



From The Wilderness

A Nonpartisan Non-sectarian MAP from the Here That Is, Into the Tomorrow of Our Own Making

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WE DID IT!

by
Michael C. Ruppert

World's Seven Largest Economies (G7) Admit They Have No Idea How Much Oil Is Left - Issue Emergency Call for Transparency at DC Summit

A Challenge to the Flat-Earth, Abiotic Oil Advocates and Cornucopian Economists - It's Now or Never

WASHINGTON, Oct 1 (Reuters) - Worried soaring oil prices could hurt the best global prospects in years, finance chiefs from wealthy nations met on Friday to try to work out what lay behind the surge and how to buffer the economic expansion.

Group of Seven finance ministers and central bankers met at the tightly guarded U.S. Treasury building over lunch and were to work through the afternoon before a dinner with Chinese counterparts that has currency reform on the menu.

The officials will set out their world-view at about 5:45 p.m. EDT (2145 GMT) in a communiqué sources said would include a call to bolster oil-market monitoring to make it easier to discern if scarce supply, hefty demand or market speculation lay behind crude's drive to record levels.

The answer to this question is critical.

It could affect policy responses big oil consumers must adopt -- higher interest rates to stem inflation or a renewed focus on finding new energy sources -- and may offer key information on how long the price rise will last.

On Friday, U.S. crude oil futures topped \$50 a barrel.

(Cont'd on page 3)

From the Wilderness

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

We Did It!	page 1
Jurassic Park: Pseudo-events, and Prisons (Part V)...	page 2
Abiotic Oil	page 10
Beyond Peak Oil	page 11
Persian Peril (Part II).....	page 15
Draft Extradition Update	page 22

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Jurassic Park, Pseudo-events, and Prisons:

The fallout from US Torture at Abu Ghraib in Baghdad; Basra; Mosul; Bagram AFB in Afghanistan; Ad Nauseam

(Part V)

By Stan Goff

[If the "war on terror" were real, it would involve the cessation of American terrorism against everybody else. It would also require a serious examination of anti-American motives, since nobody on Planet Grownup can possibly imagine people blowing themselves up for some abstract hatred of American "freedom." The Israel-Palestine war-of-attribution would have to be examined (preferably while We the People are wearing our thinking caps, having taken off those super-cool hats that hold two beer cans each). Only a carefully historical reappraisal of thwarted Arab nationalism can return "our enemies" to the one interpretive category in which they can possibly be disarmed: human beings with grievances.

Here Stan Goff encapsulates that enormous story of betrayal, disgrace, and disaster. The metaphor of hubristic monster-building applies just as cogently as it has in previous installations of this long-running FTW series: Jurassic Park. With the failure of multi-polar geostrategic tension, every ancient hatred is astir, goaded by water-scarcity, Peak Oil, an Israeli policy of brutality and a century's diplomacy of lies. Today all the demons are awake, and among the noises which woke them, the riot of American sadism (lately manifest in the torture at Abu Ghraib, Basra, Mosul, Bagram AFB, et cetera) has been the loudest.

Thus Stan Goff: "The key to the whole strategy was establishment of permanent forward staging bases for the projection of US military power into Southwest Asia - the heart that pumps the black blood to the rest of the world. What was awakened by this plan was the Israeli itch to expand." -JAH]

SEPTEMBER 22, 2004: 1200 PDT (FTW) -- In the film *Jurassic Park*, there are four consultants who are brought to the island to write testimonials for investors: a paleontologist, a paleo-botanist, a lawyer, and a chaos theorist. When they have only just arrived, their tour jeeps pull onto a grassy hill and stop. One at a time, their startled heads turn to see a living brontosaurus.

(Cont'd on page 6)

(Cont'd from page 1)

RISKS RISING

"High and volatile oil prices pose a risk to the outlook, dampening consumer spending and company profitability," Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, warned on Friday. He said it was vital for the G7 "to improve the transparency and the efficiency of the oil market."

G7 sources said a document released on Friday by Brown laying out his calls for improved energy market data would form the basis of language on oil in the ministers' communiqué.

After the half-day formal meeting, G7 ministers will sit down with China for a working dinner billed as an historic chance to bring the Asian giant into the fold and discuss its plans to ease a peg of its yuan... to the dollar...

The G7 gathering comes ahead of weekend meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank...

Ministers are seeking energy market transparency to discover if world oil supplies may be scantier than they thought in May when they urged producers to open the spigots...

Another G7 official suggested the rise in oil costs was rooted in such fundamental factors as over-estimated supplies and was not solely due to speculation.

There is "a recognition that oil resources are scarcer than was thought a few years ago," the official said. "We agree there is a need for more transparency on the potential supply of various areas."

If scarcity is the chief culprit, the oil price shock may not prove as temporary as hoped, the official said. [emphasis added]

OCTOBER 4, 2004: 0800 PDT (FTW) -- Oil has broken \$50 a barrel. Financial pundits such as T. Boone Pickens have said that we will see \$60 oil before we see \$40 oil again (if ever). In the G7 and around the world from the Philippines, to Brunei, to Scotland, to New Zealand, to China, to Thailand, to Japan, to Britain, to the US, many nations are either urgently looking at and discussing impending economic collapse, blackouts and food shortages. Others are already experiencing blackouts, brownouts, power cutbacks, or projecting possible lethal power outages this winter. Economic concerns may very soon be pushed aside by of simple survival.

China's food production has been plummeting for years and overall the entire planet is yielding less and less food which requires ten calories of hydrocarbon energy for every calorie eaten.

Two examples: In New Zealand, the news website stuff.co.nz reported on October 1 that the country's oil supplies were "on a knife edge". In the Philippines on September 25, the *Manila Bulletin Online* ran a story headlined, "Energy Chief: Gov't Working to Address looming Crisis". India has begun hoarding oil, paying above-market prices to create a "strategic petroleum reserve" like America's.

All this is happening with a current global population of six and one half billion, expected to exceed nine billion by mid-century.

For three years (and in many cases far longer) a group of dedicated men and women, recognized as being in the forefront of the movement to place Peak Oil front-and-center on the world's agenda, have endured intense resistance - personal attacks, bureaucratic "barricades," disinformation, and more - to convey one message and one message only: The peak of world oil production is at hand now. With it come the most serious questions ever to confront our species. Their names include: Colin Campbell, Kjell Aleklett, Jean Laherrère, Kenneth Deffeyes, Matthew Simmons, Richard Heinberg, Julian Darley, Barrie Zwicker, Ali Samsam Bakhtiari, Michael Klare, Adam Porter, Andreas von Bülow, Richard Duncan, Walter Youngquist, Jay Hanson, Marshall Auerback, The Electric Wallpaper film company, FTW's Dale Allen Pfeiffer, Stan Goff and me (among many others).

Recent statements by the G7 group of nations and other breaking news stories have now irrevocably placed Peak Oil on the table. The bottom line is that the G7 have admitted that demand has outpaced supply and that due to cooked books and secrecy, they really have no idea how much oil is left, or available for production (two different questions). Within months there will be no more important story on the planet. After that, and as the G7 must begin to offer explanations and answers for all mankind - let alone the soon-to-be anachronistic financial markets - we will be there, dogging every announcement with our research. And we will be demanding honest answers.

In various forms and degrees, panic may ensue. Resource wars over Peak Oil and scarcity began officially on September 11th 2001 and they are now proliferating through a multitude of "proxy" wars from Southeast Asia, to the Caucasus, to West Africa (Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea among others), to Georgia, to Chechnya.

As *FTW* has always insisted, the principal objective of these Peak Oil activists was to get to this point of admission sooner rather than later; openly, rather than in secret, so that all of the human race, especially that majority not concerned solely with stock portfolios, net profits, share value or return on investment could have a say in a debate which will assuredly impact everyone's chances for survival and, most importantly, the future of all the world's children.

I hope I speak for all of us when I say that whatever we have endured, it was worth it.

We were right and this can no longer be ignored. We did it. We got Peak Oil on the table and we did it before the 2004 US presidential election. Now the next question is: Will either of the candidates mention it before we vote? To do so would instantly commit the entire planet to begin looking "transparently" in one degree or another for options based upon more than economic and financial considerations. As Colin Campbell, founder of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas wrote recently, "This is the end of economics."

It is my belief that the G7 already has a good idea of how dire the situation is, and are well into discussing "options" which they don't want the rest of us to know about.

For all those critics who charge that there is an abundant supply of abiotic oil, or oil produced ad infinitum from the earth's mantle we ask, "Where is it?" They have argued that we Peak Oil activists have all been shills for oil companies seeking profits and for markets seeking greater gouged returns. The G7 has just admitted that the world economy is threatened today, not tomorrow. How does it benefit oil companies or markets if no one can buy their goods and services, or if there is no power to use them with? Now is the time for these critics to produce their vast limitless energy resources, because the G7 has just admitted that everything's falling apart. (As if we hadn't noticed.) That's what these "critics" argued would happen when the time came: there would be some magic switcheroo, and a new energy source would be unveiled.

Traditional economists are cornucopians: they calculate as if markets were magical sources of goods, with no ecological limits of any kind. Oil scarcity does not exist for them because they ignore it. Abiotic oil advocates believe that petroleum can be created without ancient biomass, and that it exists in terrific abundance at depths feasible for massive extraction. Oil scarcity does not exist for them because they deny it. Both groups dismiss Peak Oil at the peril of the world community, and in doing so they protect the disastrously naïve public confidence in this doomed system - a confidence expressed in lucrative stock prices, mortgages, and futures.

Perhaps these "flat earth" economists and abiotic oil partisans should shift their attacks from the Peak Oil advocates to the oil companies whose share value, it seems, they have been (wittingly or unwittingly) protecting. For those who state that throwing money at the problem will solve it, how long were you all - especially pundits like Daniel Yergin - planning to wait before proving that you were right? How many people are to die in how many wars and how many are to freeze or lose their jobs before you show the rest of us this magical energy or this limitless oil you have been assuring us was there?

One cannot materialize a hot dog in a bank vault no matter how much money is there. The earth is a bank vault and we are all collectively locked inside it.

Show us the oil! People are dying now. The G7 has done everything but state that this is just the beginning unless more oil is found. Remember that it can take three years to bring a new oil field (once found) online. Don't attack us anymore. You have said there is an easy solution. Produce it for us all, even for yourselves. For you are not immune to what is coming. We have tried to warn even you. As *FTW's* energy editor Dale Allen Pfeiffer once wrote to me, "Peak Oil will defend itself quite nicely."

Put up or shut up.

One simple fact has never changed. Before oil can be produced it must first be found. Global oil discoveries peaked in 1964 and have been declining for 40 years. M. King Hubbert predicted the US oil production peak to occur 40 years after US oil discoveries peaked around 1930. He was right. Last year not a single field of 500 million barrels was discovered (for the first time since the 1920s) anywhere on the planet. The world uses a billion barrels of oil every eleven and one half days. We are now roughly 40 years after the peak of global discovery. This simple arithmetic has never changed. The outcome hasn't changed either.

China, in a desperate attempt to secure oil, is looking to build a pipeline across Burma to the Indian Ocean, thereby avoiding the increasingly dangerous and volatile Straits of Malacca and South China Sea (*Asia Times*, Sept. 22, 2004). China is also rushing to build a pipeline from Kazakhstan eastward through Central Asia from the Caspian basin, across hostile and expansive territory, some of it close to regions occupied by the US military in Kyrgyzstan. The US has been encircling China militarily since September 12th 2001. China is also cold calling on countries from Iran, to Saudi Arabia, to Venezuela, to West Africa offering large payouts for any oil it can get. More than two years ago *FTW* predicted this as we described China as the "endgame" of Peak Oil.

Please see:

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/092502_endgame.html.

These developments come even as it is apparent that Russia is only going to build one pipeline from Siberia eastward and it will serve Japan, Korea, the Philippines and possibly Malaysia - instead of China. The world's second largest oil importer is projected to have more trucks and cars than the US by 2030. Its economy is still growing at about 7% a year in spite of power shortages and blackouts in Shanghai and elsewhere, which have slowed production at American, Japanese and Korean-owned plants full of outsourced labor. Like its geostrategic and economic competitors, China is desperate for oil. These are not FTW's words. Why don't you report that, Lou Dobbs?

As the *Straits Times* reported on October 2, 2004:

'It's the attitude of the Myanmar government. Now they agree to have discussions. Previously, they refused,' Prof Wang told the media, suggesting that Beijing had put the pipeline on its drawing board.

'China's need for oil is great and urgent. Any pipeline, any route, would be beneficial.'

Almost every nation is now in a scramble for energy. On September 14, as reported in the *Independent*, Tullow oil, one of Britain's largest oil companies, warned of blackouts and heating shortages this winter. Why? The North Sea fields are drying up faster than a pair of swim trunks on a hot summer day. A *Times of London* story the same day warned of power cuts this winter, along with shortages of heating oil. These developments prompted Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown to warn the G7 on October 1 that oil prices were a threat to global economic "recovery" (Reuters). Isn't it amazing that the financial guys never talk about survival? They only talk about growth and recovery. That's why economics and the current financial paradigm need to go the way of the Dinosaurs and Saber-toothed tigers almost immediately.

As we have said from the start, and as I conclude in my just-released book *Crossing the Rubicon: The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil*, we will change nothing at all and we will come, collectively as a species, to a sad and miserable end unless we first change the way money works. That, and nothing less, will make a sizeable difference in the outcome.

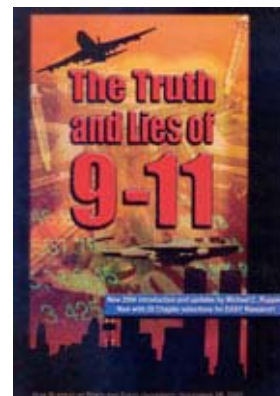
Michael C. Ruppert
October 3, 2004

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Review copies of *Crossing the Rubicon* have been requested by more than 120 press agencies from around the world, including the largest and most powerful. While I do not know yet what kind of reviews we will receive, I do know that the world is paying very close attention to what I have written. Although the book has not yet been officially released we have been bouncing around the upper 1% of the Amazon best-seller list with an unreleased book and have been told that this is extremely rare. As of October 3 our ranking was 180 out of more than a million titles. This is unheard of.

At present the only copies available (shipping since last week) are from the FTW web site at www.fromthewilderness.com. We have 15,000 in stock and they are going quickly. We did this because we knew that we had to control both the marketing and shipping of the book. We have studied and learned from the lessons given us by great authors like L. Fletcher Prouty, Peter Dale Scott, and Gerard Colby. New Society Publishers has announced a ship date to retail outlets (both online and in stores) of October 16th. Major outlets are indicating shipping dates varying from October 20th to November 6th (four days after the election).

This book may change the outcome of the election and I encourage you who want to understand this battle over Peak Oil and what it means for your families to get your copies today. It truly is information that may save your life. - MCR]

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(Cont'd from page 2)

The chaotician and the lawyer are sitting together, and the chaotician exclaims, "You crazy son-of-a-bitch, you did it." The lawyer, who until now had been skeptical and preoccupied with issues of liability, gasps *sotto voce*, "We're gonna make a fortune on this place."

Perhaps he worked for Halliburton.

* * *

The Zionist invasion of Palestine began with the help of wealthy Palestinians: absentee landlords, to be precise. While this can be (and has been) overstated as a way to justify Zionist settlement in Palestine, it was a pragmatic mechanism by which the Zionists gained a geographical foothold.

Palestinian society was organized and stable, in a semi-feudal structure with the *effendi* (big landowners) owning most of the agricultural land, which was worked by peasant tenants. In the cities there was a vigorous comprador trade, particularly with the Ottoman Empire. Palestinian Jews dwelt in this society without any overwhelming friction between Jew and Arab. As modernity began to encroach, more and more landlords used their fortunes to transform themselves into compradors, and some went abroad. It was this element that began to sell parcels of land, where they no longer lived but to which they held title, to Zionists - many of whom were giving support to the Turks in their genocide against the Armenians to curry their favor.

From this foothold on land purchased from absentee landlords, the Zionists aggressively pursued expansion. According to Ralph Schoenman:

In 1917, there were 56,000 Jews in Palestine and 644,000 Palestinian Arabs. In 1922, there were 83,794 Jews and 663,000 Arabs. In 1931, there were 174,616 Jews and 750,000 Arabs...

Poet Ghassan Kanafani writes:

Ownership by Jewish groups of urban and rural land rose from 300,000 dunums in 1929 [67,000 acres] to 1,250,000 dunums in 1930 [280,000 acres]. The purchased land was insignificant from the point of view of mass colonization and of the settlement of the "Jewish problem." But the expropriation of one million dunums - almost one third of the agricultural land - led to a severe impoverishment of Arab peasants and Bedouins.

By 1931, 20,000 peasant families had been evicted by the Zionists. Furthermore, agricultural life in the under-developed world, and the Arab world in particular, is not merely a mode of production, but equally a way of so-

*cial, religious and ritual life. Thus, in addition to the loss of land, Arab rural society was being destroyed by the process of colonization.*¹

This kind of social uprooting will inevitably lead to strife, but whether that strife leads to reorganization and progress or demoralization and victimization depends on indigenous leadership.

Palestine was controlled by the troops of the British Mandate, but they could not prevent a Palestinian revolt that lasted from 1936-1939. When the revolt overwhelmed the resources of the British, they armed the Zionists.

I want to include a somewhat lengthy excerpt from Schoenman here, because it lays out the class composition of the Palestinian struggle so clearly, and hints at the reasons for the fabled Arab "disunity" that western pundits so enjoy citing:

A Royal Commission was established in 1937, under the direction of Lord Peel, to determine the causes of the 1936 revolt. The Peel Commission concluded that the two primary factors were Palestinian desire for national independence and Palestinian fear of the establishment of a Zionist colony on their land. The Peel Report analyzed a series of other factors with uncommon candor. These were:

- 1. The spread of the Arab nationalist spirit outside Palestine;*
- 2. Increasing Jewish immigration after 1933;*
- 3. The ability of the Zionists to dominate public opinion in Britain because of the tacit support of the government;*
- 4. Lack of Arab confidence in the good intentions of the British government;*
- 5. Palestinian fear of continued land purchases by Jews from absentee feudal landowners who sold off their landholdings and evicted the Palestinian peasants who had worked the land;*
- 6. The evasiveness of the Mandatory government about its intentions regarding Palestinian sovereignty.*

The national movement consisted of the urban bourgeoisie, feudal landowners, religious leaders and representatives of peasants and workers.

Its demands were:

- 1. An immediate stop to Zionist immigration;*
- 2. Cessation and prohibition of the transfer of the ownership of Arab lands to Zionist colonists;*

3. *The establishment of a democratic government in which Palestinians would have the controlling voice...*

*originated in a concrete initiative taken by some Jews, to the detriment of the Arabs, namely, the plan to transform an Arab land into a Jewish state.*²

...Ghassan Kanafani described the uprising:

"The real cause of the revolt was the fact that the acute conflict involved in the transformation of Palestinian society from an Arab agricultural-feudal-clerical one into a Jewish (Western) industrial bourgeois one, had reached its climax ... The process of establishing the roots of colonialism and transforming it from a British mandate into Zionist settler colonialism ... reached its climax in the mid-thirties, and in fact the leadership of the Palestinian nationalist movement was obliged to adopt a certain form of armed struggle because it was no longer able to exercise its leadership at a time when the conflict had reached decisive proportions.

"The failure of the Mufti and other religious leaders, of feudal land owners and the nascent bourgeoisie to support the peasants and workers to the end, enabled the colonial regime and the Zionists to crush the rebellion after three years of heroic struggle. In this the British were aided decisively by the treachery of the traditional Arab regimes, who were dependent upon their colonial sponsors."

The "disunity" of Arabs has become a western academic and media legend because it fits so comfortably with western racial stereotypes, both of the crafty and clannish Jews and the backbiting, venal Arabs.

It is important to note in this regard that these racial-religious explanations serve to conceal the very real economic and politico-strategic agendas that are behind them. The British, and then the Americans who helped destroy British imperialism then moved to replace it, were concerned first and foremost with the threat of independence (Arab nationalism) in the region. And Palestinian resistance to Jewish immigration was not based on those immigrants' being Jewish, but on the expropriation of land.

That does not preclude the use of anti-Semitism (i.e., hatred against Jews in particular) by enemies of Zionism. It is this wrinkle that makes the Zionist demagoguery equating anti-Zionism to anti-Semitism even more effective. One can point to instances of Arabs and others using blatantly anti-Jewish language. As Maxime Rodinson pointed out in his comprehensive study of Zionism:

Arab propaganda against Zionism also frequently utilizes arguments and images borrowed from European anti-Semitism. That is deeply disagreeable, but it does not justify one in identifying the two phenomena. European anti-Semitism, in the sense of hatred of the Jews

The class contradictions inherent in a struggle of this type were not limited to the Palestinians, but were characteristic of every national liberation struggle against imperial domination. These same class contradictions are evident even in the struggles of internal oppressed nationalities in the United States, from Garveyism to the American Indian Movement.

It is not possible to put Zionism and its relation to US foreign policy into any perspective without relating it to the US struggle against Arab nationalism and the consequences of the destruction of Arab nationalism. Any meaningful sovereignty in the region explicitly threatens US control over more than half the world's energy.

That is precisely why the word "sovereignty" is being so exquisitely mangled by the Bush administration and the hack press right now to describe as "sovereign" a US-appointed government, protected by a US military occupation force.

Israel has been used as a weapon against Arab nationalism, while paradoxically Zionist incursions were one of the catalysts of this nationalism. Islamist political movements were supported by both the US and Israel as a counterbalance to secular nationalist currents.

Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya, or the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), is a case in point. This year, an Israeli Apache helicopter was used to assassinate Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the wheelchair-bound, paraplegic, spiritual leader of Hamas. But Hamas was registered in Israel by Yassin himself as a legal organization in 1978. That was feasible because Israelis and Americans saw Hamas as a clerical antagonist to the secular nationalism of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

This same strategy led to the Taliban.

But things sometimes turn into their opposites. History has transformed imperialist tools into anti-imperialists. How did Islamism do this? What has been its trajectory?

At the same time that Hamas was first being organized, in the late 70s, there was a revolution forming in Iran against the US puppet regime of Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi in the face of an economic crisis created in large part by Pahlavi's grandiose schemes at a time of terrible inflation and massive in-migration to the urban centers. Because of the Shah's devastating policies and the extreme repression he used to quell social unrest, and because he was identified with his American spon-

sors, the Iranian revolution took on an understandably bitter anti-American character. This animosity toward the US was shared by both secular and clerical sectors within the anti-Pahlavi movement. The exiled Shia cleric, Ayatollah Khomeini, who was well regarded in Iran as a personality who could bridge these sectors, was nurtured by the French to derail the Iranian communists who had been extremely instrumental in the resistance to Pahlavi. When we consolidated his power, he had 6,000 communist activists killed and transformed the Iranian state into a theocracy.

It is easy to lose the forest for the trees here by focusing overmuch on personalities, but bear in mind that this is the same period when the Carter Administration's CIA had begun to draw the Soviets into the Afghan trap, where the CIA was *supporting* the anti-communist theocratic militias of the future Taliban, just as they had recently supported Hamas as a counterweight to secular nationalism in Palestine.

Suddenly, Islamists were at the center of a revolution in a key oil state, Iran, and they had captured the US embassy on November 4, 1979, and taken 66 Americans hostage. Thirteen were released, but the other 53 were kept captive until dear departed Ronald Reagan was inaugurated on January 20, 1981.

This precipitated a political crisis for the Carter administration, and Jimmy Carter's fate was sealed with the failure of Operation Rice Bowl in April, 1980, the spectacular failure of Delta Force at its first real mission. Partisans of the future Reagan administration, veterans of the Bay of Pigs and others, were already in motion before the election cutting deals with the Iranians that eventually leaked as the Iran-Contra scandal. The Reagan administration veterans that followed have been largely put back into play today by Bush II, with Reagan's death-squad supporting Ambassador to Honduras, John Negroponte, now taking over as the "ambassador" (read: Viceroy) in Iraq.

The Islamists of the Iranian government moved to endorse Islamist Hamas in Palestine as well as Hezbollah in Lebanon, and there was a tectonic shift in regional forces. Friends were to be declared enemies, and enemies, friends.

Hamas was drawn into an anti-American orbit against their old supporters in the CIA as formerly anti-communist forces were transformed by events into anti-Americans.

Ronald Reagan's emissary, Donald Rumsfeld, was then sent to make friends with an Arab nationalist in order to cajole him into a war with Iran. That nationalist was Saddam Hussein. By 1990, with the Soviet Union crumbling,

we would glimpse the new realignment of forces in the world, a world where something would have to replace imperial multilateralism just as imperial multilateralism had replaced colonialism. Then Saddam - not because of his considerable crimes, but precisely because of the Ba'ath Party accomplishments in developing Iraq into a "modern" nation - would be transformed back into our enemy. In fact, during the Iran-Contra hearings, it became apparent, that the US betrayal of friend-Saddam was already being planned by 1985.

Hamas became effective first through the provision of badly needed social services in Gaza. This service provision has been the key to expansion of Hamas influence and prestige among Palestinians. The other event that contributed to their expansion was the decision by the PLO, under extreme pressure, to displace its headquarters from Palestine to Lebanon in the 80s, effectively ceding geographic Palestine to Hamas.

There is one factor, however, that has contributed more than any other to the increased standing of Hamas in recent years. That has been the consistent perfidy and betrayal of the Israeli government in every negotiation with the PLO and the Palestinian Authority. With the launching of the Intifada in the 90s, the ranks of Hamas swelled with new fighters, attracted by the unequivocal language of Hamas about an independent Palestinian state and the necessity to wage a protracted armed struggle against Israel.

Said Larry Johnson, a former State Department counterterrorism advisor, "The Israelis are their own worst enemies when it comes to fighting terrorism. They are like a guy who sets fire to his hair, then tries to put it out with a hammer."

But the facts are more subtle than that. The Israelis had already heavily infiltrated Hamas when they were supporting it against Arafat. While many of the collaborators inside Hamas have been identified and eliminated, some remain, and this accounts for the brutal efficacy of many Israeli operations against Hamas. Moreover, the right-wing within the Israeli government prefers a strong Hamas vis-à-vis the PLO, because they have no genuine intention of signing treaties worth any more than the treaties signed between the US government and the Indians. Hamas provides a better pretext for the creeping holocaust that will depopulate expanding Israel of those troublesome Arabs.

With Arab nationalism now apparently in tatters, with the Soviet counterbalance consigned to history, a new vision was conceived by the likes of Douglas Feith and Richard Perle and Dick Cheney. The "New American Century" of unbridled American power in which a Pax Americana presides over the shrinking world in which,

a Pax Americana presides over the shrinking world in which, like the Titanic, there are too few lifeboats and hard choices must be made.

The key to the whole strategy was establishment of permanent forward staging bases for the projection of US military power into Southwest Asia - the heart that pumps the black blood to the rest of the world. What was awakened by this plan was the Israeli itch to expand.

In October, 2003, as Ariel Sharon accelerated the slaughter of Palestinians and the destruction of ever more Palestinian homes, Lieutenant General "Jerry" Boykin, with whom I served in Delta in the early 80s, a quietly crazed evangelical religious fanatic, as a token of his deep appreciation of the necessity to win the hearts and minds of the region, was publicly declaring that Muslims did not worship a "real" God.

In the cases of both Sharon and Boykin, wrists were lightly slapped, and business went on as usual - damn the consequences. Some might say that this attests to the intractable stupidity of the Bush administration, which it very well might, but I want to post an alternative hypothesis.

There is seldom a singular cause for political policy. Most decisions are "over-determined," that is, made in the face of a relationship of forces originating in more than one phenomenon. It is very common knowledge that the Republican Party is lashed to a frighteningly large constituency of millenarian theocrats that believes with all its heart that the End Time is nigh, and that for Jesus to come and take them all home with him, Israel has to reclaim all the territory under the crown of David, bulldoze the Dome of the Rock, and rebuild the Temple that the Romans destroyed. This "mainstream" religion, which claims Bishop Boykin as one of its own, is far larger than the much-ballyhooed (even by proto-fascists like Buchanan) "Jewish Lobby."

This does not, however, take into account that Democrats are just as rabid in their support for Zionism as Republicans. When Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney dared to criticize unqualified US support for Israel, it was her own party that torpedoed her seat by running an AIPAC-financed Primary smear campaign that was unparalleled in its audacious mendacity and unbridled nastiness.

To coin a phrase, it's the region, it's the region, it's the region. Translated, that means, it's the oil, it's the oil, it's the oil.

The US government does not see Israel primarily as a political asset (or liability, for that matter). It sees it for

what it is: a force multiplier. For a few billion a year, Uncle Sam can maintain a lethal modern surrogate military on the very border of the world's biggest oil patch; one that is hostile in its very essence to the brown people who have the audacity to have encamped for these few centuries upon all that gasoline and fertilizer and plastic.

It should surprise no one that *US troops have been trained by the Israelis* for the occupation of Iraq, including in the fine arts of... ahem... interrogation.

It is not "Muslim paranoia" that invariably associates the occupation of Palestine with the occupation of Iraq. In a very real sense, if you just back up enough to get the whole perspective, this is absolutely accurate. That the Israelis want *lebensraum* and the water to live on it, and that the Americans want to control the oil to hang onto their doddering empire, does not negate the fact that these agendas are absolutely symbiotic.

US dependency on the Israelis as a mercenary force has only deepened as the grand strategy of Cheney, Perle, Wolfowitz, and Rumsfeld has sunk into the quagmire of an increasingly generalized Iraqi, *and regional*, resistance.

The resistance is fueled by anti-Zionism, and so the Bush administration now finds itself locked inside its own burning automobile, with what might be a lake or might be a mirage in the distance, and their only choice is to stamp down on the accelerator to try and get there in time to prevent their own immolation.

Perhaps the UN can rescue them. It is standing alongside the road. But standing there with it are a billion pissed-off human beings.

End of Part Five

*For more on US torture:

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Abiotic Oil: Science or Politics?

By
Ugo Bardi

[Ugo Bardi is professor of Chemistry at the University of Florence, Italy. He is also member of the ASPO (Association for the study of peak oil). He is the author of the book "La Fine del Petrolio" (The End of Oil) and of several studies on oil depletion.

Ugo Bardi offers a simple assessment of the abiotic theory. His logic is so clear, and the culmination of his argument is so cogent, that even a child could understand it. And the conclusion is inescapable - at least to honest enquiry - abiotic theory is false, or at best irrelevant. - DAP]

OCTOBER 4, 2004: 1300 PDT (FTW) -- For the past century or so, the biological origin of oil seemed to be the accepted norm. However, there remained a small group of critics who pushed the idea that, instead, oil is generated from inorganic matter within the earth's mantle.

The question might have remained within the limits of a specialized debate among geologists, as it has been until not long ago. However, the recent supply problems have pushed crude oil to the center stage of international news. This interest has sparked a heated debate on the concept of the "production peak" of crude oil. According to the calculations of several experts, oil production may reach a maximum within a few years and start a gradual decline afterwards.

The concept of "oil peak" is strictly linked to a view that sees oil as a finite resource. Several economists have never accepted this view, arguing that resource availability is determined by price and not by physical factors. Recently, others have been arguing a more extreme view: that oil is not even physically limited. According to some versions of the abiotic oil theory, oil is continuously created in the Earth's mantle in such amounts that the very concept of "depletion" is to be abandoned and, by consequence, that there will never be an "oil peak."

The debate has become highly politicized and has spilled over from geology journals to the mainstream press and to the fora and mailing lists on the internet. The proponents of the abiotic oil theory are often very aggressive in their arguments. Some of them go so far as to accuse those who claim that oil production is going to peak of pursuing a hidden political agenda designed to provide Bush with a convenient excuse for invading Iraq and the whole Middle East.

Normally, the discussion of abiotic oil oscillates between the scientifically arcane and the politically nasty. Even supposing that the political nastiness can be detected and removed, there remains the problem that the average non-specialist in petroleum geology can't hope to wade through the arcane scientific details of the theory (isotopic ratios, biomarkers, sedimentary layers and all that) without getting lost.

Here, I will try to discuss the origin of oil without going into these details. I will do this by taking a more general approach. Supposing that the abiogenic theory is right, then what are the consequences for us and for the whole biosphere? If we find that the consequences do not correspond to what we see, then we can safely drop the abiotic theory without the need of worrying about having to take a course in advanced geology. We may also find that the consequences are so small as to be irrelevant; in this case also we needn't worry about arcane geological details.

In order to discuss this point, the first task is to be clear about what we are discussing. There are, really, two versions of the abiotic oil theory, the "weak" and the "strong":

- *The "weak" abiotic oil theory:* oil is abiotically formed, but at rates not higher than those that petroleum geologists assume for oil formation according to the conventional theory. (This version has little or no political consequences).

- *The "strong" abiotic theory:* oil is formed at a speed sufficient to replace the oil reservoirs as we deplete them, that is, at a rate something like 10,000 times faster than known in petroleum geology. (This one has strong political implications).

Both versions state that petroleum is formed from the reaction of carbonates with iron oxide and water in the region called "mantle," deep in the Earth. Furthermore, it is assumed (see Gold's 1993 paper) that the mantle is such a huge reservoir that the amount of reactants consumed in the reaction hasn't depleted it over a few billion years (this is not unreasonable, since the mantle is indeed huge).

Now, the main consequence of this mechanism is that it promises a large amount of hydrocarbons that seep out to the surface from the mantle. Eventually, these hydrocarbons would be metabolized by bacteria and transformed into CO₂. This would have an effect on the temperature of the atmosphere, which is strongly affected by the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in it. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is regulated by at least two biological cycles; the photosyn-

thetic cycle and the silicate weathering cycle. Both these cycles have a built-in negative feedback which keeps (in the long run) the CO₂ within concentrations such that the right range of temperatures for living creatures is maintained (this is the Gaia model).

The abiotic oil-if it existed in large amounts-would wreak havoc with these cycles. In the "weak" abiotic oil version, it may just be that the amount of carbon that seeps out from the mantle is small enough for the biological cycles to cope and still maintain control over the CO₂ concentration. However, in the "strong" version, this is unthinkable. Over billions of years of seepage in the amounts considered, we would be swimming in oil, drowned in oil.

Indeed, it seems that the serious proponents of the abiotic theory all go for the "weak" version. Gold, for instance, never says in his 1993 paper that oil wells are supposed to replenish themselves.¹ As a theory, the weak abiotic one still fails to explain a lot of phenomena, principally (and, I think, terminally): how is it that oil deposits are almost always associated to anoxic periods of high biological sedimentation rate? However, the theory is not completely unthinkable.

At this point, we can arrive at a conclusion. What is the *relevance* of the abiotic theory in practice? The answer is "none." The "strong" version is false, so it is irrelevant by definition. The "weak" version, instead, would be irrelevant in practice, even if it were true. It would change a number of chapters of geology textbooks, but it would have no effect on the impending oil peak.

To be sure, Gold and others argue that even the weak version has consequences on petroleum prospecting and extraction. Drilling deeper and drilling in areas where people don't usually drill, Gold says, you have a chance to find oil and gas. This is a very, very weak position for two reasons.

First, digging is more expensive the deeper you go, and in practice it is nearly impossible to dig a commercial well deeper than the depth to which wells are drilled nowadays, that is, more than 10 km.

Secondly, petroleum geology is an empirical field which has evolved largely by trial and error. Petroleum geologists have learned the hard way where to drill (and where not to drill); in the process they have developed a theoretical model that WORKS. It is somewhat difficult to believe that generations of smart petroleum geologists missed huge amounts of oil. Gold tried to demonstrate just that, and all that he managed to do was to recover 80 barrels of oil in total, oil that was later shown to be most likely the result of contamination of the drilling mud. Nothing prevents others from trying again, but so far the results are not encouraging.

So, the abiotic oil theory is irrelevant to the debate about peak oil and it would not be worth discussing were it not for its political aspects. If people start with the intention of demonstrating that the concept of "peak oil" was created by a "Zionist conspiracy" or something like that, anything goes. In this case, however, the debate is no longer a scientific one. Fortunately, as Colin Campbell said, "Oil is ultimately controlled by events in the geological past which are immune to politics."

¹ Thomas Gold, of Cornell University, has been one of the leading proponents of the abiotic oil theory in the West. The theory, actually, had its origin in the work of a group of Ukrainian and Russian scientists.

Beyond Peak Oil

- **Water Privatization**
- **Water Wars**
- **Water & Oil Don't Mix**
- **Vapor Wars?**
- **All Bottled Up**

By
Michael Kane

[Without oil, industrial life is impossible. But without water, human life is impossible. Privatize it, and you put the very existence of every man, every woman, every kid, into the hands of a few corporations whose robot-brains pursue maximum profit through a single hard-wired read-only program called capitalism. Here FTW's Michael Kane sketches the basics of an increasingly dire issue and equips us for the new learning we're going to need. -JAH]

**Special thanks to [Public Citizen](#) & [Maude Barlow](#) for their outstanding contribution to the body politic regarding the growing world water crisis.*

September 17, 2004 0800 PDT (FTW) - In 1996, Vice President of the World Bank Ismail Serageldin predicted the wars of this century would be over water. It is the oil of the 21st Century. The trend of privatization is based on a systemic belief that the private sector can function more efficiently than public municipalities, but the goal which drives this belief is profit, not efficiency.

Throughout the world, water privatization has proven time and again to be less efficient than public municipal systems. The largest private water companies are Germany's RWE and the French multi-nationals Vivendi & Suez.

We are starting to see just how high the price of life can be. In Bolivia, a Bechtel subsidiary made it illegal to collect rainwater on one's own property without a permit.¹ In Africa, the trend is leaning toward privatized water meters that deny fresh water to those who can't afford it. In Canada, the battleground is over bulk water exports. Various "water wars" in America are just beginning to show signs of stress in the southwest, while water wars in Israel and Palestine are nothing new.

1.1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water. 2.4 billion (40% of the world's population) lack access to proper sanitation. Over 5 million people die annually of water-borne diseases.²

The website of the World Health Organization (WHO) explains:

*"As freshwater becomes increasingly scarce due to population growth, urbanization and, probably, climate change, the use of wastewater in agriculture, aquaculture, groundwater recharge and in other areas will increase. In some cases, **wastewater is the only water resource available to poor, subsistence-level farming communities**" [emphasis added].³*

Water is perhaps the final frontier. After water, the only thing left to privatize is air, and even that has been tackled. In some parts of the world, one can walk into an "oxygen bar" to purchase fresh air. The rich will have clean air, organic produce, and purified water. The poor will have asthma, genetically modified organisms, and sewer water.

Water is a human right, and there should be no question about that. How can one even talk about the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness without a prerequisite of the right to fresh water?

Water = Life. It's a simple equation.

The Psychosis of Water Privatization

psy-cho-sis (sl-'kO-s&s)
n. pl. psy-cho-ses (-sEz)

A severe mental disorder, with or without organic damage, characterized by derangement of personality and loss of contact with reality and causing deterioration of normal social functioning.

The global capitalists do not believe the above equation to be completely true. Instead, they offer an opposing equation of *water = commodity*. In this equation, water is equivalent to, say, pork bellies. Water is a product to be bought and sold to the highest bidder.

If psychosis is a kind of break from reality, this commoditization of human survival is surely psychotic. And *water-as-commodity* is a madness to which only the very privileged could possibly succumb.

In Africa, water privatization has given rise to the scariest privatization trend in the history of mankind - the prepayment water debit card. If you have money on your card, you can buy water. If your card is "tapped" - well, they've developed a special term for those who don't have money on their prepaid water cards.

The term is "*Self-Disconnection*."⁴

This sends chills down my spine as it harkens back to Hitler's "*Evacuation*" of the Jews. A more honest term would be **Genocide by Dehydration**. There simply is no moral defense for the political and economic new reality of prepaid water meters. The United Kingdom declared prepaid water meters illegal under the U.K. Water Act of 1998. This was based on the provision that water is vital to human health, which means "*Self-Disconnection*" is immoral and illegal. I suppose this line of logic just doesn't apply to the masses of poor black Africans.

Water Wars

For Israel, the water question was the key to the land question.

--Stan Goff, *FTW*, June 14, 2004

At the Third World Water Conference in Kyoto, Japan in 2003, Mikhail Gorbachev stated that in recent history there have been 21 armed disputes over water and 18 of those involved Israel. Yehezkel Lein, a water expert for B'tselem - an Israeli human rights group - stated, "There is a clear linkage between the gap in water availability and the occupation."⁵

Israel has controlled the West Bank & Gaza Strip water sources since 1967, when it first occupied the area. In part 4 of the Jurassic Park series, Stan Goff talked about the origins and outcome of the 6-day war. Regardless of who started the conflict and why, Goff is correct in that the outcome was Israeli control of almost all the region's water supply. Syria's Golan Heights remain occupied to this day by Israel, and it is a key headwater to the Jordan River - a primary water source for the entire region.⁶ The late King Hussein of Jordan once said water was the only reason he would go to war with Israel, since it is Israel that controls Jordan's water supply.

While the Middle East may be one of the worst potential flash points for water conflict, it is not the only region of the world prone to water wars. The CIA predicts that:

...water scarcities and allocation will pose significant

*challenges to governments in the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and northern China. Regional tensions over water will be heightened by 2015... By 2015 nearly half the world's population-more than 3 billion people-will live in countries that are "water-stressed"*⁷

Canada & Alaska have the world's largest fresh water reserves.

In 1998 Sun Belt Water Inc. sued the Canadian government under Chapter 11 of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement), because the corporation lost a contract to export water from British Columbia when the province banned the export of bulk water in 1991. Chapter 11 allows a corporation to sue the government of a nation when it feels the laws of that nation present a barrier to trade. Chapter 11 only applies to foreign-based companies. Domestic companies have to follow the law of the land.

Sun Belt CEO Jack Lindsay was quoted as saying, "Because of NAFTA, we are now stakeholders in the national water policy of Canada."⁸ The endgame of Neo-Liberalism is a one-world government run by corporations, devoid of any democratic principles.

In 1998, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment approved a plan by Nova Group to export millions of gallons of water, in giant tankers, to Asia. This issue is vital to Canadian Environmentalists. Under NAFTA, once bulk water exports start to flow, they can never be shut off. The Province later rescinded the grant, temporarily avoiding mass export of Canada's water resources. The tankers were going to carry water on one leg of the trip, and return filled with oil.

Water & Oil Don't Mix

As signs of peak oil proliferate, one of the least-analyzed impacts of energy consumption is that of water usage. It is assumed that while oil is a non-renewable resource, water is renewable. But water is only renewable when used at a sustainable rate, in processes whose chemical reversal is cost-effective.⁹

The Aral Sea basin shared by Afghanistan, Iran and five countries of the former Soviet Union was once the world's fourth largest lake. Excessive river diversions (part of a massive Soviet irrigation project) have caused it to lose half its area and three-fourths of its volume, while its surrounding wetlands have shrunk by 85%.¹⁰

One of the knee-jerk reactions to the mention of the water crisis is the apparent panacea of *desalination*. This is the process of removing salt from seawater. It's expensive and highly energy intensive, requiring profligate

burning of hydrocarbons. And it produces a bi-product of highly concentrated saline brine that is a major cause of pollution when dumped back into oceans.¹¹ Recently the Saudi Arabian Minister of Finance, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Assaf, said that country will need to spend billions of dollars on desalination and power plants.¹²

The notion of water as a renewable resource does not take into account the over-paved industrial world, which results in excessive rainwater runoff reducing the amount of water returning to underground aquifers. Pavement (which is made of asphalt, a hydrocarbon product) depletes underground aquifers by diverting water into sewers. After being treated, wastewater is often diverted into the ocean. In the long term this is not a renewable cycle, especially given the ongoing competition for fresh water among industrial manufacturers.

Petroleum refining is one of the most water-intensive of all industrial activities. Tar Sands oil represents 66% of the world's supply of petroleum,¹³ and it requires huge amounts of fresh water for refining. High-pressure steam (heated by natural gas) is required to wash heavy oil from sand.¹⁴

Manufacturing one automobile requires approximately 118,877 gallons of fresh water. This water comes in clean and goes out polluted. With peak oil putting our entire energy paradigm in question, if we consider what it means to create a new generation of alternative-fuel cars - to build 700 million new vehicles would require 83,213,900,000,000 gallons of fresh water.¹⁵

Vapor Wars?

On July 14 2004, BBC News ran the headline, "*China rain-making creates a storm*," and went on to state, "Relations between neighboring Chinese cities have become stormy over the use of controversial technology which encourages rainfall."

"Cloud Seeding" involves aerial aerosol spray operations that shoot chemicals into clouds in order to encourage rainfall. One official from the city of Zhoukou accused the city of Pingdingshan of intercepting clouds that would have drifted to other places.¹⁶

On September 24 of last year, ABC News headlined "*Taking on Mother Nature - Is Science Ready to Change the Weather?*" The report went on to state, "Sometime in early October, nine massive jets will take to the skies over southern Florida. Each will carry 16,000-330,000 pounds of an unusual arsenal: cloud-busting powder."

The "cloud busting powder" comes from a Florida based company named Dyn-o-mat.¹⁷ It is said this technology may be a cushion to fierce storms, but stopping the rain

would be a powerful weapon of war.

Col. Walter M. Washabaugh, of the U.S. Air Force has stated, "Aerial spraying for pest or weed control and fire suppression (are) the only Air Force activities that involve aircraft intentionally spraying."¹⁸

But on August 2, 2001, the BBC had already reported the "cloud busting" story stating, "The Florida based company, Dyn-o-mat, **used a military aircraft to drop four tonnes of its powder on to a developing storm cloud.** [emphasis added]"¹⁹

Is it possible the Air Force is involved in other aerosol operations that Col. Washabaugh wouldn't speak of? If the Air Force is not involved in weather modification experiments, as Col. Washabaugh has claimed, why did it entertain an academic paper back in 1996 from the Air Force-run Air University titled, "Weather as a Force Multiplier: Owing the Weather in 2025"?²⁰

The report includes sections titled *Storm Enhancement, Deny Fresh Water, Induce Drought, Applying Weather Modification to Military Operations, and How Do We Get There From Here?*²¹

All Bottled Up

The trend of bottled water has swept the world over the past five years in unprecedented fashion. Macy's sells their own bottled water. The illusion of bottled water is that it is cleaner than tap water.

Most bottled water is tap water.

New York City has what is widely considered the best municipal water in the world; yet the trend to buy bottled water shipped from all across the globe has not missed the big apple.

Moreover, the EPA requires tap water to be disinfected, from a protected source or filtered, tested for water-borne viruses and confirmed that E. Coli and fecal coliform are not present. None of those requirements applies to bottled water.²²

Ironically, public concern about tap water is largely responsible for the recent boom in bottled water sales. If you live in NYC, you're better off sticking to tap water with a simple filter to minimize possible lead contamination from old pipes.

While every industrialized nation depends on hydrocarbons, the need for water is absolutely universal. In a sense, it connects the privileged few with the restless many, the urban with the rural, the Amazonian indigenous peoples with the bond-traders of Tokyo. Along with

Peak Oil, our handling of the water crisis will determine much of the human prospect for the foreseeable future.

For more information on water, watch "Everything you ever wanted to know about water privatization"
<http://www.citizen.org/cmep/Water/articles.cfm?ID=10623>

(produced by Public Citizen's Water for All Campaign & Michael Kane)

Sign-on Your Support for the Congressional "Water for the World" Resolution
<http://www.citizen.org/cmep/Water/congress/other/articles.cfm?ID=10586>

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Money, Money, Money

by
Stan Goff

[This is the second installment of Stan Goff's report on the simmering Persian Peril. Where Part One set out a history of modern Iran in its relations with Western imperial powers, the current piece explains the petrodollar system that underlies our ugly situation in the Middle East and the world. As Catherine Austin Fitts says, nothing will really change until we change the way money works. "Petrodollar," "fiat currency," "speculative attack," "balance of trade" --- these are the lexicographical little friends whom we need by our sides if we are to make it out of the propaganda labyrinth. Goff's essay explains just why the world puts up with the American bully. It isn't just the horrible weapons of death; it's the horrible weapon of debt: in this ongoing American dream, "we" do the borrowing - and everyone else does the owing. -JAH]

Rosa Luxemburg and Geography

"Imperialism is the expression of the political accumulation of capital in its competitive struggle for what remains still open of the non-capitalist environment."

-Rosa Luxemburg, The Accumulation of Capital, 1913

Rosa Luxemburg, as unfortunately happens all too often with notable women in history, has been badly overlooked. She is remembered mostly as a leftist leader in Poland and Germany who was the victim of political assassination, and for her sharp debates with Lenin. But in her 470 page opus, *The Accumulation of Capital*, she made a significant contribution to the theoretical understanding of imperialism, one that has been incorporated into world system theory and into feminist critiques of political economy.

Luxemburg said that "capitalism," an economic system based on the self-expansion of monetary value for a propertied class, has never functioned nor can it ever function without external, *non-capitalist* inputs. The expansion of British capitalism, for example, could not have happened without colonization and exploitation of more "primitive" economies, or without direct military plunder of colonized people and resources. The same applies to American capitalism that was built up first using non-waged (slave) labor, and military expansion into indigenous lands.

Marx himself recognized this as an essential dynamic for the build-up of modern capitalism in Volume I of *Capital*, where he stated:

The discovery of gold and silver in America, the extirpation, enslavement and entombment in mines of the aboriginal population, the beginning of the conquest and looting of the East Indies, the turning of Africa into a warren for the commercial hunting of black-skins, signalled the rosy dawn of the era of capitalist production. These idyllic proceedings are the chief moments of primitive accumulation. On their heels treads the commercial war of the European nations, with the globe for a theatre. It begins with the revolt of the Netherlands from Spain, assumes giant dimensions in England's Anti-Jacobin War, and is still going on in the opium wars against China, &c."

Luxemburg's point is that this reliance on "primitive accumulation" is a constant within developed capitalism and that it is magnified as capitalism generalizes into various forms of imperialism.

Even today, this is demonstrably true. Because geography has divided the industrial capitalist centers from the subjugated peripheries, we can easily delude ourselves that our bustling, SUV-infested highways, our shopping malls crammed with luxury commodities, and our shiny grocery warehouses bursting with food are natural features of a superior social system. We do not see the exhausted legions of foreigners - many living in pre-industrial, pre-capitalist societies - or their exhausted lands, which make this licentiousness possible.

But now we have arrived in a historical moment where one key and irreplaceable resource, a resource that forms the energetic foundation of the global system, has opened a window on the international interdependence - petroleum.

Maria Mies paraphrased Luxemburg's analysis in her own 1986 work, *Patriarchy and Accumulation*

on a World Scale - Women in the International Division of Labor, this way:

[Luxemburg] had come to the conclusion that Marx's model of accumulation was based on the assumption that capitalism was a closed system where there were only wage laborers and capitalists. [She] showed that historically such a system had never existed, that capitalism had always needed what she called 'non-capitalist milieu and strata' for the extension of labour force, resources, and above all the extension of markets. These non-capitalist milieu and strata were initially the peasants and artisans with their 'natural economy,' later the colonies. Colonialism for Rosa Luxemburg is therefore not only the last stage of capitalism [as Lenin claimed], but its constant necessary condition. In other words, without colonies capital accumulation or extended reproduction of capital would come to a stop.

Robert Biel in *The New Imperialism - Crisis and Contradictions in North/South Relations (2000)* said that "the general problem raised by Luxemburg's contribution to imperialism theory [is the question,] is capital accumulation renewing itself or merely exhausting its own basis?"

Peak Oil is a dramatic answer to this question, and it is central to the occupation of Iraq and the saber-rattling at Iran, no matter how many sophisticates attempt to portray petroleum as secondary or passé.

When we speak of capital in this way, we are talking about money. So it seems important at this juncture to examine money itself, because what we don't think about with regard to money may contain the key to a number of riddles.

What is money? When you think about it, this is not easy to answer. We know it when we see it, but do we really know how it works? Why do people accept it as a universal equivalent of exchange? Are all moneys really universal? What does it really represent?

On the international exchange today, I can get around 11.4 pesos for one US dollar. So if I go to Wal-Mart down the road to pick up a DVD of "Jaws" for \$9.44, that's \$10.13 with tax, why won't they accept 116 Mexican pesos? Not only will they not accept it, my bank won't take them either. But when I was in Xalapa, Mexico three years ago, I had no problem getting Mexican merchants and bankers to accept or exchange dollars on the spot. What's up with that?

The first time I was in Haiti, I could get 15 gourdes for one US dollar. That same dollar now gets me about 48 gourdes. This may seem like a great deal, except that many things in Haiti are being shipped there from the US - especially the main food, rice. For Haitians, this is a disaster, because prices went up without pay going up, and now they have to pay 48 gourdes for a dollar's worth of rice instead of 15 gourdes.

On the other hand, if I were to exchange US dollars for Euros today, I'd get fewer Euros than I did two years ago.

There are two points to be made here. (1) The value of money is not fixed. It fluctuates. (2) Some money is more 'universal' than others.

If a hypothetical country lives in a bubble, isolated from all other countries, in a 'money economy', this country has a central bank that is run by the government. That central bank says how much money to print, controls interest rates, and so on. Many bankers like to talk about a "free" market, but they know that this is complete horseshit, because without a regulated market a lot of bad things happen.... really fast. And who decides what passes for legitimate money, after all? The government needs to begin by making that decision, then controlling the supply of money by exercising a monopoly over the printing presses. If not, they have no means of collecting taxes... unless they want to start accepting chickens, sacks of flour, wool sweaters, free haircuts, and such.

In this fictional isolated country, the central bank tries to measure the total value of all commodities circulating in the economy and to maintain around the same value in circulating money with a little extra to extend credit for something called "growth."

If the central bank prints too much money, then prices go up (inflation). This might not seem like a big deal if wages go up, too. But lenders (banks, loan-sharking companies, etc.) have an issue with this, because it eats into the buying power of the interest they collect on debts.

If the government prints too little money, prices fall (deflation), which sounds like a good deal until you think about owing money. If you owe \$10,000 in debts, and suddenly \$10,000 buys twice as much as it did before you incurred the debts, your debts represent a greater liability against your buying power. In the United States right now, with the average household debt at nearly \$20,000, this would be seriously bad news. It wouldn't bother me much because I had someone do the numbers for me recently, and my net worth is minus \$15. I can eat that without much pain. But a lot of people,

when they look at their debt liabilities, have much scarier minuses. It's scary, because with deflation, wages drop through the floor, people get laid off by the zillions, but all those debts still stand *at the same numerical value*.

The problem is there is no such fictional Bubble-Country. We live in a world with a lot of countries that are grossly unequal.

Here's my point about printing money. There is one country right now that prints all the money it wants to, and everyone else in the world will accept this money for all the stuff they make, even though they know damned well it's not fair. It's the United States.

The standard of living that is being maintained right now in the United States is being maintained because we can print all that money and because other countries are forced to accept it regardless of how few commodities we actually produce. The main commodity we produce is... dollars. Other countries produce things to get dollars. (See "*US Dollar Hegemony has got to go*," by Henry C. K. Liu, *Asia Times*, April 11, 2002, at <http://www.atimes.com/global-econ/DD11Dj01.html>.) It's a scam of the first order, and if it quits functioning, the dollar will fall to its "natural" market value, and all you Visa shoppers and home mortgage equity borrowers will be joining the legions of the depressingly destitute in a modern-day version of the Dust Bowl migrations.

So how does this work? Why does the US dollar continue to soar around like a turkey buzzard on an Appalachian updraft, instead of falling to the ground like a homesick brick the way the market says it's supposed to when you are running the printing presses at the velocity of a meth lab?

Okay, I'll get to that.

Let's return for a moment to what money is. It used to be any damn thing people would accept as a universal exchange equivalent - but an *actual* thing. Pretty shells, or pastry dough, or gold... it doesn't matter. People just have to agree to accept it for a lot of other things. Gold and silver were faves. But came paper money (more portable, for one thing), that supposedly you could cash in at the central bank for silver or gold, which made it sort of a government check against precious metal.

Then we slipped into 'monetary faith' by degrees, when money was only partly redeemable for gold, then in 1971, in the US, for reasons I'll touch on later, they said to hell with it, we'll just issue paper without the gold backing. Well, by then people were used to it, and everyone had a stake in the stuff being accepted, and paper "fiat" money (that means without anything behind it but

faith in the system) stuck. Nowadays, you don't even need to handle paper. You can send virtual money around with computers. So, okay, what is this "money," really?

It's an entitlement. It's a claim on someone else. But on what exactly? This is where radical political economists can help us out. They say it's an entitlement to your energy - your work-energy, that is. Money is an entitlement to someone else's labor.

We don't see it that way, because when I buy the "Jaws" DVD I don't head over to Wal-Mart thinking I'm going to use this money to lay claim to the expended energy of the people who work in the DVD factory or the residuals due to the people who worked to make the movie or to the truck driver that delivered the DVD's, etc., etc., etc. Nobody does that. We just go buy the DVD. But the monetary value of that DVD is based on all the energy that was expended to get it to the rack at Wal-Mart. Since we don't SEE the work being done, from rendering silicon for chips to packing those little plastic containers into cardboard boxes, we tend not to think about it, so we also fail to think about money being this claim, this entitlement.

Think about it. No one gave you the money. You had to go someplace you didn't want to be for eight hours every day, put up with some dim-witted boss's bullshit, and deal with people you wouldn't give the time of day otherwise, just to get paid the money. That money claimed you. It entitled the boss to your energy and time.

This is the whole system, really. People who have the inside skinny on accumulating money (by owning everything) then assert their "claims" by working the shit out of all the rest of us so they can have wild cocaine orgies, buy yachts, collect million dollar horses, or ride around in limos... different things float their boats, but you get the picture. They play, and we serve. Because we "need" the money.

Yet there is a dimension to all this that goes beyond the rich and the not-so-rich in one place. It's the geographical dimension.

There is an international division that is even sharper than what most of us in the industrialized metropolis ever realize.

Just like Rosa Luxemburg said, there are a few rich countries that suck the labor and resources out of a lot of poor countries. But the rich countries can't get away with this unless at least most of their own population is complacent. So to get this political complacency, they allow key fractions of their own working people to have

some nice things... a ranch house, a line of credit to buy that useless, gas-guzzling SUV, cheese sticks in individual wrappers, liquor, televisions, and DVDs.

The worst of these rich countries is the United States, where statistics show that we are on average the most wasteful, expensive individuals in the world. We have plenty of poor people, but on average we use more land per capita to feed ourselves, consume more water per capita, burn up more fossil fuel, make more trash, and consume more non-essential luxury crap than any society in history. It has made many of us soft and stupid, which is why we don't realize that...

We couldn't do that right now if we didn't have monetary printing presses and the most expensive, unwieldy, and lethal military on the planet. And the two - the printing press and the military - are inseparable. Lose one, and the whole party comes to a screeching halt.

I'll come back to that, too.

One country's currency can now change its value relative to other currencies on any given day, which has led to gambling on the price of money.

When I was in El Salvador in 1985, the official exchange rate was 4 colones to \$1 US. But the rate in the street - the black market - changed almost hourly. Rich Salvadorans could not use colones to pay their big international debts. They had to have dollars, the recognized international currency. So ever so often there would be a bidding war for dollars that spilled into the street where the mini-mafiosi had hundreds of money-exchangers. When that happened, if you got out there fast (Bring your firearm!), you might get a temporary rate of ten or eleven to one, so you could cash out \$5,000 for 50,000 colones, then go to the bank that same day and get \$12,500. That's a sort of microscopic version of currency speculation on the world market. Good deal, huh? But it doesn't last. Eventually, the banks get wind and the official rate has to be changed to reflect the reality of this "speculative" market. The colone (or any other currency, take your pick) gets "devalued."

Now let's pump up this scenario. Let's say you are a huge securities account of pooled funds from a lot of ultra-rich bastards who can lord it over mere bank directors. You can mobilize as much credit in one day as, say, the GDP of California. Let's also say that you don't like Country X because they haven't gone along with your program.

Country X's currency is the gimcrack. It exchanges for ten to the dollar. Your giant account -called a hedge fund - pulls together \$10-12 billion through its credit resources and uses intermediaries to begin buying up

gimcracks. With so many gimcracks being bought up, the gimcracks begin to exchange more dear, first at nine to one, then at eight to one, right up to five to one.

The herd mentality takes over in the Big Casino, and everyone wants to get in on the action - kind of like everyone did during the dot-com boom right before they all lost their asses.

Meanwhile, these intermediaries that have been intentionally heating up the market for gimcracks on behalf of the hedge fund... they start cashing out. They cash out fast, turning gimcracks into dollars as quick as they can, at five to one (remember, they bought in at ten and nine) ... then six to one... because when people see how many are being sold, the herd stampedes the other way... then eight to one... by now the hedge fund is out, richer by a fair piece, but the gimcrack is in stampede-over-the-cliff mode, and won't hit bottom until it is at twenty to one, meaning the entire Country X just suffered a 50% devaluation. If you were making 10 gimcracks an hour in your local sweatshop yesterday, you are making 10 gimcracks an hour today... except every price in the country is being jacked up 50% to protect the merchants' bottom line.

This is called a speculative attack. It is what caused the 1998 "Asian meltdown." Not bad management. Not cronyism. Not loose loan policies. It was done on purpose, by the Clinton administration, on the orders of Commerce Secretary Robert Rubin, and carried out by giant hedge funds from the finance-capital sector of the USA. Among the attackers was George Soros, the favorite of many liberal NGOs in the US, and a key supporter of the Kerry campaign. If you'd like to read about it, pick up Peter Gowan's *The Globalization Gamble - The Dollar-Wall Street Regime and its Consequences*, at <http://www.qre.ac.uk/~fa03/iwgvf/files/9-gowan.rtf>. Gowan explained how these hedge funds became "weapons of US statecraft."

Hedge Funds... is a euphemism: these are speculator organizations for making money through the buying and selling of securities on their own account to exploit price movements over time and price differences between markets. The biggest of these hedge funds are not marginal speculators... they are not banks but partnerships, often registered offshore for tax-dodging purposes. The biggest of the banks then lend huge sums of money to what are, in effect, their creations [the hedge funds], in order that the hedge funds can play the markets with truly enormous resources. This scale of resources is vitally important because it enables the speculator to shift prices in the market in the direction he wants the prices

to move in through the sheer scale of funds...

There is no doubt whatever that the hedge funds were the driving force of the attack first on the Thai baht, then on other regional currencies and the Hong Kong stock market. The first hedge fund assault on the baht occurred in May 1997, one month after the Clinton administration launched its campaign demanding that Thailand and Indonesia open their financial sectors fully to US financial operators...

The Asian crisis began in Thailand in July 1997. The next economy to fall was Indonesia. But the really decisive financial crisis was that [of] South Korea. It was the South Korean crisis which ended the temporary stabilization of Indonesia and which finally brought complete collapse there. And the South Korean crisis was responsible for plunging the whole region into slump.

(Gowan also noted that during the Reagan administration, since the US was running a trade deficit, the expansion of the military, especially new military hardware, "meant that the US state was acting as a surrogate export market for the industrial sector." This is at least part of the calculation of our present-day neocons for preserving the wealth of their industrial-capital cronies in a time of indeterminate war.)

How does a country protect itself from such a speculative attack? That's a very good question. What they do is have the central bank hold enough assets denominated in the most internationally recognized currency (the US dollar), so in an emergency, they can use those dollars to buy up their own currency and pull it out of the line of fire of the speculators. A significant portion of any country's reserve currency needs to be denominated in dollars, then, as a shield against this kind of assault.

So most countries' central banks have collected the most available dollar-denominated asset they can get their hands on - treasury bills. These are like Savings Bonds. They are a loan to the US government, which the US government will pay back with a variable interest rate after maturity. So in effect, the reserve currency in most central banks in the world to protect the local currency from an attack is US dollars. Every country, therefore, now has a vested interest in ensuring that there is no speculative run on the dollar - even if by market standards it deserves to be dumped like a dirty diaper - because devaluation of the dollar would knock the stuffing out of their very own currency reserves.

That's some catch, that Catch-22.

Not only that, the US engineered it all the way back in the early 70s, while it was abandoning the gold-backing and the fixed currency exchange rates that had prevented speculative attacks (Gee!). This was made possible by American arrangements for the major oil producing nations to invest all their surplus money in dollar-denominated assets too, and thereby ensure that everyone around the world who had to pay for oil had to pay in... dollars. One of the key factors in the thinking of the Saudis, Kuwaitis, United Arab Emirates, et al., was that there was only one country around who could guarantee (and successfully monopolize) the military security of the major sea lanes leading out of the Persian Gulf.

Guess who?

Here's the big problem. There are now so many countries holding so many US treasury bonds that the US is categorically not capable of paying them all off. That's right, boys and girls. If everyone we owe money to called in their debts, Uncle Sam would be bankrupt. So no one is going to do that, because if Uncle Sam goes bankrupt, what will happen to all those treasury notes in our central banks? The US can now borrow from as many people as it wants, and the debt turns into further security against anyone calling in the debts.

Michael Hudson, the financial historian who authored *Super Imperialism - The Origin and Fundamentals of U.S. World Dominance*, explained in a 2003 interview:

The U.S. has said it can't pay back its dollar debts and doesn't intend to. As an alternative, it has proposed "funding the US dollar overhang" into the world monetary system. Other countries would get IMF credit equal to their dollar holdings, but these holdings no longer would be US Treasury obligations. The US would wipe its debt to foreign central banks off the hook. This would mean that it would have got all the balance-of-payments deficits for the past 32 years for free, with no quid pro quo.

The US has been proposing this for 30 years whenever Europe raises the issue of payment for its dollar holdings. American diplomats have said that they won't allow central banks to use their dollars to buy US corporations, for instance. When OPEC countries proposed this after 1973, the US Treasury reportedly informed them that this would be considered an act of war.

Meanwhile, people still have to have dollars to pay their international debts. Where do you get dollars? From the United States, of course. So the treasury note system has other countries locked in at the central banks, and the need to pay off bigger and bigger external debts - in dollars - forces the majority to convert their entire economies away from local development - like the old import substitution industrialization (ISI) strategy - into export commodity platforms oriented to the US. "The US makes dollars; everyone else makes things to get dollars."

The two pillars of the US imperial edifice are monetary and military. And the development of this unique ability was closely related to the unique geographical position of the United States, outside the lethal circumference of European wars.

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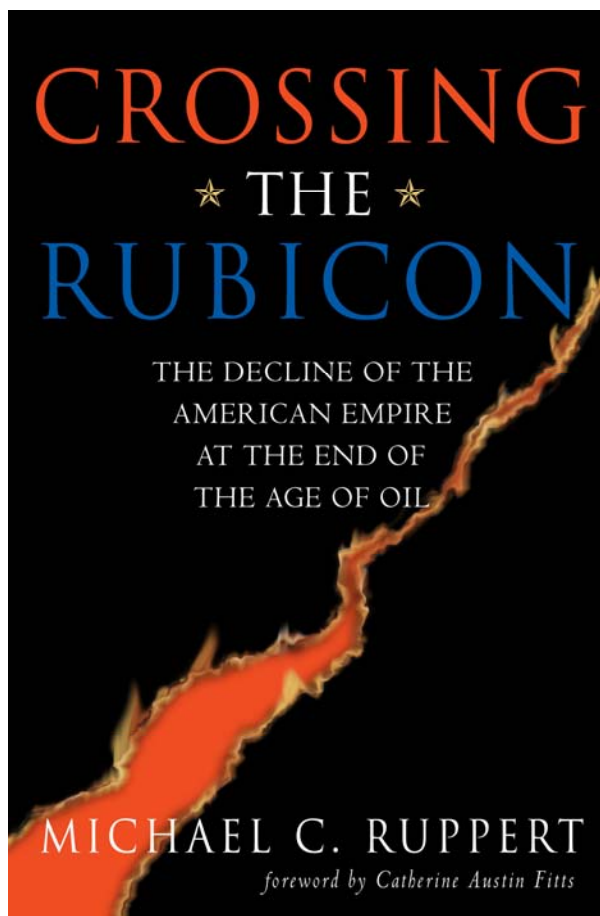
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In describing the contents of the book he has spent two and half years researching and writing Ruppert said:

“In my new book I will be making several key points:

1. I will name Richard Cheney as the prime suspect in the mass murders of 9/11 and will establish that, not only was he a planner in the attacks, but also that on the day of the attacks he was running a completely separate Command, Control and Communications system which was superceding any orders being issued by the NMCC, or the White House Situation Room;
2. I will establish conclusively that in May of 2001, by presidential order, Richard Cheney was put in direct command and control of all wargame and field exercise training and scheduling through several agencies, especially FEMA. This also extended to all of the conflicting and overlapping NORAD drills on that day.
3. I will also demonstrate that the TRIPOD II exercise being set up on Sept. 10th in Manhattan was directly connected to Cheney's role.
4. I will also prove conclusively that a number of public officials, at the national and New York City levels, including then Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, were aware that flight 175 was en route to lower Manhattan for 20 minutes and did nothing to order the evacuation of or warn the occupants of the South Tower. One military officer was forced to leave his post in the middle of the attacks and place a private call to his brother – who worked at the WTC – warning him to get out. That was because no other part of the system was taking action.
5. I will also show that the Israeli and British governments acted as partners with the highest levels of the American government to help in the preparation and, very possibly, the actual execution of the attacks.”

“There is more reason to be afraid of not facing the evidence in this book than of facing what is in it.”

Draft Extradition Update

As regular FTW readers know, four months ago we began contacting the embassies and consulates of 75 countries and asking the following question: "Under existing treaties, is _____ obligated to extradite fugitives (back) to the United States for draft evasion?"

Replies have come slowly, but since this chart was first published in the Feb '04 issue of this newsletter, we have received additional replies from the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, and South Africa). Last updated April 22, 2004, this chart will be continually updated until all 75 countries on our list have responded. Updates can be viewed online, in Mike Ruppert's article, "Nowhere to Run, Nowhere to Hide."

	Extradite Yes/No?	FBI LEGAT	NORTH- COM	NATO	ANZUS	CONDITIONS
Argentina	No*	Yes				* "Requested State may refuse extradition for offenses under military law that are not offenses under ordinary criminal law (article 4, military offenses-paragraph 4"
Australia	Yes	Yes			Yes	
Brazil	Yes	Yes				
Canada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Colombia	Yes	Yes				Case by case basis
Germany	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Italy	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes			
New Guinea	No					Will not extradite
New Zealand	No				Yes	Will not extradite if violation of military law
Nigeria	No	Yes				"No treaty exists between US and Nigeria to mandate repatriation of draft dodgers"
Norway	No			Yes		Discretion of Foreign Ministry
Panama	Yes	Yes				
Peru	Yes					Case by case basis
Philippines	Yes	Yes				
Poland	No	Yes		Yes		"Extradition can also be denied if military offense does not constitute a felony under existing national penal code (Art 5, subsection 4)"
Portugal	No			Yes		
Russia	No	Yes				"No agreement for extradition exists"
South Africa	No*	Yes				"The Executive Authority of the Requested State shall refuse extradition for offenses under ordinary criminal law."
Spain	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Sweden	No					No, if only crime is against military law
Switzerland	No	Yes				No, if only crime is against military law
Thailand	Yes	Yes				