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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Globalists Using “Islam as Sword” to Plunder Former Soviet Republics

By CARLA STEA / RCFP

Today, once again, Fundamentalist Islam is being exploited to further the grandiose neo-imperial ambitions of Western corporations. They are targeting Vladimir Putin because of his independence from Western control by the central banking system and his determination to keep Russia's wealth of natural resources out of the hands of western powers.

Zbigniew Brzezinski designed the cynical strategy of manipulating “Islam as Sword” to destabilize the Soviet Union to facilitate the theft of the Soviet Union's huge oil reserves in the Caspian Sea. Robert Dreyfuss analyzed this strategy in his 2005 book, *Devil's Game: How the United States Helped to Unleash Fundamentalist Islam*. Today, once again, the globalists are risking a third world war by exploiting Fundamentalist Islam to facilitate their theft of Russia's priceless oil reserves east of the Volga and further their grandiose neo-imperial ambitions.

Anti-Russia and Islamic radical recruitment activities are being driven primarily by two organizations that share an office at an ultra-

See UNITED NATIONS p. 5

MEXICO Imperialism: Bankers, Drug Wars and Genocide

By JAMES PETRAS

In May 2011, Mexican investigators uncovered another mass clandestine grave with dozens of mutilated corpses; bringing the total number of victims to 40,000 killed since 2006, when the Calderon regime announced its “war on drug traffickers”.

Backed by advisers, agents and arms, the White House has been the principal promoter of a ‘war’ that has totally decimated Mexico's society and economy.

If Washington has been the driving force for the regime's war, Wall Street banks have been the main instruments ensuring the profits of the drug cartels. Every major US bank has been deeply involved in laundering hundreds of billions of dollars in drug profits, for the better part of the past decade.

Mexico's descent into this inferno has been engineered by the leading US financial and political institutions, each supporting ‘one side or the other’ in the bloody “total war” which spares no one, no place and no moment in time. While the Pentagon arms the Mexican government and the US Drug Enforcement Agency enforces the “military solution”, the biggest US banks receive, launder and transfer hundreds of billions of dollars to the drug lords' accounts, who then buy modern arms, pay private armies of assassins and corrupt untold numbers of political and law enforcement officials on both sides of the border.

Mexico's Descent into the Inferno

Everyday scores, if not hundreds, of corpses appear in streets and/or are found in unmarked

See MEXICO p. 7

US, Pakistan Near Open War *Chinese Ultimatum Warns Washington Against Attack*

By WEBSTER G. TARPLEY

Washington DC, May 20, 2011 – China has officially put the United States on notice that Washington's planned attack on Pakistan will be interpreted as an act of aggression against Beijing. This blunt warning represents the first known strategic ultimatum received by the United States in half a century, going back to Soviet warnings during the Berlin crisis of 1958-1961, and indicates the grave danger of general war growing out of the US-Pakistan confrontation.

“Any Attack on Pakistan Would be Construed as an Attack on China”

Responding to reports that China has asked the US to respect Pakistan's sovereignty in the aftermath of the bin Laden operation, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu used a May 19 press briefing to state Beijing's categorical demand that the “sovereignty

and territorial integrity of Pakistan must be respected.” According to Pakistani diplomatic sources, cited by the *Times of India*, China has “warned in unequivocal terms that any attack on Pakistan would be construed as an attack on China.” This ultimatum was reportedly delivered at the May 9 China-US strategic dialogue and economic talks in Washington, where the Chinese delegation was led by Vice Prime Minister Wang Qishan and State Councilor Dai Bingguo. Chinese warnings are implicitly backed up by that nation's nuclear missiles, including an estimated 66 ICBMs, some capable of striking the United States, plus 118 intermediate-range missiles, 36 submarine-launched missiles, and numerous shorter-range systems.

Support from China is seen by regional observers as critically important for Pakistan, which is otherwise caught in a pincer between the US and India: “If US and Indian pressure

continues, Pakistan can say ‘China is behind us. Don't think we are isolated. We have a potential superpower with us,’” Talat Masood, a political analyst and retired Pakistani general, told AFP.

The Chinese ultimatum came during the visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Yousef Raza Gilani in Beijing, during which the host government announced the transfer of 50 state-of-the-art JF-17 fighter jets to Pakistan, immediately and without cost. Before his departure, Gilani had stressed the importance of the Pakistan-China alliance, proclaiming: “We are proud to have China as our best and most trusted friend. And China will always find Pakistan standing beside it at all times.... When we speak of this friendship as being taller than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans it truly captures the essence

See WAR p. 8

Meltdown! Meltdown! Meltdown! Fukushima: Three Cores Melted

By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

TEPCO, the Japanese energy producer, has finally acknowledged the gravity of the on-going situation at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear facility, at a press conference May 15. The situation is far worse than has been admitted previously. Now that workers have finally gained access to the reactor in building #1, they have confirmed the worse-case scenario only suspected until now. Measurements confirm that the fuel rods in reactor #1 have completely melted down. The molten fuel has flowed to the bottom of the

reactor and has melted through the pressure vessel. The pressure vessel is breached so that the cooling water level can not be maintained, the water leaks out faster than it can be pumped in.

There is every reason to believe that reactors #2 and #3 are in a similar or even worse condition, but workers so far have been unable to enter those reactors to assess the situation.

The announcements from TEPCO simply confirm the conclusions of outside expert observers such as physicist Dr. Michio Kaku,

who came to the same conclusion about the state of the reactors over a month ago based on the type and amount of radioactive material being released.

Even more frightening than the meltdown of the reactors, is the fact that apparently the explosion at reactor #3 was not just a hydrogen gas explosion, as we saw at reactor #1, but in fact was a run-away nuclear chain reaction in the spent fuel pool. That is the conclusion of nuclear expert Arnie Gundersen of Fairwinds Associates. Gundersen has spent

See MELTDOWN p. 4

Bin Laden Assault: a Jessica Lynch-Style Fable?

By PAUL WATSON

First, bin Laden was armed then he was not. First, bin Laden used his wife as a human shield then he did not. First, bin Laden was shot on sight then he was shot only after being captured first. First, bin Laden's compound was a plush million dollar mansion, then it was a dirty house with no air conditioning worth a quarter of that.

The truth behind the raid and the alleged assassination of bin Laden is moving further away from the dramatic tale President Obama

told the nation on Sunday night with each passing day. But that's to be expected from a US military-industrial complex that has a habit of manufacturing fables to dupe the American public into accepting the delusion that is the “war on terror”.

Take for example the gargantuan psychological warfare salvo that the US government launched against its own people in the immediate aftermath of the Jessica Lynch “rescue”.

In crafting the Jessica Lynch fable, “The Pentagon had been influenced by

Hollywood producers of reality TV and action movies,” reported the London *Guardian*, including “Black Hawk Down” director Jerry Bruckheimer, who visited the Pentagon personally on numerous occasions before the event to discuss how occupations overseas could be humanized for means of better mass consumption on behalf of the American public.

The result was a complete fabrication of the Jessica Lynch story in an attempt to turn

See FABLE p. 4

The Strauss-Kahn Frame-Up: The Amerikan Police State Strides Forward

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

The International Monetary Fund's director, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, was arrested last Sunday in New York City on the allegation of an immigrant hotel maid that he attempted to rape her in his hotel room. A New York judge has denied Strauss-Kahn bail on the grounds that he might flee to France.

President Bill Clinton survived his sexual escapades, because he was a servant to the system, not a threat. But Strauss-Kahn, like former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer, was a threat to the system, and, like Eliot Spitzer, Strass-Kahn has been deleted from the power ranks.

Strauss-Kahn was the first IMF director in my lifetime, if memory serves, who

disavowed the traditional IMF policy of imposing on the poor and ordinary people the cost of bailing out Wall Street and the Western banks. Strauss-Kahn said that regulation had to be re-imposed on the greed-driven, fraud-prone financial sector which, unregulated, destroyed the lives of ordinary people. Strauss-Kahn listened

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CDC Vaccine Scientist Who Downplayed Links to Autism Indicted by DOJ in Alleged Fraud

By MIKE ADAMS / NATURALNEWS

CDC researcher Poul Thorsen, who famously headed up the “Denmark Study” that many claim disproved any link between autism and vaccines, has been indicted in Atlanta by a federal grand jury on charges of wire fraud, money laundering and defrauding research institutions of grant money.

Poul Thorsen is a scientist who formerly worked for the CDC, and over the last several years, he oversaw millions of dollars in grant money that was used to conduct research to

“prove” that vaccines have no link to autism. Dr. Thorsen's research papers include the famous “Danish Study” entitled Thimerosal and the occurrence of autism: negative ecological evidence from Danish population-based data.

This paper concludes that thimerosal, the mercury-based preservative used in vaccines around the world, has no statistically significant link to autism. It is one of the key papers used by vaccination proponents who argue that thimerosal is safe to inject

into young children. That Poul Thorsen's credibility is now being called into question by a federal indictment of fraud and money laundering will, of course, have ripple effects throughout both the vaccine industries and autism support groups.

Follow the money

According to the official announcement of the indictment, Thorsen was awarded grant money by the CDC as far back as the 1990s.

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Osama's Last Interview

FROM THE DAILY UMMAT

In the years since 9/11, there have been numerous audio and video statements supposedly attributed to Osama bin Laden. Many are obvious fakes, the rest are suspected fakes. As far as I know, the only actual interview of Osama by a journalist since 9/11 was that published in the *Daily Ummat* of Karachi, Pakistan in September 2001.

The following is an excerpt of the September 28, 2001 “exclusive” interview in the Pakistani paper, *Daily Ummat*, in Urdu, BBC translation in English, 2001.

Ummat's introduction

Kabul: Prominent Arab mojahed holy warrior Usamah Bin-Ladin has said that he or his al-Qa'idah group has nothing to do with the 11 September suicidal attacks in Washington and New York. He said the US government should find the attackers within the country. In an exclusive interview with *Daily Ummat*, he said these attacks could be the act of those who are part of the American system and are rebelling against it and working for some other system. Or, Usamah said, this could be the act of those who want to make the current century a century of conflict between Islam and Christianity. Or,

See INTERVIEW p. 4

TSA Safety Tests Rigged

By MIKE ADAMS / NATURALNEWS

It can now be revealed by NaturalNews that the TSA faked its safety data on its X-ray airport scanners in order to deceive the public about the safety of such devices.

As evidenced by recent events in Washington, we now live in an age where the federal government simply fakes whatever documents, news or evidence it wants people to believe, then releases that information as if it were fact. This is the modus operandi of the Department of Homeland Security, which must fabricate false terror alerts to keep itself in business — and now the TSA division has taken the fabrication of false evidence to a whole new level with its naked body scanners (see below).

Even physics professors question the TSA's obvious cover-up

The evidence of the TSA's fakery is now obvious thanks to the revelations of a letter signed by five professors from the University of California, San Francisco and Arizona State University. You can view the full text of the letter at: <http://www.propublica.org>.

The letter reveals:

- To this day, there has been no credible scientific testing of the TSA's naked body scanners. The claimed “safety” of the technology

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CDC Vaccine Scientist Who Downplayed Links to Autism Indicted by DOJ in Alleged Fraud

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He arranged for the grant money to be awarded to an entity in Denmark, where he provided “input and guidance” for the research projects.

From 2000 to 2009, the CDC awarded \$11 million in grant money to two Danish government agencies to study, among other things, the possible link between vaccines and autism. In 2002, Thorsen moved to Denmark and became the “principal investigator” for the grant money, responsible for administering the research money that the CDC awarded.

But here’s where things get interesting: According to the Dept. of Justice, Thorsen began allegedly stealing grant money by submitting fraudulent expense documents that were supposedly related to the Danish study. These fraudulent expense documents were given to the Danish government, Aarhus University and Odense University Hospital, the institutions involved in the research.

From February 2004 through June 2008, says the DOJ indictment, Thorsen allegedly submitted over a dozen fraudulent invoices requesting reimbursement for expenses that were fabricated. Interestingly, these allegedly fraudulent invoices were signed by a laboratory section chief at the CDC, indicating that someone inside the CDC was either duped by Thorsen or potentially involved in the alleged fraud.

What was Thorsen claiming in these allegedly fraudulent invoices requesting reimbursement? He claimed that a CDC laboratory had conducted work in conjunction with the research and was owed funds out of the grant money. These invoices were then handed over to Aarhus University, where Thorsen held a faculty position. Aarhus then transferred “hundreds of thousands of dollars to bank accounts held at the CDC Federal Credit Union in Atlanta,”

operation for the triple jab. Ten of the paper’s authors also signed retractions on the interpretation but stood by the science.

This is the second independent study to back up Dr Wakefield. In 2001, John O’Leary, Professor of Pathology at St James’s Hospital and Trinity College, Dublin, replicated his findings.

Dr Wakefield said, on May 20: “This new study confirms what we

found in British children and again with Professor O’Leary. The only exposure these children have had to measles is through the MMR vaccine.

“They were developing normally until they regressed. They now suffer autism and bowel disease.

“The Department of Health and some of the media wanted to dismiss our research as insignificant. The excuse was that no one else had the same findings as us. What they didn’t say is that no one else had looked.”

A spokesman for the Department of Health said they had not read the American report, but added: “MMR remains the best form of protection against measles, mumps and rubella.”

Read more www.dailymail.co.uk.

At the time, Dr Wakefield said that, although they had not proved a link between MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and autism, there was cause for concern and the Government should offer the option single vaccines — instead of only MMRs – until more research had been done.

The paper — and the confused interpretation of its findings — caused uproar and led to many parents withdrawing their co-

says the DOJ.

But here’s the clever part: Those bank accounts were not official CDC accounts at all. They were allegedly private bank accounts belonging to none other than Dr. Poul Thorsen.

Once the money was transferred into Thorsen’s private accounts, Thorsen “allegedly withdrew it for his own personal use, buying a home in Atlanta, a Harley Davidson motorcycle, and Audi and Honda vehicles, and obtaining numerous cashier’s checks, from the fraud proceeds,” says the DOJ.

According to government documents, Dr. Poul Thorsen, one of the key researchers in “disproving” any link between vaccines and autism, allegedly defrauded the scientific research community of over one million dollars.

Aarhus Distances Itself from Thorsen

More details are revealed through a statement issued in January by Aarhus University, which sought to sever its ties with Thorsen. It says, “Unfortunately, a considerable shortfall in funding at Aarhus University associated with the CDC grant was discovered. In investigating the shortfalls associated with the grant, DASTI and Aarhus University became aware of two alleged CDC funding documents as well as a letter regarding funding commitments allegedly written by Randolph B. Williams of CDC’s Procurement Grants Office which was used to secure advances from Aarhus University. Upon investigation by CDC, a suspicion arose that the documents are forgeries.”

This letter goes on to state that Dr Thorsen was essentially hoodwinking others into thinking he was still a faculty member at Aarhus University:

In March 2009, Dr. Thorsen resigned his faculty position at Aarhus University. In the meantime, it has come to the attention of Aarhus University that Dr. Thorsen has continued to act in such a manner as to create

the impression that he still retains a connection to Aarhus University after the termination of his employment by the university. Furthermore, it has come to the attention of Aarhus University that Dr. Poul Thorsen has held full-time positions at both Emory University and Aarhus University simultaneously. Dr Thorsen’s double Full-time employment was unauthorised by Aarhus University, and he engaged in this employment situation despite the express prohibition of Aarhus University.

The Federal Indictment Against Thorsen

Thorsen is facing 13 counts of wire fraud and 9 counts of money laundering. NaturalNews spoke with the Department of Justice and confirmed that extradition proceedings are underway to bring Thorsen to the United States from Denmark, although no particular timetable for that extradition has been announced.

Thorsen now faces up to 260 years in prison from the wire fraud charges and up to an additional 90 years in prison for the money laundering charges, plus a total of \$22.5 million in possible fines. In addition, the federal indictment also contains a so-called “forfeiture provision” which seeks the forfeiture of the personal property Dr. Thorsen allegedly purchased with money he stole from the CDC’s grant activities: A house in Atlanta, two cars, and a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stephen H. McClain and Michael J. Brown, both out of the Northern District of Georgia. This Atlanta office has a well-known reputation for going after crooks, regardless of the political implications. This is the same office, for example, that indicted Atlanta’s own mayor for corruption and tax charges in 2004.

The prosecuting attorney for that case, Sally Quillian Yates, is the same attorney contributing to this case. She said of Thorsen: “Grant money for disease research is a precious commodity. When grant funds are stolen, we lose not only the money, but also the opportunity to better understand and cure debilitating diseases. This defendant is alleged to have orchestrated a scheme to steal over \$1 million in CDC grant money earmarked for autism research. We will now seek the defendant’s extradition for him to face federal charges in the United States.”

Understand what is being alleged here: That Thorsen stole taxpayer dollars intended for medical research, then pocketed them in his own private bank accounts and used the money to buy luxury items for his personal use. This is a man with a history of strong ties to the CDC, research universities and medical journals. This is a person whose research has been widely quoted by the vaccine apologists who say vaccines are safe. And now, in the midst of all this, how many mainstream newspapers do you see covering Thorsen’s indictment and his ties to the CDC? Virtually none.

This is the great untold story of an alleged criminal ring operating inside the CDC, with the purpose of falsifying research that would “disprove” any links between vaccines and toxic side effects.

The Upshot of all This

What you read above are the facts of the case. What you’re about to read is my own opinion analysis as the editor of NaturalNews. While I spoke with the US Attorney’s Office on these matters, what you’re about to read are my own opinions, not theirs.

For starters, given that the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM), the *American Journal of Epidemiology* and many other medical journals have published Dr. Thorsen’s work, will they retract his scientific papers now that he has been indicted for fraud and money laundering?

Or do the medical journals retract papers only from those whose research suggests that vaccines do, in fact, have a link to intestinal disorders and neurological problems in children? Remember, of course, that the conventional medical industry almost couldn’t wait to denounce Dr. Andrew Wakefield’s research (see related article), based on only the flimsiest of allegations which don’t even stand up to basic scrutiny. And yet when one of their own “insider” scientists like Dr. Poul Thorsen is indicted for fraud and money laundering, they don’t question the integrity of his scientific research in the least. In fact, the CDC is now publicly defending his research! His

research is still openly cited on the CDC’s own website!

So don’t hold your breath waiting for the medical journals to denounce Dr. Thorsen’s research. His so-called “scientific findings” are such an important cornerstone in the false “scientific” evidence dispelling any link between vaccines and autism that they would probably let his research stand even if he was convicted of rape, murder and incest. No criminal is too criminal for the medical journals, it seems —especially if his conclusions support the vaccine industry.

Secondly, did you notice that the allegedly falsified invoices submitted by Dr. Thosen to Aarhus University were signed off by a CDC lab section chief? Someone inside the CDC, in other words, was enabling Dr. Thorsen allegedly to engage in this fraud. The question is: Was this person a co-conspirator?

To answer all this, you have to keep one thing in perspective: During the years of 2006 - 2008 when all this alleged fraud was taking place, the vaccine industry was under increasing attack by scientists who questioned the safety of their vaccines. The evidence linking vaccines with autism and gastrointestinal disorders was becoming increasingly evident and increasingly difficult to cover up. Dr. Julie Gerberding was at the helm of the CDC, and she was no doubt trying to impress her future employers at Merck, where she is now the president of Merck’s global vaccine division, having left the CDC the very next year following Dr. Thorsen’s alleged money laundering scheme.

Question: Did the CDC actively enable and support Dr. Thorsen’s alleged fraud in order to “pay him off” for falsifying the research that would supposedly disprove any link between vaccines and autism? And was this being masterminded by Dr. Julie Gerberding as part of her effort to prove her loyalty to Merck, where she now runs the global vaccine division?

The CDC, of course, has downplayed the whole thing. It released a statement that attempted to characterize Poul Thorsen’s alleged fraud as a “fiscal” matter, not something involving his science, as if to imply that a man can be a crook when it comes to his money, but an angel when it comes to his science.

Don’t think the world isn’t noticing already: Just two years ago, the CDC’s reputation was relatively high even among natural health practitioners. But after watching the CDC’s behavior through these last couple of flu scares, more intelligent people now fully realize the CDC has become little more than a mouthpiece for the pharmaceutical industry. It was the CDC, after all, that helped hype up the Swine Flu scare that resulted in billions of taxpayer dollars being needlessly spent on vaccines which were mostly thrown away unused after the scare passed.

As the editor of NaturalNews, I have publicly, on numerous occasions, called for the Department of Justice to investigate the CEOs of drug companies for fraud, racketeering and conspiracy. While this indictment of Dr. Poul Thorsen isn’t all that, it’s at least a step in the right direction that may help uncover the truth about what really goes on behind the scenes with taxpayer “research money.”

How Much Vaccine Research is Based on Outright Fraud?

It also raises the question: How many other scientific researchers and grant money administrators are on the take, pocketing taxpayer dollars that were intended for research purposes? How many of these people falsify their research data in order to keep getting grant money injections into their private bank accounts? Just how deep does the collusion between the corrupt scientific community and the fraudulent vaccine industry really go?

And, of course, what is the CDC’s role in all this? It has been one of the top cheerleaders for the vaccine industry for at least the past decade. Now, we are learning that a CDC section chief knowingly or unknowingly colluded with a physician and researcher who has now been indicted for fraud and money laundering. How high up the CDC does this alleged fraud really go?

By the way, I strongly recommend that you become a regular reader of www.AgeOfAutism.com which provides outstanding reporting on these issues. Make that site one of your regular sources of information. You’ll be amazed by what they are able to report.

Mike Adams is a natural health researcher, author and award-winning journalist with a mission to teach personal and planetary health to the public. Known on the "net" as the Health Ranger, Adams shares his ethics, mission statements and personal health statistics at www.healthranger.com.

TSA Scanner Safety Tests Rigged



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by the TSA is based on rigged tests.

- The testing that did take place was done on a custom combination of spare parts rigged by the manufacturer of the machines (Rapiscan) and didn’t even use the actual machines installed in airports. In other words, the testing was rigged.
- The names of the researchers who conducted the radiation tests at Rapiscan have been kept secret! This means the researchers are not available for scientific questioning of any kind, and there has been no opportunity to ask even whether they are qualified to conduct such tests. (Are they even scientists?)

TSA operates in complete secrecy

None of the Rapiscan tests have been available to be subjected to peer review. They are quite literally secret tests using secret techniques engineered by secret researchers. We the People apparently have no right to see the data, nor the methodology, nor even the names of the researchers who supposedly carried out these safety tests.

- The final testing report produced from this fabricated testing scenario has been so heavily redacted that “there is no way to repeat any of these measurements,” say the professors. In other words, the testing violates the very first tenant of scientific experimentation which is that all experiments must be repeatable in order to be verified as accurate.

As the professors state in their letter:

“The document is heavily redacted with red stamps over the words and figures. In every case, the electric current used, which correlates one to one with X-ray dose, has been specifically redacted. Thus, there is no way to repeat any of these measurements. While the report purports to present the results of objective testing, in fact the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab (JHU APL) personnel, who are unnamed anywhere in the document either as experimenters or as authors, were not provided with a machine by Rapiscan. Instead they were invited to the manufacturing site to observe a mock-up of components (spare parts)

that were said to be similar to those that are parts of the Rapiscan system. The tests were performed by the manufacturer using the manufacturer’s questionable test procedures.”

You got that? Where is the outrage from the “scientific” community on all this? This quack science TSA testing is so atrociously and inexcusably bad that if this fabricated evidence were presented at any sort of scientific meeting, they would be laughed off the stage and publicly vilified in the media. And yet, somehow, when the TSA engaged in this sort of quack science, virtually the entire scientific community says nothing. Only a small group of especially courageous scientists has stood up to this obvious quackery, and even these professors are, of course, being blasted in the press and called un-American for merely questioning the obviously flimsy evidence being laughably fronted by the TSA.

I mean, seriously: Can you imagine the total outcry if an herbal product company claimed that its products cured cancer, it did all the testing itself, all the names of the researchers were kept secret, the methodology was a secret, and the whole document was 50% redacted to protect “proprietary information?” They would actually be arrested by the federal government for running a criminal scam! So why can the TSA get away with the exact same scandalous junk science distortions and virtually no one in the mainstream media asks a single question?

The complete fabrication of safety in the name of false science

It’s amazing what America has come to these days, folks. The federal government isn’t merely counterfeiting money every day (or stealing from your retirement accounts to keep itself afloat, which just started happening), but the feds are also fabricating scientific evidence to keep pushing their utterly fabricated “war on terror.” The feds in Washington aren’t really fighting a war on terror... they ARE the terror! When the feds reach down your pants and feel your junk; when they force you to be fried with high-powered X-rays at the airport; and when they threaten anyone who stands up to their Nazi-like marching orders, they have become the very terrorist organization they claim to be fighting.

Mike Adams is a natural health researcher, author and award-winning journalist with a mission to teach personal and planetary health to the public. Known on the "net" as the Health Ranger, Adams shares his ethics, mission statements and personal health statistics at www.HealthRanger.org

While any release of historical records is welcome, the official “disclosure” of the Pentagon Papers is in fact a sign of disarray in the government secrecy system. The fact that portions of the half-century old Papers remained classified until this year is a reminder that classification today is often completely untethered from genuine national security concerns.

On March 28, 2011 the National Declassification Center announced “the great news that the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) has declassified the information of interest to them” in the Papers, clearing the way for next month’s public release.

Pentagon Papers to be Officially Released

(40 years after they were un-officially released)

By STEVEN AFTERGOOD / SECRECYNEWS

Forty years after they were famously leaked by Daniel Ellsberg in 1971, the Pentagon Papers will be officially released next month at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library.


The National Archives announced this week that it “has identified, inventoried, and prepared for public access the Vietnam Task Force study, United States-Vietnam Relations 1945-1967, informally known as ‘the Pentagon Papers.’” As a result, 3.7 cubic feet of previously restricted textual materials will be made officially available at the Nixon Library on June 13, the Archives said in a May 10 Federal Register notice.

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Creating the bin Laden Reality

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

I have heard one dozen times today (May 13) from media that the US killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan. I heard it three times from National Public Radio, twice from the BBC, and from every TV and radio station I encountered, even those stations that play the rock and roll music of the 1950s and 1960s. The killing of bin Laden has now entered the legends of our time and, no doubt, the history books.

The US government that told us that Saddam Hussein had “weapons of mass destruction” and “al Qaeda connections” that Iran has nuclear missiles that require the US to ring Russia with anti-ballistic missile systems, finally told us the truth for once. Obama found Osama and had him murdered, apparently unarmed in his underwear, defended not by al Qaeda, “the best trained, most dangerous vicious killers on the planet,” but by two unarmed women.

As I offered previously, if you believe this, I have a bridge in Brooklyn that I can let you have for a cheap price.

The government has created another reality for us proles. We won again. Us white hats got the black hat, just like in the western movie. Fantasy is better than fact, and us good guys are on a roll. It makes everybody happy, even those who have lost their jobs, their houses, their pensions.

So, who’s the next black hat? The military/security complex cannot do without a bad guy, or the budget could be cut and billions of dollars in profits would go missing. Without someone for Americans to hate, the show can’t go on.

Homeland Security says the next black hat will be “domestic extremists.” The CIA says it will be the next al Qaeda leader, bin Laden’s replacement, who will terrorize us white hats for killing bin Laden. The neocon brownshirts say it is Pakistan, who hid bin Laden from us, thus protecting him from justice being done. Hillary says it is China, and as the US economy continues its collapse, more and more fingers will point at China.

Airport Security will pat down more babies, feel more genitals, and radiate more air travelers.

But without bin Laden, we will feel safer and more secure, which is counterproductive for the military/security complex. Obama has made a fundamental mistake. He has killed Emanuel Goldstein (bin Laden), the hate figure who justified the trillions of dollars we have blown trying to get him.

Once Homeland Security, the CIA, and the White

House decide who the new hate figure is to be, we will be off and running again.

It took 10 years to get bin Laden. This proves that all those security experts who say that the war will last for 30 years might be underestimating the necessary commitment. If it takes 10 years each to find and murder the next two leaders, we are faced with conflict that lasts across generations.

As I wrote previously, bin Laden’s alleged killing serves so many different agendas that even those who don’t believe the story have hooked their wagon to it. Al Qaeda itself can no longer take credit for acts of terrorism without declaring that it was to avenge bin Laden.

The bin Laden story is now set in stone, immune from fact. Global Research has provided us with bin Laden’s last known interview, which appeared in a Pakistan newspaper on September 28, 2001 and was translated and made available to the West by the BBC World Monitoring Service on September 29, 2001.

In the interview, bin Laden says: “I have already said that I am not involved in the 11 September attacks in the United States. . . . Whoever committed the act of 11 September are not the friends of the American people. I have already said that we are against the American system, not against its people, whereas in these attacks the common American people have been killed. . . .The Western media is unleashing such a baseless propaganda, which makes us surprised, but it reflects on what is in their hearts and gradually they themselves become captive of this propaganda. . . . Terror is the most dreaded weapon in the modern age and the Western media is mercilessly using it against its own people.”

But who would believe a demonized bin Laden when to do so requires them to disbelieve George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, and the Western media?

We all know, don’t we? that in America the government always has the best interest of ordinary people at heart and always tells them the truth. If you don’t believe this, you are anti-American.

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



Quick, Quick: Why Are We in Libya? A New Candor Prevails...Sort Of

By RUSS BAKER / WHOWHATWHY.COM

You’re probably already consuming everything that appears in the *New York Times*. But perhaps you’re quite busy, and just can’t get to many of the tasty offerings on that paper’s bulging menu. Or, maybe you’re one of those people who do read as many of the articles as possible—and then wonder what they actually mean.

I’m one of the latter, which is why I ponder each article as if it is in the crossword section. And why I feel compelled to offer you a markup of the following, which appeared under the headline “British Commander Says Libya Fight Must Expand”:

“Two months into the NATO bombing campaign against Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi’s forces, Britain’s top military commander has said that the Libyan leader could remain “clinging to power” unless NATO broadened its bombing targets to include the country’s infrastructure.”

Hmm. So this British guy, whoever he is, wants to bomb Libya to smithereens as a way of forcing Qaddafi out. And I could swear they were originally in there for some other reason—and very reticent about the extent of any military involvement.

“The comments, by Gen. Sir David Richards, came at the end of a week that saw NATO step up its airstrikes, with an accelerated tempo of attacks on the capital, Tripoli. In the predawn hours of Thursday [May 19], a volley of heavy bunker-busting

bombs that struck Colonel Qaddafi’s underground command headquarters in the city appeared to have narrowly missed killing him.”

“Colonel Qaddafi’s defiant audio message after that attack, telling NATO he was “in a place where you can’t get me,” appears to have played a part in galvanizing opinion among NATO commanders, particularly in Britain and France, the nations carrying out the bulk of the bombing.”

Don’t piss these guys off, or they’ll come for you just on a dare.

Britain, in particular, with heavy combat commitments in Afghanistan and mounting costs for the Libyan air campaign straining its military budget, has been concerned that the conflict could be settling into a long-running stalemate.

What was Britain’s particular reason for focusing on Qaddafi, as opposed to any other run-of-the-mill murderous thug in these general parts? I couldn’t remember, so I poked around, and came up with this piece we ran previously. It points out (courtesy of a little-noticed *New York Times* mention) how Qaddafi had angered big oil companies by demanding a bigger piece of the action from those extracting oil from his premises. Big petrol, of course, includes BP—the outfit that has British government officials by their privates:

“In 2009, top aides to Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi
See LIBYA p. 5



Public Worries About Unemployment and the Economy, but Media Prefers Deficit

By NOEL BRINKERHOFF / ALLGOV.COM

The largest daily newspapers in the US have placed greater emphasis on coverage of the federal budget deficit than the issue of unemployment, even though the American public is most concerned with jobs and the economy. The latest Gallup poll showed that when asked about the nation’s most important problem, only 12% chose the deficit, while 57% named the economy, jobs or unemployment.

National Journal examined stories published over a two-year period (April 2009 to May 2011) by *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today* and *The Washington Post*. It found references to unemployment declined since peaking at 154 in August 2010. As of last month,

joblessness mentions were down to 63.

On the other hand, the deficit was brought up more than 260 times in December 2010, in response to the release of President Barack Obama’s deficit commission report. But mentions of the deficit have remained high in the succeeding months, much to the delight of House Republicans.

Over the course of newspapers downgrading coverage of unemployment, the jobless rate has shrunk, a little, by half a percentage point.

Americans, though, are still most concerned with the economy (35%) and unemployment (22%), according to the new Gallup poll. Both percentages represent increases over responses provided in April (economy 26%, unemployment 19%).

The 12% of Americans who listed the

federal budget deficit or national debt as the nation’s most important problem was down from 17% in April.

“Americans are worried primarily about the economy and jobs,” wrote Gallup’s Elizabeth Mendes. “If Congress fails to raise or delays raising the debt limit, it could cause economic problems for the country, but Americans may not fully understand these consequences and may instead be prioritizing the issues that are affecting their current daily lives.”

Noel Brinkerhoff is a professional writer with over 10 years of experience specializing in journalism and screenwriting. In Sacramento, he worked as a reporter for the California Journal and State Net Capitol Journal, covering the California legislature and Governor’s office. He is a regular contributor to AllGov.com.

America’s New Nuke Showdown Starts NOW

By HARVEY WASSERMAN

As Fukushima continues to leak and smolder, what may be the definitive battle over new nukes in America has begun.

The critical first US House vote on a proposed \$36 billion loan guarantee package for reactor construction may come as early as June 2. Green power advocates are already calling and writing the White House and Congress early and often, gearing up for a long, definitive showdown.

Germany and Japan have made their decision — the “Lethal Atom” has no future.

The coffin nail is Fukushima. Substantial radiation still leaks from three or more of its six reactors. Volatile fuel rods are dangerously exposed. Various containment and fuel pool structures are compromised. Heat and radiation still pour into our global eco-systems, with no end in sight.

Thankfully, a global citizens movement helped lower the amount of plutonium-based MOX fuel loaded into Unit Three. Without that, Fukushima’s emissions would be far more lethal.

As it is, fallout continues to be detected across Europe and the United States. Fukushima is now rated on par with Chernobyl, by some estimates the killer of more than a million people.

For Prime Minister Naoto Kan, Japan’s energy policy must now “start from scratch,” with a sharp turn to green technologies. More than a dozen proposed reactors will not be built. Some existing ones — including at least two at Hamaoka — will join the six at Fukushima on the shut-down list, at least for the time being. Three more are still closed from a 2006 earthquake at Kashiwazaki.

Germany’s Solartopian turn is even more radical. Long a nuclear advocate, center-right Prime Minister Angela Merkel has ordered seven old German nukes shut immediately. The country’s other ten may run until 2021.

But a top Merkel-appointed commission sees this as a global game changer. “A withdrawal from nuclear power will spur growth, offer enormous technical, economic and social opportunities to position Germany even further as an exporter of sustainable products and services,” says a 28-page report. “Germany could show that a withdrawal from nuclear energy is the chance to create a high-powered economy.”

Both Japan and Germany — the world’s third- and fourth-largest economies — have already made substantial investments in green technology. Much of that was developed in the United States, which has paid a heavy price economically and ecologically for its atomic addiction, and now stands to lose even more ground in what will clearly be the energy growth center of the new millennium.

Some \$18.5 billion in loan guarantees for new reactor construction was put in place under George W. Bush. In 2007 the nuclear lobby tried to add \$50 billion. The industry has spent some \$645 million — \$64.5 million per year — over the last decade twisting Congressional arms.

But a nationwide grassroots movement rose up to stop them. In every year since 2007, citizen action has beaten a variety of attempts to slip the industry more handouts. Local movements throughout the US focused growing demands for the shut-down of old reactors. In Vermont, a March 2012 drop dead date looms ever larger, forced by a wide range of political pressures that could start an avalanche of closures.

Yet just last year Obama dropped \$8.33 billion in loan guarantees on a bitterly contested double-reactor project in Georgia. Two other reactors are scheduled for South Carolina, where ratepayers are expected to foot the bill as construction proceeds.

But \$36 billion in proposed new guarantees were stripped out of the Continuing Resolution that’s funding the government for 2011. Now Obama wants them for 2012.

Ironically, the leading candidates for the money have collapsed. A Japanese-financed project for Texas and a French one in Maryland are all but dead. Financial, licensing, siting, design and political problems have decimated the remaining list. The pressures on old and new US reactors, and the collapse of the industry in Germany and Japan, appear on the brink of pushing a failed technology into the scrap heap of history.

But the budget is now headed to Congress, guarantees and all. First stop is a House Appropriations subcommittee, where a vote could come as early as June 2.

Fukushima has changed the nuclear map. Italy and Switzerland have put proposed projects on hold.

China, the biggest potential future market, has said it is re-evaluating its atomic future, especially with radiation pouring into it from nearby Fukushima.

But Obama has all but ignored the accident. He gave an early national address telling the American public not to worry about Fukushima’s radiation. Despite widespread reports of contamination here, the feds have provided no systematic monitoring of fallout and no guidance on what to do about it.

Amidst a heavy budget crunch, the administration must now justify lavishing taxpayer money on an industry that can’t get private financing or meaningful liability insurance, can’t compete in the marketplace and can’t deal with its wastes.

As evidenced by the sharp green turns in Germany and Japan, renewable technologies have come of age. The Solartopian vision of a green-powered Earth has now definitively attracted two of the planet’s four largest economies.

In short, we are at the tipping point where renewables are cheaper and more attractive to national-scale investors than nukes.

Without these guarantees, America’s nuclear industry has future prospects ranging from slim to none.

The ante is being raised in Vermont, New York, California and in other states where fierce battles rage to shut existing reactors, many of which are on earthquake faults and virtually identical to those now spewing at Fukushima.

So now we are engaged in what may be the final, definitive battle over the future of atomic power in the United States.

Over the next few months, millions of dollars will pour from the industry’s lobby into the coffers of Congresspeople willing to vote them billions. The White House shows no signs of turning away from that particular tsunami.

But against all odds, a grassroots green-powered citizen’s movement has been holding its own. If it does so again this year, a sustainable future may finally be within reach.

Your reach!

Harvey Wasserman edits www.nukefree.org. His “Solartopia! Our Green-Powered Earth” is at www.solartopia.org.

The Strauss-Kahn Frame-Up: The Amerikan Police State Strides Forward



Strauss-Kahn in court.

STRAUSS-KAHN from p. 1

to Nobel economist Joseph Stiglitz, one of a handful of economists who has a social conscience.

Perhaps the most dangerous black mark in Strauss-Kahn's book is that he was far ahead of America's French puppet, President Sarkozy, in the upcoming French elections. Strauss-Kahn simply had to be eliminated.

It is possible that Strauss-Kahn eliminated himself and saved Washington the trouble. However, as a well-travelled person who has often stayed in New York hotels and in hotels in cities around the world, I have never experienced a maid entering unannounced into my room, much less when I was in the shower.

In the spun story, Strauss-Kahn is portrayed as so deprived of sex that he attempted to rape a hotel maid. Anyone who ever served on the staff of a powerful public figure knows that this is unlikely. On a senator's staff on which I served, there were two aides whose job was to make certain that no woman, with the exception of his wife, was ever alone with the senator. This was done to protect the senator both from female power groupies, who lust after celebrities and powerful men, and from women sent by a rival on missions to compromise an opponent. A powerful man such as Strauss-Kahn would not have been starved for women, and as a multi-millionaire he could certainly afford to make his own discreet arrangements.

As Henry Kissinger said, "power is the ultimate aphrodisiac." In politics, sex is handed out as favors and payoffs, and it is used as a honey trap. Some Americans will remember that Senator Packwood's long career (1969-1995) was destroyed by a female lobbyist, suspected, according to rumors, of sexual conquests of Senators, who charged that Packwood propositioned her in his office. Perhaps what inspired the charge was that Packwood was in the way of her employer's legislative agenda.

Even those who exercise care can be framed by allegations of an event to which there are no witnesses. On May 16, the *British Daily Mail* reported that prior to Strauss-Kahn's fateful departure for New York, the French newspaper, *Liberation*, published comments he made while discussing his plans to challenge Sarkozy for the presidency of France. Strauss-Kahn said that, as he was the clear favorite to beat Sarkozy, he would be subjected to a smear campaign by Sarkozy and his interior minister, Glaude Gueant. Strauss-Kahn predicted that a woman would be offered between 500,000 and 1,000,000 euros (more than \$1,000,000) to make up a story that he raped her.

The *Daily Mail* reports that Strauss-Kahn's suspicions are supported by the fact that the first person to break the news of Strauss-Kahn's arrest was an activist in Mr Sarkozy's UMP party — who apparently knew about the scandal before it happened. Jonathan Pinet, a politics student, tweeted the news just before the New York Police Department made it public, although he said that he simply had a 'friend' working at the Sofitel hotel where the attack was said to have happened. The first person to re-tweet Mr Pinet was Arnaud Dassier, a spin doctor who had previously publicised details of multi-millionaire Strauss-Kahn's luxurious lifestyle in a bid to dent his left-wing credentials.

Strauss-Kahn could just as easily have been set up by rivals inside the IMF, as well as by rivals within the French political establishment.

Michelle Sabban, a senior councillor for the greater Paris region and a Strauss-Kahn loyalist said: 'I am convinced it is an international conspiracy.'

She added: 'It's the IMF they wanted to decapitate, not so much the Socialist primary candidate.

It's not like him. Everyone knows that his weakness is seduction, women. That's how they got him.'

Even some of Strauss-Kahn's rivals said they could not believe the news. 'It is totally hallucinatory,' said centrist Dominique Paille.

'If it is true, this would be a historic moment, but in the negative sense, for French political life. I hope that everyone respects the presumption of innocence. I cannot manage to believe this affair.'

And Henri de Raincourt, minister for overseas co-operation in President Nicolas Sarkozy's government, added: 'We cannot rule out the thought of a trap.'

Michelle Sabban is on to something when she says the IMF was the target. Strauss-Kahn is the first IMF director who is not lined up on the side of the rich against the poor. Strauss-Kahn's suspicions were of Sarkozy, but Wall Street and the US government also had strong reasons to eliminate him. Wall Street is terrified by the prospect of regulation, and Washington was embarrassed by the recent IMF report that China's economy would surpass the US economy within five years. An international conspiracy is not out of the question.

Indeed, the plot is unfolding as a conspiracy. Authorities have produced a French woman who claims she was a near-rape victim of Strauss-Kahn a decade ago. It would be interesting to know whether this allegation is the result of a threat or a bribe. As in the case of Julian Assange, there are now two women to accuse Strauss-Kahn. Once the prosecutors get the odds of two females against one male, they win in the media.

It has not been revealed how the authorities knew Strauss-Kahn was on a flight to France. However, by arresting him aboard his scheduled flight just as it was to depart, the authorities created the image of a man fleeing from a crime.

The way Amerikan justice (sic) works is that prosecutors in about 96 percent of the cases get a plea bargain. US prosecutors are permitted by judges and the public to pay for testimony against the defendant and to put sufficient pressure on innocent defendants to coerce them into making a guilty plea in exchange for lesser charges and a lighter sentence. Unless the hotel maid has a spell of bad conscience and admits she was paid to lie, or gets cold feet about perjuring herself, Strauss-Kahn is likely to find that Amerikan criminal justice (sic) is organized to produce conviction regardless of innocence or guilt.

On May 16, the day following Strauss-Kahn's arrest, the US Supreme Court threw its weight behind the Amerikan police state by destroying the remains of the Fourth Amendment with an 8-1 ruling that, the US Constitution notwithstanding, Amerika's police do not need warrants to invade homes and search persons.

This ruling is more evidence that every American is regarded as a potential enemy of the state, not only by Airport Security but also by the high muckety-mucks in Washington. The conservatives' "war on crime" has created a police state, and conservatives, who originally stood for limited government and civil liberty, are euphoric over the expanded and unaccountable powers that a conservative Supreme Court has handed to the police.

On the same day the federal government reached the \$14.3 trillion debt ceiling, which forced the Treasury to "borrow" money from federal employee pensions in order to continue funding Amerika's illegal wars and crimes against humanity. The breached debt ceiling serves as an appropriate marker for a country that has squandered its constitutional heritage and has arrived at moral as well as fiscal bankruptcy.

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan administration. He was Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal editorial page and Contributing Editor of National Review. He is coauthor of *The Tyranny of Good Intentions*.

Globalists Using “Islam as Sword” to Plunder Former Soviet Republics

UNITED NATIONS from p. 1

fashionable address in Helsinki, Finland: the Finnish-Russian Civic Forum and the Kavkaz Center. They are receiving financing from George Soros, who has been financing Chechen separatists; the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and other related American foundations ostensibly promoting "democracy" abroad (although "where the money originates and how it is used is still unknown"); Boris Berezovsky, Russian oligarch living in exile in London; and possibly M16, the British Foreign Intelligence Service.

The Finnish-Russian Civic Forum (FRCF) (Finrosforum) functions as a support and front group for the terrorist-organized Kavkaz Center website. It was founded in 2004 by the aggressively Russophobic Heidi Hautala, a member of the European Parliament; Mikael Storsjo, a Swedish businessman, owner and publisher of the Kavkaz Center website; and Boris Nemtsov, a Russian politician who agitates for the separation of the Caucasus from the Russian Federation.

FRCF unites all radical movements against Russia; indoctrinates children at summer camps with support for neo-nazis; and incites public disorders within Russia, provoking ethnic hatred and discord among Russia's minority ethnic groups, engineering provocations among Finno-Ugric peoples in northern and eastern Russia, and instigating separatist movements throughout these regions.

Mikael Storsjo is financing terrorism against Russia "by all means" and is illegally sponsoring immigration of Islamic militants from Russia and Turkey into Finland.

The Kavkaz Center was founded in 1999 by Movladi Ugudov in Stockholm. Although Sweden expelled it in 2004, as an organization orchestrating terrorist actions, the Helsinki-based Kavkaz Center, directed

by Doku Khamatovich Umarov, is thriving as the neo-Nazi headquarters politicizing the Islamic Diaspora in Finland and Europe, recruiting Islamic militants, and promoting the destruction of the Russian Federation through incitement of violent Islamic jihadist separatist movements in the historically peaceful Islamic republics (where Muslims have lived harmoniously for centuries with Russians of Orthodox Christian, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist origin, often intermarrying)—especially in Tartarstan and Bashkortostan, strategically situated on the Volga, the gateway to the colossal oil riches of Eastern Russia in Siberia.

On March 10, 2011, the UN Security Council Al Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee added Doku Umarov's name to their list of international terrorists (pursuant to Resolution 1267) for organizing terrorist activities, including: the capture of residential areas of the Chechen Republic



Doku Umarov

(August 2002), the kidnapping of Chechen public prosecutor staff (December 2002), the bombing of the Federal Security Service building and two trains in the Inguishetian Republic (September 2003), the militant raid on Inguishetia (June 2004), the hostage-taking in Beslan (September 2004), the twin suicide-bombing attacks in Moscow metro stations (March 2010),

Quick, Quick: Why Are We in Libya? A New Candor Prevails...Sort Of

LIBYA from p. 3

called together 15 executives from global energy companies operating in Libya's oil fields and issued an extraordinary demand: Shell out the money for his country's \$1.5 billion bill for its role in the downing of Pan Am Flight 103 and other terrorist attacks.

"If the companies did not comply, the Libyan officials warned, there would be "serious consequences" for their oil leases, according to a State Department summary of the meeting."

Ok, back to the new *Times* piece... "Under the United Nations Security Council resolution approving the Libyan air campaign, NATO was empowered to use 'all necessary means' to protect the country's civilian population from attack by pro-Qaddafi forces, which hold Tripoli and much of western Libya, while rebel forces control much of the country's eastern region. That mandate has been stretched beyond attacks on tanks, artillery and other units engaged in front-line combat to a wide range of targets in Tripoli and elsewhere that have been identified by NATO as 'command-and-control' centers, including Colonel Qaddafi's Tripoli bunker."

Whoops! For a second I thought the *Times* was going to come out and just say it: That mandate has been stretched beyond recognition to something entirely different — a war to take Qaddafi out altogether. In other words, an invasion, kind of like what Iraq turned out to be.

But the *Times* doesn't quite say it, so you're not quite getting this small but somehow consequential point: what was first presented as "protecting" the civilian population from attack has now segued to attacking — and forcing the leader to flee, or better, killing him.

Of course, all this puts Qaddafi in a truly untenable position, in which he is forced to try even more harsh measures against his uncooperative population, which in turn gives NATO more reasons to express outrage and up the ante.

"But with the war now at the end of its third month and the two sides skirmishing in battle zones spread across hundreds of miles, there has been growing concern in NATO capitals that the strategy needs a game-

changing adjustment that might bring a rebel victory closer."

Again...pretty close to stating the actual truth about what is—and has long been the game plan (for more on this see "The CIA's Man in Libya")

But...darn...just...can't....quite say it. Too...disconcerting...gonna...really...depress...our readers. Might lose faith in what we keep telling everybody is a pretty righteous American foreign policy.

"NATO officials have made no secret of their belief that this would most likely come with attacks that weaken Colonel Qaddafi's hold on Tripoli, ideally attacks that spread a sense of dependency among Qaddafi forces and lend an impetus to a rebel underground that has roots in some quarters of the city.

"General Richards, chief of the defense staff in Britain, spoke in an interview at NATO's southern headquarters in Naples, Italy, which has served as a command center for the attacks. "The vise is closing on Qaddafi, but we need to increase the pressure further through more intense military action," he said in the interview, published in *The Sunday Telegraph*. "We now have to tighten the vise to demonstrate to Qaddafi that the game is up."

Why haven't we heard more about this Richards chap? Another Field Marshal Montgomery.

"He added that the bombing campaign, which has involved more than 2,500 sorties since it began March 19, had been 'a significant success.' But he added: 'We need to do more. If we do not up the ante now there is a risk that the conflict could result in Qaddafi clinging to power.'"

Oh, ok. So that is what it was all about. And 2,500 "sorties" — nice term, that — unless you're a civilian being sortied about. Two thousand five hundred bombing runs is a lot.

"The General suggested NATO should be freed from restraints that have precluded attacking infrastructure targets; other NATO officials have suggested in recent weeks that these could include elements of the electrical power grid in government-held areas, and fuel dumps. And he defended attacks seemingly aimed at Colonel Qaddafi himself, saying that 'if he was in a command-and-control center

and the suicide-bombing at Moscow's Domodedovo airport that killed 35 people (January 2011).

Doku Umarov's name is also on the UN list of international terrorists for his connections, as the leader of the Caucasus Emirate, to terrorist organizations, including: the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, the Islamic Jihad Union, the Riyadus-Salikhin Reconnaissance Battalion; the Sabotage Battalion of Chechen Martyrs, the RSTSBCM, the Kavkaz Center, and the NS-WP Nevograd in St. Petersburg (whose motto is "Death to Russia").

Although the UN's listing of Umarov as a terrorist mandates UN member states to freeze all his economic resources, he continues to function at KavKaz, slandering and defaming Russia/Putin.

Within Europe, Heidi Hautala has been agitating against Russia in the European parliament and other political organizations. As this Russophobic activity spearheaded by Hautala and the Kavkaz Center increases, it is possible there will be increased pressure for sanctions against Russia and calls for a "no fly zone" and "regime change" in Russia, following the pattern we are seeing in Northern Africa and the Middle East (demonstrations, occupation, establishment of central banks, and plundering of oil reserves).

Petri Krohn, Chairman of Finland Without Nazism says, "With the current war of aggression against Libya, it has become clear that the so-called 'human rights' organizations have an unlimited capacity for distorting reality. It is as if the Cold War CIA has changed its name to 'human rights', and is now operating publicly on a 'voluntary basis'. The financing still comes from the old sources."

Carla Stea covers the UN for RCFP. She has written for Covert Action, and War and Peace Digest, and numerous other publications in the USA, also in Komsomolskaya Pravda in the Soviet Union, and in Rabochaya Tribuna and Sovetskaya Rossia, in Russia, as well as in publications in England and Latin America. Stea also holds press accreditation at the US Department of State.

that was hit by NATO and he was killed, that would be within the rules."

Amazing. A really direct guy. Admits that he wants to kill Qaddafi, that he really isn't allowed to under the original marching orders, but that there's a way to achieve this "within the rules."

"A tally of NATO attacks given by alliance spokesmen in Brussels gave a measure of how the bombing had already been intensified, with a strong focus on Tripoli. NATO said that alliance aircraft struck 39 "key targets" in and around the capital in the first four days of last week, including the strike Thursday [May 19] on Qaddafi headquarters in south-central Tripoli. The Tripoli targets, NATO said, included seven "command-and-control" centers, compared with only three similar strikes in the 10 days before then.

"But the increased tempo of the attacks has shown little sign, so far, of seriously destabilizing Colonel Qaddafi's rule. For weeks, there has been a heavily dispirited atmosphere in Tripoli, with many ordinary Libyans eager to pull Western reporters aside to say they yearned for Colonel Qaddafi to be ousted. NATO bombing attacks have often been followed by outbreaks of automatic fire in neighborhoods in central Tripoli, apparently started by hit-and-run attacks by elements of the anti-Qaddafi underground.

"General Richards's call for a widening of the bombing targets prompted a dismissive reaction from the Qaddafi government. Khalid Kaim, a deputy foreign minister, said the airstrikes had been aimed at infrastructure from the start, and he cited a string of attacks on what he described as civilian targets in several cities. As for attempts to kill Colonel Qaddafi, he said that NATO had conducted four airstrikes aimed at Libya's leader, the latest on Thursday [May 19]. Further attempts to kill him, he said, would be 'a waste of time.'"

Again, Mr. Kaim, this kind of taunt is just not helpful. You are definitely the runts on this playground.

This could all have been so, so much easier. All you had to do was play ball. And never mind those civilians.

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. His book, Family of Secrets, is an extensively researched investigation of the Bush dynasty.

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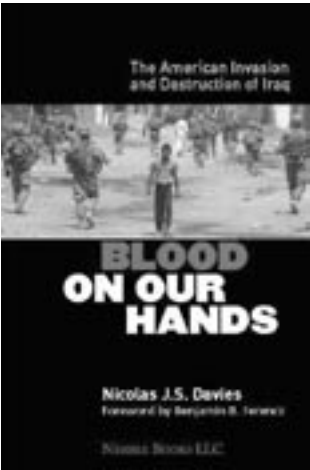
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Book Review

Blood on Our Hands
by Nicholas J.S. Davies



Blood On Our Hands:
the American Invasion
and Destruction of Iraq

Paperback: 440 pages
Publisher: Nimble Books
ISBN-10: 193484098X

REVIEW BY DAHR JAMAIL / TRUTHOUT

While most media continue to ignore the US-installed disaster in Iraq, author Nicholas J.S. Davies refuses to do so, and his book *Blood on our Hands: the American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq* could not be released at a better time.

This sweeping work covers US policy in Iraq that spans decades, and is written as a call to action for the US to begin following international law – not just in Iraq, but everywhere. For it was the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq that, more than perhaps anything else, continues to defile what is left of the tattered reputation of the US.

“The US foreign policy establishment’s response to this crisis of legitimacy has been to withdraw from the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ); to oppose both the formation and the functioning of the new International Criminal Court; to withdraw from other multilateral treaties; and to hire new experts and lawyers to devise far-fetched rationales for exempting US behavior from international legal constraints on a case by case but increasingly systematic basis,” writes Davies, in what is essentially a prelude to a brilliant analysis of why and how the US has systematically destroyed the country of Iraq.

“I started out with a firm conviction that everything the US was doing in Iraq was illegitimate and that everything we were being told about it was propaganda, and the outrage I felt made me determined to find and expose the reality behind the lies,” Davies told Truthout. “I was able to place events within a coherent context of criminal aggression, hostile military occupation, and popular resistance because that was the way I saw it all along.”

Studying US foreign policy has always been a passion for Davies. In addition to this, he added several books and articles on international law to his reading list, and went to work.

“A lot of my motivation to spend so much time researching and writing about all this came from the sense of despair I felt watching the aggressive US response to September 11th, as all the real and serious problems that afflict the lives of billions of people were placed on the back burner and subordinated to the agenda of US militarism,” Davies explained as his motivation for the book. “Media coverage took a deeply Orwellian turn, and it became a challenge just to figure out what was really going on, which I sort of needed to do for my own sanity anyway.”

Chronicle of Saddam Hussein’s CIA Ties

In the chapter “A Brief History of Regime Change,” Davies tells how back in the mid-20th century, a CIA agent in Iraq who was working as an assistant military attaché at the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad, hired a then 22-year-old Saddam Hussein to assassinate the Prime Minister of Iraq, Abd al-Karim Qasim on October 7, 1959. Hussein botched the job, and fled the country after being wounded in his leg by a fellow conspirator. The CIA rented him an apartment in Beirut to assist him in recovering from his injury, after which he moved to Cairo, where he was a frequent visitor to the US Embassy there, while still being paid by Egyptian intelligence.

After the US assisted Hussein in the Baathist coup in Iraq that propelled him into a position of power, he became president, a time that launched his reign of power that coincided with the Iranian Revolution. In this way, Hussein was fully backed by the US due to Western fears of an Islamic Iran.

Davies addresses one of the broadest misconceptions about Iraq — that of Sunnis and Shiites being at odds with one another. Despite the fact that the primary conflict occurring in Iraq was always the guerrilla war between occupation forces and the

popular resistance forces fighting to free Iraq from foreign occupation, US propaganda increasingly portrayed a secondary “sectarian” conflict between Sunni and Shiite Arabs as the primary conflict happening in Iraq. According to this dominant rhetoric, the foreign occupation forces that invaded Iraq and plunged the country into chaos and violence then became well meaning, albeit sometimes frustrated, peacekeepers or referees.

Davies provides one of the more blatant examples of US-propaganda — that of the myth of Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi being a key leader of the Iraqi resistance.

“Zarqawi’s role as the supreme leader of the Iraqi Resistance was equally fictitious,” he writes, “A US military intelligence officer described his key role in American propaganda to a British reporter in March 2004: “We were basically paying up to \$10,000 a time to opportunists, criminals and chancers who passed off fiction and supposition about Zarqawi as cast-iron fact, making him out as the linchpin of just about every attack in Iraq ... Back home this stuff was gratefully received and formed the basis of policy decisions. We needed a villain, someone identifiable for the public to latch on to, and we got one.”

Davies articulates what those of us reporting from Iraq were seeing first-hand:

“The American media swallowed whole the myth that US forces had become embroiled in an intractable centuries-old blood feud. The stereotype of Iraqis consumed by ancient sectarian rivalries was soon so well established in America’s public imagination that it became a common theme for commentators and comedians. Even Americans who opposed the war in Iraq accepted this perverted caricature.”

Despite the fact that in Iraq people of the same tribe often belonged to different sects and social interaction and intermarriage among Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds was commonplace among the secular majority of Iraqis, the mainstream media portrayed the opposite.

According to Davies, there was a calculated methodology behind this propaganda about Iraq. “As in other neo-colonial ventures, occupation officials scrambled ethnic, sectarian, tribal, class, economic, political, and geographic groups and interests in a complex society to create schisms that could be exploited to facilitate a “divide and rule” strategy.”

Divide and Rule

Since 1958, the single biggest threat to the US agenda in Iraq has been a strong tradition of secular nationalist politics. Under this umbrella, no truly independent Iraqi government was going to agree to the US terms of privatizing Iraq’s oil industry, nor to surrendering the country to US strategic interests.

Thus, Davies concludes on the topic of sectarianism, “The overblown but nonetheless destructive sectarian divisions were a direct result of this US strategy to divide and rule the country, not a new phase in some imaginary, long-running conflict between Sunnis and Shiites.”

Truthout asked Davies to explain what he sees as a deadly connection between propaganda and US imperialism as exemplified in Iraq. “The disconnect between the “virtual Iraq” in the minds of the Western public and the reality of illegal aggression, aerial bombardment and the assault on civilians and civil society with powerful battlefield weapons was too much to keep quiet about. I felt compelled to do whatever I could to expose the reality behind what struck me as the most sophisticated military propaganda campaign in history. The trends in policy and propaganda have continued along the same lines, and I hope the book will have some impact on their ultimate reversal.”

By ELLEN BROWN / WEBOFDEBT.COM

Debate continues to rage between the inflationists who say the money supply is increasing, dangerously devaluing the currency, and the deflationists who say we need more money in the economy to stimulate productivity. The debate is not just an academic one, since the Fed’s monetary policy turns on it, and so does Congressional budget policy.

Inflation fears have been fueled ever since 2009, when the Fed began its policy of “quantitative easing” (effectively “money printing”). The inflationists point to commodity prices that have shot up. The deflationists, in turn, point to the housing market, which has collapsed and taken prices down with it. Prices of consumer products other than food and fuel are also down. Wages have remained stagnant, so higher food and gas prices mean people have less money to spend on consumer goods. The bubble in commodities, say the deflationists, has been triggered by the fear of inflation. Commodities are considered a safe haven, attracting a flood of “hot money” — investment money racing from one hot investment to another.

To resolve this debate, we need the actual money supply figures. Unfortunately, the Fed quit reporting M3, the largest measure of the money supply, in 2006.

Fortunately, figures are still available for the individual components of M3. Here is a graph (chart 1) that is worth a thousand words. It comes from ShadowStats.com (home of Shadow Government Statistics, or SGS) and is reconstructed from the available data on those components. The dark line is the M3 money supply.

Chart 1 shows that the overall US money supply is shrinking, despite the Fed’s determination to



Chart 1

inflate it with quantitative easing. Like Japan, which has been doing quantitative easing (QE) for a decade, the US is still fighting deflation. Here is another telling chart - the M1 Money Multiplier

from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis: (chart 2)

Barry Ritholtz comments, “All that heavy breathing about the flood of liquidity that was going to pour into the system. Hyper-inflation! Except not so much, apparently.” Ritholtz quotes reviewer David Rosenberg: “Fully 100% of both QEs by the Fed merely was new money printing that ended up sitting idly on commercial bank balance sheets. Money velocity and money multiplier are stagnant at best.” If QE1 and QE2 are sitting in bank reserve accounts, they’re not driving up the price of gold, silver, oil, and food, and they’re not being multiplied into loans, which are still contracting.

The part of M3 that collapsed in 2008 was the “shadow banking system,” including money market funds and repos. This is the

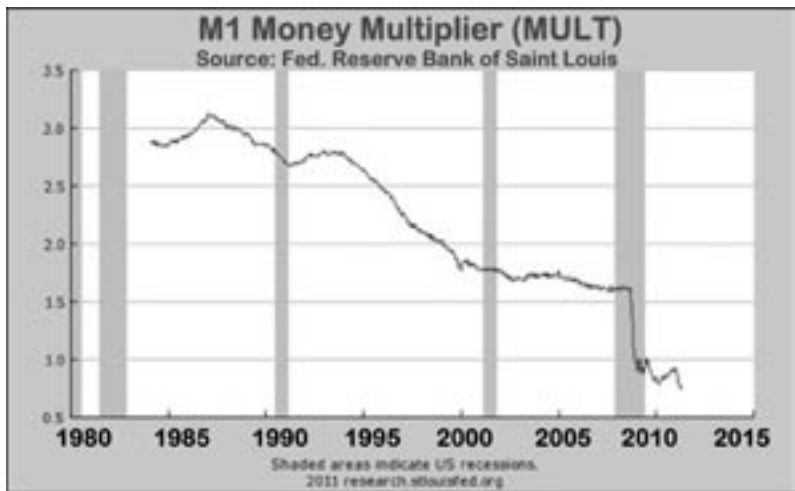
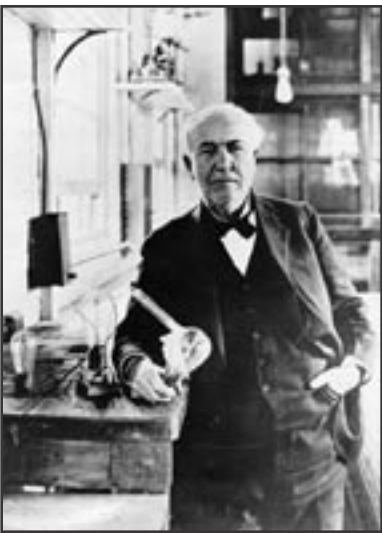


Chart 2

non-bank system in which large institutional investors that have substantially more to deposit than \$250,000 - the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance limit — park their money overnight. Economist Gary Gorton

collateralized, agreements that the Fed rightly used to count as money. Collateral for repo was, to a large extent, securitized bonds. Firms were forced to sell assets as a result of the banking panic, reducing bond prices and creating losses. There is nothing mysterious or irrational about the panic. There were genuine fears about the locations of subprime risk concentrations among counterparties. This banking system (the “shadow” or “parallel” banking system) — repo based on securitization—is a genuine banking system, as large as the traditional, regulated banking system. It is of critical importance to the economy because it is the funding basis for the traditional banking system. Without it, traditional banks will not lend, and credit, which is essential for job creation, will not be created.



Thomas Edison

The element that makes the bond good, makes the bill good, also. The difference between the bond and the bill is the bond lets money brokers collect twice the amount of the bond and an additional 20%, whereas the currency pays nobody but those who contribute directly in some useful way.... It is absurd to say our country can issue \$30 million in bonds and not \$30 million in currency. Both are promises to pay, but one promise fattens the usurers and the other helps the people.”

That is true, but Congress no longer seems to have the option of issuing dollars, a privilege it has delegated to the Federal Reserve. Congress can, however, issue debt, which, as Edison says, amounts to the same thing. A bond can be cashed in quickly at face value. A bond is money, just as a dollar is.

An accumulating public debt owed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or to foreign banks is to be avoided, but compounding interest charges can be eliminated by financing state and federal deficits through state- and federally owned banks. Since the government would own the bank, the debt would effectively be interest-free. More important, it would be free of the demands of private creditors, including austerity measures and privatization of public assets.

Far from inflation being the problem, the money supply has shrunk and we are in a deflationary bind. The money supply needs to be pumped back up to generate jobs and productivity and, in the system we have today, that is done by issuing bonds, or debt.

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.” She shows how this private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we the people can get it back. Her eleven books include the bestselling Nature’s Pharmacy, co-authored with Dr. Lynne Walker, and Forbidden Medicine.

As explained in an earlier article, the public debt is the people’s money. The government pays for goods and services by writing a check on the national bank account. Whether this payment is called a “bond” or a “dollar,” it is simply a debit against the credit of the nation. As Thomas Edison said in the 1920s:

“If our nation can issue a dollar bond, it can issue a dollar bill.

explains: [T]he financial crisis ... [was] due to a banking panic in which institutional investors and firms refused to renew sale and repurchase agreements (repo) — short-term,

A direct link to this topic of sectarianism is that of the “dirty war” in Iraq. Davies writes that a dirty war “is a strategy of state terrorism and collective punishment against an entire civilian population with the objective of terrorizing it into submission.”

In November 2003, an \$87 billion supplemental appropriation for the occupation of Iraq included \$3 billion for a classified program headed by an Air Force brigadier-general, most of which would be used to fund the paramilitaries for the next three years.

It was precisely this period in which news from Iraq eventually became dominated by reports of death squads and ethnic cleansing, reports that were generally couched in the language of “sectarian violence.”

Davies outlines precisely how the death squads and other forces used to carry out the dirty war were formed:

Following the formation of Ayad Allawi’s interim government and John Negroponte’s appointment as US Ambassador in June 2004, Allawi declared a “state of emergency” and President Bush said that Allawi would have to “take tough measures.” An Iraqi-American named Falah al-Naqib was appointed to head the Interior Ministry of the interim government. He was the son of General Hassan al-Naqib, the former Chief of Staff of the Iraqi army who defected to the United States during the 1970s and was one of the founders of the Iraqi National Congress in 1992. Both Naqibs had long-term contacts with the CIA while in exile. In September 2004, Falah

al-Naqib appointed his uncle, another former Iraqi general and Baath Party official named Adnan Thavit to lead a new paramilitary force called the “Special Police Commandos”.

These forces were formed under the direct supervision of Falah al-Naqib and Steven Casteel, who had run the interior ministry for the Coalition Provisional Authority. He stayed on in Iraq as Naqib’s Senior Adviser, reporting directly to Ambassador Negroponte. General David Petraeus, who was officially in charge of training new Iraqi security forces, was reportedly not informed of the Special Police Commandos’ existence until the new force was already established in the ruins of an old army base on the edge of the Green Zone, but he went along with Naqib and Casteel’s plans.

A retired Colonel James Steele then took charge of training the commandos, and he continued to work with them and accompany them on deployments until he left Iraq in April 2005. Steele, like Negroponte, is a veteran of prior US dirty wars in Cambodia and Central America. Prior to Steele having been appointed Counselor for Iraqi Security Forces by then US Ambassador of Iraq John Negroponte, Steele was vice president of Enron and had officially been sent to Iraq after the invasion as an “energy consultant.”

Death Squads Deploy

By late 2004, as I was seeing in Baghdad, death squad activity was rampant. This US policy, augmented by national elections in Iraq in 2005

that were largely boycotted by the Sunni population, created a perfect storm of violence that lasted another two and a half years that would prove to be, by far, the deadliest period thus far of the US occupation of Iraq.

Yet, as we have seen, this was blamed on “sectarianism” and the failures of the Iraqi people, not on the occupiers.

“This failure to connect the dots between related events that were already a matter of public record pervaded American reporting on the war in Iraq and US foreign policy in general,” writes Davies, “It facilitated a process by which events, actors, and issues became artificially separated and compartmentalized in the minds of readers. This fed a public discourse that was divorced from reality and was baffling to people in other countries where the media were not so deeply complicit in government propaganda operations.”

Davies’ believes that the ongoing US effort to use military power to control access to vital natural resources, as with Iraq’s oil, is “doomed to failure.”

He feels that this “means that the occupation will end, as surely as the Union Jack was lowered in Hong Kong and the other British naval bases where I grew up in the 50s and 60s, and after a shorter period of occupation.”

For Iraq, he sees the US having failed “in all of its goals” and adds, “A successful occupation of Iraq could have provided a base for attacking Iran and Syria, but now it complicates plans for attacking Iran as much as it

supports them.”

When asked what he hopes *Blood on Our Hands* will accomplish, Davies is clear in his reply:

“I just want as many people as possible to read the book; for it to play a significant role in shaping the way thousands of Americans understand this truly ugly event in our history; and that this helps to build the popular resistance to American militarism that will ultimately bring a relatively peaceful end to the American Empire, and permit humanity to deal with all the other problems that we must face.”

The preface of the book was authored by Benjamin Ferencz, the chief prosecutor of the Einsatzgruppen Trial in Nuremberg in 1947.

“If the US is to regain its image as a moral leader in the world, we must return to the rule of law that applies equally to all,” Ferencz wrote, “As noted by Davies, change in policy is possible if the futility of past policies is recognized. The details will be found in the pages that follow.”

And, indeed, they are.

Dahr Jamail, an independent journalist, is the author of The Will to Resist: Soldiers Who Refuse to Fight in Iraq and Afghanistan, (Haymarket Books, 2009), and Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches From an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq, (Haymarket Books, 2007). Jamail reported from occupied Iraq for nine months as well as from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Turkey over the last five years.

The Archdruid Report

Alternatives to Nihilism: Remember Your Name

By JOHN MICHAEL GREER

A bit of retrospective may be useful at this point, as we close in on the core of the argument I've been developing here. The first post in this series, "A Dog Named Boo," explored the sudden turn toward nihilism that seized America's culture and public imagination in the wake of the Seventies; the second, "Lead Us Away From Here," analyzed the fantasy of elite omnipotence and public powerlessness that became conventional wisdom straight across the political spectrum in the wake of that shift.

The connection between the shift and the fantasy may not be instantly obvious to all my readers, but it can be made a good deal clearer by looking more closely at what happened as the Seventies ended and our society's thirty-year vacation from reality began. During the Seventies, a great many Americans came face to face with the hard fact that they could have the comfortable and privileged lifestyles they were used to having, or they could guarantee a livable world for their grandchildren, but they couldn't do both. The vast majority of them – or, more precisely, of us – chose the first option and closed their eyes to the consequences. That mistake was made for understandable and profoundly human reasons, but it was still a mistake, and it haunts the American imagination to this day.

The impact of that choice is perhaps easier to trace on the conservative end of America's social and political spectrum. Forty years ago, the Republicans had at least as good a record on environmental issues as the Democrats, and the idolatry of the unrestrained free market that pervades the American right these days was a fringe ideology widely, and rightly, considered suspect by most conservatives. For that matter, creationism and speculations about the imminence of the End Times were consigned to the fringes by most American Christians, who by and large considered them irrelevant to the task of living a life centered on the teachings of the Christian gospel.

All these things changed in a hurry at the end of the Seventies. Why? Because the attitudes that replaced them — the shrill insistence that the environment doesn't matter, that the free market will solve every problem, that the world was created in 4004 BCE with as much oil, coal, and gas as God wants us to have, and that the world will end in our lifetimes so our grandchildren won't have to deal with the mess we'd otherwise be leaving them — are all attempts to brush aside the ugly fact that the choices made at the end of the Seventies, and repeated by most Americans at every decision point since then, have cashed in the chance of a better future for our grandchildren, and spent the proceeds on an orgy of consumption in the present.

The squirmings of the leftward end of American culture and politics are a little subtler; since the Left by and large responded to the end of the Seventies by clinging to its historic ideals, while quietly shelving any real attempt to do anything about them. It's discomfort with this response that leads so many people on the Left to insist angrily that they've done all they can reasonably be expected to do about the environment, in the midst of pursuing a lifestyle that's difficult to distinguish, on any basis but that of sheer fashion, from that of their Republican neighbors. It also drives the frankly delusional insistence on the part of so many people on today's Left that everyone on Earth can aspire to a middle-class American lifestyle if the evil elites already discussed would simply let it happen, and the equally, if more subtly, delusional claim that some suite of technologies currently in the vaporware stage will permit the American middle class to have its planet and eat it, too.

Look beyond the realm of partisan quarrels and the same deeply troubled conscience appears over and over again in American life. Consider, as one example out of many, the way that protecting children turned from a reasonable human concern to an obsessive-compulsive fixation. Raised under the frantic surveillance of helicopter moms, forbidden from playing outside or even visiting another child's home except on the basis of a prearranged and parentally-approved play date, a generation of American children were held hostage by a galaxy of parental terrors that have only the most distorted relationship to reality, but serve to distract attention from the fact that the lifestyles chosen by these same parents were condemning their children to a troubled and dangerous life in a depleted, polluted, and impoverished world.

The irony reached a dizzying intensity as tens of thousands of American parents rushed out to buy SUVs to transport their children to places every previous generation of American children proved perfectly capable of reaching by themselves on foot or on bike. It became the conventional wisdom, during the peak of the SUV craze, that the safety provided to young passengers by these massive rolling fortresses justified their purchase. No one wanted to deal with the fact that it was precisely the lifestyle exemplified by the SUV that was, and remains, the single most pressing threat to children's long-term safety and welfare.

A great many of the flailings and posturings that have defined American culture from the Eighties to the present, in other words, unfolded from what Jean-Paul Sartre called "bad faith" – the unspoken awareness, however frantically

denied or repressed — that the things that actually mattered were not things anyone was willing to talk about, and that the solutions everyone wanted to discuss were not actually aimed at their putative targets. The lie at the heart of that bad faith was the desperate attempt to avoid facing the implications of the plain and utterly unwelcome fact that there is no way to make a middle-class American lifestyle sustainable.

Let's repeat that, just for the sake of emphasis: there is no way to make a middle-class American lifestyle sustainable.

That's the elephant in the living room, the thing that most of a nation has been trying not to see, and not to say, for so many years. The middle-class American lifestyle, to borrow and extend Jim Kunstler's useful description of suburbia, is an arrangement without a future; it's utterly dependent on the rapid exploitation of irreplaceable resources, and the longer that it's pursued, and the more people pursue it, the worse the consequences will be for children now living, and for a great many generations not yet born. It really is as simple as that.

Now it's not at all hard to find books, films, websites, and speakers who say as much, but it's intriguing to watch how universally these avoid the next logical step. What do you do if you're pursuing a way of life that has no future? Well, apparently, you read books denouncing that way of life, or heap praise on cultures conveniently distant in space or time that you think had or have or will have a different way of life, or engage in token activities intended to show that your heart really isn't in that way of life, or vent your rage against whoever it is that you blame for your decision to keep on following that way of life, or fixate with increasing desperation on manufactured prophecies insisting that the Rapture or the Singularity or the space brothers or somebody, anybody, will bring that way of life to an end for you so that you don't have to do it yourself.

The one thing you apparently don't do is the one thing that actually matters, which is changing the way you live here and now.

That's the rock on which the sustainability movement of the Seventies broke, and it has claimed plenty of victims since then. The climate change movement is a good recent example. Now, it's true that there were plenty of reasons why the climate change movement followed the trajectory it did from apparent unstoppable a decade ago to its current dead-in-the-water status today. The ingenueness with which climate change activists allowed their opponents to redefine the terms of the debate very nearly at will, and the movement's repeated attempts to rest its arguments on the faltering prestige of science in an age when most Americans are well aware that scientific opinions can be purchased to order for the cost of a modest grant, did not help the cause any.

Still, I've come to think that the Achilles' heel of the entire movement was the simple fact that none of its spokespersons showed any willingness to embrace the low-energy lifestyle they insisted the rest of the world had to adopt. Al Gore, with his sprawling, air-conditioned mansion and his frequent jet trips, was the poster child here, but he had plenty of company. It was because climate change activists so often failed to walk their talk, I suggest, that millions of Americans decided they must be making the whole thing up, just as the obvious eagerness of the United States to push carbon limits on every other nation while refusing to accept them at home convinced China among others that the global warming crusade was simply one more gimmick to prop up the crumbling edifice of American hegemony, and brought the movement toward a worldwide carbon treaty to the standstill where it remains today.

The same blind spot continues to plague what's left of the climate change movement. Consider former environmentalist Stewart Brand, who used to edit *The Whole Earth Catalog*, for heaven's sake. Brand's current position, retailed at length in his recent book *Whole Earth Discipline*, is that we have to run our economy on nuclear power because burning coal is bad for the environment. Now of course this argument is right up there with insisting that shooting yourself through the head is good for your health because it prevents you from dying of a heart attack, but there's a deeper irrationality here. Ironically, it's one that most people who had copies of *The Whole Earth Catalog* on their shelves forty years ago could have pointed out in a Sausalito minute: switching from one complex, centralized, environmentally destructive energy system based on nonrenewable and rapidly depleting resources, to another energy system that can be described in exactly the same terms, is not a useful step — especially when it would be perfectly possible to dispense with both by simply using less energy.

Now, of course, the concept of using less of anything is about as popular in contemporary America as garlic aioli at a convention of vampires. Nobody wants to be reminded that using less, so that our grandchildren would have enough, was the road we didn't take at the end of the Seventies. Still, the road we did take was always destined to be a dead end, and as we move deeper into the first half of the twenty-first century, the end of that road is starting to come into sight. At this point, we're

See NIHILISM p. 8

MEXICO

Imperialism: Bankers, Drug Wars and Genocide

MEXICO from p. 1

graves; dozens are murdered in their homes, cars, public transport, offices and even hospitals; known and unknown victims in the hundreds are kidnapped and disappear; school children, parents, teachers, doctors and businesspeople are seized in broad daylight and held for ransom or murdered in retaliation. Thousands of migrant workers are kidnapped, robbed, ransomed, and murdered. Evidence is emerging that some are sold into the illegal 'organ trade'. The police are barricaded in their commissaries; the military, if and when it arrives, takes out its frustration on entire cities, shooting more civilians than cartel soldiers. Everyday life revolves around surviving the daily death toll; threats are everywhere, the armed gangs and military patrols fire and kill with virtual impunity. People live in fear and anger.

The Free Trade Agreement: The Sparks that lit the Inferno

In the late 1980s, Mexico was in crisis, but the people chose a legal way out: they elected a President, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, on the basis of his national program to promote the economic revitalization of agriculture and industry. The Mexican elite, led by Carlos Salinas of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) chose otherwise and subverted the election: The electorate was denied its victory; the peaceful mass protests were ignored. Salinas and subsequent Mexican presidents vigorously pursued a free trade agreement (NAFTA) with the US and Canada, which rapidly drove millions of Mexican farmers, ranchers and small business people into bankruptcy. Devastation led to the flight of millions of immigrant workers. Rural movements of debtors flourished and ebbed, were co-opted or repressed. The misery of the legal economy contrasted with the burgeoning wealth of the traffickers of drugs and people, which generated a growing demand for well-paid armed auxiliaries as soldiers for the cartels. The regional drug syndicates emerged out of the local affluence.

In the new millennium, popular movements and a new electoral hope arose: Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO). By 2006, a vast peaceful electoral movement promised substantial social and economic reforms to 'integrate millions of disaffected youth'. In the parallel economy, the drug cartels were expanding and benefiting from the misery of millions of workers and peasants marginalized by the Mexican elite, who had plundered the public treasury, speculated in real estate, robbed the oil industry and created enormous privatized monopolies in the communication and banking sectors.

In 2006, millions of Mexican voters were once again denied their electoral victory: The last best hope for a peaceful transformation was dashed. Backed by the US Administration, Felipe Calderon stole the election and proceeded to launch the "War on Drug Traffickers" strategy dictated by Washington.

The War Strategy Escalates the Drug War: The Banking Crises Deepens the Ties with Drug Traffickers

The massive escalation of homicides and violence in Mexico began with the declaration of a war on the drug cartels by the fraudulently elected President Calderon, a policy pushed initially by the Bush Administration and subsequently strongly backed by the Obama — Clinton regime. Over 40,000 Mexican soldiers filled the streets, towns and barrios — violently assaulting citizens — especially young people. The cartels retaliated by escalating their armed assaults on police. The war spread to all the major cities and along the major highways and rural roads; murders multiplied and Mexico descended further into a Dantesque inferno. Meanwhile, the Obama regime 'reaffirmed' its support for a militarist solution on both sides of the border: Over 500,000 Mexican immigrants were seized and expelled from the US; heavily-armed border patrols multiplied. Cross-border

gun sales grew exponentially. The US "market" for Mexican manufactured goods and agricultural products shrank, further widening the pool for cartel recruits while the supply of high-powered weapons increased. White House gun and drug policies strengthened both sides in this maniacal murderous cycle: The US government armed the Calderon regime and the American gun manufacturers sold guns to the cartels through both legal and underground arms sales. Steady or increasing demand for drugs in the US — and the grotesque profits derived from trafficking and sales — remained the primary driving force behind the tidal wave of violence and societal disintegration in Mexico.

Drug profits, in the most basic sense, are secured through the ability of the cartels to launder and transfer billions of dollars through the US banking system. The scale and scope of the US banking-drug cartel alliance surpasses any other economic activity of the US private banking system. According to US Justice Department records, one bank alone, Wachovia Bank (now owned by Wells Fargo), laundered \$378.3 billion dollars between May 1, 2004 and May 31, 2007 (*The Guardian*, May 11, 2011). Every major bank in the US has served as an active financial partner of the murderous drug cartels — including Bank of America, Citibank, and JP Morgan, as well as overseas banks operating out of New York, Miami, and Los Angeles, as well as London.

While the White House pays the Mexican state and army to kill Mexicans suspected of drug trafficking, the US Justice Department belatedly slaps a relatively small fine on the major US financial accomplice to the murderous drug trade, Wachovia Bank, spares its bank officials from any jail time, and allows major cases to lapse into dismissal.

The major agency of the US Treasury involved in investigating money laundering, the Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, deliberately ignored the blatant collaboration of US banks with drug terrorists, concentrating almost their entire staff and resources on enforcing sanctions against Iran. For seven years, Treasury Undersecretary Stuart Levey used his power as head of the Department for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence to pursue Israel's phony "war on terrorism" against Iran, rather than shut down Wachovia's money-laundering operations with the Mexican drug terrorists. In this period of time, an estimated 40,000 Mexican civilian have been killed by the cartels and the army.

Without US arms and financial services supporting both the illegitimate Mexican regimes and the drug cartels – there could be no "drug war", no mass killings and no state terror. The simple acts of stopping the flood of cheap, subsidized US agriculture products into Mexico and de-criminalizing the use and purchase of cocaine in the US would dry up the pool of 'cartel soldiers' from the bankrupted Mexican peasantry and cut back the profits and demand for illegal drugs in the US market.

The Drug Traffickers, the Banks and the White House

If the major US banks are the financial engines which allow the billion dollar drug empires to operate, the White House, the US Congress and the law enforcement agencies are the basic protectors of these banks. Despite the deep and pervasive involvement of the major banks in laundering hundreds of billions of dollars in illicit funds, the "court settlements" pursued by US prosecutors have led to no jail time for the bankers. One court's settlement amounted to a fine of \$50 million dollars, less than 0.5% of the \$12.3 billion profits for 2009 of just one of the banks — the Wachovia/Wells Fargo Bank. (*The Guardian*, May 11, 2011). Despite the death of tens of thousands of Mexican civilians, the US executive branch directed the DEA, the federal prosecutors and judges to impose such a laughable 'punishment' on Wachovia for its illegal services to the drug cartels. The most prominent economic officials

of the Bush and Obama regimes, including Summers, Paulson, Geithner, Greenspan, Bernanke et al, are all long-term associates, advisers and members of the leading financial houses and banks implicated in laundering the billions in drug profits.

Laundering drug money is one of the most lucrative sources of profit for Wall Street; the banks charge hefty commissions on the transfer of drug profits, which they then lend to borrowing institutions at interest rates far above what – if any – they pay to drug trafficker depositors. Awash in sanitized drug profits, these US titans of the finance world can easily buy their own elected officials to perpetuate the system.

Even more important and less obvious is the role of drug money in the recent financial meltdown, especially during its most critical first few weeks.

According to the head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, "In many instances, drug money (was)... currently the only liquid investment capital.... In the second half of 2008, liquidity was the banking system's main problem and hence liquid capital became an important factor...interbank loans were funded by money that originated from drug trade and other illegal activities... [there were] signs that some banks were rescued in that way." (Reuters, January 25, 2009. US edition). Capital flows from the drug billionaires were key to floating Wachovia and other leading banks. In a word: the drug billionaires saved the capitalist financial system from collapse!

Conclusion

By the end of the first decade of the 21st century, it has become clear that capital accumulation, at least in North America, is intimately linked to generalized violence and drug trafficking. Because capital accumulation is dependent on financial capital, and the latter is dependent on the industry profits from the multi-hundred-billion dollar drug trade, the entire ensemble is embedded in the 'total war' over drug profits. In times of deep crises, the very survival of the US financial system — and through it, the world banking system — is linked to the liquidity of the drug "industry".

At the most superficial level, the destruction of Mexican and Central American societies — encompassing over 100 million people — is a result of a conflict between drug cartels and the political regimes of the region. At a deeper level there is a multiplier or "ripple effect" related to their collaboration: the cartels draw on the support of the US banks to realize their profits; they spend hundreds of millions on the US arms industry and others to secure their supplies, transport and markets; they employ tens of thousands of recruits for their vast private armies and civilian networks and they purchase the compliance of political and military officials on both sides of the border.

For its part, the Mexican government acts as a conduit for US Pentagon/Federal police, Homeland Security, drug enforcement and political apparatuses prosecuting the 'war', which has put Mexican lives, property and security at risk. The White House stands at the strategic center of operations — the Mexican regime serves as the front-line executioners.

On one side of the "war on drugs" are the major Wall Street banks; on the other side, the White House and its imperial military strategists, and in the 'middle' are 90 million Mexicans and 40,000 murder victims and counting.

Relying on political fraud to impose economic deregulation in the 1990s (neo-liberalism), the US policies led directly to the social disintegration, criminalization and militarization of the current decade. The sophisticated narco-finance economy has now become the most advanced stage of neo-liberalism. When the respectable become criminals, the criminals become respectable.

The issue of genocide in Mexico has been defined by the empire and its "knowing" bankers and cynical rulers.

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WAR from p. 1

of our relationship.” These remarks were greeted by whining from US spokesmen, including Idaho Republican Senator First Risch.

The simmering strategic crisis between the United States and Pakistan exploded with full force on May 1, with the unilateral and unauthorized US commando raid alleged to have killed the phantomatic Osama bin Laden in a compound at Abbottabad, a flagrant violation of Pakistan’s national sovereignty. The timing of this military stunt designed to inflame tensions between the two countries had nothing to do with any alleged Global War on Terror and everything to do with the late March visit to Pakistan of Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Arabian National Security Council chief. This visit had resulted in a de facto alliance between Islamabad and Riyadh, with Pakistan promising troops to put down any US-backed ‘color revolution’ in the kingdom, while extending nuclear protection to the Saudis, thus making them less vulnerable to US extortion threats to abandon the oil-rich monarchy to the tender mercies of Tehran. A joint move by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to break out of the US empire, whatever one may think of these regimes, would represent a fatal blow for the fading US empire in South Asia.

As for the US claims concerning the supposed bin Laden raid of May 1, they are a mass of hopeless contradictions which changes from day to day. An analysis of this story is best left to literary critics and writers of theatrical reviews. The only solid and uncontestable fact which emerges is that Pakistan is the leading US target — thus intensifying the anti-Pakistan US policy which has been in place since Obama’s infamous December 2009 West Point speech.

Gilani: Full Force Retaliation to Defend Pakistan’s Strategic Assets

The Chinese warning to Washington came on the heels of Gilani’s May 17 statement to the Pakistan Parliament declaring: “Let no one draw any wrong conclusions. Any attack against Pakistan’s strategic assets, whether overt or covert, will find a matching response.... Pakistan reserves the right to retaliate with full force. No one should underestimate the resolve and capability of our nation and armed forces to defend our sacred homeland.” A warning of full force retaliation from a nuclear power such as Pakistan needs to be taken seriously, even by the hardened aggressors of the Obama regime.

The strategic assets Gilani is talking about are the Pakistani nuclear forces, the key to the country’s deterrent strategy against possible aggression by India, egged on by Washington in the framework of the US-India nuclear cooperation accord. The US forces in Afghanistan have not been able to conceal their extensive planning for attempts to seize or destroy Pakistan’s nuclear bombs and warheads. According to a 2009 Fox News report, “The United States has a detailed plan for infiltrating Pakistan and securing its mobile arsenal of nuclear warheads if it appears the country is about to fall under the control of the Taliban, al Qaeda or other Islamic extremists.” This plan was developed by General Stanley McChrystal when he headed the US Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. JSOC, the force reportedly involved in the bin Laden operation, is composed of Army Delta Force, Navy SEALs and “a high-tech special intelligence unit

known as Task Force Orange.” “Small units could seize [Pakistan’s nukes], disable them, and then centralize them in a secure location,” claimed a source quoted by Fox.

Obama Has Already Approved Sneak Attack on Pakistan’s Nukes

According to the May 15 London *Sunday Express*, Obama has already approved an aggressive move along these lines: “US troops will be deployed in Pakistan if the nation’s nuclear installations come under threat from terrorists out to avenge the killing of Osama bin Laden... The plan, which would be activated without President Zardari’s consent, provoked an angry reaction from Pakistan officials... Barack Obama would order troops to parachute in to protect key nuclear missile sites. These include the air force’s central Sargodha HQ, home base for nuclear-capable F-16 combat aircraft and at least 80 ballistic missiles.” According to a US official, “The plan is green lit and the President has already shown he is willing to deploy troops in Pakistan if he feels it is important for national security.”

Extreme tension over this issue highlights the brinksmanship and incalculable folly of Obama’s May 1 unilateral raid, which might easily have been interpreted by the Pakistanis as the long-awaited attack on their nuclear forces. According to the *New York Times*, May 20, Obama knew very well he was courting an immediate shooting war with Pakistan, and “insisted that the assault force hunting down Osama bin Laden last week be large enough to fight its way out of Pakistan if confronted by hostile local police officers and troops.”

The Shooting Has Already Started

The shooting between US and Pakistani forces escalated on May 17, when a US NATO helicopter violated Pakistani airspace in Waziristan. Pakistani forces showed heightened alert status, and opened fire immediately, with the US helicopter shooting back. Two soldiers at a Pakistani check post on the border in the Datta Khel area were wounded.

Possible Pakistani retaliation for this border incursion came in Peshawar on May 20, when a car bomb apparently targeted a two-car US consulate convoy, but caused no American deaths or injuries. One Pakistani bystander was killed, and several wounded.

In other intelligence warfare, Ary One television reported, on May 8, the name of the CIA station chief in Islamabad, the second top US resident spook there to have his cover blown in six months.

US Envoy Grossman Rejects Pakistani Calls To Stop Border Violations

US Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan Marc Grossman, the replacement for the late Richard Holbrooke, on May 19 arrogantly rejected Pakistani calls for guarantees that no more Abbottabad-style unilateral operations would be mounted in Pakistan. In refusing to offer such assurances, Grossman claimed that Pakistani officials had never demanded respect for their border in recent years.

In the midst of this strategic crisis, India has gone ahead with inherently provocative scheduled military maneuvers targeting Pakistan. This is the “Vijayee Bhava” (Be Victorious) drill, held in the Thar desert of north Rajasthan. This atomic-biological-chemical Blitzkrieg drill involves the Second Armored Corps, “considered to be the most crucial of the Indian Army’s three principal strike formations tasked with virtually cutting Pakistan in two during a full-fledged war.”

The Nation: A CIA-RAW-Mossad Pseudo-Taliban Countergang

One way to provide the provocation needed to justify a US-Indian attack on Pakistan would be through an increase in terrorist actions attributable to the so-called Taliban. According to the mainstream Pakistani media, the CIA, the Israeli Mossad, and the Indian RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) have created their own version of the Taliban in the form of a terrorist countergang which they control and direct. According to one account, “Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operatives have infiltrated the Taliban and al Qaeda networks and have created their own Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) force in order to destabilize Pakistan.” The former Punjab Regional Commander of the Pakistani Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI), retired Brigadier General Aslam Ghuman, commented: “During my visit to the US, I learned that the Israeli spy agency Mossad, in connivance with Indian agency RAW, under the direct supervision of CIA, planned to destabilize Pakistan at any cost.” Was this countergang responsible for last week’s double bombing in Waziristan, which killed 80 paramilitary police?

According to the same account, Russian intelligence “disclosed that CIA contractor Raymond Davis and his network had provided Al-Qaeda operatives with chemical, nuclear and biological weapons, so that US installations may be targeted and Pakistan be blamed....” Davis, a JSOC veteran himself, was arrested for the murder of two ISI agents, but then released by the Pakistani government after a suspicious hue and cry by the State Department.

CIA Claims The New Al Qaeda Boss Lives in Waziristan

If the US needs a further pretext for additional raids, it will also be easy to cite the alleged presence in Waziristan of Saif al-Adel, now touted by the CIA as bin Laden’s likely successor as boss of al Qaeda. It is doubtless convenient for Obama’s aggressive intentions that Saif al-Adel can be claimed to reside so close to what is now the hottest border in the world, and not in Finsbury or Flatbush.

In the wake of the unauthorized May 1 US raid, the Pakistani military chief General Kayani had issued his own warning that similar “misadventures” could not be repeated, while announcing that US personnel inside Pakistan would be sharply reduced. In the estimate of one ISI source, there are currently about 7,000 CIA operatives in country, many of them unknown to the Pakistani government. US-Pakistan intelligence sharing has reportedly been downgraded. In response to Kayani’s moves, the CIA limited-hangout operation known as Wikileaks once again showed its real nature by attempting to discredit the Pakistan commander with dubious US cable reports that he had demanded more Predator drone attacks, not fewer, in recent years.

Especially since Obama’s West Point speech, the CIA has used Predator drone attacks to slaughter civilians with the goal of fomenting civil war inside Pakistan, leading to a breakup of the country along the ethnic lines of Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan, and Pushtunistan. The geopolitical goal is to destroy Pakistan’s potential to be the energy corridor between Iran and China. Selig Harrison has emerged as a top US advocate for Baluchistan succession.

Since May 1, six reported US Predator drones attacks have slain some 42 Pakistani civilians, goading public opinion into a frenzy of anti-US hatred. In response, a joint session of the Pakistani parliament voted

unanimously on May 14 to demand an end to American missile strikes, calling on the government to cut NATO’s supply line to Afghanistan if the attacks should continue. Since the Karachi-Khyber Pass supply line carries as much as two-thirds of the supplies needed by the Afghanistan invaders, such a cutoff would cause chaos among the NATO forces. All of this points to the inherent insanity of provoking war with the country your supply line runs through.

US Wants to Use Taliban Boss Mullah Omar Against Pakistan

The State Department dropped all preconditions for negotiating with the Taliban back in February, and the US is now reported by the *Washington Post* to be talking with envoys of Mullah Omar, the legendary one-eyed leader of the Quetta Shura, or Taliban ruling council. It is apparent that the US is offering the Taliban an alliance against Pakistan. US regional envoy Grossman is hostile to the Pakistanis, but when it comes to the Taliban he has been nicknamed “Mr. Reconciliation.” By contrast, the US is said to be determined to assassinate Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani the head of the Haqqani network in Pakistan using a bin Laden-type raid. The Pakistanis are equally determined to keep the Haqqani as an ally.

If China stands behind Pakistan, then Russia might be said to stand behind China. Looking forward to the upcoming June 15 meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Chinese President Hu Jintao praised Sino-Russian relations as being “at an unprecedented high point,” with an “obvious strategic ingredient.” In a press conference this week, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev was obliged indirectly to acknowledge that the much-hyped Obama “reset” with Russia had amounted to very little, since the US ABM missile program in Romania and the rest of eastern Europe, so obviously directed against Russia, means that the START treaty is of dubious value, thus raising the specter of a “new Cold War.” Given the NATO assault on Libya, there would be no UN resolution against Syria, said Medvedev. Valdimir Putin has been right all along, and Medvedev is trying to imitate Putin to salvage some chance of remaining in power.

Are We in July 1914?

The crisis leading to World War I began with the Sarajevo assassinations of June 28, 1914, but the first major declaration of war did not occur until August 1. In the interim month of July 1914, large parts of European public opinion retreated into a dreamlike trance, an idyllic la-la land of elegiac illusion, even as the deadly crisis gathered momentum. Something similar can be seen today. Many Americans fondly imagine that the alleged death of bin Laden marks the end of the war on terror and the Afghan War. Instead, the bin Laden operation has clearly ushered in a new strategic emergency. Forces which had opposed the Iraq war, from MSNBC to many left liberals of the peace movement, are variously supporting Obama’s bloody aggression in Libya, or even celebrating him as a more effective warmonger than Bush-Cheney because of his supposed success at the expense of bin Laden. In reality, if there were ever a time to mobilize to stop a new and wider war, this is it.

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

This article is available with footnotes at TARPLEY.NET.

The Archdruid Report

Alternatives to Nihilism: Remember Your Name

NIHILISM from p. 7

faced with the prospect of using less energy, not because we choose to do so but because the energy that would be needed to do otherwise isn’t there any more. That’s the problem with living as though there’s no tomorrow, of course: tomorrow inevitably shows up anyway.

This late in the game, our remaining options are starkly limited, and most of the proposals you’ll hear these days are simply variations on the theme of chasing business as usual right over the nearest cliff. Whether it’s Stewart Brand’s nukes, “Drill, Baby, Drill,” ethanol or algal biodiesel, or some other kind of energy vaporware, the subtext to every widely-touted response to our predicament is that we don’t need to use less. The same thing’s just as true of most of the ideologies that claim to offer a more global response to that predicament; the one common thread that unites the neoprimitivists who claim to long for a return to the hunter-gatherer life, the conspiracy theorists who spend their days in an increasingly frantic orgy of fingerpointing, and the apocalypticists who craft ever more elaborate justifications for the claim that somebody or other will change the world for us, is that each of these ideologies, and plenty others like them, function covertly as justifications to allow believers to keep on living an ordinary American lifestyle right up to the moment that it drops away from beneath their feet.

The one option that doesn’t do this is the one next to nobody is willing to talk about, and that’s the option of using less.

Mention that option in public, and inevitably you’ll hear a dozen different reasons why it can’t help and won’t matter and isn’t practical anyway. Can it help? Of course it can; in a time when world crude oil production has been bouncing against a hard ceiling for most of a decade and most other energy sources are under growing strain, any decrease in the amount of energy being wasted on nonessentials makes it a little easier to keep essential services up and running. Will it matter? Of course, it will; as we move into a future of hard energy constraints, the faster at least a few people get through the learning curve of conservation, appropriate tech, and simply making do with less, the easier it will be for the rest of society to follow their lead and learn from their experience, if only when all the other choices have been foreclosed. Is it practical? Of course, it is; the average European gets by comfortably on one third the annual energy budget as the average American, and it’s been my experience that most middle class Americans can slash their energy use by a third or more in one year by a relatively simple program of home weatherizing and lifestyle changes.

I’d like to suggest, in fact, that at this point in the trajectory of industrial civilization, any proposal that doesn’t make using less energy a central strategy simply isn’t serious. It’s hard to think of any dimension of our predicament that can’t be bettered, often dramatically, by using less energy, and even harder to think of any project that will yield significant gains as long as Americans cling to a lifestyle

that history is about to relegate to the compost bin. I’d also like to suggest that any proposal that does start out with using less energy should not be taken seriously until and unless the people proposing it actually do use less energy themselves, preferably by adopting the measures they urge on others.

That’s how effective movements for social change happen, after all. Individuals start them by making changes in their own lives; as the number of people making those changes grows, networks emerge to share information, resources, and encouragement; the networks become the frame of a subculture, and as momentum builds, the subculture becomes a movement. It’s indicative that the two movements that had the most impact on American culture in the second half of the twentieth century — feminism and Christian fundamentalism — both emerged this way, starting with individuals who changed their own lives, while any number of movements that tried to make change from the top down — again, the climate change movement is a good example — failed to achieve their ends.

That’s the core concept behind the “green wizardry” I’ve been discussing here on The Archdruid Report for almost a year now. It’s entirely possible for each of us to kick the process just described into motion by using less energy and fewer natural resources in our own lives. There are proven methods and mature technologies that will accomplish that. It so happens that I learned some of those back in the early 1980s, and have a couple of decades of experience applying them in my own life. That’s been the basis on which I’ve selected the tools and techniques discussed here; for reasons already explained, I don’t think it’s useful to advocate things I haven’t used myself.

The one great barrier in the path of starting a movement the right way, beginning on the individual level, is that it requires each person who takes up the challenge to break with the conventional wisdom and do things that others aren’t prepared to do. That’s a lonely journey, no question, and since this series of posts began with a bit of Seventies music, I don’t think it’s out of place to end it with the most famous desert journey from the music of that era. To borrow a turn of phrase from the song, that loneliness can be a place to remember our names or, more precisely, to recall that we have names other than “consumer” and “victim.”

It’s my hope that at least some of the people who read this post will rise to that challenge. We’ve got a lot of work to do, and there may not be much time to get it started before conditions become a good deal more difficult than they are right now.

John Michael Greer has been a student of magic and the unexplained since 1975. The author of several books, including Natural Magic: Potions and Powers from the Magical Garden, Circles of Power: Ritual Magic in the Western Tradition, and Inside a Magical Lodge. He has written articles for Renaissance Magazine, the Golden Dawn Journal, the Journal of Asian Martial Arts, Mezlim, New Moon Rising, Gnosis, and Alexandria.



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