if people at large are no longer capable of thought.

Last week the US Congress passed an *ex post facto* law that legalized the illegal behavior of telecommunication companies that enabled the Bush Regime to violate US law and to spy on Americans without warrants. Retroactive laws are unconstitutional. But, alas, the US Constitution does not make campaign contributions, and telecommunications companies do.

The Bush Regime claimed that its illegal behavior, which requires an unconstitutional retroactive law to protect telecommunications companies and President Bush from being held accountable, is necessary to protect us. But as the Founding Fathers and every intelligent patriotic person since has patiently explained to the American public, it is the Constitution that protects us. No safety can be found by fleeing the Constitution.

Without the Constitution we have no protection. We simply stand naked before unbridled government power.

That’s pretty much how we stand now after 7.5 years of the Bush Regime. Electing a Democratic Congress in 2006 did not make any difference. Indeed, it was a Democratic majority Congress that last week gave Bush his unconstitutional *ex post facto* law.

As Larry Stratton and I point out in the new edition of *The Tyranny of Good Intentions*, the US Constitution has no friends. The Democrats don’t like the Second Amendment (another incongruity in the face of the right-wing police state that Bush has created), and the Brownshirt Republicans regard the rest of our civil liberties as coddling devices for criminals and terrorists.

Across the political spectrum, Americans are happy to shred the Constitution in behalf of some agenda or the other.

The government is happy to oblige, because shredding the Constitution removes constraints on the government’s power.

It has fallen to the private, member-supported organization known as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to challenge the retroactive law that destroys the privacy rights granted to US citizens by the Constitution. The ACLU is regarded by conservatives as a Jewish conspiracy to destroy Christianity, and the right-wing idiots on Fox “News” and talk radio will denounce the ACLU for wanting to empower terrorists.

Conservatives will repeat endlessly that Americans who are doing nothing wrong have nothing to fear. If this argument held any water, there would have been no point in the Founding Fathers writing the Constitution.

The position of the US Government is that the rights granted Americans by the Constitution facilitate terrorism. To be safe from terrorists, the argument goes, we must allow the government to take liberties with the Constitution. This argument gives government the power to set aside the Constitution, and, thus, enables tyranny. As Milton Friedman and many others taught us, rules are the essence of freedom, and discretionary power is the essence of tyranny.

Bush’s “war on terror,” essentially a hoax, has transformed the United States into a lawless nation. We are not lawless in the sense of an absence of laws. We are lawless in the sense that despite a surfeit of laws, we no longer have the rule of law.

If the President doesn’t like an existing law, he ignores it. If the President doesn’t like new laws passed by Congress, instead of vetoing them he prepares a “signing statement,” which says that he will determine what the law means.

This lawlessness has spread from the top of the federal government down to local governments and community associations. Recently the state of Georgia passed a law that reaffirmed that anyone with a carry permit was entitled to have their concealed weapon when dropping off or picking up passengers at the Atlanta airport. The Atlanta city government said it would not obey the state law and would arrest anyone, including the state legislator who sponsored the legislation, who carried a permitted weapon onto airport property. [“Airport’s Ban on Guns Is Disputed in Atlanta,” by John Sullivan, *New York Times*, July 2, 2008]

A community in which I live has by-laws that forbid members of the board of the property owners association from serving as general manager of the designated community. This did not prevent the board from appointing one of their own the general manager. The POA board regards the by-laws which govern it as merely words without force.

Just like Bush regards the US Constitution.

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury during President Reagan’s first term. He was Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal. He has held numerous academic appointments, including the William E. Simon Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University, and Senior Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He was awarded the Legion of Honor by French President Francois Mitterrand. He is the author of Supply-Side Revolution : An Insider’s Account of Policymaking in Washington; Alienation and the Soviet Economy and Meltdown: Inside the Soviet Economy, and is the co-author with Lawrence M. Stratton of The Tyranny of Good Intentions : How Prosecutors and Bureaucrats Are Trampling the Constitution in the Name of Justice.

Bloated Military-Industrial Complex Needs To Be Challenged In This Election

By SHERWOOD ROSS
One issue the American people likely are not going to hear about in this presidential campaign are arguments for slashing a bloated Pentagon down to size. No matter that each passing day brings some new revelation of gross mismanagement, cronyism, waste, and extra-legal activity, it is a topic no candidate for the White House dares to broach lest he or she be deemed “naïve” or “soft” on the subject of defense.

Yet, the military-industrial complex (MIC) is running this nation into the ground, sucking trillions of dollars out of taxpayers’ wallets and, by starving human services, laying waste to civilian sectors in urgent need of repair and regeneration.

When the Pentagon was under construction, members of the Roosevelt cabinet questioned the wisdom of bringing together under one roof the numerous military offices scattered around Washington, DC. They feared the impending consolidation of awesome military powers into one of the greatest structures on earth; they worried, too, that the war machine might take on a life of its own. Tragically, their fears have been realized.

Today, the MIC is a beast without a heart, without compassion. It will wage war anywhere in the world, on any lie or pretext, sending thousands or millions to their deaths. It is devoid of morality; it has learned nothing from religious teachings except lip-service; and its civilian employees go to their jobs each day manufacturing nuclear weapons and aircraft carriers as though they were harvesting apple orchards or raising flowers.

As James Carroll writes in *House of War*, by 1965, nearly 6 million Americans were employed in Pentagon-run enterprises. In the 20 years following World War II, “the Pentagon spent nearly \$100 billion, ten times the federal expenditures devoted to all aspects of health, education, and welfare in the same period.” By 1997, Father Philip Berrigan, humanitarian and anti-war activist, could tell the judge who would shortly

sentence him to two years in prison for spilling blood on a US warship: “The United States has spent fourteen trillion dollars on arms since 1946. Our government has intervened in the affairs of fifty nations and has violated the laws of God and humanity by designing, deploying, using, and threatening to use atomic weapons.”

Carroll sees it in much the same light: “The Pentagon is now the dead center of an open-ended martial enterprise that no longer pretends to be defense...the Pentagon has, more than ever, become a place to fear.”

“What the Bush administration has done,” Carroll writes, “is to lay bare the real character of the ‘disastrous rise’ of Pentagon power of which Eisenhower warned in 1961. In Iraq, despite America’s overwhelming military might, there will be no winning ever.”

Carroll’s words sound more prophetic each time another general testifies the Pentagon is “making progress” but the situation remains “fragile” and so we must stay there on and on. Two years ago Carroll literally predicted Senator John McCain’s comment about staying in Iraq for a hundred years if need be, writing, “there will be no winning ever. Whether the US occupation is terminated abruptly or is maintained for years, violence and mayhem will define Iraq indefinitely, while the rest of the Middle East copes with Iraqi-spawned waves of chaos.”

McCain says, if elected, he will be out of Iraq by 2013, but as Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) pointed out in a recent talk carried on C-SPAN, McCain gave no specifics. And so one begins to suspect the goal in Iraq is not necessarily to win a war but to make war again and again, forever and a day, so the MIC can prosper while non-defense sectors starve, so that government contractors can erect a monster embassy in Baghdad and huge, permanent military bases nearby to dominate the oil-rich Middle East.

Carroll writes the US under President Bush has “normalized” war: “Not noted by most Americans,

see Bloated Military p. 7

GETTING SMART?

THE ADMINISTRATION
HAD NOTHING TO DO
WITH UNMASKING
VALERIE PLAME!



WOULD YOU BELIEVE,
I'M GIVING A PARDON
TO SCOOTER, BUT
I DIDN'T KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT IT?



HOW ABOUT
EXECUTIVE
PRIVILEGE?



Get a Grip, America

By GEORGE WASHINGTON
Glenn Carle, a former deputy national intelligence officer for transnational threats, a 23-year senior CIA analyst, who “drafted or was involved in many of the government’s most senior assessments of the threats facing our country [and who] devoted years to understanding and combating the jihadist threat”, writes in *The Washington Post* (4/13/08) that the neocons have whipped us into an irrational fear of the terrorism. In reality, “Osama bin Laden and his disciples are small men and secondary threats whose shadows are made large by our fears” and our leaders.

This is no surprise to anyone who has been paying attention. The BBC produced a documentary called “The Power of Nightmares” in 2005 showing that politicians were greatly exaggerating the terrorist threat for political ends. FBI agents and CIA intelligence officials, *Time Magazine*, Keith Olbermann, *The Washington Post*, *Rolling Stone* and many others have all documented the intentional fearmongering tactics

which the neocons have used to drum up support for their wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and now Iran.

Because so many Americans got their panties in a wad about the boogeyman, we have over the last seven years, allowed our basic rights and liberties to be taken away, allowed the executive branch to seize dictatorial powers and ignore Congress and the courts, allowed an illegal war be launched which has destroyed our economy (why do you think the Fed has printed trillions of new dollars, which is leading to hyperinflation?), and has actually crippled our real national security (torture and imperial wars create real terrorists and push away our allies).

Before Bush was sworn in, the US had a huge budget surplus and was the world’s sole superpower. But the U.S. is now weak, insolvent, and hated.

How did this happen?

Because Americans have been peeing their pants with fear . . .

We were so scared of the graphic destruction of the Twin Towers - and

Decline And Fall Of The Neocons

By JOHN LEONARD
Imperceptibly but surely, after a two-year siege, the impregnable fortress of Neocondom – er, make that Neonland – crumbled into dust. The enemy are now within the gates. With the knives of his captors pressed to his back, Bad King George obligingly makes grinning gestures to the public.

Left-liberal fantasy? Daydream of the Democrats? Or new nightmare?

It’s real all right – the seismic shift at the top of the political power pyramid in the United States is the biggest uncovered story of 2008. Nor did the new pharaohs in the palace attack out of the expected left quarter. Quite to the contrary — the new junta will be even more reactionary. It’s as if a commando operation had been set in motion by the ultimate powers-that-be, to recoup the heights from their bungling tenants before these errant fools let them fall to the rebellious peasants. No doubt that’s exactly what was in mind. The selection before the election...

And no one is talking about it. The neocons can’t bear the insult. The new masters want to work behind the scenes and let you continue to blame Bush-Cheney — to help elect their candidate, among other things. And the media are gagged by the owners. So here is a brief timeline of the decline and fall.

The first neocon soldier of note to tumble from the ramparts was Larry Franklin, convicted in January 2006 of passing Top Secret information on US Iran policy to Israel via AIPAC — not a crime but a duty in Neocon World. In March 2006, the encirclement continued as Congress commissioned the Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group (ISG).

The next big casualty was Donald Rumsfeld, who resigned the day after the November 2006 elections. The neocons couldn’t hold their majority in Congress even with the help of the Republican campaign-finance, mass-media propaganda and vote-fraud machines, and were now due to be strung out to dry by the top power brokers. Several

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we were so traumatized by the anthrax attacks on the press and Congress - that Americans allowed our “leaders” to act contrary to the nation’s interest.

Have you ever seen a dog repeatedly bite his own tail? He gets whipped into such a frenzy by the “intruder” that he ignores the pain and keeps on biting. That’s what the American people have been doing to ourselves for the last 7 years . . . chasing phantom enemies and biting ourselves repeatedly in the tail.

Worse, we have let ourselves become so irrationally afraid that we’ve nearly bitten our tail off, and we’re bleeding out. And yet we keep on biting . . . (allowing new assaults on the Constitution, further consolidation of power in the executive branch, new socialist measures to support the financial elites, new imperial wars).

It is not an exaggeration to say that our fear is guaranteeing our destruction.

Get a grip, America.



GeorgeWashington.blogspot.com



generals called for Rummy’s resignation, evidence of a base of opposition within the armed forces against the neocon madmen.

Rumsfeld’s replacement was Robert Gates, CIA director under Bush 41, member of the ISG, and founder of al Qaeda under the Carter-Brzezinski regime – the man who brought in CIA asset Osama bin Laden to recruit the mujahedin as cannon fodder in the Afghan war, which Brzezinski had instigated as a trap for the Soviets. (Zbig recently wrote of Gates in *TIME* magazine, “He became my special assistant when I was in charge of the NSC under President Jimmy Carter. He was the first person I would see every morning and usually the last one in the evening.”)

In December 2006 the Iraq Study Group (ISG) released its report. It was an admission of failure of the militarist neocon policies in the Middle East, and the dire state of the war efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. It called for a phased withdrawal — but preceded by a troop surge! It had no deadline for an exit, other than staying the course until Iraqi oil falls into US-American hands — a guarantee the war would outlast the Bush regime. The report pointedly called for a diplomatic approach to Syria and Iran. Oil, and not the enemies of Israel, was strategic.

The ISG worked under the aegis of the U.S. Institute of Peace, an initiative of the Jimmy Carter administration. Carter’s book, *Palestine: Peace or Apartheid* was released three weeks before the report. Both became bestsellers. Carter’s book rejects the Israeli-centric world view of the neocons, points out Israeli violations, and calls for a return to the 1967 borders. A tiny, troublesome, illegally expansionist Israel cannot be the tail that wags the US-imperial dog.

So — the neocons have their service. With chutzpah they parlayed the 9/11 false flag atrocity into a spurious pretext to occupy the oil fields. Exit stage left and thank you, we’ll take it from here...

And enter the dragon, Zbigniew Brzezinski. On Feb. 1, 2007, the Carter National Security Advisor, Trilateral Commission Founder, took the extraordinary step of warning Congress against a false-flag op by the Bush cabal to provoke a war with Iran:

“The war in Iraq is a historic, strategic, and moral calamity... the final destination on this downhill track is likely to be a head-on conflict with Iran and with much of the world of Islam at large. A plausible scenario for a military collision with Iran involves

see Neocons p. 4

Haunted by Iraq War Demons

War Demons from p. 1

that one officer called “the tip of the tip of the spear” in the first days of the US invasion. Dwyer had since then battled depression, sleeplessness and other anxieties that military doctors eventually attributed to post-traumatic stress disorder. (PTSD)

The war that made him a hero at 26 haunted him to the last moments of his life.

“He loved the picture, don’t get me wrong, but he just couldn’t get over the war,” his mother, Maureen Dwyer, said by telephone from her home in Sunset Beach, NC. “He wasn’t Joseph any more. Joseph never came home.”

Dwyer’s parents said they tried to get help for their son, appealing to army and Veterans Affairs officials. Although he was treated off and on in VA facilities, he was never able to shake his anxieties.

An April report by the Rand Corp. said serious gaps in treatment exist for the one in five US soldiers who exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder or depression following service in Iraq or Afghanistan. Half of those who experience the disorder sought help in the past year, the report said, and those who did often got “minimally adequate treatment.”

“He went away to in-patient treatments. None of it worked,” said his father, Patrick Dennis Dwyer. “And the problem is there are not adequate resources for post-traumatic stress syndrome.”

After a PTSD program in Durham, NC, turned Dwyer away because of a lack of space, Maureen Dwyer said her son received in-patient care for six months at the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center, beginning last August. After doctors discharged him in March, she said, his anxieties returned with such intensity that Dwyer’s wife, Matina, 30, took their daughter Meagan, 2, and moved out five days later.

Maureen Dwyer said her son married a month before his deployment. She said her son began experiencing serious depression

soon after his vehicle in Iraq was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade in 2003. She said his problems continued after his deployment ended and he returned to an army facility in Texas.

The El Paso shooting was only one of several incidents there, according to interviews. He had a number of driving accidents when, he later told his family, he swerved to avoid imagined roadside bombs; he once crashed over a curb after imagining that a stopped car contained Iraqi assassins. After a July 2007 motorcycle accident, his parents tried, unsuccessfully, to have him committed to a mental institution.

After his Iraq deployment ended and with increasing urgency, Dwyer’s friends urged him to give up his firearms. His parents worried about his practice of pushing furniture against the interior walls of his Texas home, arming himself with knives and sleeping in a closet. He told his family he was suspicious of counselling. He complained that prescribed drugs were ineffective. They say he turned to sniffing Dust-Off computer cleaner to drug himself to sleep. Pinehurst police said abusing that aerosol contributed to his death.

Dwyer’s mother said he left the service in March 2006. Unable to hold a job, he lived with his wife and daughter on a Veterans Affairs disability check, while going in and out of psychiatric care.

“Talking to him, he knew he was going to die,” Maureen Dwyer said.

She agreed to be interviewed despite her grief because she said she hoped to bring attention to the disorder.

“Every second that goes by, there is another soldier just like Joseph,” Maureen Dwyer said. “Another family can’t go through this. All the politicians talk so great about the soldiers, about patriotism, but mental illness is something they are not putting enough into.”

From the Toronto Star, July 9, 2008.,

Decline And Fall Of The Neocons

Neocons from p. 3

Iraqi failure to meet the benchmarks; followed by accusations of Iranian responsibility for the failure; then by some provocation in Iraq or a terrorist act in the U.S. blamed on Iran; culminating in a “defensive” U.S. military action against Iran that plunges a lonely America into a spreading and deepening quagmire eventually ranging across Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.”

This highly unusual reference to false flag operations – any government’s most secret tool – must be based on specific intelligence about neocon plans. Perhaps it was also a way of blackmailing the neocons with a veiled threat to blow open the 9/11 false flag op? Brzezinski had emphasized the quotes around “defensive,” and the reporters were all over the outrageous insinuation. Certainly, the author of The Grand Chessboard was saying “Check” loud and clear to neocon plans to attack Iran. As if the ISG report were not enough, and it was not, he warned again of the consequences of failure to pursue diplomacy.

All during their period of decline, the neocons attempted to reflate their fortunes with various comic-opera false-flag eventlets, such as the liquid explosive hoax hatched to keep neocon Tony Blair in office, but that only keeps babies crying for their bottles on transcontinental flights. The public is presumed to be too illiterate to know the difference between a lavatory and a laboratory. None of these absurd actions, like the Six from Ft. Dix or the Haitian Nation patsies, ever rose beyond the ridiculous, scared anyone, or exhibited a fraction of one percent of the firepower of the false flag of all time, 9/11. It serves to ask if the neocons really called the shots on 9/11? Parts of the modus operandi on that day were near carbon copies of the Operation Northwoods scheme hatched by Lyman Lemnitzer and nixed by JFK in 1962, the last non-puppet president. 9/11

was a historic strategic act of a permanent, unelected body, and could only have been OK’d at a level higher than the President, or any resident team of puppets we ever get a chance to vote for.

In July 2007, a very big fish and neocon VIP, the Anglophile newspaper magnate Lord Conrad Black, was sentenced in federal court in Chicago to 78 months in prison for fraud. He began serving his term in March 2008. Black was the main financial supporter of the American Enterprise Institute, the flagship neocon think tank.

At the end of August, 2007, with Bush beating the drums for war on Iran, a highly unusual thing occurred: a “rogue B-52” laden with six nuclear missiles flew from Minot, ND to Barksdale AFB, the staging ground for bombing runs on the Middle East. Due to the risk of mishaps, it has been against USAF policy for bombers to transport nuclear weapons, since 1968. And one of the six warheads was apparently not recovered. Loose cannon Dick Cheney has been suspected of planning to use this warhead for a false flag attack on a US target, to be followed by a nuclear retaliation timed to accompany Israel’s air strikes on Syria on Sept. 6th – as in Brzezinski’s scenario.

However, opposition within the armed forces grounded the rogue bomber in Barksdale. As the issue ascended the chain of command over the next few days, by Sept. 5th it became clear that the neocons did not have the ear of the ultimate powers behind the Anglo-American empire. To make the point crystal clear, on Sept. 14th the Air Force took its own highly unusual step: a stand-down of all flights in order to review nuclear weapons handling and security issues. Cheney’s failed exploit was arguably the high mark of the confederacy for the neocon madmen.

see Neocons p. 7

Economy

Let the Lawsuits Begin: Banks Brace for a Storm of Litigation

By ELLEN BROWN / WEBOFDEBT.COM

In an article in *The San Francisco Chronicle* in December 2007, attorney Sean Olender suggested that the real reason for the subprime bailout schemes being proposed by the US Treasury Department was not to keep strapped borrowers in their homes so much as to stave off a spate of lawsuits against the banks. The plan then on the table was an interest rate freeze on a limited number of subprime loans. Olender wrote:

“The sole goal of the freeze is to prevent owners of mortgage-backed securities, many of them foreigners, from suing US banks and forcing them to buy back worthless mortgage securities at face value — right now almost 10 times their market worth. The ticking time bomb in the US banking system is not resetting subprime mortgage rates. The real problem is the contractual ability of investors in mortgage bonds to require banks to buy back the loans at face value if there was fraud in the origination process.

“...The catastrophic consequences of bond investors forcing originators to buy back loans at face value are beyond the current media discussion. The loans at issue dwarf the capital available at the largest US banks combined, and investor lawsuits would raise stunning liability sufficient to cause even the largest US banks to fail, resulting in massive taxpayer-funded bailouts of Fannie and Freddie, and even FDIC

“What would be prudent and logical is for the banks that sold this toxic waste to buy it back and for a lot of people to go to prison. If they knew about the fraud, they should have to buy the bonds back.”

The thought could send a chill through even the most powerful of investment bankers, including Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson himself, who was head of Goldman Sachs during the heyday of toxic subprime paper-writing from 2004 to 2006. Mortgage fraud has not been limited to the representations made to borrowers or on loan documents but is in the design of the banks’ “financial products” themselves. Among other design flaws is that securitized mortgage debt has become so complex that ownership of the underlying security has often been lost in the shuffle; and without a legal owner, there is no one with standing to foreclose. That was the procedural problem prompting Federal District Judge Christopher Boyko to rule in October 2007 that Deutsche Bank did not have standing to foreclose on 14 mortgage loans held in trust for a pool of mortgage-backed securities holders.

If large numbers of defaulting homeowners were to contest their foreclosures on the ground that the plaintiffs lacked standing to sue, trillions of dollars in mortgage-backed securities (MBS) could be at risk. Irate securities holders might then respond with litigation that could indeed threaten the existence of the banking Goliaths.

States Leading the Charge

MBS investors with the power to bring major lawsuits include state and local governments, which hold substantial portions of their assets in MBS and similar investments. A harbinger of things to come was a complaint filed on February 1, 2008, by the State of Massachusetts against investment bank Merrill Lynch, for fraud and misrepresentation concerning about \$14 million worth of subprime securities sold to the city of Springfield. The complaint focused on the sale of “certain esoteric financial instruments known as collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) ... which were unsuitable for the city and which, within months after the sale, became illiquid and lost almost all of their market value.”

The previous month, the city of Baltimore sued Wells Fargo Bank for damages from the subprime debacle, alleging that Wells Fargo had intentionally discriminated in selling high-interest mortgages more frequently to blacks than to whites, in violation of federal law.

Another innovative suit filed in January 2008 was brought by Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson against 21 major investment banks, for enabling the subprime lending and foreclosure crisis in his city. The suit targeted the investment banks that fed off the mortgage market by buying subprime mortgages from lenders and then “securitizing” them and selling them to investors. City officials said they hoped to recover hundreds of millions of dollars in damages from the banks, including lost taxes from devalued property and money spent demolishing and boarding up thousands of abandoned houses. The defendants included banking giants Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch, Wells Fargo, Bank of America and Citigroup. They were charged with creating a “public nuisance” by irresponsibly buying and selling high-interest home loans, causing widespread defaults that depleted the city’s tax base and left neighborhoods in ruins.

“To me, this is no different than organized crime or drugs,” Jackson told the Cleveland newspaper *The Plain Dealer*. “It has the same effect as drug activity in neighborhoods. It’s a form of organized crime that happens to be legal in many respects.” He added in a videotaped interview, “This lawsuit said, ‘You’re not going to do this to us anymore.’”

The Plain Dealer also interviewed Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann, who was considering a state lawsuit against some of the same investment banks. “There’s clearly been a wrong done,” he said, “and the source is Wall Street. I’m glad to have some

If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around them will deprive the people of all property until their children wake up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered. The issuing power should be taken from the banks and restored to the people, to whom it properly belongs.”

– Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Treasury Secretary Albert Gallatin (1802)

practices by brokers and its own loan agents despite ‘numerous complaints from borrowers claiming that they did not understand their loan terms.’ “... Underwriters who confirmed information on mortgage applications were ‘under intense pressure ... to process 60 to 70 loans per day, making careful consideration of borrowers’ financial circumstances and the suitability of the loan product for them nearly impossible.’

“Countrywide’s high-pressure sales environment and compensation system encouraged serial refinancing of Countrywide loans.”

Similar suits against Countrywide and its CEO have been filed by the states of Illinois and Florida. These suits seek not only damages but rescission of the loans, creating a potential nightmare for the banks.

An Avalanche of Class Actions?

Massive class action lawsuits by defrauded borrowers may also be in the works. In a 2007 ruling in Wisconsin that is now on appeal, US District Judge Lynn Adelman held that Chevy Chase Bank had violated the Truth in Lending Act by hiding the terms of an adjustable rate loan, and that thousands of other Chevy Chase borrowers could join the plaintiffs in a class action on that ground. According to a June 30, 2008 report in *Reuters*:

“The judge transformed the case from a run-of-the-mill class action to a potential nightmare for the US banking industry by also finding that the borrowers could force the bank to cancel, or rescind, their loans. That decision was stayed pending an appeal to the 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals, which is expected to rule any day.

“The idea of canceling tainted loans to stem a tide of foreclosures has caught hold in other quarters; a lawsuit filed last week by the Illinois attorney general asks a court to rescind or reform Countrywide Financial mortgages originated under ‘unfair or deceptive practices.’

“...The mortgage banking industry already faces pressure from state and federal regulators, who have accused banks of lowering underwriting standards and forcing some borrowers, through fraud, into costly adjustable loans that the banks later bundled and sold as high-interest investment vehicles.”

The Truth in Lending Act (TILA) is a 1968 federal law designed to protect consumers against lending fraud by requiring clear disclosure of loan terms and costs. It lets consumers seek rescission or termination of a loan and the return of all interest and fees when a lender is found to be in violation. The beauty of the statute, says California bankruptcy attorney Cathy Moran, is that it provides for strict liability: the aggrieved borrowers don’t have to prove they were personally defrauded or misled, or that they had actual damages. Just the fact that the disclosures were defective gives them the right to rescind and deprives the lenders of interest. In Moran’s small sample, at least half of the loans reviewed contained TILA violations. If class actions are found to be available for rescission of loans based on fraud in the disclosure process, the result could be a flood of class suits against banks all over the country.

Shifting the Loss Back to the Banks

Rescission may be a remedy available not only for borrowers but for MBS investors. Many loan sale contracts provide by their terms that lenders must take back loans that default unusually quickly or that contain mistakes or fraud. An avalanche of rescissions could be catastrophic for the banks. Banks were moving loans off their books and selling them to investors in order to allow many more loans to be made than would otherwise have been allowed under banking regulations. The banking rules are complex, but for every dollar of shareholder capital a bank has on its balance sheet, it is supposed to be limited to about \$10 in loans. The problem for the banks is that when the process is reversed, the 10 to 1 rule can work the other way: taking a dollar of bad debt back on a bank’s books can reduce its lending ability

by a factor of ten. As explained in a BBC News story citing Prof. Nouriel Roubini for authority: “[S]ecuritisation was key to helping banks avoid the regulators’ 10:1 rule. To make their risky loans appear attractive to buyers, banks used complex financial engineering to repackage them so they looked super-safe and paid returns well above what equivalent super-safe investments offered. Banks even found ways to get loans off their balance sheets without selling them at all. They devised bizarre new financial entities — called Special Investment Vehicles or SIVs — in which loans could be held technically and legally off balance sheet, out of sight, and beyond the scope of regulators’ rules. So, once again, SIVs made room on balance sheets for banks to go on lending.

“Banks had got round regulators’ rules by selling off their risky loans, but because so many of the securitised loans were bought by other banks, the losses were still inside the banking system. Loans held in SIVs were technically off banks’ balance sheets, but when the value of the loans inside SIVs started to collapse, the banks which set them up found that they were still responsible for them. So losses from investments which might have appeared outside the scope of the regulators’ 10:1 rule, suddenly started turning up on bank balance sheets. ... The problem now facing

many of the biggest lenders is that when losses appear on banks’ balance sheets, the regulator’s 10:1 rule comes back into play because losses reduce a banks’ shareholder capital. ‘If you have a \$200bn loss, that reduced your capital by \$200bn, you have to reduce your lending by 10 times as much,’ [Prof. Roubini] explains. ‘So you could have a reduction of total credit to the economy of two trillion dollars.’”

You could also have some very bankrupt banks. The total equity of the top 100 US banks stood at \$800 billion at the end of the third quarter of 2007. Banking losses are currently expected to rise by as much as \$450 billion, enough to wipe out more than half of the banks’ capital bases and leave many of them insolvent. If debtors were to deluge the courts with viable defenses to their debts and mortgage-backed securities holders were to challenge their securities, the result could be even worse.

Putting the Genie Back in the Bottle

So what would happen if the mega-banks engaging in these irresponsible practices actually went bankrupt? These banks are widely acknowledged to be at fault, but they expect to be bailed out by the Federal Reserve or the taxpayers because they are “too big to fail.” The argument is that if they were allowed to collapse, they would take the economy down with them. That is the fear, but it is not actually true. We do need a ready source of credit, so we need banks; but we don’t need private banks. It is a little-known, well-concealed fact that banks do not lend their own money or even their depositors’ money. They actually create the money they lend; and creating money is properly a public, not a private, function. The Constitution delegates the power to create money to Congress and only to Congress. In making loans, banks are merely extending credit; and the proper agency for extending “the full faith and credit of the United States” is the United States itself.

There is more at stake here than just the equitable treatment of injured homeowners and investors in mortgage-backed securities. Banks and investment houses are now squeezing the last drops of blood from the US government’s credit rating, “borrowing” money and unloading worthless paper on the government and the taxpayers. When the dust settles, it will be the banks, investment brokerages and hedge funds for wealthy investors that will be saved. The repossessed will become the dispossessed; and unless your pension fund has invested in politically well-connected hedge funds, you can probably kiss it goodbye, as teachers in Florida already have.

But the banking genie is a creature of the law, and the law can put it back in the bottle. The imminent failure of some very big banks could provide the government with an opportunity to regain control of its finances. More than that, it could provide the funds for tackling otherwise unsolvable problems now threatening to destroy our standard of living and our standing in the world. The only solution that will be more than a temporary fix is to take the power to create money away from private bankers and return it to the people collectively. That is how it should have been all along, and how it was in our early history; but we are so used to banks being private corporations that we have forgotten the public banks of our forebears. The best of the colonial American banking models was developed in Benjamin Franklin’s province of Pennsylvania, where a government-owned bank issued money and lent it to farmers at 5 percent interest. The interest was returned to the government, replacing taxes. During the decades that that system was in operation, the province of Pennsylvania operated without taxes, inflation or debt.

Rather than bailing out bankrupt banks and sending them on their merry way, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) needs to take a close look at the banks’ books and put any banks found to be insolvent into receivership. The FDIC (unlike the Federal Reserve) is

see Banks p. 7

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| Candidate Positions on the Issues | Cynthia McKinney Green Party | Barack Obama Democrat | John McCain Republican | Bob Barr Libertarian |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| |  |  |  |  |
| The War in Iraq | “This is an immoral and illegal war and we need to bring our troops home now.” | Phased withdrawal, no bases but a residual force to conduct counter terrorism missions against al Qaeda in Iraq. | “The surge is working.” “Strong military in a dangerous world.” “We could be in Iraq 100 years, or 1000 years.” | Withdraw without undue delay, exit Iraq as quickly as possible without announcing a timetable. |
| The War on Terror | “Is it a war on terror or a Police State?” | Fully supports the concept of a ‘Global War on Terror’. | Fully supports the concept of a ‘Global War on Terror.’ | Opposes the White House policies in the so called ‘war on terror.’ |
| Conflict with Iran | No war with Iran. | Iran is a threat, “military force should not be ruled out.” “Iran must not be allowed to possess a nuclear weapon.” | “Bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb Iran.” “we need a larger and more capable military to protect our country’s vital interests [oil].” | “An attack on Iran would be unnecessary, counterproductive, costly and dangerous.” |
| The Economy | Use the shift to “green” energy sources to create new jobs. | Free market, tax rebates, extend unemployment insurance, middle class tax relief, ammend NAFTA. | Give everyone a “summer gas tax holiday”, make Bush tax cuts for the richest 1% permanent and proposes additional tax cuts. | “Capitalism rewards risk, protects individual liberty and furthers economic freedom.” Wants to reduce government interference in the economy. |
| Health Care | Supports single-payer system like Medicare for all Americans. | Wants “portable” coverage for all, wants to “modernize” the healthcare system. (i.e. no change) | “Return control to the patient”, make health insurance easier to obtain. (i.e. no change) | No socialized medicine in any form, health care policy should be consumer-oriented. No insurance mandates. |
| FISA, Surveillance | Against government wiretaping without a warrant. The “war on terror” is a fraud. | Voted for FISA bill with increased wiretapping and telecom immunity for past illegal wiretaps. | Fully supports the program of domestic surveillance against terrorists and telecom immunity. (missed Senate FISA vote) | Against wiretapping. Against telecom immunity. Supports strong 4th amendment rights. |
| Climate Change | Shift to sustainable/renewable energy sources. Encourage conservation. | Clean Coal, bio-fuels, increased CAFE fuel economy standards. | Supports “cap-and-trade” system of trading carbon emission credits. Target: 60% carbon reduction by 2050 | Climate change skeptic. |
| Peak Oil | “Leave the oil in the soil” Supports “green” energy alternatives, solar, wind. | Increase fuel efficiency standards. Supports E85, corn ethanol. | Drill, drill, drill, drill ANWR. Wants to open offshore continental shelf to drilling as well. | Wants to open everything to oil exploration; ANWR, offshore, shale oil. |
| 9/11 Truth | Supports new investigation. 9/11 Commission was a whitewash. The government is lying about 9/11. | Supports the official story. Supports the 9/11 Commission recommendations. | Supports the official story. Supports the 9/11 Commission recommendations - only stronger. | Supports the official story. Supports the 9/11 Commission recommendations. |
| Other Issues | Yes to organic farming. No to genetically modified foods. For a voter verified paper trail. | Supports possible invasion of Pakistan to get Osama bin Laden. | Was against torture before he was for it. Backs Social Security privatization. | Against US military bases on foreign soil. |
| Website | www.RunCynthiaRun.com | www.BarackObama.com | www.JohnMcCain.com | www.BobBarr2008.com |

Cynthia McKinney’s

Remarks from the

Green Party Convention



McKinney from p. 1

even about values that we thought were long settled as reasonable to pursue, like liberty and justice, and economic opportunity, for all.

Yes, Sojourner, there’s a lot out of kilter now, but these two women, Rosa and me, joined by all the men and women in this room, are going to do our best to turn this country right side up again....

I celebrated my birthday last year by doing something I had done a dozen times in my head, but had never done publicly: I declared my independence from every bomb dropped, every threat leveled, every civil liberty rollback, every child killed, every veteran maimed, every man tortured, and the national leadership that let this happen. At that pro-peace rally in front of the Pentagon, I noted that nowhere on the Democratic Party’s Congressional Agenda for their first 100 days in the majority was any mention at all of a livable wage, the right of return for Katrina survivors, repealing the Patriot Acts, the Secret Evidence Act, the Military Commissions Act, or bringing our troops home now. Nowhere on the Congressional Democrats’ agenda was an investigation into the Pentagon’s “loss” of \$2.3 trillion that Rumsfeld admitted to just before September 11th. And nowhere was there any plan to get that money back for jobs, health care, education, and for veterans. Not even repeal of the Bush tax cuts that have helped to usher in, according to some, levels of income inequality not experienced in this country since the Great Depression. And instead of Articles of Impeachment to hold the criminals accountable, impeachment was taken “off the table.” ...

There is no doubt that the people of this country and in the global community are suffering from Washington, DC’s policies today.

Even as the ice in the Arctic Ocean reportedly was melting, the United States was obstructing an international discussion of climate change goals-setting for 2020 at the

recently concluded G-8 Summit. Even while George Bush has made himself an international climate change villain by not signing onto the Kyoto Protocol, his own scientists at the US Climate Change Science Program have predicted more heat waves, intense rains, increased drought, and stronger hurricanes to affect the US due to the worsening effects of climate change....

Had the Green Party’s values been reflected in public policy since the beginnings of the Green Party in this country, the United States would have long ago implemented a livable wage; there would be no civil liberties erosion; diversity would be respected, appreciated and welcomed; education would be interesting and relevant to students’ lives and no student would graduate from college \$100,000 in debt in a Green Party USA because education, not incarceration and militarization, would be subsidized by the state. In a Green Party USA, health care would be provided for everyone here through a single payer, Medicare-for-all type health care system. We would have no homeless men and women sleeping on our streets and everyone who could work would have work. Rebuilding our infrastructure, manufacturing green technology, retooling our economy so that those who protect us, train us, heal us and prepare us for tomorrow are compensated in what is their true value to our culture and our society, based on their contribution to our civilization. Vietnam War-era veterans would be our last war veterans because we would never have been engaged in war and occupation against Afghanistan and Iraq. We would forego imperial designs on our neighbors to the north and south, never building any wall of division, not ever encroaching on their geographic or cultural sovereignty. In fact, if Green Party values were now reflected in US public policy, our country not only would not be engaged in war and occupation, there would be peace in the Middle East based on self-determination, respect for human rights, and justice. We would strive to perfect our democracy at home through election integrity and no one would be denied their rightful place in our Union due to discrimination. Our neighbors in the global community would look up to us for our cultural and technological accomplishments. We would have apologized for genocide against the indigenous peoples of this land and the abomination of chattel slavery. Our country would have dignity on the world stage and in every international forum, and no one in this country would be made to live in fear.

Oh, if it could be true: that the values of the Green Party were reflected in the Federal Government’s public policy. Let me wake up and snap out of my reverie. Yes, today’s reality is harsh. Abu Ghraib, torture, rendition, lying, spying, war, stolen elections, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, New Orleans, poverty, racial profiling, Sean Bell, the San Francisco 8, Benton Harbor’s Reverend Pinkney, the Holy

Land Foundation, 9/11/01.

Embargo, blockade, friendly fire, depleted uranium, white phosphorus, cluster bombs, bunker busters, shock and awe.

Predatory lending, mortgage crisis, foreclosures, a country \$53 trillion in debt. And while Bear Stearns gets a bailout, you and I sink or swim.

Harsh? Today’s reality is harsh. But what’s even harder for many to accept and admit is that our quality of life today is the making of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

What our country has become through their public policy is reflective of their values.

We will never get a United States that is reflective of different values if we continue to do the same thing. Those who delivered us into this mess cannot be trusted to get us out of it.

That’s why I signed up to do something I’ve never done before so I can have something I’ve never had before: My country, made in the likeness of the values of the Green Party....

We need an opposition party in this country. With 200 elected officials already, the Green Party can become this country’s premier opposition Party. One thing is clear, Democratic and Republican values are not Green Party values. And honestly, I believe, Green Party values are the values held by the majority in this country. And through our vigorous Power to the People campaign, we will proclaim our presence to every nook and cranny of this country. We are needed now, more than ever, and here’s an example of why.

It is hard to not hear the warning signs of a new war: a war against Iran. Dick Cheney told us to expect war for the next generation. The Republicans launched this war economy and their presumptive nominee said that we could stay in Iraq for the next 100 years and even sang a song for the bombing of Iran. The Democratic majority in Congress just voted to fund the war into 2009 and has 200 sponsors on a bill that declares war on Iran by calling for a naval blockade. A naval blockade is a declaration of war. The Democratic presumptive nominee wants to increase the size of the overused military and the budget for an already bloated and wasteful Pentagon. I am the only candidate who has consistently voted against the Pentagon budget, voted against the war in Iraq, and I voted against the bills that funded it. The Green Party was against the war when it started, is against the war now, and is against any military action against Iran that might take place tomorrow. The Green Party is a peace party. A Green vote is a peace vote....

In other countries around the world, higher education is valued and is made affordable to all who want it. Only a sick government would place a banker in between a student and her teacher.

An insurance lobbyist in between a patient and his doctor.

Lying and spying before 9/11 Truth and the Constitution.

Only a sick government would place a wealthy family and their huge corporation and its genetically modified Frankenfood peddled by force, in between us and the organic food that’s healthy for us to eat and that farmers would prefer to grow.

Only a sick government would do this.

And I am no longer willing to trust the ones who are responsible for getting us into this mess to provide the solution to get us out of it.

The Green Party long ago took a stand for racial justice: against profiling, against police brutality, against discrimination of any sort, and for reparations stemming from the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

The Green Party long ago took a stand for gender equity.

The Green Party long ago took a stand against all discrimination.

The Green Party is a justice party. A Green vote is a justice vote.

And the day after the election, if voters have been disfranchised and don’t believe the announced election results, it will be the Green Party that will be there, as it was in 2004, to demand election integrity....

When I was first running for Congress and it was the year of the woman, women all over the country were saying, “We want our seat at the table.” And when I got to Washington, I saw that policy was really made in a room, at a table. There were real seats at the table. Well, imagine what has happened to public policy making now.

There is a real room, with a window and a door and there’s two seats at the table. The window is for us to look through while our representatives make policy for us so we can see what they’re doing. At the table, one seat is for the Democrats and one seat is for the Republicans. Now, we don’t know who did it, but one of them put a lock on the door and slipped a key to the corporate lobbyists who can come and go at will and whisper what they want to the Democrats, and then whisper what they want to the Republicans, and the result is that we the people, who pay for those seats and determine who sits in them, want one thing, but because the corporate lobbyists can come and go at will, our values get overridden and our representatives give us something else.

That’s how we end up with everyone saying they’re against the war and occupation, but war and occupation still gets funding.

That’s how we end up with everyone saying they’re against illegal spying on innocent people, yet end up with a telecom immunity bill being signed into law.

That’s how we end up with everyone saying they’re in favor of universal access to health care and no one implementing what the physicians, nurses, and health care providers support, and that’s a single payer health care system in this country....

Now, I’m known for taking bold positions, based on my own research, that have put me ahead of the curve. I was there on private

militaries hired by the Pentagon and our State Department long before Blackwater began patrolling the streets of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

I was there on corporate accountability and military contracting scandals before Iraq and Afghanistan.

I was there on enlisted members’ and veterans’ rights and health issues, like forced vaccinations and conscientious objection.

I was there on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery and detoxification, restoration, and return issues.

I was there on 9/11 foreknowledge.

And I put impeachment “on the table.”

I’m not afraid to address the issues that no one else will dare to talk about.

I’m not afraid to speak truth to empower. Let me close with this.

Don’t expect me to keep a count of the major party flip flops from now to November. I’m sure there will be many. But, in the end, that’s not the important issue to understand. What is more fundamental to understand is this: the other political parties find themselves in this flip-flop predicament because they have to appear to share our values while they serve someone else’s.

The Green Party doesn’t have to engage in shapeshifting because the Green Party is funded by and belongs to you....

Thank you, Green Party, for granting Rosa and me this supreme honor. Now let’s go out there and get busier. We’ve got a lot of work to do.

Power to the People!



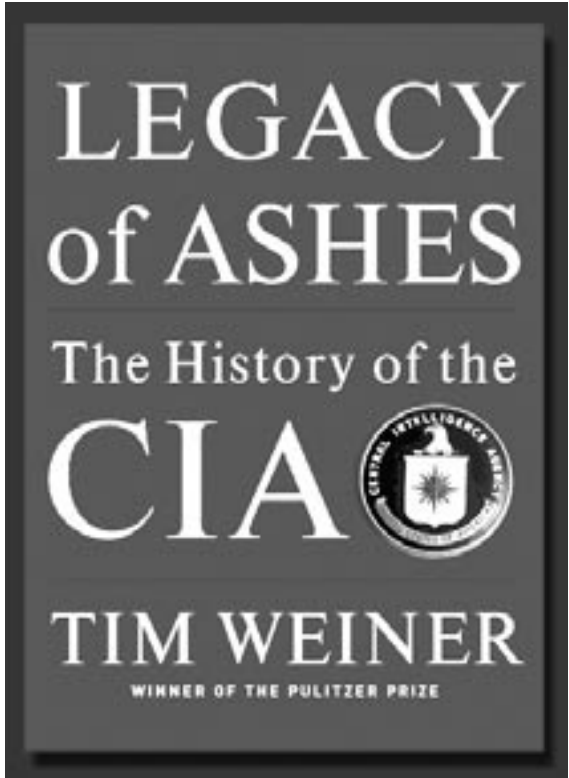
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Book Review

Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA
by Tim Weiner



REVIEWED BY MATT SPRINGER
There’s a blurb on the back of *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA* in which a *Christian Science Monitor* reviewer calls it “the scariest book of the year.” It’s the scariest book of any year in recent memory, if “scary” is understood to reach beyond mere bumps in the night and encompass the horrifying ways in which a great nation can utterly fail in upholding its own ideals.

In *Legacy of Ashes*, author Tim Weiner assembles a convincing argument for the dissolution of American government and a return to the calming embrace of British rule, as he takes readers on a tour through sixty-odd years of absolute failures on the part of the Central Intelligence Agency. The cost of these misadventures is billions of dollars and thousands of lives, and yet the agency’s officials and agents conduct themselves with a swagger and hubris totally disproportionate to their own accomplishments. It’s a near-endless parade of devastating blunders that makes for a compelling and grueling read.

Essentially, the CIA is painted as a government organization that has rarely if ever known how to carry out its mission. The goal of their projects is ostensibly to gather intelligence worldwide on America’s allies and adversaries, and to analyze this intelligence for use by the President, the State Department, and the Pentagon.

Instead, the CIA’s activities from its inception devolve into the kind of silly cloak-and-dagger covert missions that make for awful Chuck Norris movies. Except with the Chuck Norris movies, all you’ve really lost is a few hours of your time — when the CIA fouls a covert op, it usually pours millions of dollars and actual human lives down into the abyss. Their failures have serious consequences, and yet for decades, the organization is allowed to act with near-impunity and no accountability whatsoever.

Weiner’s prose style is clean and sparse, and he focuses exclusively on the CIA’s history, which occasionally means excluding bits of detail that would help fill in the blanks for those who aren’t avid students of American history. The section on the Cuban Missile Crisis, for example, assumes that the reader will bring in some knowledge of the events surrounding this period, and skims over some of the key moments from a broader perspective. But then, the story here isn’t really America so much as it’s the same worst-case scenario Americans have seen from their government all too often — a tale of power-hungry, self-obsessed, delusional “leaders” who blindly carve a path through enemies tangible and imaginary, whatever the human cost may be.

The story told by *Legacy of Ashes* is all the more terrifying when you consider the immortal words of George Santayana: “Those who cannot remember the past, are condemned to repeat it.” Again and again, the CIA fails to remember its own past failures; again and again, it recommitts the same mistakes and loses even more money and lives in the process. Perhaps Weiner’s greatest accomplishment is how he draws a convincing line between the agency’s earliest disasters and its most recent failure in providing the non-existent “evidence” that prompted the invasion of Iraq and convinced the UN to support that invasion. The CIA never did heal or “reform” itself; it continued to repeat the failures of the past at an almost incalculable cost.

Legacy of Ashes is absolutely worthwhile, but is an intense and difficult book. Be forewarned as you plan your vacations and spend Saturday afternoons in the hammock: It is not anything close to “summer reading.” Do not take it to the beach.

Instead, *Legacy of Ashes* is the kind of volume that might be best served by the harsh, merciless nights of fall and winter, when you can curl up on the couch and descend into the horror show of death, destruction, and wasted resources that is the history of the CIA. Anyone interested in the past, present, and future of our government and how it operates should find this an essential read — it’s just not for the faint of heart, and there’s nothing “escapist” about it. Steel yourself, and educate yourself on this nation’s darkest secrets.

Matt Springer blogs at AlertNerd.com

History’s Lessons

CIA Blowback Haunts Bush 41

By WAYNE MADSEN / WMR
Former President George H. W. Bush had a very good reason to lash out at “conspiracy theorists” in support of the Warren Commission Report while attending President Gerald Ford’s funeral in January 2007. Bush, who oddly used a eulogy for Ford to bring up the assassination of President John F. Kennedy said, “the conspiracy theorists can say what they will, but the Warren Commission report will always have the final definitive say on this tragic matter. Why? Because Jerry Ford put his name on it and Jerry Ford’s word was always good.”

Bush had good reason to praise Ford. WMR has learned from ex-CIA sources familiar with the November 22, 1963 assassination operation against Kennedy (directed by the CIA, elements of the US military, and Mafia mobsters with whom the CIA had a long-standing connection) that George H. W. Bush was present at the Texas School Book Depository at the time multiple sniper teams shot President Kennedy to death.



The above photo was taken at the time of Kennedy’s shooting. Bush, at the time, was President of the Zapata Off-shore Drilling Company in Houston, Texas. WMR’s intelligence sources have confirmed that the above photo is that of then-CIA operative George H. W. Bush. Zapata was used as a CIA front for the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961.

The name “George Bush” appears much too frequently in documents, some newly released, relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. Since there is no statute of limitations on murder or accessory to murder, I can understand why Bush father and sons may want to erase November 22, 1963 from the history books.

The document trail linking George H. W. Bush to those involved in the assassination of President Kennedy is nothing less than chilling. First is a memo dated November 22, 1963, from FBI Special Agent Graham Kitchel to the FBI Special Agent in Charge in Houston. The subject is “Unknown Subject; Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.” The memo states: “At 1:45 p.m. Mr. George H. W. Bush, President of the Zapata Off-shore Drilling Company, Houston, Texas, residence 5525 Briar, Houston, telephonically furnished the following information to writer by long distance telephone call from Tyler, Texas.”

“BUSH stated that he wanted to be kept confidential but wanted to furnish hearsay that he recalled hearing in recent weeks, the day and source unknown. He stated that one JAMES PARROTT has been talking of killing the President when he comes to Houston.

BUSH stated that PARROTT is possibly a student at the University of Houston and is active in political matters in the area. He stated that he felt Mrs. FAWLEY, telephone number SU 2-5239, or ARLENE SMITH, telephone number JA 9-9194 of the Harris County Republican Party Headquarters would be able to furnish additional information regarding the identity of PARROTT.

BUSH stated that he was proceeding to Dallas, Texas, would stay in the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel and return to his residence on 11-23-63. His office telephone number is CA 2-0395.”

So we have George H. W. Bush telling the FBI that he did not know the source of the information but knew that a John Bircher named James Parrott, who was the same age as Lee Harvey Oswald (24), wanted to kill President Kennedy in Houston. Bush did not know much about Parrott but gave the name of two Republican Party officials in Houston. Of course, Bush’s Zapata Off-Shore Drilling Company had been a CIA front since 1960 and had supplied the Bay of Pigs invasion (code named “Zapata”) force with two of his company’s ex-US Navy landing craft, renamed the *Barbara J* and the *Houston*. In any case, Bush’s phone call to the FBI was a false lead, and Parrott was cleared. However, Bush’s phone call creates more questions about him than about Parrott. First of all, there is no evidence that Bush was in Tyler when Kennedy was shot as the above memo implied. There was no Caller ID in those days that would have allowed Special Agent Kitchel to know, for a fact, that Bush was calling from Tyler. Bush’s wife, Barbara, claimed he was in

Tyler but Bush once said he may have been in Port-au-Prince, Haiti that day. But Bush himself admits to the FBI that he was booked into the Sheraton Hotel in Dallas on November 22.

Bush always had a keen interest in what files the government had on Kennedy’s assassination. When he was CIA Director in 1976, Bush wanted to see all the agency’s files on the Kennedy assassination. His memos specifically requested information on Oswald, Jack Ruby, and others linked to the assassination. In her book 2004 *The Family: The Real Story of the Bush Dynasty*, author Kitty Kelley writes that “Years later, when [Bush] became president of the United States, he would deny making any attempt to review the agency files on the JFK assassination... when he made this claim, he did not realize that the agency would release 18 documents [under the Freedom of Information Act] that showed he had indeed, as CIA director, requested information-not once, but several times-on a wide range of questions surrounding the Kennedy assassination.”

Then there is the business of the November 29, 1963 memo from the Director of the Department of State’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research to J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI Director. The subject is “Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963.” The memo states:

“Our sources and informants familiar with Cuban matters in the Miami area advise that the general feeling in the anti-Castro Cuban community is one of stunned disbelief and, even among those who did not entirely agree with the President’s policy concerning Cuba, the feeling is that the President’s death represents a great loss not only to the US but to all of Latin America. These sources know of no plans for unauthorized action against Cuba.

An informant who has furnished reliable information in the past and who is close to a small pro-Castro group in Miami has advised that these individuals are afraid that the assassination of the President may result in strong repressive measures being taken against them and, although pro-Castro in their feelings, regret the assassination.

The substance of the foregoing information was orally furnished to us, George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency and Captain William Edwards of the Defense Intelligence Agency on November 23, 1963 by Mr. W.T. Forsyth of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

A copy of the above memo was furnished to the Director of Naval Intelligence. That is important for reasons that will be explained in the following paragraph.

Not only was George H. W. Bush, a known CIA operative, in Dallas on November 22 but he was also keeping track of the stance of pro-Castroites in Miami. That would have been important because Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy’s accused assassin was supposed to be a pro-Communist member of the “Fair Play for Cuba Committee.” But he was also associated with the “Anti-Communist League of the Caribbean” and “Friends of Democratic Cuba.”



The above photo was taken at a Miami nightclub on January 22, 1963 and shows a number of CIA individuals involved in “Operation 40” plots against the Castro government in Cuba. On left, foreground, going clockwise, Felix Rodriguez (who later worked for Vice President Bush in illegal Nicaraguan contra support operations), Porter Goss (who would be named CIA director under George W. Bush and became involved in a prostitution/poker ring at the Watergate. Note: E. Warren Goss is, a Boulder, Colorado attorney, has been reportedly involved in secret money movements involving George H. W. Bush. E. Warren Goss is, according to CIA sources in Houston, the brother of Porter Goss), and Seal.

And his apparent control officer was FBI agent Guy Bannister, formerly of the Chicago FBI office and a former Naval Intelligence officer, whose office “Guy Bannister Associates, Inc.” a CIA cut-out for training anti-Castro Cubans, was located at 544 Camp Street in New Orleans. 544 Camp was also the address used by Oswald’s “pro-Communist” “Fair Play for Cuba Committee.” The local Office of Naval Intelligence was across the street from 544 Camp.

The Director of Naval Intelligence is made privy, as an “info addce,” to the aforementioned State Department memo on the reaction of pro- and anti-Castro Cubans in Miami to Kennedy’s death.

Oswald, while stationed at Atsugi, a classified U-2 base in Japan as a US Marine, would have had his security clearance adjudicated by the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Bush’s role as a CIA operative in the Bay of Pigs invasion, a military action in which the Office of Naval Intelligence was closely involved, suggests that the other links between Bush, ONI, and the anti-Castro Cuban exiles are not benign.

George H. W. Bush has still other, more oblique links to the Kennedy assassination. The Houston-based conspirator James Parrott, like Guy Bannister, was a fervent John Bircher. Bannister was not only associated with Oswald but also David Ferrie, the commander of a Louisiana Civil Air Patrol unit whose members included not only Oswald but also James Reynolds Bath, the future buddy and Texas Air National Guard pal of George W. Bush. According

to one of Bath’s former Houston business associates, Bath became a pilot through the cadet program of the Louisiana Civil Air Patrol, a known recruiting ground for future CIA agents. Six days before Pearl Harbor, the Civil Air Patrol was founded by Dallas oilman David Harold Byrd who also owned the Texas School Book Depository from the 1930s to 1972. Another supporter of the Louisiana Civil Air Patrol was Claire Chennault, the founder of China’s “Flying Tigers” and the notorious “Civil Air Transport” of China that later became Air America, a longtime well-known CIA proprietary. Chennault died in New Orleans’ murky intelligence-connected Ochsner Foundation Hospital in 1958.

In 1964, Byrd apparently removed the “Oswald” window pane from the fifth floor of the Texas School Book Depository and made it a souvenir fixture in his home. [Since this report, WMR has discovered that the late Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) informant and CIA pilot Barry Seal, gunned down on February 19, 1986, gangland-style in Baton Rouge, was also a member of the New Orleans-based Louisiana Civil Air Patrol, along with Bath, Ferrie, and Oswald. Seal was due to testify in a major drug smuggling case that was thought to implicate then-Vice President Bush and Iran-contra felon Oliver North in the smuggling of cocaine from Colombia.]

Another connection between Bush and the assassination is George DeMohrenshildt, an anti-Communist White Russian-émigré who befriended fellow White Russian Marina Oswald and her husband Lee upon their emigration from the Soviet Union to Texas, where DeMohrenshildt was involved in the oil business. DeMohrenshildt’s son-in-law told the Warren Commission that it was likely that his father-in-law was involved with the Kennedy assassination. DeMohrenshildt had an interest in pursuing oil exploration contracts with Haitian President Francois “Papa Doc” Duvalier - something that may have involved George H. W. Bush’s one-time alibi that he was in Port-au-Prince on November 22, 1963. In March 1977, the House Assassinations Committee was due to interview DeMohrenshildt but just a few hours before his scheduled appearance he was found dead of a “self-inflicted” gun shot wound. When DeMohrenshildt’s personal address book was discovered, it was found to contain the following entry:

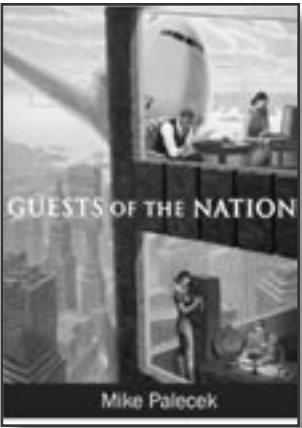
“Bush, George H.W. (Poppy) 1412 W. Ohio also Zapata Petroleum Midland Number: 4-6355”

From the directory entry it appeared that DeMohrenshildt, who was rumored to be with the CIA, knew George H. W. (or “Poppy” as his family calls him) from before 1959, when Bush moved from Midland to Houston. It is also noteworthy that while he was taking care of the Oswalds during 1962, DeMohrenshildt was in close contact with Admiral Henry Bruton, the former Director of Naval Communications, who would have played an important supporting role for Naval Intelligence’s activities in the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Seal was also believed to have worked for CIA

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— Karen Kwiatkowski, retired Lt Col, USAF, Ph.D, and working at the Pentagon on 9/11.

www.MikePalecek.com

Wayne Madsen is a Washington based investigative journalist. He reports at www.WayneMadsenReport.com

Ashcroft Testifies About Torture



Ashcroft from p. 1

has garnered much publicity, as it was thought to be especially brutal and involved waterboarding.

The CIA has long denied employing harsh interrogation techniques before it received authorization via the legal memos provided by the DOJ, but Ashcroft’s testimony called that timeline into question, and raised the possibility that “the CIA started torturing at least one detainee before any of the memos were even written.”

But during questioning, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, (D-NY), pointed out that the abuse of Zubaydah had reportedly begun weeks, if not months, earlier. “Did you offer legal approval of interrogation methods used at that time ... prior to August 2002?”

“I have no recollection of doing that at all,” Ashcroft responded. He added that he did not remember anyone else at the Justice Department doing so either. He said later in the hearing that Zubaydah’s interrogation “was done without the opinion that was issued on the first of August.”



Kate Klonick blogs at Talking Points Memo.

CIA, US Military Learned Torture from China?

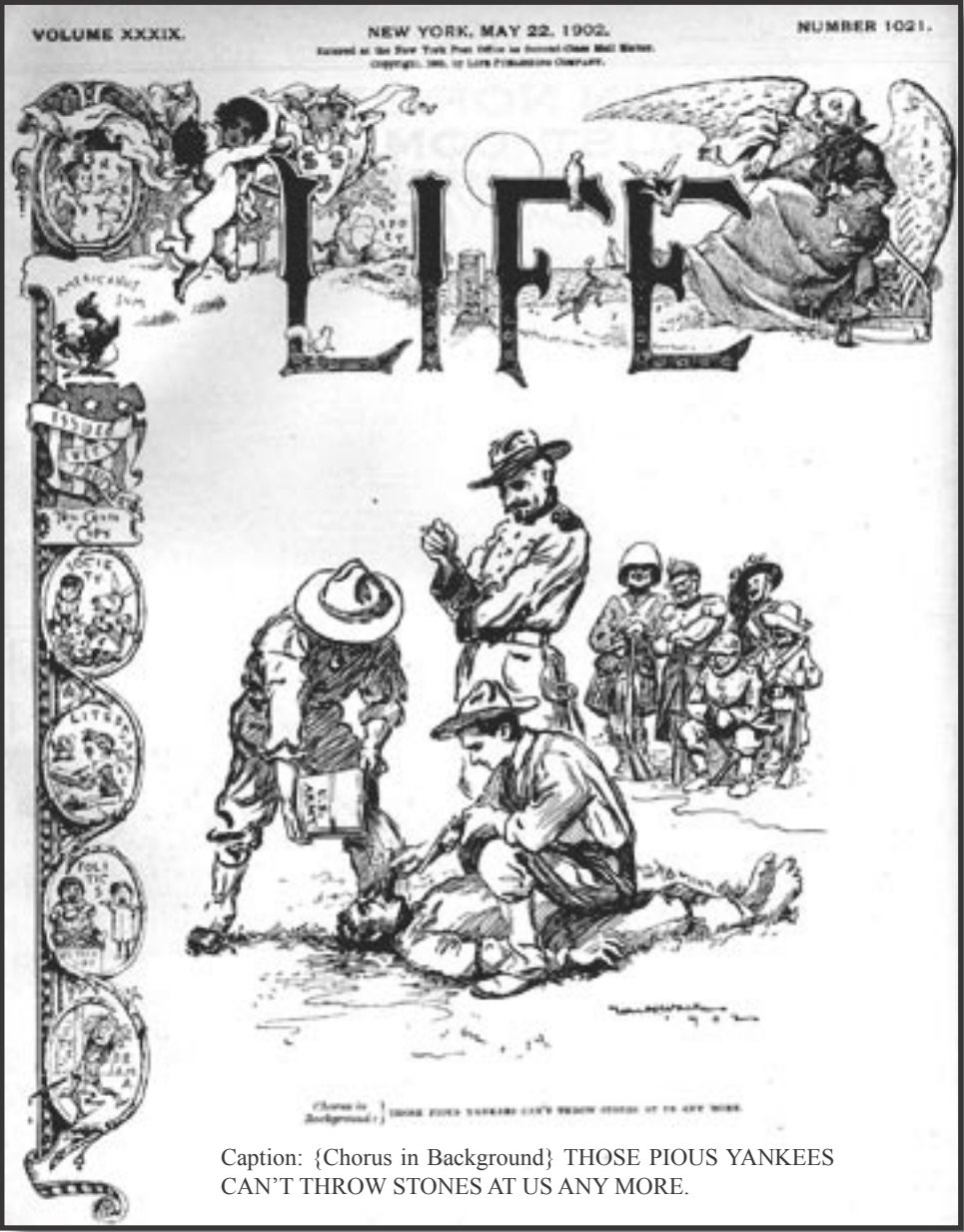
By Matt Sullivan / RCFP

Last month the *New York Times* published an article by Scott Shane, “China Inspired Interrogations at Guantanamo”, that revealed that military trainers at Guantanamo Bay in 2002 used a chart of interrogation techniques that had been copied verbatim from a 1957 Air Force study of Chinese Communist techniques used during the Korean War to obtain confessions, many of them false, from American prisoners. The implication being that the US military and the CIA have so little experience with torture that they had to rely on these outdated sources for their how-to manual.

Shane’s article in the *Times* is a classic example of the common intelligence agency practice of “limited hangout”. Intelligence agencies, when caught in a lie, when the cover is blown, will expose some part of the operation in order to distract the public from the larger underlying operation. In this case, by exposing the captured Chinese documents, the CIA and MI is attempting to keep a lid on the larger underlying truth that the US has long studied and practiced torture and has a vast and well funded ongoing research operation dedicated to developing torture methods and techniques.

The CIA torture, interrogation and mind control infrastructure has a long and storied history. After WWII the OSS, precursor to the CIA, recruited Nazi researchers and their programs to come to the US under operation PAPERCLIP and other programs. These torture and mind control research efforts were greatly expanded during the Cold War and were practiced in horrific real-world conflicts during the Vietnam war in the 1960s and 70s and were again employed in Central America in the 1980s.

There is no question that the CIA and US military have extensive theoretical research and practical experience and the suggestion that the US had to resort to the use of 1947 Chinese torture posters for instruction is ridiculous and insulting.



Caption: {Chorus in Background} THOSE PIOUS YANKEES CAN'T THROW STONES AT US ANY MORE.

LIFE Magazine cover from 1902 depicting US Army waterboarding of a Cuban insurgent during the Spanish - Cuban - American war, 1898-1902.

Bloated Military-Industrial Complex Needs To Be Challenged In This Election

Bloated Military from p. 3

a new archipelago of US military bases stretched across the Middle East into the heart of the former Soviet Union...Such forward basing of forces was designed to control, by means of ‘regime change’ and ‘prevention,’ emerging political trends around the globe, with the unabashed goal of guaranteeing US dominance everywhere.” (America operates about 1,000 military bases at home and more than 700 overseas.)

“Such a strategy,” Carroll goes on to write, “assumes not only the possession of unparalleled military power but the display of it and the ready use of it. Under George W. Bush, a self-styled war president, ‘the normalization of war’ was thus established.”

What’s more, Carroll writes, under former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the Pentagon in 2002 embarked “on the stunning project of developing a new generation of nuclear weapons including a burrowing device designed to go after underground targets and ‘mini-nukes’ to be used in concert with a conventional attack.”

The effect of all this, Carroll writes, “is to legitimize nuclear-based power politics, giving other nations, friend and foe alike, compelling reasons to acquire a nuclear capacity, if only for deterrence, and prompting them to behave in similar ways.” Carroll says the US return to nuclear development was to spur Iran and North Korea to become nuclear-capable and to make states that renounced the

atom — such as Brazil, Egypt, South Africa — rethink that decision. Meanwhile, Carroll says, Russia, China, Israel, India and Pakistan “are all furiously adding to their nuclear arsenals” and “The Pentagon has become the engine of proliferation.”

If the public hasn’t figured it out yet, the United States of America cannot go on this way forever, spending nearly half of every tax dollar on war. It is being run by a criminal enterprise that is breaking our laws and violating our Constitution, just as if some family of Mafia gangsters occupied the White House and decided to loot the world. The Bush regime is in Iraq to steal oil, to swindle taxpayers, to give lucrative defense contracts to its friends, to fleece motorists, to explode radioactive ammunition, to test new weapons, and to intimidate the world.

And the Tyrannosaurus Rex in the family room smashing our domestic tranquility is the MIC. President Eisenhower had the guts to warn us of it. Senator McCain is a traveling salesman for it. And Senator Obama, who seemed to be the last best hope for checkmating it, on July 3rd called for strengthening it, even though the Congress lavishes as much on the Pentagon as all the rest of the world put together spends on their militaries. What now, America?



Sherwood Ross is a Miami-based writer who formerly reported for the Chicago Daily News and wire services. Contact: sherwoodr1@yahoo.com.

Corporate Media Blackouts Continue

Media from p. 1

The article also stated that the president was acting, “despite the opposition of his own generals and widespread skepticism that America is ready to risk the military, political and economic consequences of an airborne strike on Iran.”

Surely such news of an increased possibility of the US being dragged into yet a third war in the Middle East should at least warrant a mention in the mainstream media. *The Times of London* is, after all, hardly a fringe publication. Though owned by Rupert Murdoch’s NewsCorp., it has a sterling reputation.

Yet while the rest of the world is holding its collective breath wondering if such a cataclysmic attack might be about to happen with US sanction and assistance (Israel would be flying American-made planes in any attack,

and would have to be given clearance to fly over US-controlled airspace in Iraq, even if it was denied access to US air bases along the way), Americans are being left blissfully unaware of this latest crime in the making by their war-mongering president.

This is news of major import, and it is nothing short of scandal that it is not being reported in the American media, which more and more is resembling state propaganda.

Those who want better of their news purveyors should contact local editors and demand that they stop blacking out stories like these. Better yet, get together with friends and picket your local news outlets!



Dave Lindorff is a journalist in Philadelphia. His website id www.thiscantbehappening.com

Decline And Fall Of The Neocons

Neocons from p. 4

In December 2007 the 17 agencies of the US intelligence community produced their National Intelligence Estimate, concluding that Iran has no nuclear weapons program – flying directly in the face of Bush-Cheney-neocon-Israeli hysteria. According to the NIE, Iran had halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003, had not restarted it, and would not be able to produce a weapon before 2015. It found no grounds to assume Iran even wanted one. In 2002, the Bush war party had used an NIE to justify their aggression on Iraq. That NIE came under withering criticism from the Senate Intelligence Committee in 2004.

The first journalist to register the power shift from the neocons to the Brzezinski Trilaterals was Webster Griffin Tarpley. He was alerted by his sources to the fact that Brzezinski was chief foreign policy advisor for Barack Obama. During the early January Democratic primaries he relates how he saw the mainstream media stacking the deck against Hillary Clinton and giving Barack Obama a free pass.

The conclusion was not far: Zbig’s faction was now in control. The thesis gives a fresh and startlingly clear view of current developments.

In the first week of June 2008 the new masters flex their muscles. Clinton, the more popular Democratic candidate, is forced to bow out in favor of the Obama puppet. The day of reckoning arrives for the B52 rogues. Zbigman Robert Gates at the DOD orders the purge of neocon traitors in the Air Force. It’s carried out by an old hawk and Trilateral hack, Nixon Secretary of Defense and Carter Energy Secretary James Rodney Schlesinger.

The Trilaterals are going over the heads of the POTUS and VP to run the government through the Top Cop – the Committee of Principals (COP) of the NSC. Robert Gates, Dick Cheney and Condi Rice are members. In late June Condi pushed through a deal with North Korea, the Neoconland North Pole of Evil Axis. The US backed down over nuclear fuel and the dead bodies of neocons Cheney and Richard Perle. The payoff: the Trilaterals plan to win over North Korea as an eventual ally against China or Russia. Really. Isn’t it kind of scary when you realize this boundless stupidity is the best product of the top strategic geniuses?

In June the Supreme Court also restored the right of habeas corpus to Guantánamo detainees, and gutted the Military Commissions act, by 5-4 votes – to the fury of neocons at large, as well as the neocon “RATS” minority on the SCOTUS – Roberts, Alito, Thomas and Scalia.

While we welcome any restorations to our tattered Constitution, a big caveat is in order. The new overlords want to eliminate some of the more flagrant, wasteful and self-destructive excesses of the neocon imperial experiment only to rev up the machinery to even more devastating deeds. Four years down the road we may be wishing, “if only Bush-Cheney had carried on and bankrupted militarism for good.” At least the non sequitur of “War on Terror” had a saving grace of unreality to it. The Russian and Chinese superpowers are hard reality, the hardest targets on the planet.

What are the prospects for a Trilateral regime under éminence grise Brzezinski and POTUS puppet Obama? Zbig will employ divide and conquer tactics worldwide to achieve his aim of war against Russia through OPM – other people’s men and money. The US will remain in Iraq to suck up the oil, with a fresh crew of profiteers. Zbig and Co. will squeeze the American people like lemons, like Hitler squeezed Germany and its neighbors, to finance his anti-Russian global war showdown.

These are still the good old days.



John Leonard is the owner of Progressive Press, publishers of books including Webster Griffin Tarpley’s “The Unauthorized Biography of George Bush” and “9/11 Synthetic Terror: Made in USA”.



Banks Brace for Storm of Litigation Banks from p. 4

actually a federal agency, and it has the option of taking a bank’s stock in return for bailing it out, effectively nationalizing it. This is done in Europe with bankrupt banks, and it was done in the United States with Continental Illinois, the country’s fourth largest bank, when it went bankrupt in the 1990s.

A system of truly “national” banks could issue “the full faith and credit of the United States” for public purposes, including funding infrastructure, sustainable energy development and health care. Publicly-issued credit could also be used to relieve the subprime crisis. Local governments could use it to buy up mortgages in default, compensating the MBS investors and freeing the real estate for public disposal. The properties could then be rented back to their occupants at reasonable rates, leaving people in their homes without the windfall of acquiring a house without paying for it. A program of lease-purchase might also be instituted. The proceeds would be applied toward repaying the credit advanced to buy the mortgages, balancing the money supply and preventing inflation.

Local and Private Solutions

While we are waiting for the federal government to act, there are also private and local possibilities for relieving the subprime crisis. Chris Cook is a British strategic market consultant and the former Compliance Director for the International Petroleum Exchange. He recommends getting all the parties to settle by forming a pool constituted as an LLC (limited liability company), in a partnership framework that brings together occupiers and financiers as co-owners under a neutral custodian. The original owners would pay an affordable rental, and the resulting pool of rentals would be “unitized” (divided into unit interests, similar to a REIT or real estate investment trust). Among other advantages over the usual mortgage-backed security, there would be no loans at interest, since the property would be owned outright by the LLC. Eliminating interest substantially reduces costs. The former owners would be able to occupy the property at an affordable rental, with the option to buy an equity stake in it. For the banks, the advantage would be that they would be able to find investors again, since the risk would have been taken out of the investment by insuring full occupancy at affordable rates; and for the investors, the advantage would be a secure investment with a dependable return.

Carolyn Betts is an Ohio attorney who served in Washington as issuer’s counsel for MBS trusts formed by various federal governmental entities, and represented Resolution Trust Corporation in its auction of defaulted commercial mortgage loans during the last real estate crisis. She proposes a squeeze play by the states, in the style of that brought against the tobacco companies by a consortium of state attorneys general in the 1990s. She notes that at the end of 2007, at least 20% of the funds held by the Ohio Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) were in mortgage-backed securities and similar investments. That makes Ohio public money a major investor in these mortgage-related securities. Ohio governments have an interest in not having homes foreclosed upon, since foreclosures destroy local real estate markets, contribute to lower tax revenues and losses on PERS investments, and cause a strain on state and local affordable housing systems. A coordinated series of actions brought by state attorneys general could eliminate the culpable banker middlemen and return the properties to local ownership and control.

Andrew Jackson reportedly told Congress in 1829, “If the American people only understood the rank injustice of our money and banking system, there would be a revolution before morning.” A wave of private actions, class actions and government lawsuits aimed at redressing injurious banking practices could spark a revolution in banking, returning the power to advance “the full faith and credit of the United States” to the United States, and returning community assets to local ownership and control.



Ellen Brown, J.D., developed her research skills as an attorney practicing civil litigation in Los Angeles. In Web of Debt, her latest book, she turns those skills to an analysis of the Federal Reserve and “the money



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FISA Compromise Violates Fourth Amendment

FISA from p. 1

In fact, the debate over the spy bill is a red herring, clouding the larger central (purposely unaddressed) issue: the “war on terrorism” lie itself.

The mass murder of 9/11 was a false flag operation, orchestrated and executed by the Bush administration. The “war on terrorism” is a perpetual covert operation, an endless pretext for war and murder, supported by a bipartisan consensus. (See “Who is Osama bin Laden?” and “Al-Qaeda:the database.”) No 9/11, no “war on terrorism,” no war in the Middle East. No “war on terrorism” lie, no dictatorial powers for the White House, and no befeed-up FISA.

Given that the “war on terrorism” is a lie, the need for unprecedented spying is also a lie. Just as 9/11 remains the endless pretext for endless war and terrorism, it also remains, in its countless propaganda manifestations, the justification for open totalitarian rule of force and intimidation within US borders.

The totalitarian criminal agenda is fully endorsed by neoliberal Democrats, including Barack Obama. According to the Obama campaign, “Senator Obama has said before that the compromise bill is not perfect. Given the choice between voting for an improved yet imperfect bill, and losing important surveillance tools, Senator Obama chose to support the FISA compromise.”

The pro-surveillance Democrats, led by Senator Jay Rockefeller and Obama are repeating asinine lies, and groundless excuses.

In calling criminal spying and covert operations “important surveillance tools,” Obama is showing his truest colors. Obama, whose politics and rhetoric have been consistently in line with the Bush-Cheney agenda on all of the most telling issues (war in Afghanistan, war on Iran, “terrorism,” “homeland security,” globalization, and most recently, other right-wing positions), is a smooth-talking and appealing front for the Bush-Cheney status quo. Obama and McCain, like Bush-Cheney, will continue to push the endless “war on terrorism” lie, and embrace every single criminal act conducted in the name of this propaganda construct.

All “homeland security”/Big Brother measures such as FISA, in any form, provides political cover for the US government to engage in criminal activity. Any politician, be it Bush-Cheney or Obama, who approve of any sort of “surveillance” is guilty of committing a criminal act, and of raping the Constitution along the way.

Cynical posturing and election-year flatulence from Obama’s legion of defenders and fans cannot hide what has happened, or who is responsible. The rape of the US Constitution is so overt and so egregious that it has set off a wave of outrage and backlash, spawning unusual new grassroots coalitions.

Clearly, however, the powers that be, including the Obama camp, has casually dismissed this relatively small portion of the US public out of its election-year calculations, regardless of how stridently they organize, blog, blow whistles or file law suits.

Senator Russ Feingold (whose own record on opposing the Bush administration is less than stellar) warned that the FISA revision “could mean millions upon millions of communications between innocent Americans and their friends, families or business associates overseas could now be legally collected.”

It means much more than Feingold states, and it has for many years — perhaps decades.

Returning again to the exposé by whistleblower Mark Klein, his detailed and stomach-turning exposé, which includes materials from the key court cases, exposes the fact that the NSA began breaking into local telephone circuits in 2001. As pointed out by Robert Parry, the current program may have been in place before 2001.

In other words, the spying program never had anything to do with international “terrorists”, and everything to do with a larger police state agenda, including the power to identify, designate

and destroy individuals whose opinions run counter to those of whichever Big Brother is “in charge.” This is a long-planned program that 9/11 allowed to push to full fruition.

It is a well-documented fact that the US government’s spying capabilities are overwhelming, and that continuous illegal surveillance has always trumped congressional oversight, and the law itself. Obviously, the light reigning-in of criminal covert operations in the post-Watergate 1970s has been completely undone in the decades since.

Investigators such as former NSA operative James Bamford (author of the expose of the NSA, *Body of Secrets*) and Mike Ruppert’s *Crossing the Rubicon: The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil* have thoroughly detailed the pervasiveness and effectiveness of a wide range of spying and intelligence programs used by intelligence and law enforcement agencies. These include Echelon and PROMIS, which are used by operatives in criminal fashion, as ordered by high-level officials, specifically to get around all oversight.

Completely unaddressed throughout the years of noise over spying and FISA, the Total Information Awareness Program (formerly known as DARPA, and spearheaded by Iran-Contra participant John Poindexter) has found new life as the IARPA program.

Nobody is talking about IARPA. Nobody will.

The George W. Bush administration seized the White House in 2000 by way of an openly stolen election, then cemented its criminal power into place with the unprecedented 9/11 mass murder, and its two resulting abominations: the fabricated “war on terrorism” (the pretext for endless global war), and the USA Patriot Act (the full-scale destruction of the Constitution, and the militarization of the US homeland).

These continuing atrocities were the works of a bipartisan “war on terrorism” consensus, a full partnership at the top echelons, whose overriding agenda is the survival of the criminal racket known as the Anglo-American empire.

The deepening of the war and security state has continued unabated. Under a US Congress with a Democratic Party majority, nothing has been done to stop, reverse or undo the world war, boundless US government criminality, open corruption, or the absolute and systematic rape of law itself. Now, particularly with a looming US presidential election, leading members of both political parties have shown their true colors: as flagrant proponents of military-intelligence/“homeland security”, and enthusiastic destroyers of the Constitution.

In *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, Victor Marchetti and John Marks wrote in 1974:

“The clandestine mentality is a mind-set that thrives on secrecy and deception. It encourages professional amorality — the belief that righteous goals can be achieved through the use of unprincipled and normally unacceptable means....”

Today, exemplified by actions of the bipartisan US consensus, assisted by an acquiescent and dumbed-down populace, the clandestine mentality is not clandestine. “Professional amorality” is the norm — celebrated openly, and opposed by few.

In other words, your life and all of your communications — from your emails, your web searches, medical records, and financial information, to your reading this article and clicking this web site — has been “hoovered up” by the US government’s spying machine, to be used against you at some future time, if the powers that be so choose.

If 9/11, the Patriot Act, and the relentless destruction of law since 2000 have not already made it abundantly clear; a “Homeland Security” police state within US borders, courtesy of the spy bill, is now complete. Not even the trappings of a democracy remain.

 Larry Chin is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

Coffee, Tea or Electric Shock?

Company Develops Stun Bracelet for Airline Passengers



What's this, some future airline passengers being subdued by electronic pain collars? Captain Kirk and crew being zapped into compliance in the Star Trek episode “Gamesers of Triskelion”.

Shock from p. 1

in open area environments by a small number of agents of Law Enforcement Officers. We see the potential uses to include prisoner transportation, detainee control and the military security forces might have some interest. In addition, it is conceivable to envision a use to improve air security, on passenger planes.”

Lampered Less Lethal has a promotional video on their website (www.lamperdlesslethal.com) touting their stun bracelet and its use on passenger airlines. The Electronic ID Bracelet, according to the video, would be worn by every traveler “until they disembark the flight at their destination.” Every airline passenger would be tracked by a government-funded GPS, containing personal, private and confidential information, and would shock them if they got out of line. The Electronic ID uses Electro-Muscular Disruption (EMD) technology which can completely immobilize the wearer for several minutes.

The bracelet would be worn by all airline passengers and would:

- Take the place of an airline boarding pass
- Contain personal information about the traveler
- Be able to monitor the whereabouts of each passenger and his/her luggage
- Shock the wearer on command, completely immobilizing him/her for several minutes

Would every passenger flying on a commercial airplane have to wear one of these devices? Small children? The elderly?

Lamperd Less Lethal Inc., the Canadian company that offers the EMD Safety Bracelet, has responded to the controversy on *The Washington Times* website with the following:

“We wish to clear up any misconceptions regarding the EMD Safety Bracelet for Airline Security. The bracelets remain inactive until a hijacking situation has been identified. At such time a designated crew member will activate the bracelets making them capable of delivering the punitive measure - but only to those that need to be restrained. We believe that all passengers will welcome deliverance from a hijacking, as will the families, carriers, insurance providers etc. The F-16 on the wing-tip is not to reassure the passengers during a hijacking, but rather to shoot them down. Besides activation using the grid screen, the steward/stewardess will have a laser activator that can activate any bracelet as needed by simply pointing the laser at the bracelet - that laser dot only needs to be within 10 inches of the bracelet to activate it.”

The Lamperd website goes further with this disclaimer: “We wish to clear up any misconceptions regarding the EMD Safety Bracelet for Airline Security. First, Lamperd is not the inventor, we are just the contractor to research and develop this product if the funding becomes available. Secondly, the video was not produced by Lamperd, nor did Lamperd have anything to do with its production.”



Elaine Sullivan is the Health Editor at the Rock Creek Free Press in Washington, DC.



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140 Federal and State Attorneys Could Prosecute Bush

MIAMI - (Sherwood Ross) - President Bush “beyond all reasonable doubt” is responsible for all the murders of American troops killed in Iraq and could be prosecuted by any of 140 Federal and State legal authorities, according to famed prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi.

Bugliosi said the president is guilty of “the most serious crime ever committed in American history...knowingly and deliberately taking this country to war in Iraq under false pretenses,” killing 4,000 GIs, seriously wounding 30,000 more, and killing 100,000 Iraqis in the process.

While a federal prosecution by the US Attorney General in Washington, or any of the 93 US attorneys throughout the country “would be the easiest procedure,” Bugliosi says, any of the 50 State attorneys-general also “could bring a murder charge against Bush for any soldiers from that state...who lost their lives fighting Bush’s war.”

Budget Deficit Twice as Big as Last Year's

WASHINGTON - (Jeannine Aversa/AP) - The Treasury Department says the federal deficit swelled to \$268.7 billion in the first nine months of this budget year as record spending outpaced revenue. The department’s look at the government’s balance sheets, released July 11, 2008, shows that the deficit for the budget year that began October 1 was up sharply from the deficit of nearly \$121 billion for the corresponding period last year.

A flood of tax rebates left the government’s coffers and contributed to the bigger deficit, according to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office. Spending totaled \$2.2 trillion, while revenue came to \$1.93 trillion.

The Bush administration estimated in February that the deficit for this year would be \$410 billion. Some private economists think that this year’s budget deficit will turn out to be higher than expected as an economic slowdown has cut into tax revenue.

Spending of \$2.2 trillion so far this year is up from \$2.1 trillion reported for the corresponding period last year. Meanwhile, revenue of \$1.93 trillion is down from \$1.945 trillion a year ago.

Election Fraud and Tyranny

WASHINGTON, DC - (Michael Collins/“Scoop” Independent News) - Mark Crispin Miller’s new book, *Loser Take All: Election Fraud and The Subversion of Democracy, 2000 - 2008*, identifies and analyzes election fraud, the foundation of extremist power in the United States since 2000. Manipulated elections have enabled everything we’ve experienced from the Iraq war to the current economic meltdown. None of that would have been possible without the ongoing series of “surprise” wins for extremists and their enablers following the outright theft of the 2000 presidential election.

Miller illustrates his overarching analysis with a collection of carefully chosen essays. They map the rise of what key figures on the right and left refer to as tyrannical rule by the Bush-Cheney administration. Through a sequence of critical elections from 2000 on, Miller shows the particular outrages in each that enabled the retention and expansion of power. In doing so, he defines the basis for our current troubles. In addition, we’re given predictions of anticipated problems in 2008.

Gardasil Vaccine Linked to Serious Side-Effects

ATLANTA - Almost 8,000 US recipients of the vaccine used to protect against cervical cancer have reported adverse reactions, ranging from pain at the injection site to serious side-effects including death, says the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The vaccine is supposed to boost the immune system so that it effectively fights off four types of human papillomavirus, the most prevalent STD in modern society.

A total of 7,802 people who received Gardasil, made by Merck and Co. Inc., have reported adverse events to the CDC’s Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) between June 8, 2006, and April 30, 2008. The US distributed 2.2 million doses of the vaccine in 2006 and 11.3 million in 2007.

Fifteen deaths were reported, with 10 of these containing the level of information required for further analysis, according to the CDC. “After careful review of those reports, we could not establish the causal relationship between vaccination and death,” reads the VAERS report.

According to *U.S. News & World Report* there have been other possible adverse side effects linked to Gardasil and the *New York Post* reports that Gardasil has been associated with medical problems, such as, debilitating headaches, fainting spells, and arthritis-like stiffness. Despite the adverse reactions emerging in girls, Merck is collecting data to “consider whether boys should receive the inoculation as well.”

Raw Broccoli, Cabbage Slash Bladder Cancer Risk

BUFFALO - Researchers from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo have discovered eating as little as three small servings of raw cruciferous vegetables per month can decrease the risk of developing bladder cancer by an astonishing 40 percent. The study is only one of several that have recently added to the evidence that raw fruits and vegetables dramatically lower cancer risk.

In a study of the dietary habits of 1,100 people, 275 of whom had bladder cancer. Researchers found that those who ate three or more servings of raw cruciferous vegetables each month had a 40 percent lower risk of developing bladder cancer. Cruciferous vegetables includes not only cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower, but also arugula, Brussels sprouts, collard greens, daikon, garden cress, horseradish, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, radish, rape (canola), rapini, rutabaga, tatsoi, turnip, wasabi and watercress.

Heat and irradiation destroys these plant-based medicines. Microwaving broccoli destroys up to 98% of its phytonutrients, including its anti-cancer nutrients.

The FDA, curiously, wants to pass regulations that would irradiate the national food supply without any requirement whatsoever that such treatment be mentioned on the label of irradiated foods.

Terrorist Watch List Hits One Million Names

WASHINGTON - The nation’s terrorist watch list has hit one million names, according to a tally maintained by the ACLU based upon the government’s own reported numbers for the size of the list.

“America’s new million record watch list is a perfect symbol for what’s wrong with this administration’s approach to security: it’s unfair, out-of-control, a waste of resources, treats the rights of the innocent as an afterthought, and is a very real impediment in the lives of millions of travelers in this country,” said Barry Steinhardt, director of the ACLU Technology and Liberty Program. “It must be fixed without delay.”

Controls on the watch lists called for by the ACLU included:

- * Due process.
 - * A right to access and challenge data upon which listing is based.
 - * Tight criteria for adding names to the lists.
 - * Rigorous procedures for updating and cleansing names from the lists.
- Many journalists, peace activists and civil right attorneys have complained that they have been placed on the TSA watch lists in apparent retaliation for their constitutionally protected activities.



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