



From The Wilderness

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

Vol. VII, No. 6

Nov 7, 2004

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SNAP OUT OF IT!

- The Day to Forget the November 2nd Election Forever is November 3rd
 - The Rest of the World Fights the Empire With Money – What We Should Have Been Doing Here All Along
- Now is the Time to Attack on the Fronts Where We Have Real Power

by
Michael C. Ruppert

November 5, 2004 1900 PDT (FTW) – **T**he rest of the world has known for some time that it is pointless to oppose this Empire either militarily or electorally. They haven't the resources for the former and are legally barred from the latter. I think it's time the American people adopted the same philosophy. We are, after all, legally barred from inspecting electronic voting machines. The rest of the world has been fighting with money and public relations because these tactics work and work well. This is a lesson that American activists and true patriots should have learned four years ago. Now the tempo of battle will increase just as surely as the stakes have been raised both globally and domestically for us all.

While everyone waits for the administration's first move a Rubicon has been crossed and there is no turning back. America will fight for oil wherever it feels the need.

Now the real Fourth World War begins. Sorry to disappoint all the scriptwriters and futurists who were thinking exclusively in terms of bombs, plagues, famine etc. The first weapons of mass destruction in this war will be economic and they will be devastating beyond imagination.

I feel good now, three days after the election. It was much easier for me to recover than most because *FTW* and its readers had less invested in the election than most. But I am not so glib or cavalier as to overlook the massive disillusionment that weighs like a wet blanket on all who had hoped that their prodigious efforts might oust the Neo-cons.

The biggest blessing today is that the disillusionment is so deep, so fundamental, that at last people who have bound themselves to ineffective political strategies may rethink their deeper core beliefs; their beliefs about what America was supposed to be versus what it has become. They will redraw their maps. Perhaps with that process – painful as

(Cont'd on page 18)

From the Wilderness

Michael C. Ruppert
Publisher/Editor

Assistant Managing Editor.....Jamey Hecht, Ph.D.
Contributing Editor.....Peter Dale Scott, Ph.D.
Science Editor.....Dale Allen Pfeiffer
Military /Veteran's Affairs Editor.....Stan Goff

From The Wilderness is published eleven times annually.
Subscriptions are \$65 (US) for 11 issues.

From The Wilderness

P.O Box 6061 – 350, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

www.fromthewilderness.com

editorial: editor@copvcia.com

subscriptions and customer service:

service@copvcia.com

(818) 788-8791 * (818) 981-2847 fax

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SNAP OUT OF IT!	page 1
Why It's Called Crossing the Rubicon	page 2
"Open Letters"	page 3
Today's Imperialism: Uniquely American	page 10
Abiotic Oil	page 15
The Lingering Cloud of 9/11	page 16
Popular Culture VS. Bush	page 22
Draft Extradition Update	page 24

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Why It's Called Crossing the Rubicon

by

**Jamey Hecht, editor of
*Crossing the Rubicon:***

***The Decline of The American Empire at the End of
the Age of Oil***

by Michael C. Ruppert

When Caesar led his army into Italy, he triggered a civil war which destroyed Rome's republican form of government, a form which the Romans had cherished for centuries to their cultural, economic, and military advantage. Like every form of government, the Roman Republic was profoundly flawed. But it did much to establish a discursive society, one in which policy was shaped by the power of eloquence and rational debate, as well as by money and war. After Caesar's reign, republican institutions withered on the vine; the intellect became a decorative, effeminate thing associated with the East and the past. Force and the threat of force, punishment and deterrence, war and extortion became the basis of the Roman state and of Roman identity. While these are generalizations which dispense with the nuances of scholarship, the overall pattern they name is unmistakable, even proverbial.

Every moment in time is a transition, and every day of a person's life is the threshold that determines the sequel. But one moment will bear more weight than others, as if a larger portion of the universe were hinged upon it. The murder of President Kennedy meant that Vietnam must go on --- and this drained the US gold reserves, which made for the floating petrodollar, and the third world debt crisis, and the outsourcing of American jobs. Vietnam also caused the failure of Johnson's underfunded "War on Poverty," which Reagan stigmatized as a discredited liberalism while he shredded what remained of domestic social hope in the United States. It also helped murder three million Indochinese. Some moments are special transitions.

The American state-terror of 9/11 represented a shift in the relationship between governing elites and the governed: a shift from neglect to abuse, from exploitation to murder; from contempt to hatred. The Patriot Act did not merely cage or restrict the Constitution, it wounded it. Mike Ruppert's book, *Crossing The Rubicon: The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil*, is about the threshold between a nominally democratic republic and an overtly militaristic empire. But it also illu-

minates other, more subtle thresholds whose importance may be even greater. For example, there is a point in time at which it becomes too late to quit using oil --- if the alternatives have not been developed in quantity and commercialized by that point, then the starvation of hundreds of millions becomes almost inevitable.

To put the matter more substantially, there is a well-known ecological relationship between the size of a population and the carrying-capacity of its habitat. In the human society of our time, almost nobody can feed himself, and all consumption is mediated by commerce. So the polarization of wealth and debt is a third factor, along with resource depletion and population growth; they combine to create a danger of immeasurable suffering and loss. A bad system has been made worse by decades of bad policy. Wait long enough, and we cross a line beyond which meaningful reform becomes impossible -- not just because the political will is undermined and coercion replaces debate, but because the toxicity of the air and water, the radioactivity of the soil, and the emptiness of the gas tank forbid it. Distribute goods as fairly as you may: people will starve if there are not enough goods to distribute. The Rubicon is the boundary between a world in which it is still possible to stave off hell by changing policy, and a world of regret in which policy has no meaning.

Three Open Letters...

As the effort to expose 911 gets more successful, the mainstream media get more hysterical in their opposition. Today we take apart three recent examples, responding to each in that time-honored format -- the "open letter."

Zelikow: Losing to Bacteria An Open Letter to Philip Zelikow and the Washington Post

By
Nicholas Levis, 911Truth.org
newyorkcity@snaflu.de

NEW YORK, Oct. 11, 2004

Philip Zelikow, a high-level national security adviser to both Bush administrations, acknowledges that America faces a new infectious disease: lack of faith in the U.S. government's 9/11 Commission report.

As executive director of the freshly-retired Kean Commission, Zelikow was a principal author of the 567-page document, which purports to explain everything that matters about September 11th, 2001.

Sales of the 9/11 report have far outpaced those of his earlier study in statecraft, *Germany Unified and Europe Transformed*. He co-wrote that book in 1999 together with one of his closest associates from the original Bush White House, Condoleezza Rice.

Despite blockbuster sales for the 9/11 report, Zelikow tells the *Washington Post* he is alarmed by the concurrent spread of "conspiracy theories" about the attacks, which he describes as pathogens:

"Our worry is when things become infectious, as happened with the [John F. Kennedy] assassination," Zelikow says. "Then this stuff can be deeply corrosive to public understanding. You can get where the bacteria can sicken the larger body." ¹

It's too late, Dr. Zelikow. The "bacteria" are winning, and your own work is to blame.

Perhaps the disease would have slowed if you had showed the courage to step down as executive director last March - when your resignation was demanded by the same Sept. 11 families who had fought the White House for 14 months to gain a 9/11 Commission in the first place.

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This CD is the long awaited sequel to the rapidly selling first installment of the Building a Better Map lecture series. Since the time of its initial release, part 1 of the series, CIA, Drugs, Wall Street and the 9-11 Connection (see below), this series has been extremely popular with professors at universities around the world, economic and energy columnists, and many private consultants.

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They saw a grave conflict of interest in your having participated in White House briefings on al-Qaeda in 2000 and 2001. You did so on behalf of the incoming Bush administration, along with Dr. Rice, Richard Clarke and Sandy Berger, all of whom later testified to the Kean Commission.

"It is apparent that Dr. Zelikow should never have been permitted to be Executive Staff Director of the Commission," the Family Steering Committee wrote.

They asked you to resign, and to take your rightful place on the other side of the table, as a witness to be questioned in the investigation, in public and under oath. ²

Perhaps this might have restored some credibility to a Commission badly damaged a few months earlier when its most outspoken member, Max Cleland, resigned after condemning it as a whitewash. ³

But you ignored the families and stayed on, undeterred. You continued to steer the Commission and its agenda.

You stayed on, as one of only two staff members or commissioners with relatively unrestricted access to White House documents. (The other was Jamie Gorelick, a former high official in the Clinton administration and close associate of George Tenet. Small world.)

A few weeks later, we were treated to a star turn at the hearings by your co-author, Dr. Rice, as one of the most important witnesses before the Commission, even as you conducted behind the scenes.

And now you worry that people won't buy what you have to say about 9/11.

Guess what? They don't.

A representative poll of eight hundred New York state residents by Zogby International found less than 40 percent of them say they believe the 9/11 Commission report answered all of the important questions about Sept. 11. ⁴

Sixty-six percent of New York City residents are therefore calling on the state attorney general to open a new criminal investigation, one based on the 383 questions of the Family Steering Committee, most of which the 9/11 Commission report simply ignores.

The same poll found that 41 percent of state residents believe high officials knew about 9/11 in advance, and "consciously" allowed the attacks to proceed. That view is shared by one-half of New York City residents - the very people who would have the most reason to be well-informed about Sept. 11.

But 41 percent of the good people of upstate New York, a microcosm of Middle America, also believe there was foreknowledge, as do 30 percent of the state's registered Republicans.

What would the same poll questions reveal, if they were posed to residents of the entire United States? Or to a sampling of the world population?

Isn't this big news? Half the people in the city where the worst attacks occurred believe their own government may have been involved. Why wasn't it in the papers, alongside the Bush-Kerry polling numbers? Shouldn't the papers be examining the unanswered questions that make people think this way?

What have the papers given us instead?

Zelikow's worry about the spread of heretical ideas is apparently shared by the *Washington Post*, which published his comments yesterday in a pop-psychology piece by Carol Morello, analyzing the souls who have fallen prey to "conspiracy theories" about 9/11.

Morello's first step is to define what the "conspiracy theorists" think in the narrowest possible way. She focuses on a single notion - that the crash of a Boeing 767 does not explain the pattern of damage at the Pentagon. Her article pretends that this is the central hypothesis for all who question the official story of 9/11, which is untrue.

Before the Pentagon anomaly first arose as an issue among American researchers of 9/11 (in Nov. 2001), a broad case for doubting the government's claims had already been built. It was based in ample evidence of foreknowledge on the part of high U.S. officials, contradictions in investigators' statements about the alleged hijackers, and many other indications of complicity in the attacks by elements other than the Bin Laden networks.

This constantly growing body of evidence caused Sept. 11 families and advocates for disclosure to lobby for an independent investigation. It ultimately became the basis for a vibrant "9/11 truth movement." ⁵

But Morello's presumption - that uncertainty about what happened at the Pentagon is the sole issue of concern - allows her to ignore all that. All that really matters to her is what makes these conspiracy theorists tick, and whether they can be cured.

As *Philadelphia Daily News* reporter Will Bunch pointed out, Morello is merely knocking down her own strawman. In a college debate, she would lose the point. ⁶

If we must psychologize rather than argue, as Morello does, then I daresay she is in avoidance. Taking on the facts of 9/11 with an open mind would perhaps force her, in Zelikow's words, "to repudiate much of [her] life identity," which relies on rejecting ideas that her society characterizes as outlandish, as "conspiracy theory."

But what is "conspiracy theory"? Morello rounds up the usual suspects among experts who treat disbelief in official stories as a pathology.

Michael Barkun, author of "A Culture of Conspiracy" and much-cited in these matters, wisely informs us that "conspiracy theories are one way to make sense of what happened and regain a sense of control. Of course, they're usually wrong, but they're psychologically reassuring."

"Usually wrong"? Why does Prof. Barkun hedge his bets?

We need to unpack our terms. "Conspiracy theory" describes the official 9/11 report as well as it does the alternative views. The events of Sept. 11 obviously were not the product of a single perpetrator, but of a criminal conspiracy.

Criminal conspiracy is treated in countless volumes of what prosecutors call conspiracy law or racketeering statutes. Another word for it is organized crime. Any attempt to explain a criminal conspiracy constitutes a theory. Prosecutors devise theories based on initial clues, and then try to see which of them best fit the evidence overall. Convictions often follow.

Neither Morello nor Zelikow is concerned about "conspiracy theories" per se. They are applying the term selectively, to include only hypotheses in which elements of the U.S. government were themselves involved in the attacks for political and financial gain.

If Cheney says Saddam Hussein backed the 9/11 attacks, as the vice-president did on many occasions despite his recent protestations to the contrary, this is not called a conspiracy theory, although it obviously involves a theoretical conspiracy. Yet this is the most important 9/11 conspiracy theory to date, because it was used to justify the invasion of Iraq.

If Zelikow tells us that 19 men agreed to hijack four planes and fly them into buildings and evaded all detection (although those identified as the ringleaders had been under observation by U.S. and allied agencies for years beforehand) this is not labeled conspiracy theory, although it describes a conspiracy.

The only theories branded as "conspiracies," and thus

subject to ridicule and dismissal without examination, are those that suspect wrongdoing from the U.S. government - which did its best to hide and destroy evidence, and then sent out a top adviser to both Bush administrations, Zelikow, to investigate what happened.

In the case of the Pentagon, the government has suppressed videotapes of the attack taken from a nearby hotel, a gas station, highway surveillance cameras, and the Pentagon's own cameras. At a press conference following the Kean Commission hearings of Dec. 8, 2003, the chair and co-chair promised that this evidence would be released, to help dispel speculation.

That evidence has not been released, and Zelikow suggests to the *Post* that there is no need:

"Asked if there were unreleased photographs of the attack that would convince the doubters, Zelikow, of the 9/11 commission, said, 'No.'"

Is it any wonder that people don't believe Dr. Zelikow? First the government suppresses evidence. Then its chief investigator of 9/11 justifies this by saying it would be pointless to release the evidence, and shifts the blame to the "conspiracy theorists," who are pathologically incapable of believing the truth.

The New Yorkers who are unsatisfied with the 9/11 Commission report are not supposed to get answers; they are remanded to the nearest therapist.

For three years, the *Washington Post* has joined America's other major press organs in ignoring the unanswered questions that cause so many people to reject the official conspiracy theory of the 9/11 attacks.

You would think the Zogby poll results, which were at least mentioned on [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) if not in the newspaper itself, would finally move the *Post* to file some real stories.

This isn't the place to go into every item the *Post* has failed to report about Sept. 11 - one might start by reading the book mentioned in Morello's article, *The New Pearl Harbor* by David Ray Griffin - but I submit that DC journalists would normally want to explore the following question:

What about the reports that the Pakistani secret service ISI wired \$100,000 to Mohamed Atta? The ISI is often credited as the creator of the Taliban, and its operatives have been linked to the Bin Ladin networks. ISI is also linked to CIA, as historically close allies.

The ISI director, Mahmud Ahmed, was on a two-week visit to Washington and met for breakfast at the Capitol

ss. A month later, when Pakistani strongman Pervez Musharraf reshuffled his cabinet on the eve of the Afghanistan invasion, he forced Ahmed to resign, acting on a request from the FBI.⁷

After 9/11, Graham and Goss oversaw the 858-page report of the congressional joint inquiry into 9/11. The term ISI never occurs in their report, at least not in the 75 percent of the text published after "redactions."

In all of the *Washington Post* coverage of Goss's recent confirmation hearings as director of the CIA, wasn't his breakfast with the ISI chief worth an article?

The 9/11 Commission report fails to mention reports of a Pakistani connection, not even to explain them away, but at least it offers this gem:

"To date, the U.S. government has not been able to determine the origin of the money used for the 9/11 attacks. Ultimately the question is of little practical significance... Similarly, we have seen no evidence that any foreign government - or foreign government official - supplied any funding." (p. 172)

So who financed the attacks is of little significance. Now we know the first rule of the Kean Commission: Don't follow the money!

Does the *Washington Post* agree?

The Kean Commission "discussed the theories," Zelikow tells the Post. "When we wrote the report, we were also careful not to answer all the theories. It's like playing Whack-A-Mole. You're never going to whack them all."

Now we know the second rule of the Kean Commission: Don't test theories. Just whack them if you can, and otherwise do your best to ignore them.

We shall conclude with two more of the "moles" that Zelikow and the Commission refused to whack. Is the *Washington Post* willing to take a swing?

First: The owner of World Trade Center Building 7, Larry Silverstein, interviewed for a PBS documentary of 2002 ("America Rebuilds"), seems to reveal that this building's little-reported collapse on the afternoon of Sept. 11 was the result of a decision to intentionally demolish the building.

Isn't this worthy of a follow-up call to Mr. Silverstein's offices? Is it possible to wire a 47-story skyscraper for a controlled demolition within a few hours? If not, what does this imply?

Second: The 9/11 Commission report revised the older NORAD and FAA timelines of air defense response on Sept. 11. For more than two years, these two agencies presented a series of conflicting chronologies to explain the failure of standard operating procedure, under which the errant flights of Sept. 11 should have been intercepted by jet fighters as a routine matter of reconnaissance.

Last June, the Kean Commission issued a staff statement that radically contradicted all accounts upheld until then by either NORAD or FAA, establishing an entirely new timeline. This is now Chapter 1 of the 9/11 Commission report.

It exonerates everyone of blame for the failures of 9/11, in keeping with the dictum of Kean's vice-chairman, Lee Hamilton: "We're not interested in trying to assess blame, we do not consider that part of the commission's responsibility."

Given the complexity of this issue, it may be asking too much of the *Washington Post* to figure out if the new timeline holds water - it most assuredly does not.⁸ But if the Commission's version is right, then officials at NORAD and the FAA were issuing false accounts for more than two years. Isn't that, at least, an issue?

Are none of our taxpayer-financed public officials going to be held accountable for what they say and do? Can the official story of 9/11 be changed every few months without consequence?

Sen. Mark Dayton of Minnesota doesn't think so. At hearings on the 9/11 Commission report, Dayton said NORAD officials "lied to the American people, they lied to Congress and they lied to your 9/11 commission to create a false impression of competence, communication and protection of the American people."⁹

This, at least, made the *Minneapolis Tribune*. But where is the follow-up? Isn't the reality that either NORAD or the 9/11 Commission (or both) must be lying about what happened on Sept. 11 worthy of coverage in the newspaper that was once synonymous with investigative reporting?

Or is the *Post* too busy making fun of "conspiracy theory"?

¹ Re: "Conspiracy Theories Flourish on the Internet," Carol Morello, *Washington Post*, Oct. 7, 2004 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A13059-2004Oct6?language=printer>

² "Statement of the Family Steering Committee for the 9/11 Independent Commission," March 20, 2004. See <http://www.911independentcommission.org/mar202004.html>

³ On the history of the Commission and its conflicts of interest, see my earlier article "The Rice/Zelikow Connection," May 15, 2004 at <http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20040527201054793>

⁴ "Poll: 50% of NYC Says U.S. Govt. Knew," press release. See <http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20040830120349841>

⁵ As portals to the kingdom of 9/11 research and truth movement sites, the author recommends 911Truth.org, the New York activist site ny911truth.org, and his own collection at <http://summeroftruth.org>

⁶ "Putting on our tin-foil thinking cap," William Bunch, <http://www.pnionline.com/dnblog/extra/archives/001002.html>

⁷ Timeline of reports on allegations that ISI Director Mahmood Ahmed ordered a \$100,000 wire transfer to Mohamed Atta in the weeks prior to Sept. 11. <http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/essay.jsp?article=mahmoodahmed>

⁸ "Analyzing the 9/11 Report, Chapter 1," by Michael Kane: http://www.williambowles.info/911/911_analysis_1.html; for a series of links showing the official timelines for air defense on 9/11/04 being rewritten over time, see "The Emperor's New Timelines" at <http://summeroftruth.org/#timelines>

⁹ "Senator Dayton: NORAD lied about 9/11," following up on Minneapolis Star-Tribune, July 31, 2004 <http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20040731213239607>

Earth to The Nation Magazine...

An Open Letter from Jamey Hecht

This is my second open letter to The Nation. The first can be found here: "Bad Faith Again: An Open Letter To *The Nation Magazine*" <http://www.mediamonitors.net/jameyhecht1.html>

When you're writing to somebody on another planet, you're more likely to reach them if you broadcast outside the confines of a sealed paper envelope. And planet Nation is far, far away.

Their September 27, 2004 issue has a review of David Ray Griffin's *The New Pearl Harbor* written by Robert Baer, a celebrated CIA agent whose career involvement with the agency is acknowledged on the review's lead page. Griffin's book has a foreword by Richard Falk, who sits on *The Nation's* advisory board. But that hasn't inhibited the editors from frying the book in lard.

Baer's review is a heavy load of condescension, flustered contempt, false dichotomies, and a few undisputed facts, borne along by that old workhorse: the claim that elites can't possibly conspire in something horrible (like the murder of an American President in 1963, or three thousand people in NYC in 2001) and then execute it, because (1) too many people would need to know in advance, and (2) once done, it wouldn't

remain a secret.

Well, FBI field agents like Robert Wright and Colleen Rowley who desperately tried to prevent 911 were stopped by one man, Special Supervisory Agent David Frasca - not by the entire FBI. All that's required are a few well-placed, key people. As for keeping it a secret, of course the big crimes can't be kept secret. That's where *The Nation* comes in.

The best way to cope with the emergence of uncomfortable truths is to declare that they can't possibly be true, since if they were, they would have emerged by now - ahem. Let's go to a commercial.

The facts have come out. Read Michael C. Ruppert's new book, *Crossing The Rubicon* (New Society Publishers) and Paul Thompson's *The Terror Timeline* (Harper Collins). Both are built entirely from mainstream news sources and direct testimony. Then ask yourself whether Dick Cheney and elements in the Pentagon would have foregone trillions of dollars and decades of oil out of concern that the facts might come out. They're out! But if they're not in *The Nation*, they're not facts.

The usually-recommended response to a review like Baer's is a Letter to the Editor. Since *The Nation* prints this sort of CIA-driven disinfo quite often, there are ample opportunities to find out what happens to such Letters to the Editor at that particular publication. They go into a pretty trashcan with a peace sign on it.

Fortunately, it is still possible to find analysis that transcends the marshmallow-bellyache of this Babyboomer Flagship Publication - in the peace-trashcan and in some other places:

Here, Mark Robinowitz has assembled an excellent set of resources about left-gatekeeper phenomena - the politics, the psychology, the practice, the personnel: <http://www.oilempire.us/denial.html>

And here, Nafeez Mossadeq Ahmed offers a major treatment of left-gatekeeping targeted at Z-Net in particular (especially David Corn and Michael Albert): "9/11 'Conspiracies' and the Defactualisation of Analysis: How Ideologues on the Left and Right Theorise Vacuously to Support Baseless Supposition -- A Reply To Z-Net's 'Conspiracy Theory' Section"

<http://www.mediamonitors.net/mosaddeq37.html>

Here, I take a shot at *The Nation* for its embrace of a disingenuous book by Mark Riebling that alleges a tragic "wedge" (Jamie Gorelick, who learned so much from this book, called it a "wall") between the CIA and FBI: "Failure and Crime Are Not The Same" 9-11's Lim-

ited Hangouts": http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/112203_failure_crime.html

Helloooo, trashcan!

Best wishes,

Jamey Hecht

**Thou shalt not bear false witness
against thy neighbor
(Exodus 20:16)**

**An Open Letter to the Anti-Defamation
League**

**By
Jamey Hecht**

Dear Anti-Defamation League,

Some years ago I wrote to ADL to report a genuine incident of hate-speech against my fellow Jews which I had chanced upon somewhere on the web. You were responsive and concerned and I thank you for your attention.

I hope that attention will be equally available today, as I contact you for a somewhat different reason. Your current "Anti-Israel Protest Calendar" contains a paragraph which seems to me both unfair and potentially damaging to causes espoused by people of good will:

"The conspicuous presence of conspiracy theorists in both New York City and San Francisco was worrisome. A group called the 9/11 Truth Alliance, which contends that the Bush administration staged the attacks, distributed signs saying "Stop the 9-11 Cover-Up" at both rallies. It also handed out "deception dollars," large replicas of paper currency covered with links to conspiracy and also anti-Israel and anti-Semitic Web sites. While some conspiratorial groups were present at past rallies, their profile was much higher at the March 20th demonstrations."

http://www.adl.org/Israel/israel_protest_calendar_2004.asp

Please provide me with any evidence you may have for the claim that the Deception Dollar, or any other aspect of the specific groups www.911Truth.org and its New York chapter www.ny911Truth.org, holds any "anti-Semitic" views whatsoever.

I can only hope that you recognize a distinction between criticism of the policies and practices of the state of Is-

rael, about which reasonable people can disagree, and the indefensible hatred often directed against the Jewish people, a hatred we all deplore.

Let me state clearly that I am personally acquainted with the designer of the "Deception Dollar," and I am active in the 911Truth movement. I hold a PhD from Brandeis University, and am the Assistant Managing Editor of *From The Wilderness Publications*, a non-sectarian media outlet which is often critical of Israeli policy and practices but which espouses an explicitly multi-cultural, multi-ethnic worldview. For a detailed statement of FTW's position on the issue of an alleged relationship between the Israeli government and the 911 attacks, please see Chapter 15 of Michael Ruppert's new book, *Crossing the Rubicon*. Appended to the bottom of this email is an excerpt from that text which, I think, represents the views of many people in the 911Truth movement.

I suggest that you rethink your use of the term "conspiracy theory." The term is so common in American discourse that I can't blame you for adopting it. But I can encourage you to drop it, and I think you might do so if you consider its anti-intellectual, thought-stopping character.

Used in an almost invariably contemptuous tone, the phrase "conspiracy theory" implies that human affairs are entirely driven by individual "lone nut" villains, or by amorphous faceless elites who occupy impersonal power structures. In reality, groups of people can and do plan activities all the time, every day, including picnics, theater, bank robberies, and political killings like those which afflicted the United States during the 1960's. To conspire is simply to plan with other people; nothing more and nothing less. As for "theory," it's a term in legal discourse that simply means: a hypothesis about what happened.

I recently spoke at a 911Truth conference in Toronto, Canada on this very issue. A transcript can be found here:

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/061704_conspiracy_union.html

It is true that there are persons and groups claiming to pursue the truth about 911 who have used that pursuit for purposes of anti-Jewish bigotry (among other bigotries), promulgating false claims that Israelis were warned not to go to work in the WTC that day.

No doubt some of these are motivated by a genuine racism, while others are cynically intended to discredit the 911Truth movement by falsely linking it with despicable sources of Holocaust-denial, et cetera. I am making the gesture (perhaps futile, perhaps just quixotic) of demonstrating that 911Truth is not in the former category. Per-

haps just quixotic) of demonstrating that 911Truth is not in the former category. Perhaps you can make a similar gesture showing that ADL is not in the latter.

Again, it's a matter of considerable moral importance that you provide some evidence for your claim regarding the Deception Dollar. If you can demonstrate that there is some anti-Semitic content in it, I will bring that to the attention of its designer and probably succeed in having it removed in the next edition. If not, I ask that you retract and remove your defamatory paragraph about the Deception Dollar and the 911Truth organization, of which I remain a proud and active member. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jamey Hecht

I close with a passage from *Crossing The Rubicon*:

The term "anti-Semitism" refers to a European social and political phenomenon (which, like much of European pre-WWII ideology, still lingers in some places, e.g. Japan). Anti-Jewish feeling, thought, and behavior are as old as monotheism itself, and have undergone almost as many transformations. There's the anti-Judaism of Late Antiquity; the massacres against Jews in the Crusades and the Inquisition, the murderous pogroms by rural European peasants in the 18th and 19th Centuries, the middle-class resentment, mythologizing, and persecution that led to the Dreyfuss Affair in the French 1890's, and a massive wave of hatred toward Jews that came upward from European folk ideology and downward from Fascist and rightist parties and governments in the first half of the 20th Century. Like all forms of bigotry, "Anti-Semitism" remains a serious problem all over the world. But the phrase itself has no real anthropological basis; it dates from the 1870's, when most European writers still divided up the world's peoples according to Biblical categories - "Semites" were thought to be descended from Noah's son Shem, while everybody else came from either Ham or Japhet. In fact, Antisemitism was invented as part of an effort by German racist authors to replace the religion-based Jew-hatred (Judenhass) of the past with a more modern, ethnicity-driven contempt. Of course, this apparently intellectual construct barely masked a deep reservoir of anti-rational, virulent hatred. It formed the basis for the pseudo-scientific racism of the Nazi movement.

So the term shouldn't be used to refer to the attitudes of either side in the Arab-Israeli conflict, where it's misleading and inapt. As is often pointed out, Arabs and Jews are both called "Semitic" peoples. More importantly, "Anti-Semitism" is worse than useless in any discussion of Israeli domestic and international affairs. To talk about Israel as if its every citizen thought, felt, and acted as a unit in some giant monolithic crowd is as unfair as assuming that every American supports all of the U.S.

government's actions, its economic policies, and its militarism with exactly the same degree of feeling and for exactly the same reasons. Clearly, within Israel there are hugely divergent opinions on everything including the occupied territories and settlements, Palestinian history and politics, the conduct of Israel's foreign and domestic policies, and the vexing issue of compulsory military service. And Israel has a sizeable antiwar movement opposing the invasion of Iraq by the U.S. So what is important (indeed, essential) to examine are the actions of the Israeli government, in exactly the same way that we have examined the actions of the U.S. government. Supporters of the state of Israel are often hysterically unable to tolerate that kind of critique, as though they know (all-too consciously in some cases, perhaps unconsciously in others) that a clear examination of Israel's national conduct reveals a pattern of stark horrors. This sort of denial is best maintained by ad hominem attacks, the most effective being the easy slander of anti-Semitism; if you're having any trouble preventing criticism of Israel, call the critic a bigot and it's all over.

Sometimes those reactions are triggered by the genuine anxiety that remains a permanent feature of Jewish life since the Holocaust. But it's very common for journalists (say, Chris Matthews), politicians, officials, and disinformationists to squander, sabotage, or abort an exceedingly important debate by turning on the red megaphone that warns against what isn't there.

To say that Israel did not perpetrate the attacks of 9/11 is not to deny that the Israeli government was very close to those attacks and may have played a role in them. There is evidence that points both ways. On the one hand it is clear that Mossad made several attempts to warn the U.S. government that the attacks were coming - in one case even providing the U.S. government with a list that included the names of four of the 9/11 hijackers, including Mohammed Atta and that charmed pair, Nawaf Alhazmi and Khalid Almidhar. Everybody knew the attacks were coming. Yet even after this information was in American hands, various agencies of the U.S. government allowed Alhazmi and Almidhar to roam free and unmolested.

The analysis of insider trading by the Herzliya Institute for Counterterrorism (ICT) is another example of Israeli action pointing toward, rather than away from, evidence that the CIA knew what was going on and allowed the attacks to happen.

But perhaps the most compelling reason to discount assertions that Israel was the executor of the attacks is the following UPI story, which is one of the most overlooked bombshells in the whole 9/11 saga:

A leaked Federal Aviation Administration memo written on the evening of Sept. 11 contains disturbing revela-

tions about American Airlines Flight 11, the first to hit the World Trade Center. The "Executive Summary," based on information relayed by a flight attendant to the American Airlines Operation Center, stated "that a passenger located in seat 10B shot and killed a passenger in seat 9B at 9:20 a.m. The passenger killed was Daniel Lewin, shot by passenger Satam Al Suqami." The FAA has claimed that the document is a "first draft," declining to release the final draft, as it is "protected information," noting the inaccuracies in reported times, etc. The final draft omits all mention of gunfire. Lewin, a 31 year-old dual American-Israeli citizen was a graduate of MIT and Israel's Technion. Lewin had emigrated to Israel with his parents at age 14 and had worked at IBM's research lab in Haifa, Israel. Lewin was a co-founder and chief technology officer of Akamai Technologies, and lived in Boston with his family. A report in Ha'aretz on Sept. 17 identified Lewin as a former member of the Israel Defense Force Sayeret Matkal, a top-secret counter-terrorist unit, whose Unit 269 specializes in counter-terrorism activities outside of Israel.

This particular story raises a multitude of questions. Guns were on the hijacked flights? How did they get there? Why have they not been mentioned? What was someone with Lewin's background doing sitting in front of one of the hijackers on the day of the hijackings? Was he still active? Mere coincidence is nearly impossible here. So the question becomes: did the hijackers - all nineteen of them - plan their activities to kill Lewin, or was Lewin following the hijackers even into the gates of death? Did they have to kill him to complete their mission? Who had penetrated whom, and who had compromised Lewin's presence on the plane hijacked by Mohammed Atta? One thing is absolutely clear from my vantage point: someone at the highest levels of the Israeli government deemed Lewin expendable.

Behind the fragile logic and the false rumors that thousands of Jews didn't show up for work at the World Trade Center on 9/11 lie deeper truths that raise darker questions. As a classic piece of disinformation, the rumor about Jews not showing up for work - latched onto by prejudiced and undisciplined minds - made it impossible to rationally discuss such things as the Zim Israeli-American shipping lines having vacated their offices in the World Trade Center just a week before the attacks and moving to Norfolk, Virginia. Two sources told me on condition of anonymity that Zim broke its lease to make the move.

The disinformation worked like a charm. Here's one example: an African-American poet, Amiri Baraka, nearly lost his post as Poet Laureate of New Jersey in an apparent reprisal for his embrace of this particular rumor. Just a month after 9-11, Baraka published "Somebody Blew Up America," a passionately internationalist poem against fascism in all its forms. But he didn't do enough

homework, and a single line, "Who told 4000 Israeli workers at the Twin Towers / To stay home that day?" touched off a small storm of boring controversy that clogged much of the Black press, the Jewish press, and the regional mainstream press for weeks. It's unfortunately true (and rarely noted) that Baraka has written some very bigoted poems in the past 35 years, but "Somebody Blew Up America" is not one of them. Yet it's the one that got all the noise, and the whole episode helped to shut down any legitimate discussion of Israeli foreknowledge and possible involvement in 9-11. Those who believed the rumor think they needn't look further, and those who rejected it think the same, for opposite reasons.

Today's Imperialism - Uniquely American

How credit and debt put the United States on top... so far

by
Stan Goff

[This is the third installment of Stan Goff's report on the political economy of US imperialism, a series which started with a critique of American policy toward Iran: "Persian Peril." That impending lunge may or may not occur under the current Resident, but the eventuality is more than likely. Goff's analysis is strikingly sophisticated, drawing on the World Systems Theory of Immanuel Wallerstein,¹ Rosa Luxembourge's enduring insights into capital and power, and Goff's own considerable experience with the machinery of American hegemony.

As this article goes to press in the new issue of FTW's print newsletter, we learn that India has just decided to sell \$120 billion of its US Treasury reserves: "In addition," writes Edward Luce in the Financial Times, "India's record foreign exchange reserves represent a large "opportunity cost", [Indian officials] say, since most of the money is invested in low-yielding US Treasury bonds. 'We are subsidizing the American economy,' said one official. 'These are scarce resources that can be put to better use.'"² And there's more news like that. China has just raised interest rates for the first time in 9 years, so American suppliers of China's vast appetite for raw materials are seeing their stocks bounce down. There's a big difference between China's rising interest rates and ours: they're trying to rein in their runaway growth, while we just want to slow the inflation of our empty economic balloon.

How can an isolated individual understand what's going

on, without the benefit of a fully-funded and freethinking university system? Follow the map: follow the oil, and the gold, and the guns, and the drugs. Follow the money. -- JAH]

The United States is dominant in the world - materially dominant, and not merely financially dominant. But the theories of Hilferding, Hobson, and Lenin on imperialism do not accurately describe the actual character of US domination unless we selectively censor a lot of information - as certain sectors of the left have been wont to do.

From the very beginning, the Hilferding-Hobson-Lenin theses centered on the needs of monopoly capital as the driving force that led to inter-imperialist rivalry, and to the First World War. These theses held true for Europe and the stage of imperialism that they witnessed.

But as Michael Hudson exhaustively documents in *Super Imperialism*, the United States began in the First World War by exploiting this rivalry itself to gain advantage, and the predominant actor was not monopoly capital, but the US state. While there is no doubt that the state was acting on behalf of its own capitalists, it was not doing so in a largely reactive way but in a leadership role.

The US did so first in the role of national creditor, then - even more stunningly - in the role of national debtor.

While the US had employed direct conquest and domination in its own hemisphere, it was not drawn into the inter-imperialist rivalry that sparked WWI. So the US did not find itself predominantly "exporting capital" to its colonies via private institutions, but exporting it to the advanced capitalist states, particularly Great Britain, as loans for their war with the Germans and Ottomans, loans approved and guaranteed by the United States government.

The United States stayed out of the war until it became likely that without US intervention, the Allies would lose and their debts to America would remain unpaid. Once the war was over, Great Britain and France were heavily indebted, and the US - far from being the benevolent post-war ally - behaved much like any Brooklyn loan shark, bleeding its former allies so severely that they in turn wrecked the post-war German economy with reparations to assist the allies in their debts. This led directly to the rise of Nazism and the Second World War.

Whereupon, the US began its participation, *again*, not as a fellow combatant, but as a creditor to the other allies. It is now very clear that Franklin Roosevelt developed financial designs on the colonies of the British Em-

pire, and that he maneuvered throughout the war to let others - particularly the Soviet Union, but also England and France - take the brunt of Hitler's aggression to weaken them, while he built up the geographically war-immune US industrial base, and positioned the US to be a post-war creditor and *the* new super-power.

It is a demonstrable fact that England has been a satellite of the United States ever since the First World War, and this accounts for the unsavory affinity of Tony Blair's lips for George W. Bush's faux-cowboy ass. Tony will eagerly jump aboard the bandwagon to attack Iran soon.

Britain was the principle (but not the only) target of US post-war loan-sharking in the 20s and 30s. Prior to the 1929 crash, the US bled the British Empire like a financial vampire, driven more by an archaic banker's ruthlessness than by any prescient self-interest. In fact, the US state had no idea at the time that they were becoming the principal cause of what would be the world's most destructive war only two decades later.

After the speculative crash of 1929, with the US in the worst economic doldrums it had ever experienced, and with significant sectors of the US working class looking with great interest at Russia's example from 1917, Franklin Roosevelt was elected the 33rd President of the United States in 1933, with a mandate to take extraordinary measures ostensibly to relieve the suffering of the American working class masses, but more importantly - from the point of view of US elites - to take the increasingly revolutionary edge off of their agitations.

Roosevelt then became the first president to abandon the gold standard and conduct a cold-blooded strategic devaluation of the US currency as a weapon against its putative allies in Europe. This was a policy of deliberate inflation domestically to raise prices as part of his domestic pre-Keynesian overhaul, but it further battered the European exporters, especially Britain, who needed to export to the US in order to acquire the dollars to pay their compounding WWI debts.

This was the first *intentional* foray into state-initiated economic warfare using currency as a weapon, and it displayed just a glimmer of understanding that in state-to-state economic competition, the central banks would become the primary battlefield. In the competition between private capitals, the state would eventually become the referee to ensure the health of the whole, and one state would dominate the general direction of global capital accumulation. But this was only a glimmer then.

The Law of Unintended Consequences caused WWII, and hit the US with an even deeper economic crisis. The combined refusal of the US to negotiate new terms

with the Europeans for repayment of war debts and the strategic devaluation of the gold-free dollar led to a series of competitive devaluations of European national currencies - a destructive race to the bottom - that ended up hitting the United States like a tsunami.

Consistent with the arguments of Rosa Luxemburg and later world system theorists, this period of economic disaster in the capitalist metropolises loosened their exploitative grip on the under-developed periphery. Andrew McKillop wrote that:

Through 1929-35 or 1929-36 in some countries of the "civilized world" there were unremitting falls of activity in 'key sectors.'

The uncivilized world was however less than concerned by the event ... it gained. (A. Gunder Frank, S. Amin and suchlike will give you... the related and unrelated sequences of economic change governing metropole-colony relations). Simple facts and figures show considerable economic growth in the 'colonial South' of the 1929-39 period.

This strengthened many of the colonies even as their colonial ruler-states were being weakened, and contributed to the creation of conditions that would lead to the wave of national liberation movements that were folded into the Cold War dynamic later on. This was unanticipated by the US, even as its assault on the British was coldly calculated. The American intent was never to take over the formerly British (and French, German, etc.) colonies, but to replace the Pound (Sterling) as the world reserve currency, bringing not only the peripheral "South" under its sway, but Europe itself, beginning with Great Britain.

Michael Hudson writes:

It would be false to say that the United States provoked World War II out of malice or out of knowledge of the results of insisting on repayment of its war debts by a world utterly unable to repay them... intolerable burdens that the United States imposed on its allies of World War I and, through them, on Germany. Every US administration from 1917 through the Roosevelt era employed the strategy of compelling repayment of these war debts, above all Britain's. The effect was to splinter Europe so that the continent was laid open politically as a possible province of the United States.

Private finance capital could not have achieved that end... [but] the world tumbled into a depression. Not only did the United States not escape the Great Depression, it became the principle sufferer from a collapse of its own creating... The first great foray of U.S. governmental finance capital into world power politics thus ended in ignominious failure, and ultimately in a war [with] dimensions vaster even than World War I.

Roosevelt was a determined man, and after implementing heroic Keynesian measures to ensure the political stability of the United States, he turned the lemon into lemonade through his carefully calculated commitments of the US to World War II.

The Lend-Lease Act, by which the US supported the Allies without troops in the Second World War for almost two years before it intentionally provoked the Japanese into the attack on Pearl Harbor, was an instrument that just as intentionally broke down the British Empire with debt for the purpose of dissolving the Imperial Preference - a set of relaxed trade rules within the British Empire - in the commonwealth. This set the stage for the post-war displacement of the Sterling as the global reserve currency by the dollar.

The intent was never to destroy the British, any more than it was to replace the direct European colonial rule that World War II would mortally wound. It was to bring Europe and ascendant Asia under the sway of the United States as sub-imperial powers in a new global hierarchy that would extend the influence of the US state beyond anything ever yet imagined by former empires - in a qualitatively new way.

The British were subsumed by the United States into the financial pole of capital, and were eventually reduced to a US financial satellite on the border of Europe. This goes a long way toward explaining the seemingly inexplicable subservience of successive British governments in toadying to the US - even in harebrained military adventures like the current Iraq quagmire. The UK has now been transformed into a financial and military appendage of the US state.

Mark Jones (1999):

The British working class has been restructured out of its birthright and out of its collective identity. The country is now a fiefdom of [US] international finance capital, its working class little more than servitors of the City [of London - a banking consortium], which has now consolidated its national hegemony while totally international-

ising itself.

The country now exists as an adjunct of the City. Apart from finance capital, Britain's most successful trades are the Intelligence Service, the Armed Forces and the arms industry...For this reason, the world slump which is now in its early stages will have peculiarly sharp social effects in Britain.

Britain's role as the world's largest financial offshore island, the world's leading money-lauderer (as much as \$200bn of narcodollars and dirty money in some years is washed in the City's giant laundry), its self-appointed segregation from Europe and refusal to participate in EMU (economic and monetary union) means that the fate of sterling, pummeled between the euro and the dollar, will likely be grisly... The disproportionate weight of banking, finance and transnational corporate capital in the British economy means that the effects of crisis in these sectors will spread with lightning speed and devastating effect through what passes for the specifically-national economy.

Gowan noted how the US actually used the City of London to break down the post-war Bretton Woods system after the Vietnam War almost bankrupted the United States. "It is true that the Nixon administration was able to exploit a breach in the Bretton Woods system, Gowan writes, "that had already existed since the 1950s: the international role of the City of London in financial transactions." For the details of this, see Gowan's aforementioned extensive essay [Peter Gowan, *The Globalization Gamble - The Dollar-Wall Street Regime and its Consequences*, at <http://www.gre.ac.uk/~fa03/iwgvf/files/9-gowan.rtf>].

The Nixon Revolution

Why the Left is wrong about "money for people and not for war"

From the Civil War until World War I, the US had built up its industry to surpass the British. The period from 1914 until 1939 was a period of continuous and profound crisis, during which the US was maneuvering to expand its influence throughout the world at the expense of the European capitals - in particular the British. The Roosevelt administration had imposed what Gowan called "repressive measures on the *private* financial pole of capital" in order to regain the monetary stability necessary to lay the foundation for a fresh upwave of capital accumulation after the war, using *government* finance capital in the international arena. Those stabiliza-

tion measures were codified at Bretton Woods in 1944, where the debilitated Europeans consented to a new global system in which the US would be "first among equals," in a system that fixed the dollar to gold and established periodically negotiable but fixed currency exchange rates, precisely to prevent overheated currency speculation, but also to establish dollar seignorage across the planet. (In fact, there was little that resembled "equality" in the Bretton Woods institutions - the International Monetary Fund and World Bank - when the US had a controlling plurality and exclusive veto power.) The fact was not unnoticed that during the run up to and conduct of the war, the US Treasury Department had absorbed the largest pool of gold in history.

The United Nations was established at the behest of the United States - who had earlier rejected the League of Nations - indicating the new US willingness to incorporate multilateralism into its imperial blueprint, and as a politico-diplomatic adjunct to the IMF and World Bank.

The Marshall Plan was implemented as a bulwark against the "spread of communism," simultaneously a genuine fear among many elites as well as a new form of conflict with which to discipline US satellite states. The Plan also provided the US with viable overseas sub-imperial investment conduits.

But there was another dimension to this blueprint, and that was the goal of unchallengeable military superiority, as a way of both backstopping and expanding the new-found US international influence. NATO was organized, and US bases proliferated in Asia, all under the guise of containing Communism, but with the practical result of creating even deeper dependency on the sub-imperial Japan and, using the Anglo-American bloc, on Germany and the rest of Europe.

The two pillars of US power were US *government* finance capital and the US military - both direct functions of the state. Contrary to the Hilferding-Hobson-Lenin thesis, the US state - and not "monopoly capital" - was in the driver's seat.

It is worth noting here that the US state has "driven" the system into crisis that would have been avoided - though different crises would have appeared - if short-term economic interests had been the policy locomotive. Instead, Korea and then Vietnam led directly to the transformation of military-monetary *creditor* imperialism into the current system of military-monetary *debtor* imperialism.

In its attempt to fight-Communism/extend and consolidate US influence in Asia, the US embarked on two costly wars, one that was fought to a stalemate in Korea, and one that resulted in a shattering and domestically destabilizing defeat in Vietnam. While these two

wars undermined the myth of US military invincibility and threw gas on the fires of national liberation movements, they also converted the US from a net creditor in the world into a net debtor. During Vietnam, in particular, with the French leading the way, claims on US gold created a grave danger to the dollar, partly because the vigorous post-Marshall Plan economies of Germany and Japan had converted the US from a net exporter into a net importer. The combination of both - a debt and a trade-deficit - came to head under the Nixon administration.

This became a new nodal point in US post-war imperialism, and it decisively ended the post-WWII upwave of domestic prosperity.

In one of the boldest and most brilliant political moves of the century, the Nixon administration played "chicken" with the rest of the world, and unilaterally abandoned Bretton Woods. It simply quit the gold standard and fixed currency exchange rates, in effect daring the rest of the capitalist world to run on the dollar. Nixon calculated that dollar hegemony as a global system was "too big to fail" for the rest of the world, and the rest of the world backed down. We had now entered the stage of debtor-imperialism.

This abandonment of gold and fixed exchange rates decisively lifted the New Deal private "financial pole repression" regime, and it was followed by a series of strategic devaluations of the dollar that wiped billions of dollars of US foreign debt off the books in Germany and Japan, both of whom had to sit by and fume helplessly.

This also set the stage for taking advantage of crises generated by currency speculation for US capitals to penetrate markets throughout the world, using the IMF as a lever with its conditional emergency loans. This "technique" was pioneered by the Reagan administration in response to the Mexican currency crisis of 1982.

Hudson's book, *Super Imperialism*, describes the US-IMF relationship in great detail, and it is strongly recommended for anyone who wants to understand exactly how that relationship developed.

These IMF *structural adjustment programs* (SAPs) are in effect a loan-sharking operation of unimaginable magnitude imposed on almost 70 poor nations, and they consolidated dollar hegemony in its present form. The ballooning and essentially un-payable debts of debtor nations (with the US as the sole exception) are denominated in US dollars, and have inexorably grown into larger and larger fractions of the national outlays of peripheral economies. This obligation - in the face of a crushing international economic sanction threat - to service burgeoning external debts using US dollars is precisely why these national economies are pressured to almost wholly export to the US - now the world consumer of last instance - leaving local populations to rely more and more on the increasingly stressed household, subsistence agriculture, artisan, and primitive accumulation sectors of their own economies (as Luxemburg said) for plain survival.

This debt-leverage system in the imperial periphery augments the Treasury bill extortion of European and Asian sub-imperial centers, and both systems are guaranteed in multiple dimensions by US military power.

But this system is itself now exhausted, as was indicated by the Asian meltdown's unintended threat to the US economy and by the dot-com bust of 2000. This same debt-liquidity crisis is reforming now in the US as a real estate bubble that will just as certainly burst.

For a quick overview of Wallerstein's approach, see <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/wallerstein.html>. For his most recent work, see *The Decline of American Power: The U.S. in a Chaotic World* (W.W. Norton, July 2003).

²See <http://www.moneytec.com/forums/showthread.php?%20postid=74258%5C> and <http://www.garp.com/risknews/newsfeed.asp?Category=12&MyFile=2004-10-18-9562.html>.

Abiotic Oil: Science or Politics?

By
Ugo Bardi

www.aspoitalia.net

[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 photosynthetic 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.

The Lingering Cloud of 9/11

by

Jenna Orkin,

World Trade Center Environmental Organization

www.wtceo.org

September 11 was a tragedy that has changed the course of history and the way we live. It was also an environmental disaster of epic proportions. Hundreds of tons of asbestos were pulverized and dispersed around Lower Manhattan and beyond. The tens of thousands of fluorescent lightbulbs each contained enough mercury to contaminate a quarter of a city block. The Trade Center's 50,000 computers were each made with four to

twelve pounds of lead. The smoke detectors contained radioactive americium 241. The alkalinity of the air was equivalent to that of Drano. A month after the disaster, Dr. Thomas Cahill of the University of California at Davis found levels of very-fine and ultra-fine particulates that were the highest he'd ever recorded in the course of taking 7000 samples around the world, including at the burning Kuwaiti oil fields.¹ In addition there were record levels of dioxin, PCBs, and all the other contaminants one might expect to find when a modern city - which is what the World Trade Center was - burns for several months. In the words of Dr. Marjorie Clarke, 9/11 was "equivalent to dozens of asbestos factories, incinerators and crematoria - as well as a volcano."²

Nevertheless, beginning on September 13, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued reassurances about the air quality downtown.

A report by the EPA Inspector General released in August, 2003, found that these pronouncements came about because of interference from the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ.) "[B]ased on CEQ's influence reassuring information was added to at least one press release and cautionary information was deleted;" Why was the CEQ interfering in this way? The report states: "[T]he desire to reopen Wall Street [was] considered when preparing EPA's early press releases."³

As a result of EPA's reassuring lies, Lower Manhattan reopened with much fanfare about 'showing the terrorists.' Often, Ground Zero workers were told not to wear respirators for fear of frightening the public. Residents removed tons of toxic debris from their homes (some of which looked like Pompeii) in accord with instructions provided by the New York City Department of Health: "Use a wet mop or wet rag."⁴ On October 9, Stuyvesant High School, where this writer's son was a student, reopened. Flanked by Ground Zero four blocks to the south, Stuyvesant also had on its north doorstep the main transfer station for the toxic debris to be carted off to Fresh Kills, Staten Island.

As a result of this placement, Particulate Matter 2.5 - dust that is small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and not come out again - was often higher at Stuyvesant than at Ground Zero. Because it is so small, P.M. 2.5 has a relatively large surface area to volume ratio which means that the toxic chemicals in the debris would adsorb (i.e., be absorbed onto its surface) onto the particles, compounding their toxicity. High levels of asbestos, lead, tetrachloroethane and isocyanates were found at the school which had been used as a triage center but whose ventilation system had not been cleaned prior to the school's reopening.

Did Bush himself know about the air quality downtown?

If he didn't, it was because he operated on a "Don't ask, don't tell" policy so that the buck would stop short of him. The fact is: Scientists and other experts testified early and often on the dangers of the air downtown and the toxic dust in people's homes. Yet to date all the federal government has provided is testing with outdated equipment and sometimes untried protocols; a dangerously flawed and limited cleanup and little or no health care for the affected community. The Commission Report deals with the enviroidisaster of 9/11 in a footnote in which they refer to an interview with Sam Thernstrom, coordinator for the White House Council on Environmental Quality. He denies changing press releases in order to reopen Wall Street, explaining that the reasons for the changes were procedural. His story is corroborated by Christy Todd Whitman who told the initial lies.

John Gotti and Lucky Luciano have got their stories straight. But as Uncle Remus said, "You can hide the fire but how you gonna hide the smoke?"

Three years later we are beginning to see the results of the disastrous policies of the White House which put economic concerns ahead of public health. Over half of the heroes who toiled at Ground Zero now have debilitating respiratory symptoms. Among residents, workers, and the Stuyvesant community are many illnesses such as new-onset asthma, Reactive Airways Disease, and chronic bronchitis. Lawyer Robert Gulack, for instance, has suffered permanent lung damage from his exposure to contamination in the Woolworth building. And as a dreadful portent of what may be in store for the community of Ground Zero, fourteen rescue dogs have died.

The White House's actions in response to the environmental aftermath of 9/11 reveal that Osama Bin Laden could not have stumbled on a more felicitous collaborator than George W. Bush.

For more information, see:

www.wtceo.org
<http://www.911ea.org>

¹ <http://delta.ucdavis.edu/news.htm>

² <http://www.911ea.org/Clarke.WTC%20City%20Council%20Testimony%20revised.March%2030,%202004.pdf>

³ http://www.epa.gov/oigearth/reports/2003/WTC_report_20030821.pdf

⁴ <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/alerts/wtc1.html>

(SNAP OUT OF IT! - Cont'd from page 1)

it might be – will also come a willingness to abandon strategies which no longer work for entirely different ones that do. In order for that to happen, however, those on the so-called left, as well as those conservative and libertarian voices who wanted to return a degree of sanity to the Republican party, will have to admit that America is not America anymore.

We are living in a foreign land; a nation that is behaving like our enemy; a nation which has weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

This nation is so deeply divided that the words "civil war" stand for a possibility that is no longer remote. Next year, even the next few months, will reveal these deep and irreconcilable divisions. The electoral process is dead. Only the fear that there is nothing to replace it except revolution and bloodshed will prevent people from seeing that there are different ways to fight; ways that should have been adopted four years ago. The rest of the world knows that physical force is not effective in this struggle and the rest of the world has something to teach us. We will look anew perhaps at the Second Amendment to the Constitution, but it is in what's left of the First that we will find our strength. The freedom of association includes within it the right to decide where and how to spend our money.

Perhaps out of fear, perhaps out of prudence, I have been told that some activists and whistleblowers are planning on leaving the country in short order. A thought I have seen circulate in discussions since the election is that many well-known activists and whistleblowers think it wise to run before Dick Cheney and Karl Rove get their legs and start hunting us down, one by one. Reuters published a November 3rd story about many Democrats seeking to emigrate to Canada.

As a man who has written a book charging the President and especially the Vice President, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the Commander of NORAD, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General and the former Directors of Central Intelligence and the FBI with multiple counts of premeditated murder, it is my belief that it is foolish to wait and see what the administration does. Now is the time to attack, and to attack with all of the vigor our movement and our wounded, offended spirits can muster. It is our best means of self healing. If we cut and run now, we die.

No longer is that word hyperbolic.

I am going on the attack.

Let me be quite clear about this: This is spiritual warfare.

There is no place to run. There is no safe place to hide. On her home page (www.solari.com) Catherine Austin Fitts posts a great quote from Gandhi.

"The only devils in the world are those running around in our own hearts - that is where the battle should be fought."

- Mahatma Gandhi

Only the protection offered by a universe that responds more powerfully to love than to fear can be an effective shield now. That protection has no limits in geography, nor do the dangers against which it guards. I criticize no one for making a decision to expatriate. Some may have physical or financial limitations and concerns. Some may be honoring an old Special Forces axiom that running today makes possible a fight more likely to succeed another day. This is a sifting out for the battles that are to come; battles which will be unlike anything ever seen in this country. There will also be a great many new brethren who will show up on battle lines that we must now redraw to suit ourselves. We must begin choosing the times and places of battle to suit our needs. No task is more important than this.

We have expended our money, our liberty, our hearts and our souls by spending money as powers that be, and media programming describing a fictitious America, told us we should; by volunteering in efforts that were laid out for us by others; by believing that we were doing the right thing playing in a rigged game. The biggest ball and chain for us now is the notion that we might resurrect an electoral process that officially died four years ago. Anything brought to life now would be a Frankenstein rather than a happy ending to an episode of ER; and at what additional cost in terms of time and energy?

What happened on Election Day was no surprise to me and it should have been no surprise to long-term *FTW* readers. Perhaps now some of the over-conditioned out there will start to ask serious questions about what kind of bang they get for their buck - and their dedication. Billions of dollars and countless man/woman-hours that could have been expended on real-deal strategies that had a chance of making a change have been diverted and pulled away and wasted as badly as the energy of tens of millions of demonstrators who poured into the world's streets for months in an effort to prevent the US invasion of Iraq in 2002-2003.

When will the American opposition start to ask what kind of return on investment they are getting? When will they start demanding better performance? What a waste and what a cost in broken hearts for the young, those just beginning to try and change the world. If the young are to save themselves (and us) they must refuse to be herded into a political process that is, in itself, their prison.

Even though there is evidence that Ohio was stolen, John Kerry has given up; conceded; thrown in the towel. There won't be any lawsuits because he won't allow it. Bush won the popular vote. If the 2000 election passed into history "as-is" it is certain that the 2004 election is zip locked. Fuggedaboutit! The people now performing that task of documenting electoral fraud in Ohio and elsewhere have safely made themselves historians and targets of lesser priority for Cheney and Rove. They are no longer activists.

There will be no successful suits over this election. The courts are rigged and lawyers are sea anchors. As I predicted a week after 9/11, every lawsuit since filed has been derailed, morphed, sidetracked or sabotaged from within. Any lawsuit over the 2004 election (assuming Kerry permitted it) would wind up in the Supreme Court. Has everyone forgotten Bill Rehnquist's cancer or that the Neocons get to pick the next three justices?

HUMAN AND MONETARY THERMODYNAMICS

Human energy works like physical energy.

Just a while ago I received a call from a source indicating that John Kerry ended his campaign with \$45 million unspent dollars in his war chest. That money had reportedly been laid aside to pay for a recount or post-election court challenges. There will be none. The caller suggested that Kerry might get to keep it personally. This will need some checking but it would not surprise me.

In many respects the dynamics of money - as activists now spend it - parallels the Second Law of Thermodynamics. It only changes form in an entropic direction; from being able to do useful political and social work to being useless. But there is a way to make it multiply. This is the *FTW* model where dollars spent with us recirculate within the activist community and create more energy.

As Jesus pointed out, the gift of two pennies from the poor woman was infinitely more valuable than the large gift from the wealthy man. The corporations which profited from all the opposition advertising, the political campaign chests which swelled and spent that money, will never reinvest that money to slow America's descent into tyranny. That energy - created from the sweat of the people - has been pretty-well neutralized. Sure George Soros lost money (I suppose), but what was the percentage cost to him as opposed to all of the "little" Americans who opened their thinly-stretched purses in pursuit of regime change? Soros suckered you into spending money that was far more important to you than his was to him.

What if John Kerry had won? He was going to add 100,000 troops to the army. He denied Peak Oil's existence and promised a chimerical "independence from

Mid-East oil". He endorsed the notion that 19 hijackers operating from caves executed the attacks of September 11th. Then he said he would fight the war on terror better than George W. Bush. He said nothing about a corrupt economic system which has fed and sustained both him and George Bush all these years. He hasn't lost a penny.

A day after Kerry conceded defeat; *The Boston Herald* ran a story:

Bay State electric customers facing shock of high oil prices ***By Jay Fitzgerald***

Thursday, November 4, 2004

Massachusetts electric customers can expect more jolts in coming months as rising oil and natural gas prices drive up the cost of generating electricity.

Crude oil prices jumped by \$1.26 yesterday after President Bush's election, settling at \$50.88 a barrel.

Rising natural gas prices also pushed wholesale electricity in New England up. Natural gas is used to power plants that generate electricity.

The bottom line: Expect electric bills to head higher this winter with heating oil and other energy costs...

Another story talked about how oil and gas companies breathed a sigh of relief after the Bush win because they would face less regulation. Duh. But less regulation only means a more frenetic, thoughtless and careless mad scramble to suck up remaining hydrocarbon energy resources rather than an effort to mitigate our dependence on them by the only real choices available: a reduction in consumption and an intense, transparent effort to look for and liberate renewables and any technologies that may have been suppressed.

Will someone up there in elite land - Yo, you guys up there on Olympus! - please get it. We know what's going on. You are not fooling us.

EVERY VOTE MAY NOT BE COUNTED BUT EVERY DOLLAR ALWAYS IS

So if we don't keep trying to fix the electoral process what do we do? For four years we at *FTW* and elsewhere have also been consistently saying that the way to change what's wrong with America and the world was to get outside of the election box into which most activists and op-

position forces have placed themselves as if under house arrest. The way to fight is not with votes but with money. Every vote may not be counted. But every dollar always is.

For activists wishfully clinging to an old and inaccurate map, there is good reason for despair. On the *FTW* map, and the map of great economic thinkers like Fitts - the accurate map - there are no grounds for discouragement here. Yes, things will surely now get worse before (if ever) they get better. Yes, Dick Cheney and Karl Rove, absent the need to show restraint before a re-election campaign, may now take the gloves off. Quel surprise!

So now what?

VOTE WITH YOUR MONEY

Since 9/11 we have witnessed the evolution of a number of powerful, truly authentic journalism syndicates. *FTW* is but one of many that are credible, trustworthy and which have proven themselves providers of valuable and accurate information. I know many of these people and small companies personally and we have all pretty much behaved the same way. Every dollar that was spent with used was used to benefit those who gave it to us. That keeps us all in the game.

In November of 2001, when I lectured at Portland State University I pledged to the audience there - and in the permanent record of my video "The Truth and Lies of 9/11" - that I would take money spent on us and devote it to making *FTW* bigger, more effective and capable of getting more important stories to them; stories that would give them information that might save their lives. In 2001 I had two part-time writers, an office staff of one and me.

Today *FTW* has an office staff of four, three editors/writers, four regularly contributing writers and now almost 20,000 subscribers in more than 40 countries. I have kept my promise and you have seen the results. I am still living in a studio apartment and driving a 9 year-old Ford. I may soon get to have - out of necessity - a larger and better place to live and for the first time own a home of my own but you get the point. There are many others who have behaved this way because we share a common sense of urgency.

But there's something else your help makes possible for me and for all of us. We are all knocking down the doors of the major media.

ANOTHER PROMISE - I'M GOING TO WASHINGTON

Before describing this economic warfare and how we can fight it let me make you another promise.

As soon as we can reasonably arrange it, I am throwing all of our meager funds for a book tour into one large, well-publicized book signing in Washington, D.C. *Rubicon's* publisher just did not have the resources to fund a book tour. I am going to ask for all the back-up and support I can get, for as many of you to come to Washington as possible, because I am going there - to the city where Bush, Cheney and Rove rule; the city where I was born - to stand up and publicly accuse them and others of murder: multiple counts, and with premeditation.

The world will be watching and your dollars made that possible.

The only way I know how to lead is from the front. We will keep you apprised of developments via the *FTW* web site.

MONEY IN THE WORLD - MONEY IN AMERICA

There's a great first rule in economic warfare. It's exactly the same reason why flight attendants instruct people to put on their oxygen masks before assisting others when an airliner's cabin depressurizes. To save the world you must save yourself first. The way you start to fight with money is to get out of debt. If that means simplifying your life then that's good anyway, you'll use less energy. But to be debt free is to stop paying your money to the corporations and banks that are creating this naked aggression anyway.

These are the same corporations and banks that will come and pluck your economic corpse when the economy crashes next year as it surely must. If you are debt free then there will be less for them to pluck.

All around the globe we see newly forming economic and political alliances. In South America and elsewhere new regional common markets are evolving rapidly. The Euro is rising to new significance as a world currency and a way to pull the rug from under the Empire. From Russia, to Iran, to China to Venezuela, to Saudi Arabia the world is drifting inexorably to a decision to price oil in Euros. China has just raised interest rates. In 2005 Iran is planning on opening an oil bourse trading futures in Euros and is quietly building consensus support. This is, in my opinion, the major motive for pressuring Iran just as Saddam Hussein's decision to price oil in Euros was his chief crime.

I still believe that any military adventurism against Iran is not possible and that the US knows this.

On October 22 Pravda reported that the Russian Central Bank had stopped supporting the US dollar. As I write this essay the Euro is now trading at close to \$1.30 US (a record high) and gold is holding steady at close to \$430 an ounce. It was \$280 an ounce just three years ago. Sure, oil prices have dropped a bit but that has no bearing on

the reality of Peak Oil. I am still expecting oil to hit \$100 a barrel in 2005. What happens to your job then? Your mortgage? The housing bubble is on the verge of collapse and Fannie Mae is under criminal investigation. There may be three times more paper mortgages floating around than there are physical properties. (www.solari.com; www.sandersresearch.com)

Think again of the significance of the fact that Vladimir Putin in Russia has just ratified the Kyoto protocols limiting greenhouse gas emissions. This takes on a whole new meaning when one remembers that for the last 50 years there has been an overwhelming correlation between GDP growth and greenhouse gas emission. In other words, economic growth is not possible without burning more energy and this empire's Achilles heel is its insatiable living requirement of infinite growth even unto the death of the planet. This is the price of fractional reserve banking, debt-based growth, a fiat currency, and markets trapped in Price/Earnings ratios.

Russia's move is significant because under the Kyoto treaty - as reported by *The Economist* on October 7th - Russia's voice in resurrecting the 1997 accord carries special weight:

LIKE a swamp creature in a bad horror movie, the Kyoto treaty on climate change has risen from the dead. A certain Texan cowboy thought he had killed the Japanese monster. Alas, thanks to a last-minute betrayal by an inscrutable Russian spymaster, the green beast is back.

That is only a slight exaggeration of how some people view the revival of the Kyoto protocol. The controversial UN treaty, agreed in Japan in 1997, commits rich countries to cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases by 2012. But it was dealt a near-fatal blow when George Bush confirmed America's rejection in 2001. The EU, Japan, Canada and over 100 others remained in, but Russia wavered. If it did not ratify, the pact would fail.

Today, as I finished this essay, Putin has ratified the accord after overwhelming passage by the Russian legislature. The *BBC* writes:

Putin clears way for Kyoto treaty

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed the Kyoto protocol on climate change - clearing the way for the treaty to come into force next year.

This is Russia's final and crucial stamp of approval for Kyoto. The pact needed support from countries responsible for 55% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, which most scientists blame for global warming.

After the United States refused to ratify it, only Russia could enable this threshold to be passed.

The significance is clear. Limit greenhouse gas emissions and you limit economic growth. Limit economic growth and you undermine America's financial and economic vampire. The world is fighting back. We can too and in this way we can force a change.

HOW DO AMERICANS DO THIS?

There's a reason why I asked former Assistant Housing Secretary Catherine Austin Fitts to write the foreword for *Crossing the Rubicon*. She knows money and she knows how to change the system. I spoke with her yesterday and neither of us is contemplating a cut and run strategy. We are both committed to taking the fight to Washington and New York, no matter the cost.

"I can show these people how they and all of us can make more money by fixing money and what it does. But the first requirement is that people understand that they have to stop feeding the tapeworm that is creating all of this."

Perhaps now disillusioned Kerry supporters will take a second look at what *FTW* has been teaching for years.

- Get out of debt.
 - Spend your money and time on things that give you energy and provide you with useful information.
 - Stop spending a penny with major banks, news media and corporations that feed you lies and leave you exhausted.
 - Learn how money works and use it like a weapon.
- It is already becoming clear that as Peak Oil becomes a stark reality, survival will become a place-based, local phenomenon. Local economies, to the degree that they exist and are flourishing will provide strength to resist what is coming. Everyone who sees this essay should compare the return on investment they got with the election against something that offers more payoffs, an opportunity to become real, independent actors on the fields of their own lives.

Go to Fitts' web site <http://www.solari.com> and look at the section "Coming Clean". Not until each one of us looks at the ways that we feed the beast and accept responsibility for that do we have a chance for today and for tomorrow.

As I have said in *Crossing the Rubicon* and in almost every lecture for the last three years, "We will change nothing until we change the way that money works."

Perhaps now some people will be willing to listen to our voices crying in the wilderness.

Michael C. Ruppert



Popular Culture vs. Bush

By
Michael Kane

[The hundred million Americans who don't vote may not be active citizens, but they certainly are active consumers. And what they consume is mass culture. When a gigantic Hip-Hop star like Eminem releases a video in which he impersonates George W. Bush's demented zone-out in the Booker Elementary classroom, that's a very good thing for the 911 Truth Movement. Perhaps more importantly, it may remind millions of young Americans that this President (i.e., this administration and its corporate allies) watches while they die. Even if they don't notice the active complicity of the administration in the events of 9/11, they'll be reminded that Bush did nothing to help. Eminem is not the first performer to step forward with criticism of Bush regarding 9/11. But he may be the most important one to do so yet: his immense popularity as a crossover artist extends across demographics of ethnicity, region, and to some extent, even age. People from the ghetto and the trailer park alike burned in the WTC; as for class, both the investment bankers and the custodial staff were pulverized to the same powder. About twenty million people who were minors in 2001 have since become eligible to vote, and that's not all they're eligible for: some are in those boxes we're not supposed to photograph as they're unloaded at Dover Air Force Base.]

Here [Mike Kane](#) of FTW and noted political Hip-Hop outfit [Clarity](#), keeps us abreast of developments in what should be a crucial population at the polls. Editor's Note: the positions espoused in lyrics quoted within this article are not necessarily representative of the positions of FTW personnel. From *The Wilderness* does not advocate violence. - JAH]

October 25, 2004 0800 PDT (FTW) - The Entertainment Industry was a visible force in election 2004 during the summer, but the final weeks of the campaign are seeing a more aggressive push against the incumbent and all he represents. Now Eminem has marshaled his prodigious stardom for the anti-Bush cause with his latest single, "Mosh."

"F--k Bush, until they bring them troops home!"

The video opens with the World Trade Center being struck by UA Flight 175, sending tremors throughout a nearby building. As the camera swoops in through the window, we see Eminem in a classroom reading to schoolchildren.

This is, of course, a reenactment of what happened on 9/11, when Bush continued to read about goats in Booker Elementary School after he was told, "America is under attack." While the "Grand Old Party" would prefer to remember this as the moment when the Commander was first informed of the attacks, in reality Dubya knew all about the first WTC impact before he made the trip from the hotel to Booker Elementary. Either way, the goats in the book had little to offer in the way of life-saving advice.

The footage of Bush at Booker was first used by the NYC Video Production Crew [Shadow Government](#) Television in their documentary [Osama is a Bush](#), but was seen worldwide when Michael Moore used the same footage in [Fahrenheit 9/11](#). Eminem's decision to reenact the scene brings a vast new audience to the unanswered questions:

Why didn't the president react? How could the Secret Service have been so sure another plane wasn't headed for the elementary school to kill Bush? Who was America's Commander in Chief while Bush read about goats?

The answer to each of those questions is [Dick Cheney](#), but that's another story.

In 2003, Eminem was investigated by the Secret Service for his lyrics in the song *We as Americans*, featured on his latest release titled [Encore](#).

*F--k money. I don't rap for dead presidents.
I'd rather see the president dead. It's never been said,*

but I set precedents and the standards and they can't stand it. ... We as Americans. Us as a citizen. We've got to protect ourselves..."

This reminds me of a song by Dead Prez called *Assassination*, from their first CD *Let's Get Free*:

*You ain't even safe with a full clip,
I swear on the president's grave, I'm sick of
livin' in this bullsh-t
We gotta take it to the full lift,
Meet us up on Capitol Hill, and we can get
up on some real sh-t*

In the midst of a very clear, though at times un-stated, presidential endorsement from the entertainment industry, will Eminem's "Mosh" be played on MTV before the election? Will it be in regular rotation? It can be seen now at GNN.tv.

Many hip-hop artists have been extremely vocal about their politics long before this election year and are still going strong.

After 9/11, [Paris](#) came out of retirement with *Sonic Jihad*, openly attacking the Bush Administration and sporting the most controversial album cover of the year. [Immortal Technique](#) followed suit when he released the lyrically eloquent *Revolutionary Vol. 2*. And [Dead Prez](#) continued to do what they have done for many years with their latest release *RBG* (Revolutionary but Gangsta).

They have been so successful shaking the underground that their tremors were felt on the Billboard charts when [Jadakiss](#) included the line, "Why did Bush take down the Towers?" in his #1 hit single "Why?" Now their message has reached new levels of audience exposure. Eminem's turn toward politics is bound to bring attention to those who have been doing this much longer.

Throughout the Industry, what is largely seen as the pinnacle of mainstream dissent against Bush in America is Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11*, but it wasn't his only controversial piece in 2004. Mike directed the anti-war video *BOOM!*, a song by Armenian Metal band [System of a Down](#) which was banned from MTV just as the U.S. was invading Iraq.

Recently [Chronic Future's](#) *Time and Time Again* played on MTV despite its left-leaning portrayal of war. Maybe the surreal animation somehow made this video less threatening to the network and its advertisers? Maybe times are changing.

If so, they haven't changed much for Maynard and [A Perfect Circle](#). The band's latest single, a remake of John Lennon's *Imagine*, can only be seen online at their website. The video uses stock footage showing the atrocities of war. The video opens with an interview of Maynard saying how ironic it is that the controversial footage was broadcast live across network TV, yet no one will play their new video because of that very footage. [to see the video, go to www.aperfectcircle.com and click on the news section]

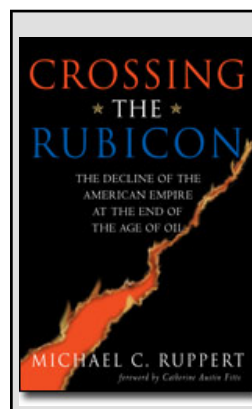
[Howard Stern](#) declared war on Bush when the FCC declared yet another war on the First Amendment (in the person of, for instance, Howard Stern). [The Dixie Chicks](#) spoke out against Bush in Europe and came home to see their songs wiped off of Clear Channel radio affiliates. Even [Bruce Springsteen](#) got in the mix recently with the *Vote for Change* tour.

Eminem's agenda with his release of "Mosh" seems almost identical to Springsteen's, but with a different target audience. Getting a major showing of young voters at the polls is the obvious message by the end of "Mosh."

With voices of dissent being shut out of the mainstream media, we see Howard Stern signing with Sirius Satellite Radio and leaving the FM dial in 2006. Howard recently told *Billboard* magazine that he believes, "There is going to be a rebirth of protest music" via satellite radio. He will be running three new radio stations on Sirius.

Meanwhile Dead Prez, A Perfect Circle, and Eminem are all using the Internet to debut controversial videos which, in some cases, will remain limited to the Internet. But the growing censorship of national TV and radio in America can only add strength to the new media paradigm these artists are promulgating.

Michael Kane is an activist, journalist, and musician who fronts [Clarity](#). He is a frequent FTW contributor, who contributed a full chapter to Mike Ruppert's new book, [Crossing the Rubicon](#). Kane is one of the founding members of [NY 9/11 Truth](#).



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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				