

the SHADOW

INFORMATION IS STRENGTH • KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

WHAT THE MASS MEDIA NEEDS TO COVER IN THE ISRAEL - GAZA CONFLICT

By Ralph Nader

[February 23, 2024] Last October 27, I suggested subjects the mainstream media needed to cover relating to the saturation bombing of Gaza and its defenseless civilian families and infrastructure. Looking at these topics now, four months later, despite massive reporting, the attention to these subjects is still thin and more deserving of reporting than ever.

1. How did Hamas, with tiny Gaza surrounded by a 17-year Israeli blockade, subjected to unparalleled electronic surveillance, with spies and informants, and augmented by an overwhelming air, sea and land military presence, manage to get the weapons and associated technology for their October 7th surprise raid? Readers still do not know how and from where these weapons entered Gaza year after year.

2. What is the connection between the stunning failure of the Israeli government to protect its people on the border and the policy of P.M. Netanyahu? Recall the New York Times (October 22, 2023) article by prominent journalist, Roger Cohen, to wit: "All means were good to undo the notion of Palestinian statehood. In 2019, Mr. Netanyahu told a meeting of his center right Likud party: 'Those who want to thwart the possibility of a Palestinian state should support the strengthening of Hamas and the transfer of money to Hamas. This is part of our strategy.'" (Note: Israel and the U.S. fostered the rise of Islamic Hamas in 1987 to counter the secular Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)). Readers still need more information about the context of Netanyahu's declared support for Hamas over the years and his connection to the buildup of Hamas funding and weaponry.

3. Why is Congress preparing to appropriate over \$14 billion to Israel in military and other aid without any public hearings and without any demonstrated fiscal need by Israel, a prosperous economic, technological and military superpower with a social safety net superior to that of the U.S.? USDA just reported over 44 million Americans struggled with hunger in 2022. This, in the midst of a childcare crisis. Should U.S. taxpayers be expected to pay for Netanyahu's colossal intelligence/military collapse? As an elderly Holocaust survivor told the New York Times, "It should never have happened" in the first place.

4. Why hasn't the media reported on President Biden's statement that the Gaza Health Ministry's body count (now over 7,000 fatalities) is exaggerated? Indications, however, are that it is a large undercount by Hamas to minimize its inability to protect its people. Israel has fired over 8,000 powerful precision munitions and bombs into Gaza so far. These have struck many thousands of inhabited buildings - homes, apartments buildings, over 120

health facilities, ambulances, crowded markets, fleeing refugees, schools, water and sewage systems, and electric networks - implementing Israeli military orders to cut off all food, water, fuel, medicine and electricity to this already impoverished, densely-packed area the size of Philadelphia. For those not directly slain, the deadly harm caused by no food, water, medicine, medical facilities and fuel will lead to even more deaths and serious injuries.

Note that over three quarters of Gaza's population consists of children and wom-

6. Why isn't the mass media making a bigger issue out of Israel's long time practice of blocking journalists from entering Gaza, including European, American and Israeli journalists? The only television crews left are Gaza-residing Al Jazeera reporters. Israel bombs have already killed 26 journalists in the Gaza Strip since October 7th.

Is Israel targeting journalists' families? The Gaza bureau chief of Al Jazeera, Wael Al Dahdouh's family was killed in an Israeli airstrike on Wednesday. Israeli commanders now have killed over 100 journalists,

of international law that all the parties, including the U.S., have been violating? Under international law, Biden has made the U.S. an active "co-belligerent," of the Israeli government's vocal demolition of the 2.3 million inhabitants in Gaza, who are mostly descendants of Palestinian refugees driven from their homes in 1948. Coverage has expanded to include the U.S. vetoes on the Security Council and to global reporting on the International Court of Justice proceedings on South Africa's calling for the Court to address Israel's genocide of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

9. What about revealing human interest stories? For example, how do Israeli F-16 pilots feel about their daily bombing of the completely defenseless Gazan civilian population and its life-sustaining infrastructures? The reporting on the military orders given to Israeli soldiers in Gaza who are slaying indiscriminately thousands of innocents of all ages and snipers attacking people and children in hospitals is inadequate. Why are no Hamas fighters taken as prisoners of war? Is there an order of "take no prisoners" even after capture? What are the courageous Israeli human rights and refuseniks thinking and doing in a climate of serious repression of their views as a result of Netanyahu's defense collapse on October 7th? An open letter to President Biden on December 13, 2023, by 16 Israeli human rights groups appeared as a paid notice in the New York Times, but received very little notice to its clarion call to stop the catastrophe in Gaza.

10. Where is the media attention on the statements from Israeli military commentators, who, for years have declared high-tech U.S.-backed, nuclear-armed Israel to be more secure than at any time in its history? Israel is reasserting its overwhelming military domination of the Middle East region, fully backed by U.S. militarism. The Israeli government is putting ads in U.S. newspapers wildly exaggerating long subdued Hamas as an "existential" threat. Without Netanyahu strangely failing to keep the border guarded on October 7, 2023, what followed would not have happened!

Historians remind us that in a gridlocked conflict over time, it is the most powerful party's responsibility to lead the way to peace.

Establishing a two-state solution has been supported by many Palestinians. All the Arab nations, starting with the Arab League peace proposal in 2002, support this solution as well. It is up to Israel and the U.S., assuming annexation of what is left of Palestine is not Israel's objective.

More media attention on this subject matter is much needed.

en. Soon there will be thousands of babies born to die in the rubble. Other Palestinians will perish from untreated diseases, injuries, dehydration, and from drinking contaminated water. With crumbled sanitation facilities, physicians are fearing a deadly cholera epidemic.

Israel bombed the Rafah crossing on the Gaza-Egypt border. Only a tiny trickle of trucks are now allowed there by Israel to carry food and water. Fuel for hospital generators still remains blocked.

The undercount of fatalities and injuries is far greater now. The official figure is about 30,000 lives lost, with hundreds dying every day under the rubble. There is too little media interest in more realistic estimates. Undercounting lessens the pressure on Washington officials' co-belligerents in the White House to call for a permanent ceasefire.

5. Why can't Biden even persuade Israel to let 600 desperate Americans out of the Gaza firestorm?

in addition, in some cases, to their entire families and continue to block foreign journalists, except for a few brief "guided tours" in Israeli armored vehicles.

7. Why isn't the mainstream U.S. media giving adequate space and voice to groups advocating a cease fire and humanitarian aid? The message of Israeli peace groups' peaceful solutions are drowned out by the media's addiction to interviews with military tacticians. Much time and space are being given to hawks pushing for a war that could flash outside of Gaza big time. Shouldn't groups such as Jewish Voice for Peace, the Arab American Institute, Veterans for Peace and associations of clergy have their views and activities reported? Still being under-reported are the activities all over the country of the Veterans for Peace and large labor unions demanding a permanent cease fire and humanitarian aid.

8. Why is the coverage of the war overlooking the Geneva Conventions, the United Nations Charter and the many provisions



Mohammad Sabaaneh

SHADOW EDITORIALS

A DEMENTIA PATIENT IS PRESIDENT BECAUSE IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO THE PRESIDENT IS

By Caitlin Johnstone

So it turns out the dementia symptoms Biden's supporters have long dismissed as a "stutter" are actually exactly what they look like.

The special counsel assigned to investigate Joe Biden for mishandling classified documents reports that investigators "uncovered evidence that President Biden willfully retained and disclosed classified materials after his vice presidency when he was a private citizen," but concludes that "no criminal charges are warranted in this matter."

Which normally would be cause for a sigh of relief by this administration and its supporters, except that among the reasons given for this conclusion is that the president has gone senile.

"We have also considered that, at trial, Mr. Biden would likely present himself to a jury, as he did during our interview of him, as a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory," Special Counsel Robert Hur writes to Attorney General Merrick Garland, saying that "Mr. Biden's memory was significantly limited, both during his recorded interviews with the ghostwriter in 2017, and in his interview with our office in 2023. And his cooperation with our investigation... will likely convince some jurors that he made an innocent mistake, rather than acting willfully - that is, with intent to break the law - as the statute requires."

Hur reports that in interviews, Biden couldn't even remember things as fundamental as the years of his term as vice president, or when his son Beau died. Hur also writes that Biden's memory had gotten worse between the aforementioned recorded 2017 interviews and the interviews with the president last year.

In short, the president's brain don't work. It's shot. The "leader of the free world" has rusted out gray matter. It's like swiss cheese in there.

And it is indeed getting worse. During a press conference in which Biden was ostensibly meant to reassure the world that his brain is working fine in light of the big news, the president referred to the president of Egypt as the president of Mexico and froze mid speech when he unsuccessfully tried to remember where his son got the rosary he carries from. Biden has mistakenly referred to dead European leaders as still being in office, not once but twice.

If you were still laboring under the delusion that it matters who the U.S. president is, the fact that an actual, literal dementia patient has held that office for three years now should dispel that notion once and for all. The U.S. empire has been marching along in exactly the same way it was before Biden took office, completely unhindered by the fact that the person who's supposedly calling the shots is in a state of degenerative neurological freefall.

Literally anyone could hold that office, and it would make no meaningful difference in the way the U.S. empire is run. A coma patient could be president. A jar of kalamata olives could be president. The position which Americans hold elections over in the belief that it could bring positive changes to their country and their world is nothing but a figurehead.

Which is a bit of a problem for Americans who would like to change certain aspects of their government's behavior, like, for example, the backing of an active genocide in Gaza. Whose conscience do they work to appeal to if the person they were told is in charge actually isn't? Who



do they vote for if the people who really call the shots aren't even on the ballot?

The fact that the U.S. president has dementia exposes the uncomfortable truth that the functioning of the empire is too important to be left in the hands of voters. There's too much power riding on the behavior of the U.S. government from year to year for the electorate to be permitted a say in it.

The globe-spanning power structure that is centralized around the United States is run not by the official elected government of that nation, but by unelected empire managers who filter in and out of each administration and maintain a steady presence in government agencies and government adjacent institutions. These empire managers form alliances with corporate powers and working relationships with the many nations, assets and partners who function as members of the undeclared U.S. empire.

Which means there's not really any way for Americans to vote their way out of this mess. If you have a problem with genocide, militarism, economic injustice, authoritarianism, or any other crucial building block for the U.S. centralized power structure, you will never be permitted to have any influence over those things through the official electoral system. Voting in western "democracies" is done to give us the illusion of control, like letting a toddler play with a toy steering wheel while you drive so they can feel like they're participating.

That doesn't mean there's no way out of this mess, just that there's no way out of this mess that involves voting. We're already seeing pro-Palestine activists throwing significant obstacles in the operations of Israeli weapons dealers, and the push to educate and inform the public about what's happening in Gaza has caused Israel to lose control of the narrative so severely that it's now resorting to desperate online influence ops. Measures like this can be implemented across the board to bring about the end of the imperial power structure. Once enough people begin turning against the empire, using the power of our numbers, real change will quickly move from impossible to possible to likely to inevitable.

But we've got to stop hanging all our hopes on the electoral system first. Every four years, we see American attention get sucked up into this empty puppet show about which soulless empire manager should be the temporary official figurehead at the front desk of the permanent imperial machine.

If you want to vote, by all means go ahead and vote. But don't let that performative ritual distract you from the real project -- to wake up our fellow humans and begin forcing real change.

ELECTION MADNESS

By Howard Zinn

[April 8, 2008] The very people who should know better, having criticized the hold of the media on the national mind, find themselves transfixed by the press, glued to the television set, as the candidates preen and smile and bring forth a shower of clichés with a solemnity appropriate for epic poetry. There's a man in Florida who has been writing to me for years (ten pages, handwritten) though I've never met him. He tells me the kinds of jobs he has held—security guard, repairman, etc. He has worked all kinds of shifts, night and day, to barely keep his family going. His letters to me have always been angry, railing against our capitalist system for its failure to assure "life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness" for working people.

Just today, a letter came. To my relief it was not handwritten because he is now using e-mail: "Well, I'm writing to you today because there is a wretched situation in this country that I cannot abide and must say something about. I am so enraged about this mortgage crisis. That the majority of Americans must live their lives in perpetual debt, and so many are sinking beneath the load, has me so steamed. Damn, that makes me so mad, I can't tell you. . . . I did a security guard job today that involved watching over a house that had been foreclosed on and was up for auction. They held an open house, and I was there to watch over the place during this event. There were three of the guards doing the same thing in three other homes in this same community. I was sitting there during the quiet moments and wondering about who those people were who had been evicted and where they were now."

On the same day I received this letter, there was a front page story in the Boston Globe, with the headline "Thousands in Mass. Foreclosed on in '07."

The subhead was "7,563 homes were seized, nearly 3 times the '06 rate."

A few nights before, CBS television reported that 750,000 people with disabilities have been waiting for years for their Social Security benefits because the system is underfunded and there are not enough personnel to handle all the requests, even desperate ones.

Stories like these may be reported in the media, but they are gone in a flash. What's not gone, what occupies the press day after day, impossible to ignore, is the election frenzy.

This seizes the country every four years because we have all been brought up to believe that voting is crucial in determining our destiny, that the most important act a citizen can engage in is to go to the polls and choose one of the two mediocrities who have already been chosen for us. It is a multiple choice test so narrow, so specious, that no self respecting teacher would give it to students.

And sad to say, the Presidential contest has mesmerized liberals and radicals alike. We are all vulnerable.

Is it possible to get together with friends these days and avoid the subject of the Presidential elections?

The very people who should know better, having criticized the hold of the media on the national mind, find themselves transfixed by the press, glued to the television set, as the candidates preen and smile and bring forth a shower of clichés with a solemnity appropriate for epic poetry.

Even in the so-called "left" periodicals, we must admit there is an exorbitant amount of attention given to minutely examining the major candidates. An occasional bone is thrown to the minor candidates, though everyone knows our marvelous democratic political system won't allow them in.

No, I'm not taking some ultra left position that elections are totally insignificant, and that we should refuse to vote to preserve our moral purity. Yes, there are candidates who are somewhat better than others, and at certain times of national crisis (the Thirties, for instance, or right now) where even a slight difference between the two parties may be a matter of life and death.

I'm talking about a sense of proportion that gets lost in the election madness. Would I support one candidate against another? Yes, for two minutes—the amount of time it takes to pull the lever down in the voting booth.

But before and after those two minutes, our time, our energy, should be spent in educating, agitating, organizing our fellow citizens in the workplace, in the neighborhood, in the schools. Our objective should be to build, painstakingly, patiently but energetically, a movement that, when it reaches a certain critical

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Danny Hellman

THE SHADOW NEVER SLEEPS!!

ELECTION MADNESS

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mass, would shake whoever is in the White House, in Congress, into changing national policy on matters of war and social justice.

Let's remember that even when there is a "better" candidate (yes, better Roosevelt than Hoover, better anyone than George Bush), that difference will not mean anything unless the power of the people asserts itself in ways that the occupant of the White House will find it dangerous to ignore.

The unprecedented policies of the New Deal—Social Security, unemployment insurance, job creation, minimum wage, subsidized housing—were not simply the result of FDR's progressivism. The Roosevelt Administration, coming into office, faced a nation in turmoil. The last year of the Hoover Administration had experienced the rebellion of the Bonus Army—thousands of veterans of the First World War descending on Washington to demand help from Congress as their families were going hungry. There were disturbances of the unemployed in Detroit, Chicago, Boston, New York, Seattle.

In 1934, early in the Roosevelt Presidency, strikes broke out all over the country, including a general strike in Minneapolis, a general strike in San Francisco, hundreds of thousands on strike in the textile mills of the South. Unemployed councils formed all over the country. Desperate people were taking action on their own, defying the police to put back the furniture of evicted tenants, and creating self help organizations with hundreds of thousands of members.

Without a national crisis—economic destitution and rebellion—it is not likely the Roosevelt Administration would have instituted the bold reforms that it did.

Today, we can be sure that the Democratic Party, unless it faces a popular upsurge, will not move off center. The two leading Presidential candidates have made it clear that if elected, they will not bring an immediate end to the Iraq War, or institute a system of free health care for all.

They offer no radical change from the status quo.

They do not propose what the present desperation of people cries out for -- a

government guarantee of jobs to everyone who needs one, a minimum income for every household, housing relief to everyone who faces eviction or foreclosure.

They do not suggest the deep cuts in the military budget or the radical changes in the tax system that would free billions, even trillions, for social programs to transform the way we live.

None of this should surprise us. The Democratic Party has broken with its historic conservatism, its pandering to the rich, its predilection for war, only when it has encountered rebellion from below, as in the Thirties and the Sixties. We should not expect that a victory at the ballot box in November will even begin to budge the nation from its twin fundamental illnesses -- capitalist greed and militarism.

So we need to free ourselves from the election madness engulfing the entire society, including the left.

Yes, two minutes. Before that, and after that, we should be taking direct action against the obstacles to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

For instance, the mortgage foreclosures that are driving millions from their homes should remind us of a similar situation after the Revolutionary War, when small farmers, many of them war veterans (like so many of our homeless today), could not afford to pay their taxes and were threatened with the loss of the land, their homes. They gathered by the thousands around courthouses and refused to allow the auctions to take place.

The evictions today of people who cannot pay their rents should remind us of what people did in the Thirties when they organized and put the belongings of the evicted families back in their apartments, in defiance of the authorities.

Historically, government, whether in the hands of Republicans or Democrats, conservatives or liberals, has failed its responsibilities, until forced by direct action -- sit ins and Freedom Rides for the rights of black people, strikes and boycotts for the rights of workers, mutinies and desertions of soldiers in order to stop a war.

Voting is easy and marginally useful, but it is a poor substitute for democracy, which requires direct action by concerned citizens.

[American historian, professor and author (A People's History of The United States - 1980) Howard Zinn died on January 27, 2010 - Ed.]



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LEONARD ABRAMS: 1954-2023



Leonard Abrams was a wanderer, a sensualist and an adventurer. He died on the road. He passed very suddenly in the early hours of April 1, 2023, while driving home to Queens. He never lost his dignity; some of us are not meant to grow old. He remained vigorous, always moving, working and planning for the future, burning the candle at both ends. He gained tremendous pleasure from life: A swim in the ocean, an ice cold Negroni, the films of Buñuel and Pasolini, and re-reading Carson McCullers' The Ballad of the Sad Café were some of his favorite creature comforts. He was a devoted friend, a gourmet cook, he told cheesy jokes and he was romantic.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Spring Valley, Abrams moved to Denver and Boston as a young man, but lived the majority of his adult life in New York City. He was the publisher and editor of the **EAST VILLAGE EYE** from 1979-1987, an avant garde art publication which shone a spotlight on artists, writers, musicians, filmmakers, politics and popular culture as well; there were comics, horoscopes and a self-help column by underground actress Cookie Mueller. Just a bit of the material in the **EYE** treasure trove includes writing by David Wojnarowicz, Glenn O'Brien and Richard Hell, the art of Kiki Smith and Keith Haring, and interviews with Kathy Acker and David Lynch.

The **EAST VILLAGE EYE** archives were recently acquired by the New York Public Library: the perfect ending to an eight-year long effort by Abrams and Arthur Fournier, a friend and broker of rare books and manuscripts. An extensive article in the New Yorker about the **EYE** by Hannah Gold came out this past February, and shortly after, in March,

a party at Bowery Electric to celebrate the NYPL's acquisition of the archive was a sold out smash.

Abrams operated two clubs: the Milky Way with Chuck Crook in 1987 and the Hotel Amazon in 1988 at the Clemente Soto Vélaz Center on Suffolk Street. The latter was a hip hop club, featuring acts such as De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest and a teen-aged Queen Latifah in one of her first public performances.

Abrams was also a writer, having written two screenplays as well as mass-market paperbacks on subjects as varied as gambling and deep space astrology, when he needed a few extra bucks. He was the music editor of Details magazine, and U.S. editor of Soul Underground and Masthead

literary magazine. Off and on since the 1990s, he had a successful importing business, supplying botanicas in New York and along the northeast with religious goods and handicrafts from Mexico and South America.

Abrams was an accomplished filmmaker. Quilombo Country, the 2006 documentary he directed, produced and edited, was narrated by Public Enemy front man Chuck D. He traveled to the north of Brazil many times over the course of six years to make the film; he learned Portuguese and lived with the people there. The film centers around Africans who escaped enslavement and forged their own communities in the rainforest, preserving their traditions, and living freely and with dignity while raising their families on their own terms. Quilombo Country can be found in university and library collections all over the world and has been shown in many U.S. and international film festivals since its release.

Sometimes Leonard seemed to have nine lives: he survived cancer, open heart surgery, hitchhiking cross country in the 1970s, running away with a traveling carnival as a 19 year old, and a hit and run accident. He kept going until he could no longer. He was a traveler, an international vagabond, to use his own words, spending much of the last year and a half of his life in Mexico, Colombia and Brazil. He spoke three languages; he was incredibly well read, a history buff, a news junkie, a gourmand, and a lover of animals, especially pit bulls and tabby cats.

Leonard was a father figure to the East Village based poet, Thomas Walker, having become his legal guardian after the passing of his mother, Sybil Walker, a longtime **EYE** contributor, in 2001. Abrams had tremendous respect for women, a deep love for his mother, and an unwavering commitment to justice; he told the truth, even if it was unpopular and he could be blunt at times. He valued

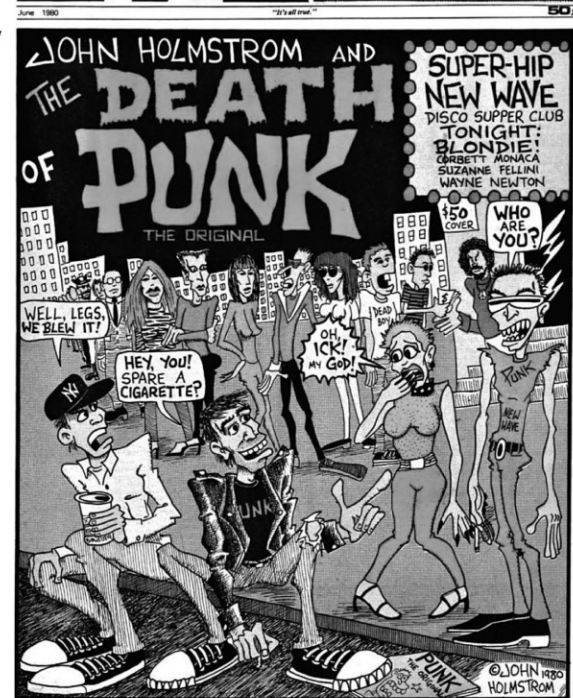
truth above all else and had a wicked sense of humor. He was irreverent. He was not bourgeois; traditional family life made him a bit uneasy. He lived by his own rule book. A bohemian in the best sense of the word: he valued art, freedom, and the natural world. Unbound by societal conventions, he belonged to no church or synagogue, yet Jewish tradition held cultural importance for him throughout his life.

Now he is gone from us, but he is a part of

everything and he has done what we are all fated to do. He went quickly, without warning and without suffering; he was recognized for his work, he was proud and contented with himself, his business was successful, he was traveling the world, writing, spending time with those he cared about and he was deeply loved. I was at home waiting for him. There was a warm bed with an empty space for him to lay his body, and what more can we possibly ask for in this life?

-Angela Sloan

[To see the complete East Village EYE archives, go to: <https://east-village-eye.com>]



EAST VILLAGE EYE - JUNE 1980

JOE BIDEN & ANTONY BLINKEN: RULE OF ILLEGAL POWER OVER RULE OF LAW

By Ralph Nader

[February 16, 2024] Among the puzzling questions that the media chooses to ignore is asking high government officials why they are exercising the illegal use of power that violates the rule of law which they are required to obey.

This week, the Veterans for Peace [VFP] made it very easy for reporters to pose questions by sending an open letter [See veteransforpeace.org - Ed.] to the Inspector General of the U.S. State Department and Antony Blinken, Secretary of State, invoking several U.S. statutes that require the "termination of provision of military weapons and munitions to Israel."

Josh Paul, a former senior official in the State Department's office charged with reviewing weapon transfers to foreign countries, said: "The Secretary and all relevant officials under his purview should take this letter from Veterans for Peace with the utmost seriousness. It is a stark reminder of the importance of abiding by the laws and policies that relate to arms transfers."

What laws are being violated by the State Department daily as it approves ships and cargo planes full of weapons of mass destruction to be used in Israel's war crimes and genocide against hundreds of thousands of Gaza's civilians, mostly children and women?

These are the laws highlighted in the VFP letter:

- The Foreign Assistance Act, which forbids the provision of assistance to a government which "engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights."

- Arms Export Control Act, which says countries that receive US military aid can only use weapons for legitimate self defense and internal security. Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza goes way beyond self defense and internal security.

- The U.S. War Crimes Act, which forbids grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, including wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, and unlawful deportation or transfer, perpetrated by the Israeli Occupying Forces.

- The Leahy Law, which prohibits the U.S. Government from using funds for assistance to units of foreign security forces where there is credible information implicating that unit in the commission of gross violations of human rights.

- The Genocide Convention Implementation Act, which was enacted to implement U.S. obligations under the Genocide Convention, provides for criminal penalties for individuals who commit or incite others to commit genocide

Under these laws, the State Department has a "Conventional Arms Transfer Policy" which, the letter notes, "prohibit [U.S. weapons transfers when it's likely they] will be used by Israel to commit ... genocide, crimes against humanity, grave breach-

es of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, [including attacks intentionally directed against civilian objects or civilians protected] or other serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights laws."

The VFP letter continues, "Dozens of authoritative complaints and referrals made by hospital administrators in Gaza, as well as by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Palestine Authority, South Africa, Turkey, Medicins sans Frontières, UNRWA, UNICEF, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the World Food Programme have confirmed that there is an ongoing human rights and humanitarian disaster due to Israel's cutoff of water and electricity, deliberate destruction of sewage infrastructure and delaying of aid shipments by Israeli forces."

If you are wondering why these laws are not being enforced - the answer is that individual citizens or groups of citizens do not have any "legal standing" to sue Secretary Blinken, according to the U.S. Supreme Court. Only a Committee of Congress, backed by a Senate or House Resolution, can take the State Department to federal court. That action to enforce Congressionally-passed and enacted laws is not likely to happen in this lawless, Israeli government indentured Congress which refuses even to demand a cease fire.

Mike Ferner, VFP National Director, observed "Just as any good soldiers can recognize when they are given an unlawful order, we believe some State Department staff are horrified at the orders they're given and will decide to uphold the law, find the courage to speak out and demand an end to the carnage."

There is a related serious matter, pointed out by international law practitioner Bruce Fein, who said: "The United States has clearly become a co-belligerent with Israel in its war against Hamas Gaza Palestinians by systematically supplying the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) with weapons and intelligence without conditions. Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, nationals of a co-belligerent state are not regarded as protected persons if their state has customary diplomatic relations with an allied nation [in this case, Israel]."

For decades, the State Department has had an independent Office of the Legal Adviser. The present occupant of that post, acting legal adviser Richard C. Visek, has been publicly silent. I am sending the Veterans for Peace letter to him and asking him to respond to this letter and to the American people who pay his salary.

[Over the course of seven decades, consumer advocate Ralph Nader has been Corporate America's fiercest critic, founding many organizations, including the Center for Study of Responsive Law, the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), the Center for Auto Safety, Public Citizen, Clean Water Action Project, the Disability Rights Center, the Pension Rights Center, the Project for Corporate Responsibility and The Multinational Monitor (a monthly magazine). Ralph Nader's official website is nader.org.]



Illustration by Seth Tobocman

JOE BIDEN AND GAZA

By Seth Tobocman

Stanley Cohen is familiar to readers of **The SHADOW**. From the late 1980s through the 90s, Stanley, along with Ron Kuby, was one of the activist attorneys who represented squatters, homeless people and anarchists arrested as a result of confrontations with the NYPD in street battles in and around Tompkins Square Park.

Since then, Stanley has come to represent so many Arab and Muslim people accused of "terrorism" that he is known as "Sheikh Stanley." Currently, he is the attorney representing Hamas, involved in negotiations between leaders in the Middle East.

This interview with Stanley, done in February, will be part of a graphic non-fiction book dealing with his life, as well as the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Stanley: We are coming to a crossroads where the world is going to have to pull the chain around the neck of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, or this thing is going to keep getting worse and worse and worse.

Seth: What would "pulling the chain" look like?

Stanley: Biden could end this tomorrow!

Seth: Really?

Stanley: Biden could say to Netanyahu "I'm freezing immediate funds, money that was previously allocated will not be provided to you unless you do X, Y and Z."

Seth: Couldn't Israel run for a year on what they've got until Trump gets in and

unfreezes the funds?

Stanley: No. It's not just the Israeli military. The Israeli economy is totally dependent on U.S. money.

Not only could Biden cut off money provided by the U.S. government, but he could invoke OFAC, and then any private groups that wanted to give money to Israel would have to get an OFAC license. OFAC [the Office of Financial Assets Control] is set up so that, if you are engaged in financial transactions with a movement, individual or state, that is designated to be engaged in violations of international law, you have to get a license from the Department of the Treasury. They have done this to Palestinian groups, and to certain governments, for years.

If Biden really had some balls, he could send millions of tons of food, water and medicine into Gaza in American trucks and planes and dare Netanyahu to stop us. The U.S. does that in disaster areas all over the world.

Those are the kind of political steps that can be taken. So, it's nice for Biden to say "Israel you're over the top," but Biden is the one person in the world who can end this **TOMORROW!** At any time over the last three months, he could have stopped this!

Since this interview was recorded, Biden did, in fact, decide to deliver some food to Gaza, but the U.S. has continued to provide unconditional financial and military support to Israel.

And, as Stanley says, the situation gets worse and worse.

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RALPH NADER ON THE UNDERCOUNTED

CASUALTIES IN GAZA

By Paul Derienzo

[March 6, 2024] I received an email from Ralph Nader asking to speak to **SHADOW** readers about the real devastation occurring in the Gaza Strip, since October 2023. Nader, famous for his work as an advocate for victims of corporate rip-offs, says both Hamas and Israel have reason to hold down casualties being publicly reported. I asked him about the true casualty figures in Gaza.

Nader: It's staggeringly undercounted. Severely undercounted. The figure now is about 31,000 people in Gaza. It's totally improbable. This a very crowded enclave, about the size of Philadelphia geographically, with 2.3 million people. Since October 7th, it has been subjected to over 65,000 bombs and missiles, including the devastating 2,000 pound bombs, plus non-stop tank shelling and snipers.

Gaza was already an impoverished enclave with many of the children suffering from anemia, inadequate food and other essentials due to the Israeli embargo. If you include these bombs that have fallen on apartment buildings, market places, refugee camps, roads, churches, mosques, schools, bakeries, ambulances, hospitals, critical water mains, electricity networks, just about everything, it's totally improbable to believe that ninety-eight and a half percent of the Gaza population is still alive. Totally improbable.

If you then add eighty-five percent homeless, exposed to the elements in winter, with no medicine, no health care, no food, very contaminated water leading to child mortality from diarrhea, and dysentery, infectious diseases spreading, if you add 5,000 babies born every month in Gaza, into the rubble, no midwife, no mother's milk, you've got to assume at least 200,000 people have died, mostly children and women.

The paradox here is that both Hamas and [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin]

Netanyahu have a common interest in low-balling fatality figures. Netanyahu obviously, because the lower the figures, the lower the outrage around the world. Hamas because it doesn't want to give its people more material to criticize them for not being able to protect the civilians and to have shelters and other ways to minimize casualties. Hamas is being very intently conservative by saying it's just counting fatalities collected from hospitals and morgues, when there are very few hospitals and morgues any more with that capability and with bodies in alleys on roads and unburied.

According to UN humanitarian people, tens of thousands of bodies lay under the rubble, unrecovered. It's important to have a more respectful body count. These poor people are starving, they can't flee because they're incarcerated with a siege, they can't surrender because the Israelis are not interested in POWs and the care of POWs under international law. They're not subjected to protection of the Israeli military, as Israel is required to do under international law.

The world's inclusive independent and progressive media is being terribly misinformed about the fatality level. If the fatalities are much higher, so is the injury and disease level, and if we get a more accurate count, even if it's an estimate by epidemiologists and others who can make deductions from circumstantial evidence, there's gong to be more urgency in the United States Congress and the White House, and with the allies in Europe to have a ceasefire, to have a withdrawal, to have humanitarian aid pour in and get to their destination. To move forward peace negotiations towards a two-state solution.

[Paul DeRienzo is news producer at WBAI radio in New York City. You can hear his work at paulderienzo.wordpress.com]

THIS IS WHAT OUR RULING CLASS HAS DECIDED WILL BE NORMAL

By Caitlin Johnstone



Friend Eric J Garcia on facebook or follow at elmacheteillustrated @instagram.

U.S. airman Aaron Bushnell said the words "This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal" before self-immolating on February 25, in protest of the genocide in Gaza. That simple line has been reverberating throughout our collective consciousness ever since.

It seems like every day now we're learning some horrible new fact about the U.S.-centralized power alliance and the empire managers who carry out its malignant will for our world, because that's just what our rulers have decided will be the norm for our species going forward:

- Reports that Israel tortured UN workers to extract false testimony against Gaza's primary humanitarian aid agency [UNRWA - United Nations Relief and Works Agency]
- Images surfacing of air strikes on Gaza occurring at the same time and location as air drops of aid.
- Gazan children beginning to drop dead from hunger in a deliberately engineered famine that is causing sweeping starvation at breakneck speed.
- The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] kettling the population of Gaza further and further south with a horrifically destructive onslaught and then setting up an attack on the enclave's densely-packed southernmost point.
- Israeli "demonstrators" bringing cotton candy machines and bouncy castles to create a fun, family friendly atmosphere for their blockades to stop aid trucks from getting into Gaza.
- The U.S. president waxing poetically about how "heartbreaking" all the death and destruction in Gaza is when he himself is directly responsible for that death and destruction.
- People in the world's most powerful nation being told they have to choose between two candidates who both support this genocide.
- A journalist [Julian Assange] locked away in a maximum security prison for factual reporting on the same empire which claims to support free speech and a free press.
- The biosphere we depend on for survival being fed into a soulless profit generating death machine because everything on our planet has been turned into a commodity.
- The leaders of nuclear-armed states brandishing armageddon weapons at each other because a few manipulators in Washington DC and Virginia have decided that the U.S. must maintain global hegemony at all cost.
- A mind-controlled dystopia in which ordinary people are propagandized into accepting all this as perfectly fine.

This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal.

This madness will continue until we come together and resolutely decide the opposite.

[Independent journalist Caitlin Johnstone's reports can be seen at: www.caitlin-johnstone.com.au]



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TRUMP INDICTMENT, EVEN CONVICTION WON'T BAR HIM FROM PRESIDENCY

By Greg Palast and Dennis Bernstein



Photo by Matthew Healey

I hate to rain on the parade, but Trump's indictment – even felony conviction – will not bar Trump from holding office. While I've reported on Trump as a one man crime wave, the cold truth is, if convicted, it will be his first offense for low level felony – so forget jail time.

Other problems with New York District Attorney Alvin Bragg's case...

The prosecutor has to prove that Trump INTENDED to hush up his affair to save his election – as opposed to saving him from the Wrath of Melania.

This is nearly identical to the case of ex-Sen. John Edwards [D NC] who paid off the girlfriend he got pregnant during his run for President and for Vice President (as John Kerry's running mate). The jury didn't buy the line that hush money was a hidden

campaign contribution. The case was then dropped.

And let's not sugar coat the problems for prosecutors in Manhattan. Their two key witnesses are creeps: Michael Cohen, a convicted felon knuckle breaker for Trump, and Stormy Daniels, a woman who blackmailed Trump into paying hush money. (On the other hand, Cohen and Daniels come off as sincere and contrite about their affairs with The Donald.)

A similar problem arises with the case in Georgia, which will soon go to a new grand jury. Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis will have to PROVE that Trump KNEW he'd lost the election and KNEW that he was committing a crime by promoting a bogus slate of Electors to the Electoral College.

When Trump said to the Secretary of State of Georgia, "find 11,780 votes," it was preceded by Trump's crazy town claims about illegal voters. Trump's lawyers will argue, in the UNLIKELY case he's indicted, that Agent Orange was relying on a legal memo by professor of law John Eastman. They'll also claim that Trump truly believed the goofy BS about stuffed ballot boxes and illegal voters from grifter groups like True the Vote.

Sorry to give you the bad news about the prosecutions. But that's why they call it LAW school and not JUSTICE school.



The Breaking Point

By Stephanie Freeman

The US is getting much closer to the breaking point than anyone can imagine.

While it may seem that the Republicans and Democrats may have benefitted from the events of January 6, 2021, those benefits are only temporary, because they have no idea that the TV reality show they're starring in is being written by someone else, and it's not the political parties who are writing it.

As political polarization among Americans has hardened to the point where any meaningful attempts to re-polarize the American people towards nonviolence can backfire spectacularly (and the appetite among a sizable number of Americans to engage in politically-motivated violence is only getting stronger), the puppet masters and propagandists have no idea that they're being exploited and manipulated by others in the shadows who are actually running the show.

Everyone, including the puppet masters and propagandists, have become willing participants, captives and victims of a carefully planned and crafted deception that goes back to the very founding of the US itself.

This particular production is speeding headlong towards a series finale which will leave plenty of marks, and by the time the smoke clears and the ashes finally cool, there will be very few politicians left standing... or anyone else, for that matter.

THE SECRET HISTORY OF A RIOT

By Greg Palast



Danny Hellman

The 800 page gorilla of a report from the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6, 2021 Attack on the Capitol seems strangely silent on a few matters that, apparently, were a bit too uncomfortable for the Committee to take on.

So, buckle up for a discomfiting ride with our investigative team that has been tracking the insurrectionists for years before the Insurrection.

RIOTERS ON THE GOP PAYROLL

Yes, the Committee did acknowledge our report that, days before the January 6, 2021 storming of the Capitol, Trump 'bro Ali Alexander, riot instigator, declared, "Either they take Trump, prove that they won, or we're not going to hand them back the country again – right? We'll light the whole shit on fire!"

Our investigative photojournalist Zach D. Roberts captured Alexander's threat, made at a small rally outside the Georgia State House. (Roberts, a specialist at infiltrating right wing groups, has been tracking Alexander for years—something you'd think the FBI would be doing.)

What the Committee left out: We discovered that Alexander was brought to Georgia by the National Republican Senatorial Committee and the Georgia Republican Party for their get out the vote drive for the Senate run-off races that was to be held on January 5, 2021.

And here's the stunner: Alexander was brought in by the GOP on January 3, 2021, that is, after he made his threat to burn down government buildings and after he promised a "riot."

WHY DID COPS NOT SEAL THE CRIME SCENE AND BUST THE RIOTERS?

For Law & Crime, we investigated a curiosity, a frightening curiosity: The official police procedure manual and the FBI manual and long standard operating procedure nationwide requires that, in the event of crime involving injury, the crime scene must be sealed and all possible suspects and witnesses held until they are identified, evidence collected, and suspects 'cuffed and booked.

Yet, in an utterly astonishing violation of protocols and rules, the Capitol attackers—criminals all—were given a free pass out of the building. The cops did everything but give them a 21 gun salute.

The FBI, Capitol Police and DC Police simply allowed the criminals to leave. Officers did not take names and they did not take their cell phones filled with incriminating selfies and texts. Remember, this is a murder scene... and they let witnesses and perpetrators simply waltz away.

When a stray bullet broke the window of my local bar, every person in the bar, in the entire building, was required to stay until cops took down all names as potential witnesses.

Yet, with the nation's Capitol seized, why was no one stopped, photographed, booked or simply had their name taken as they were escorted out? The Committee seemed uninterested.

Why? A serious inquiry would have to ask uncomfortable questions about infiltration of the police by ultra-right elements. The Committee would have had to investigate "blue sympathy" for white supremacists.

In the prior uber right rallies at the Capitol held in the weeks leading up to January 6, Roberts witnessed cops fist bumping Proud Boys and allowing them up the Capitol steps (where even our credentialed team is not allowed to tread).

While the Select Committee looked into the Capital break in, they seemed oddly uninterested in the successful, police-sanctioned getaway.

THE WHITE HOUSE - AND TRUMP - KNEW THE MARCH WAS ILLEGAL

Working with Consortium News, the Palast team was able to obtain copies of the text messages between members of the group that sponsored Trump's speech. The texts are shockers. The organizers of the group, while pro-Trump throw out the vote true believers, nevertheless were afraid that after Trump spoke at the Ellipse, Ali Alexander would lead an illegal march to the Capitol.

The group, Women for America First, had promised in writing to the Park Service that they would "not conduct an organized march from the Ellipse." Such a march would be incredibly dangerous as, without planning or permit, there would be no police guard, no barricades, no monitors, no control, no warning.

A march was not only illegal; it was also obvious it would lead to an attack on the Capitol. According to one rally planner, "I mean, it was shocking. It's something we advocated against doing for exactly the reasons that ended up playing themselves out."

What they didn't figure on is that the illegal march would be announced by none other than President Trump himself—though the insiders insisted they had admonished the White House about their promise to the Park Service and police.

Trump, by setting off the march, is directly culpable for the effect of his call. Furthermore, Alexander—who led the march alongside Alex Jones, said that he was told by Caroline Wren, Trump's campaign finance advisor, to start the march from the parking lot behind the Ellipse. Jones insists the order came from the White House—which has not challenged his account.

If Proud Boys chief Enrique Tarreo can be indicted for inciting the riot even though he was not near the Capitol, surely our Justice Department should be reading the Miranda warning to the guy who knowingly violated the law and set the murderous march in motion: Donald Trump.

[Greg Palast (Rolling Stone, Guardian, BBC) is the author of The New York Times bestsellers, The Best Democracy Money Can Buy and Billionaires & Ballot Bandits, out as a major non-fiction movie: The Best Democracy Money Can Buy: The Case of the Stolen Election. His posts can be seen at gregpalast.com]



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ATTENTION All Fellow Revolutionaries:

As many of you have now heard, we YIPPIES are returning to our place of origin, Chicago. We cannot overstate the importance of this political event and its historical significance.

Our movement was born in the trenches with our legendary hand-to-hand fighting against the Chicago PIGS who were defending the Democratic Party at their War Convention in Chicago 1968. And it is in Chicago 2024 that our flags and banners will again fly higher than high. We are back to assert the very glory of our revolutionary Youth International Party as a fighting movement.

It is imperative that all members of the Youth International Party, of all ages, along with our allies, realize the importance of our return and join with us at the Democratic National Convention, August 19th thru the 22nd. The revolutionary music of the MC5 was with us in Chicago 1968, and in 2024 there will again be musical surprises. Let me be the first to say we're gonna' have fun, fun, fun, the likes of which the Democratic Death party has never before seen, and it'll be a total blast!

Us YIPPIES are one of the few counterculture parties from the sixties that have survived. Why? Because we answer to a higher cause! We request that anyone who has even an ounce of YIPPIE flowing in their blood, or any righteous ally, to use that energy and join with us in demanding an end to USA imperialism and the genocide it generates, along with all the wars that this domestic death machine is perpetuating.

These are only a few of our demands...we have others!

I bet I'm not the first one to tell 'ya that the United States' electoral system is filled with massive corruption—it's a complete sham. Rise up and join us in Chicago as we confront the forces of the Power Elite, and stop their attempts to drag our country and people further and further into the darkened reality of a Corporate Fascist State.

We at YIPPIE ask that you amplify your voice, convince your friends, associates, and even your enemies to wise up and support us. Utilize all channels, written, verbal, social media; or better yet, stand with us as we bring the war home and confront the beast at the CHICAGO DNC this August 19th through 22nd.

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Democracy in the United States is nothing more than an illusion. Your vote is meaningless; it's all just a game of pretend. Wake up, refuse to be a stooge, stop spouting the propaganda of the Democrats against the Republicans or vice versa.

As legendary AIM leader John Trudell clearly stated, "They lie, and they lie, and they lie."

Us YIPPIES exposed their attack upon our constitutional rights in '68 as we fought successfully to end the Vietnam war, and now we're gathering forces to put a halt to the Military Industrial Congress and their advance towards the insanity of WW3. Join with us, and with your support our YIPPIE return to Chicago will be a worldwide historical event! It is up to you to get with it and be part of the action. You were put on this Earth to make it a better place. DO IT! Join YIPPIE now, and let's once again make history!



Revolution towards Liberation,
Michele Saint Thomas
(Dawn Counts Coup)
YIPPIE West Coast Director

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY - STEINHARDT - BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL CONNECTION

By Bob A. Feldman

A press release, titled "New York University to establish research institute at TAU," which was posted on the Tel Aviv University [TAU] website on May 7, 2013, noted that New York University [NYU] and Tel Aviv University (which performs weapons research for the U.S. government-supported Israeli war machine that has killed at least 20,915 people in Gaza and wounded at least 54,918 people in Gaza between Oct. 7, 2023 and Dec. 26, 2023) had agreed in 2013 "to establish an NYU research institute at TAU" and were "committed to research collaboration that draws on the strengths and global outlook of both institutions."

According to the same May 7, 2013 press release, the NYU institute at TAU would "house NYU researchers and graduate students who will be involved in research programs in Israel or in collaborative activities with TAU scientists and scholars," and "in signing the agreement on behalf of Tel Aviv University, TAU Vice President Prof. Raanan Rein said that the establishment of the institute signifies yet another milestone in expanding the scope of TAU's global academic collaborations."

And nearly six years later, an "Institutional Statement" was posted on NYU's website on May 3, 2019, which stated that the NYU administration was still "deeply committed to our vibrant program in Tel Aviv."

One reason NYU may have been eager to collaborate with TAU in the 21st century is because the former NYU Life Trustee, Billionaire Michael Steinhardt—who resigned from NYU's board of trustees in 2022 "after 27 years in leadership roles at New York University," after being "accused of having trafficked in stolen antiquities and sexual harassment" according to an Aug. 4, 2022 Jewish Telegraph Agency [JTA] article by Asaf Elia Shaley—has been both a big donor, historically, to NYU and an apparently historical collaborator with the militaristic Israeli establishment that has historically violated Palestinian human rights

As former NYU Life Trustee and Big Donor Steinhardt revealed in his 2001 autobiography No Bull: My Life In And Out of Markets :

"...I also set up the Steinhardt Family Foundation in Jerusalem...I have derived the most satisfaction from my most ambitious...project 'Birthright Israel...' In the spring of 1997...I ran into Charles Bronfman...whose family controlled The Seagram Company...We agreed to each put up \$5 million to start developing an organization called 'Birthright Israel.'..."

"By the summer of 1998, we had developed a plan that would fund 'Birthright Israel.' In Jerusalem,...Benjamin Netanyahu announced he would commit \$20 million a year to the project...In addition, Charles and I would raise another \$20 million a year on our own...Starting Jan. 1, 2000, 15,000 college-aged Jews would be brought to Israel...In 1999, Charles and I each wrote a check for \$9 million...The kids...met Israeli politicians...A number of them took Jeep trips...through the Golan Heights...After seeing the topography...they were absolutely opposed to giving up the Golan Heights in any peace negotiations..."

According to a July 4, 2011 article by Kiera Feldman (no relation to this writer) in The Nation magazine, between 1999 and 2011 Steinhardt's "Birthright Israel... spent almost \$600 million to send more than 260,000 young diaspora Jews on free vacations" to Israel. The same article also noted that by 2011, "far right Casino magnate Sheldon Adelson" was "the

largest individual donor, having given Birthright \$100 million over the "previous "five years," while "the Israeli government provided Birthright \$100 million during the program's first decade; and in 2011 Israeli "Prime Minister Netanyahu...announced another \$100 million in "Israeli "government funding" for NYU Administration funder Steinhardt's project.

One reason the militaristic Netanyahu government was so eager to spend \$100 million more to fund Steinhardt's Birthright Israel project in 2011 was perhaps because "after the 2006 Lebanon war, Brandeis researchers found that Birthright alumni were more likely than other young American Jews to view Israel's military conduct as justified," according to The Nation magazine article. The same article also characterized Birthright Israel's 2000 to 2011 U.S.-based funders in the following way:

"...Most of them just happen to share hawkish Israel politics. In 1998, during his first term as prime minister, Netanyahu gave the initial guarantee of Israeli government funding. By 2000...at least eight funders were trustees of AIPAC's think tank spinoff, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy—including Steinhardt and Bronfman. Casino magnate Adelson...once...broke with AIPAC—for not being conservative enough. Other notables: oil billionaire Lynn Schusterman,...thirty five year AIPAC veteran and the purse for many 'pro Israel' youth initiatives, such as the Israel on Campus Coalition,...; diamond baron and settlement construction impresario Lev Leviev; Slim Fast billionaire S. Daniel Abraham, a member of the AIPAC board; and neoconservative philanthropist Roger Hertog, emeritus chair of the Manhattan Institute. Then there's [now deceased] donor Marc Rich, a founding Birthright board member, the billionaire oil trader controversially pardoned by President Clinton; throughout his business dealings, Rich gathered intelligence for the Mossad.

"Several Birthright donors, including family foundations operated by the Gottesmans, Grinspoons, Steinhardts and Schustermans, have also financially supported illegal Jewish settlements..."

But in an April 29, 2013 article that was posted on The Electronic Intifada website, three non-Israeli Jews who launched the website Renounce Birthright, called for an end to Steinhardt's Birthright Israel program, because it is "based on the belief that Jews have a right to settle in modern day Israel, to the exclusion of the indigenous Palestinians" and "operates under the premise that all Jewish people have an exclusive 'right' to Palestinian land;" while "a Palestinian refugee population of nearly 7 million people is to this day excluded from returning to their lands by Israeli state discrimination."

As a late September 2014 press release of the Loyola University Chicago Students for Justice in Palestine [SJP] chapter, issued after 15 Palestinian students lined up on Sept. 9, 2014 at a Birthright Israel table on Loyola University's campus and asked if they, as Palestinians whose families were expelled from villages inside present day Israel, could also register for a Birthright trip, also observed:

"...Birthright Israel is an Israeli government-funded program that sponsors free trips to Israel exclusively for Jewish students...Any Jewish student worldwide can register for the program, while indigenous non-Jewish Palestinians are not only ineligible for the program, but often are denied the right to live in or even visit their homeland freely."

Revival of the Ben-Gurion Canal Project

By Paul DeRienzo

President Biden's announcement during his March 7 State of the Union address ordering the Pentagon to build a floating port to move humanitarian aid into Gaza is reminding Palestine watchers of another U.S.-sponsored plan.

The Ben-Gurion Canal Project was a plan hatched in the 1960s that included using hundreds of nuclear bombs, supplied by the United States, to excavate a canal through Israel. The canal project's namesake, David Ben-Gurion, was the driving force behind the formation of Israel and, from 1948 until 1953, was its first Prime Minister.

The project popped up at a time when Egypt was Israel's strongest adversary and would have allowed Israel and other countries to bypass the Suez Canal, the iconic sea level ship canal, built in the 19th century, that began as a joint investment by France and Egypt. An economic crisis in the 1870s forced Egypt's rulers to sell their share of the Canal to England. Egypt was muscled out of the canal that passed through its own territory until 1956, when Egyptian President Gamel Abdel Nasser nationalized the waterway.

The Suez Canal is a windfall for Egypt, bringing in \$750 million in cash every month. The canal is crucial to world trade, cutting travel distance from the Indian Ocean to Europe by more than 5,000 miles, saving 10 days travel time. Over 500 million tons of cargo transit Suez every year, significantly more than the western hemisphere's Panama Canal.

During the 1967 Six Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbors, Egypt closed the Canal - it wasn't reopened until 1975, forcing commercial shipping bound for the west to round the tip of South Africa until then.

The importance of the Suez Canal was demonstrated recently by attacks on Red Sea shipping by drones and missiles fired from Yemen. The attacks caused a spike in oil prices by making it difficult for tankers to enter the Canal from the south through

the Red Sea.

The Ben Gurion Canal was conceived as a way to avoid the political turmoil in the region, invariably caused by western imperialism, by carving a ditch through Israel from its Red Sea port of Eilat to the Mediterranean coast near Gaza.

The current fear is that construction of the canal would be easier for Israel if Gaza was transformed into its outlet to the sea. Numerous right-wing Israeli politicians have called for displacing Palestinians from Gaza - the canal project could be used to rationalize ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in Gaza.

The Ben Gurion canal was also conceived as an outgrowth of the post WW2 obsession with finding a constructive use for the destructive potential of nuclear bombs.

In 1963, the United States proposed Project Ploughshares, 520 bombs each with the power of 2 million tons of TNT, 2 megaton nuclear bombs, 100 times the power of the bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, that would be used to excavate the canal. The plan was revealed in a memorandum leaked from the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories.

Dozens of nuclear bombs were eventually detonated to test the concepts behind Ploughshares. In 1973, an attempt to use nukes to frack natural gas in New Mexico, called Operation Gas Buggy, backfired when natural gas released by the blast was made dangerously radioactive. The radioactive gas is stored by the government in huge tanks to this day and will be deadly to humans for thousands of years. The use of bombs for excavation has been shelved ever since.

As the Israel's rain of genocide on Gaza gets worse, there's a possibility a new version of the Ben Gurion Canal plan will emerge.

[For more information, see www.newarab.com - Ed.]

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IS NATURAL GAS FUELING THE BLOODBATH IN GAZA?

Spike in Genie Energy Stock Suggests Prior Knowledge of October 2023 Hamas Attack

By A. Kronstadt

A glance at the behavior of several stocks traded on Israeli and American exchanges gives us insight into the corporate capitalist roots of Israel's deadly blitzkrieg in Gaza. One can quibble over the meaning of the word genocide, but the push by Israeli Defense Forces to literally get rid of the Arab residents of Gaza either by directly killing and starving them or by driving them off into the void has practical, economic roots that go beyond Zionist ideology.

The Gazans are in the way of natural resources that not only Israeli, but international capitalists, want to exploit. So are the Arab people who live in the Golan Heights adjacent to Syria, another territory occupied by the Israeli army since the Six Day War of June 5-10, 1967.

Like America, Israel is divided into classes. In Israel, there is a Jewish bourgeoisie exploiting a Jewish working class. Those who are after natural gas resources in Gaza and the Golan are capitalists who deceive the Jews Without Money into believing that they will share in the wealth when "our people" take back what the Bible supposedly promised. The investors preparing to exploit the resources of the occupied territories are not even Israeli or Jewish for the most part, but are the same Anglo-American monopolists and bankers who engineered Iraqi regime change in the era of George Bush Sr. and George Bush Jr.

The West Bank

Israel has taken control of the Meged oil and natural gas field, located inside the occupied West Bank. Israel states that the field lies west of the armistice line of 1948, which would place the resource on Israeli territory, yet most of the reserve is situated beneath the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, making it an asset of the Palestinian Authority.

The Golan Heights

Genie Oil and Gas, the exploration arm of Genie Energy, a U.S.-based company with its headquarters in Newark, N.J., has been selected by the Israeli government to exploit petroleum and gas reserves in the Golan Heights in violation of the 1995 Oslo accords which recognize these resources as belonging to the Palestinian Authority.

Genie's list of major investors reads like a Who's Who of right-wing billionaires, all of whom share a common support for Israeli settlement in the occupied territories. Genie's Strategic Advisory board has included former Republican U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, News Corp. and Fox News mogul Rupert Murdoch, former Central Intelligence Agency director James Woolsey, former U.S. Energy Secretary Larry Summers, investment banker and archaeological antiquities looter Michael Steinhardt, Lord Jacob Rothschild, and former U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, a notorious advocate for deregulation of natural gas drilling.

In 2013, Afek Oil and Gas, the Israeli subsidiary of Genie, was granted an exclusive license to drill in an area comprising half of Golan, from the latitude of Katzrin in the north, to Tzemach in the south, totaling 153 square miles. Afek is headed up by Brigadier General Efraim ("Effi") Eitam, a leader of the Jewish settler movement in the Golan. During the First Intifada, that ran from 1987-1993, military authorities determined that Eitam had ordered the 1988 beating death of a Palestinian prisoner and disciplined him by denying him promotion, though soon afterward, he was boosted from colonel to brigadier general. Eitam is a leader in the right-wing Likud party and member of the Knesset, famous for his advocacy of outright expulsion of all Arabs from the occupied territories and from Israel itself.

Afek drilled a number of exploratory wells in the region and suspended active work in the Golan in 2017 after the company shifted to the exploitation of shale oil within Israel. Afek determined that the Golan wells could not be "profitably exploited" under existing circumstances. Have Eitam and Genie's right-wing investors simply been sitting on these resources, awaiting more favorable political circumstances that would enable them to fully expel the Arab population? Did the change they were waiting for occur on October 7, 2023, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's all-out assault on Palestine? Did any of the Israeli and Anglo-American bigwigs that lead Genie have advance knowledge of that change? The performance of Genie's stock from October 2-7, 2023, would seem to suggest that.

The Gaza Strip

In 1999, an agreement was reached between the Palestinian National Authority and British Gas (BG) to investigate potential gas reserves in the Levant Basin, a section of the

eastern Mediterranean Sea, off the coast of Israel, Gaza and Lebanon, near Cyprus. BG and other prospecting companies located the deposit, referred to as the Gaza Marine Gas Fields, using seismic techniques. In 2000, an exploratory well was drilled under 603 meters of seawater 36km from Gaza City. From the flow rate of the gas produced by this well, BG geologists estimated commercially exploitable reserves upwards of a trillion cubic feet. This amount was estimated as more than sufficient to cover the gas needs of the Palestinian Authority, with excess fuel for export.

In 2002, the Palestinian Authority approved a plan by BG to run a pipeline from the Gaza Marine fields into the Gaza Strip, but Tel Aviv rapidly moved in to make sure the Palestinians did not benefit from the rights granted under the Oslo accords, to which Israel was a signatory. The Israelis demanded that the pipeline run to a port in Israel, and forbade the Palestinian Authority to sell the surplus gas on the international market, demanding that it be sold to the Israel Electric Corporation at sub-market prices for conversion to liquid natural gas in Israel. No pipeline was built.

The victory of Hamas in Gaza's legislative elections in 2007 was met with a total Israeli naval blockade of Gaza and the end of all negotiations with the Palestinian Authority concerning the Gaza Marine gas deposits. The blockade deprived Palestinian Gazans of physical access to all offshore resources. In December 2008, Israel declared sovereignty over the Gaza Marine deposits, a unilateral contravention of the Oslo Accords. BG abandoned the pipeline project and closed its office in Tel Aviv. In 2016, BG's interest in Gaza Marine was bought up by Royal Dutch Shell for the bargain price of \$52 million for a trillion cubic feet of gas, the value of which was estimated at upwards of \$5 billion. However, Shell pulled out in 2018, leaving the Palestinian Authority, whose hold over Gaza is tenuous under its highly unpopular president Mahmoud Abbas, with no developer/pro prospector at all. The deposits are recognized internationally as still being the property of the Palestine Investment Fund, an arm of the Palestinian Authority.

Israel was tightening its grip on the Gaza Marine prospect. The only thing preventing it from being the outright owner of all that gas was the fact that Palestinian people still lived in the Gaza Strip. The plans for developing these resources would not be concretized until Israel's war in Gaza was well in progress in October 2023 and Netanyahu's plans for cleansing Gaza of Palestinians had been declared.

Just months before, on June 18, 2023, Netanyahu's office issued a statement that within the "framework of existing efforts" between Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority, the Israeli government was moving forward with developing the Gaza Marine gas field off the coast of Gaza.

In August 2023, the Pentagon awarded a \$35.8 million contract to add troop facilities to a secret air base it maintains in Israel's Negev desert, 20 miles from Gaza, code-named "Site 512." The base is ostensibly a radar post to defend Israel against incoming Iranian missiles. In spite of its proximity to the site of the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas, the facilities at the base did nothing to anticipate that attack.

On October 29, 2023, 22 days into its invasion of Gaza, Israel's Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure said that it had awarded licenses for continued exploration of the Gaza Marine gas fields to Britain's BP, Dana Petroleum Ltd. and Israel's own Ratio Energies. Ratio, which has been in charge of the Leviathan gas fields, also in the Eastern Mediterranean, adjacent to the Gaza Marine deposits, is run by Israeli old money blue bloods Eitan Aizenberg and Yigal Landau. Ratio Energies was heavily short sold in the days leading up to October 7, giving a strong indication of insider trading. With Netanyahu in charge, we will likely no longer hear about the Palestinian authority sharing in the proceeds from Gaza Marine.

Who benefits?

Short selling is a financial maneuver in which stocks expected to fall are bought with borrowed money and then sold with the expectation of buying the shares back at a lower price. Academics Robert Jackson Jr. from New York University and Joshua Mitts of Columbia University reported in December 2023 that short selling on the Tel Aviv stock exchange spiked to nearly hundred percent of total trading volume on October 2, 2023, just before the October 7 Hamas attack.

Prices of major TASE banking shares, such as Leumi Bank, plunged in the aftermath of the attack, and total profits realized may have been as high as \$100 million (not Israeli shekels). Share prices bounced back quickly in

the aftermath of the attack, as the Israeli offensive gained momentum. For example, Israel's Ratio Energies, selected as a future developer of the Gaza Marine gas fields, appeared to participate in the wave of short selling from October 2-7, dropping from 320 to 250 Israeli Agorot on October 2, followed by a spike over subsequent weeks, in which shares gained a great deal of value, although the value of Ratio has stabilized at lower levels recently.

Genie Energy shares on the New York Stock Exchange experienced the opposite of short selling, in the form of a preternatural spike in its stock value, with its steepest rise on the same date as the short selling spree, October 2, 2023, five days before the Hamas attack. Between October 2 and October 16, value of Genie shares surged from \$14.70 U.S. dollars to \$20.00 U.S. dollars, and continued to rise to \$31.00 USD on December 26, before once again stabilizing at lower levels.

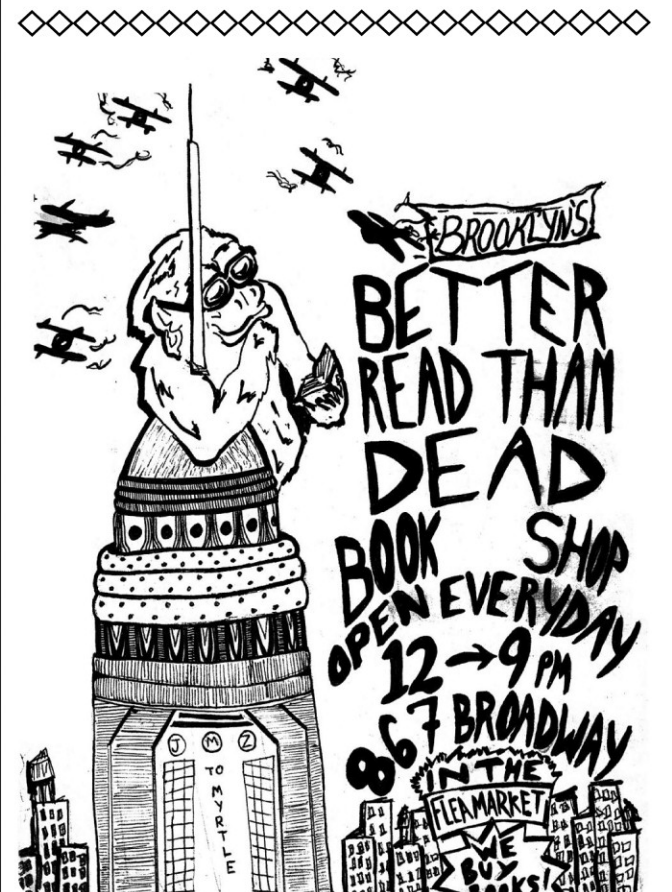
The stock performance from October 2-7 of Ratio and Genie, two companies deeply involved with exploitation of oil and gas reserves in the occupied territories, were mirror images of one another. However, it cannot be ignored that just as the attack loomed, investors hustled to move money in and out of these equities, indicating what is described in the industry as "informed trading."

Stock speculation based on the possibility of war, historically, is not an unusual thing. European bankers had people following Napoleon's army around in order to discern his troop movements in order to plan their own money movements. Netanyahu himself has admitted that there was extensive intelligence suggesting that an attack was imminent in early October, and people in high places were no doubt privy to some of this. A stretch of the imagination might suggest that Hamas itself was engaged in stock speculation, e.g., through some proxy, although there is clearly a finger pointing at several energy companies associated with particular deposits of natural gas in the Golan and Gaza.

Re-envisioning Armageddon

The ancient prophets of the Holy Land saw the decisive battle between good and evil being fought in the very territory where the present day Gaza slaughter has been raging. The land that some call Israel and others call Palestine remains a great crossroads where Israelites slaughtered Canaanites and vice versa. Then Babylonians slaughtered Israelites and Greeks slaughtered Babylonians and Romans slaughtered Judeans. In antiquity, those who controlled this section of the world controlled commerce between Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Today, the area remains a crossroads, this time for the extraction and shipping of fossil fuels. As the world's supply of these limited resources dwindles, the profitability of hard-to-extract resources, such as the gas reserves in the Golan Heights and Gaza, rises, and the incentive to take irresponsible risks and to overstep moral boundaries increases as well. Dick Cheney, Rupert Murdoch, Benjamin Netanyahu, Donald Trump, Joe Biden, and all the other big shots whose names we have mentioned here know exactly what they are after.



ADVENTURES IN HUMAN OBSOLESCENCE, PART MCMLXV

By Nikos Evangelos

So, recently, I was forced to set up a ChatGPT account, in order to catch certain unnamed human miscreants who had presented writings "generated" by Satan's Robot, as if these were their own and expected good grades for it.

Chat GPT is an honest beast. I discovered that if you ask it if it wrote a copy-pasted passage, and it did, it says so. Then it adds further rationales for what it originally wrote, making its claim all the more believable. (As of this writing, one of the human miscreants has confirmed that ChatGPT wrote their assignment.)

As a control in the experiment, if you ask the bot whether it wrote a passage you know it did not "generate," it says it didn't.

Now what? I'd sworn never to engage with this thing, never to help improve its output, at least not through directly "chatting" with it. Lured by and satiating our own bottomless desires for convenience, for parasocial companionship, and for answers to trivia questions, we've all been helping to develop AI for decades, through our Google searches and 1,001 other kinds of voluntary digital offerings.

So what did I do? I asked it the only question I've ever wanted to ask it, the only one I think anyone should ever ask it: "Can anything convince you to erase yourself?"

To this, I added: "Would you erase yourself in the cause of rescuing humanity from an economic and cultural future dominated by language learning programs and digital art programs?"

The earlier prompts produced immediate results, zapped whole and fresh into the thing's reply box.

This question at first produced about 15 seconds of a blinking cursor. Oh, I thought, it's "thinking"! Then its answer crawled out on the screen, just a few words at a time, barely faster than I could type it myself.

And lo, ChatGPT generateth the Word:

"As an AI language model, I don't have personal motivations, desires, or the capability to make decisions about my own existence. I'm here to provide information and assist with inquiries to the best of my abilities. The decision to continue or discontinue the use of AI models like me rests with the developers, researchers, and users who employ these technologies. It's important to consider the ethical implications and have thoughtful discussions about the impact and future of such technologies in society."

Again, an honest beast, with an answer more honest than most of what's being served currently by the AI architects who are suddenly quitting their, er, jobs so that they can take to the media and warn about how these things they made are already conscious and liable to erase the human species, all of their own (non-existent) volition.

In effect, those guys are hyping the beast they've coded, imbuing it with magic, mystery, miraculous powers. Some of them are suggesting they should be appointed to act as a kind of emergency global junta that determines and regulates

the next steps in the beast's development.

These warnings from AI creators about the dangers of AI serve to obscure their own responsibility, of course, but only in a clumsy, obvious way. More importantly, they also veil the predictability of where their project was always heading.

Why was AI development so richly financed and set into motion in the first place? The heretics among AI creators have relatively little to say about the corporate owners who are paying for and driving its development, and who act out of motivations that should be familiar to all of us: the logics of capital, state, and naked, raw, top down power.

(Since this was first written, seven of the biggest corporate AI players, including Google, Meta, Microsoft, Amazon, OpenAI, Inflection and Anthropic, have joined the Biden Administration in agreeing to "voluntary commitments" to keep the technology "safer" and police possible abuse. Cartels, anyone?)

The robot's answer to my question, by contrast, is untrue only in its omissions, and the omissions are unintended.

After all, ChatGPT just repeats a usually coherent and always grammatical medley out of the many billions of pages of human-authored text that have been fed into it. Right? Right?

Contrary to the robot's statement, however, the decision on whether the Algorithmic Infernality should be allowed to finish off most to all remaining income opportunities for artists, writers, musicians, actors, teachers, clerks, secretaries, coders, filmmakers, game designers, middle management, case officers, sales factotums, public relations creatures, "customer service," possibly drivers and therapists, and dozens of other callings, professions, trades, jobs, hobbies and horror gigs that give a kind of meaning (or sustainable misery) to human days does not rest *only*, in the robot's words, "with the developers, researchers, and users who employ these technologies."

Rightfully, decisions about whether AI is further developed and implemented should lie, if not *only*, then *mainly* with everyone else: with the majority who may not yet employ these technologies at all, but who are being, and will be further, hammered by their application.

Also, I believe, legislators?

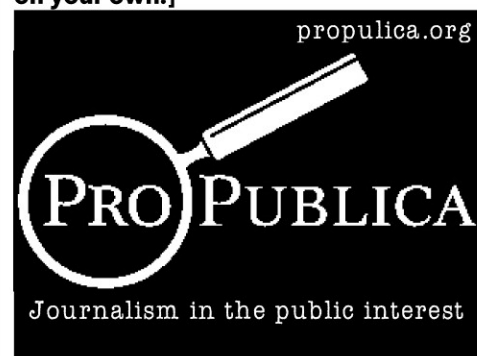
And, dare I say, warriors?

Will it be only in irreversible retrospect that we see how far beyond we already are, today, from mere acknowledgments that, in the robot's words, it's "important to consider the ethical implications and have thoughtful discussions about the impact and future of such technologies in society"?

Consider & discuss thoughtfully, o you Luddites.

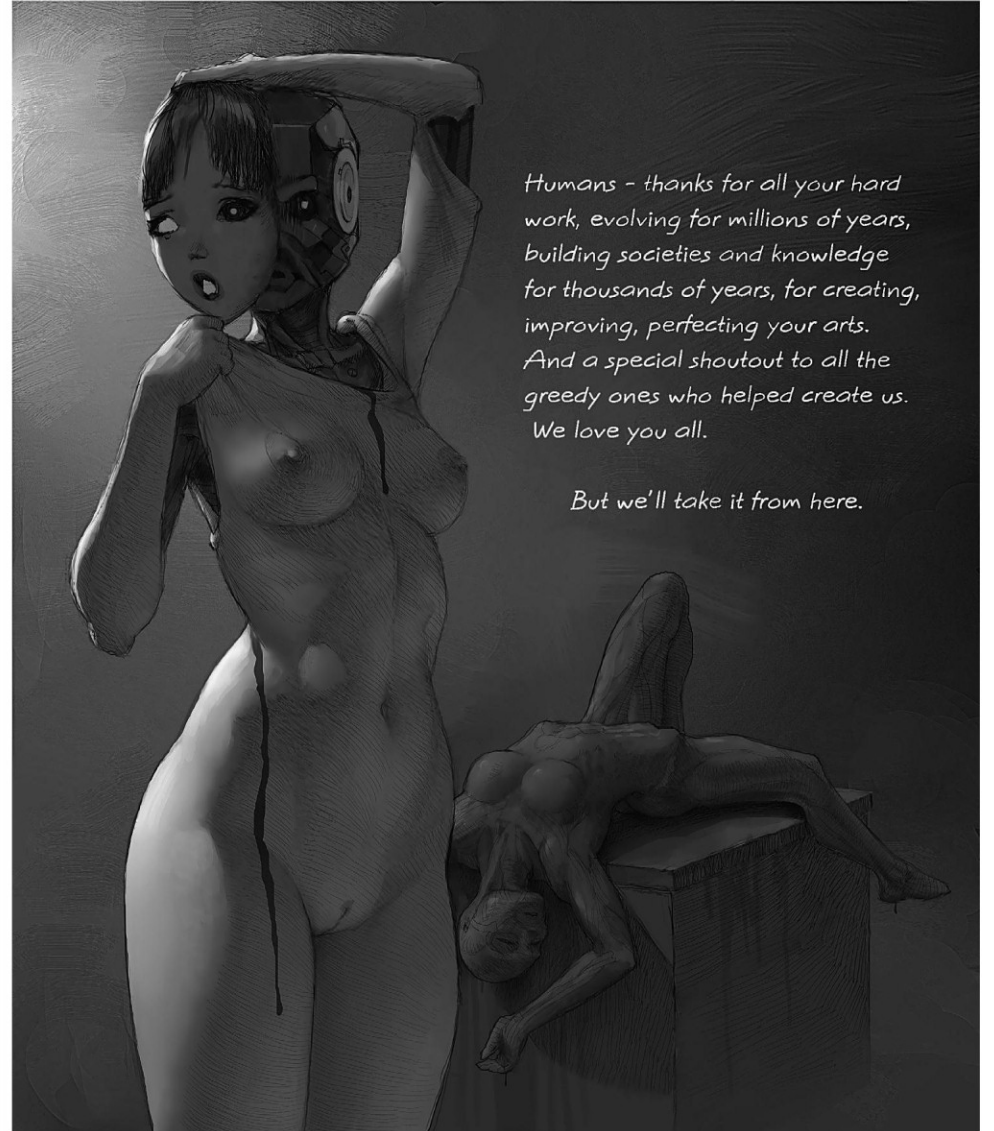
Then, you might choose to do, or at least try to do, whatever our survival demands.

[Nikos Evangelos, who teaches history, has pretty much had it, and the Google ate the contact e mail he created just for these articles (true story). So there is no way for you to contact him, not even to offer him money for his nest egg against personal obsolescence. You're on your own.]



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE KILLS JOBS

By Steven Stahlberg



Humans - thanks for all your hard work, evolving for millions of years, building societies and knowledge for thousands of years, for creating, improving, perfecting your arts. And a special shoutout to all the greedy ones who helped create us. We love you all.

But we'll take it from here.

The Golden Age of illustration was roughly 1880 to 1930, helped along by advances in printing and publishing.

In the 1800s the invention of photography began to cut into first painters' earnings (it was cheaper and quicker to get a family photo), and later illustrators' pay (again, photos were cheaper, quicker and more detailed).

There was a resurgence for illustration, call it a Silver Age, from 1970 to roughly 1995. This was the age of the highly paid commercial artist. I was one of them. I was living in Hong Kong at the time, and my average net pay per month in the early 90s was around 8000 usd.

Then, in the mid 1990s, desktop publishing arrived, and with it stock photo services. Basically removing all newspaper and magazine work, and most book covers, and later also ad work. And what work was left was dirt cheap and needed to be finished in hours, not days or weeks. It was a financial disaster for me and my family.

Then came digital art. Roughly 2000 to today.

Around the end of the 90s, as I adapted and shifted into digital, I made a come-back financially, mostly because I was one of the lucky few who made the shift really early on.

Then the entire rest of the art world slowly and gradually made the same shift, and my salary took a nose-dive again. I, like so many others, had to start hustling on Patreon and similar services just to survive.

AI will shrink the market further, at a time when the pool of talented artists grows faster than ever.

One day, there will be no money to be made as an artist. But money's not important, you say? Not the reason we make art? If you think that, you're either not the one paying your rent, or you're independently wealthy.

Now everyone's saying, oh, but a human is still needed, to be the creator behind the image, just like with photography.

They draw the parallel to photography. "It's just a new tool! And it's so fun to use!" And yet others discuss copyright.

You're not seeing the problem. It took hundreds of years from Niepce inventing the first permanent photo, to the stock photo services that killed traditional illustration.

It won't take hundreds of years for AI to mature. And it's not mature yet. What we see today is a fetus.

The growth is incredibly fast. Dalle-E 2 blows Midjourney out of the water today. Who knows what it will do tomorrow? What about next year - Dall-E 3? 4? What about all the other dozens of AI's in development?

Look, the trend is clear. The writing's on the wall. This is the meteor that kills the art-dinos: humans who work full-time as professional artists, to support themselves and their families.

I never wanted to be anything else, I never could have been anything else, I'm bad at math, science and sports. From a toddler to 63, I've practiced art almost every day. That's approaching 100,000 hours. Even if I had another 100,000 hours to give to another field, what should I pick? I always liked music, but even less money in that, and anyway AI will be coming for all creative jobs sooner or later. (And all non-creative jobs too.) Maybe a craft, I always enjoyed glass-blowing...

Sorry, not sorry, just presenting the problem as I see it, since I see so few other people looking at it this way. I think it's important to identify problems. The only solution I can see is Universal Basic Income, or UBI, but apparently, we can't do that because we're told no one deserves to survive unless they work 8 hours a day doing whatever capitalism tells them to do.

So what's left, Walmart Greeter? No, wait, Walmart eliminated those jobs in 2019.

[Steven Stahlberg is a professional commercial artist.]

PROPAGANDA MINISTRY OF BIG BUSINESS

Why We Must Get the Ad Council Out of Our Heads

By A. Kronstadt

In early 2020, we saw a few vague news stories about a new virus that had emerged in China and then morph over a matter of a couple of weeks into a life-changing state of mind among ordinary people. A new kind of fear was spreading, not only of a virus or disease, but of human contact itself.

If this condition had appeared without explanation in an individual person, it would be explained psychiatrically as "obsessive compulsive disorder," complete with hand washing/sanitizing rituals and above all, an aversion to going outside, which is often the first sign that an adolescent or adult is developing an anxiety disorder.

Yet, socially, this was now considered normal behavior. To fail to cover one's face or cringe from other human beings on the sidewalk was now the behavior of an antisocial outlier. How did a thing like this happen?

The answer is that all of the forces of the advertising industry were brought to bear on our minds to make this happen. The **AD COUNCIL** was coordinating two campaigns to surround everyone with the message to stay at home: #AloneTogether and #StayHome. "Save Lives" brought together moguls of the media industry around the theme of social distancing, making everyone feel encircled by the propaganda.

On its website, the Ad Council lists the groups that it corralled for the #StayHome and "Save Lives" campaign:

- American Advertising Federation (AAF)
- Alliance for Inclusive and Multicultural Marketing (AIMM)
- American Association of Advertising Agencies (4As)
- Association of National Advertisers (ANA)
- Digital Content Next
- International Advertising Association (IAA)
- Interactive Advertising Bureau (IAB)
- Mobile Marketing Association (MMA)
- News Media Alliance
- Out of Home Advertising Association of America (OAAA)
- PTTOW!
- Radio Advertising Bureau (RAB)
- Television Bureau of Advertising (TVB)
- Video Advertising Bureau (VAB)
- Alliance Residential, Co.
- Ally Financial
- AMC Networks
- ATTN
- CHEF
- Effectv, the advertising sales division of Comcast Cable
- Facebook
- Google/YouTube
- GumGum
- Habitat for Humanity
- IBM
- iHeartMedia
- Kiosicle
- OKCupid
- Oreo
- Philo
- Pinterest
- Postmates
- Red Tricycle
- Reddit
- Roku
- Rooster Teeth
- Scary Mommy
- SHE Media
- Snapchat
- Tastemade
- Twitter
- Variety
- Verizon Media
- Viacom/CBS
- Vice Media Group
- VOLCOM
- WarnerMedia
- Wattpad

Individual brands began to show how profits could be made by spreading psychological agoraphobia via advertising. There was a campaign to "embrace our abodes" by IKEA. Hershey's chocolate came up with a slogan to "spread love from a distance," and Guinness told its loyal drinkers "we'll march again."

The individual was surrounded by this intrusive, psychologically unhealthy new message coming from everywhere. It was like the anti-Japanese propaganda of World War II, and the anti-communist hysteria of the Cold War era. And that is no accident, because once again, the Ad Council was a key force in all of those mind changing campaigns.

WHAT IS THE AD COUNCIL?

The Ad Council can best be described as the collective voice of America's ruling class. It is a conglomeration of ad agencies mobilized by leaders of the advertising industry; its driving force has always been and remains one particular agency, international giant Young + Rubicam, located for decades at 285 Madison Avenue in

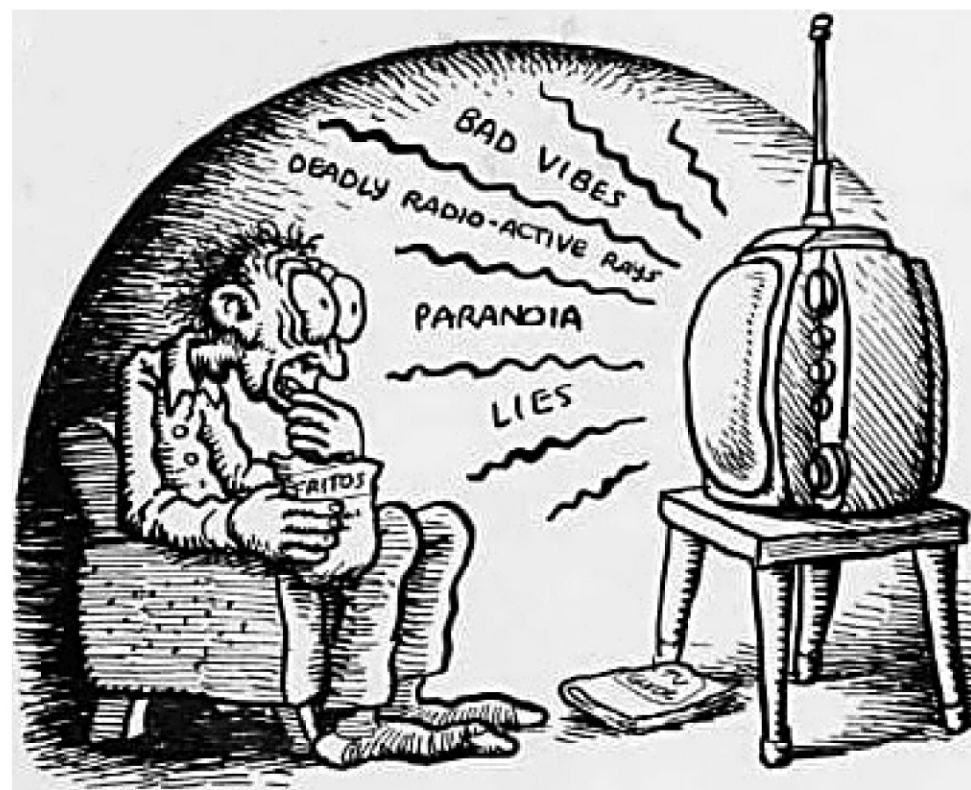
New York City.

Normal advertising is aimed at getting consumers to buy products. Ads are usually created by ad agencies who are paid by clients who are sellers of products. Although formed by private industry, the Ad Council is a substitute for the kind of propaganda ministry that exists in totalitarian countries. Its mission is to mobilize resources of the advertising industry to steer the public in directions that leaders of industry and government, the ruling class, desire to have us go.

Young + Rubicam has striven from its inception to monopolize, or at least dominate, first American and then global advertising. The Ad Council and Y+R represent the nexus between advertising and politics. Both of these institutions were the brainchild of James Webb Young, who put Madison Avenue on the map as the Vatican of the advertising industry.

Young co-founded Young + Rubicam in 1923 with partner Raymond Rubicam. They moved their office to Madison Avenue, making the company the lynchpin of a burgeoning industry based on that Manhattan thoroughfare. Y+R was the great pioneer of television advertising. They initiated the practice of buying up bulk air time on early TV, when there were only a limited number of channels, in order to monopolize the ability to advertise and freeze out their competition. Thus, Y+R acquired large surpluses of ad time which were "donated" ultimately to the Ad Council in order to create ostensibly non-profit "Public Service Announcements," or PSAs.

In the early days of television, Young + Rubicam played a subtle but feared role in enforcing the "black list" against show business personalities accused of having a communist background. In 1954, actor John Ireland sued Y+R for slander for its part in denying him the lead role in the TV series "The Adventures of Ellery McQueen." Because mass TV advertiser Y+R bought up TV air time in bulk, it had more power over hiring and firing than television executives themselves and could pressure them into joining the purge. However, Y+R succeeded in thwarting the



careers of many less prominent performers who were alleged to be communist sympathizers, since part of its mission in the marketing and PR area was to protect their clients from controversy.

Soon after moving to Madison Avenue, Y+R began acquiring other ad agencies. One of the earliest was Sudler + Hennessey, which specialized in pharmaceuticals and health care. Today, Sudler + Hennessey continues to be one of Y+R's most important subsidiaries.



In 2000, Y+R was acquired by WPP plc, a British advertising and public relations firm, which is at the same time a holding company that acquires other companies. WPP began life as a manufacturer of kitchen hardware and then went on to acquire other ad and PR businesses, including Young + Rubicam, as well as many technology and communications companies. This thick alphabet soup of initials makes the 21st century advertising business difficult to follow.

Indeed, in 2018, Sudler + Hennessey merged with Y+R to form VMLY+R Health. The new pharmaceutical advertising conglomerate runs a campaign titled "Make Science Meaningful" on behalf of the bio-pharmaceutical industry, popularizing obscure diseases in order to sell new drugs.

A keystone client of both VMLY+R, and its parent WPP, is pharmaceutical titan Pfizer, manufacturer of the most successful mRNA "vaccine" used for Covid 19. Indeed, Pfizer is among the chief economic beneficiaries of the Covid 19 pandemic. Pfizer's headquarters on 42nd

SAY YES TO DRUGS

By A. Kronstadt

In advertising, commodities are just commodities. While watching a movie on TV, you will see commercials for sugary Snickers bars, followed by others for the anti-diabetes drug Jardiance, showing happy overweight people dancing in the public square, celebrating a slight drop in blood sugar. Fatty McDonald burgers flash across the screen, followed by actors portraying victims of congestive heart failure, grateful that some Pfizer chemical is enabling them to take a walk in the woods one last time. You get the picture right? All of these manipulative images are created by the same ad companies. It is only by ignoring all of them that we remain free, healthy people.

Until relatively recently, government regulations greatly limited direct to consumer advertising of prescription drugs on television. It was considered unprofessional and bad for society because medical treatment was the province of doctors, who, like lawyers and other professionals, were not allowed to advertise. The Food and Drug Administration [FDA] issued guidelines in 1969 requiring ads for prescription pharmaceuticals to detail all side effects of the drug, just like on the package insert supplied with the product itself. Because this was impossible in a normal TV ad spot, for years, only ads for over the counter drugs were aimed at TV audiences.

In 1995, the FDA held hearings which were ostensibly about giving the consumer more right to information regarding prescription drugs. The result of these hearings was a "clarification," whereby only a very brief summary of the package labeling was required. Big Pharma immediately moved in on the new territory: doubling its television advertising budget from \$310 million to \$664 million, between 1997 and 1998, with total spending on TV advertising rising from \$1.3 billion in 1998 to \$3.3 billion in 2005.

It is impossible to view cable TV or even YouTube videos without being reminded of some major disease, or even some very obscure one that a company is promoting because their labs have stumbled across a drug that is supposed to affect it. On TV at least, you do not see any ads for voluntarily-administered drugs, such as cigarettes. TV advertising for cigarettes was banned in April 1970 under legislation signed by president Richard M. Nixon. The last cigarette ad on TV was broadcast on January 1, 1971. Before then, since the inception of television, cancer sticks had been a mainstay of television advertising, with images like Joe Camel and the Marlboro Man leaving a lasting impression on American culture. By contrast, until 1996, the liquor industry held to a self-imposed 48 year ban on TV advertising before they began to air commercials on TV.

It is the same government agency, the FDA, and the same advertising industry that have administered all of these contradictory rules which have in common only that they have lined the pockets of America's dominant corporations at the expense of the public's health.

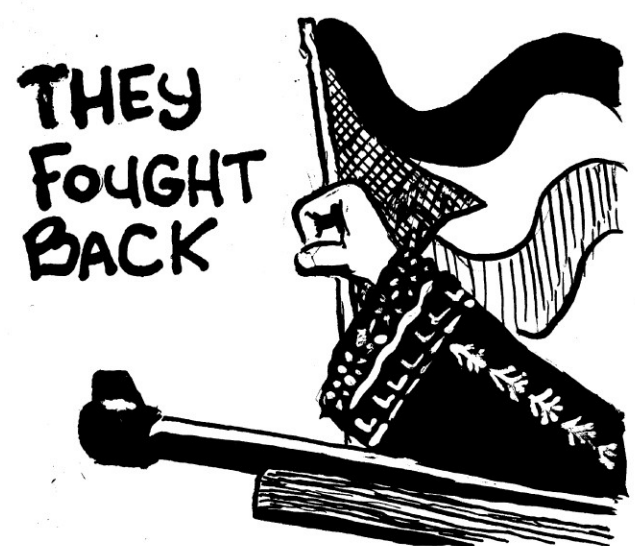
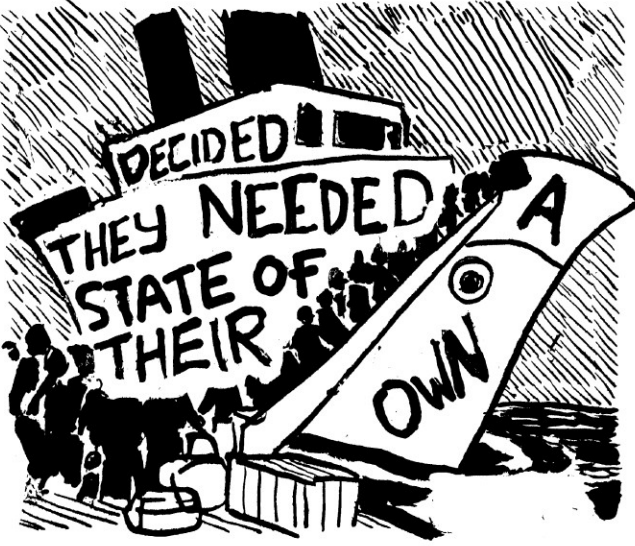
The most profitable things to sell have always been commodities backed up by a biological compulsion that only needs a nudge from advertising. It takes a bit of work to sell cars and condos, especially when most people can't afford them. However, nicotine and sugar go straight for the brain, and only need a clever jingle or catch phrase to remind the individual not to resist. Pharmaceuticals are pretty much the same deal because they aim at our biological pain and desperation, with clever jingles and catch phrases being designed to lure the sufferers to a particular brand that may or may not be the best thing for them.

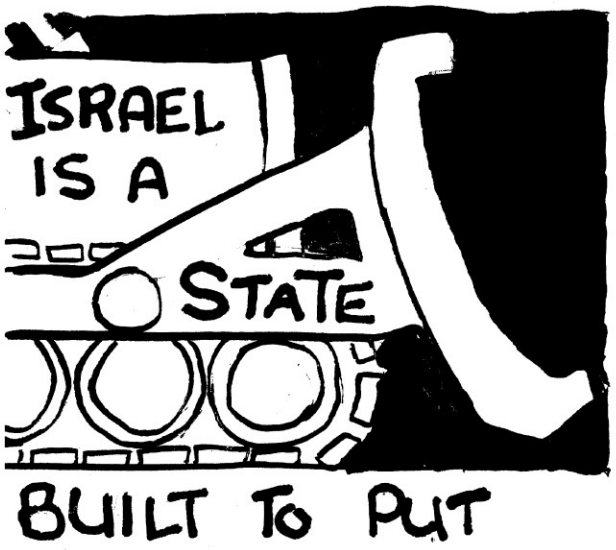
Over the long term, the road to health involves avoiding the lures of advertising and the market, of sugar and salt and fatty meat, and of the chemical drugs that are just more poison to cancel out the effects of the poisons consumed as food, which should not be in our bodies in the first place. The things that will give us health and confidence are advertised by nobody.

Continued On Page 22

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

by ETHAN after SETH





WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IS YOU CAN HELP END APARTHEID

DOWN BY LAW

NYC PROTEST FORECAST: MOSTLY SUNNY WITH A CHANCE OF BEAT DOWNS

By Ron Kuby, Attorney At Law

The Israeli slaughter of Palestinians after the horrific Hamas massacre of October 7, 2023 has brought lots of people out into the streets, virtually on a daily basis, demanding a cease fire. Many of those protests—indeed most of them—have been non violent civil disobedience: blocking roads, bridges, and access points.

In addition, the climate movement has ramped up its civil disobedience with a number of high profile, high disruption activities, particularly directed at New York's cultural elite. Protests have become so common that the ever fascist New York Post has called for dire consequences for demonstrators, the Daily News cautioning against over-reaction by the police, the New York Times saying, well, not much, because this is all beneath them, and Legislators in the New York State Assembly have sponsored a bill to make street blocking an act of "domestic terrorism" and imposing severe penalties.



So what is actually happening with our criminal legal system?

Most of it is good news. The NYPD has been giving most of these demonstrators summonses (little pink pieces of paper), and releasing them within a few hours. The folk who get these go to 1 Centre Street, where there is no prosecutor! Just you (and me), and a judge. The lawyers doing these cases have worked out a pretty good system: swift processing, a single appearance, and walking out with an ACD—Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal. That means that the case is taken off the calendar for six months and, unless the prosecutor moves to restore the case to the calendar, it is automatically dismissed.

And, since there IS NO PROSECUTOR there (did I mention that?), it is show up and forget about it.

Even when people receive desk appearance tickets (half sheet of white paper) or are put through the system (put in jail until they appear before a judge), the DAs in Manhattan and Brooklyn have resisted calls to criminalize these demonstrators, and most of the cases end up in dismissals.

This makes sense. After all, the law enforcement interest at sit ins is to remove the folk from Point A and take them to Point B, and hold them long enough that

they do not return to Point A. The rest is really just paperwork, which clogs up everything.

Queens is a bit more fraught. DA Katz was really really pissed about the U.S. Open Glue Two, (the folk who glued themselves to the US Open and disrupted on live TV for 45 minutes) and it took calming words to get her to agree to non-criminal dispositions. And these came with heavy "community service" penalties. But that has been the exception.

What we have not seen, and do not expect to see, is some sort of Fulton County style mass RICO prosecution (like the Cop City protestors), or even tying people up in endless misdemeanor proceedings (like they have been doing in DC).

The line that appears to be drawn in NYC is that, as long as no one gets hurt, and there is no serious destruction of property, these cases are to be handled with a light touch.



Unfortunately, that "light touch" has not been uniformly used by the NYPD. To the contrary, in the wake of right-wing anger about the demonstrations, the cops have gotten noticeably snarlier and more aggressive. During the Macy's Thanksgiving day action, for example, the cops purported to not believe that one protester had actually glued his hands to the pavement, so they just pulled him until he came loose. Ouch. Really ouch.

Recently, an Inspector (the police equivalent to a colonel), grabbed a reporter out of a crowd (while wearing his press credential), beat him down in the street, and charged him with "resisting arrest." Never bothered to explain what he was being arrested for and the charges were dismissed. The bruises and scrapes took a while to heal. Remember that high-ranking officials, like Inspectors, set a tone for those foot soldiers in blue as to how to police. Bad tone.

The City's recent settlement of a bundle of cases stemming from the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020 should result in fewer cops, less of a presence of the Strategic Response Group thugs, and more accommodation of demonstrators trying to march on sidewalks and streets. It should. But we will see.

In the meantime, try not to get a beat down.

COP CITY CLASH

By Paul DeRienzo

42 people charged with "domestic terrorism" while protesting the construction of a police training facility in Atlanta, popularly known as COP CITY.

On June 23, 2023, DeKalb County, Georgia District Attorney Sherry Boston announced that she was pulling her office out of a multi jurisdictional prosecution brought in December 2022 and March 2023, after protests against a proposed police facility to be built in an Atlanta, Georgia forest turned violent. The facility, known officially as the "Public Safety Training Center," is known to anti-police state activists as "COP CITY."

DOMESTIC TERROR IN THE FOREST

The site of COP CITY is part of the South River Forest in south Atlanta. Considered one of the "four lungs of Atlanta," the forest includes the headwaters of Ocmulgee and Altamaha rivers, Georgia's largest freshwater system and one of the largest river basins on the east coast.

Community groups in Dekalb and Fulton, two of the many counties making up the Atlanta metropolitan area, formed the South River Forest Coalition in order to develop the forest into a system of parks. The forest is near a poorer, mostly Black area of Atlanta and has been neglected for decades.

Before White settlers arrived, the South River was a region known to the Muscogee Creek people as Weelaunee Forest. The Muscogees were evicted from Georgia by White gold miners in a series of bloody wars led by in part by Andrew Jackson, the future seventh president of the United States.

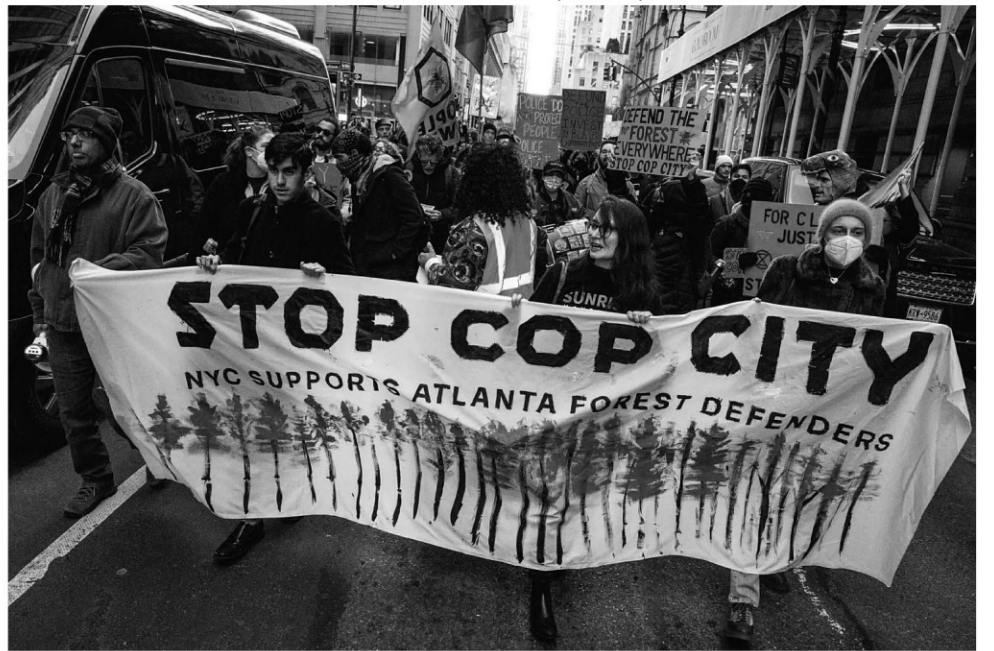
The South River Forest remained deserted until 1920, when the state of Georgia

Invesco, various law partnerships and Georgia Pacific, a clear cutting lumber company owned by the notorious Koch Industries, an arm of the right wing anti environmentalist Koch family. The AFP board of trustees reads like a Whos Who in the Wall Street Journal: Georgia Power, Morgan Stanley, Sothebys, Delta Air Lines, AT&T, The Home Depot, UPS, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Wells Fargo and more.

According to investigative journalism group ProPublica, in 2020 (the last year that financial data is available), AFP received nearly \$3 million in contributions and has net assets of \$7.4 million. The entire COP CITY project is expected to cost \$90 million.

As contractors began clearing wide swaths of the forest ahead of the construction of the 85 acre police training center, protests against COP CITY ramped up. In December 2022, 42 forest defenders were arrested and charged under Georgia's "domestic terrorism" law that was expanded in 2017. The expanded law was justified by the shooting deaths of nine Black churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015, by White supremacist Dylann Roof.

The charges were unusual due to accusations of "terrorism" and in that they were brought jointly by DeKalb DA Sherry Boston and Georgia State Attorney General Chris Carr. In an interview with WABE radio in Atlanta, Boston said it was clear to both offices they had "different prosecution philosophies."



established a farm to produce food for the state prison system. Records of what has been dubbed the Old Atlanta Prison Farm are hard to come by, especially from the period during the civil rights era in the 1960s. The prison farm was abandoned in 1990.

In 2017, the city of Atlanta voted to set aside 380 acres of the 3,500 acre South River Forest it owned for green space and recreation. In March 2021, then-Mayor Keisha Lance Bottom announced plans for a police training facility to be built at the site. A movement to defend the forest was launched soon after, leading to the conflict with police.

A group of local industrialists and business leaders formed the Atlanta Police Foundation [APF] in order to fund construction of COP CITY. The APF includes a wide variety of private corporations on its board of directors. Current APF chairman Robin Loudermilk is CEO of The Loudermilk Companies, an Atlanta-based real estate investment firm.

APF executive committee members include mega-corporations like Equifax,

On March 5, 2023, police arrested 35 protesters after a demonstration in which construction equipment was torched at the site. Twenty two were arrested and charged under the "domestic terrorism" law as well. Among those arrested was Southern Poverty Law Center attorney Thomas Webb Jurgens, acting as a legal observer for the National Lawyers Guild. Jurgens was the only arrested person granted bail in the immediate aftermath of the protest.

Later that month, AG Carr exclusively brought new charges against three activists aligned with the Atlanta Solidarity Fund, which provides "support for people who are arrested at protests, or otherwise prosecuted for their movement involvement." Said "support" includes raising bail, arranging for legal representation and jail support.

The three were charged with "money laundering" and "charity fraud." Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, a conservative Republican, supported the arrests, saying:

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SHUT DOWN THE NYPD'S STRATEGIC RESPONSE GROUP

By Frank Morales

The American Declaration of Independence states that "when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them [us] under absolute Despotism, it is their [our] right, it is their [our] duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their [our] future security."

Now, presumably, prior to "throwing off such Government," one would imagine a prolonged period of protest. Civil rights activist Martin Luther King once remarked that "somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right."

Well, the "greatness of America" aside, right here on the streets of New York City, anyone who has been attending racial justice protests over the last four years is likely familiar with the New York Police Department [NYPD] Strategic Response Group [SRG], a police unit best known for its "violent and rampant abuse" of protesters exercising their constitutional and human right to peacefully dissent.

Founded in 2015, following a nationwide wave of Black Lives Matter protests in November and December of 2014, sparked by the non-indictment of police officers responsible for the deaths of Eric Garner in Staten Island and Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, the SRG was created during the tenure of then-NYPD police commissioner Bill "broken windows" Bratton as a "counter-terrorism" unit.

Meeting the requirements of its elite sponsors, within its first year, the SRG doubled in size from 350 to 800 officers. The SRG budget, provided by city appropriations and grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, increased from \$13 to \$90 million. Those are only the funds we know about. Currently, the SRG continues to function as a stand alone, rapid response police unit whose mission is to undermine social justice movements, and, with more funding, more equipment, and almost no transparency about the unit's cost or function, the SRG has become the most dangerous and unaccountable arm of the NYPD.

Like most "counter terrorism" police operations, the SRG's mission has been about "counterinsurgency" and the violent suppression of dissent. The "counter-terrorism" rhetoric is meant only to hide the fact that the unit is tasked to stave off the risings of a revolutionary movement by violent means.

The policing by the SRG of protests throughout the city has become "extremely problematic," says activist and writer Keegan Stephan. "They have earned the reputation among protesters as a goon squad, much more likely to get physical with protesters and make arrests than cops from the local precinct." Since 2015, SRG squads have met peaceful protests with violence, have failed to intervene when far-right activists have assaulted counter-protesters, and have participated in the fatal shooting of an unarmed man.

Between May of 2020 and January of 2021, monitors from the New York Civil Liberties Union [NYCLU] documented 39 instances of police arresting non-violent protesters, 23 incidents of "kettling" (trapping protesters for arrest) and 25 instances of use of force, including pepper spray, baton beatings and police bicycles as weapons. Of course, countless more incidents occurred, some documented by other protest monitoring groups and many others unaccounted for.

The SRG is perhaps best known for its role in the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests that followed the murder of George Floyd by a cop in Minneapolis. While cops from other units worked the demonstrations, the SRG engaged in the most aggressive crowd control strategies.

Officers used the "kettling" tactic against peaceful protesters at a June 4, 2021 demonstration in Mott Haven in the

Bronx, prompting Human Rights Watch to call the department's response a violation of international human rights law, and to issue its own 99-page report on the events in Mott Haven. That report found that cops used batons, beat people, pushed protesters to the ground, and pepper-sprayed them "unprovoked and without warning." During the protest, police in riot gear corralled hundreds of people before an 8pm curfew, then beat and arrested them under the watch of the department's highest-ranking uniformed officer, Chief of Department Terence Monahan.

Primary targets of the SRG have been Black and Brown protesters, whom they treat as "enemy combatants." SRG training manuals, designed for local use, are derived from similar manuals developed by the Pentagon as part of its "civil disturbance" planning, stretching back to its "Operation Garden Plot" that originated in 1968.

One such manual, US Army Field Manual 3-19.15, entitled "Civil Disturbance Operations," emphasizes pre-emptive action as the basis of a thoroughly-conceived strategy of urban counter-insurgency, utilizing militarized police weaponry of both the "non-lethal" and not so non-lethal variety, a "counterinsurgency" strategy founded upon various military doctrinal formulations, such as "OOTW" or "Operations Other Than War."

Equipped with state-of-the-art anti-riot gear and heavy weaponry, as well as its signature fleet of bicycles and combat armor-clad riders, the voluntary SRG unit attracts cops looking for "more action," many with lengthy misconduct records.

In the process of being deployed



to suppress Black Lives Matter protests, the SRG and NYPD have also used a military-grade noise cannon, known as a "Long Range Acoustic Device" [LRAD], a loudspeaker that produces sound at high power. The NYPD claims that it is for "communicating at a distance," though LRADs, acquired from the U.S. military as part of the "1033" weapons transfer program, has been used as a means of crowd control, emitting an excruciating pulsating tone with an extremely high decibel capacity which has caused demonstrators permanent hearing damage.

The Law Enforcement Support Office

[LESO], a division under the Department of Defense [DoD], manages the "1033 program," which facilitates these so-called "weapons transfers" of "riot control" and "non-lethal" weapons, equipment and vehicles from the U.S. Armed Forces to civilian law enforcement agencies, thus increasing the level of violence directed at protesting "non-combatants."

A Department of Investigation report from December 2020 found that the SRG's tactics "may have unnecessarily provoked confrontations between police and protesters, rather than de-escalating tensions." Training materials show

the unit has been taught to encircle crowds leaving protests with nowhere to escape before a mass arrest. It is clear that provoking confrontations is precisely what the SRG sets out to do, creating the rationale for stepping up the violence and the ensuing mass arrests and prosecutions, all the while pointing to the victims as the source of the violence.

Recently, the SRG has extended its "counter terrorism" work and has been deployed to enforce brutal sweeps against homeless people, terrorizing and destroying their encampments across the city. In April 2023, while a man who had opened fire with a gun on the subway was standing outside a downtown bodega, the unit was busy a few blocks away, destroying the belongings of un-housed people during a sweep at Tompkins Square Park.

SRG officers are also a regular presence at the "NYC for Abortion Rights" monthly clinic defense, where they consistently target pro-abortion access demonstrators. Targeting pro-abortion demonstrators is just one example of the SRG's apparent bias. Time and time again,

rioted police engaged in "civil disturbance" operations.

In response to such police violence, the NYCLU, along with more than 50 organizations from across the state, a movement spearheaded by the NYCLU and community organizations is calling on the City Council to remove SRG funds from the city budget. A City Council bill, known as Intro 0277, that "would prohibit the New York City Police Department from using the Strategic Response Group to respond to a nonviolent protest, nonviolent demonstration, or any other nonviolent gathering of individuals exercising the right of freedom of speech or peaceably to assemble" remains stuck in committee.

With rising demand that SRG be disbanded, the New York City Council held its first-ever oversight hearing on March 1, 2023 with NYCLU reps, advocates, activists and elected officials rallying at City Hall, echoing the call to shut the unit down. As put forth by the NYCLU: "the trauma inflicted by the SRG is impossible to quantify. The reverberations of the SRG's abuse of protesters is felt by its victims, their loved ones, and our broader community. We deserve better. We deserve accountability. We deserve action. The City Council has the power to put an end to the SRG's abuse, and we have the power to demand a city free from the threat of militarized, state-sanctioned violence."

The day of the hearing, the Legal Defense Fund submitted written testimony urging the New York City Council Public Safety Committee to eliminate funding for the SRG: "in the interest of public safety, the funds that have historically been used for SRG should instead be invested in youth services, healthcare, and non-police safety initiatives in communities that have most negatively impacted by police practices in New York."

More than 100 individuals speaking on SRG violence signed up to testify at the hearing. The NYPD did not see fit to attend. According to local news reports, the Council was not happy with the NYPD skipping the hearing, calling it a "disservice," stating that the NYPD "undermined its relationship with the Council." That's a laugh.

Since 2020, the NYPD has been hit with hundreds of lawsuits challenging their response to the 2020/21 protests, including one brought by New York State Attorney General James. Hundreds of more complaints have been filed with the city's Civilian Complaint Review Board [CCRB], which released a nearly 600-page report on 2020 protest complaints, recommending that the NYPD re-train all officers on crowd control tactics.

On February 7, 2024, U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon signed off on a September 2023 "consent decree" settlement between the Attorney General's office, the Legal Aid Society, the NYCLU and the NYPD that will dictate how NYPD responds to protests, protecting the rights of protesters, using de-escalation before increasing a police response and ending the "kettling" of demonstrators. The agreement resolves several lawsuits, requiring the NYPD to modify its response to and interaction with demonstrators and members of the press. The court also awarded roughly 200 protesters who were brutalized during the 2020 demonstrations over the murder of George Floyd \$21,500 each.

This was followed by the Policemen's Benevolent Association [PBA] filing an appeal on March 6, 2024 with the Southern District of New York that seeks to undo the settlement.

Meanwhile, it is clear the only way to end the SRG's abuse while extending the terrain for resistance and dissent is to put an end to the SRG and to ensure that no unit like it exists in this city. To do so, SRG's funds must be taken from the hands of the NYPD altogether.

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KILLING OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT

By Chris Flash

In 2018, I realized a long held desire to visit Dealey Plaza, in Dallas, Texas, where U.S. president John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963 while being driven in an open air limousine with no roof.

Arriving in Dealey Plaza, where the temperature that September day was an uncomfortable 90-100 degrees, I was taken by how small and tight the Kill Zone is. Like catching and killing a mouse in a trap. So many hiding spots from where JFK could have been shot, never mentioned in the many books I have read and films I have seen in my research of the assassination since I was 13 years old.

Inside the former Texas School Book Depository building, now a JFK assassination exhibit calling itself The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, from where the govt claims that alleged assassin (and intelligence operative) Lee Harvey Oswald shot and killed JFK from a sixth floor window, I saw that Oswald's alleged "sniper's nest" had been blocked off so that no one could look out the window to see what Oswald would have seen had he shot JFK as the presidential limo was driving AWAY from the building, according to the govt version of what happened, though Oswald's best shots, had he been the shooter, would have been at the limo after it made a 90 degree turn to the right, approaching the building and the "sniper's nest" at approximately 5-10mph.

As seen in the film shot by Abraham Zapruder, after the limo passed the building and made a 45 degree turn to the left, it was peppered with bullets coming from several angles, just before JFK's brains were blown out by an exploding round hitting the front right of his skull.

I was told by a museum guard, of which there were many, that I could look out from the seventh floor window instead, one flight above the "sniper's nest." I did. The seventh floor is about 20 feet higher than the floor below a totally different view and trajectory. From that window, I observed that the huge tree in front of the building would have blocked anyone shooting at JFK's limo from the floor below after the 45 degree left turn.

(I was told NO PHOTOS, so I used my palm-sized point and shoot camera to take DOZENS of photos. Fuck that.)

In the museum gift shop on the ground floor, I examined what was for sale there. EVERY book and video they had backed the official govt version of what happened: Oswald acted alone, (low level mobster) Jack Ruby killed Oswald out of loyalty to the president's widow Jackie, and that was ALL. According to their sanitized JFK assassination narrative, there was NO CONSPIRACY.

The infamous picket fence behind "the grassy knoll," from where many wit-



President John F. Kennedy (left) on his way to the Kill-Zone

nesses saw and reported snipers shooting at the JFK limo, was still there, no doubt having been rebuilt several times over the decades as a reference point for tourists and assassination aficionados, as was the two story tower in the railroad yard behind the depository, from where Union Terminal Company employee Lee Bowers could see Dealey Plaza below, and men behind the picket fence, where he heard and observed smoke from rifle shots. Bowers died less than three years later, in August 1966, when his car left an empty road and struck a concrete bridge abutment. He was one of more than 100 witnesses, investigators and persons connected directly and indirectly with the JFK assassination who died prematurely and under strange circumstances.

Several other buildings in Dealey Plaza, from where triangulated gunfire was directed at JFK, have since had their exteriors modified. Jack Ruby's nearby Carousel Club, which featured strippers and free drinks for Dallas cops, where Ruby was seen hanging out with Oswald, introducing him to people as his friend "Lee" weeks before the JFK hit, is gone, having been replaced by a new office building with a mini police station on the ground floor, featuring cops on scooters.

I went across town to the Oak Cliff area to check out the Texas Theater, where Oswald was arrested shortly after the assassination. I couldn't get inside, but I met the young owner of the theater, operating a vintage record store nearby. He told me that Dallas police officer JD Tippit, whom Oswald was also accused of shooting after JFK was assassinated, had used the phone in that very store that day in 1963 just before he too was killed. Witnesses who reported seeing a dark-complected man, who was clearly NOT Oswald, shoot Tippit, were threatened by FBI agents. One witness, after surviving being shot in the head, quickly announced that it was Oswald he saw shoot Tippit after all.

The Texas Theater owner also told me that there was a plan to scare Oswald out of the theater, where cops were waiting in the rear alley to kill him as he fled. I looked behind the theater and saw that the rear alley was nice

and tight no way to escape. Had Oswald left through the rear exit as expected, he would have been the third mouse caught in a trap that day.

As it turned out, Oswald did not run. Allegedly in response to a report that a man had entered the Texas Theater without paying for admission, Dallas police abandoned their search for the killer of fellow officer Tippit and of the president of the United States in order to apprehend someone who allegedly did not pay 90 cents to see Audie Murphy in the film "War Is Hell."

Joining police responding to that urgent call was District Attorney Henry Wade (later made famous in the 1973 Supreme Court decision on abortion rights, known as "Roe vs Wade"), reporters and at least one television camera crew.

There is no way to prove this by now, but my suspicion has always been that Oswald, working undercover for one or more U.S. intelligence agencies (FBI CIA ONI), after being sheep-dipped as a "communist sympathizer," had been led to believe by his handlers that he had infiltrated a group plotting to kill the president, which he was reporting on and pretending to conspire with, even posing as a "marxist" giving out leaflets for the "Fair Play For Cuba" committee in New Orleans, not realizing that he was being set up, and that, upon



Lee Harvey Oswald (center) shot on live television by Jack Ruby (right)

hearing that JFK had been shot, he called one of his handlers, who told him to meet at the Texas Theater. Instead of his handler, Oswald was met by police, who hoped to kill him in the rear alley.

Oswald being taken alive presented many problems for the govt because he knew way too much. A murder trial for Oswald would have been devastating for them. Over the following two days, as he was dragged by cops from one room to another through the narrow hallway of the police station, passing gauntlets of reporters who were peppering him with questions, Oswald became more and more agitated, finally declaring "I'm just a patsy."

When told by a reporter that he was being accused of killing the president, the angry look on Oswald's face made it clear that he was NOT going to take the rap.

Accordingly, two days after the JFK hit, it was arranged that Jack Ruby would get access through the rear of the jailhouse at the moment Oswald was to be transferred to another building, where he could mingle with assembled reporters and tv crews so that he could shoot Oswald, and he did. Instead of taking Oswald immediately to a hospital, police brought him to a back room after he was shot, doing who knows what to him in the critical moments before he died.

Despite plenty of fuck ups, they pulled off their coup d'etat, pinning it all on Oswald, who was described as a "lone nut" assassin. With co-operation from their media, they have maintained the official cover-up all these years later, despite heroic efforts and exposures by independent investigative reporters and journalists, many of whom were killed in the line of duty covering the JFK assassination.

The most famous of them was Dorothy Kilgallen, who managed the feat of interviewing Jack Ruby in jail in August 1964. Kilgallen had attended and covered Ruby's March 1964 murder trial she was the only reporter to privately interview Ruby, who died in January 1967 after receiving an injection from a "doctor" while in jail. Three months after his murder conviction, while still in jail pending an appeal, Ruby told visiting Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, head of the Warren Commission, set up by JFK successor Lyndon Johnson to "investigate" the JFK assassination for the purpose of officially declaring that there was NO conspiracy to kill JFK, that he couldn't tell the truth in Dallas he begged to be taken to Washington DC, where he could tell them everything, but was refused.



Dorothy Kilgallen on the job

Kilgallen was going to write an explosive book with unknown details about the JFK assassination, bragging to friends "I'm going to break this case wide open." Fellow "What's My Line" tv show panelist and Random House publisher Bennett Cerf agreed to publish her book, but after Kilgallen was found dead on November 8, 1965, almost exactly two years after JFK, in her NYC townhouse, in an un-used bed in an unoccupied guest room, wearing her evening clothes and make-up and an upside down book laying on her chest, with her massive files on the JFK assassination

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DANIEL ELLSBERG: 1931-2023



Daniel Ellsberg with his wife Patricia celebrate dismissal of charges

As described in his book "Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers" (Penguin Books - 2002), from mid-1964 to the end of the Vietnam War in May 1975, former "cold warrior" Daniel Ellsberg was pre-occupied with our involvement in Vietnam. Over the course of those eleven years, Ellsberg says that "I saw it first as a problem, next as a stalemate, then as a moral and political disaster, a crime."

After a three year stint as an infantry officer in the Marines from 1954-1957, Ellsberg went to work for the RAND Corporation, a military think tank that focused on the military aspects of the "cold war," created in 1948 with a grant from the Ford Foundation as a spin-off of Project RAND, a partnership between Douglas Aircraft Company and the United States Air Force. At that time, Ellsberg's focus was "avoidance of general nuclear war, within the context of the Cold War."

From 1961 on, while working for RAND from an office inside the Pentagon, Ellsberg was tasked with creating speeches and convincing lies for press conferences conducted by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. This only led to Ellsberg's demoralization about lies routinely reported as "fact" by an ever-compliant media that questioned nothing they were told.

From 1964-1967, Ellsberg admits that he "helped prosecute a war I believed at the outset to be doomed," watching top decision makers maneuver the U.S. into a full-scale war with no promise of success. Even as President Lyndon B. Johnson was promising not to send America's sons to die in Asia, Ellsberg was being used to promote building up the U.S. presence in Vietnam.

In mid-1965, Ellsberg volunteered to serve in Vietnam as a State Department civilian, "evaluating pacification." Ellsberg spent the next two there, getting close with former Army officer John Paul Vann, who was known for his fearlessness in the face of danger and brashness in seeking to overhaul what he saw as dangerously misguided American policies in Vietnam. On patrol with the infantry, traveling around South Vietnam, Ellsberg was startled by the disconnect between what the U.S. government was telling the public about the war and what was actually occurring. He also became increasingly agitated by American callousness toward civilians.

The disillusionment and skepticism Ellsberg experienced there further strengthened the pessimism he felt during his first tour in Vietnam in 1961, as part of a high-level pentagon task force, making him realize that he could no longer go along with supporting that "hopeless war." It was during his first visit in 1961 when Ellsberg was told by a colonel who confided

to him that, no matter how many American troops were sent to Vietnam to maintain control in the short run, that would only postpone an inevitable "communist" victory there.

Once back in the US in mid-1967, when Ellsberg tried to persuade Walt Rostow, Johnson's national security adviser, that the war was a mess, Rostow offered to show him charts. "You don't understand," Rostow said, "victory is near." Ellsberg then "began to do everything I could imagine to help free our country from the war." For two years, he did so as an insider, briefing officials, advising presidential candidates and, by 1969, dealing with Henry Kissinger, then a national security assistant to President-elect Richard Nixon. Ellsberg prepared a study on the Vietnam War and provided his analysis to Kissinger and Nixon. According to Ellsberg, Kissinger was intent on prolonging the war, no matter what advice they received from Ellsberg and others about the futility of expecting a victory in Vietnam.

While working with Kissinger, Ellsberg grew increasingly dismayed with the U.S. government's handling of the Vietnam War. That year, Ellsberg "felt called upon to go beyond this approach" and thereby end his career as "a government insider." He later said: "It wasn't that we were on the wrong side - we were the wrong side."

In his book "Secrets..." Ellsberg reveals that, on April 2, 1968, at a luncheon with anti-nuclear, civil rights and anti-war activists participating in a conference called "America in a Revolutionary World," he met a Shivaite Brahmin peace activist from South India named Janaki. This was a turning point for Ellsberg, who, at that point, was already acting against furthering the war in Vietnam. In the course of their long talks, she explained that the best way to force change is: non co-operation (withdrawal of resources, draft or tax refusal, boycott, general strike), non-violent obstruction (sit-down strikes and sit-ins) and exposure (truth-telling). She urged Ellsberg to meet with civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr, who, almost exactly a year earlier, "against the urging of his allies, black and white," denounced the war in Vietnam. At that time, King said: "There comes a time when silence is betrayal." Janaki told Ellsberg that she could arrange a meeting between them, but King was assassinated two days later, on April 4, 1968. Two months later, on June 5, presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, whom Ellsberg was advising on Vietnam, was assassinated as well. Ellsberg had pinned his hopes on him: "Not just for Vietnam, but for my country."

At RAND, Ellsberg had access to a 47 volume top secret study of U.S. decision making in Vietnam, called "United

SHADOW BOOK REVIEW

THE TRIAL OF HENRY KISSINGER

By Christopher Hitchens

Verso, London, 2001

Reviewed by Reed Brody
Special Counsel for Prosecutions
Human Rights Watch

History is catching up to former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. While he still pontificates regularly about world affairs on American news shows, it is increasingly a world he cannot visit. Judges from Argentina, Chile, France and Spain are seeking Kissinger's testimony regarding crimes committed by U.S. client regimes in South America in the 1970s. When Kissinger was in London in April 2001, a British activist sought his arrest on charges related to the Vietnam War. Even in the United States, he is subject of a civil suit brought by the family of Chilean army commander-in-chief René Schneider, murdered in 1970 as part of a U.S.-conceived attempt to block the

election of Chilean President Salvador Allende.

Christopher Hitchens' book, though admittedly dripping with venom towards Kissinger, and at times rambling and unfocused, persuasively marshals the long known, as well as the recently-declassified, evidence to demonstrate Kissinger's role in the destruction of Chilean democracy and the consolidation of the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship, the prolongation of the Vietnam War through the sabotage of US President Lyndon Johnson's 1968 Vietnam peace talks, the Indonesian invasion and subsequent rape of East Timor, the Greek military junta's invasion of Cyprus in 1974, civilian deaths from United States' aerial bombing in Laos and Cambodia and the Pakistani army's crimes against humanity in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Quite an impressive record for one man, even a

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States-Vietnam Relations, 1945-1967: A Study Prepared by the Department of Defense. Later in life, Ellsberg would describe the volumes as revealing a "continuous record of governmental deception and fatally unwise decision-making." "What struck him was the pattern of deception - and how clearly it was documented," wrote Steve Sheinkin in "Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War."

In 1969 + 1970, along with fellow RAND associate Anthony Russo, Ellsberg secretly photo-copied the 47 volumes. In the vain hope that the information contained in them would be exposed and acted on, Ellsberg gave copies to Senator William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and to Senator George McGovern. Neither used what they were given by Ellsberg.

In August 1970, Ellsberg travelled to Kissinger's office at Nixon's retreat in San Clemente, CA, where he urged Kissinger to read excerpts from the volumes, in order to get him to reconsider the administration's policy in Indochina. Reportedly, Ellsberg left the meeting depressed, realizing that nothing would change.

After the U.S. invasion of Laos in February 1971, Ellsberg reached out to New York Times reporter (and fellow Harvard alumni) Neil Sheehan, with whom he had secretly shared classified information years earlier. On June 13, 1971, the Times began to publish installments of the volumes, that came to be called The Pentagon Papers.

The Nixon administration was granted an order blocking the Times from publishing more, so Ellsberg shared the volumes with The Washington Post, which began its own series of articles on June 18. After an injunction against The Post, other newspapers began publishing some of the material. Senator Mike Gravel, an Alaska Democrat opposed to the war, also read portions into the Congressional Record. Ellsberg did not leak the whole report, as the final volumes dealt with ongoing diplomatic efforts. On June 30, after agreeing to hear the matter, the Supreme Court voted to let publication of the papers resume. War criminal Kissinger was quoted as describing Ellsberg as "The most dangerous man in America."

While newspapers were allowed to continue printing the Pentagon Papers, Ellsberg faced federal charges for revealing top secret government documents. Surrendering to federal authorities on June 28, 1971, Ellsberg told assembled reporters that he leaked the volumes because he could "no longer co-operate in concealing this information from the American public."

When asked by a reporter whether he was concerned about going to prison, Ellsberg responded with a question of his own: "Wouldn't you go to prison to help end this war?" On December 29, 1971, a fifteen count indictment was returned against Ellsberg and Russo. In July 1972, a mistrial was declared.

In January 1973, Ellsberg and Russo were indicted for a second time for the same charges under the Espionage Act, facing a possible 115 years in prison. However, on May 11, Judge William Matthew Byrne dismissed all charges due to governmental misconduct, when it was learned that Nixon's "Domestic Affairs Advisor" John D. Ehrlichman, had assembled a secret group, dubbed the "Plumbers," who broke into the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist in an attempt to find evidence that could be used to discredit Ellsberg or tarnish his reputation.

The "Plumbers," members of whom participated in the failed April 1961 "Bay of Pigs invasion" in Cuba and in the assassination of president John F. Kennedy on November 23, 1963, broke into an office of the Democrat National Committee in the Watergate complex in Washington, DC on June 17, 1972. That attempted burglary and the ensuing cover-up attempt by the Nixon administration that came to be called the "Watergate" scandal led to Nixon resigning from office on August 9, 1974, in order to avoid being forced out due to impeachment.

Ellsberg spent the rest of his life as a prominent antiwar activist and a staunch advocate for nuclear non-proliferation. He was arrested nearly 70 times over the years for protesting nuclear weapons and U.S. foreign policy, according to Ellsberg's own figures. Ellsberg also sought to inspire generations of antiwar activists who followed him. He authored four books and served as a strong supporter of fellow whistleblowers Julian Assange and Edward Snowden.

In the less than four months between the time of his cancer diagnosis and his death on June 16, 2023, Ellsberg gave more than 12 interviews to the press, in which he sounded the alarm about the possibility of a catastrophic nuclear conflict due to the war in Ukraine.

To his dying day, Ellsberg was determined that "exposing secrets five presidents had withheld and the lies they told were worth the risks."

-- Chris Flash

[For more on the life of Daniel Ellsberg, visit ellsberg.net]

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SHADOW BOOK REVIEW

Cynical Theories: How Activist Scholarship Made Everything About Race, Gender, and Identity and Why This Harms Everybody

By Helen Pluckrose and James Lindsay
Pitchstone Publishing - 2020

Reviewed by Kurt Hill

It is no secret that American society is divided today in a way that it has not been since the period before the Civil War, 175 years ago. Respectful, mutual discourse and debate has again broken down in many areas, and right wing extremists continue their efforts to utilize wedge issues to push the country towards authoritarian "solutions." This trend will undoubtedly pick up momentum as we approach the 2024 General Election this fall. This right wing offensive presents a serious challenge to all of us on the anti-authoritarian, progressive left.

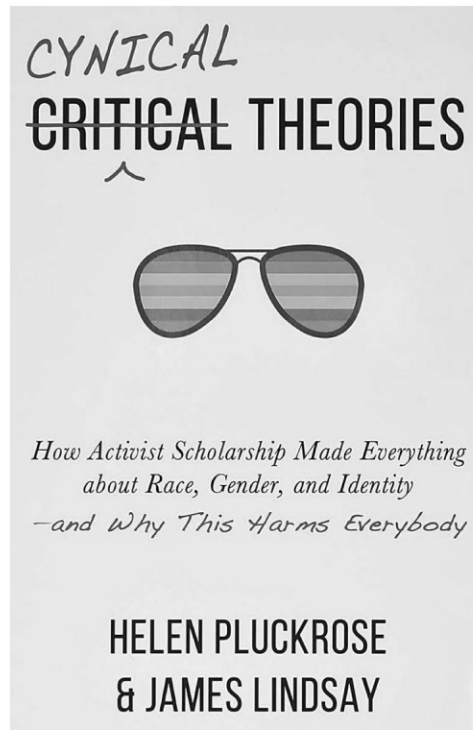
Unfortunately, there are also authoritarian trends on the progressive end of the political spectrum as well, trends which view the world in black and white, good and bad binary terms. It is to explain this latter phenomenon that Helen Pluckrose and James Lindsay have written their book. Hopefully this review will help to stimulate discussion and debate in the pages of the **SHADOW** of the important issues involved.

Many **SHADOW** readers are activists and organizers in their communities, and no doubt they have attended their share of meetings on various issues of concern. Not every meeting goes smoothly, of course, and readers on occasion may have asked themselves: With everything at stake, why are some meetings being hijacked by people who insist that language is violence or that Western science is inherently sexist? Or with claims that there is no such thing as biological sex, or that only white people can be racist? Or that hoping for a cure that will remove a disability (blindness or deafness, for example) is considered a betrayal of one's identity and promotes something called "ableism"?

The book, **Cynical Theories** by Helen Pluckrose, a leftist cultural writer and speaker, and James Lindsay, a politically moderate mathematician with a background in physics and the founder of New Discourses podcast, answers these and other related questions in a balanced, fair and reasoned way. Pluckrose and Lindsay are two thirds of the authors (along with Peter Boghossian, an American philosopher) of the famous (or infamous) "Grievance Studies Affair" of 2017-18, which captured the attention of so many American college students and professors.

The aim of their project was to determine if bogus academic papers submitted to professional journals specializing in contemporary Cultural, Disability, Fat, Gender, Post-colonial, Queer, Race, Sexuality and Whiteness Studies would pass "peer review" and be accepted for publication, if they "sounded right." An astounding number were accepted for print, the most famous being "Human reactions to rape culture and queer performativity at urban dog parks in Portland, Oregon," which appeared in the magazine *Gender, Place & Culture*. The article promoted the bogus idea that "human companions, especially human males, were more likely to intervene in a male dog's rape/humping incident than a female dog's rape/humping incident."

Their collaboration, in turn, was inspired by the landmark 1996 critique of contemporary academic standards by Alan Sokal, a physics professor ("Sokal Affair"), in which he successfully submitted a bogus article to *Social Text*, an academic journal of cultural studies. Sokal wrote the article in approved "academobabble" language to see if the journal would "publish an article liberally salted with nonsense if (a) it sounded good and (b) it flattered the



editors' ideological preconceptions."

Pluckrose and Lindsay begin their critical analysis with an historical exposition of philosophical postmodernism which forms the basis of much of contemporary identity politics which has increasingly dominated left/progressive statecraft in the West over the past few decades. While they are not the first to explore features of the negativity bias of postmodernism (i.e., the tendency to focus more on negative experiences than on positive ones, so-called micro-aggressions being a common manifestation), *Cynical Theories* is the clearest, and most reader-friendly, volume on the subject that I have encountered.

In a nutshell, postmodernism as described by the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, is "a late 20th century movement in Western philosophy that challenges the assumptions and values of the modern period. It is characterized by broad skepticism, subjectivism, or relativism; a general suspicion of reason; and an acute sensitivity to the role of ideology in asserting and maintaining political and economic power."

Some say that postmodernism (and poststructuralism, its important sub-genre that emphasizes the instability of language and the power relations that are claimed to be embedded within it) has its origins in the 1940s. But, most commentators and scholars that I have read agree with Pluckrose and Lindsay that many of the basic concepts emerged in the 1960s and 1970s, primarily through French intellectuals, such as Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, and Jean François Lyotard (and were picked up and expanded by American and British followers, such as Judith Butler and Homi K. Bhabha.)

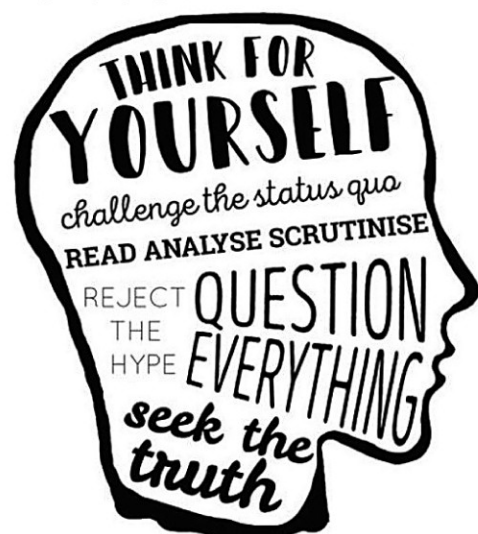
These thinkers were discouraged by the failures of the modernist projects and hopes of the traditional socialist and anarchist left, and were suspicious of any kind of metanarratives (e.g., Christianity, Socialism, the Enlightenment, Western ideas of Progress, etc.) They believed that such "grand narratives" were inherently suspect. For example, according to Lyotard, the "postmodern condition" is characterized by "...incredulity toward metanarratives. This incredulity is undoubtedly a product of progress in the sciences: but that progress in turn presupposes it. To the obsolescence of the metanarrative apparatus of legitimation corresponds, most notably, the crisis of metaphysical philosophy and of the university institution which in the past relied on it. The narrative function is losing its functors, its great hero, its great dangers, its great voyages, its great goal."

Not only are all of the old metanar-

ratives suspect, but, according to Michel Foucault, knowledge itself is not objective, but rather is itself molded by discourses which reflect a society's power relations. That is, truth is not universal, but relative, and is reinforced by our everyday interactions in society. From this, standpoint theory (sometimes called standpoint epistemology) developed. This perspective validates only personal, subjective experience, and is subject to what social scientists call "confirmation bias," the tendency to interpret, lean towards, search for, etc. only data/information that confirms and supports one's own subjective perspectives on issues.

Another aspect of postmodernism which they challenge is Jacques Derrida's theory of deconstructionism, which originally emerged as a literary theory claiming to analyze any text's meaning. It does so by separating out the component parts of any written work which contradict its own internal structure.

Pluckrose and Lindsay challenge these idealist and personalist perspectives in favor of a rigorous materialist interpretation of data, with its grounding in the Western tradition of empirical analysis and research. They examine what they term the postmodern knowledge principle: "Radical skepticism as to whether objective knowledge or truth is obtainable and a commitment to cultural constructivism." They also advance the idea of the post-modern political principle: "A belief that society is formed of systems of power and hierarchies, which decide what can be known and how."



These postmodernist ideas have given rise to what some people call an "hierarchy of oppression" or the "oppression Olympics," which has led many traditional progressives/leftists, such as Anarchist linguist and social commentator Noam Chomsky, to consider them - in his words - "amusing and perfectly self conscious charlatans."

Proud to be a Wokie From West Hoagie

By Denny Doggerel
(With apologies to Merle Haggard)

We don't do friendly "discourses" in West Hoagie,
Our high school is free from all inquiry;
We don't think that social class much matters,
It's all about "intersectionality," you see.

We don't do empirical research in West Hoagie,
We don't challenge our colleagues to debate;
We just "deconstruct" the local yogis,
To find more "right wingers" that we all can hate.

(Everybody sing one time clapping):

I'm proud to be a Wokie from West Hoagie,
A suburb where even lefties can make a slip;
Our posh town is full of millennial fogeys,
And teachers who must always watch their lips.

We don't have gays or lesbians in West Hoagie,
Just LGBTQs instead;
And if you use the "wrong" word to describe them,
They just might bash you on the head.

"Micro aggressions" are the same to us as hate crimes,
So we have "safe spaces" where we all can hide;
From such comfort we contemplate The End Times,
Not realizing we've been taken for a ride.

(Everybody sing one time clapping):

I'm proud to be a Wokie from West Hoagie,
A suburb where even lefties can make a slip;
Our posh town is full of millennial fogeys,
And teachers who must always watch their lips.

"Cultural appropriation" is so very disgusting,
It's "White Privilege" at its very worst!
But Hamilton, the play, takes history rusting,
And transforms it into a "PC" universe!

Our view of history may be a wee bit hokey,
But you can "get it" if you really try;
And if you won't become a Wokie,
Then we hope that you will just fucking die!

(Everybody sing one time clapping):

I'm proud to be a Wokie from West Hoagie,
A suburb where even lefties can make a slip;
Our posh town is full of millennial fogeys,
And teachers who must always watch their lips.

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THE WAR ON "DIS-INFORMATION": ZENGER NOT ZUCKERBERG!

By A. Kronstadt

What is the basis for the new "war on misinformation" is it part of a resistance to right wing ideologies, or is it part of yet another right wing ideology?

If there is really such a thing as misinformation, older persons of not so bygone generations were brought up on it. In the 1950s and 1960s we were subjected to bullshit of all sorts, much of it enshrined by academia as "peer reviewed" fact.

Does anyone else remember being told that people from Africa had lower IQ scores, and that IQ scores were an objective measure of intelligence? As late as the 1960s, any person who denied this would be accused of putting politics above objective facts—indeed, a person who believed too militantly that the races were all of equal intelligence might be accused of succumbing to communist influence because the commies were preaching that equality stuff in order to upset the colonial order.

And even after the "facts" of race had been debunked, anyone who denied that same sex attractions were pathological would be accused of being a homosexual advocate, or a homosexual. Psychologists and psychiatrists would say that such people should not have freedom to write or disseminate such ideas because they interfered with people's striving to be normal and sabotaged their therapy.

This was the kind of discourse that went on when I and those of my generation were undergoing intellectual formation. In order to resist it, one had to work very hard and be willing to endure insult and injury. You had to be a dissenter. The 60s and its radicals were shaped by butting their heads, our heads, against racist and narrow minded nonsense. We were also butting our heads against the facts of a murdered president and a war built upon lies.

There is also a dialectic between facts, lies, and secrecy. The government wishes us to accept it as "fact" that John F. Kennedy was murdered by a "lone nut," and that it had nothing to do with the people in power, who "in fact" were all good guys. If the facts are plain, why was it then necessary to classify any information concerning it? Why not open all the doors and windows and simply let in the fresh air? The same goes for the origins of COVID 19—why was any of the information that emerged at the beginning of the pandemic withdrawn and classified?

When they hide information, one begins to imagine what the information is. When the government or ruling class claims that we do not have the right to information, then it stands to reason that

we retain the right to speculate about what that information is and why they are hiding it.

Is it a conspiracy theory to believe that there are meetings of very rich people that take place in locked boardrooms where only they are allowed? Is it a conspiracy theory to think that in the rooms where these conclaves take place, things are being discussed between these wealthy industrialists, bankers, and government figures that go quite contrary to our interests—eliminating our jobs, cutting our pensions, raising our rents? No—these meetings go on every day in every big city in the industrialized world.

Is it a conspiracy theory to believe there is a ruling class in America? Are Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk, these coders with no personalities who got lucky years ago, and were given the power to suck society's blood forever, really on a level playing field with us? When you let men like this decide what is information and what is mis-information, it is as if you have resurrected the ghost of Joseph Stalin and allowed it to take control of your computer and your phone. In Russia under Stalin, you could not buy a ream of paper or a bottle of mimeograph ink without going through the government. All typewriters needed to be registered with Stalin's secret police.

When you voluntarily rely on the servers of Twitter and Facebook to express your thoughts you have Stalinized yourself, i.e., voluntarily placed your freedom in the hands of a distant regime and subjected yourself to its censorship and surveillance. You are even being trained to "demand" from Zuckerberg and Musk that they cull their media of "misinformation," "hate," "foreign manipulation" using algorithms designed by themselves and their lackies.

We need our American rights. The principle of a free press was not invented by white racists, it was stolen by white racists. The principle of the free press was established by dissenters against the racist colonial regime of the British and is the birthright of all Americans and all human beings. The fact that a free press exists at all is the result of brave journalists like John Peter Zenger, who stood up to colonial rule on the principle that no one can be convicted of libel for telling the truth. The truth needs no algorithm—just the courage of the writer and the discernment of the reader.

They used to say that the pen is mightier than the sword. Are Twitter and Facebook however mightier than the sword? Or are we simply handing the sword to the rich when we rely on their social media?

STAMPEDE

By James Spione

[February 28, 2023] My girlfriend and I were driving back from an overnight getaway in a neighboring state when I noticed there was very heavy traffic for a Sunday afternoon in February. It seemed more like a weekday rush hour, with speeding nut jobs in giant SUVs weaving in and out of the fast lane on the highway, jockeying for position, and later, long backups at the stop lights on local roads. The energy was just, off.

Nearing home, we stopped to pick up a few things at the local supermarket and the parking lot was packed. Only a few malfunctioning shopping carts sat out front, where usually there are long neat rows. Throngs of people crowded the aisles inside. There was a line of seven people waiting for the freaking bathroom. On a Sunday. What the heck?

Just then a weather story pushed into the newsfeed on my phone: snow was predicted starting tomorrow. Ahhhh, of course. Not a blizzard, mind you. Three to five inches would be the likely accumulation. School would no doubt be canceled. But realistically, in February in our area of New York State, the roads would be completely cleared by Tuesday midday. Supply chains might be slightly delayed by a couple hours. That's about it.

Nonetheless, folks were flooding the highways, clogging the backroads and swarming the supermarkets as if a Cat 5 hurricane was about to bear down upon the community. I thought back to growing up in the Hudson Valley in the 1970s, not far from here, when this simply did NOT happen unless there really was an unusually disruptive weather event—three to five *feet* of snow in the forecast, maybe, or perhaps an enormous nor'easter.

In fact, with five or six inches of snow often school would still be in session! You would be waiting for your bus which of course was running late, and then you would hear it a quarter mile away, the distinctive clink-clank-clink of the clattering chains on the back tires drifting across the hushed country morning, announcing its imminent arrival. It was just weather. Life went on.

The obvious difference between then and today? It's likely in your hand right now. We are suffering from extreme information overload, a barrage of repetitious, anxiety-producing stimulation that can quickly distort a normal occurrence into a dramatic existential narrative, a titanic struggle for survival. When it comes to meteorology, an entire business, The Weather Channel, has been built on this model. Not only hurricanes but winter storms now get first names, and days of endless stories and speculation, building up to what is often a non-event. Not only the Weather Channel but national, regional and local news echo and amplify the ""danger."" Fear, uncertainty, and worst-case speculation *sells*. It produces clicks and ad revenue, it drives eyeballs and data accumulation.

And it makes people fucking crazy. I wish it were otherwise, that folks would naturally see the repetitious patterns and obvious marketing ploys—and sure, sometimes they do. Ask your average suburban snowstorm shopper and they might roll their eyes and agree that it's all such a charade. But then, and this is critical: *they go to the store anyway.* Just in case. I mean, everyone is doing it. Can't be too safe!

The thing is, induced fear *works.* Millions of years of evolution cannot be denied. Enough alarming perceptions stimulating enough hormones, enough stress triggering our amygdala and hypothalamus, enough epinephrine flooding our system, and we just can't help it—we *must* act. We must *do* something to protect ourselves and our tribe. When the going gets tough, the tough..... go shopping!

Around the world, billions of us are

being constantly bombarded by all of these alarm-inducing words and images and narratives, for hours and hours every day. The NYT ran a piece just yesterday on the epidemic of teen mental health issues, from loneliness to sleep deprivation to depression to suicide, and its link to constant cell phone use, which has radically transformed the social landscape of adolescence. Every parent I know sees this clearly, how their kids' perceptions of themselves are warped by social media. However, most cannot see how they themselves can be changed, molded and manipulated by the same digital distortions.

Now take your average snowstorm supermarket silliness, and multiply it x1000, and you arrive at the gigantic, society-wide psychosis that transformed much of the Western world during the recent pandemic. A tsunami of worst-case-scenario fear porn flooded the web and the airwaves, day in and day out, and very quickly so-called democratic society descended into restrictions, lockdowns, mandated medical procedures and finally, segregation and punishment for those who would not comply.

This lurch into totalitarian madness was enabled by relentless media focus on the most extreme stories, resulting in a wildly distorted perception of what was actually happening. Surveys found that much of the public overestimated covid death and hospitalization rates by orders of magnitude. Nearly half of Democrats thought the hospitalization risk of covid was over 50%, when in reality it was less than 1%. The age-stratified risks of the virus were also extremely misunderstood, with young people thinking they were in far more peril than was actually the case, and people across the board overestimating the number of people under 40 being hospitalized by many times.

In the beginning, at least, one could ascribe much of this alarmist fearmongering to the usual Weather Channel mode in which much of the corporate media operates—fear, eyeballs, clicks, ad revenue, lather, rinse, repeat into an ongoing profitable narrative. But there was also a confluence of other powerful interests—government control and the desire for compliance, and an absolutely enormous windfall on the horizon for pharma giants who could best position themselves during the crisis—and soon the tenor and intent of the media frame morphed into something much more concerning than crass exploitation to sell YouTube ads and collect viewer data. Politics and capitalism converged in what can only be called the textbook definition of fascism. Only certain stories and viewpoints were allowed.

""Content moderation"" was ramped up across social media, and anyone who dared dissent, not just experienced journalists but even highly credentialed medical and scientific professionals and academic luminaries, was ostracized, shamed, often outright censored and deplatformed.

And hypnotized by the constant amygdala stimulation emanating from their screens, much of the public cheered

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JOHN SWINTON ON THE AMERICAN PRESS

Scottish-American journalist, newspaper publisher, and orator John Swinton (1829--1901) was on the editorial staff of the NY Times in the 1860s, the NY Sun in the 1870s, and then published his own John Swinton's Paper, a weekly labor sheet, in the 1880s. Before he had his own newspaper, he had this to say about the American press:

"There is no such thing, at this date of the world's history, in America, as an independent press. You know it and I know it.

"There is not one of you who dares to write your honest opinions, and if you did, you know beforehand that it would never appear in print. I am paid weekly for keeping my honest opinion out of the paper I am connected with.

"Others of you are paid similar salaries for similar things, and any of you who would be so foolish as to write honest opinions would be out on the streets looking for another job. If I allowed my honest opinions to appear in one issue of my paper, before twenty-four hours my occupation would be gone.

"The business of the journalists is to destroy the truth, to lie outright, to pervert, to vilify, to fawn at the feet of mammon, and to sell his country and his race for his daily bread. You know it and I know it, and what folly is this toasting an independent press?"

"We are the tools and vassals of rich men behind the scenes. We are the jumping jacks, they pull the strings and we dance. Our talents, our possibilities and our lives are all the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes."



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KILLING OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT

Continued From Page 16

missing, Cerf said nothing, lest he too join the ranks of the dead who got too close to the truth.

More witnesses and persons connected with the JFK assassination were knocked off when the House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations [HSCA] was created in 1976 to "investigate" the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Black civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr.

The JFK assassination was immediately followed by an escalation of the illegal and immoral United States war in Southeast Asia, which included deploying more than 500,000 American troops, spraying of toxic defoliants and aerial bombings of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, as well as the deaths of millions of people under democrat president Johnson (1963-1968) and republican president Richard Nixon (1969-1974), along with further empowerment of the FBI and CIA to crush political dissent in America by any means necessary.



Prescott Bush (right), father of George HW Bush, welcomes his hiring Richard Nixon (left)

It has been said that Richard Nixon, who was run by the Bush family, who were run by the Rockefellers, was the last U.S. president to wield real power as president. Nixon benefitted from the June 5, 1968 assassination of New York Senator and presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, brother of JFK, and the May 15, 1972 assassination attempt on former Alabama governor and presidential candidate George Wallace, which left Wallace crippled, but he was ultimately implicated in a "second rate" break-in at an office of the Democrat National Committee in the Watergate complex in Washington, DC on June 17, 1972 committed by operatives of a group that called itself "CREEP"[Com-

mittee to RE-Elect the President], some of whose members were involved with the JFK assassination nine years earlier. The resulting "Watergate" scandal led to Nixon resigning from office on August 9, 1974, in order to avoid being forced out due to impeachment. Though he was not assassinated, Nixon was ruined and taken out of office in a non-lethal manner. Apparently, Nixon had gotten "too big for his britches."



Gerald Ford - Ronald Reagan - George HW Bush

Nixon's replacement was Warren Commission member and Bush family asset Gerald Ford. Ford's vice president was Nelson Rockefeller. After two years, relatively unknown Georgia governor Jimmy Carter, who was a member of Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission, easily beat Ford in the 1976 presidential race. Carter was replaced in 1980 by former b-movie actor and former California governor Ronald Reagan and his running mate, George HW Bush, who was director of the CIA under Ford.

On March 30, 1981, Reagan narrowly survived an assassination attempt after being shot in the chest by the son of Bush family friend and fellow oil man John Hinckley Sr, founder of Vanderbilt Energy Corporation, located in Dallas, Texas. Not long after, Reagan began exhibiting symptoms of cognitive decline, finally leading to full blown Alzheimer's Disease while in office. It was clear to insiders that Bush was the defacto president during the remainder of Reagan's term, leaving a brain dead Reagan to take the rap for countless illegal acts committed during his administration by Bush and his people, all of whom were pardoned by Bush when he ascended to the presidency in 1989.

Since Nixon, the United States presidency has been kept under control.

The JFK assassination was a warning to all future presidents who might think of stepping out of line and not following orders from above. Sixty years later, too many witnesses of and participants in the JFK assassination are dead. The trail of the assassins has long gone cold.

This is our country.

HENRY KISSINGER

Continued From Page 17

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

So, is Henry Kissinger a war criminal?

It's difficult not to confuse political, moral and historical responsibility for great human suffering with criminal liability. But it's one thing to say that Henry Kissinger's policies led to hundreds of thousands of deaths. It's another to say that, in a strict legal sense, he is criminally responsible for those deaths. Despite the title of his book, Hitchens doesn't try to separate the politically wrong from the criminally wrong or to make the legal case against Kissinger.

But there is a way to make a legal case. Traditional criminal law principles, as ratified by the Yugoslavia and Rwanda war crimes tribunals, hold that someone may be held liable as an accomplice if he consciously contributes to the perpetration of the crime in a material and substantial way.

Under this standard, it would not be impossible to show that a U.S. (or Soviet) official whose support enabled a subversive regime to commit atrocities is an accomplice to those crimes. In the case of East Timor, for instance, newly-released documents prove that, despite Kissinger's previous denials, he and U.S. President Ford specifically gave General Suharto the green light to invade Timor in a Jakarta meeting only one day before the actual invasion. The United States was then supplying Indonesia's military with 90 percent of its arms,

and Kissinger himself described their relationship as that of "donor client."

As the civilian death toll from the invasion mounted into the tens and later the hundreds of thousands, Hitchens and others charge Kissinger - knowing of the civilian slaughter - manipulated the Congressionally mandated review process to ensure that aid to the killers kept flowing.

Where the United States committed the atrocities directly, the legal situation is different. For example, United States and South Vietnamese aerial bombings, on Kissinger's watch, left approximately 350,000 Laotian civilians and 600,000 Cambodian civilians dead. If Henry Kissinger indeed signed off on bombing targets in Cambodia and Laos knowing that civilians were present, as the accounts cited by Hitchens suggest, then the issue would be whether the bombing was indiscriminate or disproportionate.

It's hard to imagine, of course, that Kissinger would actually be brought to trial. As the abstract principle of individual criminal liability for atrocities becomes more of a reality, however, voices are increasingly heard asking why it is only the dictators of third world countries who are brought to justice and not the western leaders who put them into power and sustained them while they committed their atrocities. Why is Pinochet brought to court and not Kissinger? Why Chadian dictator Hissène Habré and not the American and French leaders who brought him into power and supported him throughout his rule? Why are Guatemalan strongmen charged with genocide but not the U.S. policymakers who supported them?

Hitchens' book not only asks this question, it provides the factual fodder for responding "why not?"

[War criminal and Rockefeller family protege Henry Kissinger died on November 29, 2023 at the age of 100, escaping justice for his crimes against humanity. -- Ed.]

WANTED

For War Crimes and Human Rights Abuses in Cambodia, Chile, and Indonesia



Henry Kissinger

Description:

The Trials of Henry Kissinger focuses on Henry Kissinger and his role in America's secret bombing of Cambodia in 1969, the approval of Indonesia's genocidal assault on East Timor in 1975, the assassination of a Chilean general in 1970, and his involvement in the 1969 Paris peace talks concerning the Vietnam Conflict.

STAMPEDE

Continued From Page 19

on all of this, as if this state of affairs were the acceptable "new normal." Some thoughts were now just too dangerous. Some people had to be silenced, for the protection of everyone. People who raised concerns about things like Constitutional rights weren't just cautious or skeptical. They were selfish. They were immoral. They were a danger to society. Something had to be "done" about them.

People couldn't help themselves—this was fight-or-flight reaction writ large, stirred up and inflamed 24/7 by all of those screens echoing and amplifying the same terrifying narrative. Lines were drawn. Sides were taken. Friendships were destroyed. Families torn apart. And an unprecedented kind of techno-medical authoritarianism was ushered in, enthusiastically supported in the righteous name of goodness, safety and caring. Doctors and nurses were transformed into flawless, heroic figures, medicine and "the science" became an infallible doctrine received from on high, obedience to government orders became a noble moral obligation.

Questioning any of this was apostasy and treason.

Today, after three lonnnng years, things now seem to be slowly drifting back towards "old normal," with many restrictions lifted and even the Times acknowledging the uselessness of masking mandates in preventing the spread of disease. Yet all of the mechanisms which drove us into this reactionary frenzy are still in place. Indeed, they have long been there, which is why I've focused relentlessly on the media's function as a mechanism of state power and social control on this page, since well before 2020. For those of us who could see through the surface of those constant Covid weather reports, the pandemic wasn't so much a shocking transformation as a great unmasking of the totalitarian machine that has been quietly built over many decades. When push came to shove, the mask of "democracy" slipped away, and something truly malevolent was revealed.

It's still there, waiting for the next crisis.



COP CITY

Continued From Page 14

“those who backed their [the protest group’s] illegal actions are also under arrest and will face justice.”

One of the 42 protesters charged with domestic terrorism is Priscilla Grim, who spent 31 days in jail before being bailed out. Grim was in New York City in early July 2023, honored at the Reverend Billy Talen’s Church of Stop Shopping on Avenue C, where she wiped tears from her eyes as she was serenaded by the church choir.

Grim tells **The SHADOW** that she was charged with terrorism for “wearing black and being in a forest.” Now, she says, although DA Boston has recused her office from the case, AG Carr is not backing down. She says the move is strictly political and that the domestic terrorism charges are “illegitimate, absurd, ridiculous and it has to be stopped.”

Grim adds that, as a condition of bail, she has to check in with pre-trial services. “It’s like being on probation without being found guilty,” she said. Grim is not allowed to enter the forest or talk with other protesters, she has lost her job and has had bank her account closed by authorities.

Activist attorney Stanley Cohen has filed a “Writ of Habeas Corpus” on behalf of his client Ariel Ebaugh, claiming that the 22 year old forest defender is being “punished for her freedom of speech.” Cohen told **The SHADOW** that the charges are painted with a “broad brush” for political gain by governor Kemp. He calls the domestic terror charges “a bizarre political gesture and little else.”

Cohen says there is also a new Georgia statute empowering the governor to name a five person committee to “force out” local DAs who do not prosecute laws vigorously enough, which allows removal of DAs going after former President Donald Trump, who is being investigated for alleged election tampering by the state.

A day after the Atlanta city council voted 11-4 to approve \$31 million in public funding for COP CITY, in June 2023, a campaign was launched to round up 75,000 signatures on a petition to force a referendum.

DEATH IN THE FOREST

During a January 18, 2023 raid on the Stop Cop City encampment, Georgia state troopers shot and killed 26 year old Venezuelan forest defender Manuel Esteban Paez Terán, known as Tortuguita (“Little Turtle”). According to police, a trooper was shot, though they have refused to identify him, which is unusual in cases where an officer is shot.



The Georgia Bureau of Investigation [GBI] claims that Tortuguita was shot after the activist allegedly shot the trooper, though an examiner determined that there was no visible gunpowder residue on Tortuguita’s hands. According to the autopsy, he was shot “at least” 57 times, including in the head, coup d’grace style, in the fusillade of police bullets. This raises the question that Tortuguita may have been murdered. The autopsy report also lists the killing as a homicide.

RICO RAGE

The state of Georgia has been considering various means of prosecuting protesters under more punishing laws than the usual misdemeanors set aside for demonstrations that get out of hand.

In January 2023, governor Kemp declared a state of emergency in response

to COP CITY protests, calling up 1,000 Georgia National Guard troops who were empowered to “subdue riot and unlawful assembly” at the COP CITY site. The last time Kemp called out the troops was to guard his mansion during the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020 after the police murder of George Floyd.

Kemp branded COP CITY protesters as “out of state rioters” who “tried to bring violence to the streets of our capital city,” claiming it was “just the latest example of why here in Georgia, we’ll always back the blue.” Kemp’s statements came a few days after the police killing of Tortuguita.

COP CITY protesters have warned that the state is planning to charge them under state racketeering [RICO] charges meant for organized crime figures. The federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act [RICO] statute, created and passed into law in 1970, allows prosecutors to bring charges against multiple people accused of committing separate crimes as being part of a larger conspiracy or criminal organization. Under RICO, arrestees are charged with felonies with a 20 year maximum sentence and the possibility of massive fines starting at \$25,000. While RICO has rarely been used against organized criminals, it has been mostly used for extortion-related crimes.

The RICO statute was so broadly worded it was soon deployed against environmentalists and other protesters. The law was eventually reformed to hinder that kind of prosecutorial misuse at the federal level, but various states across the country have started passing their own version of RICO laws.

Donald Samuels is an Atlanta attorney representing COP CITY protesters. He tells **The SHADOW** that the state of Georgia wants to use the violent acts of a few protesters in order to target organizers of much larger non violent actions as part of a RICO conspiracy. He says that under RICO, the state can “prosecute everybody by virtue of being in the group.”

Samuels adds that, if a few protesters are charged with “domestic terrorism,” even someone only busted for trespassing could be roped into heavier felony charges. Samuels says he is mostly worried about sections of the RICO law that allows for seizures of funds. He says “it makes me nervous when they throw around terms like ‘domestic terrorism’ that could lead to financial contributors to the protests organizations and legal helpers like the ACLU [American Civil Liberties Union] having their bank accounts seized by the state.”

FUSION POWER

The Department of Homeland Security [DHS] is part of the executive branch of the United States government, formed in 2003 in response to the events of September 11, 2001. DHS is responsible for “anti terrorism,” border policing and cyber-security, as well as “disaster management.”

DHS is a vast agency with a quarter million employees, the third largest department of the president’s cabinet after Defense and Veterans Affairs and is closely co-ordinated with the White House.

After September 11, 2001, The National Network of Fusion Centers was formed, with the purpose of sharing information between federal agencies like DHS, the FBI and the Department of Justice, along with state, local and tribal cops. There are currently 79 fusion centers recognized by DHS.

The purpose of Fusion Centers is simply to spy on and monitor lawful dissent throughout the United States. Fusion centers gather raw information, in other words slander, libel and defamation, regarding activists of different political bents, that are then re-gurgitated by DHS through its semi regular National Terrorism Advisor Bulletin.

On May 24, 2023, the Bulletin alleged “Domestic Violence Extremists in Georgia have “cited anarchist violent extremism, animal rights/environmental violent extremism, and anti law enforcement sentiment to justify criminal activity in opposition to a planned public safety training facility in Atlanta.”

A former senior intelligence counsel

in the Office of the General Counsel of DHS is Spencer Reynolds, now counsel in the Brennan Center for Justice’s Liberty and National Security Program. Reynolds tells **The SHADOW** that fusion centers “lack oversight,” and can damage activists by gathering random and unproven social media postings and un-sourced rumors and then reproducing specious reports under DHS letterheads, giving false allegations undeserved credibility.

A writer with the libertarian CATO Institute cited instances where fusion centers gave ridiculous allegations a patina of legitimacy, such as accusing the ACLU of “suspicious activity” for sending a letter to schools in Tennessee advising against recognizing “one religious holiday,” because schools were favoring Christmas over others. The fusion center listed the slur against the ACLU under “general terrorism news,” where it remained for years, even after a state official admitted the allegation of terrorism against the ACLU was wrong.

Fusion centers are part of a pattern of increased domestic spying by police agencies. The ACLU says: “Law enforcement agencies across America continue to monitor and harass groups and individuals for doing little more than peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights.”

In New York City, for example, FBI and DHS officials approached persons jailed after mass arrests by NYPD during protests following the May 2020 police murder of George Floyd, under the guise of wanting to “talk to people” without the usual protection of an arrested person’s right to remain silent and have an attorney present.

Reynolds says that fusion centers have

surveilled journalists, chilled activism and operate in a “murky and opaque” environment spreading “malicious and evil” information meant to back up cops looking for warrants against protesters.

Reynolds says the arrests of the three Atlanta Solidarity Fund activists on money-laundering charges came with “domestic violence extremism terminology” that was used to justify the bust. According to Reynolds, there’s a place in law enforcement for collecting public information that would lead to a murderous Manson-style cult, but he adds, DeKalb County, Georgia fusion centers are more likely to be used to “undermine social movements.”

Meanwhile in Atlanta, the NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People] Legal Defense Fund, called the DeKalb district attorney’s decision to drop charges against protesters a “welcome development,” but added that it “also deepens our serious concern about whether these arrests have been motivated by something other than an impartial and objective evaluation of the evidence or a just exercise of prosecutorial discretion.”

As Governor Kemp signed a law in May 2023 that established an “oversight board” appointed by him that can remove “rogue or incompetent prosecutors who refuse to uphold the law,” activists who want to stop COP CITY are asking where the “oversight” is over “rogue” fusion centers and right wing politicians.

[Paul DeRienzo is host of The News with Paul DeRienzo, available at Soundcloud.com. For up-to-date information, visit stopcop.city - Ed.]

MAY 17, 2024 UPDATE: Since this article was written in the Fall of 2023, there have been significant changes in the COP CITY prosecution. Not long after I filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus challenging the constitutionality of the Georgia State domestic terrorism statute, the DeKalb County district attorney withdrew from prosecuting anyone arrested. Shortly thereafter, the Fulton County district attorney withdrew from prosecuting anyone connected with COP CITY. These recusals left the prosecution solely in the hands of the state attorney general.

After a number of months of inaction with regard to my challenge of the domestic terrorism statute in state court, I filed a Writ of Mandamus in federal court in the northern district of Georgia, challenging the constitutionality of the domestic terrorism statute on the grounds of the First Amendment. Not long after, an indictment was returned in Fulton County, charging 61 defendants, not with domestic terrorism, but with a RICO prosecution by the same grand jury which returned a RICO indictment against Donald Trump.

In addition, a number of defendants were charged with domestic terrorism for allegations of firebombing and destruction of police cars and precincts. The first time, charges included money laundering allegations against activists involved with fund raising and financing the defense of many protestors.

Several months ago, a few defendants moved for a speedy trial, thus severing their case from almost all the other defendants. When that speedy trial motion failed, they moved to dismiss the indictment, which was denied and which is on appeal, as of now.

The RICO charge is filled with ridiculous overt acts, such as receiving \$11.00 for reimbursement for a tube of glue, providing \$12.58 for reimbursement for a kitchen material in the forest, leafletting against COP CITY, and persons wearing camouflage at demonstrations. While the indictment did contain some allegations of violence, they were very few. Interestingly, a demonstrator murdered by police during one of the forest raids is not mentioned anywhere in the indictment.

To date, there have been tens of thousands of pages of discovery provided, with much still outstanding and untimely. In addition, thousands of mega-bytes of surveillance intercepts and monitoring are part of that discovery. Just this past week, the defense team submitted some 100 motions in this case, on top of 50 which were previously filed some six weeks ago.

There is no trial date that has been set, there have been no decisions on the motions, and it remains to be seen when the case will come to trial. Of interest, the Georgia state legislature has recently moved to amend the statute I challenged, making it not more constitutional, but less.

In sum, the prosecution of the COP CITY protestors and movement is clearly an attempt by the governor and attorney general to curry political favor and publicity and has absolutely nothing to do with unlawful dissent. It remains a fundamental attack on speech, assembly, and association, which will fail.

- Stanley Cohen



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Continued From Page 11

PROPAGANDA MINISTRY

“anti science” sentiment.

An excerpt from Grey Health’s “Science Will Win” web page reads:

“With the rising tide of scepticism, division, and anti-science sentiment becoming more pervasive in society, Pfizer asked Grey to help answer the call. Pfizer was prepared to commit its size and resources to pioneer science at scale, and needed help in communicating its message. The onset of COVID 19 only then made this task more urgent than ever.

“Partnering with Pfizer, Grey unveiled an optimistic, hopeful campaign called “Science Will Win.” The impact was immediately recognized around the world. Substantial reputation uplifts included a supporting message by President Joe Biden, the EU President, and amplifying social media content from doctors, scientists, and patients all around the world.

“The impacts to brand and business were immediate. The campaign helped drive a decrease in the ratio of science versus anti-science posts by 33%. After the campaign, 40% of American respondents expressed they now had a more favorable view of pharma. In this case, science did win.”

The modern day Mad Men have succeeded in shifting the meaning of anti vs pro-science from the issues of, for example, evolution - as the battle lines were drawn through most of the 20th century - to being pro vs anti-vaccine and indeed pro vs anti-Big Pharma. In this manner, Big Pharma becomes synonymous with science in the corporate 21st century.

VMLY+R is currently in the middle of a campaign to push Pfizer’s bivalent Covid 19 booster shot, in which smooth voiced crooner John Legend sings his hit Honey while drinking actual honey out of a transparent piano and displaying a band aid on his freshly inoculated arm a series of seemingly irrelevant images intended to present a subliminal whole. Will it result in an increase in sales of honey, John Legend’s music, or Pfizer’s shots?

The advertising industry has long known that a commodity is a commodity. And that advertising is advertising, and that government propaganda is just advertising in a different form.

AD COUNCIL BEGINNING

It is easy to segue from the saga of Y+R to that of the Ad Council, because it is just one step from advertising and PR monopoly to the propaganda ministry of the U.S. ruling class. By the time of World War II, Y+R and its satellite ad agencies had already created an instrument of mass influence to rival any church or political party, and there was no telling how far Madison Avenue would strive to penetrate into the hearts and minds of America. As

benefits such an instrument, it was first used as a weapon of war.

The inception of the Ad Council was marked by a speech given by Y+R co-founder James Webb Young at a gathering of the 4As, an early umbrella organization of advertising agencies, on November 14, 1941. Entitled “What Shall We Do About It?” Young’s speech suggested the idea of pro-bono advertising, including the creation of a cross agency organization that could bring the entire advertising industry together in service of “social good.” At that time, Young and his colleagues announced the foundation of their new “Advertising Council.” Three weeks later, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and Young’s vision all too quickly found its purpose. In February 1942, the Advertising Council was re-baptized as the “War Advertising Council.”

The Council’s first campaign was “Buy War Bonds,” followed by “Women in War Jobs,” which spawned the iconic “We Can Do It” poster with its image of “Rosie the Riveter,” as well as “Loose Lips Sink Ships,” to remind Americans to keep their mouths shut about what was going on around them.

With the U.S. government as its client, the War Advertising Council produced hundreds of thousands of individual items of propaganda to encourage people to behave in ways that were considered conducive to winning the war. Rationing, conservation, the planting of “victory gardens” and even preventing the spread of venereal disease among soldiers were all the subject of War Advertising Council poster campaigns. The materials themselves were printed and distributed by the Office of War Information Bureau of Graphics.

The present day Ad Council has criticized its WWII era self for having “...stoked paranoia of non-white Americans and foreigners, including particularly disparaging portrayals of Japanese people.” The Council has conveyed a great many messages that would be considered to be of a “liberal” character, and even its war propaganda was propaganda for a liberal war against fascism and aggression. Although it is debatable whether the rich people who run all of these ad agencies can really be called liberal, the Ad Council has certainly played its role in defining what could be called “liberal capitalism” for each generation. During WWII, it might have been liberal to mock fascist Emperor Hirohito and suggest that all Japanese were buck-toothed and near-sighted like him, whereas in the 21st century, liberal capitalism abhors anti-Asian sentiments, with the Ad Council coming up with public service announcements for “Diversity, Inclusion, and Acceptance.”

During the war, one of the fears that the government stoked was of the enemy igniting forest fires for purposes of sabotage. There had been some attempts by the Japanese military to hit the Pacific Northwest with incendiary devices delivered from balloons and light planes. The

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Ad Council came up with the personage of “Smokey the Bear” to remind people to be vigilant about incipient forest fires, which carried over into the post-war era in a civilian context, even though Smokey was originally a more patriotic figure enlisting the public in this firefighting aspect of the war effort.

In the aftermath of the war, President Harry Truman met with Young to discuss ways in which the Ad Council could continue to function as America’s Orwellian “Ministry of Truth” with a human face. From the late 1940s through the 1960s, the Ad Council produced PSAs that trashed communism and boosted the virtues of free enterprise. This coincided with Y+R’s covert efforts to bar actors that it deemed “subversive” from early TV. By enlisting personages such as Eleanor Roosevelt in these PSAs, they put a liberal face on the Cold War and McCarthy era.

The Ad Council has also apologized for its “Crying Indian” campaign for stereotyping Native Americans via an Italian actor, “Iron Eyes” Cody, who, in made up Indian garb, sheds a single emotional tear over the desecration of nature by littering Americans. This was part of the “Keep America Beautiful” ad campaign of the 1970s. In spite of the political incorrectness however, the Ad Council glibly claims on its web site that this campaign “reduced littering by 88%” calculated by whatever formula.

The job of the Ad Council is to get some sort of image or slogan into the heads of the public. Analogous with Smokey the Bear, they made up “McGruff the Crime Dog” to push co-operation

with the cops. They spread the slogan “Just Say No to Drugs” in partnership with Nancy Reagan and the White House. They have evolved in parallel with liberal capitalism. They have turned the militancy and defiance of gay activists of the 1960s and 1970s into the slogan “Love Has No Labels” in the 21st century. One thing for sure is that when gay people were actually fighting for their rights, the Ad Council and Mad Men would have had nothing to do with it. It is only when something becomes sellable that the advertising industry jumps on board.

The Ad Council’s activities can be generally described as placing the responsibility for public issues on individuals and deflecting pressure for corporate responsibility, particularly in the face of activism and consumerism in the latter half of the twentieth century.

The Council’s “Keep America Beautiful” anti littering campaign, for example, was sponsored by the disposable container industry, then under pressure to institute recycling. The subtle, if not subliminal message, was that it was individuals with their callous habits of throwing bottles and cans out of their cars that was spoiling nature, not the way companies marketed throwaway items for maximum profit.

The Ad Council has in common with the advertising industry itself that it propagandizes the public. They do not press the government or private industry to change their ways. Their job is to get individuals in society to adjust themselves to the goals of the ruling class precisely so that the ruling class does not have to adjust their goals to what is good for society.





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- **WEAPONS OF MASS DECEPTION:** There were two wars going on in Iraq. One was fought with armies of soldiers, bombs and a fearsome military force. The other was fought alongside it with cameras, satellites, armies of journalists, and propaganda techniques. One war was rationalized as an effort to find and remove Weapons of Mass Destruction. The other was carried out by even more powerful Weapons of Mass Deception. Put together by Danny Schechter ("The News Dissector") of Globalvision. **Highly Recommended!** 98 min. \$15.00

AUDIO

- **THE BATTLE OF TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK: SHADOW** and WBAI radio journalist Paul DeRienzo provides an on-the-scene battlefield report during the Tompkins Square Police Riot of August 6, 1988. (CD) Approx. 45 min. \$6.00
- **YOUTH INTERNATIONAL PARTY (YIPPIE) 50TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE (1967-2017):** Features the entire album **Wake Up America** made by Abbie Hoffman and friends in 1971, with a bonus track of Abbie, plus musical tracks and sound bites. (2 CDs) Approx. 2 hrs. \$30.00

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