

Rock Creek Free Press

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Obama, Afghanistan and that Infernal Drip

By RUSS BAKER / WHOWHATWHY.COM

It is impossible to overestimate the significance of leaks from the military to the media, particularly to Bob Woodward and his paper, *The Washington Post*. Quite a few of these have dogged President Obama and forced his hand since he took office. Now comes yet another leak to *The Post*, this time *en masse*, that should not be taken at face value. That is, it is not the purported news being conveyed, but the very fact that it is being conveyed, the nature of the sources conveying it, and the intended result. The article begins:

“An intense military campaign aimed at crippling the Taliban has so far failed to inflict more than fleeting setbacks on the insurgency or put meaningful pressure on its leaders to seek peace, according to US military and intelligence officials citing the latest assessments of the war in Afghanistan.... Officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.”

Few will stop to wonder that most basic of things: Why would these officials be telling *The Post* this? Would they really just, on their own,

See LEAKS p. 7

Then They Came for Me

By ROBERT C. KOEHLER

Speaking out a year ago against the idea of holding civilian trials for terrorism suspects, Liz Cheney captured the paranoid arrogance of the past decade with stunning efficiency:

“This demonstrates conclusively that we are going back to a pre-9/11 mentality,” she said.

Oh the horror! Fair trials, rule of law, *habeas corpus*, Miranda rights, blah, blah, blah — remember what a nuisance our justice system used to be before Liz’s father and the rest of the neo-con High Nooniacs made us safe by hustling us off to a police state and perpetual war?

I can’t help but think about the younger Cheney’s comment — and the fear it implies, not of terrorists but of liberals — in connection with the lawsuit that a recently freed Guantanamo detainee, Abdul Razak al-Janko, has filed in US Federal Court against Robert Gates, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, and about a hundred other current and former military and government officials.

See THEY CAME p. 8

Yemeni Prime Minister: al Qaeda in Yemen is “Western-made”

TREND NEWS AZERBAIJAN

Yemeni Prime Minister Ali Muhammed al-Mujawar said November 6 that al Qaeda was originally a Western-made group and was never created by his country, *Xinhua* reported, according to the state-run Saba news agency.

The prime minister’s remarks were made during a meeting in the capital, Sanaa, with ambassadors of Asian and African countries to Yemen to clarify Yemen’s stance against those who propagated negative impacts on Yemen over the bomb parcels shipped to the United States October 29.

“Al Qaeda was essentially a Western-made group and was never created by Yemen, it is alleged, by those who seek to propagate this view internationally about Yemen,” Saba quoted Mujawar as saying.

The Yemen-based al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) on October 29 claimed

See YEMEN p. 4

Mystery Missile Launch Off CA Coast

A missile launch 35 miles off the coast of Los Angeles on November 8 was seen by thousands and was filmed by TV news helicopters. Independent experts all agree it was a missile but the military says it was “likely” not a missile, and, even if it was, it wasn’t one of ours.



Chinese Show of Force

By WAYNE MADSEN / WAYNE MADSEN REPORT

China flexed its military muscle November 8 in the skies west of Los Angeles when a Chinese Navy Jin class ballistic missile nuclear submarine, deployed secretly from its underground home base on the south coast of Hainan Island, launched an intercontinental ballistic missile from international waters off the southern California coast. WMR’s intelligence sources in Asia, including Japan, say the military commands in Asia and the intelligence services believe that the Chinese decided to demonstrate to the United States its capabilities on the eve of the G-20 Summit in

See MISSILE p. 4

Bush War Crimes Diary Released

On Bush’s Waterboarding Claims, Media Loses Its Moral Compass

By ANDY WORTHINGTON / THE PUBLIC RECORD

The mainstream media likes to claim that it has high journalistic standards, but when the opportunity for a sensational headline turns up, those principles are often abandoned. A recent example of this was the hysterical response to the supposed swine flu epidemic last year, and a new example — central to my work and that of many others chipping away at the enduring lies of the “War on Terror” — is currently sweeping the UK.

Led by *The Times* (UK), whose November 8 headline read, “George W. Bush: waterboarding saved London from attacks,” newspapers and

broadcasters have uncritically parroted the former US President’s claims, failing to mention that waterboarding is torture, and that torture is a crime, for which Bush can and should be prosecuted, and also failing to mention the lack of evidence for his claim that the use of waterboarding saved London from any planned terrorist attacks.

All of these problems are highlighted in *The Times’* front-page article, whose first few paragraphs are available online (the rest is hidden behind Rupert Murdoch’s unpopular firewall). Reporter Ben Macintyre, observing the protocol that, since 9/11, has led to the mainstream media refusing to recognize

waterboarding as an ancient torture technique — whose use in the Vietnam War, for example led to the prosecution of the US military officer involved — described how Bush “offered a vigorous defence of the coercive interrogation technique,” to which three supposed “high-value detainees” — Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Abu Zubaydah and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri — were subjected, and “denied that waterboarding, which simulates drowning, amounted to torture.”

“Coercive interrogation technique” is, of course, Bush-speak for “torture,” and is all

See DIARY p. 7

Gulf Oil Spill Nightmare Continues

Riki Ott: ‘People Now Dropping Dead’ In the Gulf

By SHEPARD AMBELLAS / THE INTEL HUB

On the sixth month anniversary of the oil disaster in the Gulf, we are still witnessing a complete media blackout.

The people, particularly in Grand Isle, Louisiana have been poisoned by tyrants who care more about their pocketbooks than human life or mother earth.

According to Dr. Riki Ott, PhD, marine toxicologist and Exxon Valdez survivor:

“The people that did evacuate (the Gulf) are glad they did — and for good reason!”

“I am dealing with about 3-4 autopsies right now... I know of people whose esophaguses are dissolving, disintegrating... I know of people with 4.75% of their lung capacity, with enlarged hearts... All of these people have oil in their bodies.”

The Gulf oil spill “clean up” is admittedly a Department of Defense operation, as reported on by the *Army Times* and the Intel Hub.

Multiple military and Coast Guard, C-130’s, along with various types of Evergreen Air aircraft and boats, have been used to carry out the spraying operation in and around the region. It has been well documented that over 42 million gallons of toxic dispersants have been sprayed into the Gulf of Mexico, including near beaches, population centers, people, and boats.

Boats equipped to spray have also been spotted and well documented by journalists, such as Dahr Jamal. There have been reports of out-of-state contractors and military conducting spraying operations throughout the region.

Reports are also circulating of deaths, along with people finding Volatile Organic Compounds

and other toxins in their bloodstream. The reports also include dizziness, sore throats and trouble breathing — all symptoms of chemical exposure.

Unfortunately, the region’s economy has been devastated, with the fishing industry being the hardest hit. People have lost their medical insurance and more, as they are overwhelmed with financial and toxic doom.

Groups such as Project Gulf Impact and even some law firms are extending a helping hand to people in need.

One of the most unreported cases of murder, corruption, and poisoning is taking place right here on American soil, while the sleeping masses escape reality due to corporate media control.

TheIntelHub.com

False-Flag Attacks a Key Part of US Foreign Policy

By SAMAN MOHAMMADI / THE EXCAVATOR

In September of this year, a retired Turkish general named Sabri Yirmibeshoglu admitted on Turkish television that the Turkish government carried out false-flag attacks on the island of Cyprus in the 1960s in order to instill feelings of hatred and revenge in Turkish Cypriots against the Cyprus government. The false-flag operations successfully destabilized the island, and helped Turkey’s military objectives.

Yirmibeshoglu’s admission was significant,

as he was formerly a Secretary-General of the Turkish National Security Council (MGK), and the chief of Turkey’s Special Warfare Department. For more details, read Elias Hazou’s report, which was filed on September 24, 2010, for the *Cyprus Mail*:

“Created in 1953 as part of the Turkish secret service, the Special Warfare Department is believed by commentators in Turkey to be the executive branch of the so-called ‘deep state.’ “In order to increase the resistance of the people, you carry out sabotage against certain values, in order to create the impression that

it is the enemy who did it. In Cyprus, we had torched a mosque,” Yirmibeshoglu said in an interview, while describing methods used in unconventional warfare. (“Turkey carried out false-flag attacks in Cyprus in 1960s, says Turkish General, Elias Hazou”, *Cyprus Mail*; Sept. 24, 2010).

Yirmibeshoglu was named by Ahmet Özal as one of the suspects involved in the assassination attempt of his father, Turgut Özal, in 1988. Özal later died in 1993 due to a heart attack, but his family asserts that he was

See FALSE FLAG p. 2

The Fed and the Debased “Imperial Dollar”: Inflation, Stagnation and Higher Interest Rates Ahead

By PROF. RODRIGUE TREMBLAY / GLOBAL RESEARCH

On November 3, the Bernanke Fed announced that it stands ready to resume money printing to stimulate the economy through quantitative money easing, a euphemism for printing more dollars. Indeed, it intends to buy \$600-billion of longer-term Treasury securities until the end of the second quarter of 2011, plus some \$300 billion of reinvestments, on top of the some \$1.75 trillion of various types of securities, many of which were mortgage-backed securities, that it

has added in 2009 to its balance sheet, currently standing at a total of \$2.3 trillion. There could even be additional increases in newly printed

“Under a paper money system, a determined government can always generate higher spending and hence positive inflation.”

Ben Bernanke, future Fed Chairman (in 2002)

money as the Fed intends to “regularly review and adjust the program as needed to best foster

maximum employment and price stability.”

After the election of fiscal conservatives on November 2, it seems that printing money is the only instrument left for the Obama administration to stimulate the economy. I fail to see, however, what is “conservative” about that. Actively debasing a currency to stimulate an economy used to be a Third-World economic recipe — a recipe for disaster. Now, the United States government feels that is the

See DEBASED p. 4

ForeclosureGate Could Force Bank Nationalization

By ELLEN BROWN / WEBOFDEBT.COM

For two years, politicians have danced around the nationalization issue, but ForeclosureGate may be the last straw. The megabanks are too big to fail, but they aren’t too big to reorganize as federal institutions serving the public interest.

In January 2009, only a week into Obama’s presidency, David Sanger reported in *The New York Times* that nationalizing the banks was being discussed. Privately, the Obama economic team was conceding that more taxpayer money was going to be needed to shore up the banks. When asked whether nationalization was a good idea, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi replied:

“Well, whatever you want to call it.... If we are strengthening them [the banks], then the American people should get some of the upside of that strengthening. Some people call that nationalization.

“I’m not talking about total ownership,”
See NATIONALIZATION p. 7

Chomsky a Truther?



Noam Chomsky

By RCFP STAFF

Has renowned scholar Noam Chomsky become a 9/11 truther? Not quite, but he has moved in that direction. The MIT professor has been famously hostile to the 911 Truth movement in the past and has taken some criticism for dismissing the question of what happened on 9/11 as “unimportant.”

In a recent interview, Chomsky says the US invasion of Afghanistan was illegal since, to date, there is no evidence that al Qaeda carried out the 9/11 attacks.

“The explicit and declared motive of the [Afghanistan] war was to compel the Taliban to turn over to the United States the people who they accused of having been involved in the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist acts. The Taliban...they requested evidence...and the Bush administration refused to provide any,” the 81-year-old senior academic said November 3, 2010 on Press TV’s program “A Simple Question”.

“We later discovered one of the reasons why they did not bring evidence: they did not have any.”

The professor also said that nonexistence of such evidence was confirmed by the FBI eight months later.

“The head of the FBI, after the most intense international investigation in history, informed the press that the FBI believed that the plot may have been hatched in Afghanistan, but was probably implemented in the United Arab Emirates and Germany.”

Chomsky added that, three weeks into the war, “a British officer announced that the US and Britain would continue bombing until the people of Afghanistan overthrew the Taliban... That was later turned into the official justification for the war.”

“All of this was totally illegal. It was more, criminal,” Chomsky said. □

Paying To Be Raped Horrors of the TSA

By SIBEL EDMONDS / BOILINGFROGSPOST

Every single day millions of us are being subjected to the shameful processes of being searched, screened and viewed naked, patted, groped, fondled, poked and stroked by badge-wearing strangers — police under a different name. Every single day. Millions of us, Americans. Being

See HORRORS p. 2

INSIDE

Health p. 2
Paul Craig Roberts p. 3
Papers for Prisoners p. 3
JFK Assassination p. 5
Book Review p. 6
History’s Lessons p. 6
News Bites p. 8

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A Historical Perspective - Extensive Study Suggests Cancer Is A Man-made Disease

By LOUIS LAZARIS / NATURALNEWS

In support of the long-time claims of many natural health advocates, a recent study strongly suggests that cancer is a man-made disease. The study was conducted at Manchester's KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology, and it investigated remains and literature from ancient Egypt and Greece.

The study, published in the October issue of the journal *Nature Reviews Cancer*, involved the examination of hundreds of Egyptian mummies and ancient literature. Only one case of the disease was discovered among the mummies, and there are few references to it in the literary evidence.



Mummies like this were used to research the history of cancer.

Rosalie David, a researcher at England's University of Manchester, said in a statement: "In industrialized societies, cancer is second only to cardiovascular disease as a cause of death. But in ancient times, it was

extremely rare. There is nothing in the natural environment that can cause cancer. So it has to be a man-made disease, due to pollution and changes to our diet and lifestyle."

David further discussed the importance of these findings, stating: "The history of this disorder has the potential to improve our understanding of disease prevention, aetiology, pathogenesis and treatment." The term "aetiology" refers to the study of the causes of diseases, and "pathogenesis" refers to how a disease was developed.

The time period covered by the study involved "millennia", David said, pointing out that "masses of data" were considered. This gives researchers a full overview of the effects of cancer in those time periods, allowing any ongoing study of the disease to have a significant historical perspective.

The only case of cancer discovered among the mummies was a case of rectal cancer in an unnamed mummy, which was an "ordinary person" who had lived during the Ptolemaic period (200 - 400 CE). This single discovery is the first

ever histological diagnosis of Egyptian cancer and was carried out by Michael Zimmerman, a visiting professor at the KNH Centre.

The rarity of cancer in the mummies strongly suggests the disease was rare in that time period. Zimmerman stated that "cancer-causing factors are limited to societies affected by modern industrialization." He further explained: "In an ancient society lacking surgical intervention, evidence of cancer should remain in



Mummies, preserved for thousands of years, show only rare instances of cancer.

all cases."

The ancient literature that was examined does not contain references to cancer until the 17th century, with reports on distinctive tumors occurring only in the past 200 years. These later references include reports of scrotal cancer in chimney sweepers in 1775, nasal cancer in snuff users in 1761, and Hodgkin's disease in 1832.

Sources:
<http://www.livescience.com/health/c...>
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3968703...>
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<http://www.nature.com/nrcj/journal/v...>

Louis Lazaris is a website designer and the owner of Natural-Life.ca, a directory that provides free business listings for natural health practitioners, organic food stores, organic farms, and organic & vegetarian restaurants in major North American cities like Toronto and New York City.

Paying To Be Raped

Horrors of the TSA

HORRORS from p. 1

violated. Being degraded. You know exactly what I am talking about. I am taking about me, you, your mother, her brother, his brother's wife and toddler son, their grandmothers. I am talking about the systematic degradation of our people. I am talking about being raped of our dignity, privacy, and decency. I am talking about a daily systematic rape we actually pay to be subjected to. I am talking about severe violations we elect people to bring upon us. Yes, I am talking about traveling, TSA police, and being reduced to naked and helpless subjects of government police practices.

Considering its short tenure, the motherland police force, aka Department of Homeland Security, has had a one of a kind success. In less than a decade it is now the third largest cabinet police department. It has around 200,000 employees, and that's without counting contract employees – which exceed this number. Now remember, we still have the FBI, CIA, NSA, DIA...plus all the other state and local police forces from before. TSA makes up over 60,000 of DHS employees. This 60,000 federal police force oversees 450 airports, so that makes it around 133 police per airport. And that's in addition to local airport police.

What do I mean by not so gradual and systematic degradation? I mean in less than ten years, they went from this:



And now to this,



this,



this,



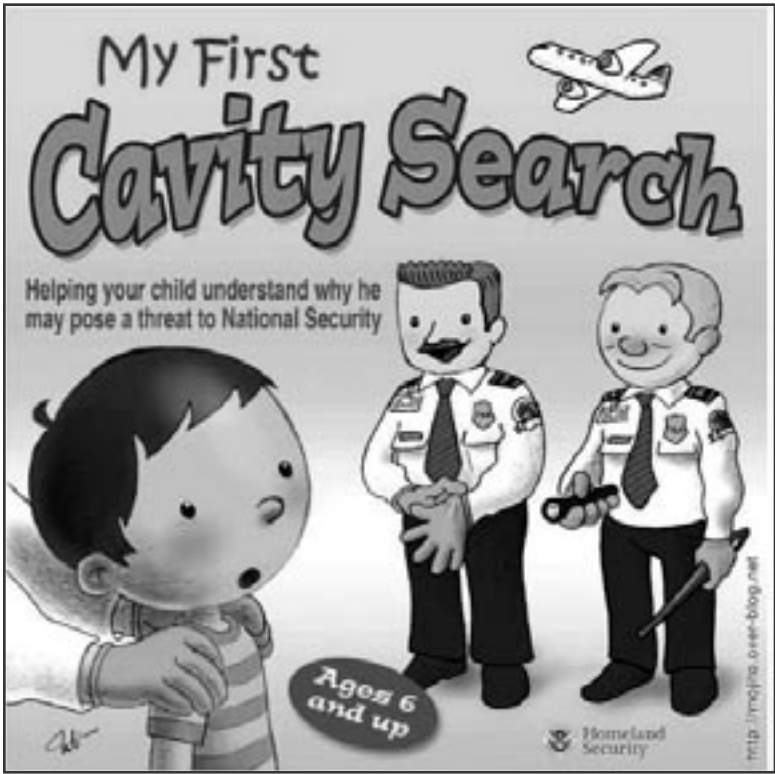
and now all of them together.

Next, coming soon, very soon, it will be this:



Last week TSA announced that airline passengers should expect to see and feel additional pat-down procedures at U.S. airports over the coming weeks to provide another layer of security. They said passengers should continue to expect "an unpredictable mix of security layers that include explosives trace detection, advanced imaging technology, canine teams, among others."

The following blurb comes from CNN, thanks to one of its employees who chose to speak up a little, only a little:



Rosemary Fitzpatrick, a CNN employee, said she was subjected to a pat-down at the Orlando, Florida, airport on Wednesday night after her underwear bra set off a magnetometer. She said she was taken to a private area and searched, with transportation screening officers telling her the pat-down was a new procedure.

According to Fitzpatrick, a female screener ran her hands around her breasts, over her stomach, buttocks and her inner thighs, and briefly touched her crotch. "I felt helpless, I felt violated, and I felt humiliated," Fitzpatrick said, adding that she was reduced to tears at the checkpoint. She particularly objected to the fact that travelers were not warned about the new procedures.

Okay, up to this point I was pleasantly surprised to see this piece being run by a mainstream outlet, and the fact that this woman didn't take the rape in silence and go away the way most do when it comes to these government sanctioned and implemented systematic rapes, but then I reached the following:

"I am appalled and disgusted at the new search procedures and the fact that passengers have not been made aware of the new invasive steps prior to entering the security area," Fitzpatrick wrote. "It appears once you enter the security area, passengers forfeit their rights. There were no signs, video information, etc. at the entrance of the security area at the airport. Why?"

She added: "As an experienced traveler for work who was in tears for most of the search process, I have never experienced a more traumatic and invasive travel event!"

First, let me give her due credit for saying out loud that she objected and felt: helpless, violated, humiliated, appalled and disgusted. But after that, it is my turn to be appalled. Is the process supposed to get less humiliating, appalling, traumatic, and disgusting if the violators give prior notice about the violations, the rapes, to come???? Please walk with me through the following reasoning:

Two rapists are brought before a judge. One had caught his victim by surprise through a blitz attack, then violently raped her. The other had stalked his victim for a while, sent her some disturbing warning notes, and then violently raped her. Victim one turns around and tells victim two: Why do you feel violated?! Your rapist gave you the courtesy of warning notes – and that makes his rape much less of an offense than my rapist!!

My question to CNN's Fitzpatrick is this: Next time, when these people squeeze your breast, poke your buttocks and stomach, and grab your crotch, will you feel okay? Far less violated? All because now you know what to expect?!

After reading the piece I quickly scanned other news sites, both mainstream and alternative. Almost all of them picked up the story and reported it per the original, and the strongest cursory comment at one site was that the story and Fitzpatrick's experience was 'unsettling.' Wow! How hard-hitting! But that was not what I found, and find, so very 'unsettling.' Not at all.

What I find truly unsettling is that

we only have a handful like Fitzpatrick who come forward screaming about the horrifying, humiliating, violating, traumatic ...nature of these federal police practices (abuses) in all our airports. Now that is truly unsettling, shocking, and appalling as far as I am concerned. Millions are going through these routine rape processes (Yes, RAPE: raping you of your dignity, privacy, humanity, and more. Ok?!) without a peep. What is going on here? Have 'their' systematic humiliation and degradation practices been so successful that millions take it regularly without any protest, objection, action, counteraction?

Sibel Edmonds is a Turkish-American former FBI translator and founder of the National Security Whistleblowers Coalition (NSWBC).

Pilots Association Urges Airline Pilots to Opt Out of TSA Naked Body Scanners

By MIKE ADAMS / NATURALNEWS.COM

In yet another significant blow to the TSA's naked body scanners, the president of the Allied Pilots Association (APA) issued a letter urging all pilots to opt out of the naked body scanners, also known as Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT).

"Backscatter AIT devices now being deployed produce ionizing radiation, which could be harmful to your health," wrote Allied Pilots Association president Dave Bates. He then went on to add:

"We are exposed to radiation every day on the job. For example, a typical Atlantic crossing during a solar flare can expose a pilot to radiation equivalent to 100 chest X-rays per hour. Requiring pilots to go through the AIT [naked body scanner] means additional radiation exposure. I share our pilots' concerns about this additional radiation exposure and plan to recommend that our pilots refrain from going through the AIT. We already experience significantly higher radiation exposure than most other occupations, and there is mounting evidence of higher-than-average cancer rates as a consequence."

He goes on to call for airline pilots to be exempted from security screening.

Air travelers get the same radiation Fortunately, more and more people are now opting out of the naked body scans. Sure, they get felt up by TSA agents who grope their crotches, breasts and buttocks, but at least they don't get subjected to yet another dose of ionizing radiation that can contribute to skin cancer.

Don't you find it fascinating, by the way, that the US government tells everybody to avoid tanning salons because they claim "UV radiation promotes skin cancer," yet when it comes to airport security, they want to subject you to a far more harmful wavelength of radiation "for your safety"? (X-Rays are far more harmful than ultraviolet light.)

I guess radiation is all okay as long as it serves the police state interests of the federal government.

For the complete story go to NaturalNews.com

False-Flag Attacks a Key Part of US Foreign Policy

FALSE FLAG from p. 1

killed as a result of a poison injection by the same individuals within the Turkish deep-state who failed to kill him in 1988. Özal served as Turkey's Prime Minister from 1983 to 1989 and as President from 1989 to 1993.

An article published in Istanbul's *Today's Zaman* on September 30, 2010 called "Özal's death should also be investigated, says Ahmet Özal," has the details on this intriguing drama which shares many comparisons with the assassinations of American leaders in the 1960s, specifically John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. An excerpt from the article:

Özal said his father was killed because he had resolved to find a peaceful and democratic solution to the Kurdish question. He said deep state elements, which were said to be Ergenekon by some and JITEM by others, worked hard to destroy peace in Turkey in 1993, a year filled with politically motivated assassinations and suspicious deaths of important public, military and political figures. He claimed that the car that took his father to the hospital took an unnecessary detour and wasted half an hour. He also said he was not taken in an ambulance but in a car because the doctor and the ambulance of the Çankaya presidential palace were suspiciously unavailable that day. "These things have to be investigated," he said.

Korkut Özal, the brother of the former President, echoes his nephew's allegations in an upcoming book, writing: "If this incident [Özal's death] is investigated, it will be a scandal similar to Watergate, which led to the resignation of US President [Richard] Nixon," as reported in *Today's Zaman* on October 21, 2010.

If you've read this far you're probably wondering what my title has to do with a confession by a top former Turkish general that Turkey's government executed false-flag operations to promote its military interests in Cyprus, and allegations that Turkey's former President was assassinated by key members of the Turkish establishment in 1993. Well, there's a connection. Turkey is not unique. Can the American establishment assassinate peace-minded leaders? Yes. It. Can. And, Yes. It. Has. Can the American establishment carry out false-flag attacks abroad, and at home? Yes. It. Can. And, Yes. It. Has.

In fact, America's secret state orchestrated false-flag events and executed bombing campaigns inside Turkey, and other nations during the Cold War and blamed them on communists and leftist leaders in order to produce a sense of fear and helplessness in their populations. Daniele Ganser's deep research into this scandalous activity, which was done by a network of stay-behind armies organized by NATO, led him to write a book called *NATO's Secret Armies: Operation GLADIO and Terrorism in Western Europe*. To know more, read some of Ganser's findings at this link.



Turkish general, Sabri Yirmibesoglu.

NATO's secret terrorists were of great help to the US establishment. Prior to the military *coup d'état* in Turkey on September 12, 1980, the CIA and NATO in cooperation with the Turkish military funded and trained secret groups to carry out false-flag attacks and terrorism with the purpose to undermine civil society, and create the condition in which a military takeover would be feasible. It's known as the strategy of tension, and it is considered standard operating procedure by military/deep-state insiders in America, Turkey, Israel, England, and other countries in the world that are dominated by anti-democratic interests. Since the end of World War II, Western democratic governments have fallen prey to the powerful individuals who operate secretly against the public interests inside the deep-state apparatus of each nation.

According to Professor Peter Dale Scott, the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 was part of a long series of "deep events" in America. Scott:

However to call 9/11 a coup d'état exaggerates the difference between the current weakened condition of the public state, and the prior state of affairs that has been building for years, indeed for decades, towards just such a *dénouement*. For half a century the constitution and laws of the open or public state have been first evaded, then eroded, then increasingly challenged and subverted, by the forces of the deep state. I wish to suggest that this erosion has been achieved in part through a series of important deep events in post-war American history – events aspects of which (it is clear from the outset) will be ignored or suppressed in the mainstream media.

Recent history has seen a number of such events, such as the assassination of John F. Kennedy, that are so inexplicable by the public notions of American politics that most Americans tend not even to think of them. Instead most accept the official surface explanations for them, even if they suspect these are not true. Or if others say they believe that "Oswald acted alone," they may do so in the same comforting but irrational state of mind that believes God will reward the righteous and punish the wicked.

The nature of the deep-state is such that not everybody in the government knows what is going on behind the

scenes. Military officials and public representatives who are part of the deep-state are unlikely to confess to the press and the public about their involvement and knowledge, as they would be admitting to committing high treason, and great crimes. Their confession would be followed by their hanging, basically.

Some government officials, like Sen. Patrick Leahy, and Rep. Dennis Kucinich, have called for a truth and reconciliation commission to fully investigate the government's secret torture programs, illegal surveillance, and the questions surrounding the Sept.11 events. Aside from a few crickets, nobody in the media has made any noise about the suggestion to set up some type of truth commission in the United States.

Instead of the truth about 9/11 and the deep-state getting filtered through mainstream sources, or the alternative media, it is grassroots organizations like the International Center for 9/11 Studies and anti-establishment media outlets like the Alex Jones show and Coast to Coast AM that are exposing the war criminals and informing the public about the dark corruption.

Obviously, the current order of things cannot last. A reckoning is awaiting the world. The criminal and fraudulent global war on terrorism can only end once the governments of America, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Israel, Palestine, and other governments in the Middle East and around the world get together and come up with a fair and just solution to fix the mayhem that was unleashed by the deep-state terrorists who dominate Washington through state secrecy laws, and control over the media.

Let's pray that there are brave and wise military and government leaders in the United States who have a handle on the historical situation, and who see the grave consequences of attacking Iran, which would trigger a large-scale war in the Middle East, and result in the deaths of innumerable people. Let's pray that they do the right thing, and help restore a strong, free, and truthful America.

Saman "Truth Excavator" Mohammadi is a blogger and a full-time university student, currently living in Toronto, Canada. His blog is <http://disquietreservations.blogspot.com>.

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

America’s Devolution into Dictatorship

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

The United States Department of Justice (sic) routinely charges and convicts innocents with bogus and concocted crimes that are not even on the statutes book. The distinguished defense attorney and civil libertarian, Harvey A. Silverglate, published a book last year, *Three Felonies a Day: How the Feds Target the Innocent*, which conclusively proves that today in “freedom and democracy” America we have punishment without crime.

This same Justice (sic) Department, which routinely frames and railroads the innocent, argued in Federal Court on November 8 that the US government, if approved by the president, could murder anyone it wishes, US citizens or noncitizens, at will. All that is required is that the government declares, without evidence, charges, trial, jury conviction or any of the due process required by the US Constitution, that the government suspects the murdered person or persons to be a “threat.”

The US Justice (sic) Department even told US Federal District Court Judge John Bates that the US judiciary, formerly a co-equal branch of government, has absolutely no legal authority whatsoever to stick its nose into President “Change” Obama’s decision to assassinate Americans. The unaccountability of the president’s decision to murder people is, the US Justice (sic) Department declared, one of “the very core powers of the president as commander in chief.”

The argument by the Justice (sic) Department that the executive branch has unreviewable authority to kill Americans, whom the executive branch has unilaterally, without presenting evidence, determined to pose a threat, was challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

The outcome of the case will determine whether the neoconservative and Israeli stooge, President George W. Bush, was correct when he said that the US Constitution was nothing but a “scrap of paper.”

It is my opinion that the American people and the US Constitution haven’t much chance of winning this case. The Republican Federalist Society has succeeded in appointing many federal district appeals and Supreme Court judges, who believe that the powers of the executive branch are superior to the powers of the legislature and judiciary. The Founding Fathers of our country declared unequivocally that the executive, legislative, and judicial branches were co-equal; however, the Republican brownshirts who comprise the Federalist Society have implanted the society’s demonic ideology in the federal bench and Justice (sic) Department. Today the erroneous belief is widespread that the executive branch is supreme and that the other branches of government are less than equal.

If Americans have a greater enemy than neoconservatives, that enemy is the Federalist Society, a collection of incipient Nazis.

Disagree with me as you will, but now let’s look at this development from another perspective. I am old enough to remember the Nixon years, and I was a presidential appointee, confirmed by the US Senate, in the Reagan administration. For those of you too young to know and those who are too old to remember, President Nixon resigned to avoid impeachment simply because Nixon

lied about when he learned about the burglary of the Watergate office of the Democratic Party.

Nixon lied about when he learned of the burglary, because he knew that *The Washington Post* would make an issue of the burglary if he launched an investigation, to defeat his re-election. The military/security complex and the black ops groups in the US government were angry at Nixon for smoothing US-China relations. *The Washington Post*, long regarded as a CIA asset, hid behind its “liberal” image to bring Nixon down. Woodward and Bernstein wrote thriller-type reports of midnight meetings with “deep throat” in dangerous parking garages to get the scoop on the date of Nixon’s knowledge of the meaningless burglary.

Let’s assume that I have it all wrong. The fact remains that Nixon was driven from office because of the Watergate burglary. No one was harmed. Nixon did not kill anyone or claim the right to kill, without proof or accountability, American citizens. If the dastardly President Nixon had a Justice (sic) Department like the present one, he simply would have declared Woodward, Bernstein, and *The Washington Post* to be a threat and murdered them by merely exercising the power that the Obama administration is claiming.

Nixon might be too far in the past for most Americans, so let’s look at Ronald Reagan. The neoconservatives’ Iran/Contra scandal almost brought down President Reagan. It is unclear whether President Reagan knew about the neo-con operation and, if he did, whether he was kept in the loop. But all of this aside, what do you think would have been President Reagan’s fate if he, or his Justice (sic) Department, had declared that Reagan had the power as commander in chief to murder anyone he considered to be a threat?

Instantly, the media would have been in an uproar, law schools and university faculties would have been in an uproar, the Democrats would have been demanding Reagan’s impeachment, and his impeachment would have occurred with the speed of light.

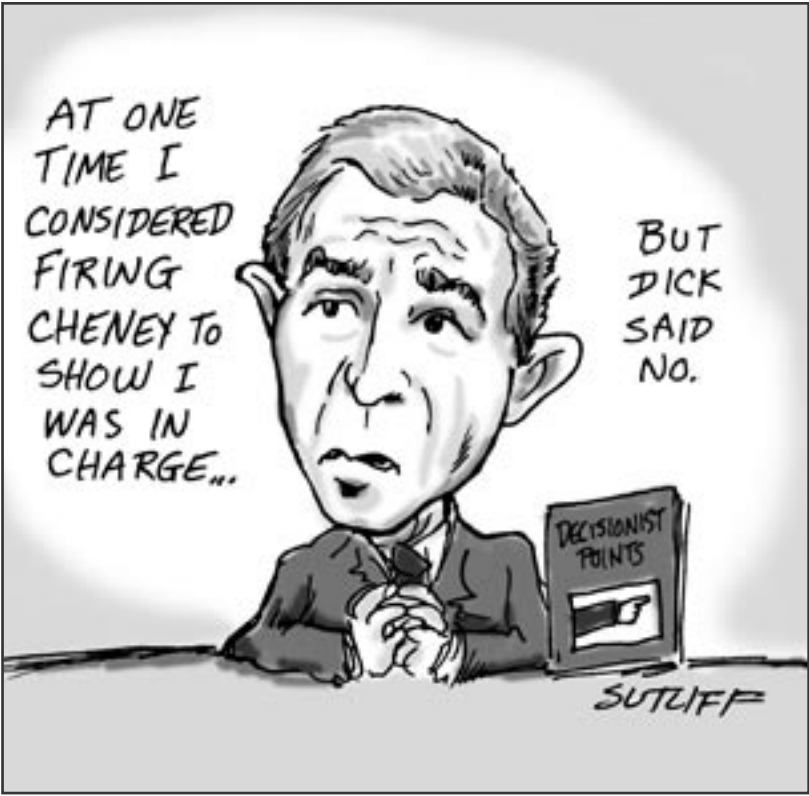
Today in Amerika, approximately 25 years later, the ACLU has to go to federal court in order to attempt to affirm that “if the Constitution means anything, it surely means that the president does not have unreviewable authority to summarily execute any American whom he concludes is an enemy of the state.”

In reply, the Justice (sic) Department told the court that murdering American citizens is a “political question” that is not subject to judicial review. The “freedom and democracy” government then invoked the “state secrets privilege” and declared that the case against the government’s power to commit murder must be dismissed in order to avoid “the disclosure of sensitive information.”

If the Obama Regime wins this case, the US will have become a dictatorship.

As far as I can tell, the “liberal media” and most Americans do not care. Indeed, conservative Republicans are cheering it on.

Dr. Paul Craig Roberts is the father of Reaganomics and the former head of policy at the Department of Treasury. He is a columnist and was previously an editor for the Wall Street Journal. His latest book, How the Economy Was Lost: The War of the Worlds, details why America is disintegrating.



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Dissatisfied Mind: Flickers of Hope in a Deadly Political Cycle

By CHRIS FLOYD

I found myself unexpectedly heartened by American election returns, at least in one respect. For they have shown, once again, that the American people feel an abiding, angry — if deeply inchoate — dissatisfaction with the nation’s unjust, corrupt and dysfunctional political system. They know that something is profoundly wrong with the system, and so they keep voting one faction out and putting the other faction in, hoping to see some kind of change.

History gives this proof: in almost every national election for the past two decades, we have seen a change in control of either one or both houses of Congress or the White House. This has happened in 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2008, and now again in 2010. The pattern is very clear. And it is not because Americans “prefer divided government,” as the dim chewers of Beltway cud like to tell us; it’s because they can’t get anyone in the system to address their concerns.

Yet, with every turnover in factional

control, we see a rush of earnest, serious analysis telling us how the results represent a vast sea change in America’s politics, culture, society, soul, etc. But somehow, two years later, these momentarily meaningful tidal waves ripple into nothing on the empty shore. And again, that’s because they don’t actually signify anything beyond the by-now perennial unease and dissatisfaction.

What is less heartening, of course, is the fact that the American electorate never quite grasps the obvious, glaring, brutal fact that neither of these factions is ever going to change the system one iota if they can help it; they are the system, they are its servants, its enablers, its enactors. Then again, we are dealing with, to borrow Gore Vidal’s deathless phrase, the United States of Amnesia, where history doesn’t exist (except in the form of feverishly distorted self-righteous myths about America’s eternal super-duper specialness), and every election is a *tabula rasa* . The only flickering historical awareness that seems to exist in

the American electorate is a vague sense that the gang they voted in two years ago hasn’t changed anything; better try the other gang again ... forgetting this is the same gang they threw out the last time, for the same reason.

So the cycle goes on and on, and the rot and dysfunction grows deeper, and ever more intractable. The people’s concerns are not only not addressed; they are not even articulated by anyone in the lucrative, sinister game of King of the Hill played by the two factions, both of which are pledged, body and soul, to elite rule, corporate rapine and militarist empire. And certainly, neither the corporate media nor the educational system will do anything to help inculcate a deeper sense of history (“History is bunk,” said that quintessential American, Henry Ford; “You can’t make no money from it, so what’s the point?”), or provide any wider, deeper context for articulating – and confronting – the causes of the electorate’s dissatisfaction. Instead, these institutions keep replicating

See CYCLE p. 4

CIA Requires Secrecy to Cover Up Crimes That Killed Millions

By SHERWOOD ROSS

If the CIA routinely lies to the American people, maybe that’s because it’s got so much to lie about, like killing millions of innocent human beings around the world. As far back as December 1968, the CIA’s own Covert Operations Study Group gave a secret report to president-elect Richard Nixon that conceded, “The impression of many Americans, especially in the intellectual community and among the youth, that the United States is engaging in ‘dirty tricks’ tends to alienate them from their government.” According to Tim Weiner’s book *Legacy of Ashes* (Anchor, 1997), the report went on to say, “Our credibility and our effectiveness in this role is necessarily damaged to the extent that it becomes known

that we are secretly intervening in what may be (or appear to be) the internal affairs of others.”

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

As the late CIA agent Philip Agee once put it, “The CIA is the President’s secret army.” This point was underscored at a luncheon by President Gerald Ford himself, which he hosted for *New York Times* top editors on January 16, 1975. According to Weiner, Ford told them the reputation of every President since Truman could be ruined if the secrets became public. Asked by an editor, like what? Ford replied, “like assassinations.”

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

“The CIA obstructed inquiries into its

See CIA CRIMES p. 4

So Called Alternative Media Are a Bunch of Wannabe MSM Cowards

ERIC BLAIR / ACTIVIST POST

September 11th is indisputably the greatest crime in modern history. Everyone agrees that it has been the catalyst to excuse everything that has taken place in America since: wars, illegal surveillance, and torture, most notably.

It is the story of the century and it is still not to be questioned by the leading so-called alternative news websites that have reached mainstream levels of viewership. 9/11 is the stinky fart in the newsroom, where everyone with half-a-brain knows who cut the cheese, but because the boss is the culprit, they’re afraid to be ridiculed or fired for speaking out. It’s authentic cowardice in the first degree.

A recent article on the Disquiet Reservations Website (disquietreservations.blogspot.com) called out specific “alternative” news sites for their cowardly unwillingness to mention 9/11 at all costs. The story they refused to cover happened last week in Australia, where the country’s top Maritime Union of Australia official, Kevin Bracken, caused international uproar when he was attacked for claiming on a national radio show that “the official story of 9/11 does not stand up to scientific scrutiny.” Of course, on the surface this doesn’t seem like a big story, but what is a huge story is that when the *Herald Sun* posted an online poll about it, an astounding majority (76.79%) agreed with Bracken, as reported by *Excavator*:

The Herald Sun posted an online poll on their website, asking readers the question: “Do you think Kevin Bracken’s comments were reasonable?” with a “Yes” and “No” reply. As of 12:30 am October 31st, 10778 people have answered, 8277 of which have said Yes (76.79%), while 2501 votes have said No (23.21%).

According to the *Herald Sun* poll, which obviously is not scientific, over seventy five percent believe that Mr. Bracken’s comments

about 9/11 were reasonable and sane. But this bit of news is not considered important if you’re an editor or journalist working for one of the many alternative media organizations, such as: Antiwar.com, Democracy Now, AlterNet, Common Dreams, Counterpunch, The Huffington Post, Firedoglake, Truthdig, or Truthout. Apparently, one of the biggest stories to emerge in the global anti-war movement does not deserve any attention from the progressive left or anti-war sites. Are they afraid of the truth, or ashamed that they’ve censored it for this long?

These alternative media sites, by their silence, are still defending the obvious sham official story of 9/11. The good news is that their tacit denial is really starting to affect their credibility with a growing majority of the public. Time and time again, online polls show a healthy majority of the public are now questioning the Establishment version of events. It’s clear to all reasoned people that the official story simply “does not hold up to scientific scrutiny.” That much is becoming common sense to everyone but the willfully ignorant.

The mainstream media, who lost their credibility long ago, use a very deliberate playbook to challenge 9/11 questions. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio interview with Bracken is a textbook display of the mainstream media’s methods. First, they attack the guest as making “nutter” conspiracy claims to immediately discredit them. Specifically, Bracken’s views were attacked as “ridiculous, extreme, and unacceptable” and he was told that they reflect poorly on his organization. Next, they try to cast the guest as “lunatic fringe,” seemingly as an attempt to prevent listeners from joining the growing ranks. Finally, they invoke the number of people killed that dreadful day as if to say, “How dare you disrespect the victims with your questions?”

It’s very eerie to witness the exact same method for attacking “questioners” being used all the way across the world. (To listen to the interview for a taste of the mainstream media [MSM] kill tactics in action and judge for yourself if it is a fair exchange of ideas, go to www.theintelhub.com)

That is some pretty sad journalism, but a brilliant display of trying to put the guest on the defensive. However, as indicated in the poll afterward, this tactic seems to be getting stale and is increasingly blowing up in their face. But at least the MSM’s offensive style flaunts their clear desire to keep something hidden. It was precisely the MSM’s lost credibility that gave rise to “alternative news” empires in the first place. Given all that has transpired since 9/11, are we to believe that the operators of leading alternative sites aren’t intuitive enough to question it? Of course they are, and that’s why their silence makes them disingenuous cowards.

One would think that this emerging massive majority should be enough incentive to drive the topic of discussion on these sites, yet it remains stunningly off-limits. This angry majority realizes that 9/11 is a dam of lies that holds back the flood of truth, and the dam is now leaking like a sieve. Surely, it would draw a massive audience for whomever has the guts to provide an honest forum for it instead of openly censoring it.

It seems the growing majority of the public is beginning to see the forest for the trees and it’s high time a top alternative news site grows some cajones and gets real. They may lose some corporate sponsors (despite guaranteed traffic increases), but it’s better than losing all integrity and credibility.

Eric Blair blogs at Activist Post, an Independent News blog for Activists challenging errors of the establishment.

The Good Corporal

© 2010 by Chris Floyd

Good corporal, good corporal, now what have you done?
You’ve laid out the dead in the light of the sun.
You’ve opened the door where the dark deeds go on,
Where the fine words of freedom are broken like bones.

Good corporal, good corporal, you tell us of crime
Done in the name of your country and mine.
Of torture and murder, corruption and lies,
In a land where no echo will carry the cries.

Good corporal, good corporal, now who do we blame
For the horrors you bring us, for this undying shame?
Should we lay all the guilt on the grunts with no name,
Or the high and the mighty who rigged up this game?

Good corporal, good corporal, don’t you know the fate
Of all those who speak the hard truth to the State
And all who trouble the people’s sweet dreams?
They’re mocked into scorn and torn apart at the seams.

Good corporal, good corporal, what have you done?
You’ve laid out the dead in the light of the sun.

The Creek Needs Your Help

Support our Papers for Prisoners Program

Over two million people are currently behind bars in the United States. This represents the highest per capita incarceration rate in the history of the world. With about 5% of the world’s population, America has the distinction of housing about one-quarter of the world’s prisoners in what is by far the world’s largest prison system.

Out of every thirty men in this country between ages 17 and 45, one is in prison now, and three more are on probation or parole.

Driving this rise in incarceration is a combination of “tough-on-crime” politics, prison-industrial complex profit-seeking and the failed “war on drugs.” While prisons have boomed, something else has been happening — a trade-off. As University of California-Berkeley sociologist Loïc Wacquant says, the government has been simultaneously slashing funds for public housing. In the 1990s, as federal corrections budgets increased by \$19 billion, money for housing was cut by \$17 billion, “effectively making the construction of prisons the nation’s main housing program for the poor.”

Each month *The Creek* receives dozens of requests from prisoners in state and federal prisons. We send free issues and reduced rate subscriptions to as many as we can, but it is becoming more than we can handle. We have set up a

special fund to help cover the cost of supplying free and low-cost papers to inmates. If you would like to support our efforts, visit our website, RockCreekFreePress.com and make a donation.

Send your contribution to:
The Creek, 5512 Huntington Parkway, Bethesda, MD 20814 and mark it “Papers for Prisoners”. Thank you, -editor



Missile Off California Coast



Chinese Show of Force?

MISSILE from p. 1

Seoul and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Tokyo, where President Obama is scheduled to attend during his ten-day trip to Asia.

The reported Chinese missile test off Los Angeles came as a double blow to Obama. The day after the missile firing, China's leading credit rating agency, Dagong Global Credit Rating, downgraded the sovereign debt rating of the United States to A-plus from AA. The missile demonstration, coupled with the downgrading of the United States financial grade, represents a military and financial show of force by Beijing to Washington.

Washington Downplays Incident

The Pentagon spin machine, backed by the media reporters who regularly cover the Defense Department, as well as officials of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), and the US Northern Command, is now spinning various conspiracy theories, including describing the missile plume videotaped by KCBS news helicopter cameraman Gil Leyvas at around 5:00 pm Pacific Standard Time, during the height of evening rush hour, as the condensation trail from a jet aircraft. Other Pentagon-inspired cover stories are that the missile was actually an amateur rocket or an optical illusion.

There are no records of a plane in the area having taken off from Los Angeles International Airport or from other airports in the region. The Navy and Air Force have said that they were not conducting any missile tests from submarines, ships, or Vandenberg Air Force Base. The Navy has also ruled out an accidental firing from one of its own submarines.

Missile experts, including those from *Jane's* in London, say the plume was definitely from a missile, possibly launched from a submarine. WMR has learned that the missile was likely a JL-2 ICBM, which has a range of 7,000 miles, and was fired in a northwesterly direction over the Pacific and away from US territory from a Jin class submarine. The Jin class can carry up to twelve such missiles.

Navy sources have revealed that the missile may have impacted on Chinese territory and that the National Security Agency (NSA) likely possesses intercepts of Chinese telemetry signals during the missile firing and subsequent testing operations.

Japanese and other Asian intelligence agencies believe that a Chinese Jin-class SSBN submarine conducted a missile "show of force" in the skies west of Los Angeles.

Asian intelligence sources believe the submarine transited from its base on Hainan through South Pacific waters, where US anti-submarine warfare detection capabilities are not as effective as they are in the northern and mid-Pacific, and then transited north to waters off of Los Angeles. The Pentagon, which has spent billions on ballistic missile defense systems, a pet project of former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, is clearly embarrassed over the Chinese show of strength.

The White House also wants to downplay the missile story before President Obama meets with his Chinese counterpart in Seoul and Tokyo. According to Japanese intelligence sources, Beijing has been angry over United States and allied naval exercises in the South China and Yellow Seas, in what China considers its sphere of influence, and the missile firing within the view of people in Southern California was a demonstration that China's navy can also play in waters off the American coast.

For the US Navy, the Chinese show of force is a huge embarrassment, especially for the Navy's Pacific Command in Pearl Harbor, where Japan's December 7, 1941 attack on the fleet at Pearl Harbor remains a sore subject.

In 2002, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice reportedly scolded visiting Chinese General Xiong Guankai, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence of the People's Liberation Army, for remarks he allegedly made in 1995 that China would use nuclear weapons on Los Angeles. Xiong denied he made any such comments but the "spin" on the story helped convince Congress to sink billions of additional dollars into ballistic missile defense, sometimes referred to as "Star Wars II."

Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC-based investigative journalist, author and syndicated columnist. He is a frequent political and national security commentator on Television News and is a regular contributor to Russia Today. Madsen is the author of Jaded Tasks: Big Oil, Black Ops & Brass Plates and Overthrow a Fascist Regime on \$15 a Day.

CIA Requires Secrecy to Cover Up Crimes That Killed Millions

CIA CRIMES from p. 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dissatisfied Mind: Flickers of Hope in a Deadly Political Cycle

CYCLE from p. 3

and refreshing those same myths of specialness (in either "conservative" or "progressive" form), adding layer after layer of thought-obliterating noise to the Great American Echo Chamber that encloses, and imprisons, the entire society.

Mmm, maybe it's not so heartening after all. Especially given the fact that both factions are — literally, legally, formally, undeniably — packs of war criminals, pledged to the continuation of a rapacious empire of military domination that is killing innocent people, fomenting hatred and extremism, and destabilizing the world. The myth of specialness prevents most people from seeing the truth of what their bipartisan political establishment is doing to the world — or even to themselves, how it has stripped them of their liberties, corroded their society, destroyed their communities and degraded their quality of life, while diminishing the lives and futures of their own children and grandchildren. Most Americans apparently cannot break out of the narrow cognitive structure that has been imposed on their understanding of reality: i.e., that America is inherently, ineradicably good, that whatever mistakes it might make here or there (usually when one's own preferred faction is out of office, of course), this essential goodness remains inviolate, forever untainted by any genuine evil.

And so, bipartisan perpetrators of enormous evils — mass murder, aggressive war, torture, brutality, ruination, atrocity and injustice on a gargantuan scale — are not only never held accountable, they are celebrated, honored, and rewarded with great wealth and privilege. It is no wonder that dissatisfaction reigns in the body politic. The people sense that something is badly wrong; but no one in the system will tell them that it is the system itself that is wrong. Instead, we get these circuses and shams, these diversions and delusions that pass for election campaigns, throwing up a blizzard of false issues and partisan posturing, sound and fury signifying nothing ... then when it's all over; it's back to business as usual for our bipartisan courtiers, feasting on the bloody swill of empire.

Still, the nagging spark of dissatisfaction can often be the beginning of wisdom, eventually forcing us to look beyond the confines of our cognitive overlays and unchallenged understandings. The merry-go-round of factional turnovers, in election after election, shows that this fertile element of dissatisfaction is rampant, and chronic, in the American people. They have not yet, not quite, accepted

the system of murderous empire and elite domination as the natural order, the settled status quo. They want something to change, they want things to be different somehow — but, like people everywhere, they don't want to turn the mirror on themselves, and see the reality of the noxious system they are perpetuating with their yo-yoing between two utterly corrupt and depraved factions of money-grubbers and power-seekers.

But, as long as the dissatisfaction remains, there is still some hope that it will drive more and more people to see beyond the cloud of myth, to hear truths outside the echo chamber, and to begin the long, arduous, quite possibly impossible but morally imperative work of breaking the stranglehold of these murderous fools and forging a genuine alternative to the system.

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

YEMEN from p. 1



Yemeni Prime Minister: Al Qaeda in Yemen is "Western-made"

responsibility for the bomb parcels that targeted the United States.

It also said it was behind downing a UPS cargo plane by exploding one of its experimental bomb packages aboard the plane immediately after it took off from Dubai International Airport on September 3, 2010.

According to Saba, Mujawar called on the international community to support his government's continuing efforts to fight al Qaeda regional wing.

Yemen has been exerting efforts to curb terrorist groups, which raised international security concerns again after two parcel bombs were found on US-bound cargo flights from the Arabian Peninsula country last week.

The Fed and the Debased "Imperial Dollar":

Inflation, Stagnation and Higher Interest Rates Ahead

DEBASED from p. 1

only way to get out of the economic doldrums.

But US economic problems are essentially structural in nature and are due to a bad housing mortgage policy, a bad industrial policy, a bad financial policy, a bad fiscal policy, a bad foreign investment policy, too much entitlement debt, severe demographic problems related to the aging baby-boomers, and to very costly wars abroad. Relying exclusively on monetary quick fixes to correct these structural problems misses the mark and may have serious unintended negative consequences down the road.

In fact, it is likely that, in the long run, this extreme monetary policy risks exacerbating rather than correcting the problems. Economic structural problems cannot be corrected with monetary means. They rather require real economic solutions. That means correcting the housing mortgage mess and devising an industrial strategy, a fiscal strategy, and an investment strategy that can put the economy back on its tracks of economic growth.

But, for better or worse, the Federal Reserve Board (Fed) seems to be the only branch of the US government [organization] left that can still function properly, i.e. that is not caught in a permanent political gridlock. As a consequence, for the time being at least, bankers have been put in charge of the US economy. Since they are the ones who created many of the current problems, this is not very reassuring.

Let's remind ourselves that the Fed is a semi-public, semi-private organization that has a long history of creating financial asset price bubbles in the US and around the world, essentially because the US dollar has been an international key-currency widely used around the world and is

an important part of other central banks' official reserves.

Thus, the real danger is that the Fed will continue to create unmanageable financial and monetary bubbles in the coming years. It did it in the past. It did it in the late 1960's and early '70s, and we witnessed the same scenario unfolding with the Greenspan Fed in the late 1990s, when excessive easy money helped inflate the Internet and tech stock market bubble. We saw this again in the early 2000s, when easy Fed money helped inflate the housing bubble. And now, we're seeing it again with the Bernanke Fed. As a general rule,

"The Fed, in effect, is telling the markets not to worry about our fiscal deficits; it will be the buyer of first and perhaps last resort. There is no need - as with Charles Ponzi - to find an increasing amount of future gullibles. They will just write the check themselves. I ask you: Has there ever been a Ponzi scheme so brazen? There has not."

Bill Gross, PIMCO's managing director

a central bank should not push the monetary gas pedal to the floor and be obliged to slam on the monetary brakes later, thus placing the real economy on a roller-coaster of booms and busts. That is not the way to run a large economy.

But because of the circumstances, the Fed may be at it again. This time it is busy creating a massive bond bubble, some important currency misalignments and a massive gold and commodity price bubble. We should also not forget that abnormally low interest rates and lower bond yields increase the present value of pension

liabilities of most defined benefit pension plans.

Therefore, I would not be surprised to see a pension crisis developing in the coming years under the current Fed monetary policy. Of course, all of these bubbles are interrelated, but when they come crashing down, four or five years down the road, maybe sooner, the economy may then be in worse shape than it is today. The most likely scenario is for the Fed to keep the monetary gas pedal way down until the 2012 election, and then slam on the monetary brakes to salvage what will be left of the imperial dollar.

If so, this could be a partial repeat of Japan's experience in mismanaging its economy in the early 1990's until 2000, a period known as the lost decade.

The current Fed's monetary policy is to flood financial markets with liquidity, i.e. newly created dollars, and, in the process, devalue the US dollar, spur American exports and prevent deflationary expectations from taking hold and from making already high debt loads even heavier. For this, the Fed has been engaged since 2009 in round after round of money creation and interest rate reductions to the point of pushing short-term monetary rates close to zero and keeping short-term real rates negative. But if the economy is in a liquidity trap, as it is fair to assume it is, although a central bank can print all the money it wants, this is unlikely to stimulate the real economy for very long. This is like pushing on a string. Printing money, if it is an emergency temporary measure, can help mitigate the effect of having too much debt and debt-service costs relative to income, as is the case today with many debtors in a debt liquidation mode. However, if this becomes a





The JFK Assassination: If It Was a Conspiracy, Surely Someone Would Have Talked by Now

Someone has. In fact, many someones have come forward with evidence of the conspiracy to kill the President and cover up the crime. Here are just a few of their stories.

“If it was a conspiracy, surely someone would have talked by now.”

It’s the same objection whether you are talking about Oklahoma City, or 9/11, but one hears this comeback most often from supporters of the “Lone Gunman” theory of the Kennedy Assassination. Of course, in all these cases people have talked, especially in the case of the Kennedy assassination where dozens of people with inside knowledge – definitive proof that the official story is a lie – have come forward. Here on this page we have three examples of people with first-hand knowledge of the plot to kill the president and evidence of the cover-up: a Secret Service Agent, an FBI Special Agent and a CIA assassin.



Abraham Bolden

The Secret Service Agent

By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

Abraham Bolden was the first black Secret Service agent ever assigned to the White House detail. Bolden was selected for White House duty by President Kennedy himself after a chance meeting in Chicago, where Bolden was working in the Secret Service field office.

Bolden’s time in Washington was difficult. In 1961, racism was rampant and he faced almost daily racial harassment from other agents, including superiors. It didn’t help that Bolden was also critical of the presidential security detail for what he felt were lax procedures and incompetence.

After three months’ duty in Washington, Bolden asked to transfer back to Chicago, where he resumed his duties on the counterfeiting detail. One of the jobs of the Chicago Secret Service office was to investigate any potential threat to the president in the Chicago area. Bolden was aware of at least three plots against Kennedy under investigation in Chicago in November 1963. The president was planning to attend the Army-Air Force football game at Soldier Field and ride in a parade.

One was a threat from the Alpha 66 group of anti-Castro Cubans. A reliable informant within the group informed the Secret Service that there was a plan afoot to kill the president in Chicago. The president would be shot with high powered rifles from the upper floors of office buildings in Chicago.

A second threat involved Thomas Arthur Vallee, a patsy-in-waiting with a background strikingly similar to Oswald’s. Vallee’s place of employment looked out over the Jackson Street exit ramp where Kennedy’s limousine would have been traveling during the motorcade. It is possible that, had the Chicago assassination been successful, Vallee would have taken the fall as the “lone assassin”.

A third plot (or another element of the same plot) was discovered when a Chicago motel owner called federal agents. She had been cleaning a room rented to two Hispanic men. According to Bolden, “She had seen lying on the bed several

automatic rifles with telescopic sights, with an outline of the route that President Kennedy was supposed to take in Chicago that would bring him past that building.”

The men were put under round-the-clock surveillance, but when the surveillance fell through, the Chicago Secret Service office informed Washington. The threat was considered so great that the president was forced to cancel a planned trip to Chicago. That was Nov. 2, 1963, less than three weeks before the deadly day in Dallas.

Had evidence of the Chicago plots been presented to the Warren Commission, it would have been strong evidence that an assassination conspiracy was in operation. But it soon became clear to Bolden that there was an effort within the Service to cover-up the Chicago plots: “No detail of the investigation reached the Warren Commission. All of the reports of that investigation were destroyed by the Secret Service.”

“I saw so many actions that were an attempt to cover-up the conspiracy to assassinate the president and I thought the Warren Commission should hear about these things.”

But when Bolden tried to contact the Warren Commission himself, he was stopped.

“When I tried to contact J. Lee Rankin, I called the White House switchboard, but I was unable to reach him... The next day, 18th of May, I was called back to Chicago. They held me incommunicado at the US Attorney’s Office and I was informed that they were going to charge me with a crime.”

Bolden was charged with “conspiracy to sell a secret government file” and imprisoned for more than five years, mostly in the psychiatric ward of the Springfield Medical Center for Federal Prisoners. He was released in September 1969.

Now, 45 years later, Abraham Bolden has come forward to tell his story again. This time in a book, *The Echo from Dealey Plaza*. It is the story of the terrible price he paid for his commitment to truth and justice, as well as a shocking new perspective on the circumstances surrounding the death of JFK.

Abraham Bolden has received The 2008 Baker Street Tankard Award for “Pursuance of Truth and Justice”, The 2008 Black Excellence



Award for “Outstanding achievement in non-fiction literature”, The 2009 Alpha Phi Alpha Presidential Inaugural Award for “Exemplary leadership, service, and commitment and courage”, The 2009 Carter G. Woodson “Living Black History Award”, The 2009 St. Louis Gateway Classics “Walk of Fame” inductee, The Sodexo Lifetime Achievement Award for “Excellence and Outstanding Service”, and the 2009 Citation from The Honorable United States Senator Roland W. Burris for courage in challenging injustice.

Mr. Bolden’s quotes are from a 2010 radio interview with host Jim Fetzer.

The FBI Special Agent

By KURT NIMMO / INFOFARS.COM

It is a story the corporate media, with the notable exception of one lone Fox News affiliate, refuses to report. A former FBI agent, Don Adams, has compelling evidence Lee Harvey Oswald did not assassinate president John F. Kennedy. Adams was assigned to an FBI office in Thomasville, Georgia, on November 22, 1963. Adams was responsible for investigating Joseph Adams Milteer, described as a radical with connections to the States Rights Party and the KKK. Milteer, according to Adams, was involved in Kennedy’s assassination.



Don Adams

As revealed by the Church Committee in the mid-70s and according to internal FBI documents the bureau controlled the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists beginning in the 1960s. More recently, it was revealed that racist radio talk show host Hal Turner operated as a “national security intelligence” asset for the FBI, thus demonstrating the bureau still has its hooks in the lunatic fringe movement.

The racist Milteer “was reportedly one of the most violent men in the country,” Adams told Fox 8 News. Years later, Adams discovered that Milteer had threatened to kill Kennedy on November 9, 1963, and the FBI had lied about Milteer whereabouts. In order to make his case, Adams played an audio recording of Milteer for Fox News. In the recording, Milteer tells an informant the best way to get the president “is from an office building with a high-powered rifle.” Asked if he was sincere about a plot of killing Kennedy, Milteer responded: “Oh yes. It’s in the works.”

Despite the threat and possibility of a conspiracy to assassinate the president, the FBI and Secret Service allowed Kennedy to travel to Dallas. “[They] should have stopped the President from traveling instantly,” said Adams.

“You thought I was kidding when I said he would be killed from a window with a high-powered rifle,” a “jubilant” Milteer” told the informant following the murder.

Adams points out that Milteer was in Dallas on the day of the assassination and has a photograph to prove it. In the photo, Milteer stands near the presidential limousine prior to the shooting. Adams notes this fact was not mentioned in the Warren Commission report.

Other, more well-known personages were also photographed in Dealey Plaza on that fateful day, in particular George Bush Senior. The future CIA director and president was purportedly photographed standing outside the Texas Book Depository building where it was said Oswald single-handedly shot the president from the sixth floor. Gerald Ford appointed Bush to head the agency when the House Select Committee on Assassinations was investigating CIA-FBI links to the murders of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy.

During Gerald Ford’s funeral in 2007, the elder Bush attacked theories straying from the official version. “After a deluded gunman assassinated President Kennedy, our nation turned to Gerald Ford and a select handful of others to make sense of that madness,” said Bush. “And 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 Gerry Ford put his name on it and Jerry Ford’s word was always good.”

After Adams told the FBI he believed it was impossible for Oswald to have fired three shots with a bolt-action rifle in seven-and-a-half seconds while taking aim through a scope, he was warned by his superiors not to pursue his findings. “Don, be careful what you say and how you say it,” an agent told him.

Mr. Adams’ assertions contribute to a huge body of evidence revealing that Kennedy was not murdered by Oswald in the fashion described by the government.

In 2007, a study conducted by a former FBI scientist put to rest the Oswald-as-lone-gunman theory. William A. Tobin, a former FBI lab metallurgist, and colleagues published a study in the *Annals of Applied Statistics* demonstrating that at least one other shooter was involved in the assassination.

Also in 2007, former CIA agent and Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt admitted in an audio recording that he was approached to be part of a CIA assassination team to kill JFK. The tape was released by the late Hunt’s son, Saint John Hunt, and aired on the Coast to Coast radio show in April 2007.

“E. Howard Hunt names numerous individuals with both direct and indirect CIA connections as having played a role in the assassination of Kennedy, while describing himself as a ‘bench warmer’ in the plot. Saint John Hunt agreed that the use of this term indicates that Hunt was willing to play a larger role in the murder conspiracy had he been required,” writes Paul Joseph Watson.

Quite predictably, the corporate media all but ignored Hunt’s revelations and continues to peddle the ludicrous theory that Oswald was alone responsible for the assassination.

Saint John Hunt said that his father indeed resembled one of three “bums” arrested and photographed in Dealey Plaza following the assassination. The elder Hunt told his son he was “deeply conflicted and deeply remorseful” that he didn’t blow the whistle on the plot at the time and prevent the assassination. At the time Kennedy was hated by many government officials, especially officials at the CIA. Following the disastrous Bay of Pigs operation and his failure to support military action in Cuba, Kennedy had promised to “shatter the CIA into a thousand pieces and scatter the remnants to the wind.”

Kennedy’s enemies in the CIA and the FBI are well documented. He fired the Chief Executive of the CIA, Charles Cabell, and among his enemies were Richard Helms, former CIA director Allen Dulles, and Gerald Ford, who would later become the default president of the United States.

Ford, who was a member of the Warren Commission, implicated the CIA in a cover-up of the assassination from his deathbed, according to a publisher of a book on the subject.

In May 2007, Saint John Hunt went on the Alex Jones Show and revealed that his father would have “finish[ed] the job” and killed Ted Kennedy. “In the context that JFK had already been removed, RFK was gone and his motto was ‘let’s finish the job,’” Hunt told Jones. He said his father was pleased when Robert Kennedy was assassinated.

In 2008, the BBC aired a documentary offering evidence that the CIA was responsible for Robert Kennedy’s assassination. Three men were positively identified as senior officers who worked together in 1963 at JMWAVE, the CIA’s Miami base for its secret war on Castro. “I was in Dallas when we got the son of a bitch and I was in Los Angeles when we got the little bastard,” David Sanchez Morales, aka “El Indio,” who was involved in CIA efforts against Castro and the CIA’s 1954 overthrow of the Guatemalan government, reportedly bragged after the RFK assassination.

In his audio confession, the late E. Howard Hunt said Morales and Lyndon Johnson were involved in the plot to kill JFK. Hunt said the code name for the assassination operation was “The Big Event.”

Johnson’s former mistress, Madeleine

The Patsy



The first to speak of conspiracy in the killing of the president was Oswald himself. He said, shortly after his arrest: “I’m just a patsy”.

Duncan Brown, told author Robert Gaylon Ross prior to her death in 2002 that Johnson was involved in the murder, a plot that had its origins in the 1960 Democratic Convention, where John F. Kennedy was elected as presidential candidate with Johnson as his running mate. Johnson, according to Brown, colluded with oil tycoon H. L. Hunt to have Kennedy eliminated. “It was a total political crime and H. L. Hunt really controlled what actually happened to John Kennedy — he and Lyndon Johnson,” said Brown. “It was a political crime for political power.” Johnson had allegedly said on the night before the assassination: “Those SOB’s will never embarrass me again.”

A preponderance of evidence points to government involvement in the Kennedy assassination. However, due to the intelligence practice of compartmentalization — and the murder and disappearance of key witnesses — we will probably never know the exact details of how the government killed not only John F. Kennedy, but also his brother Robert and the civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

Kurt Nimmo edits Infofars.com. He is the author of Another Day in the Empire: Life In Neoconservative America.

The CIA Hitman



E. Howard Hunt, (1918 - 2007) In a deathbed confession, admitted to being the “bag man” who delivered cash payments to JFK assassin Frank Sturgis in a Dallas motel on the day before the Kennedy assassination. Previously, Hunt (known as Eduardo) participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion but Hunt is probably best known for his involvement in the Watergate burglary that ultimately led to Nixon’s resignation. Hunt was brought into the Nixon White House by longtime CIA asset, George H. W. Bush.



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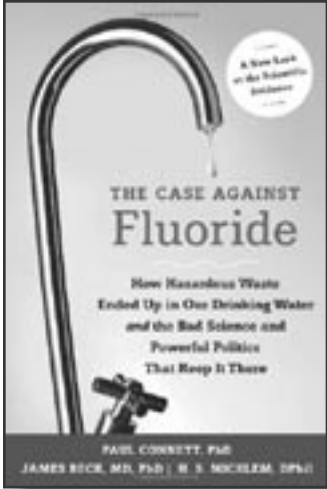
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Book Review

Fighting Fluoride



The Case Against Fluoride

How Hazardous Waste Ended Up in Our Drinking Water and the Bad Science and Powerful Politics That Keep It There

by Paul Connett, James Beck and Spedding Micklem

\$24.95
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http://www.chelseagreen.com

By DONALD W. MILLER, JR., MD

The battle for and against fluoridation of the public water supply has entered a new phase. Three things have happened since I researched and wrote *Fluoride Follies* five years ago.

In their efforts to have all the community drinking water in the US fluoridated, promoters of fluoridation are taking a different tack. Rather than grapple with community-level politics and local referendums on this matter, they are increasingly targeting state legislators and are pushing for statewide mandates to fluoridate the public water supply.

A second development has inflicted a chink in the Federal Government's armor against antifluoridationists. The Office of Drinking Water of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commissioned the government's National Research Council (NRC) to examine the toxicology of fluoride. It was commissioned to assess the EPA's 4 ppm (parts per million) maximum contaminant level goal, along with its 2 ppm secondary maximum contaminant level, a level set to keep children from having unsightly dental fluorosis, where white specks form on teeth, and, with further fluoride exposure, teeth become confluent and turn brown. The NRC's 506-page report ("Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA's Standards") was published in 2006. It unflinchingly faces up to the health-damaging effects of fluoride in public water.

The third development is the publication, in September 2010, of *The Case Against Fluoride: How Hazardous Waste Ended Up in Our Drinking Water and the Bad Science and Powerful Politics That Keep It There* by Paul Connett, PhD, the director of the Fluoride Action Network; James Beck, MD, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Medical Biophysics at the University of Calgary, Canada; and H. S. Micklem, DPhil, Professor Emeritus in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Edinburgh, UK. *The Case Against Fluoride* is well-written, which makes it easy to read; and it is comprehensive, citing more than 1700 references, pro and con, dealing with fluoridation of public water. This book is the ideal litigator's brief for prosecuting the case against fluoride.

Most Americans, 269 million in a population of 304 million (88.5 %), get their water from public water systems, and 196 million (72.4 %) drink – and bathe and wash their clothes with – fluoridated water. Maryland is the most heavily fluoridated state, where 99.8% of people use fluoridated public water, followed by Kentucky (99.4%), Minnesota (98.8%), North Dakota (96.4%), Illinois (95.4%), and Indiana (94.5%). The District of Columbia, appropriately enough, is 100 percent fluoridated. Hawaii (at 10.8%), New Jersey (13.6%), Oregon (27.4%), and Louisiana (28.3%) are the least fluoridated states. These statistics are for 2008, the most recent ones available on fluoridation. That year, in Louisiana, the legislature approved and the governor signed into law an act that requires all community water systems in Louisiana having 5,000 or more customers (some 110 systems serving 2 million) to fluoridate their water.

Promoters are pushing for mandatory statewide fluoridation in various states, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts among them. In Oregon, a bill (HB2025) is pending that will mandate statewide fluoridation. It would require all municipal water systems serving 10,000 or more customers to add fluoride to their water, for 2.4 million Oregonians, 66 percent of the state's population. Legislators in California passed a state-mandated fluoridation law in 1995 that is contingent on municipalities obtaining an outside, non-state source of funds for it. State officials are putting increasing pressure on California cities, notably San Diego, that have not yet complied with the law. (In 2008, 58.8% of California's public water was fluoridated.)

Meanwhile, there is growing evidence that shows fluoride damages health. The National Research Council (NRC) report

published in 2006, "Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA's Standards" is the first one in the 65-year history of fluoridation that examines fluoride in an open-minded and unbiased way. Charged with carrying out a government-stipulated once-every-decade review of EPA's fluoride standards, the council's panel of reviewers examined not just epidemiologic studies but also biochemical and animal studies and clinical trials. The report cites over 1,100 references. The panel concluded that the EPA's maximum and secondary maximum contaminant level goals for fluoride, 4 ppm (4 mg/Liter) and 2 ppm (2mg/L) respectively, are "not protective of public health," particularly with regard to three things: dental fluorosis; skeletal fluorosis, which causes chronic joint pain and arthritis imitating osteoarthritis; and fractures. Among the many studies the NRC panel reviewed, for example, one showed that elderly people have a 3-times greater chance of having a hip fracture drinking water with a fluoride concentration of 4.4 ppm; and another one indicated that even a 1.5 ppm concentration, close to that used in public water, is associated with a possible doubling of hip fractures. These courageous government-appointed NRC reviewers also concluded that "fluoride appears to have the potential to initiate or promote cancers." *The Case Against Fluoride: How Hazardous Waste Ended Up in Our Drinking Water and the Bad Science and Powerful Politics That Keep It There* [2010] cites several other important health studies on fluoridation done since the publication of the NRC report in 2006 that support its findings.

Concerns about these 2 and 4 mg/Liter maximum contaminant levels are relevant to people drinking and using fluoridated water at 1 mg/L. Even people who live in non-fluoridated communities consume, on average, 4 mg of fluoride a day. It is in toothpaste, fruit juices, soda pop, tea, and processed foods. People living in fluoridated areas consume twice as much fluoride, 8 mg/L a day. Fluoride is readily absorbed through the skin (bathing and wearing clothes washed with fluoridated water) and through the lungs (inhaling steam in a fluoridated shower). As a result, it turns out that two-thirds of the fluoride people take into their bodies using fluoridated community water comes from bathing and wearing clothes washed in it. Athletes and people working in hot climates who drink a lot of water and infants who are fed formula with fluoridated tap water are at particular risk for being subjected to a toxic dose of fluoride. The EPA's maximum dose level for fluoride is 0.06 mg/Kg/day, a level that many people and infants exceed.

Four years have elapsed since the NRC recommended that the EPA carry out more studies and consider lowering its 2 mg/L and 4 mg/L fluoride maximum concentration level goals. So far nothing has been done. This agency's response to the NRC's unwelcome news on fluoride brings to mind an observation Winston Churchill made about such things: "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened."

Publication of *The Case Against Fluoride* is a signal event in the 65-year story of fluoridation. The book's authors document in a convincing fashion that fluoridation is ineffective and harmful. They address first the ethics of this medical practice and present general arguments against fluoridation. In the summary to this part of the book, they write:

"When the fluoridation of drinking water began, there was little evidence for its long-term safety, and since then little attempt has been made to monitor its health effects systematically. Because there are so many unanswered health questions, fluoridation of water must be considered an ongoing experimental procedure, and, as such, it is a violation of the Nuremberg Code, which forbids experimentation on humans without their informed consent. Only a minority of countries practice fluoridation. In Europe, nearly all countries either

By GARY G. KOHLS, MD

"...Caesar Augustus won over the soldiers with gifts, the populace with cheap food and all men with the sweets of leisure; and so his power grew greater by degrees, while he concentrated in himself the functions of the Senate, the criminal courts and the laws.

"The Emperor was wholly unopposed, for the boldest spirits had fallen in battle, or in the threats and condemnations (of loss of life, liberty and the confiscation of property), while the remaining nobles - the reader they were to be slaves - were raised the higher by wealth and promotion, so that, made artificially powerful by revolution, they preferred the safety of the present to the dangers of the past.

"Nor did the provinces dislike that condition of affairs, for they distrusted the government of the Senate and the people, because of the rivalries between the leading men and the rapacity of the officials, while the protection of the laws was useless, as they were continually deranged by violence, intrigue, and finally by corruption."

This is a translation of a revealing excerpt from the Roman historian Tacitus. His *The Annals*, authored in 109 CE, contains more than one set of lessons for today's saber-rattling political leaders. Tacitus was commenting on the reign of the powerful Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus, who had ruled (by militarism, racism and economic oppression) the known world during the first century CE.

Augustus knew that there was more than one way to achieve law and order both at home and in the Empire's occupied territories. For ruling tyrants, the traditional, time-honored way was by terrorizing, threatening, torturing, imprisoning and killing via brutal police state repression until the resisting victims give up their resistance efforts. The other tactic is a "kinder and gentler" tactic that Augustus and many other tyrants since then have used in an attempt to pacify their subjects and conquered peoples by providing them with just enough food to keep their bellies still and sufficient amounts of entertainment to distract them from their hopelessness. This was called the "bread and circuses" political strategy.

Empire-building tyrants throughout history have always started their colonizing efforts with killing and intimidation, but Augustus observed that such brutal tactics usually caused dissent, resentment, hatred and violent insurgencies in response to repressive military tactics. So when the "bread and circuses" strategy was tried, the surviving victims of his invasion forces were so relieved to see the end of the killing that they cautiously but suspiciously accepted the slave wages that were offered them to assist in their own repression. They also were relieved to have some relief from their hunger – even though the food was stolen food that had been transported to the empire from distant lands where other slaves had grown and harvested it. And it was only natural that they would accept the temporary numbing of their pain by going to the circus performances: the races, the gladiatorial fights-to-the death at the Roman coliseums that had been erected around the empire.

The Emperor's career soldiers also needed to have their boredom and emotional pain eased. Furloughs, R & R (rest and recreation), regular rations, alcohol, the opportunity to rape and pillage and false promises of land grants to officers upon retirement were other ways of keeping his psychologically traumatized (and often criminal) soldiers from mutinying.

And yet the colonized victims could never again trust the ones that had killed or raped members of their tribe, stole their land and resources, poisoned their wells or otherwise destroyed their way of life. Rather than becoming permanently docile and obedient subjects - as was the hope - the people in the occupied territories, for generations afterward, were constantly and endlessly looking for ways to retaliate against the infidels and drive them out of their homeland, perhaps stabbing them or shooting them in the back with the very weapons brought by the invaders as they fled back to where they belonged.

Even Adolf Hitler used the "Bread and Circuses" tactic. His oddly-named "Strength Through Joy" program

History's Lessons

Bread and Circuses:

The Political Strategy to Control the Masses and Maintain Political Power



Ancient Roman Bread and Circus.



Modern American Bread and Circus.

was designed to reward his highly-regimented workers (who could be conscripted against their will to work in various industries throughout Germany) with the opportunity to go on subsidized vacations at very low cost. His war economy, violating the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, was illegally building weapons of



Caesar Augustus (63BC - 14AD) considered the first emperor of the Roman Empire.

mass destruction all across Germany – getting ready for his secret wars. Such unsustainable war-based industries provided temporary full employment at livable wages for a population that was just coming out of high unemployment and breadlines caused by the Wall Street crash of 1929, the resulting world-wide depression, the First World War, the war reparations demanded by the Allies and the millions of dead, mentally incapacitated, psychopathic and unemployable combat veterans.

Radios and newspapers were sold cheaply and propagandistic movie-going was ubiquitous. The heavily censored mainstream media, thanks to the policies of Josef Goebbels and his Ministry of Propaganda and Public Enlightenment, only allowed Germans to hear, read or see one point of view – the fascist view, and the death penalty could be applied if anybody was caught listening to the BBC on short wave radio or consuming other clandestine sources of information that came from the outside world.

The "Out of Sight, Out of Mind" Censorship Tactic

The lessons for us perpetual-war supporting Americans should be obvious. We are up to our necks in a sea of war-promoting and war-profiteering groups. America's infamous military/industrial/congressional/media complex that President Eisenhower warned us about in his farewell address is everywhere. These are the war-profiteers who control presidents and politicians with their Big Money, their well-paid mercenary lobbyists and their campaign bribes. War-mongering presidents, politicians, Pentagon brass and cunning corporate profiteers have learned many lessons to make the horrors of war palatable to America's easily distracted, overly-

amused and increasingly plump public. Related to the bread and circuses strategy is the "out of sight, out of mind" tactic.

From the Korean War, the war-mongers learned that keeping a war as secret as possible worked well. From the Vietnam War, they learned not to allow live TV coverage to come from the war zone, especially during primetime. They also learned not to allow us sheeple to see the body bags coming home, not to allow our suffering soldiers' horror stories to be heard, to not allow us to see the mangled bodies of the civilian victims and not to allow (rather than blindly just "honoring the fallen") expressions of sorrow, regret and lamentation for the terrible wastage of valuable lives lost in vain.

Starting with Bush the Elder's Gulf War for Oil and on through Bush the Younger's Gulf War for Oil, the Pentagon started "embedding" compliant and silenced journalists, escorting them to pre-approved and sanitized war zone sites to get their stories and then censoring out any details that might be emotionally upsetting to us readers and viewers. And then, in case any truly investigative journalism that tells the raw truth about war somehow slipped through the censorship net, the corporate mainstream media (all of them seemingly owned by corporate war-profiteers) blocked out anything deemed unacceptable to the censors. In our war economy-dependent national security state, dissenting voices are impermissible.

So now, when the body bags come home to Dover Air Force Base in the middle of the night, no press coverage is allowed (by the executive order of George W. Bush that has never been rescinded by President Obama, as far as I know), and we are encouraged to maintain the demonic notion that war IS glorious, as our heavily censored history textbooks have led us to believe.

Do Addictive Violence-Inducing Videogames Qualify as Circuses?

The false sense that war is glorious has been cunningly promoted by our un-elected War Department through it's pioneering production of expensive and very exciting interactive combat-related videogames that were designed partly as a recruiting tool for vulnerable young boys whose brains haven't been hard-wired yet. This easily brain-washable audience is often already videogame-addicted, and thus they are easy marks for this and other Pentagon propaganda tools (think military air shows). These first-person shooter-type games have been heavily promoted at a multitude of national touring sites, with one additional goal: to promote war and killing as "fun and games".

The US Army has invested untold hundreds of millions of tax dollars in the R & D for these games, and the investment has paid off so well that their tour buses, that featured

them, no longer seem to be necessary. Private commercial production of innumerable war-glorifying interactive videogames has gone viral, with ubiquitous, violent and highly profitable videogames such as the Call of Duty series, Halo, Mortal Combat and others.

It is hard to know which is more corrupting to the vulnerable developing brains and personalities of children, the widespread availability and consumption of X-rated (for sexual content) internet porn or the equally wide-spread consumption of X-rated (for violence) video games, both of which can be addictive because of their pleasurable ("do-it-again") surges of adrenalin and dopamine. To believe the research suggesting that empathy-destroying and sexual and physical abuse-promoting tendencies develop from participating doesn't take much imagination. Most thinking parents would not allow these virtual activities to come into their homes in their non-virtual forms.

Addictive and Poisonous Food and Drugs as Both Bread and Circuses

There are many other examples of modern American "bread" that keeps people "comfortably numb" and more easily controlled. Comfort foods that are highly processed, poorly nourishing and often addictive usually have synthetic sweeteners and other flavor-enhancers in them that can keep our appetites temporarily appeased, our bellies full and our minds too distracted to notice injustices, much less object to them. The same thing applies to alcohol and other dangerous synthetic brain-altering substances, including many of the legal drugs that can be both addicting and potentially brain-damaging. The ones that come to my mind are the Prozac-type antidepressants that parents of teens call the "I don't give a damn" drug. "I don't give a damn" attitudes are good for those who want to rule us, enslave us and sell us dangerous and/or addictive substances or activities.

It is instructive to ponder these sobering quotations from some infamous Nazis of old:

"What good fortune for those in power that the people do not think." - Adolf Hitler

"It also gives us a very special, secret pleasure to see how unaware the people around us are of what is really happening to them."-- Adolf Hitler

"The more we do to you, the less you seem to believe we are doing it."-- Joseph Mengele, MD, "Angel of Death" at Auschwitz

"Through clever and constant application of propaganda, people can be made to see paradise as hell, and also the other way around, to consider the most wretched sort of life as paradise."-- Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf, 1923

It shouldn't surprise anybody to realize that America is, as was Nazi Germany 70 years ago, the most militarized, war-like nation in the history of the world and perhaps just as easily manipulated by our leaders as the Germans were. We, despite representing less than 5 % of the world's population, spend more than the entire rest of the world on militarism. Our economy, like that of Nazi Germany's, is precariously dependent on war and the sales of weapons. America is the "Gun Runner to the World," and it is selling, to both allies and future enemies alike, the most lethal weapons known to man. This path will lead to no good.

The organized mass slaughter of fellow humans, euphemistically known as modern war, is what our so-called leaders think is the best hope for American jobs, jobs, jobs! Militarism has been bankrupting America since the Reagan years because Pentagon spending consistently uses up over 50% of the discretionary spending of our precious federal tax dollars! What an unsustainable mess our corporate-controlled shadow government and its political minions have gotten us into!

It is long past time for people of conscience to stand up and say "no more" before America goes the way of "The Thousand Year Reich."

Dr. Kohls has been a peace and justice advocate and an antifascist for decades. He feels that it is his duty to warn others about the realities of what could be called "Friendly American Fascism".

On Bush’s Waterboarding Claims, Media Loses Its Moral Compass

DIARY from p. 1

part of the pretense that a technique known to the honest torturers of the Spanish Inquisition as “tortura del agua” can be repackaged, with the advice of corrupt lawyers in the Justice Department, as an “enhanced interrogation technique” that is legally permissible. In addition, waterboarding is not, as *The Times* claimed, a process that “simulates drowning,” but is actually a form of controlled drowning, which is rather a different matter.

In the US, the former President has so far managed to escape accountability for his actions, after an internal Justice Department report — examining the behavior of the lawyers who twisted the law out of shape in a clumsy and disgraceful attempt to redefine torture so that it could be used by CIA operatives under Bush’s command — was whitewashed in February this year. Although the original report concluded that the lawyers in question — John Yoo and Jay S. Bybee — were guilty of “professional misconduct,” a senior Department of Justice fixer, David Margolis, was allowed to override those conclusions, claiming that Yoo and Bybee had only exercised “poor judgment.”

Critics of these conclusions include President Obama and the US Attorney General Eric Holder, who have both stated that waterboarding is torture, and Lt. Gen. Michael D. Maples, the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, who told the Senate Armed Services Committee in February 2008 after CIA director Gen. Michael Hayden first admitted that three prisoners had been waterboarded, that he believes waterboarding violates Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, the baseline protection for all prisoners in wartime (which the Bush administration chose to ignore from February 2002 until June 2006, when the US Supreme Court compelled them to reinstate it). Common Article 3 prevents “cruel treatment and torture” and “outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment.”

This is the, February 2008, exchange between Sen. Carl Levin and Lt. Gen. Michael Maples:

SEN. LEVIN: General, do you believe that waterboarding is consistent with Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions?

LT. GEN MAPLES: No, sir, I don’t.
SEN. LEVIN: Do you believe it’s humane?
LT. GEN MAPLES: No, sir. I think it would go beyond that bound.

In addition, Bent Sørensen, a former member of the United Nations Committee Against Torture, and now a Senior Medical Consultant to the Copenhagen-based International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, stated unequivocally in February 2008:

“It’s a clear-cut case: Waterboarding can without any reservation be labeled as torture. It fulfills all of the four central criteria that according to the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) defines an act of torture. First, when water is forced into your lungs in this fashion, in addition to the pain, you are likely to experience an immediate and extreme fear of death. You may even suffer a heart attack from the stress or damage to the lungs and brain from inhalation of water and oxygen deprivation. In other words there is no doubt that waterboarding causes severe physical and/or mental suffering — one central element in the UNCAT’s definition of torture. In addition the CIA’s waterboarding clearly fulfills the three additional definition criteria stated in the Convention for a deed to be labeled torture, since it is 1) done intentionally, 2) for a specific purpose, and 3) by a representative of a state — in this case the US.”

As well as failing to mention any of these criticisms — by people whose knowledge of the law was considerably deeper than that of George W. Bush — *the Times* also uncritically reported the former President’s claim that the interrogations of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Abu Zubaydah and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri “helped break up plots to attack American diplomatic facilities abroad, Heathrow Airport and Canary Wharf in London, and multiple targets in the United States,” even though no evidence has ever been presented to back up these claims.

Critics believe, with considerable justification, that these “plots,” like the “dirty bomb plot” to attack New York — in which British resident Binyam Mohamed and US citizen Jose Padilla were implicated (by Abu Zubaydah), and which had involved nothing more than some casual browsing on the Internet — were similarly spectral, and, as I explained in an article last Friday, “No Appetite for Prosecution: In Memoir, Bush Admits he Authorised the Use of Torture, but No One Cares,” which cast a critical eye on Bush’s culpability for torture and his dubious claims regarding intelligence, four days before today’s tsunami of uncritical reporting in the British media, the British journalist David Rose explained in an article for *Vanity Fair* in December 2008 that, “according to a former senior CIA official, who read all the interrogation reports on KSM, ‘90 percent of it was total f*cking bullsh*t,’” and a former Pentagon analyst added, “KSM produced no actionable intelligence. He was trying to tell us how stupid we were.”

The story of Abu Zubaydah, meanwhile, is even more illuminating, as he was not, as alleged, a high-ranking al Qaeda member, but was, instead, the mentally troubled gatekeeper of the Khaldan training camp in Afghanistan that was closed down by the Taliban because its emir, Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi, refused to cooperate with Osama bin Laden.

As I have explained previously, Dan Coleman, the FBI’s senior expert on al Qaeda, has explained how he and others at the FBI



concluded not only that Zubaydah had severe mental problems — particularly because of a head injury that he had suffered in 1992 — but also that this led to him being regarded with particular suspicion by the al Qaeda leadership. “They all knew he was crazy, and they knew he was always on the damn phone,” Coleman said. “You think they’re going to tell him anything?”

Moreover, Coleman’s analysis was, essentially, reinforced by a Justice Department official who told *The Washington Post* in 2009:

[Abu Zubaydah] “was not even an official member of al Qaeda,” and was, instead, “a ‘kind of travel agent’ for would-be jihadists. A former Justice Department official, who knows his case, explained, “He was the above-ground support. He was the guy keeping the safe house, and that’s not someone who gets to know the details of the plans. To make him the mastermind of anything is ridiculous.” What happened, it transpired, was that “because his name often turned up in intelligence traffic linked to al Qaeda transactions,” some within the intelligence community presumed that he was a significant figure, whereas the truth was that, although committed to the idea of *jihād*, he did not share Osama bin Laden’s aims, and “regarded the United States as an enemy principally because of its support of Israel.” The officials explained that he “had strained and limited relations with bin Laden and only vague knowledge before the September 11 attacks that something was brewing.”

A more honest appraisal of the result of Abu Zubaydah’s torture would note that it began before George W. Bush received the Justice Department’s legally twisted approval for it, and that, as Ron Suskind explained in his 2006 book, *The One Percent Doctrine*, so misplaced was the CIA’s belief in Zubaydah’s importance that when they subjected him to waterboarding and other forms of torture, he “confessed” to all manner of supposed plots — against shopping malls, banks, supermarkets, water systems, nuclear plants, apartment buildings, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the Statue of Liberty — and, as a result, “thousands of uniformed men and women raced in a panic to each target ... The United States would torture a mentally disturbed man and then leap, screaming, at every word he uttered.”

Even more disturbingly, a far clearer example of how torture works in practice — to produce false confessions — is to be found in the story of Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi, conveniently ignored by George W. Bush and his courtiers in the mainstream media. Seized in December 2001, al-Libi was renditioned to Egypt by the CIA where, under torture — including, it seems, waterboarding — he falsely confessed that Saddam Hussein was advising al Qaeda members on the use of chemical weapons. This claim made its way into Colin Powell’s presentation to the United Nations before the Iraq invasion in March 2003, and, as well as demonstrating how torture is only reliable for producing false intelligence. It also highlights something else that George W. Bush would like to have ignored while he brags now about how, “Had I not authorized waterboarding on senior al-Qaeda leaders, I would have had to accept a greater risk that the country would be attacked.”

As Powell’s former Chief of Staff, Col. Lawrence Wilkerson explained to me last year, the truth is that, far from fearing another terrorist attack, the Bush administration had actually decided by December 2001 to shift its focus to Iraq, and was therefore using torture to try to justify the invasion of Iraq. Bush may not have been driving this policy, which, as he indicates in his book, was in the hands of Dick Cheney, but as Commander-in-Chief he bears the ultimate responsibility not only for authorizing torture, but also for what seems to be to be the treasonous policy of torturing “terror suspects” to justify the illegal invasion of a sovereign country, while lying to his countrymen that he had ordered it to keep them safe.

As a result, all those media outlets queuing up to join *the Times* in sitting at Bush’s feet and uncritically reporting his lies, evasions and self-deceptions about torture ought to be ashamed. The former President is a war criminal, and not some kind of flawed hero returning from the wilderness to salvage his legacy.

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ForeclosureGate Could Force Bank Nationalization

NATIONALIZATION from p. 1
she quickly cautioned - stopping herself by posing a question: "Would we have ever thought we would see the day when we'd be using that terminology? 'Nationalization of the banks?'"

Noted Matthew Rothschild in a March 2009 *Progressive* editorial:
“[T]hat’s the problem today. The word “nationalization” shuts off the debate. Never mind that Britain, facing the same crisis we are, just nationalized the Bank of Scotland. Never mind that Ronald Reagan himself considered such an option during a global banking crisis in the early 1980s.”

Although nationalization sounds like socialism, it is actually what is supposed to happen under our capitalist system when a major bank goes bankrupt. The bank is put into receivership under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), which takes it over.

What fits the socialist label more, in fact, is the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) bank bailout, sometimes called “welfare for the rich.” The banks’ losses and risks have been socialized, but the profits have not. The bankers have been feasting on our dime without sharing the spread.

And that was before ForeclosureGate — the uncovering of massive fraud in the foreclosure process. Investors are now suing to put defective loans back on bank balance sheets. If they win, the banks will be hopelessly under water.

“The unraveling of the ‘foreclosuregate’ could mean banking crisis 2.0,” warned economist Dian Chu on October 21, 2010.

Banking Crisis 2.0 Means TARP II
The significance of ForeclosureGate is being downplayed in the media, but independent analysts warn that it could be the tsunami that takes the big players down.

John Lekas, senior portfolio manager of the Leader Short Term Bond Fund, said on “The Street” on November 2, 2010, that the banks will prevail in the lawsuits brought by investors. The paperwork issues, he said, are just “technical mumbo jumbo”; there is no way to unwind years of complex paperwork and securitizations.

But Yves Smith, writing in *The New York Times* on October 30, says it’s not that easy:

“The banks and other players in the securitization industry now seem to be looking to Congress to snap its fingers to make the whole problem go away, preferably with a law that relieves them of liability for their bad behavior. But any such legislative fiat would bulldoze regions of state laws on real estate and trusts, not to mention the Uniform Commercial Code. A challenge on constitutional grounds would be inevitable.

“Asking for Congress’s help would also require the banks to tacitly admit that they routinely broke their own contracts and made misrepresentations to investors in their Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Would Congress dare shield them from well-deserved litigation when the banks themselves use every minor customer deviation from incomprehensible contracts as an excuse to charge a fee?”

Chris Whalen of Institutional Risk Analytics told Fox Business News on October 1 that the government needs to restructure the largest banks. “Restructuring” in this context means bankruptcy receivership. “You can’t prevent it,” said Whalen. “We’ve wasted two years, and haven’t restructured the top banks, but for Citi. Bank of America will need to be restructured; this isn’t about the documentation problem, this is because [of the high] cost of servicing the property.”

Professors William Black and Randall Wray are calling for receivership for another reason - the industry has engaged in flagrant, widespread fraud. “There was fraud at every step in the home finance food chain,” they wrote in The Huffington Post on October 25:

“[T]he appraisers were paid to overvalue real estate; mortgage brokers were paid to induce borrowers to accept loan terms they could not possibly afford; loan applications overstated the borrowers’ incomes; speculators lied when they claimed that six different homes were their principal dwelling; mortgage securitizers made false reps and warranties about the quality of the packaged loans; credit ratings agencies were overpaid to overrate the securities sold on to investors; and investment banks stuffed collateralized debt obligations with toxic securities that were handpicked by hedge fund managers to ensure they would self destruct.”

Players all down the line were able to game the system, suggesting there is something radically wrong not just with the players, but with the system itself. Would it be sufficient just to throw the culprits in jail? And which culprits? One reason there have been so few arrests to date is that “everyone was doing it.” Virtually the whole securitized mortgage industry might have to be put behind bars.

The Need for Permanent Reform
The Rep. Paul Kanjorski amendment to the Banking Reform Bill passed in July allows federal regulators to preemptively break up large financial institutions that pose a threat to US financial or economic stability. In the financial crises of the 1930s and 1980s, the banks were purged of their toxic miscreations and delivered back to private owners, who proceeded to engage in the same sorts of chicanery all over again. It could be time to take the next logical step and nationalize not just the losses, but the banks themselves, and not just temporarily, but permanently.
The logic of that sort of reform was addressed by Willem Buiter, chief economist of Citigroup and formerly a member of the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee, in *The Financial Times* following the bailout of AIG in September 2008. He wrote:

If financial behemoths like AIG are too large and/or too interconnected to fail but not too



smart to get themselves into situations where they need to be bailed out, then what is the case for letting private firms engage in such kinds of activities in the first place?

Is the reality of the modern, transactions-oriented model of financial capitalism indeed that large private firms make enormous private profits when the going is good and get bailed out and taken into temporary public ownership when the going gets bad, with the tax payer taking the risk and the losses?

If so, then why not keep these activities in permanent public ownership? There is a long-standing argument that there is no real case for private ownership of deposit-taking banking institutions, because these cannot exist safely without a deposit guarantee and/or lender of last resort facilities that are ultimately underwritten by the taxpayer.

Even where private deposit insurance exists, this is only sufficient to handle bank runs on a subset of the banks in the system. Private banks collectively cannot self-insure against a generalized run on the banks. Once the state underwrites the deposits or makes alternative funding available as lender of last resort, deposit-based banking is a license to print money.

All money today except coinage originates as a debt to a bank, and debts are just legal agreements to pay in the future. Legal agreements are properly overseen by the judiciary, a branch of government. Perhaps it is time to make banking a fourth branch of government.

That probably won’t happen any time soon, but in the meantime we can try a few experiments in public banking, beginning with the Bank of America, predicted to be the first of the behemoths to be put into receivership.

Leo Panitch, Canada Research Chair in comparative political economy at York University, wrote in *The Globe and Mail* in December 2009 that “there has long been a strong case for turning the banks into a public utility, given that they can’t exist in complex modern society without states guaranteeing their deposits and central banks constantly acting as lenders of last resort.”

Nationalization Is Looking Better
David Sanger wrote in *The New York Times* on January 25, 2009:

“Mr. Obama’s advisers say they are acutely aware that if the government is perceived as running the banks, the administration would come under enormous political pressure to halt foreclosures or lend money to ailing projects in cities or states with powerful constituencies, which could imperil the effort to steer the banks away from the cliff. ‘The nightmare scenarios are endless,’ one of the administration’s senior officials said.”

Today, that scenario is looking less like a nightmare and more like relief. Calls have been made for a national moratorium on foreclosures. If the banks were nationalized, the government could move to restructure the mortgages, perhaps at subsidized rates.

Lending money to ailing projects in cities and states is also sounding rather promising. Despite massive bailouts by the taxpayers and the Fed, the banks are still not lending to local governments, local businesses or consumers. Matthew Rothschild, writing in March 2009, quoted Robert Pollin, professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst:

“Relative to a year ago, lending in the US economy is down an astonishing 90 percent. The government needs to take over the banks now, and force them to start lending.”

When the private sector fails, the public sector needs to step in. Under public ownership, wrote Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz in January 2009, “the incentives of the banks can be aligned better with those of the country. And it is in the national interest that

prudent lending be restarted.”
For a model, Congress can look to the nation’s only state-owned bank, the Bank of North Dakota (BND). The 91-year-old BND has served its community well. As of March 2010, North Dakota was the only state boasting a budget surplus; it had the lowest default rate in the country; it had the lowest unemployment rate in the country; and it had received a 2009 dividend from the BND of \$58.1 million, quite a large sum for a sparsely populated state.

For our newly-elected Congress, the only alternative may be to start budgeting for TARP II.

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 trust.”

Obama, Afghanistan and that Infernal Drip

LEAKS from p. 1

talk about such things, despite the inherent danger in doing so, were it truly unauthorized internally?

A few paragraphs later, if we’re still paying careful attention, we get the meat:

“The Obama administration’s plan to conduct a strategic review of the war in December has touched off maneuvering between US military leaders seeking support for extending the American troop buildup and skeptics looking for arguments to wind down the nation’s role.”

Thus, the story is not necessarily what was in the lead paragraph, namely the purported news that the offensive is not immediately bearing fruit. It is that there is a power struggle going on at high levels in Washington that will determine whether or not the US stays in Afghanistan indefinitely.

“...Among the troubling findings is that Taliban commanders who are captured or killed are often replaced in a matter of days. Insurgent groups that have ceded territory in Kandahar and elsewhere seem content to melt away temporarily, leaving behind operatives to carry out assassinations or to intimidate villagers while waiting for an opportunity to return.

“US officials said Taliban operatives have adopted a refrain that reflects their focus on President Obama’s intent to start withdrawing troops in the middle of next year. Attributing the words to Taliban leader Mohammad Omar, officials said, operatives tell one another, ‘The end is near’.”

The chilling implication, similar to that in Vietnam so many years ago, is that the US simply must commit to the long haul or risk the worst. It is a preemptive strike against Obama’s upcoming strategic review. Namely, why bother to hear what Obama has to say, when it has already been said?

And it raises this question: if an elected president is truly in control, then why are “US military and intelligence officials” going around doing their own thing?

Russ Baker is an award-winning investigative reporter and founder of WhoWhatWhy.com. He has written for the New Yorker, Vanity Fair, the Nation, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Village Voice and Esquire.



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Fighting Fluoride

FLUORIDE from p. 6

have never fluoridated their water or have ceased doing so. Yet the incidence of caries has declined just as much in those countries as in countries that practice fluoridation.”

The Case Against Fluoride next marshals evidence indicating that fluoridation is ineffective in its intended purpose of preventing tooth decay, then it recounts the history of what the authors call “The Great Fluoridation Gamble,” followed by a section on how fluoride harms health. Four chapters are devoted to explaining, in turn, how fluoride harms the brain, the endocrine system (especially the thyroid gland), bone, and kidneys. Another one analyzes evidence

that fluoride causes osteosarcoma in young boys. In the chapter on fluoride and the brain, the authors write, “There have also been twenty-three studies indicating a lowered IQ in children associated with levels as low as 1.9 ppm fluoride in drinking water.” The chapter on the endocrine system finds that fluoride causes hypothyroidism and goiter, by a variety of biochemical mechanisms, and notes that the second most widely prescribed drug in fluoridated America was levothyroxine (Synthroid), for impaired thyroid function. Fluoride poisons enzymes, particularly those in bones, which contain 99 percent of the fluoride in the body. With its enzymes poisoned by the fluoride stored there and unable make the collagen needed

to keep bones healthy and strong, they become brittle and weak. *The Case Against Fluoride* makes a strong case that the 1 mg/Liter (1 ppm) concentration of fluoride added to community water can wreak widespread deleterious effects in multiple organ systems.

For the last 30 years the fluoride used to fluoridate community drinking water is not pharmaceutical grade sodium fluoride, or naturally occurring calcium fluoride, but untested silicofluorides – hexafluorosilicic acid and its sodium salt, sodium hexafluorosilicate. These fluoridating agents are waste products of the phosphate fertilizer industry and contain trace amounts of arsenic and lead. Fertilizer plants sell these unpurified silicofluorides to municipal water systems at a profit, rather than, at considerable expense, having to dispose of them as toxic waste.

In a hypothetical court trial against fluoride, the judge presiding would stop pro-fluoridationists from making ad hominem attacks that focus on the character of the opposing witness instead of the evidence at hand; and proponents of fluoridation making repeated dogmatic assertions that fluoridation is safe and effective would be subject to cross examination. An attorney using *The Case Against Fluoride* as her brief in prosecuting the case against fluoridation would most likely obtain a criminal-level verdict that would be “beyond a reasonable doubt.”

The Case Against Fluoride also addresses, and discredits, forty claims pro-fluoridationists make for fluoride. These are some of them: Claim 1) “There is no difference in principle between chlorination and fluoridation;” 3) “Fluoride is a nutrient;” 5) “The amount of fluoride added to the public water system, 1 ppm, is so small it couldn't possibly hurt you;” 9) “Fluoridation is needed to protect children in low-income families;” 12) “For every dollar spent on fluoridation, \$38 is saved in dental costs;” 15) “Every major dental and medical authority supports fluoridation;” etc. The authors deal with Claim 17), “Fluoridation is safe and effective,” this way:

“This empty phrase is parroted so many times by pro-fluoridation officials and dentists at meetings considering fluoridation that one begins to wonder if they receive some kind of commission every time it is uttered! Be that as it may, mechanically repeating a phrase, no matter how often, without backing it up with solid supporting evidence does not make it true.”

With solid evidence now showing that fluoride placed in public water is not safe, health authorities nevertheless still continue to promote fluoridation of community drinking water. The American Medical Association (AMA) says, “The AMA recognizes the important public health benefits of drinking properly fluoridated water and encourages its member physician and medical societies to work with local and state health departments, dental societies, and concerned citizens to assure optimal fluoridation of community drinking water.” The American Dental Association (ADA), in its statement on the subject, reminds us that “Studies conducted throughout the past sixty years have consistently indicated that fluoridation of community water supplies is safe and effective in preventing dental decay in both children and adults.” The American Heart Association assures us that “no evidence exists that adjusting the fluoride content of public water supplies to a level of about one part per million has any harmful effect on the cardiovascular system;” and the American Cancer Society claims that “scientific studies show no connection between cancer rates in humans and adding fluoride to drinking water.” But none of these accolades can top the Federal Government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC has proclaimed fluoridation of community drinking water one of the ten

great public health achievements in the 20th century.

Starting in the 1940s with World War II, vast amounts of fluoride were needed to make atom bombs (using uranium hexafluoride to separate the fissionable uranium-235 isotope from the nonfissionable uranium-238 isotope), and emitted as toxic waste in the metal industries, especially smelting aluminum used to make airplanes. Fluoride emissions from these industries were killing crops and livestock and lawsuits loomed. Pushed partly as a matter of national security, the government painted a happy face on fluoride and convinced health policy makers and medical and dental leaders to approve putting it, well diluted, in public drinking water (for more on this part of the story see *Fluoride Follies*).

How can health authorities continue to be wrong about fluoride? For 65 years? And for the last 30 years using a non-pharmaceutical-grade of fluoride taken unaltered and untested from the smokestacks of the phosphate fertilizer industry? The truth is such things are not as improbable as one might think. This is not the first time that authorities have been so wrong about the safety and effectiveness of what was considered to be a therapeutic element. Before fluoride it was mercury. Mercury was used to treat a variety of conditions ranging from cuts and scratches to syphilis. It was considered to be safe and effective. Older Americans reading this can call to mind the little reddish-brown bottle of mercury-laden mercurochrome used to treat the odd cut or scratch. But even with syphilis, bad as that disease is, treating it with mercury proved to be worse than the disease itself. Finally recognized as the poison it is, medications containing mercury are no longer used, except, sad to say, mercury is still used in some multi-dose vaccines as a preservative. Likely what happened with mercury, however, will also happen with fluoride.

Joel Kaufmann, PhD, Professor of Chemistry Emeritus at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia puts the issue plainly:

“Proponents of fluoridation have censored most media, ignored intelligent discussion of fluoridation, slandered most opponents of fluoridation, and overturned legal judgments against fluoridation in a manner that demonstrates their political power. Many published studies that had conclusions favoring fluoridation were later found unsupported by their raw data.” (*J Am Phys Surg* 2005;10:38-44)

As Upton Sinclair notes (with additions): “It is difficult to get a man [e.g., fluoride proponents] to understand something [the fact that fluoridation of public water is neither safe nor effective] when his salary [, reputation, and power] depends on his not understanding it.”

One hopes that Americans will come to see fluoride, like mercury before it, as the poison it is and demand that municipalities stop fluoridating their water. With *The Case Against Fluoride: How Hazardous Waste Ended Up in Our Drinking Water and the Bad Science and Powerful Politics That Keep It There* now in public hands, along with the NRC's “Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA's Standards”, government officials, the fertilizer industry, and misguided doctors and dentists pushing for statewide fluoridation of public water supplies will be stopped, and likely sued. The health of Americans will be substantially improved once fluoride is removed from their water.

Donald Miller is a cardiac surgeon and Professor of Surgery at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. He is a member of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness and writes articles on a variety of subjects for LewRockwell.com. And is the author of Fluoride Follies. His web site is www.donaldmiller.com

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News Bites

Books Systematically Destroyed across Canada

Montreal - Copies of the historic book *Hidden from History: The Canadian Holocaust* have disappeared this week from the libraries at McGill and Concordia Universities, and from local aboriginal resource centers, following on a similar disappearance of the book from the Vancouver Public Library and the University of B.C. Library system during October 2010.

Hidden from History is the primary resource book that documents the evidence of the deliberate genocide of native people in church-run Indian residential schools across Canada. The disappearance of the books coincides with the sudden and unilateral banning without cause of Kevin Annett, the book's author, from his decade-long public affairs program on Vancouver Co-op radio, after apparent Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) intervention.

Annett announced that he will be posting the new and updated version of *Hidden from History* on a special website, and will publish it in 'e book' form on the internet, to allow its dissemination to millions of people. Copies of the new book can be ordered from Kevin Annett through his new email address: hiddenfromhistory1@gmail.com . For more information see: www.hiddenfromhistory.org

Another Nobel Economist Says We Have to Prosecute Fraud Or Else the Economy Won't Recover

Washington's Blog - As economists such as William Black and James Galbraith have repeatedly said, we cannot solve the economic crisis unless we throw the criminals who committed fraud in jail.

And Nobel Prize winning economist George Akerlof has demonstrated that failure to punish white collar criminals - and instead bailing them out- creates incentives for more economic crimes and further destruction of the economy in the future.

Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz just agreed. As Stiglitz told Yahoo's Daily Finance on October 20th:

“This is a really important point to understand from the point of view of our society. The legal system is supposed to be the codification of our norms and beliefs, things that we need to make our system work. If the legal system is seen as exploitative, then confidence in our whole system starts eroding. And that's really the problem that's going on.

“I think we ought to go do what we did in the S&L [crisis] and actually put many of these guys in prison. Absolutely. These are not just white-collar crimes or little accidents. There were victims. That's the point. There were victims all over the world.”

No One Will Be Charged in Destruction of CIA Interrogation Tapes, Justice Official Says

legitgov - No One Will Be Charged in Destruction of CIA Interrogation Tapes, Justice Official Says 10 Nov 2010 A federal prosecutor will not bring criminal charges against any of the Central Intelligence Agency officers involved in destroying videotapes depicting the brutal interrogation torture of al Qaeda detainees, Justice Department officials said on Tuesday. After an investigation spanning nearly three years, John H. Durham, the special prosecutor assigned to the case, has decided to clear the CIA undercover officers and top lawyers at the agency for their roles in the destruction of the tapes.

Judges Dismissing Foreclosure Cases Due to Banks' Fraudulent or Sloppy Paperwork

Washington Post - A year ago, Long Island Judge Jeffrey Spinner concluded that a mortgage company's paperwork in a foreclosure case was so flawed and its behavior in negotiations with the borrower so “repugnant” that he erased the family's \$292,500 debt and gave the house back for free.

The judgment in favor of the homeowner, Diane Yano-Horoski, which is being appealed, has alarmed the nation's biggest lenders, who say it could establish a dramatic new legal precedent and roil the nation's foreclosure system.

It is not the only case that has big banks worried. Spinner and some of colleagues in the New York City area estimate they are dismissing 20 to 50 percent of foreclosure cases on the basis of sloppy or fraudulent paperwork filed by lenders.

The Prison Boom Comes Home to Roost

James Carroll / *Boston Globe*

It is commonly observed now that, beginning about 1981, during the Reagan administration, the wealth of a tiny percentage of top-tier earners sky-rocketed, while the wages of the vast majority of Americans went flat. A rapid escalation in the illusory value of homeownership soon followed. But an unseen boom began then, too — in American rates of incarceration, the housing bubble in prisons. A recent issue of *Daedalus*, the journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, lays it out. In 1975, there were fewer than 400,000 people locked up in the United States. By 2000, that had grown to 2 million and by this year to nearly 2.5 million. As the social scientist Glenn C. Loury points out, with 5 percent of the world's population, the United States imprisons 25 percent of all humans behind bars. This effectively created a vibrant shadow economy: American spending on the criminal justice system went from \$33 billion in 1980 to \$216 billion in 2010 — an increase of 660 percent. Criminal justice is the third largest employer in the country.

But while prisons boomed, something else was happening — a trade-off. As sociologist Loic Wacquant says, the government was simultaneously slashing funds for public housing. In the 1990s, as federal corrections budgets increased by \$19 billion, money for housing was cut by \$17 billion, “effectively making the construction of prisons the nation's main housing program for the poor.”

US Intelligence Spending: A Whale of a Bad Joke

By Robert Higgs

The government has announced that total spending on “intelligence activities” in fiscal year 2010 was \$80.1 billion. According to a report in the *Washington Post*:

“The National Intelligence Program, run by the CIA and other agencies that report to the Director of National Intelligence, cost \$53.1 billion in fiscal 2010, which ended Sept. 30, while the Military Intelligence Program cost an additional \$27 billion.”

Although this is the first time that the total amount has been made public, analysts have long pegged it with fair accuracy. Of course, this species of spending is now at an all-time high. Dianne Feinstein, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, affirms that it is also more than twice the amount spent in 2001. It increased 7 percent in the past year alone.

