Amoral America

How the rest of the world learned to hate America

Robert W. Fearn
AMORAL AMERICA
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We believe that the information in this book is basically true and that the truth needs to be shared. The fact that many of the truths in this book have been deliberately suppressed by numerous government organizations has enabled evil men to cause needless suffering for millions.

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“The truth shall set you free.” – The Bible, John 8:32

“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you mad.”
– Aldous Huxley

“Propaganda is persuading people to make up their minds while withholding some of the facts from them.”
– Harold Evans

“I have always strenuously supported the right of every man to his own opinion, however different that opinion might be to mine. He who denies another this right makes a slave of himself to his present opinion, because he precludes himself the right of changing it.”
– Thomas Paine (1737-1809), The Age of Reason, 1783
This book is dedicated to those who have already tried to tell us the truth.

“It is in the nature of imperialism that citizens of the imperial power are always among the last to know – or care – about circumstances in the colonies.”

– Bertrand Russell

“In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.”

– Erasmus (1469-1536)

“A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it.”

– Oscar Wilde

“All truth passes through three stages: First, it is ridiculed; Second, it is violently opposed; and Third, it is accepted as self-evident.”

– Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)

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“Our government has kept us in a perpetual state of fear – kept us in a continuous stampede of patriotic fervor – with the cry of grave national emergency. Always, there has been some terrible evil at home, or some monstrous foreign power that was going to gobble us up if we did not blindly rally behind it.”

When I retired a few years ago I got to thinking, “Why on this planet, where we have so much, are there so many who have so little? Why is there so much turmoil?”

I knew that the Israelis and the Palestinians had been fighting for decades but I didn’t really know why. I knew there was too much fighting in Central America which seemed odd. I was also somewhat aware that in the West the richer were getting richer. Was this contributing to troubles elsewhere?

I decided that I didn’t know enough and that it was high time that I knew more. During my reading I came to ask myself some questions that seemed to relate to my original curiosity.

“Why were normal, relatively educated, young men willing to travel half way around this planet to kill other young men who had done them no harm? Why were older and presumably wiser men, eager for them to do this? Why do some countries export billions in resources, Angola for example, and yet the people there are some of the poorest on earth?”

Over time, it became clearer to me that the wars, poverty and despair on this planet were not simply unfortunate, unavoidable, realities. They were the result of deliberate decisions by powerful men who simply didn’t give a damn about others.

There are 55 chapters in the book. Almost all are short and they tell about events that wrecked many lives. In most cases this occurred so that those who already had too much, could have even more. In every instance everyone lost, so this is really a book about greed, ignorance and ultimately foolishness.
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FOREWORD

Most Americans are good people, just as most of the Japanese in Hiroshima and Nagasaki were good people in 1945. Most Americans want to spend less on weapons, improve education, spend more on foreign aid and help their neighbors. But most Americans don’t run America and they haven’t for some time. The people who do call the shots are aggressive, rich guys without those sensibilities. Due to the decisions that have been made by these rich guys, billions of people on this planet hate America to some extent. Indeed some people hate America so much that they are willing to die if they can harm America or even a friend of America.

That is a profoundly disturbing reality and yet it is accepted as the way things are during these ‘troubled times’. The problem is that we are always in the middle of ‘troubled times’ and it doesn’t look like those troubled times will end any time soon. This book looks at how the affection for America, at the end of WWII, was squandered, how this hatred of America developed and why it will probably get worse and why America continues to operate in such a dangerous, insensitive and counter-productive manner.

‘Learned’, is an important word in the subtitle of this book. People don’t just ‘hate’ each other, or Americans, for no reason. It takes much more energy to hate someone than to just ignore them. Mohammad didn’t wake up one day and say; “I’m going to start hating American today.” Or a few years later wake up and say, “I’m going to die today and I’m going to take out as many American’s as possible.” Those emotions have a real foundation and substance. They cannot be created out of thin air and they cannot be eliminated overnight. The currently very popular American, ‘kill them all’ method will only exacerbate this situation.

Some Americans in high places would have you believe that this global American hatred is a result of some illogical response to some religious brainwashing by fanatics who would harm America. The truth can be found in a very important book by American professor, Robert Pape, entitled, ‘Dying to Win’. Professor Pape studied 315 suicide attacks between 1980 and 2003 and concluded that, “Religion is rarely the root cause”, “what nearly all suicide terrorist attacks have in common is a specific secular and strategic goal: to compel modern democracies to withdraw military forces from the territory that the terrorists consider to be their homeland.”

In other words, if you are going to occupy my country by force I am going to do exactly what an American would do in my shoes. I am going to fight back,
Amoral America

anyway I can and these days the only way to effectively fight back is to kill yourself, something America likes to call terrorism. Professor Pape goes on to say, “An attempt to transform Muslim societies through regime change is likely to dramatically increase the threat we face. The root cause of suicide terrorism is foreign occupation and the threat that foreign military presence poses to the local community’s way of life. Hence, any policy that seeks to conquer Muslim societies in order, deliberately, to transform their culture is folly. Even if our intentions are good, anti-American terrorism would likely grow, and grow rapidly.” This is exactly what has happened. This reality only goes to show that Professor Pape knows much more about terrorism than the President.

The hundreds of billions of dollars and the hundreds of thousands of lives that America has already destroyed in the ‘War on Terror,’ are the direct result of an unworkable policy based on aggression, not understanding. All policies based on aggression ultimately fail, another fact that the Bush boys and many Americans, have yet to learn.

Unfortunately this is not the first time that an American President has misled Americans. President Johnson was convinced that all of South East Asia would become a Communist threat to America if Vietnam went Communist. When Vietnam did fall to the communists that threat failed to materialize. Billions wasted and millions killed because of a flawed American perception.

People throughout the world have ‘learned’ to hate America because of American decisions that have adversely affected them, or, because of American decisions they are aware of that have hurt others. This hatred has nothing to do with religion or fanaticism and everything to do with unfairness and the associated hatred. At times these people are so hateful that they are prepared to die in an attempt, as they see it, to even the score. This book looks at those American decisions in a simplified, readable and hopefully truthful manner. If you want more details or insights there are numerous books available on almost every chapter.

The hatred of America is remarkable because it is a world-wide reality and also because no effective efforts are being made to turn things around. On the contrary, American leaders today are making tragic decisions which may well come back to haunt America in the years to come.

Unlike mainstream American media I have tried to avoid any American bias that minimizes these American mistakes. America and virtually every other country tell their histories in a dishonest or incomplete manner. The deliberate attempts to make America, or other countries look good, fosters friction between peoples who see the same history differently. For example Japanese history books do not mention many of the atrocities that Japanese leaders committed in China in the 1930s and 1940s. The Spanish are still trying to minimize the atrocities committed by their citizens in Central America four hundred years ago. The Turks get upset if you mention an atrocity they committed. Falsifying your history books, by leaving out the parts that make you look bad, is foolish and ultimately makes you look worse. What actually
happened has a way of becoming known so lying about it only convinces people that you haven’t changed much and are still capable of the behavior that you are denying. People and countries cannot move forward and be true friends unless past errors are acknowledged and where appropriate compensation paid. Just because saying; ‘I’m sorry’ is very difficult for human leaders, doesn’t mean they shouldn’t say it. This reluctant to admit mistakes and then back it up with appropriate compensation, only serves to perpetuate the hatred and difficulties.

When you get right down to it, the problem with America and the rest of the planet, is the lack of fairness. Individuals may seek to address unfairness via a more powerful authority, perhaps the courts. Although the court process is also unfair because it is often unjust; deliberately complicated, expensive and unreasonably slow, it is the only option available to many of us. This whole system collapses when the highest authorities do something unfair because there is no higher authority to question their actions.

In a democracy the people are supposed to be the highest authority but this system simply doesn’t work. Firstly, the leaders often lie to get their way and all too often the people buy it. Patriotism and nationalism are enemies of the truth. Secondly, the education systems in all countries fail to tell the truth about the history of those countries and their leaders. Thirdly, it is very difficult for the people to change an important leadership decision. Even if the people are united in protest, time passes and it is difficult to maintain a protest over time. Leaders count on that. Fourthly, leaders often play the patriotic card and many people fall for this, particularly in countries where brainwashing has convinced some people to agree with their country, right or wrong. Of course it is foolish to agree with something that is wrong, particularly when it is something as important as your country.

Fairness is a remarkable human perception because it is so easy to define. People just know when something is unfair, even small children can be heard saying, “aaaaa unfair.” It doesn’t need to be defined in a legal text and no schooling is required to understand it. Everyone gets it, from the very young to the very old. Even the person being unfair knows it at the time but people often continue with unfair behavior when the acquisition of some perceived benefit clouds their judgment. They are also most likely to deny they are being unfair at the time. In other words they demonstrate normal human emotions like greed and selfishness. Others can tolerate those characteristics, to a degree, however too much greed or selfishness is seen as unfair and if this continues it eventually leads to hatred.

The most important fairness related decision a country can ever make, is the decision to go to war but the people in a country never decide to go to war. A few individuals, sometimes a very few individuals, decide to go to war and they invariably manipulate the people in their country to go along, or at the very least they count on their apathy. In World War II Roosevelt manipulated Americans by withholding knowledge of the attack on Pearl Harbor to get into
the war with Germany. The war in Korea was sold as an attack on South Korea when it was America who had cut Korea in two. Vietnam misinformation was constant from the beginning to the Gulf of Tonkin resolution to the basic reason for the war and the lies about Iraq are well known.

In spite of all this dismal history wars occur because leaders, at all levels, foster a respect for authority. The generally held perception amongst people, that they should respect authority, overrides their thinking about the fairness of war and this allows wars to occur. Of course apathy always works for the warmongers as well. Therefore getting away with unfairness, sometimes murderous unfairness is almost assured if you are an ignorant, misguided, aggressive leader.

Unfortunately ‘higher’ authorities are also guilty of greed and selfishness and their unfair decisions are more likely to be seen as too greedy or too unfair, simply because they are dealing with larger issues. You are in big trouble, in any country, if you decide to kill someone. This universal restriction on killing is considered reasonable because the higher authorities have decided that we can find a more civilized way to solve our problems. Not so with the higher authorities themselves. Throughout history they have decided to kill, in some case millions of innocent people, simply because there was no higher authority who could stop them. That’s how it’s been and in many cases that would be the end of the story, except for the unfairness of it all.

Leaders who make decisions where innocent people die are acting unfairly and as a result they rarely escape retribution. People remember this unfairness and try to even the score, perhaps decades later or even generations later. A good example is the English, who treated the Irish unfairly. The benefits the English originally gained by ripping off the Irish has been lost many times over due to all the expensive and tragic violence between the two sides. If the English had acknowledged their errors in the past and where appropriate paid compensation the conflict would be well and truly over. If you look at the record most leaders are unfair at times, as we all are. If they have been monstrously unfair they are often poisoned, shot or uncomfortably disposed of. As society moves, ever so slowly towards more fairness, more and more leaders will find themselves in court for unfair actions they took in the past. Look at the unfair leader of Chile! At the very least the statues of these leaders are removed and they end up in the truthful history books as lousy leaders. Finding a truthful history book, that’s the tricky bit!

Are American leaders more unfair than others, the short answer is yes. The forefathers of these leaders arrived in a very rich and unexploited land. This land just happened to be the home of millions of other people who already lived here but they had not exploited it. By ingenuity, hard work, aggressiveness and ignoring or killing many of the millions already in this rich, unexploited land many Americans became rich. It is true that there were some wise men around when the American Constitution was written and at times they have been on the right side during unfair situations. However, Americans are just
like people everywhere, no more intelligent, harder working or ingenious. They are however richer but that was not a result of some magical American characteristic. It came from the wealth that surrounded them as they occupied a vast, rich land.

Exploiting these American riches was a little tricky, if you wanted to keep them for yourself, because of the millions of people that already lived in America. Fortunately for the new arrivals the established residents lacked the technology and aggressiveness that they required to prevent their decimation. There was more than enough of everything to share but the lust of the newcomers to own it all meant that those pesky natives had to go. With that attitude, an attitude that had been forged by Europeans since the arrival of Columbus, the death of millions and miserable, unfair treatment for those that survived was assured. By the time the American civil war ended millions of indigenous American natives had been uprooted, disenfranchised or killed. The suffering and sadness is incalculable but at the time it was ignored.

This unfairness was the established way of dealing with people who stood in the way of riches and ‘progress.’ In the eyes of the new Americans the natives were not going to utilize the land, to create wealth, so force or various phony legalities were used to remove them from any desirable land or land thought to contain wealth. If the natives were moved to some desolate and useless parcel of land, which was then thought to contain gold or some other valuable, they would be forced off this land as well. America was certainly not the first country to deal unfairly with the native people. The unfair attitude of the occupying European powers was consistent during the preceding centuries in all of the countries they occupied and those attitudes are central to the needless tragedies occurring all around us today.

Unfortunately this, the greatest of all human tragedies, is often ignored or forgotten. During this greatest of all tragedies many more innocent people died, because of the unfair actions of others, than all those killed in World War I and World War II combined, conflicts we do remember. When tragic decisions are made by leaders today this tragedy is forgotten however the truism, ‘those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it’, still applies.

This greatest of tragedies, this destruction of so many millions of indigenous peoples started after Columbus’s voyage in 1492 and continues to this day. This destruction has contributed to the acceptance of killing by Americans. These American attitudes, the insensitivity and the callousness do not help America. Quite the opposite, when America kills or supports the killing of innocents those actions will come back to haunt America. 9/11 is a good example. To deny the connection is to perpetuate the terror.

After that voyage in 1492, Columbus said, when speaking about the people of the Caribbean, “they are so guileless and so generous with all that they possess that no one would believe it who has not seen it. Anything they have, if they are asked for it, they never say no, on the contrary they invite the person to share it and display as much love as if they would give their hearts”. This
generosity was recorded by many explorers on first contact with these indigenous peoples. Their warm welcomes were not to last. The friendly relations soon deteriorated into bloodshed and enslavement with the First Peoples doing most of the bleeding and all of the slavery. Wherever the Europeans went, people died in vast numbers, 10 million died in Mexico at the hands of the Spanish in less than 100 years. Over ten million were seized and sold into slavery from Africa and many died from inhuman treatment en route. At one time in Virginia one-quarter of the slaves died within their first year. Seven out of eight million Native Americans died as the new Americans forced their way westward. The three million natives were reduced to 300,000 at the hands of the Portuguese in Brazil. After the English arrived in Australia the Aborigines declined from over one million to 30,000 by 1930. In Tasmania the Aborigines were eliminated, hunted down and extinct by 1869. After European visitors were shown a very good time in Tahiti, the indigenous population declined by 80%. When the Germans were in Africa 350,000 natives were killed in just four years. In Canada 90% of the aboriginal people may have died from a peak of one million to less than 100,000 in 1905. The Beothuks, a tribe indigenous to Newfoundland, like the Aborigines in Tasmania, were eliminated with the last Beothuk dying in 1829. Millions died at the hands of the Belgians in the
Congo. The total numbers are in dispute but over the 300-year period from 1492 to 1800 the deaths of over 100 million aboriginal people is quite possible. These killers were truly different from their victims.

So the settlement of America was preceded by a violence and disregard for others unprecedented in human history. It was argued that the natives of the Caribbean could be treated like chattel because they lived in simple homes and liked to spend time with their families, instead of working a more reasonable 12 hours per day for a European slave driver. When the Spaniards arrived in Mexico it was tough to use this argument because the people of Mexico were more advanced, in many ways, that the Europeans. On the 1st of November 1519 Hernan Cortes was just a few miles away from what is now Mexico City. The city before him, Tenochtitlan was an architectural marvel and larger than London and Paris combined. Cortes had with him 13 horses and a few filthy armed soldiers. In a speech Montezuma, the native leader, welcomed Cortes to his city. Cortes replied, “Be assured, have no fear. We love you greatly.” Nine months later Tenochtitlan was in ruins and half the population was dead.

The indigenous people of modern day Mexico had to be portrayed as evil to justify their elimination. In fact many Europeans thought they were doing them a favor because they had customs that were considered reprehensible by the Europeans. More importantly, they also had beautiful works of art made from gold. These were plundered under pain of death and melted down into ingots. There was no stopping the Spanish atrocities now that the plunder of gold was an actuality.

And so the murderous settlement of South America, North America, Africa, Australia, and Oceania continued for some 300 years. The pillage, destruction and killing of the indigenous people, without sharing the stolen billions that were shipped off to Europe, was simply accepted and rarely questioned. It was the way it was.

With this incredible unfairness as part of its history, America today still has had a difficult time understanding when it is being unfair to others. In 1803 President Jefferson purchased 600 million acres from the French for 3 cents an acre via the Louisiana Purchase. The Americans got a good deal at 3 cents an acre and the French got a good deal because they didn’t own it in the first place. For the most part Americans had never set foot in all this land and the needs of the people who had occupied it for thousands of years were ignored. Unfairness in America did not end after the last Indian battle. Americans were and are, often unfair to each other. America today is a land of obscene wealth for millions and relative poverty for millions of others. In other countries Americans have often been unfair to the people in those countries when they extracted millions in riches and left behind a people who were actually poorer.

Much of American history revolves around the acquisition of wealth. In the good old days American capitalism was often successful because American workers produced a quality product and it sold at a reasonable price. America became famous for quality goods at reasonable prices; ‘Made in the USA’
meant something. Things have changed, now many American businessmen produce a satisfactory product and never ask, ‘what is a reasonable price’. They ask, “what is the most we can get for this?” Microsoft has cast a long shadow over America by selling millions of items that cost Microsoft $5 for hundreds of dollars each. That is how billion dollar fortunes are made! Many other American businessmen have said, “to hell with America; we can make more money in China.”

America has evolved into a country where nothing is as important as money and the rich are getting a bigger and bigger slice of the finite money pie. Americans, even poor Americans, don’t seem to realize that money is a product of society’s efforts but that only so much money can be created. If the rich have a larger and larger portion of this wealth then the rest must share what is left, they must share less. Since the beginning of America, the enormous wealth that the land provided has been unfairly distributed and this is exactly how the rich want it to be. Rather than understand this fundamental unfairness, the American government has entrenched this position as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. So the critically important rule, which is fundamental to the health of any society, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” has been changed. In America today, the new rule is, “who has the gold, rules.”

The tidbits from history in this book, all involving America, are just that, tidbits, summaries of historical happenings and I try to tell these tales in a readable, concise and truthful manner. Some events in this book could be considered minor but they are included because they were very major to the people who were affected. Those people may be forgotten individually but the unfair actions that affected them are often not forgotten. This is another remarkable, unappreciated aspect of unfairness. Unfairness is so fundamentally clear, to so many people that they may respond to unfairness that occurred decades before they were even born.

Some would say that there are more important issues facing us than unfairness, global warming, to take just one important example. Global warming is, in fact, a direct result of people being unfair. Americans are unfair to their global neighbors and even their own grandchildren but they just don’t see it. This blindness occurs because they are surrounded by millions of other Americans doing the same thing, because their government encourages consumption and because many Americans do not take a long long-term view. Driving the big SUV that you want but don’t need and living in a house that is far bigger than you require is unfair because it affects others negatively. The billions of people on this planet cannot live that affluent American lifestyle simply because this planet cannot support that level of consumption.

An American uses 15 times the energy of a person in a developing country. Like money there is only so much to go around. If Americans represent 5% of the global population and consumes 30% of the global energy they are being unfair. Having said that, there would be much less unfairness if America used
American energy. In spite of the vast oil fields that blessed America, much of that bounty has simply been pissed away! Not only has this reduced American oil company profits since 1860 it has reduced their future long term prosperity while jeopardizing the future of the entire planet. This needless waste has affected the global price of fuel and of course future availability. America imports about 550,000,000 gallons of oil a day, almost 60% of consumption. Although American know-how and ingenuity could have easily have created a comfortable, reliable, virtually maintenance free electric car, that was never done. That electric car would use 20% of the energy of a typical car today and produce an even smaller percentage of pollution. The cars America actually produces are energy gobbling disasters that will come back to haunt the American people. Due to this greed, on the part of the oil and car companies, the grandchildren of Americans today will have to deal with a more dangerous world; excessive energy prices and potential environmental calamities.

So the definition of unfairness is simple. You are being unfair if your actions affect others adversely. It is difficult to be completely fair but this book is about American actions that were anything but, in fact they were grossly unfair. When Americans come to understand that their actions are causing real suffering, the good Americans will respond with real solutions for these very real but solvable problems.

This book may appear to have an anti-American bias. On the contrary, you cannot demonstrate bias by telling the whole truth. You can not be anti-American if you make efforts to expose unfairness. That is being pro-American because fairness is a fundamental American virtue. As this book will show, over a sixty year period America, more than any other country, has meddled around in more countries and caused more pain and suffering than anyone else. That is not what Americans want; it is not what they stand for. Tragically, a minority of Americans have hijacked the country. It is time for caring Americans to recover their ship of state.

How can a nation spend billions of dollars on a single bomber when situations like this are repeated millions of times a day?
I hope you find the history tidbits in this book interesting; informative, factual and without bias, OK without too much bias, that would be unfair, eh? I believe that these tidbits will help you to understand why some situations exist; why some people think the way they do, why America is in trouble doing things the way they are and how fairness to others will work better, for America, as well as for everyone else.
AFGHANISTAN

“This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation’s homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice and love.”

– Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

When US warplanes strafed (with AC-130 gunships) the farming village of Chowkar-Karez, 25 miles north of Kandahar on October 22-23rd, killing at least 93 civilians, a Pentagon official said, “The people there are dead because we wanted them dead.” The reason? The Americans thought those people sympathized with the Taliban. When asked about the Chowkar incident, Donald Rumsfeld replied, “I cannot deal with that particular village.” Thousands of innocent Afghans have been killed by Americans in recent years.

“It is part of the general pattern of misguided policy that our country is now geared to an arms economy which was bred in an artificially induced psychosis of war hysteria and nurtured upon an incessant propaganda of fear.”

– General Douglas MacArthur, May 15, 1951

Afghanistan has had a long, violent and tragic history. Alexander The Great conquered Persia (Iran) and then invaded Afghanistan but never really gained control. During the next 2000 years leadership of the country changed hands on a regular basis as different forces sought control, always with force. Even the Brits gave it a try back in 1839 but it didn’t work out too well. Apparently Britain wanted Afghanistan as a buffer between India and other countries who would threaten India and they also wanted to stop Russia from moving down from the north. Britain’s military intervention was the most resounding defeat in military history. The Brits started this conquest with 16,500 soldiers and 12,000 dependents and/or non-combatants. They estimated that this force would be enough to do the job but they were dead wrong. Initially the Brits killed more than their share but they used a heavy hand and exiled an Afghanistan leader, Amir Dost Mohammad Khan, to India. This man had almost reunited
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his country and wanted to rule without British interference. The Afghans got
mad at the British arrogance and from then on it was all downhill for the British
forces. In January, 1842, a single British survivor, from all the British forces,
limped into Fort Jalalabad. The 29,000 others had all been killed or enslaved.
Khan then returned from India and ruled the country until 1863. Khan’s son
took over in 1863 but lasted only two years. The Brits returned to Afghanistan
(they were slow learners, even back then) but only stayed until 1919 because the
wars they gleefully joined killed off millions of young men. This is a largely
forgotten tragedy that foolish leaders still repeat today.

Afghanistan modernized slowly in the years to come but it was always an
uphill battle because it was impossible to reach a consensus in the country. A
fundamental problem was that the ruling royalty or fat-cats insisted on making
the decisions that affected everyone else and, of course, they kept the biggest piece of
the pie for themselves.

In 1954 the US rejected
Afghanistan’s request to buy
military equipment so the
Afghanis turned to the Soviets.
In 1956 women began to enter
the workforce, attend university
and dress as they pleased but
many traditionalists opposed
these liberties. Various sons
and uncles ruled the country
and a more liberal constitution
emerged in 1964. It allowed
the people to elect one third
of the legislature and this
undemocratic restriction
resulted in the formation of
militant parties on both the left
and right who wanted a greater
say. Due to a host of problems, the Royals were overthrown in 1973. The coup
leader declared himself President and Prime Minister but failed to carry out
the necessary reforms.

In April 1978 this coup leader and his family were killed in yet another
coup by the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan, or the PDPA. This
leftist pro-communist party proceeded to advocate the vote for women; they
abolished forced marriages, replaced religious and traditional laws with more
socialistic ones, abolished usury, forced men to shave, prevented women from
wearing the burqa and banned visits to the Mosque. As is often the case, some
good changes and some stupid changes as well. They also asked Russia for help
building roads, wells, schools, hospitals and training the army. All this plus the PDPA’s willingness to use violence was too much for too many Afghani’s and as a result internal battles started throughout the country.

The Mujahedin or ‘holy Muslim warriors’ then emerged as a formidable force even though many of them were captured and killed as they fought the government. The government resorted to excessive force which, as always, just led to more resistance. The Mujahedin resistance was so effective, the government asked for military help from the Russians to help crush these rebels. Russia agreed and at the end of 1979 Russian troops entered Kabul and the ‘Soviet War in Afghanistan’ was on. The American CIA immediately began supplying arms to any group willing to fight the Soviets. This US arming of any and every group in the country, to oppose the Russians, meant that when the Soviets finally quit Afghanistan, civil war was a certainty. Various Muslim leaders now had numerous modern weapons and no one was in control of these groups or their weapons. Tragically America did not stick around to prevent the pending destruction that their weapons encouraged.

This Soviet-Rebel-US war lasted nine years, killed hundreds of thousands and created heartache for parents in both Russian and Afghanistan. It also sucked up billions of US tax dollars because the CIA and the US government were always eager to hit those Commies where it hurts, and they were hurt in Afghanistan.

It is strange how things work out. However the old adage, ‘What goes around comes around,’ seems appropriate here. Osama bin Laden was a leader in this Muslim resistance movement, not against the Soviets specifically, but against any non-Muslim foreigner occupying a Muslim country. As a rich Saudi, he
was very effective in funneling money from the US and Saudi Arabia into weapons but more importantly, he was able to influence many Muslims into joining the good fight. This war was devastating for Afghanistan and resulted in various rebel groups carving up the country because they couldn’t work together. Much of the billions the CIA funneled into the country was wasted and ended up in the pockets of various rebels. For some of them this was a nest egg for their future financial security; for the really dedicated, it was to ensure that they could fight against any future enemy and bin Laden fell into that dedicated category. In 1988 bin Laden broke away from the less dedicated rebels to form al-Qaida.

The Soviets finally withdrew in February, 1989 having proved that they could be just as foolish as the Yanks were in Vietnam. Their defeat was due, in part, to the deadly US equipment used against them by the rebels and the tenacity of the rebels themselves. Now that the common enemy was gone, the various rebel groups could concentrate on fighting each other. Due to the vast amount of arms that flowed into Afghanistan, from the always rich US taxpayer, an M-16 machine gun could be purchased for much less than the cost to the US army, at almost any corner store. A key figure in all this mess was American Congressman, Charlie Wilson. In George Crile’s book, ‘Charlie’s War’ he describes this US Congressman.

“Rarely can the prefix ‘The Honorable’ have been less appropriate. The man
was a drunken, shiftless, ignorant, lying, drug taking, zipper-flipping, corrupt, power-crazed cretin. His only value was his ability, through membership of influential Congress Committees, to move large sums of money, legally and often otherwise, as subsidies and to purchase weapons and equipment for groups fighting the Soviet army in Afghanistan. The fact that most of the cash was wasted meant nothing to him.”

After the Soviet pullout, Bob Oakley, the US ambassador in Islamabad, said, “I drew the conclusion that America’s national interests were not being served,” by throwing money and weapons into hands of the murderous Mujahedeen. But Congressman Charlie thought otherwise, so the money and the deaths continued. By 1995 one third of Kabul was just a pile of rubble.

America did not move in to fill the Soviet void or help to rebuild this devastated country. America is still dealing with that irresponsible decision today. The US was certainly willing to spend billions of dollars to destroy Afghanistan but rebuilding is not as much ‘fun’ or perhaps not as profitable. In any case, the poor, ordinary people of Afghanistan suffered until the Taliban eventually emerged in 1994 as the most powerful force and assumed control over most of the country. With all the difficulties facing them, the Taliban decided to rule with a heavy hand and went back to enforcing the old traditions that many of the liberal Afghans thought were history. These rules were particularly hard on women because they could no longer work, get adequate medical attention, drive a car, get educated and had to be covered from head to toe. The West was disgusted by some of these Taliban attitudes but never

The Russian helicopters were no match for the missiles supplied to the Afghans by the American CIA.
Some dead young Russians are in this pile of rubble.
seemed to acknowledge that the Taliban treatment of women was no worse than the treatment of women in other countries that the West is friendly with, such as India or Pakistan. They also never acknowledged the miraculous Taliban elimination of the Afghanistan drug trade in a very short period of time.

Osama bin Laden returned to Saudi Arabia after the Soviets quit and went back into the family business but he still kept in touch with his buddies in al-Qaeda. In 1990 when many American troops were allowed into Saudi Arabia bin Laden was incensed. He got kicked out of Saudi due to this poor attitude and ended up in the Sudan. In 1992 bin Laden claims to have attacked various American military forces so the US puts pressure on the Sudan and they kick him out of the country. In 1996 bin Laden ends up back in Afghanistan where he was considered a national hero for helping kick the Soviets out. That becomes evident when the Taliban refused to hand bin Laden over to the US. What Islamic country would turn over a national hero to a discredited powerhouse generally considered an enemy of Islam? In 1988 President Clinton then decided to bomb four sites in Afghanistan that were supposed to be al-Qaeda hangouts. After the bombs fell many people claimed that three of the four sites had nothing to do with al-Qaeda but of course this bombing killed innocent civilians, which was always great for al-Qaeda recruiting and even more anti-American sentiment.

Due to 9/11, which had nothing to do with the Taliban and the Taliban refusal to hand over bin Laden, who they did not control, America decided to attack Afghanistan again on October 7, 2001. The Taliban also knew that Osama would not get a fair trial from the Americans so they offered to send him to an international tribunal. Not good enough for America so they proceeded to kill thousands of innocent Afghani’s with a massive bombing of the country. The Americans had previously worked (bribed) and supported any group opposed to the Taliban. Secret US forces were already in Afghanistan organizing the Northern Alliance faction, who wanted power themselves, prior to the main American invasion but the US bombing of Afghanistan now started in earnest. The Americans dropped 15,000 lb Daisy Cutter bombs, apparently unaware that daisies do not grow in these mountainous areas. They spend hundreds of millions firing off hundreds of cruise missiles; they dropped over one zillion cluster bombs while their C-130 gun ships fired tons of depleted uranium down on the Taliban and anyone else who happened to be in the way. To make a long story short, the Taliban were decimated. The US lost not one aircraft or one man to enemy fire. Before the American ground troops engaged the Taliban they were carpet-bombed again just to make sure. On November, 9 the Northern Alliance ground troops, who were supplied and paid by the US swept down from the north and attacked the Taliban. They rushed into various cities and executed anyone who even looked like a member of the Taliban on the spot. 520 defeated young Taliban men were massacred after they were found hiding in a school; every single one shot to death.

By November 13th the surviving Taliban had blended into society or
retreated to the Tora Bora caves. US bombers dropped another zillion tons of munitions on these caves just to let the Taliban know they were coming. On November 25th, three weeks after this war started, after the deaths of thousands of Afghani citizens who were innocent or simply fighting for their country, the first American died. He was killed by Afghans during a riot at an American-run prison.

On December 6th the remaining Taliban leaders indicated that they would surrender if the US provided some protection for the remaining Taliban troops. Naturally the US refused because providing protection to young men who were simply fighting for their country was as ridiculous in Afghanistan as it was in Vietnam. So the leaders and some of the Taliban fighters escaped to Pakistan. The al-Qaeda fighters with bin Laden remained holed up in the Tora Bora caves. It now appears that bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders then escaped while some of their fighters held off the US and Northern alliance fighters. This massive overkill against a very much inferior force resulted in the deaths of one American and thousands of Taliban. This is just the type of outcome America has spent billions to achieve but they totally failed to make Afghanistan a safer, more prosperous country or to capture bin Laden. In short the American interventions in Afghanistan have been a disaster for everyone.

Unfortunately America continued to set a disgusting example in Afghanistan by detaining civilians without just cause, using excessive force during arrests, bribing the wrong people and abusing prisoners. Brad Adams, executive director of the Asia division of Human Rights Watch stated, “Civilians are being held in a legal black hole – with no tribunals, no legal counsel, no family visits, and no basic legal protections. There is compelling evidence suggesting that US personnel have committed acts against detainees amounting to torture or cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment.” Human Rights Watch goes on to say, “Afghans have died in US detention under suspicious circumstances”. In other words, they have been tortured to death. (see the Prisoners chapter)

The film, ‘Massacre at Mazar’, by Irish filmmaker Jamie Doran was released in 2002 and suggests that US troops failed to stop the torture and deaths of 3,000 men from Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan. In the film two men claim to have driven into the desert with hundreds of Taliban prisoners who were held in sealed cargo containers. These men alleged that the order to kill these men came from a local US commander. Prisoners, who had not yet suffocated to death inside the steel containers, were shot by Northern Alliance gunmen while US soldiers stood by. The film maker spoke with a Northern Alliance soldier who told him that the Sheberghan people were to get rid of the
bodies before satellite pictures could be taken. US Special Forces vehicles were parked at the scene as bulldozers buried the dead. The film footage shows areas of sand, apparently caked with blood, as well as clothing, bits of skull, matted hair, jaws, femurs and ribs jutting out of the sand. Bullet casings littered the ground which indicates that some of the Taliban prisoners were killed before being dumped into the graves. The United Nations (UN) and human rights officials found the graves but do not know how many bodies they contain. The US has denied that US forces had anything to do with this but the filmmaker said, “It is beyond doubt that a number of American soldiers were at Sheberghan Prison. Either they walked around blindfolded with earmuffs for eight days or they saw what was going on.”

Afghanistan is still a mess under the US appointed government of Hamid Kharzai. A guy who can't leave his office without 40 heavily armed US guards. According to the UN, opium production is up 1847% which sounds like pretty accurate number from the UN. In any case the increase in drug production and use is up dramatically under he watchful eyes of the Americans. This is the same government NATO forces are dying for. The same gang of warlords who
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have always put drug profits ahead of everything else. According to Antonio Costa, who is head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the harvest of Opium in Afghanistan in 2006 will be about 6,100 tons. Ninety two percent of the total world supply. This means that 30% more opium than the world consumes will be produced in 2006 and that means many more addicts.

The Ministry of Virtue and Vice is back and they weren’t very popular the last time. Women must dress more conservatively and wearing makeup is asking for trouble. The suicide killings are back and the Taliban have weapons and ammo because they are shooting at people. They still cling to this strange idea that the people of Afghanistan should decide the fate of their own country rather than Afghans who were appointed the task by foreigners.

When America shifted its attention to Iraq, the people of Afghanistan were faced with the worst poverty in decades. Democracy is still an illusion here. There is no constitution, no laws, lots of weapons and little food. The warlords are still supported by the US and the thousands of ‘peacekeepers’ are primarily interested in staying alive.

Women’s rights are on hold and most still wear the Burqa due to possible persecution if they are seen in public wearing anything else. Women need the permission of a man to travel in their own country and less than 10% of the political positions in Afghanistan are held by women. Schooling is difficult to find and the curriculum is decided, not by the parents, but by others with vested interests rather than educational interests. In 2005, 90% of the children did not attend school.

The life expectancy for the people of Afghanistan is less than 50 years. The average wage is less than one dollar per day. The people have been living with war for 24 years and still heavily armed foreigners roam their land. Infant mortality is disgraceful and health care is deplorable. In addition to the drastic killing of the male population, the livestock that provided some food security for many has been nearly decimated. This, apparently, is the best that billions and billions of dollars from the West can do. In spite of this negligible progress the West continues to spend billions on the militarization of Afghanistan.

January, 2002 the Tokyo conference pledged $4.5 billion for reconstruction in Afghanistan; donor nations promised $1.8 billion for that year. A year later, barely 30 percent of what was promised had been delivered and much that was resulted in no improvement in the lives of the ordinary Afghans and much of that resulted in no improvement in the lives of ordinary Afghans. The US government contribution was half of that of the European Union. The $300 million granted in 2002 was quickly spent with poor results. The US government has been hesitant to put funding into reconstruction-oriented groups and has been more focused on building an Afghan national army. The simultaneous funding of local warlords, now being referred to as ‘regional leaders’ has been undermining this work.

In early 2006 there were approximately 20,000 Americans in Afghanistan with a 3,000 person reduction planned. The UN was going to increase its
peace-keeping force which started in 2002. Serious problems remain that are, for the most part, remnants of the violent response used by various men who wanted to do things in Afghanistan. In a typically tragic case, a school teacher was recently shot dead for teaching girls in a secondary school. Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority, states, “The Bush administration speaks of democracy in Afghanistan, women’s rights, and a Marshall Plan, but the US has simply not been delivering.”

The new Canadian Prime Minister Harper has made it clear that he supports the US and as a result he has sent more than 2,000 soldiers to Kandahar. Like Bush Jr., Harper is prepared to kill for a greater good when there is no greater good than the preservation of life. Wars continue because guys like Harper and Bush Jr. have yet to figure that out.

The Canadian soldiers and government both seem to believe that they are there to
help yet the Canadian International Development Agency is planning to dramatically cut funding for development operations in Afghanistan. This cut to development spending and increase to military spending will harm Canada’s reputation, cost the lives of well intentioned Canadians and fail to help the people of Afghanistan. In 2004 and 2005 each Canada gave Afghanistan $200 million in development assistance. In 2006 it was cut to $60 million, in 2007 to $50 million, in 2008 to $40 million. If Canada and Canadians think that more military spending and less development spending will solve the problems in Afghanistan they are seriously mistaken. That American method has not worked anywhere. The problem in Afghanistan was never the Taliban but the violence at the hand of foreigners.

Canada has been fighting the Taliban for years, under American control. With their new right-wing government, Canadians are now assuming a larger offensive role in Afghanistan. Numerous citizens of Afghanistan, who never threatened Canada, have been killed by Canadians. The Canadian media is spouting the, ‘Taliban are terrorists’ line which is just more media manipulation. When America abandoned Afghanistan, after effectively destroying it, the country was a mess; civil war, crime, rape, weapons everywhere, drug growing and dealing, etc. A religious group, the Taliban put a stop to much of this but like all governments they made mistakes. Name an American or Canadian
government that has not made mistakes?

It is these Taliban, who have this strange idea that foreign troops should get out of their country, that Canadians are now trying to kill. It gets worse. The ‘suspected Taliban’ that Canada captures are immediately turned over the Afghani ‘security forces’ and Canada has no idea how these people are treated. The Afghanistan government ‘security’ forces have a deplorable record. The number of prisoners turned over is kept secret and the normal POW protections are ignored because the ‘good guys’ simply refuse to acknowledge the potential for prisoner abuse or death. This is a violation of the Geneva agreements that Canada says they uphold. Canadian Lieutenant-General Michel Gauthier puts it a little more honestly, “The regulations apply in an armed conflict between states, and what’s happening in Afghanistan is not an armed conflict between states. And therefore there is no basis for making a determination of individuals being prisoners of war.” Right out of Donald Rumsfeld’s book.

Canada’s aggression in Afghanistan is occurring to prove to the US that Canada is a loyal ally. This proof is required in the eyes of the new right-wing Canadian government because the previous Canadian government refused to send troops to Iraq. America is by far Canada’s largest trading partner and the current Canadian government is pro-American. However this Canadian decision to
use offensive military force to solve problems is not the way most Canadians want their government to act. Tragically this government is doing their best to convince them that killing people is the best they can do. The Canadian forces are under the command of the Americans but Canadians are not told that. (That direct control changed in July 2006 but the US still supplies airpower and affects Canadian decisions)

Canada is trying to ‘help’ the Afghan government but this government was installed by the Americans, not the people of Afghanistan. Instead of trying to work with the Taliban without killing them, Canada has adopted the violent American road that has failed so miserably in both Afghanistan and Iraq. The Canadian government claims that the government of Afghanistan is the legitimate government of the people but no democratic election was really held. The CIA paid warlords in the Northern Alliance who intimidated candidates and, as usual, manipulated the elections to create an American result. The US supported President Karzai imprisoned 700 political rivals prior to the election. Karzai’s government is composed of some of Afghanistan’s worst criminals and human rights abusers. According to a 2001 Human Rights Watch report, the abuses committed by the Northern Alliance include, “summary executions, burning of houses and looting, principally targeting ethnic Pashtuns and others suspected of supporting the Taliban. Children, including those under the age of fifteen, have been recruited as soldiers and used to fight against Taliban forces.
The various parties that comprise the United Front also amassed a deplorable record of attacks on civilians between the fall of the Najibullah regime in 1992 and the Taliban’s capture of Kabul in 1996.” These warlords and drug dealers are some if the men Canada is now supporting.

The Canadian government has also followed the US lead by restricting what the Canadian people are told about Afghanistan. They only allow ‘approved’ journalists to be imbedded with the troops and these journalists are not allowed to go where they want or say what they want. They are provided with a long list of “non-releasable information” on what they cannot say. This includes any information or photos that the Canadian military does not approve of because all stories must be approved before they leave the base. This censored information has been acceptable to Canadian mass media. When the killing of dozens of Afghan civilians occurred in May 2006 the media reported this as “collateral damage” as if it was acceptable. When an Afghani taxi driver was killed by Canadian troops, he was not provided with the immediate medical aid which was available. His killer was exonerated and the taxi driver’s family was not fully compensated for their loss. This type of response has been allowed because the Canadian government has been given a waiver from any liability caused by Canadian troops. This agreement states that, “Afghan civilians who are accidentally injured or killed, or whose property is damaged by Canadian soldiers, have no legal right to compensation.” Just another reason why foreign

Canada has spent $100s of millions on new equipment to support the Americans in Afghanistan but virtually nothing to support the people of Afghanistan.

Amoral America
troops are unwanted by so many in Afghanistan.

In early 2006 the Canadian Coalition to End Global Poverty warned that “Confusion between military and development activities puts both the recipients of aid and aid workers at risk. They become targets for attack due to association with forces aligned with one party in the conflict. The neutrality of the military’s community service activities is compromised as they switch from service activities to take up arms against forces in the armed conflict. Aid is being used for military purposes, to gain the support of the population for one side in an armed conflict. In more extreme cases, the provision of assistance is tied to the provision of information or intelligence to the military. This can be done subtly or directly; in either case it puts the population at risk.” In other words, aid cannot be provided if the military is running around shooting people.

International aid pledged to Afghanistan between 2002 and 2006 was over $14 billion. $9 billion was committed by 2005 but by that time only $3.3 billion was disbursed but less than $1 billion was spent on completed projects and many of those do not help the people in need. While this ‘aid’ was ongoing, the ‘west’ was spending almost $20 billion per year on military operations in Afghanistan. Canadian aid was a miserly $6 million in 2005 but in fact it amounted to next to nothing as the money was not actually spent doing what needed to be done. Like the US, Canada is quite happy to spend much more killing the ‘bad’ guys than making life better for the desperate people of Afghanistan.

The Canadian military adventure therefore allows the Yanks to concentrate on their other military adventure, killing Iraqis. This Canadian ‘support’ is basically a selfishness designed to curry favor with the US. It is disguised as help for Afghanistan but Canadians don’t see pictures of Canadian carpenters, plumbers, medics and electricians building the infrastructure the people of Afghanistan need. They don’t see those pictures because those Canadians are not there.

Recently, May 2006, we learned that good old Canada has

Canadians are dying in Afghanistan to support America and a government that America installed rather than a democratic Afghanistan.
spent more than $4.1 billion on its military operations and new equipment in Afghanistan since 9/11. Although Canada, like the US, ‘don’t do body counts’ or more truthfully, won’t release the number of Afghans they have killed, we know that Canadian snipers have killed dozens of Afghans and recent Canadian troop conflicts have claimed “large numbers of” Taliban casualties. Canadian troops may have killed several hundred people from Afghanistan, therefore the cost of each Afghani killed is around $20 million and I’m damn sure they would each agree to take just a few million bucks and not to shoot back.

Operations in Afghanistan have accounted for 68% of the $6.1 billion Canada has spent on international missions between Fall 2001 and the end of March 2006. Canada spent only $214 million on UN operations during the same period. That’s just three per cent of total spending on international missions. Today Canada contributes only 59 military personnel to UN missions around the world, while about 2,300 troops were stationed under US command in Afghanistan. Once one of the top ten peacekeeping contributors, Canada now ranks 50th out of 95 countries currently contributing military personnel to UN missions. All this talk about Canada shows how governments in developed, prosperous and relatively educated countries will manipulate their citizens by withholding the facts and willingly spend billions on military adventures most of their citizens would oppose just to ensure that they do not offend America and affect the trade between their two countries.

Another problem the US and other western countries bring to Afghanistan is the money they pay educated Afghans, particularly those who also speak English, to work for them. These people used to be and still would be in important jobs in their own government but no longer. Those Afghani jobs must be filled by competent people but there are only so many educated people in Afghanistan. The foreign military forces and big NGOs have sucked many of these people out of their jobs by offering them more money. That is good for them but as Ashraf Ghani, who is now Chancellor of Kabul University, says, “The international community has failed Afghanistan. Rather than build up the local government, it has created a parallel system that has actively weakened the capacity of Afghanistan to run its own affairs.” Over ninety per cent of all international development spending continues to flow outside the government of Afghanistan. Just another way the west is saying, we know better than you do.

A 200 page report on Afghanistan by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights was to be released in January 2005. It was only released in June 2006 because it accuses Afghan politicians, now in power, of complicity in massacres, torture, rapes and war crimes. These are the guys that the UN military forces are supporting as they fight the Taliban. President Karzai, who would never be President without US backing, appointed 13 men to senior positions in the Afghan police force who all had dubious histories. One of those 13 men was Amanullah Guzar who ranked 202 out of 270 candidates. He got the
job instead of a man who ranked 12th on the list and is now the police chief of Kabul. This report simply confirms that when the West violently meddles in the affairs of other countries they create additional difficulties because they don’t know what they are doing. This arrogance is an intrinsic part of the way the West operates and it has caused enormous difficulties for millions since 1492. These situations are never black and white and that the West cannot pick out the ‘good’ guys and then proceed to kill the ‘bad’ guys. A violent solution is simply a continuation of the violence. If that is the best the West can do then it is not nearly good enough.

In June 2006 the Paris based Senlis Council released a report that said the aggressive actions in Afghanistan are failing. The unilateral destruction of poppy crops is causing hardship and anger and this is driving farmers into the hands of the Taliban. This perception was confirmed by Lt-General David Richards who is in charge of NATO operations in Afghanistan. The installed President of Afghanistan, also criticized the aggression which has killed an estimated 600 Afghans during the first half of 2006. In spite of all this death and the destruction of Poppy crops, Radio Free Europe reports a record poppy crop this year. NATO and the US will spend billions in Afghanistan this year, almost all of it on military operations. The Senlis report was criticized by the Canadian Minister of Defense however Mr. Reinert replied by saying that, “the Canadian government is in denial over the true perception of its troop deployment to Afghanistan’s troubled Kandahar province.” “Our people on the ground are telling us that they see the troops as invaders, they are telling us that the patience of Afghans is running out almost five years after the war.”

So here we are in July 2006 and the west is still embarked on its multi billion dollar killing solution for Afghanistan. Remarkably the Taliban is still hanging on and creating all sorts of bad news. Apparently bad news equals good news, whenever possible. As I mentioned the guys running the war have imposed news restrictions on various media outlets. In other words the story we get is the version they want us to hear. The media can no longer report on the activities of foreign troops, no interviews or reports critical of the ‘good-guys’. There are no interviews or filming of the Taliban or information that is against government policy. The fact that 30,000 coalition troops are having a
hard time fighting the people of Afghanistan is remarkable but when it comes
to the media, Reporters Without Borders summed it up nicely by saying, “What
needs to be understood is that press freedom is not only nice things and pro-
government. The government can’t and shouldn’t avoid that car bombs and
killings are being reported on.”

The American war in Afghanistan decimated an already wounded country.
America’s violent and aggressive actions perpetuated the violent ethnic that has
been a part of Afghanistan life for far too long. American actions have also been
a big help to Osama bin Laden by encouraging so many Muslim men to fight
an enemy who seems to have no regard for anything that the Afghani people
hold dear. In 2001 when the US invaded Afghanistan they promised a brighter
future for the people of Afghanistan. Now, five years later life expectancy is 42
years, 75% of the population is illiterate, unemployment is approaching 40%,
many children are too afraid to attend school and hard drug use has doubled in
two years to over a million citizens. Like Iraq, the country is now far worse off
than before but this is the best that the ultimate sacrifice of tens of thousands of
men, women and children, as well as billions of dollars from the West can do.
In addition there is no end in sight as the fighting continues. The deaths in July,
2006 have being the highest since 2001.

By choosing violence, America’s actions in Afghanistan have encouraged
other nations to behave in the same aggressive and violent manner. This
approach has killed many, destroyed much and improved little, in spite of the
enormous sacrifices on both sides. In addition, all of this squander has done
nothing to reduce the hatred for America that is now such an intrinsic part of
the Afghani mindset.

“The oppressed people of Afghanistan will know the generosity of America
and our allies. As we strike military targets, we’ll also drop food, medicine
and supplies to the starving and suffering men and women and children
of Afghanistan. The United States of America is a friend to the Afghan
people.”

George Bush Jr., September, 2001

“After five years of intensive international involvement in Afghanistan,
the country remains ravaged by severe poverty and the spreading starvation
of the rural and urban poor. Despite promises from the US-led international
community guaranteeing to provide the resources and assistance necessary
for its reconstruction and development needs, Afghanistan’s people are
starving to death.”

The Senlis Council, Paris, 2006
“So let us regard this as settled: what is morally wrong can never be advantageous, even when it enables you to make some gain that you believe to be to your advantage. The mere act of believing that some wrongful course of action constitutes an advantage is pernicious.”
– Marcus Tullius Cicero, 106-43 B.C.

“Liberty has never come from the government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of government. The history of liberty is the history of resistance. The history of liberty is a history of the limitation of governmental power, not the increase of it.”
– Woodrow Wilson, former US president.

“We are mad, not only individually, but nationally. We check manslaughter and isolated murders; but what of war and the much vaunted crime of slaughtering whole peoples?”
– Lucius Annaeus Seneca the Younger, Roman statesman, philosopher.

In 1830 the French invaded and occupied Algeria. Just why they thought they had the right to do that is wrapped up in the European belief that they could pretty much do what they wanted. France was also a little late to get in on the empire game so nabbed Algeria, Vietnam and Tahiti as those were the only easy pickings left. During the Second World War the Algerians fought alongside the French and when the war was over they strongly felt that they should have the right to the independence that France had denied them. de Gaulle resisted the demands from the Algerians and the French army responded by ultimately killing hundreds of thousands of Algerians. As is always the case, this simply strengthened the resolve of the Algerians against the French. Funny how the white guys never seem to figure that out.

The French inequality, brutality and disdain for the Arabs initiated and sustained the Algerian War of Independence which was a war by pro and anti French citizens, the French Army and various independence groups. The French government made their position clear when they said, “The Algerian departments are part of the French Republic. They have been French for a long time, and they are irrevocably French.” Due to fact that the French never extended equality, fraternity and liberty to the citizens of Algeria, this war
raged on for seven years. It killed a few hundred thousand people, including 5,000 in France.

In April 1961, just days after the disastrous American Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba, four French generals took over the Algerian government. They did this because de Gaulle was the new boss in France and he was changing the French policy towards Algeria. He said, “Not an Algeria governed from France but an Algerian Algeria.” This apparent betrayal made de Gaulle very unpopular with many of the French in Algeria as well as many of the French in France who sympathized with the French in Algeria. The four generals therefore directly challenged de Gaulle over Algeria. It turns out that the CIA helped the generals and others opposed to de Gaulle, for several reasons.

Presidents Kennedy and Johnson regarded de Gaulle as uncooperative when all de Gaulle really wanted was a France without American meddling. Remarkably de Gaulle was unable to see that the Algerians just wanted an Algeria without French meddling. In Europe the Americans wanted exclusive control over NATO nuclear weapons in Europe, they wanted French troops incorporated into a unified European military but de Gaulle insisted on complete independence for France. He told the Americans to put their military bases in France under French control or remove them. For these reasons and others America wanted to get rid of de Gaulle and supporting the French generals in Algeria seemed like a good way for America to start the ball rolling. The CIA also met with senior French politicians and disaffected military leaders to encourage them against de Gaulle and assured them that America would support them if they decided to proceed with de Gaulle’s removal. This is typical CIA/American meddling that has been tried in more countries than we will ever know. The CIA was also aware of a number of attempts to kill de Gaulle and indicated their support while not advising the de Gaulle government of what they knew.

In the early 1990s the terrible violence in Algeria escalated which created thousands of victims, mostly civilians, from all levels of society. While it is established that a certain number of attacks, assassinations and massacres were committed by armed Islamist groups, the war machine of the government set into motion the spiral of savage repression aimed primarily at the civilian population. The security services and militias created after March 1994 also
participated in the terror with the encouragement of the army. The crime peak occurred between 1994 and 1998 while officials systematically attributed the crimes to armed Islamist groups. As they say the first casualty in war is the truth. Credible sources indicate that most of the aggression and killing were actually the responsibility of the security forces. Since 1999, the number of deaths has dropped, but remained, at the end of 2002, at approximately 200 per month and, in 2004, at least 50 per month.

In 2004, nothing fundamentally has changed in the security and political field: the lethal arsenal remains in place, the state of emergency is still in effect, secret centers of detention (places of torture and enforced disappearances by the security forces) continue to operate, the military personnel responsible for these crimes are climbing in the hierarchical ranks and armed groups continue to kill in the name of Islam. Justice is totally subservient to a corrupt political and military system. The few magistrates, who, in the past, have tried to do their job, have been sanctioned or silenced. Complete immunity continues to reign. In mid-2005 after twelve years of needless war, there have been 200,000 killed, 10,000 to 20,000 disappeared, tens of thousands tortured, more than 500,000 in exile and more than a million displaced persons. While this disaster was underway British and American oil companies continued to make money. Many of the people were disenfranchised from the voting process or simply didn’t bother. The French still have political and economic influence in Algeria. The racism they demonstrated against the Muslims so long ago developed into the virtual destruction of a stable and prosperous society. The Americans who were busy building military bases in Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad, Ghana, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria never used their might to help the people of Algeria develop their own democratic country.

Although the assassination attempts against de Gaulle were never successful France did withdraw from NATO and pursued an independent nuclear policy. The attitude towards Americans by the French is similar to the American attitude towards the French. There is no love lost between them but it was America who interfered with the French government and not the other way round. Algeria will always remain as an excellent example of foolish conquest for no good reason. During the start of the Algerian War for Independence the French moved hundreds of thousands of well armed troops into Algeria to deal with 15,000 poorly armed resistance fighters. In spite of every advantage the
French lost this war simply because they refused to recognize that they were the invaders and because they used torture to fight the war. This turned the people against them and that means you have lost, even if you remain in the country.

American leaders failed to recall Algeria when they went to Vietnam and more recently into Iraq and Afghanistan. Although the American meddling in Algeria and France was not nearly as extensive as it has been in other countries it demonstrates that no country is exempt from American interference. As long as America continues to believe that they have the right to start conflicts to impose their will the conflicts will continue, simply because America does not have that right. Wars cannot be won when the reasons for war are false.

Wars can only be justified, for one side, when a country defends itself against an actual attack. Thousands of ignorant young French men and many more thousands of civilians died in vain. For these reasons and more there are many in Algeria who hate the arrogance and violence of the imperialists who devastated their country for so long.
ANGOLA

“The United States is a society in which people not only can get by without knowing much about the wider world but are systematically encouraged not to think independently or critically and instead to accept the mythology of the United States as a benevolent, misunderstood giant as it lumbers around the world trying to do good.”

– Robert Jensen, Citizens of Empire

“The U.S. continues to rank last among developed nations in official [international] development assistance, giving only 0.12% of GNP.”

– Friends Committee on National Legislation

“The crimes of the U.S. throughout the world have been systematic, constant, clinical, remorseless, and fully documented but nobody talks about them.”

– Harold Pinter, English dramatist

Angola is intrinsically one of the richest countries on earth and yet most of the population is desperately poor. The average life expectancy is less than 40 and unemployment is about 50%. Angola used to produce all the food it required but now imports most of it. Angola produces almost 2 million barrels of oil a day while consuming less than 50,000. Hundreds of millions of cubic meters of natural gas are produced each year but Angola exports 0 cubic meters. The reason is that the oil company’s burn off the natural gas rather than make the investment required to export it. This fact demonstrates that oil companies are not interested in profit; they are interested in excessive profits. Gold, diamonds, lumber and other wealth creators are also being exported. These Angolan resources are equal to almost 100 million dollars of wealth created every single day but this

While billions in resources flow out of the country, life remains desperately poor for most of the people in Angola.
vast sum has not affected the lives of the Angolan poor. Indeed Angola is one of the world’s 10 poorest countries and also happens to have one of the world’s highest infant mortality rates. Almost 20% of the children die at birth compared to .22% in Singapore, which is 100 times better.

So how did it come to pass that this blessed land should be such a mess? It is a history of tragedy orchestrated, for the most part, by the white guys. The Portuguese were first to call the shots, starting in 1482, 10 years before Columbus. Soon the Christians arrived to convert the people of this land because the white man just knew that this would be good for them. There was a lot of killing over a three hundred year period as various European powers fought over Angolan wealth and the inhabitants who tried to resist slavery and theft. Until the early 1900s the battles were one-sided with millions of blacks either killed or enslaved. In 1904 the Portuguese lost over 300 men in a battle with one of the tribes and this resistance was the beginning of the end for the

In Angola life is a struggle for most people, young and old alike.

The Portuguese in Angola, well-armed but out numbered. It is strange how the white guys never seemed to figure out that treating the actual owners of a country fairly, would make them welcome there.
Europeans in Africa. This end was very slow in coming as the Portuguese were quite prepared to send their well-armed young men to Angola to fight with the poor, relatively defenseless Angolans. Angola was the largest source of slaves for America. Although this was abolished in the mid 1800s it actually continued into the early 1900s and effectively remained as a type of forced labor until the early 1960’s. It could also be said that poverty still enslaves the people of Angola.

Portugal resisted independence for ‘their’ country and continued to ensure that the indigenous people were treated inequitably. Gradually the blacks gained strength and confidence and tried to kick the white guys out. Several groups were formed in the early 1960s including the MPLA, which was the most broadly based group, the FNLA which was supported by several tribes and the Maoist based UNITA party.

All three of these groups fought against the Portuguese and this evolved into a war for independence which ran from 1961 until 1974. There was little to choose between these three groups. Basically they all wanted to run the country and would be capitalistic or communistic if that’s what it took to get military aid. In 1974 a new government in Portugal agreed to hand over power to these three groups and stop fighting. That didn’t work very well and the differences between these three groups soon led to a civil war. A war that was

Angola

Western arms made much of the destruction in Angola possible.
I guess it is possible to have a civil war with sticks and stones but civil wars are much bloodier if you have lots of guns and other weapons, supplied by the white guys, of course. Unfortunately these white guys were more than willing to arm any group of Angolans who had the money or even the potential to get the money to pay for these weapons. If the Angolans had been left to themselves the MPLA would have emerged as the most powerful group. If the white guys had offered genuine assistance, Angola could have emerged as a peaceful, prosperous African country.

That didn’t happen, the US armed and trained the FNLA and UNITA groups in conjunction with South Africa, the apartheid guys. The head armed by the West.

As a result of the fighting many young people are left with nothing, no family, no home and no support. Their suffering is basically ignored.

Unexploded mines continue to plague Angola but the guys who profited from the sale of these mines are not helping to clear them up or pay for the human costs.
of the FNLA was on a $10,000/year CIA retainer so that he would remember where his loyalties were. They then started fighting the MPLA guys who then requested help from the Cubans and the Soviets. By 1974 the Portuguese decided that they had had enough and the MPLA and were going to wrap things up. The Americans then made their first large scale arms shipment to the FNLA to keep things going. The South Africans and Cubans went home while the FNLA and the UNITA gangs united and to keep things simple we will call them UNITA.

About this time the wealth of Angola’s oil fields became a more important factor so America increased its support to UNITA along with South Africa troops who returned to fight the MPLA and of course the Cubans returned to help the MPLA. The Americans supplied finances and arms to British mercenaries as well as to a few Americans who wanted to see a little killing.

The American Secretary of State, Kissinger then said, “the CIA is not involved” in placing mercenaries in Angola but he lied. In 1975 the leader of UNITA tried to broker a peace with the MPLA but his efforts were discouraged by the CIA. Peace is bad for business. When the MPLA went to the US to try and resolve some issues they were met with junior officials and a cool reception. Later that year one of the men most likely to know about Angola, the US Consul Chief from the Angola capital stated, “The MPLA was the best qualified to run the country– and that the US should make peace with it as quickly as possible.”

This didn’t happen. America continued to arm UNITA and the fighting
went on until 1991 when the various groups agreed to send Cuban and South African troops home. An election was held and the MPLA candidate won handily against the UNITA candidate but UNITA disputed the results and the war was on again. In 1994 another peace agreement - but this didn’t last too long as fighting resumed in 1995. This on-and-off again fighting continued until 1999 when the government, which was the MPLA by then, overwhelmed the UNITA forces. The UNITA leader then reverted to guerrilla tactics however he was killed in 2002 and this eventually put an end to much of the fighting.

As a result of this 25 year battle 300,000 Angolans were needlessly killed and many more lost their homes. The country was devastated economically and has still not recovered because the white guys who control much of the resource extraction don’t want to share the wealth. American support for the bad guys and their failure to ensure fairness in Angola caused countless sorrows. It will never be the country it might have been had America helped to make justice and equality priorities instead of selling millions in arms and making a completely unnecessary war inevitable.

Inequality is still a formidable and fundamental problem in Angola. America still keeps its CIA guys on the ground and the government of Angola compliant. A French judge is currently investigating $160 million of unexplained commissions paid for a mid-1990s contract in Nigeria by the US company Halliburton. Dick Cheney, the American Vice President was the boss of Halliburton at the time. The opportunities for corruption are everywhere in the oil rich regions of Africa and the condition of these countries attests to the fact that real progress has not been made by the poor. By setting a violent example and encouraging African nations to solve their differences through war, America has earned the hatred of millions on this devastated continent.
ARGENTINA

“That meddling in other people’s affairs...formerly conducted by the most discreet intrigue is now openly advocated under the name of intervention.”
– T.S. Eliot

“So long as the deceit ran along quiet and monotonous, all of us let ourselves be deceived, abetting it unawares or maybe through cowardice.”
– William Faulkner

“I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent.”
– Mahatma Gandhi

In the early 1500s the Europeans arrived in Argentina and during the next several hundred years exploited the indigenous people as well as the slaves they brought to the country. Of course there was the usual killing through war, started by the rich guys and fought by the poor guys. The rich conservatives fought the poor leftists and the leftists usually lost. Like so many countries the leaders of Argentina failed to retain control of the excessive militaries that they put in place to control those leftists so the militaries took control by force from time to time. In the early 1900s America had considerable control over some of the more profitable businesses in Argentina. In 1943 the military overthrew the government and an Army Colonel named Juan Peron was one of the coup leaders who became Minister of Labor in the new military government. The people were not happy with the situation in Argentina and protests led to an election on February 20, 1946. Peron won and implemented policies that helped the working people

Evita and Juan Peron during happy days in 1946.
and allowed unions to expand. He nationalized some of the country’s industries in 1947 and announced a five year plan for those industries. His wife Evita, worked with her husband and became a political force in her own right. She helped women get the right to vote in 1947 however she died from cancer in 1952.

Peron won another election in 1952 but the military overthrew him in 1955. During the next 18 years Argentinean politics was fraught by military restrictions, canceled elections, coups, executions and fewer rights for the people. In March 1973 Peron was prevented from running but his stand-in won the election. This new government was beset by difficulties so in June 1973 Peron himself decided to return from Spain. He was met at the airport by over 2 million people but far-right gunmen opened fire, killing over a dozen and injuring hundreds. In September Peron won the election with 62% of the vote and he made his third wife Vice-President of the country. Peron died two years later, in July 1974 and his wife took over but the government had a strong right-wing component and in conjunction with the military they took over in March 1975.

In 1976, just a few months after theGenerals took over; the American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger met with Argentina’s foreign Minister Csar Guzzetti on June 10th. A State department memo shows that in early 1977 Robert Hill, then the U.S. Ambassador in Buenos Aires stated that Kissinger had given his approval to the repression in which at least 9,000 people were kidnapped and secretly murdered. In 1976 Guzzetti said, “My idea of subversion is that of the left-wing terrorist organizations. Subversion or terrorism of the right is not the same thing. When the social body of the country has been contaminated by a disease that eats away at its entrails, it forms antibodies. These antibodies cannot be considered in the same way as the microbes.” That should be perfectly clear?

Kissinger had been warned about this type of attitude in the ruling Argentinean Generals and how it was going to cause human rights abuses. Kissinger did not attempt to rein in the Generals but his own department stated before his meeting with Guzzetti, “Human rights could become a problem area as the military clamps down on terrorism. To date, however, the junta has followed a reasonable, prudent line in an obvious attempt to avoid being tagged with a ‘Made in Chile’ label.” By the time Kissinger and Guzzetti met, 1,022 people had been ‘disappeared’ forever.

General Videla who ran the country after the overthrow of Juan Peron’s wife in 1975. His rule is remembered as the period of the ‘disappeared’.
and thousands were to join them.

General Videla who took over via another coup in 1976, was well known by America and in spite of that they supported him. If America had supported the government he overthrew, the coup would never have happened. Videla began to round up leftists, or as he preferred to call them communists, as everyone knew that communists were very bad. Why else would America go to such lengths to get rid of them? These ‘enemies’ were tortured by US trained police in dedicated torture rooms. Meanwhile Videla suspended all union and political activities and he reduced wages by up to 60% while receiving millions from the World Anti-Communist League, an organization with dubious ties to powerful people. All these moves were making Videla and his government look bad so they hired the same US public relations firm used by President Regan, Deaver and Hannalord. This firm was also used by other good guys like the governments of Taiwan and Guatemala. The Reagan government also tried to help out by describing Videla as a ‘moderate’. Due to all this American ‘help’ Argentina agreed to train Nicaraguan Contras for the US as it was getting more difficult for Regan to organize this himself. (see the Nicaraguan chapter)

Kissinger’s failure to restrain the Generals in 1976 resulted in wholesale executions a few weeks after his meetings with these leaders of Argentina. The new military regime did not limit its rampage to the guerrillas. They used violent methods; that violated every convention of warfare and the treatment of prisoners, against numerous groups in the country. The regime embarked on a crusade against anyone who threatened the armed forces in any way. Three priests and two seminarians were murdered by vengeful police; an American priest and the daughter of a US missionary were tortured; a progressive Catholic bishop was killed. General Videla was not going to allow those kinds of threats!

Ambassador Hill said that he had made arrangements seven times for a Kissinger visit to Argentina so that Kissinger could help stop these killings. Each time the Secretary cancelled. Finally Kissinger and Foreign Minister Guzzetti agreed to meet in Santiago. The Argentineans were very worried that Kissinger would lecture to them on human rights but Kissinger did not raise the matter. Finally Guzzetti did and Kissinger asked him how long it would take to clean up the problem. Guzzetti replied that it would be done by the end of the year and Kissinger approved.

So Kissinger gave the Argentineans the green light by saying that human-rights were important but not taking

Kissinger was quite capable of making decisions that ultimately killed innocent people.
any action. During a meeting between Kissinger and Chilean dictator Pinochet, Kissinger told Pinochet he would have to make reference to human rights in his speech but that’s all he would hear on the subject. In 1978, after the Argentine military’s killings were well known, Kissinger was the guest of Argentine President Videla during the World Cup soccer competition. At the end of the tournament Kissinger criticized President Carter for not understanding that human rights were a necessary casualty in the battle against terrorism. He also spent a lot of time with the regime’s Minister of the Economy and David Rockefeller’s friend, Jose Martinez de Hoz. Known as ‘the Wizard of Hoz’, his policies were the framework for the murder of hundreds of labor activists. It is clear that Kissinger and America could have done much more to stem the wave of killings that were to devastate Argentina for over thirty years. By hanging around with these despots Kissinger and America publicly sanctioned the violent men that ravaged Argentina.

General Jorge Rafael Videla remained as boss of the Argentina military junta until 1983 and many more steps were taken to reduce civil liberties during those years. The functioning of the courts was halted, tight censorship was imposed on the mass-media and all important positions were filled by military personnel. The arrests and torture of Argentineans resulted in an estimated 30,000 people who never returned. These are the words of Marta Garcia, wife of Dr. Candeloro who was one of the ‘disappeared’.

“The last time I heard my husband’s voice was on 28 June. They always took him off first (to the torture chamber) and then me. This time they did the opposite. In the middle of my interrogation they brought in my husband, telling him that if he wouldn’t talk, they would kill me. They began to apply
the electric shocks to me so that he could hear my cries, and he called out to me: ‘My love, I love you. I never dreamt they would bring you into this.’ These words enraged them. The last phrase was cut short as they were applying the electric prod to him. They untied me and threw me into my cell. They were driven wild by him, his interrogation was unending. All at once there was a single piercing, heart-rending shriek. It still resounds in my ears. I will never be able to forget it. It was his last cry; and then suddenly there was silence. My husband died on 28 June, a victim of their tortures.”

This type of atrocity was perpetuated thousands of times by a regime supported by Presidents Nixon, Ford and Regan.

The International Monetary Fund is an American dominated organization with an American ‘free market’ attitude. In 2001, having Argentina by the financial throat, they dictated that Argentina reduce its budget deficit from $5.3 billion to $4.1 billion when the country was in a deep recession with unemployment at almost 20%. Civil servants wages were to be cut 12-15% and the emergency employment payments cut 20% from $200 to $160 per month. The World Bank, another America ‘institution’ had taken $3 billion out of Argentinean, “primary expenditures accommodating the increase in interest obligations” to creditors, mostly foreign banks. The bank required Argentina to peg its currency, the peso, to the Yankee dollar at an exchange rate of one-to-one. American banks and speculators charged a whopping 16 percent above
normal risk premiums in return for the dollars needed to back the currency scheme. All this to get loans from the World Bank worth $20 billion.

Argentina at that time had a $128 billion debt so the interest plus the premium equaled $27 billion a year. Therefore Argentina got nothing from the $20 billion loan package. Steve Hanke ran Toronto Trust Argentina, an “emerging market fund” that loaded up on Argentine bonds during 1995. His return that year put his trust at the top of the speculators league at 79.25%. Hanke profited by betting on the failure of IMF policies. As professor of economics at Johns Hopkins University, Hanke offered a cure for Argentina. “Abolish the IMF.” For much more on how America fleeces the world’s poorer countries read, ‘Confessions of an Economic Hit Man’ which details how, “highly paid professionals cheat countries around the globe out of trillions of dollars.”

The killings, corruption and loss of the Falklands War against the British forced the government to call new elections. In October 1983 Raúl Alfonsín won in new elections that were considered fair. He ordered an investigation into the many ‘disappearances’ but he also provided amnesty for all crimes associated with those murders. During the next 20 years the country was rocked by many crises including some severe economic downturns. Protests and a heavy-handed response resulted in many deaths. Not until 2002 and a more moderate government did things settle down. In 2005 the Supreme Court overturned the amnesty provided by Alfonsin for the murderers back in 1983. Due to American instigated IMF policies that caused widespread hardship in the country the government today is trying to go its own way. The American way, which is to provide for the rich while ignoring the poor, is becoming more and more difficult to sustain as the poor learn to vote for those who will actually help them. Many of the 40 million people who live in Argentina today remember when America helped sustain a deplorable regime when they could have prevented it. More than a few hate America for those terrible times.
ARMED MERCHANT TO THE WORLD

“A man may build himself a throne of bayonets, but he cannot sit on it.”
– William Ralph Inge

“They say that we are disturbing the peace, but there is no peace. What really bothers them is that we are disturbing the war.”
– Howard Zinn

“The US record of war crimes has been, from the nineteenth century to the present, a largely invisible one, with no government, no political leaders, no military officials, no lower-level operatives held accountable for criminal actions. Anyone challenging this mythology is quickly marginalized, branded a traitor or Communist or terrorist or simply a lunatic beyond the pale of reasonable discussion.”
– Carl Boggs

“Throughout the world, on any given day, a man, woman or child is likely to be displaced, tortured, killed or ‘disappeared’, at the hands of governments or armed political groups. More often than not, the United States shares the blame.”

“But I know now that there is not a chance in hell of America becoming humane and reasonable. Because power corrupts us, and absolute power corrupts us absolutely. Human beings are chimpanzees who get crazy drunk on power. By saying that our leaders are power-drunk chimpanzees, am I in danger of wrecking the morale of our soldiers fighting and dying in the Middle East? Their morale, like so many lifeless bodies, is already shot to pieces. They are being treated, as I never was, like toys a rich kid got for Christmas.”
– Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (1922– ), Author

“War is good for the economy the way that cannibalism is nutritious.”
– George Bernard Shaw
The American Military Industrial Complex is a global tragedy. Certain Americans with vested interests have convinced the rest of the country that America needs an inordinate military force. Those very same powerful Americans also do their level best to see that every other country carries the same destructive, military, burden. The amounts of American military arms that are produced, used, sold or given away simply make it impossible for peace to prevail. Give peace a chance is a global chant but the American answer is: “No way.” No country on this planet is more responsible for global conflict than America and yet most Americans reject this reality.

America has hundreds of millions of guns to protect them from themselves. They have over a million trained killers with every imaginable type of killing equipment to protect themselves and America from a few hundred angry young men that they insist on calling ‘terrorists’. America’s total military related expenses are now running about $800 billion dollars per year. Don’t trust the fragmented numbers provided by ‘official’ sources. As a result of this obsession with arms and in particular with, ‘new and improved’ weapons, American is constantly providing ‘old’ equipment to almost every other country on the planet. This American ‘assistance’ or ‘influence’ that affects almost everyone, has resulted in most countries having far more weapons than they actually need or in many cases even want.

Even before the end of the largest conflict in history, World War II, America created and then sustained a new enemy and that enemy was to last for decades. America proceeded to spend unwarranted trillions on arms to prepare for a war with this new enemy, who never wanted to go to war in the first place but no serious effort was ever made to befriend this ‘enemy’.

Even a small country like Vietnam was prevented from holding fair elections and forced into a massive war because America did not like the way the Vietnamese ran Vietnam. America had a theory about Vietnam, which turned out to be false, and as a result millions died (see the Vietnam, Laos and Cambodian chapters). During all these decades, after World War II, America was always the first to develop bigger and better nuclear weapons, the first with chemical and biological weapons, the first with nuclear subs and aircraft carriers, the first with long range jet bombers, the first with depleted uranium weapons, tragically the list is endless. America failed to
incarcere the deplorable bastards from Japan and Germany who developed shocking killing methods using human guinea pigs as their test subjects. Instead certain Americans hid the appalling pasts that these men had from other American authorities, got them into America and then hired them to help America develop even more despicable killing methods. Nothing is too reprehensible for America when it comes to bigger and better ways to kill!

Remember the ‘Peace Dividend’ that was supposed to emerge after those pesky Commies were finally dealt with? Well the Commies self-destructed but sorry folks, no ‘Peace Dividend’. America now has new foes so the military expenses must continue. NATO, which was formed to counter the Soviet threat, is still there, bigger and better, even though the Soviet threat is long gone. NATO is no longer just dealing with threats near the North Atlantic, NATO is now offensively killing the citizens of Afghanistan. (see the Afghanistan chapter). America now has troops in more countries than ever before. Does anyone know why the American taxpayer should be paying for troops and/or spies in almost 200 countries? In other words in almost every country on earth! In 2000 the American military in Europe cost over $10 billion. This is a good idea because the Europeans are obviously a poor people and the billions they already spend on their own militaries is not enough to defend themselves against the threat they face from... well... somebody! Perhaps it would be hard to think of an actual enemy but it is always nice when someone is prepared to spend billions in your neighborhood so they don’t complain.

There was a slight reduction in American military expenses in the late 1980s and early 1990s but between 1998 and 2001 military expenses were up 8% annually after inflation. If you are an average American worker you know that your take-home wages were also up

One American B-2 bomber costs over $2.6 billion which means they are considerably more expensive that their total weight in pure gold. Exactly what the American arms manufacturers seek to achieve. This inordinate expense makes the B-2 the most successful aircraft in the history of the American Military Industrial Complex and also the dumbest.
by 8% after inflation during the same period, yeah right!!

The bigwig Americans, military and civilian alike, who push these weapons on their own people and the rest of the world, have two problems. They are pathologically primed to solve any problem by killing as many of the ‘enemy’ as quickly as possible and they are addicted to the profits to be had by making weapons, the more expensive the better. Many of these guys are like boys with their toys, only these guys are obsessed with death, destruction and profit. These men have always created huge problems for America and very few American Presidents have been able to resist their siren call for a bigger and better military. Kennedy was about to do that and may have been killed for it, Johnson didn’t, Nixon didn’t, Carter tried but not hard enough, Clinton didn’t and the Bush’s have done all they could for the military. Where are the good Americans in all this? Unfortunately they are all too often supporting their President whoever HE may be without knowing WHAT he is doing. At the height of the Vietnam War when hundreds of thousands were being killed, for no good reason, the majority of the American public thought that America should use more force. All too often the American mind is a manipulated mind. (see the Media chapter)

The American share of global military expenditures will exceed 50% soon but the American population is less than 5%. Just why America needs 10 times the average military might can be considered a mystery as well as a gross violation of common sense. Globally that equals about one trillion dollars, about 3% of total global production or $150 for each and every person on the planet, more than millions earn in a year. One of the reasons so many hate America can be determined when you realize that America is eager to spend about 30 times on weapons of war to ‘defend themselves’ than their total foreign aid. That miniscule foreign aid amount, the lowest of all industrialized countries, has to cover diplomatic efforts, the Peace Corp, humanitarian aid, the United Nations and more. The logical question is, If Americans are such good guys why do they ‘need’ to spend so much time and money ‘defending’ themselves?

The American Arms Industry receives a greater subsidy than any other American industry. Just one country, America, sells more than half the arms sold to the world’s remaining 190 odd countries. You would think that with all these subsidies the number of American military production jobs would be increasing by leaps and bounds. You must remember this is about profits, not jobs or arms, so almost a million American military production jobs have been lost during the past decade, as ‘the business’ has shipped jobs overseas. For example, in 1992 General Dynamics brought 400 South Koreans to Fort Worth, Texas for training after having laid-off almost 10,000 Americans in the previous two years. The Koreans returned to Korea to do General Dynamics work more profitably.

When it comes to helping the American Arms Merchants no stone is left unturned. In 1996 the Defense Export Loan Guarantee Program was established.
It’s first customer, poverty stricken Romania. If Romania doesn’t pay for the military planes, that it doesn’t need, the US taxpayer picks up the tab.

America’s new enemies are terrorists, perhaps hundreds of them and the US State Department has dutifully noticed that there are about 30 terrorist groups operating in about 20 countries. Between 1990 and 2000 America supplied arms or military training to almost all those countries including some of the specific guys who are now considered big time terrorists. In fact 80% of American military exports go to non-democratic countries. Go figure?!

In recent decades no area has received more American military might than the Middle East or more specifically Israel. This is precisely why the Middle East is such a mess. Military financing in 2002 for Israel was over 2 billion, Egypt 1.3 billion, Jordan 75 million and even Armenia was good for 4 million. No mention of Palestine though. Israel was also given ‘economic support’ worth $720 million. It does seem a shame that the guy writing the checks for all this largesse hasn’t figured out, after decades and decades, that it’s not working.

9/11 was a windfall for the American arms makers as the Bush Jr. government was quick to transfer killing equipment to countries that wanted to cash in on the ‘war on terror’. Or should I say support the ‘war on terror’?
Amoral America

No matter, Congress eliminated almost all arms sales restrictions after 9/11. India and Pakistan could now buy all the goodies they wanted even though those countries fought over their borders and tested nuclear weapons in 1998. Countries that have poor human rights records could now also buy arms to fight those ‘terrorists’, previously called ‘rebels’. Likewise for countries that have had a military coup. America has always preferred military leadership over leadership by the people in any case. In fact the Bush administration wants to get rid of all restrictions on military sales to any country fighting the, ‘war on terror’. Azerbaijan due to their poor human rights record had arms sanctions in place. Now that they are fighting rebels, ah er, terrorists, those restrictions have been lifted. Kenya gets weapons and military training due to all the ‘terrorists’ in Kenya. Pakistan gets $73 million in military aid. The Philippines is good for almost $100 million of the same. Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan all have poor human rights records and violent incidents but they get more weapons too. For countries like the Philippines, that are not doing too well with their own ‘terrorists’, US troops are also being sent to help out. The head of the US army for Latin America is recommending more arms sales for this region, as if they haven’t seen enough conflict. Poor old Columbia gets only a few billion dollars each year. Weapons in exchange for locating American military bases are also popular with poor countries. Many of these countries are also keen to get more arms to control their own population and cash to line the pockets of their leaders. It is remarkable how America is so quick to get arms into the hands of dubious countries to fight a dubious war but when it comes to lower drug prices or humanitarian aid, well, see the chapter on foreign aid.
One of the most serious and insidious problems in all this is that the American military is constantly upgrading its equipment. For example the US Air Force is now in the process of getting rid of F-15s, F-16s, F-111s, A-10s and more. The US Navy is getting rid of some F-18s, guided missile destroyers, frigates, tank landing craft and more, the US Army is getting rid of tanks, missiles, attack helicopters and more. The American military is getting rid of this equipment because... the Commies have better stuff and America has to stay competitive... nope. Because the equipment is worn out and must be replaced, nope. Because... the American Military Industrial Complex has developed newer more deadly equipment therefore American military equipment is competing with American military equipment, right!

Now it’s pretty damn foolish for America to piss away billions in arms that it doesn’t actually need but another serious problem is the ‘used’ stuff. No problem really, these arms are given away, leased, sometimes for next to nothing or sold, often to developing countries that have much more urgent problems. In the early 1990s America gave 700 M-60 tanks to Egypt for free. What a deal!! Egypt must now allocate thousands of trained Egyptians to drive and care for these tanks. It must pay for the men, fuel, parts and maintenance. How many millions does that cost Egypt? Would Egypt have bought 700 tanks if they were 10 million each? Does Israel reduce their weapons because Egypt gets tanks for free? Not likely!! Perhaps Egypt could have declined the ‘free’ tanks and then used the millions saved for... health care, education, nah, it was just a thought.

America has disposed of surplus military weapons in Oman, Taiwan, Senegal, Tunisia, Greece, Japan, Brazil, Botswana, Portugal, Thailand, Bahrain, Haiti, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Hungary, the Philippines, Romania, Uruguay and Zimbabwe the list goes on and on. Almost 10,000 weapon deals in the last decade by your friendly US arms brokers. One of the more serious situations caused by these weapons transfers is that weapons are given or sold to countries such as Greece and Turkey who have a long history of potential...
conflict. Other similar countries, such as Chile and Argentina, may also feel empowered when they end up with a bunch of lethal weapons they wouldn’t normally purchase.

America likes to ensure that her friends are well armed but no possible threat to America itself. It should also be understood that those arms must be American made. Venezuela’s President is negotiating a deal for frigates, aircraft and coast guard boats with Spain because America doesn’t like Chavez. Previously Venezuela bought 100,000 AK-47 assault rifles and 22 helicopters from Russia. American Secretary of State Ms. Rice then insisted that Venezuela was therefore endangering the stability of Latin America. (see the chapters on various Latin American countries) America is always critical of Chavez and has tried to overthrow Chavez, because he is not as ‘onside’ as America wants him to be. While America bitches about Chavez buying weapons without American involvement America has given Colombia billions in modern weapons. So it is OK for the US to sell F-16 warplanes to Chile but it is not OK for Venezuela to buy 100,000 machine guns designed over 40 years ago. Just who is destabilizing who here??

The US President is authorized to sell weapons directly from the US military inventory but he must advise Congress of ‘proposed transfers’ but not the actual deliveries. As a result of these inconsistencies, the frequency and the complexity of arms deals nobody in Congress knows what is going on, nobody. It is impossible to keep up with thousands of transfers of equipment and the numerous programs that result in these weapons ending up all over the planet.

Giving away billions in lethal equipment is encouraged by the various US armed forces because it is cheaper than destroying or storing the weapons and besides, they want new toys. The cost to human rights in some of these developing countries is not seriously considered.

According to America, every part of this planet is strategically vital and if possible every country is described as a pro-Western

![The F-22](image.png)

The F-22 is a new fighter built by Lockheed Martin to replace perfectly good aircraft. The ‘improvements’ this aircraft represents are not operationally required but the name of the game is spending ever more money on the military. The silly American government actually agreed to pay over $200 million for each of these little airplanes that will soon find themselves in the desert alongside all the other aircraft they replaced.
Arms Merchant to the World

democracy in a troubled region, or, a partner in the global war on terrorism, or, an active ally and partner. If America is having a little trouble convincing a country to be completely cooperative the situation may be described this way. “The relatively open access to facilities, land and airspace that Barhain provides is critical to US operations in the middle East.” Access to Barhain, or any other country, is never described as ‘appreciated’ or ‘useful’ it is always “critical”. This phony ‘war on terror’ is like the flawed domino theory in South East Asia. If one ‘critical’ part of the world fails to cooperate we could lose the whole war, or, the whole planet. Losing the planet to global warming? That is considered OK!

The problem in this case, as in so many others, is that the people of Barhain do not actually want the Americans and their military might in Barhain. Americans are able to remain in Barhain because they make a deal with the ‘leaders’ of the country. You let us keep our military might in your country and we will help you to stay in power. Barhain is a country whose forces have fired live ammunition into crowds of demonstrators, a country where their parliament has been suspended, where freedom of speech is restricted, where dissidents are deported and the politically incorrect jailed. Officially, “The United States supports the expansion of political participation for all Bahrainis,” but while the US was saying all the right things they were giving the Bahraini elite, 6 light attack jet aircraft, 22 cobra attack helicopters, 120 grenade launchers, 60 M-60 tanks, 2 C-130 transport planes, 2000 pistols and ammo. In other words America tries to ensure that the leadership of every country is onside for the good American fight and is armed to the teeth to win this good fight. The wishes and needs of the local population, i.e. democracy, always come in second. With efforts like these in many countries all around the world it is no wonder that conflict and war are the first rather than the last ways to solve a problem. Voilà, more death, destruction and arms for many and profit for a select few but less democracy for all.

Rather than setting a peaceful example, America frequently threatens force or uses force to resolve conflicts. By setting this violent example and enhancing and encouraging so many other countries to do the same, America is helping the planet to become a more dangerous, inequitable and violent place rather than the more peaceful planet it could be. America has thus ensured the continued success of their Military Industrial Complex, while the American taxpayers foot the bill and the rest of the world suffers.

America has over one half million of its citizens on American military bases all over the world. America operates numerous secret bases outside of America to accomplish all sorts of tasks. One of these tasks is to monitor communications, including the communications of Americans. Royal Air Force base Menwith Hill in the UK actually has no RAF aircraft but they do have over 1000 Americans monitoring up to 10 million ‘private’ calls or messages per hour. This is part of a global system that monitors billions of private messages every day. The US operates 13 navel task forces, each with an aircraft carrier
and other nuclear armed vessels. They have thousands of aircraft deployed all over the world, many armed with nuclear weapons. They have soldiers, CIA troublemakers and others in most of the world’s countries able to spring into action should a government emerge that America doesn’t like.

The following are some of the countries that have American bases. The Department of Defense admits to having almost 1000 military installations in almost 100 countries and troops in 135 countries but over 150 countries and territories is probably closer to the truth. Of course this does not include over 5000 US military facilities in America. How many countries are there? Well it’s not easy to say however there are 192 members of the UN and about 40 others that are not recognized, or totally on their own, such as Aruba, Palestine or Greenland. Whatever the number no other country has an empire like America and many bigwig Americans are happy to use military force to make that empire even bigger.

At any one time the US is training soldiers in approximately 70 countries. This is frequently done for free as it gives the US an ‘in’ with the military of that country. They are then more likely to prefer US made weapons and this also enables US military personnel to get to know military leaders in many countries. If there is some kind of problem in the future they may be able to deal with that country’s military leaders on a first name basis. American military training has also contributed significantly to the global hatred for the

Sometimes all the military might just doesn't work out. This top-of-the-line American army tank was destroyed by some angry young men with a cheap improvised weapon they made for next to nothing.
USA. America has trained men from Indonesia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Congo, and Côte d’Ivoire as well as from many Central American countries and these men have gone on to commit egregious violations of human rights. This type of insensitivity may explain why America also shipped almost $10 billion in arms during 1999 to Countries that ignore basic human rights.

In spite of all the efforts that the US has made to sell weapons, this business is getting tougher and tougher. In 1990 the US sold 35% of the world’s arms exports. In 2000 it was 51% but the percentage is not growing as it once did, in 2001 it was 46%. Increasingly countries are copying the weapons America sold to them and then selling these copies to someone else. Israel has sold their Python missiles to China. Missiles Israel copied from the US sidewinder that the US gave to them, is there no gratitude? There is not really much difference between these sales and handgun sales in America itself. The business flourishes because the profits are there. Even with those profits the American government still considers it necessary to provide American arms manufacturers with over $7 billion in subsidies per year. The amount of subsidy to American sewage treatment plant manufactures is unknown but is thought to be somewhat less.

It is interesting that someone figured out that US arms were involved in
America spent over $7 billion in the 1950s to develop a nuclearpowered bomber. Expensive programs that never deliver continue to this day. America always has many enemies! Does anyone ever ask why?

SOME OF THE COUNTRIES WITH AMERICAN MILITARY BASES

Afghanistan, Alaska (US), Antigua, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Cuba, Denmark, Diego Garcia, Djibouti, Equador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Guam, Guatamala, Hawaii (US), Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Johnston Atoll, Kosovo, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Kivajaiein Atoll, Japan, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Okinawa, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Phillipines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, St. Helena, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Venezuela, Virgin Islands.

Do Americans ever ask, “What the hell are we doing with troops in all these countries?”

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92% of the global conflicts during 1999. Although the guys who sold those weapons made a good buck it is also fair to say that many others lost money while the conflict was ongoing. It is also fair to say that families lost big time when one of their family members was killed. America also loses when they face the militaries they previously trained. That has happened in Panama, Haiti, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq, to name a few.

The Europeans did a good thing in 1990 when 22 European countries agreed to a treaty that would reduce conventional weapons such as tanks, artillery, helicopters, aircraft and armored vehicles. By 1995 they had destroyed 36,000 of these weapons. During this same time the US transferred large numbers of similar weapons out of this treaty area. These weapons were given to other countries for free. Even when surplus American weapons are ‘sold’ the cost is, according to the American General Accounting Office, ‘much too low’. Until America comes to believe, as most Europeans do, that weapons of all types are bad, they will continue to arm themselves individually and as a nation. As stated previously the net result of all this free or almost free weaponry is a world where peace is simply not possible.

Many people throughout the world are aware of how dangerous and counterproductive this American militarism is. They also know that America has always had a choice and as a result they hate America for not giving peace a chance.

“Democracy don’t rule the world, You’d better get that in your head;
This world is ruled by violence, But I guess that’s better left unsaid.”

– Bob Dylan, American folksinger, born 1941
“Of all forms of tyranny the least attractive and the most vulgar
is the tyranny of mere wealth, the tyranny of plutocracy”
– John Pierpont Morgan

“The people will believe what the media tells them they believe.”
– George Orwell

“A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government.”
– Edward Abbey

Edward Gough Whitlam was democratically elected Prime Minister of Australia in December, 1972. He was head of a labor government and he proceeded to represent Australians as he was mandated to do. The Vietnam War, which lurched into high gear after President Johnson used the false Gulf of Tonkin incident, was still raging and Australian troops were there. Other than the war being unnecessary and barbarous the Aussi troops were under the control of the Americans. This was AOK with the previous government but Whitlam thought this was a sham and wanted these boys home. He put an end to Vietnam conscription and released those from prison who had refused to go to war. Whitlam also recognized the government of North Vietnam whereas America refused to admit that they existed, while bombing the hell out of them.

President Nixon was not too pleased but not too worried, just yet. The Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) worked closely with the CIA and they put pressure on Whitlam to play ball with the Americans. Whitlam thought it was foolish to play ball with a bunch of guys who were wrecking the game. One day Whitlam’s Attorney General showed up at the ASIS offices with a bunch of Aussi cops in tow and hauled off a large number of documents. He and Whitlam knew that the Australian Secret Service was withholding information from their own government. It turns out that ASIS was also working with the CIA in Indonesia, Cambodia, Chile, Vietnam

Gough Whitlam about the time of his overthrow.
and Singapore. All countries where American ‘assistance’ was doing far more harm than good.

Henry Kissinger set up Task Force 157 which was like a little CIA. It may have been established so that any connection between it and the CIA could be denied. In any case this denial would have been difficult because the men running Task Force 157 included very experienced CIA types like Ted Shackley. When he worked for the CIA Shackley ran sabotage attacks against Cuba, was Chief of the CIA Western Hemisphere Division, did dirty deeds in Vietnam as well as other covert CIA operations. Task Force 157 was to use Australia as a base for CIA operations involving smuggling and arms dealing in conjunction with an Australian bank the CIA controlled but the main job of Task Force 157 was to help get rid of Whitlam.

The Whitlam government proceeded to divulge far more information to the public than the opposition party and the CIA wanted. One of the reasons the former liberal government guys wanted to keep this information secret was their own complicity with the CIA. The same CIA that had been funding the Liberals for years, in exchange for the kind of cooperation that America preferred. The Americans also had numerous secret facilities in Australia that the Australians never had complete access to. These facilities cost the yanks a lot of money but more importantly they were, ‘crucial’ to the Americans, as all their military facilities are, all around the world.

While the Liberals and Australian military were working to discredit the Whitlam government, the CIA was busy with their dirty work. The CIA was most concerned because they thought the secrecy behind their various activities in Australia might be exposed and they knew that this would have long-term negative consequences for their future in Australia. In November, 1975 Sir John Kerr, the Queen’s representative in Australia and an unelected functionary had several meetings with the head of the Australian military. Kerr had been associated with the CIA for years and in CIA

Ted Shackley spent most of his life doing what the CIA told him to do. Much of it was destructive and undemocratic.

Pine Gap, a secret American facility screened private Australian Communications, did satellite tracking and military communications and part of it was off limits to Australians.
documents was described as, ‘our man’. The CIA had also infiltrated some of Australia’s unions, had established Australian underworld connections and were heavily involved in an Australian bank, the Nugan-Hand bank. The unhappy Liberals, who had lost to the Whitlam’s labor government, as well as the Aussi right-wingers and the CIA decided that it was necessary to get rid of Whitlam. They worked together to discredit the Whitlam government in the eyes of the Australian electorate. Once that was accomplished it was relatively easy to have the unelected Kerr dismiss Whitlam and his democratically elected majority government on November 11th, 1975.

This overthrow of the elected government in Australia was possible primarily due to four anti-leftist factors. The opposition parties, primarily the Liberals, worked behind the scenes with CIA operatives to deliberately wreck the labor government. Secondly, the arrogance of the liberals, who had been in power for over 30 years, allowed them to feel that only they could run Australia. With that attitude firmly implanted they conspired with the Australian Senate to make sure it did not cooperate with the labor government and this helped Australians to believe that Whitlam and his party were wrecking the country. Thirdly, various men opposed to the Labor government worked to provide the Australian people with enough misinformation so that their plans to overthrow Whitlam would be acceptable. Fourthly, the fat-cats, who run almost every country, had rules in place that allowed one unelected representative of one of the world’s fattest cats, the Queen, to throw out a government that had been elected by millions.

It is no surprise that Australia became more like America after America moved to influence the direction of the country. Australia is now one of America’s staunchest allies having supported the war in Iraq and other actions such as the imprisonment of Australians in Guantanamo. Australian foreign policy has also emerged along American lines. These days, in mid 2006, Australia has sent troops to East Timor to ‘help’ the people there, who we all know have been through so much misery. What Australia prefers not to tell us is that Australia has created part of that misery. East Timor rose up and at great cost finally achieved independence. This struggle killed an estimated one quarter of the population, one of the greatest percentage losses in history. From this chaos emerged the Fretilin national independence movement, led by Mari Alkatiri. Like many leaders who emerge from the rubble of oppression and exploitation Alkatiri knew that sharing and

Governor General John Kerr who involved himself with the CIA and aligned himself with the Liberals.
working together was the key to a reasonable life for the devastated people of East Timor. That opinion was shared by 80% of the people who in 2001 elected Mari Alkatiri as their first democratically elected Prime Minister.

Isn’t that wonderful, after all this Indonesian repression and killing, that a new democratic government, supported by a large majority and a united people should emerge in East Timor with the help of the world’s more fortunate countries. If not for the greed of those very same rich countries that might very well have happened. At the end of April 2006 the East Timor military mutinied, or more accurately the military leaders conspired together to effect a coup. Whenever that happens they have support from others who seek political power or an economic benefit. A few days later the Howard Liberal government of Australia ‘accepted’ an invitation from East Timorese president, Xanana Gusmão, and foreign minister, José Ramos Horta for assistance with these troubles. Australia immediately sent 2000 troops to East Timor to help the democratically elected Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri regain control. Oops, I got that all wrong, the Australians immediately met with the rebel leader, Major Alfredo Reinado, who was the designated head of this coup and not the democratically elected leader of the country. Another surprise Reinado, like many of the coup leaders had been trained in Canberra, Australia. Shades of the ‘School of the Americas’.

In conjunction with this immoral ‘assistance’, the Australian media started the usual smear campaign against Alkatiri to convince the people of Australia that Prime Minister Alkatiri had made a dramatic transformation. This man, who had selflessly lead his people for years against the ruthless Indonesians, the same man who had been supported by 80% of the people, was now a ‘corrupt dictator’. This manipulation of the Australian mind was not difficult. Their own Prime Minister Howard has friends in high places who own the mass media in Australia and they put out the message they wanted Australians
to hear. Meanwhile the democratically elected Prime Minister of East Timor was complaining that, ‘foreigners and outsiders’ were trying to overthrow his government.

On May 31, the experienced Australian reporter, Maryann Keady, who has been covering East Timor since 2002 said, “Three years ago, I wrote a piece talking about attempts to oust Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri in East Timor, then a new struggling, independent nation. I wrote that I believed the US and Australia were determined to oust the East Timorese leader, due to his hardline stance on oil and gas, his determination not to take out international loans, and their desire to see Australia-friendly President Xanana Gusmao take power.”

Ahhhh haaaa, oil and gas and big bucks as well as a Prime Minister with socialistic leanings who is not interested in World Bank loans and massive debt. Obviously this guy has to go! The Australian efforts to overthrow a democratically elected government are a good example of the same divine right that America has used to invade and exploit numerous countries. (see almost any chapter in this book) We know that John Howard thinks the way George Bush does and that he received unusual treatment when he visited with Canada’s new Prime Minister who has also gone to war for George Bush. We have here a small powerful clique who manipulate public opinion or ignore it to get their way because they just know they are right. However it is so sad that

Major Alfredo Reinado, who was fired by the former Prime Minister is now one of the new leaders cooperating with Australia.
a country like Australia, a country of so many fair minded people, can be so easily manipulated into accepting this imperialism. It ain’t over yet. Howard has also sent troops to the Solomon Islands and has his eyes on Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea as well as other ‘opportunities’ in the South Pacific. George Bush Jr. likes to call Australia’s Prime Minister his ‘sheriff‘ in the South Pacific.

So Horta was sworn in as East Timor’s new Prime Minister while the legitimate Prime Minister was pressured into resigning on the 26th of June 2006. Horta will no doubt be more cooperative with both Australian and US interests. There are many indications that he will play ball, not the least being his pledge to pass legislation ratifying Australia’s share of the Greater Sunrise Timor Sea oil and gas fields. Naturally the Australian mass media have declared all this as a great step forward and most Aussis who read the paper agree. Why would they believe anything else? Horta may even send troops to Iraq as he has defended that invasion in the past. For an insight into how he thinks, see his February 2003 article in the NYTimes in which he supports the invasion of Iraq.

So East Timor is back where it started. A government is in place that will protect the rights of millionaires and millionaires to be. The poor will not fully share in the resource wealth of the country. As the new coup leader, Horta has said, “The private and entrepreneurial sector is an indispensable pillar in the development and well being of our country. With them we are going to find ways to offer incentives and enthuse them and facilitate their activities. The foreign investors in this country can count on this government to listen to them and to support them. We are going to better and simplify the laws and rules for the process of registration of companies.” East Timor is open for business and the people of East Timor will not be running those businesses.

It is tragic that some nations are now following in the American footsteps that have deprived so many of so much. The same footsteps which have resulted in so much death, destruction and great wealth for relatively few. This is not a mistake; America has worked to create this outcome, as usual the CIA efforts in Australia were kept from the people. The CIA has meddled in virtually every country but they are not very proud of what they do, hence the secrecy. America’s efforts in Australia must now be regarded as a real success story by the Americans who run the show. Australia’s Prime Minister today is a staunch Bush Jr. ally who has gone so far as to support US policies in Guantanamo, Iraq, Afghanistan and more. Policies which have been rejected by every fair-minded person on the planet. (see the Prisoners chapter)

In 2006 Howard is traveling the world and spreading the word. “Australia is an unapologetic friend and ally of the United States.” Howard has also said, “The US has been a remarkable power for good in the world,” which is astonishing considering the Australian involvement in Vietnam and the disaster that war was, to name just one catastrophe. When speaking about American interventions he said, “The power and purpose that the United States represents in the world is something we should deeply appreciate.” No doubt Mr. Howard
was thinking about the actions of the US which put his government back in power and for which Mr. Howard is deeply appreciative. Apparently Mr. Howard believes that countries that have had their democratically governments overthrow by America and others that have had millions of their citizens killed, should still be ‘deeply appreciative’.

Clearly John Howard can only make these statements due to profound ignorance or blind loyalty due to the fact that the US government covertly returned his Liberal party to power back in 1975. Even today the CIA and those who benefited from their meddling continue to try and minimize the number of Australians and others, who would hate America, if they knew the truth.

John Howard seems to be one of those right-wing politicians who have a very hard time being honest, empathetic, compromising or kind to the disadvantaged.
BIG PHARMA

“There is something perverse about more than enough. When we have more, it is never enough. It is always somewhere out there, just out of reach. The more we acquire, the more elusive enough becomes.”

– Unknown

“Three great forces rule the world: stupidity, fear and greed.”

– Albert Einstein

“The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.”

– Jesus

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

“The be-all and end-all of life should not be to get rich, but to enrich the world.”

– B. C. Forbes

Big Pharma is a big deal because it represents, to a few Americans, big bucks but to millions of others life and death.

When American ‘free enterprise’ evolved it became the world’s greatest market because American is a large wealthy country. Today American ‘free’ enterprise asks not ‘what is a fair price’ but ‘what will the market bear’. No one has perfected this pricing philosophy more than Bill Gates of Microsoft fame. Hot on his heels are the con-artists in the Pharmaceutical business. They are able to charge egregious prices for many of their products for several reasons. Firstly they charge exorbitant prices simply because they can. Far too many Americans actually believe that they need these drugs to live longer, better lives and so they pay. Secondly the ‘system’ prevents others from making copies of new drugs so the companies can pick a price that has nothing to do with their costs or a reasonable profit. Thirdly the American government fails to ensure the safety and efficacy of new drugs while protecting the companies’ monopoly. No one else can sell what they sell so they can charge what they feel
will bring in the most bucks without killing sales. That is a key issue as many people are convinced by the drug companies in conjunction with their doctors that this new drug is not only good but essential. Fourthly, the drug companies have a monopoly but on the other hand their profit is determined by the cost of developing that drug, the eventual sales and what they think they can charge for it. Therefore it is in the drug company’s best interest to make the development of this drug seem as expensive as possible. If they were to spend $100 to develop a new drug that sold for $10 per pill they would have a hard time justifying the price. If they claim that the new drug cost millions of dollars to develop then the $10 per pill may be accepted but still suspect because most of us know that this just doesn’t add up if billions of pills are to be sold. We know that this is a huge business and that millions of pills are routinely sold and that drug companies throw money around. It all adds up to an industry that puts profits first and developing drugs for the lowest possible price last.

Unfortunately the drug industry develops many products that don’t work well but the public, in general, trusts them just the same. This trust is inexplicable when one recalls the well publicized drug failures.

*Even in the old days, in this case 1909, Americans sought a quick cure via drugs rather than examining their diet and lifestyle and finding a real cure.*
It may come as no surprise that the pharmaceutical industry is the most profitable business in the country. Americans pay far more for their prescription drugs than citizens of any place on Earth. It will also come as no surprise that as a political issue, the high price of drugs has united both Republicans and Democrats. More than a million Americans now buy their medications in Canada.

And it’s no longer just older people taking buses across the border. Mayors and governors from Minnesota to Alabama are helping Americans get Canadian drugs by mail.

Such purchases are technically illegal. So far, the government has declined to prosecute individual customers or the cities and states involved. But the FDA—The Food and Drug Administration—has raised the specter of safety.

For more than a year, the FDA Commissioner, Dr. Mark McClellan, has been waging a campaign against Canadian importation. The FDA has also issued a serious warning that using Canadian drugs could be unsafe. Correspondent Morley Safer reports.

How unsafe? How common are the problems for drugs that people are buying in Canada?

“Well, that’s the problem. We don’t know,” says Dr. McClellan. “Because we don’t have the authority to tell where these drugs have come from, or to monitor closely how they’re getting into the United States. And to make sure that the drugs that come in are safe, it could be a widespread problem.”

“That’s a lot of hooey. There is no reason that buying drugs in Canada is any less safe than buying them in the United States,” says Dr. Marcia Angell, who was executive editor of The New England Journal of Medicine for 11 years. She’s currently writing a book on the secrets of the drug industry.

“The people who say you have to worry about the safety of drugs from Canada are imagining the way it was in the old days. That there’s a moat around the United States that drugs that are sold in the United States are made by only American companies. And made in this country,” says Angell.

“It’s not that way anymore. Pfizer, for example, has 60 manufacturing sites in 32 countries. So the drugs are made all over the world. They’re sold all over the world.”

Most of Pfizer’s anti-cholesterol drug Lipitor is made in Ireland. The same Lipitor that’s sold in both US and Canadian pharmacies. Other familiar drugs like Zocor, Nexium, and Prevacid are the same as the ones sold in Canada. They’re much cheaper there because the drug companies must abide by Canadian government price controls.

Do the drug companies still make a profit?

“Oh, sure. Why else would they sell them in Canada? They’re not charities. Of course they make a profit,” says Angell.
The United States is the only industrialized country without some form of control on the prices of drugs. The US also accounts for more than half of the industry’s profits.

In order to keep those profits up, the drug companies have joined the FDA in trying to shut down imports from Canada, and Canadian pharmacies are feeling the pressure. In one pharmacy just over the border, Americans account for 30 percent of its business. They were nervous about having 60 Minutes mention the actual name of the pharmacy.

“We’ve had several letters from the big multi-nationals, certainly threatening to cut off the drug supply very explicitly if you are supplying medications to US patients,” says the pharmacist.

This pharmacy supplies drugs to municipal workers in the city of Springfield, Mass., through a program set up by former Springfield Mayor, Michael Albano.

“Major pharmaceutical companies are saying, ‘We’re going to limit our supply.’ What does that tell you? It tells you that they want to keep the artificially high prices in America,” says Albano. “How brazen is that? It just boggles my mind that they can get away with this.”

When Albano was faced with a budget crunch last year, he had to lay off firefighters, police officers, and teachers. By arranging for 3,000 city employees, retirees, and family members to buy Canadian drugs, the city can make substantial savings.

“We can save anywhere from $4 to $9 million on an annual basis if I get everybody enrolled and everybody goes to Canada. And that’s a huge amount of money right now,” says Albano. “If I can save $9 million for my city and put it back, redirect it back into police and fire and to public education, it’ll make a world of difference. So it’s a huge savings.”

Does he do it himself?

“I do it for my family’s use. My son Mikey is diabetic. And we get his insulin and related products for diabetes from Canada,” says Albano, who says that saves his family $250 a year because there is no co-payment. “And it’ll save the taxpayers who front 76 percent of the payment about $850 a year. So it’s a rather substantial savings for my family and for the taxpayers of Springfield.”

The FDA says importing drugs from Canada or buying drugs from Canada is unsafe. Does Albano agree?

“The American public is not buying that safety issue. The fact is that it is getting insulting for the FDA to say that. I view myself as a responsible father,” says Albano. “And I could tell you that I would not let my son inject insulin into his body three times a day if I thought there was a safety factor here.”

Mayor Albano concedes that casually buying drugs on the Internet could be risky, but says it was quite simple for him to check out his Canadian supplier, and challenges the FDA to do the same thing.
“The FDA has become a pawn of the pharmaceutical industry, that they are protecting those high profit margins. If the FDA wanted to put a plan together similar to what we’re doing in Springfield, that would be good for all Americans, they can do it in 15 minutes, relative to safety,” says Albano.

“We get all our medications from certified, regulated pharmacies in Canada. It’s no different than going to your neighborhood pharmacy. And it’s the exact same medication.”

So why can’t the FDA insure the safety of products from Canadian pharmaceutical exporters—and make sure that it’s as safe as any product leaving an American company?

“Under current law, we don’t have the authority to insure the safety of foreign produced, foreign distributed drugs,” says McClellan.

So what would motivate the FDA, which is not in the business of profiting from drugs, to put out an alarm about Canadian drugs?

“The influence of the pharmaceutical industry on our government is huge. And the FDA is a part of the executive branch of the government. And this is just the propaganda that’s put out to do the drug company’s bidding, to make sure that Americans don’t have access to cheaper drugs,” says Angell.

“Because then they’ll come to know what’s going on. And what’s going on is that these drugs, while they’re made by global companies all over the world, are sold in this country for about double what they’re sold for everywhere else. And that they wanna keep secret.”

“Our interest is in protecting and promoting the health of the public,” says McClellan.

Of course, the whole controversy over Canadian drugs would be moot if Republican Congressman Dan Burton of Indiana had his way. During the recent debate over the Medicare bill, he co-sponsored a provision that would have legalized bringing in Canadian drugs with safeguards.

But Burton says he ran into two brick walls: the drug industry and the US government. “This is a perfect example, in my opinion, of where a special interest, the pharmaceutical industry, has been able to manipulate the Congress and the government of the United States to their benefit, and to the detriment of the American taxpayer and the American people.”

Since 1999, the drug industry has given more than $45 million in political contributions, and it’s spent hundreds of millions more on an army of more than 600 lobbyists to work its will on Capitol Hill.

Congressman Burton says the new Medicare act makes it clear the industry got its money’s worth. He says billions of dollars are in it for drug companies in this new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.

“In the new Medicare Act, the federal government is specifically prohibited from negotiating prices with drug companies,” says Safer.

“That is unconscionable. The government of the United States negotiates prices in the Defense Department, in every area of government,” says Burton. “And here we are, going to spend billions and billions and billions and probably
trillions of dollars on pharmaceutical products. And we cannot negotiate the prices with the pharmaceutical industry. That’s just not right.”

In December, surrounded by members of Congress, President Bush signed the new Medicare act. Since 1999, these legislators have accepted more than a million and a half dollars in campaign contributions from people working in the pharmaceutical industry. President Bush alone has received more than half a million dollars.

But now, the new Medicare prescription drug benefit is being billed as a big victory for America’s seniors.

“You gotta be kidding me,” says Burton. “Seniors, when they find out what’s in that bill, are gonna be very angry. The problem is, they’re not gonna find out about it until after this next election.”

The plan doesn’t start until 2006. Does Burton think that will reduce the attraction of importing drugs from Canada?

“Oh, I don’t think so,” says Burton. “Because even when you talk about the discount cards and the other things, you’re gonna find that seniors are gonna be paying, in many cases, more than they are paying for Canadian imports right now.”

60 Minutes contacted Bristol-Myers Squibb, Pfizer, Merck, Wyeth, GlaxoSmithKline, and Eli Lilly. None of them would agree to be interviewed. Safer asked Dr. Angell about the case the industry invariably makes to justify drug prices.

“This is a kind of blackmail. What they’re saying is, ‘Don’t mess with us. Let us charge whatever we want for our drugs. Otherwise, you won’t get the miracles,’” says Angell. “And the truth is that they spend less in R&D then they make in profits. And far less then they spend on marketing. And they don’t make that many miracles in the first place. . . The problem is that we’re no longer getting our money’s worth.”

Adds Albano, “The pharmaceutical industry is gouging the American consumer. There’s no other conclusion one can draw. And why should we, in this country, have to pay the highest prices in the world? Why isn’t the President doing something? Why isn’t Congress doing something? Someone has to wage this battle. So we’re prepared to do it here.”

We can answer those questions for Mr. Albano. Congress and the President are not doing anything because they belong to the world’s most influential ‘millionaires boy’s club’ and one of the strict rules in this club is, ‘don’t mess with the millions’.

Most US citizens would be surprised to learn that the side effects and warnings for their prescription drugs (called Patient Insert leaflets) are only a brief summary of the drug manufacturer’s complete label. The drug companies work hard to make this information as complicated, confusing and boring as possible. We have all seen the flashy ads for the blissfully happy middle-aged American couple enjoying a beautiful day with their beautifully healthy family. On the next page is the information about that drug that has
made all this bliss possible. Small black and white print, over the entire page, decipherable to only a chemist. Haven’t you ever wondered why all advertised drugs have the exact same one page of incomprehensible information? In addition the pharmaceutical companies don’t design the Patient Inserts, nor are they regulated or tested for accuracy by the FDA. Instead consumers end up paying third-party corporations known as electronic drug information (EDI) companies to summarize the side effects.

All this is made possible by the American drug lobby. If an industry, any industry in America spend hundreds of millions to influence others then it is obviously an industry that cannot stand on its own merits. It may not surprise people but it is worth remembering that the drug industry does not spend all this money to make drugs safer and cheaper for its customers.

In 1979 the FDA wanted Patient Insert leaflets prepared by the drug companies after they had approved what was said about the drug. In 1981 Reagan and his pro-business buddies scrapped the program. Vice president George Bush who happened to be head of the Administration’s regulatory reform council aggressively supported the end of this program. The Reagan government wanted the private sector to design Patient Inserts, but the drug industry said this would be too expensive. For ten years Patient Inserts were not required and many Americans just got their pills without the information they really needed. During the Clinton era, the FDA again pushed for mandatory drug information to be included with all drugs. Congress backed down after the drug industry and the doctors made the FDA proposal politically impossible.

If you get prescription drugs today you have to do your own homework to find out all you may need to know about that drug. Of course, most people don’t go to that trouble and so they don’t know what they should. This like a food producer spraying their produce with a dangerous chemical and then not telling the people who are going to eat it what chemicals have been used. That couldn’t happen could it? The drug industry has arranged things so that the FDA has no power to regulate the drug information provided by pharmacies. As you can imagine those small pieces of paper telling you all about a certain drug are expensive, what with drug profits being as low as they are.

Not high enough for the makers of Claritin. ScheringPlough will pay $423 million to settle with 49 states and the federal government for overcharging for their antihistamine, Claritin. Oh well, they tried.

In May 2006 we learned

Various drug companies are merging to give themselves even more clout in the market place.
that the US Justice Department was suing Abbott Labs for vastly inflating drug prices. This manipulation cost the US taxpayers an estimated $175 million. In some cases Abbott Labs inflated the price by 1800% because the government pays according to the manufacturer’s price. This is just one of many suits brought against drug companies and the drug gangs have coughed up over $3 billion so far.

This gouging is just part of the American ‘free enterprise’ system that most Americans support. They don’t want their government meddling in their business so many of them support the ability of the drug companies to set their own prices. The problem is that these products are touted as essential life saving products and that attribute compels people to pay more. Often more than they can afford and much more than a reasonable profit on the part of the drug companies would dictate. Virtually every other government on this planet recognizes this and helps to control drug prices. These same drugs are available in most countries for much less than Americans pay.

Here’s a neat one, a short computer test developed in the psychiatric department of Columbia University, in conjunction with the drug gangs. The idea was simple, get all of the kids in American schools to take the test, which will coincidentally find that a large number of them are mentally ill and voila, prescribe drugs to fix them. This happened to 16-year-old Chelsea Rhoades of Indiana who was told she had not one but two mental health problems, obsessive compulsive disorder and social anxiety disorder. The diagnoses was based upon Chelsea’s test answers that she liked to help clean the house and didn’t ‘party’ much. Obviously a very sick young woman! Chelsea was fortunate in that her parents thought this test and its diagnosis were a lot of crap and sued the school who administered the test without their permission. This test, TeenScreen and the drugs that were to follow were actually an offshoot of the conspirational relationship between psychiatry and the drug gangs. The American Psychiatric Association admits that they have no test for mental illness but TeenScreen would have gone on to destroy lives if a few parents had not been vigilant. Unfortunately there are big bucks in the testing of millions of teenagers and supplying them with the ‘necessary’ drugs. The Bush government has endorsed TeenScreen and it is now (2006) active in 40 states.

More parents need to be vigilant. If a child in America sees a psychiatrist there is a 90% chance they will be prescribed drugs. It is simply impossible that 90% of the kids seeing psychiatrists are mentally ill and require drugs. Between 1995 and 1999, the use of antidepressants for kids between 7 and 12 increased 151%. For the kids, the ‘mentally ill’ kids under six their use of prescription drugs was up 580% during the same period. Between 1998 and 2003, there was another 49% increase in children taking antidepressants but the drug companies must be happy. Sales of those drugs have now reached more than $13 billion a year.

The human mind is much more complex than the drug companies want to admit. In 2004 the FDA told us there was a connection between antidepressants
and suicide. They suggested you were twice as likely to end your life if you were on this type of medication. The FDA then ordered new labels for many psychiatric drugs. Psychologist and director of Texans for Safe Education, John Breeding states, “TeenScreen is nothing more than a government sponsored marketing tool created to serve the interests of the corporate pharmaceutical industry and psychiatrists. It is a shame and a disgrace that the United States is putting millions of children on psychiatric drugs today. This is obviously not enough to satisfy the insatiable greed of big pharma. We must stop TeenScreen and protect our children from more deadly poisoning.”

The guy behind TeenScreen is psychiatrist David Shaffer of Columbia University. Shaffer is a paid consultant for pharmaceutical companies Hoffman la Roche, Wyeth, and GlaxoSmithKline. Other big-wheels associated with TeenScreen have received big-bucks from big-pharma. It appears that TeenScreen is all about money. Their goal is to screen all 20 million young Americans. The travesty is that huge numbers of those screened are considered to have mental problems, 71% of those screened in Colorado for example. The fact that a government supported organization like TeenScreen could cost parents billions and label millions of youth mentally ill is reprehensible. That these corporate entities could put their financial well being ahead of the suffering they could cause is a good reason for all of us to be skeptical of the ‘legal’ drug cartels.

Whatever the reason, more kids are taking antipsychotic drugs now than ever before. Their use soared 73 percent between 2001 and 2005. Another new class of drugs known as atypical antipsychotics also soared by 80% for kids younger than 20. This increase is exactly what can be expected in a society that has so much faith in the ‘system’ and so little faith in life without intervention. There must be millions of parents out there who think that they or their children have serious psychosis such as schizophrenia to be taking all these drugs. Their faith that these drugs are doing more good than harm is questioned by many who don’t make money off ‘the system’.

‘Drug injury’ is a simple term with huge consequences. Millions of ‘injuries’
Amoral America

and deaths occur each year due to drugs that did much more harm than good. The National Health Service (NHS) in England has tried to keep track of this crisis. They estimated that drugs caused 5,700 to 10,000 premature deaths and that adverse drug reactions cost the NHS almost $1 billion dollars in 2004. From Thalidomide in the 1950s to the recent anti-depressant revelations millions of patients have suffered, many without even knowing why.

The American Diabetes Association, which everyone assumes is there simply to help people with diabetes, got an Eli Lilly & Co. executive to help with its growth strategy and public relations. The National Alliance on Mental Illness, which is also out there to help patients, lobbies for treatment programs that just happen to benefit the drug-companies that give them money. Many associations and other groups that we thought were there to help, actually work with drug companies to ensure that the drug companies, that give them money or other benefits, are favorably presented by the ‘helpful’ associations. These groups are also quick to advise patients about new drugs that are supposed to help but, and this is a surprise, slower to advise those same patients about problems with those same drugs. There are also other ‘sneaky’ procedures drug companies have instituted to benefit their bottom line and these alliances are not willingly made public. Have you ever noticed that those organizations that seem to work due to pure goodness, never seem to criticize the high price of drugs?

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) one of the big drug companies that reversed their assurances and changed the prescribing instructions for Seroxat, by revising the risk of withdrawal symptoms from one in 500 people to one in four. This after the drug was approved and on the market for years after their zillion dollar tests of the drug. For years GSK denied that their drug was harmful while the psychiatrists bought the company line. It was the patients who revealed the problems and it was the patients who forced the changes.

One of the largest problems in this entire drug industry mess is the largely hidden influence of the drug regulation and medical practices by big pharma lobbyists. In America, as well as elsewhere, the industry pays big bucks in questionable ways to influence their own abilities to get drug approvals and how they are sold. Drug tests are paid for by the drug companies who manipulate the results to make the tests as favorable as possible. Over the years these findings were published in 20,000-odd biomedical journals, many of whom depend on the drug companies for funding. The government regulators should do the testing and pass the cost on to the companies but that approach would never be used in any country with big pharma’s lobbing influence. The drugs are approved by regulators, whose salaries are mostly financed by the subjects of their evaluations—since pharma’s pay to have their products vetted. The drugs are then prescribed by doctors who routinely receive pharma gifts from free pens to skiing holidays to ‘conferences’ in tropical locations. These are designed to persuade the doctors to change their prescribing habits. The doctors, of course, deny that gifts affect their prescribing practices however
their prescriptions for one drug increased 87% and for the other, 272% after attendance at a conference paid for by the drug companies. Other studies have also shown that attending drug-sponsored education courses affects drug-prescribing practices. If it were otherwise would the drug companies pay for these holidays out of the goodness of their hearts?

This manipulation of the doctor’s knowledge and perceptions is important because doctors cannot care for their patients optimally if the information they receive is biased. For example psychiatrists trying to evaluate various schizophrenia drugs are not told that the expert who minimized the side effects of Zyprexa received a $10,000 retainer from Eli Lilly and also owned substantial company stock. They are not told that the psychiatric expert claiming that Remeron reverses depression more rapidly in suicidal patients received $75,000 per year from Organon to support his laboratory. The information from drug companies is simply designed by them to make them look good. Secondly the cost of this manipulation is added to the cost of drugs. The pharmaceutical company costs for a congress in Berlin a few years ago were at least $10 million. According to a report in 2000 the 11 pharmaceutical firms in the Fortune 500 list of America’s largest firms devoted nearly three times as much of their revenue to marketing and administrative costs, 30%, as they did for research and development, 12%.

In too many cases this process has not worked for the consumer. Merck & Co. made pharmaceutical history when they withdrew Vioxx, a multi billion dollar pain medication when it was revealed that the drug could cause heart attacks. Pfizer’s Celebrex was also found to cause heart problems. Eli Lilly’s drug Strattera could cause liver problems. AstraZeneca disclosed that their drug Iressa was ineffective and their Crestor drug caused unrevealed side effects. All of these drugs were approved by the ‘regulatory’ process. Clearly an independent, competent drug approval process could have prevented many of these mistakes from reaching consumers.

Americans are spending close $300 billion a year on drugs which means that on average every American is spending $1,000 per year. An incredible figure that has risen by double digits for many years. Due to the inundation of numerous drugs, that in many cases simply duplicate cheaper drugs that already work as well, the growth in the drug business has slowed to less than 10% annually. That doesn’t mean that drug lobbyists aren’t busy. They have been busy with the Central American Free Trade Agreement that follows on the heels of the 10-year-old free trade agreement that the US has with Canada and Mexico. Even after 10 years there is no clear rational for free trade. It makes business easier for businesses, reduces duties and provides America with more resource security. It also puts pressure on wages but not profits. It exports jobs and promotes the shipping of goods. For big pharma it forbids smaller companies from reusing test data for a limited period of time and prevents them from producing low-cost, generic versions of the drug. In other words it gives big pharma a monopoly in Central America. This agreement would
prevent many poor people from receiving life-saving medications for drugs that treat AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and others.

The wording in section six of the agreement allows for the destruction of suppliers to the American supplement (vitamins) industry, except big pharma. The traditional suppliers of supplements are now fighting big pharma on this and the victor has yet to emerge. What is reprehensible is that yet again the rules have been written to favor big business at the expense of the consumers. That must be why their lobbyists wear the $5000.00 suits.

Offering an alternative to conventional medicine in America can be dangerous to your health. The fact that cancer and other illnesses continue to claim more and more victims seems lost on the consumer of American medical care. Each year more and more money is spent while more and more drugs are taken while more and more illnesses emerge. There must be a reason why heart disease, cancers and diabetes continue to kill in vast numbers when more and more money is spent on drugs and medical care. Something is very wrong with this picture!

Drugs are much more expensive in America than other countries, the same drugs. Many American health care providers are rich, even in America and they are prepared to defend their cash cow. The FDA has arrested, at gunpoint, people who have tried to offer an alternative to America’s drug based medicine. The way things are medically done in America is generally accepted and the dismal results are rarely questioned.

In Guatemala it was possible for generic drug companies to produce drugs and sell them at whatever price they wanted to whoever wanted them. Doctors Without Borders operated several AIDS clinics in Guatemala. In March 2005 that all changed. Guatemala’s Congress passed a law that gave big drug companies protection from generic drug companies. The new law had allowed brand-name companies to conceal data that generic companies would use to bring their own versions to market. This meant less access to essential medicines and protests and deaths followed. Why did Guatemala change from cheaper generic drugs, that have been treating one of Latin America’s largest HIV-positive population’s, to protection of the big drug companies. The Central American Free Trade Agreement was the reason. Guatemala changed its laws in order to become part of the Central American Free Trade Agreement. President Bush signed this agreement which requires countries to adopt strict rules on intellectual property rights, including those protecting prescription drugs.

Merck continues to tell us on their web site what a great job they are doing but their fatal mistakes do not go unnoticed.
These new rules mean that Doctors Without Borders will pay up to 22 times what they used to pay. Profits first, people second creates a lot of hate in the US of A as well as elsewhere.

George W. Bush announced a $15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in his 2003 State of the Union address. More than fourteen months and 3 million AIDS deaths later, the Administration’s ‘war on AIDS’ can be considered a failure. Rather than support existing and proven international programs to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, the Bush plan has undercut and circumvented them at nearly every turn. It has reduced funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria from $550 million appropriated by Congress for 2004 to $200 million for 2005, a 64% reduction at a time when the fund desperately needs resources. Bush quoted prices for generic versions of AIDS drugs in his announcement but the American grants do not authorize generic drugs. Drugs from western drug companies are specified, which are at least 4 times the cost of generic drugs.

![Drug Company Profits](image)

*For many years American drug companies’ profits have been much higher than other American companies. In spite of that fact they have resisted helping people who require cheaper drugs.*

Generics are a crucial component of almost all international AIDS plans. Doctors Without Borders had a program in Zimbabwe that used generics that cost $244 per patient, per year, purchased from Indian generic manufacturers. The American program using the same drugs at the same hospital, following
the Bush Administration guidelines will use six brand-name pills a day from three separate drug companies at a cost of $562 per patient, per year. Doing things the way Bush wants them done means that less than one-half of the people can now get treated. This position by the Bush government has created tremendous anti-American feeling throughout Africa and the world. Although putting the profits of American drug companies ahead of people’s lives is intrinsically insensitive and foolish it is the way to increase profits and that is the American way.

With their massive advertising budgets, almost $400 million for sleep medication alone, drug companies have made Americans painfully aware of numerous ‘illnesses’ from erectile dysfunction to irritable bowel syndrome as well as hundreds of others. It has reached the point where the drug guys are convinced that virtually every America has something wrong with them and should be taking drugs to deal with their ‘problem’. There is now even a term for this, ‘Disease Mongering’. The drug companies, “overzealous and questionable marketing practices” are specifically designed to make you feel that you have something wrong with you and that your best course of action to take a drug specifically designed for that problem. The fact that the little blue pill is made for $.007 and sold for $5.13 is not mentioned as a possible drug company motive.

In addition to just ripping you off there is a more insidious side to the drug business. They make too many fatal mistakes. The human body and how it works is complex and the testing the drug companies do, the same testing that they claim costs billions, is all too often insufficient or flawed. There is an interesting ‘flaw’ out there, the use of thimerosal, a mercury based preservative used in children’s vaccines. These vaccines should be bullet-proof as they must be given to kids. The parents, if they want their kids in school, cannot refuse these drugs. The government determines which drugs must be given and they added a number of new drugs to the list in the late 1980s. By 1999, it was determined that the average 5 year-old kid was getting 10 different vaccines via 33 doses and that each dose contained 25 micrograms of mercury. Mercury is not good for you and especially not good for small people. The US House Committee on Government Reform started an investigation in 1999 and discovered that thimerosal posed a ‘very real’ risk. They also discovered that drug companies never conducted studies on the use of thimerosal. The Chairman of the Committee stated, “My grandson received vaccines for nine different diseases in one day. He may have been exposed to 62.5 micrograms of mercury in one day through his vaccines.” “According to his weight, the maximum safe level of mercury he should be exposed to in one day is 1.51 micrograms,” “This is forty-one times the amount at which harm can be caused.” The chairman’s grandson developed autism. He went on to say, “We have a lot of doctors who serve on Federal advisory committees who have serious conflicts-of-interest problems. They’re allowed to vote on vaccines made by companies that they get money from.”
An analysis was conducted of 159 FDA advisory committee meetings that showed that at 92% of the meetings; at least one member had a financial conflict of interest. At least one committee member had a financial stake in the topic under review at 146 of 159 advisory committee meetings. At 55% of meetings, half or more of the FDA advisers had conflicts of interest. At the 102 meetings dealing with the fate of a specific drug, 33% of the experts had a financial conflict.

Twenty years ago one in every 5,000 kids in the United States was affected by autism. By the year 2000 it was one in 500 children and by 2002; it was one in 250 American kids. In 2005 it was one in every 155 male toddlers in the USA. To put it another way Illinois had 5 cases in 1993 and 6,005 in 2004. Even now in 2006 some vaccines preservatives contain mercury but the autism tragedy is only now going to hit as most of the victims are just becoming adults.

Hank McKinnell, CEO of Pfizer, one of the world’s large drug companies recently wrote a book, ‘A Call to Action’. He writes that drug price controls should be lifted around the world. That would increase drug company profits. He writes that Canadians and others who have access to lower drug prices than Americans should pay more. That would increase drug company profits. He writes that patents on drugs should be doubled. That would increase drug company profits. Unfortunately this American CEO fails to mention that on this planet we all have an obligation to share, particularly life saving drugs with those that cannot afford them. He fails to mention that his company has made billions more than many businesses with similar sales. He fails admit that life saving drugs are first to be used to save lives and secondly to provide him and those like him with more money than they possibly require. Sadly Hank just doesn’t get it but then that is why he is a drug company CEO.

In contrast there is another Pfizer executive who looks at more than profit. Dr. Peter Rost has said that importing drugs from Canada and Europe is safe and is a good option for Americans who cannot afford American prices. Unfortunately his boss, McKinnell has made it clear that honesty of that sort is not appreciated by Pfizer. Dr. Rost is obviously a flawed big pharma executive. Listen to this, “I don’t believe we are put on this earth to make as much money as we can. I don’t think we’re here to rip off the weakest and poorest. We are here to help each other and make it a better world.” Obviously Dr. Rost is right but his boss and others in the drug business continue to put themselves first. Working with people like that didn’t work for Peter Rost and he is no longer with Pfizer. Catch his book, The Whistleblower, which tells about some of the illegal and immoral actions taken by Big Pharma.

On Dec. 8th, 2003 Bush said that the new Medicare bill was “the greatest advance in health care coverage for America’s seniors since the founding of Medicare.” Bush seems a little confused. The bill enables drug companies to continue charging Americans much more than people pay in other countries, where the drug companies are also profitable but perhaps not obscenely so. The
bill continues to make America the only industrialized country without some control of drug prices.

The British Medical Journal has recently had a look at American drug companies. Those companies have been lobbying the US government to sign ‘free’ trade deals with other countries that would, raise prices on patented drugs, extend patent protection to delay the introduction of generics and block ‘re-importation’ to the United States. According to the American drug companies the US government is being urged (pressured) because the rest of the world hasn’t been paying its ‘fair share’ of research. The United States government has obediently engaged in a campaign criticizing other countries as free riding on US pharmaceutical innovation in new drugs. This US pharmaceutical industry campaign was an issue in the 2000 elections as Americans want to know why they are paying so much more than other ‘advanced’ countries.

The British Medical Journal found no convincing evidence that the lower prices in affluent countries outside the United States resulted from companies not paying their fair share of research and development costs. The UK Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme documents that drug companies in the United Kingdom invest proportionately more of their revenues from domestic sales in research and development than do companies in the US. In spite of that, prices in the UK are much lower than those in the US yet profits remain healthy. Companies in other countries also fully recover their research and development costs, maintain high profits, and sell drugs at substantially lower prices than in the US. Those companies do not pay their CEOs millions of dollars per year.

In May 2006 delegates to a World Health Organization meeting met in Geneva to vote on proposals to get companies and governments to improve the

![Graph showing political manipulation spending by industries](image)

*The drug guys spend more on political manipulation than any other industry. This graph represents the year 2000.*
production and distribution of drugs in the developing world. Any move like this is fraught with difficulties because the drug companies fight any moves that might reduce their profits. Ten years ago AIDS drugs cost $10,000 to $15,000 a year per patient which made their use impossible for virtually everyone in Africa. When this situation became known the outcry forced the drug companies to reduce the cost of AIDS medication over 95%. This reduction has helped many people but the drug companies continue to put their efforts where the money is, rather than the need.

In 2004, the Canadian government passed the Jean Chretien Pledge to Africa Act. This Act was simply recognition that most Africans cannot pay the thousands of dollars, per patient, per year, that AIDS drugs can cost. The Act also recognized that these anti-retroviral drugs cost a mere fraction of what they sell for, about $300 per year. This Act said generic drug manufacturers in Canada could export drugs to poor countries that were facing epidemics without having to pay huge fees to those that held the patents for these drugs.

Since that Act was legally passed in 2004 not a single low-cost pill has made its way to Africa because the legal barriers make it almost impossible for the generic drug manufacturer to obtain permission from the drug patent holder. And who are these patent holders, why the world’s pharmaceutical giants, of course. They are completely familiar with the inevitable AIDS deaths without these drugs, they are completely aware of the fact that Africans with AIDS cannot pay the prices they charge, they know that they make huge profits each year and yet they have not stepped up to the plate to end this disaster simply because they are greedy.

Merck recently had a cervical cancer drug approved and priced it at $500 for three shots. Eighty percent of cervical cancer occurs in developing countries
and once again the drug company price is unaffordable. All new drugs are patented so countries with a generic drug capability must make a deal with companies like Merck for a better price. Some will succeed and some won’t but is it right for a drug company to condemn someone to death to protect a level of profit that is much higher than any other industry?

Between 1975 and 2004, 1,500 new drugs reached the market. Just over 1% were developed for TB and tropical diseases but those diseases make over 12% of total diseases. This clearly shows that the drug industry puts its efforts into drugs that the rich countries can afford while basically ignoring the poor. This may not be illegal but it is certainly immoral. The men running this immoral industry have been willing to ignore their global obligations because they just don’t understand that helping people comes before excessive profit.

According to drug company data it costs the drug companies 7 times what it costs the government to perform a clinical trial. If it is costing private companies 700% more than it is costing the government then something is very wrong as the governments should not be able to perform trials for 86% less than the drug companies. According to the FDA another reason for excessive drug prices and profits is that almost 70% of the ‘new’ drugs are just slightly modified old drugs that perform the same but cost much more. The drug companies claim to spend billions on new drug development but much of that money appears to be part of a profit enhancement process rather than research that seeks to help the most people in the most effective way.

It is ironic that the global industry with the highest profit commits so many mistakes or deliberately unethical practices. In June 2006, the Guardian UK paper disclosed widespread marketing malpractices from bribing doctors, to trying to convince consumers that they were ill, to misrepresenting how safe and effective new drugs are. Consumers International prepared a report that analyzed 20 of the world’s largest drug companies. The withdrawal of Merck’s Vioxx cited unethical drug promotion as a hazard to consumers. Merck withdrew the drug in 2004 but knew about the risks in 2000. As a result Merck now faces about 6,000 lawsuits in the US while thousands of people face drug related health problems. Part of the reason for all these difficulties lies in the drug companies priorities, they spend twice as much on marketing as research but only Bristol-Myers Squibb provides a marketing code of conduct to consumers.
All this promotion has resulted in irrational drug use. More than half the drug companies engaged in unethical marketing. AstraZeneca allegedly organized events to promote its drug Crestor which included tickets for a musical and flights and hotels for doctors to attend a conference on bipolar disorder on the French Riviera. AstraZeneca now says its employees must pass an exam on its code of conduct.

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Britain’s largest drug manufacturer, is under investigation by German and Italian authorities for alleged corrupting over 1,600 doctors in Germany and more than 4,000 in Italy. The illegal gifts were said to amount to almost $300 million USD from 1999 to 2002. GSK did not spend these hundreds of millions for no ‘good’ reason and rest assured that this cost was passed on to their customers.

The ‘Doha Declaration’ was agreed to by all World Trade Organization (WTO) members. This declaration stated that public health was more important than drug company profits, or the associated patent rules. The good news was that even the US signed on, the bad news is that since this event in 2001 the US has sought to make this declaration null and void. The US has proceeded to put patent protection ahead of public health and thus make drugs less affordable for poor people everywhere. Of course this couldn’t have anything to do with the drug lobby spending almost $200 million a year to influence US politicians. Mind you, with sales around $500 billion this is a drop in the bucket.

There is no end to this story which ultimately is largely a story of greed. Millions die each year from infectious diseases while millions of others have too much.

See this great site for more info, http://www.globalpolicy.org

What also seems to be lost in this sad story of overpriced drugs is that many of the drugs taken by Americans, on the advice of their doctors, should never have been recommended in the first place. For reasons unknown Americans have this inordinate faith in their medical system when all they have to do is look around to see that most Americans are not healthy or living lives without medical intervention. The desire to make money, big money, is firmly entrenched in the minds of most American health professionals and executives, most of whom are rabid Republicans. Although they would never admit it, far too many support a system that provides them with money and prestige but fails to deliver good health care. Billions of people in the rest of the world, many of them in poor countries, are also unhappy that the American business model has put excessive profits ahead of everything else. The American drug industry has done more than any other group to make this aspect of American ‘capitalism’ well known around the world. Ultimately it is just another reason for the hatred of Americans that the drug companies seem so willing to enhance.
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

“You will do well to try to inoculate the Indians by means of blankets, as well as to try every other method that can serve to extirpate this execrable race.”
– Approval from Lord Gen. Jeffrey Amherst, British Commander-in-Chief of America, to Col. H. Bouquet to use biological weapons (smallpox laced-blankets) against the American Indians, July 1763. The attack partially backfired when Bouquet infected his own troops.

“We cloak ourselves in cold indifference to the unnecessary suffering of others, even when we cause it.”
– James Carroll

“The deterioration of every government begins with the decay of the principles on which it was founded.”
– Charles-Louis de Secondat, from ‘The Spirit of Laws’, 1748

“Societies can be sunk by the weight of buried ugliness.”
– Daniel Goleman

“During war, the laws are silent.”
– Quintus Tullius Cicero

“Setting a good example is a far better way to spread ideals than through force of arms.”
– Congressman Ron Paul

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Yugoslavia ALL signed the Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare in the 1920s or 1930s. America finally signed in 1975.

By not signing this Protocol America signaled to other nations that America was developing Biological Weapons (BW) and this encouraged other countries
to develop them as well. Many people, including Americans, died miserable deaths when heartless men tried to develop these despicable weapons before America eventually signed this protocol. This protocol emerged so early and was so necessary because BW can be such miserable, despicable and indiscriminate killers. Any nation that refused to sign this protocol within a reasonable length of time should have been shunned by all other nations but of course this didn’t happen without American support for the protocol.

Various America institutions, such as the US Army, did work on BW after the First World War but this work was usually kept secret so it is difficult to know what was actually accomplished. America also kept abreast of ‘progress’ in this area until 1940 when America started to expend considerable efforts in the BW area. In 1937 Roosevelt stated that the US would never be the first to use biological or chemical weapons but he went further and said that America would not use these weapons, ever. Unfortunately FDR is no longer with us. He did, however, approve of plans to ‘investigate’ BW and by the end of the WWII America had almost 5,000 people working on BW. Expenses equaled several hundred million 2005 dollars and were made up of five separate research or production facilities. The US played with tularemia, the plague, glanders, meliodosis, anthrax, brucellosis and other terrible ways to kill people. American scientists also studied killing people by giving them fatal illnesses via insects such as fleas, mosquitoes, lice and rats. They also studied destroying food crops by transmitting various plant diseases. The fact is, many people were involved in programs to develop grotesque ways in which to kill civilians and yet they continued with this work. That says a great deal about our species.

The Japanese used BW after they attacked the Chinese in 1937 when they set up experiments on captured Chinese citizens. The head of this Japanese BW program was General Shiro Ishii. This bastard believed that the West was also developing these immoral weapons, in large part because America had not signed the Geneva Protocol. He decided to test various BW on Chinese prisoners in Manchuria China, which was under Japanese control. These experiments took place from the 1930s until 1945 when the Japanese were eventually defeated. The Japanese were so impressed with their initial progress on biological weapons that they eventually dedicated 10,000 people to work on this deplorable effort.

The Chinese prisoners were brought to the various labs and forced to undergo terrible ordeals while the Japanese ‘scientists’ sat around recording the results. Suffice to say

*General Shiro Ishii, with American help, was allowed to live peacefully after the war. Other war criminals in Unit 731 became the Governor of Tokyo, the head of the Japanese Medical Association and the Japanese Olympic Association.*
that not one of these 4,000 subjects ever emerged from these Japanese ‘experiments’ alive. That included a few hundred Caucasian POWs, many of them Americans, who ended up in the hands of the Japanese during World War II. The Japanese wanted to experiment on Americans to see if Caucasians reacted any differently to various deadly experiments, they didn’t.

The Japanese also used BW against the Chinese people in the parts of China they did not control. They dropped plaque infected fleas from aircraft and made other BW attacks. As the war came to an end they slaughtered all their prisoners and fled. All of the infected fleas and rats escaped and caused further plaque epidemics in parts of China.

After the America bombing and occupation of Japan General Douglas Macarthur, who was probably getting his orders from higher up, withheld information regarding the activities of these Japanese ‘scientists’ so that they could be given permission to live in the US and divulge what they knew about BW. American security personnel coached these Japanese ‘scientists’ through their interviews so that the knowledge of their killing of prisoners, particularly American prisoners, would not be uncovered by US immigration or other officials.

Over 40 years later, in 1986, a US House of Representatives subcommittee was pressured by veterans to investigate the ordeals that the American survivors of these Japanese experiments endured. The hearings lasted only a day and only 1 out of 200 American survivors was allowed to testify. The US army archivist testified and stated that the documents from these experiments were returned to Japan in the 1950s and the Americans had not made copies! Both the UK and the US governments tried to deny these Japanese atrocities and the American and British collusion. Even today these two western governments try to minimize their immoral reaction to these despicable acts.

The Soviets responded to these atrocities much more ethically. Any Japanese ‘scientist’ that they captured in Manchuria was tried and if guilty sent to prison. The Japanese ‘scientists’ that America captured went on to live comfortable lives, including the man who was head of the whole Japanese program, General Ishii. The American leadership was very cold-blooded to have gone to such lengths for this Japanese knowledge. To provide a safe haven for the ‘scientists’ who had caused such terrible deaths to thousands, including Americans, demonstrates that for certain men there are no principles .

We don’t know what happened to all of this Japanese ‘knowledge’ but...
it seems reasonable to assume that the US would not treat the ‘worst of the worst’ with velvet gloves unless they planned to use the knowledge themselves. Unfortunately we won’t find out anytime soon. The Offensive Biological Program they started in 1942 was a secret while it operated and it is still a secret today, over 60 years later. We do know that there were production facilities and that the BW program was expanded during the Korean War. Recent documents from American, Russia and China indicated that America used BW during the Korean War on North Korean and Chinese troops. This has always been denied by American scholars but that position is getting harder and harder to maintain.

In 1941 a new production facility was built at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. A one-million liter sphere was built at Fort Detrick, Maryland to test various pathogens as well as facilities at more remote Pacific island sites where America was also testing their other WMD, the hydrogen bomb. Chemical weapons were also developed at Fort Detrick and many methods of destroying crops were developed, tested, produced, dried and stored. See the end of the Cuba chapter for ‘interesting’ biological effects that were detected in Cuba.

The American biological warfare gang also conducted tests in American cities to see how bacteria would disperse. San Francisco, Washington and New York were used as well as other cities, all without the knowledge of the American public. In New York, army scientists dropped light bulbs filled with Bacillus sibtilis onto ventilation grates thereby exposing over one million citizens to this bacterium. The CIA and the army started Project MKNAOMI which was to maintain, stockpile and test biological and chemical weapons. The CIA experimented with poisoning drinking water by injecting chemicals into the water supply of the Food and Drug Administration building in Washington. The CIA received funding for a synthetic biological agent and experiments were completed at the top-secret US Army base, Fort Detrick. This offensive BW program lasted to a least 1970 and is probably still functioning at some level, today Fort Detrick is still very active. The 1969 budget was $300 million so it is difficult to believe that everything that had been developed and produced during the previous decades was destroyed after Nixon stopped the program in 1969. Nixon agreed to stop the use of these weapons because American was getting a bad name for using more chemical weapons than any country on earth. The effects of those offensive chemical and biological
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It is also hard to believe that America actually stopped working on BW after 1969 because they fought against the Biological Weapons Convention in 1972. While America was wrecking these multilateral negotiations they were telling the world how much they wanted to get rid of these weapons! As a European delegate to the negotiations stated, “They are liars. In decades of multilateral negotiations, we’ve never experienced this kind of insulting behavior.” The Biological Weapons and Toxin Convention became law in 1975. At that time it was discovered that the CIA had retained BW for its own use, contrary to the President’s orders and the convention that America agreed to. In the 1980s Bush Sr. and Reagan started ‘defensive’ BW research which presumably included providing Saddam Hussein with the BW he used in Iraq!

Not so many years ago, Republican members of Congress, working with the Clinton government, voted to wreck the Chemical Weapons Convention. This treaty would force nations to open their labs to inspection but in 1998 the Republicans decided that the US could not accept this sort of intervention in American affairs. They then passed legislation that banned the removal of chemical samples from the US by international weapons inspectors; limited the number of US labs that would cooperate with these inspectors and allowed the President to refuse inspections of American chemical plants. Republicans thereby wrecked this convention worldwide. Not quite done, America withheld funds required by the inspectors and the funds needed to disable the arsenal of warheads with nerve agents in western Siberia. America was one of the last countries to sign in 1997 but by then the damage was done.

During the summer of 1994, US military aircraft began dropping a gel substance on the tiny town of Oakville near the Pacific coast. Almost everyone in town came down with flu and pneumonia-like symptoms. Some people were hospitalized and remained ill for months. Pets and barnyard animals died. The police chief was patrolling the town one morning at 3 a.m. when a deluge of sticky stuff coated the windshield of his patrol car. He tried to clean the goo off with rubber gloves but just breathing it made him very ill and by the afternoon he had serious trouble breathing.

An Anthrax biological death is somehow worse than a bullet through the brain. There is no doubt that all of these weapons should be banned forever.
The gel material was tested by a number of government and private labs which found human blood cells and nasty bacteria, including a modified version of pseudonomas fluorescens, cited in numerous military papers as an experimental bio-warfare bacteria. The TV show, Unsolved Mysteries, aired the story on national television in May, 1997. Several Oakville citizens reported bizarre encounters with FEMA officials and intelligence personnel from Fort Hood Texas, home of the Black Hawk unit. These spooks made repeated visits to Oakville, probing people about their health and reportedly intimidating those who had been interviewed on television for the Unsolved Mysteries show.

In 1997 Rancher William Wallace was plowing his fields near Kettle Falls, Washington when a US Navy Intruder aircraft swooped down and sprayed him with a fine mist. He became so sick he could not lift his arms above his head for days. He lost his job because of his illness. His cat’s face became paralyzed and actually began to dissolve until it died. Wallace went to the CBS affiliate in Spokane with his story. Two days later, a turbo prop aircraft dived over his house spraying something that made him and his family ill again. Wallace told ChemTrail investigator Will Thomas he felt this was a warning to “shut up.” The CBS affiliate in Spokane finally did a two-part news interview with Wallace in the spring of 1999.

In Southern Idaho near the town of Caldwell, seven healthy people died in their sleep when their lungs collapsed. All were in good health. An article in the Arizona Republic noted that people had suspicions that officials might be covering something up. Two years later, an eye-witness report was filed about a dark, fibrous material falling on Caldwell homes, cars and lawns shortly before the mysterious deaths occurred. Residents said the material looked like feces.

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America is currently spraying large areas of Colombia for that good old ‘war on drugs.’ The locals who also get sprayed become ‘collateral damage’.
Medical journalist Ermina Cassani has investigated nation-wide reports of such biological waste being dropped on neighborhoods from low-flying aircraft. Cassani investigated over 30 different ‘Yuk’ drops during the years 1998 and 1999. In 1998, she obtained a sample that looked like dried blood from a Michigan house. Examining this material, a University of Michigan lab found pseudomonas fluorescens, the same bug used on Oakville. It can cause horrible human infections including fatal shock, and because of its glowing properties, it allows the military to track its path.

In September 2001, the New York Times reported that, “the Pentagon has built a germ factory that could make enough lethal microbes to wipe out entire cities.” America claimed that the factory was a defensive facility however it was built without the approval of Congress or involvement by the Biological Weapons Convention group. It has also been discovered that the US Army’s Edgewood Chemical Biological Center in Maryland is planning to test biological weapons with live microbes. Does this sound defensive to you?

In July 2001, America was the only country which renounced the efforts to negotiate a verification process for the Biological Weapons Convention and this action brought the international conference on the matter to a halt.

For 60 years, the US military has tested its ability to withstand chemical or biological attacks at a desolate site in the Utah desert. Protective gear for troops, heavy equipment such as tanks and aircraft, and detection systems designed to signal an attack have all been run through intense simulations, sometimes using active chemical and biological agents. Now, in 2002, the US military plans to more than double its testing at the 800,000-acre Dugway Proving Ground, 80 miles southwest of Salt Lake City and to vastly expand its counterterrorism training activities at the site. The plans were disclosed in a draft environmental impact statement issued by Dugway which has received little attention in Utah or anywhere else. The statement indicates that the Army facility wants to expand biological defense testing from an average of 11 events a year to 26, and boost chemical defense testing events from 30 a year to 70.

In October 2002 the Pentagon revealed that the United States secretly tested chemical and biological weapons on American soil, possibly exposing thousands of civilians in Hawaii, Florida, and Alaska to toxic agents. Roughly
5,500 servicemen were involved in the tests, also conducted in Maryland, Florida, and Utah, from 1962 to 1973. More than 50 veterans are now seeking compensation for related health problems but Pentagon and Veterans Affairs officials say they have yet to make the link between their symptoms and exposure to the biological “stimulants” like E. coli, a bacterium believed at the time to be harmless. One of the agents used, Bacillus globigii, has since been found to cause infections in people with weakened immune systems. “The reasoning behind all of these,” says William Winkenwerder, the Pentagon’s top health official, “is not altogether clear from the records that we have.”

The Army has acknowledged that between 1949 and 1969, 239 populated areas from coast to coast were blanketed with various organisms during tests designed to measure patterns of dissemination in the air, weather effects, dosages, optimum placement of the source and other factors. In March 1968, 6,400 sheep were found dead after grazing in an area just outside Dugway’s boundaries. The sheep were poisoned by a deadly nerve agent called VX that had been tested by the Army and drifted outside the test boundaries of the 800,000 acre base. Testing over such areas was supposedly suspended after 1969, but there is no way to be certain of this. In any event, open air spraying continues at the Dugway Proving Ground in Utah.

The United States spends billions on ‘homeland security’ to minimize attacks on Americans associated with biological attacks and others. Unfortunately it...
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appears to place very little emphasis on American international proliferation prevention strategies, including strengthening of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). The Federation of American Scientists states, “Instead of exercising creative leadership, the United States has become the single greatest block to reaching agreement on a protocol for verifying compliance with the international prohibitions on BW.”

It is now almost 10 years since America agreed to the international Chemical Weapons Convention, which bans the development, production, and use of deadly chemical agents and requires the destruction of existing stockpiles. The time to destroy the 71,000 tons of declared chemical weapons is almost up and yet less than 20,000 tons have been destroyed. Only Albania came close to eliminating their chemical weapons stockpiles on time. The US and Russia have requested another five years but Rumsfeld told congress that only 66% of American stocks will be destroyed by 2012. Russia is even further behind. The stupidity of these weapons is clearly illustrated by the Libya situation. They declared 24 tons of mustard agent and 1300 tons of chemicals. The estimated cost to destroy this is $100 million or almost $80,000 a ton. South Korea has destroyed most of their 156,000 Sarin artillery shells but will need more time to finish the job. India has destroyed one half their chemical weapons stocks. Japan abandoned a large amount of chemical stocks in China after their devastating experiments during WWII. They have still not cleaned these up even though they have hundreds of billions to spend. North Korea, Egypt, Syria, Israel are believed to have chemical weapons but have not even ratified the treaty. America has estimated that they will spend $14.2 billion dollars destroying these weapons so that is going to cost the US taxpayer $200,000 per ton. We are a long way from a planet free of these deplorable weapons. How men could spend billions to create and use weapons that cause these indiscriminate and despicable deaths is beyond comprehension. (see picture opposite page)

The following map shows that American biological efforts, called ‘defensive’ are a large part of America’s BW efforts, both military and civilian. What America is really doing with this large Biodefense effort is unknown but how could all these facilities and all these billions be strictly defensive?

Have a look at a great site www.sunshine-project.org for more BW information.

Fort Detrick, Maryland is

Superchamber for chemical agent testing, Dugway Proving Grounds.
only 4 miles from Washington DC but, as mentioned above, it is undergoing a multi-billion dollar expansion. This will make it the largest BW facility in the world. Just how the American government thinks that this type of spending will reduce the threat of BW is not explained. Also not explained is how appropriate these billions are compared to the threat. Milton Leitenberg of the University of Maryland recently said, “Billions of federal expenditures have been appropriated in the absence of virtually any threat analysis, and that the risk and imminence of the use of biological agents by non-state actors/terrorist organizations has been systematically and deliberately exaggerated. It is critical to recognize that the only bio-attack in American history, namely the anthrax letters of October 2001, almost certainly was generated by our own bio-weapons establishment.”

The excuse that America has used to expand research and BW production is always that this is for the ‘defense’ of America. Mary Deutsch, the Fort Detrick commander said that ‘genetic engineering or recombinant DNA technology’ as well as, ‘advanced methods’ were being used to produce BWs. Questions about all this being a violation of international treaties went unanswered. James Leonard, the former chief American negotiator of the Biological Weapons Convention warned that the Bush Jr. BW initiatives could be interpreted as ‘development’ of biological weapons in violation of the Biological Weapons Convention.
Fort Detrick is now a facility surrounded by hundreds of thousands of residential homes. This facility produced anthrax which can survive as a spore for thousands of years before activating. The ground water in the area is contaminated by cancer causing chemicals and over the years various biological agents were carelessly disposed of. A clean up was ordered and has so far uncovered over 2,000 tons of hazardous waste. While the very need for such a vast ‘defensive’ effort is questioned no thought of closing Fort Detrick has emerged, from the ‘authorities’ that is. The experts are all for it. In 2005, almost 1,000 American biologists signed a letter to the National Institutes of Health protesting all the money being poured into biological terrorism threats. They call the spending ‘misdirected’ and point out that bioterrorism causes 0 deaths per year while preventable deaths from many other sources are inadequately funded. Of course the only way to prevent possible BW deaths is to ensure that BWs are not produced. America is now doing the exact opposite.

The US Army developed, in 2003, a new way of spreading these chemicals around. They developed and patented a new type of munitions that can deliver BW in direct violation of the BTWC which prohibits the development of BW delivery systems.

The 1925 Geneva Protocol banned the use of BW. It is interesting to look at when various nations signed this agreement. Only America, out of all the ‘advanced’ and ‘developed’ nations waited 50 years to sign. Russia signed in 1928, the UK 1930, France 1926, Germany 1929, Australia 1930, Canada 1930, China 1952 (shortly after those commies took over), Denmark 1930, Egypt 1928, India 1930, Iran 1929, Italy 1928, Japan 1970, New Zealand 1930, Norway 1932 even South Africa had this figured out in 1930 but not the USA, who finally signed in 1975.

The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention went further and banned the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition and retention of microbial or other biological agents or toxins. It also banned weapons and equipment used to deliver such agents or toxins. Although all industrial nations signed this Convention, except one, as we have seen America ignores these conventions if they choose to do so. And the one advanced nation that didn’t sign is the world’s fifth largest military which is totally aligned with the US and that country is Israel.

A Biosafety Level 3 laboratory is set to open in Livermore California August, 2006. Level 3 means that they can work with airborne infectious diseases that can cause death. This new lab is being built near a nuclear lab and two earthquake fault lines. The Department of Energy did not release an environmental impact statement which is supposed to be provided before projects that can harm the public are started however the relevant agency has said, not to worry. Another question is why are labs experimenting with aerosolized, highly contagious and potentially deadly pathogens and toxins in the first place. Wasn’t this supposed to end when President Nixon said America wasn’t going to do this anymore?
Construction has also started on a germ warfare laboratory near Washington. The National Biodefence Analysis and Countermeasures Centre (NBACC) has been designed to help America defend itself against attacks by simulating potential terrorist attacks. The centre will produce and stockpile the most dangerous and deadly bacteria and toxins known but this is a violation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. This convention requires that countries not, “develop, produce, stockpile, or otherwise acquire or retain” biological weapons. It does not distinguish between offensive and defensive intentions. The NBACC centre is to be completed by 2008 as well as a new $130 million laboratory at Fort Detrick in Maryland. The same military base is the site for the new $128m, 160,000 sq ft laboratory. Once again America takes the lead in producing potentially deadly weapons instead of working to ensure that this planet is free of such threats.

From the vast amounts of herbicides sprayed in Vietnam, to the genetically modified fungus currently sprayed in Colombia, to America’s new more lethal anthrax, to its refusal to destroy its smallpox stocks, to sabotaging various international treaties to who knows what? It seems that America never did give America has signed a number of international agreements but if the agreement says you can’t do something and America wants to do it, they just go ahead. This weapon is a good example.
up on the potential use of chemical and biological weapons. For setting, yet again, a crappy example for the rest of the world, America has generated hatred from millions of people who continue to hope for a safer planet.
BOLIVIA

“To stand in silence when they should be protesting makes cowards out of men.”

– Abraham Lincoln

“You can fool some of the people all of the time, and those are the ones you want to concentrate on.”

– George Bush Jr.

“The corporate grip on opinion in the United States is one of the wonders of the Western world. No First World country has ever managed to eliminate so entirely from its media all objectivity—much less dissent.”

– Gore Vidal

“The West won the world not by the superiority of its ideas or values or religion but rather by its superiority in applying organized violence. Westerners often forget this fact, non-Westerners never do.”

– Samuel P. Huntington

Millions of people in Bolivia have suffered ever since the white guys showed up and started telling everyone else what to do. Although these Europeans were quick to claim vast lands that were already occupied by millions of others they never did recognize the rights of those peoples. Those very same indigenous people had been living in Bolivia for over 10,000 years but the arrogance of the white guys allowed them to claim it all by sticking a boot in the sand. At that time the Incas were the dominate group but they had tried to throw their weight around so other native peoples had revolted. As a result of these disputes the eastern portion of Bolivia was never occupied by the Incas. The Spaniards arrived in 1532 and with superior weapons defeated the Incas. This was the approach that the Europeans took with indigenous peoples everywhere. Virtually all of these people suffered or died as a result of newly introduced diseases, exploitation or killing. To ease their workload and suffering the natives used alcohol and the coca leaf and these habits cause further social degradation. The Spanish placed a very high priority on mineral wealth which
they acquired using local slave labor or by stealing valuables wherever they found them. By ensuring that they took more than their share they gained great wealth. That process is still ongoing by the same aggressive white guys and not just in Bolivia.

This miserable treatment of the real owners of Bolivia continued for centuries and as a result the Spaniards were finally thrown out in 1809. The struggle continued for a further 16 years when the ‘haves’ resisted but finally a Republic was formed. Life was better for many Bolivians in the early 1800s but the indigenous people still had a difficult time and even the prosperity of the rich was threatened. Bolivia was forced to fight to retain her borders and won battles against both Chile and Peru. Later this treaty that Peru and Chile signed was ignored and further battles followed. Almost all of Bolivia’s neighbors, Peru, Chile, Paraguay and Brazil exploited her weaknesses and forced Bolivia to give up land. Only Argentina kept to the original borders.

In the early 1900s the conditions for the indigenous people were still deplorable while the rich white landowners ignored their plight. In 1936 the powerful American firm Standard Oil was nationalized and this was to start a long-term American interest in preventing a ‘communist’ takeover of Bolivia, even if there were no ‘communists’.

The Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) was a leftist party that led a successful revolution in 1952. The party introduced the vote for all adult men and women, promoted rural education, carried out sweeping land reforms and nationalized the country’s largest tin mines. At that time tin had replaced silver as the countries largest dollar export. Although these changes were welcomed by many, human rights violations and inequality were still commonplace.

Remarkably the defeat of the Bolivian army by the people in the 1952 revolution resulted in the people arming themselves. America was not happy having the power of the army in the hands of the people so they helped to rejuvenate the remnants of the Bolivian army. America trained and equipped this new Bolivian Army and sent selected officers to the ‘School of the Americas’. America helped reestablish this Army because they knew they would be easier to control than the ‘people’s army’ that had emerged after the 1952 revolution.

The new, 1952, President Víctor Paz Estenssoro was not popular in Washington with his land reforms and nationalized tin mines so a CIA man,
Edward Fox was sent to Bolivia to help get rid of him. Fox had a friend in Bolivia, a man named Barrientos who was head of the Bolivian air force and an old drinking buddy of Edward Fox’s. By 1964, over 1000 Bolivian military officers, including 20 of the 23 most senior officers had been trained in the US. This training of foreign officers by the US has a long history and has been invaluable when the US has decided to intervene. As Bolivia was about to find out, having your military trained in another country, that has a history of foreign interventions, is not a good idea.

Bolivia has had more governments than almost any country in the world, about 200 since the end of Spanish rule, or one about every 9 months. Unfortunately, most of them have not been democratically elected and the new government in 1964 was no different. The MNR held a convention at the beginning of 1964 but the drinking buddy of the CIA coup specialist, Victor Barrientos was not selected as Paz’s VP although he had made his desire for that position well known. When he was not selected as the VP running mate to Paz he clamored for the job to such an extent that Paz asked for his resignation as air force chief. A short time later, on February 25th, Barrientos was ‘shot’. He was never examined by a doctor in Bolivia but instead was flown in a US military plane all the way to a US hospital in Panama. This was rather strange medical care as they did have hospitals in Bolivia. The Bolivian press, who were controlled by the right-wing conservatives, turned Barrientos into a hero for surviving this assassination attempt. Surprise, surprise, some of the Bolivian press also worked with the CIA. Barrientos returned to Bolivia, no worse for wear, no wound and no bandages and another surprise. President Paz had changed his mind and now wanted Barrientos to be his VP. Paz was reelected but his VP was bad mouthing some of the MNRs traditional supporters. The rest of 1964 was very difficult for Paz as his VP was less than helpful. In October, the VP walked out and this left the way clear for the
military coup that was planned to take place in November. Edward Fox and the CIA coup machine had done their work.

Paz was told that he could get a ride to the graveyard or the airport so he quite sensibly choose the airport and left for a life in exile. Barrientos became the new President and went right to work with the American agenda. He cut the tin miners wages by 50%, the union bosses were forced into exile and the union banned. The US trained Army fought with the miners and killed many which put an end to civilian control of the military in Bolivia. In 1966 Barrientos held an election to consolidate his power and he considered this a sure thing with the $600,000 the CIA gave to his election campaign. Gulf Oil also helped by providing Barrientos with $200,000 and a helicopter for campaigning. The election was successful for Barrientos and the helicopter was useful but deadly. It crashed and killed Barrientos on April 27th, 1969.

The new President that replaced Barrientos was soon overthrown by another General who nationalized Gulf Oil and exposed the CIA offices and the associated bugging equipment. The CIA was not about to put up with that type of turncoat General so he was out and another General was in. Supporting a free and democratic election did not seem to occur to the CIA. The new General also turned out to be a dud, as far as the CIA was concerned, so he only lasted 10 months. America then decided that they needed to go with a guy who was definitely aligned with the US, someone they could count on. They picked Colonel Banzer, a right-wing Bolivian who had been to the American military school in Panama, was a graduate of the infamous School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia and training in Fort Hood, Texas. So Banzer was well indoctrinated and he was also getting benefits from Gulf Oil.

Banzer and his right-wing supporters were financed, trained and armed by the CIA for their coup, which was considered successful by Banzer because he did become President. The US also considered his Presidency successful because they had their guy where they wanted him. In fact it was unsuccessful for both Bolivia and America. Banzer did what he was told and lived a life that in turn destroyed many lives so he was in fact a great failure. For reasons that have never been explained, America has not told us why destroying democracy and prosperity are actually successes.

The US got what they thought they wanted from Bolivia. The plans to restore relations with Chile and Cuba were cancelled, further nationalizations were stopped and some that had taken place were rescinded, universities were closed because they were ‘hotbeds of political subversion’, foreign investment was encouraged under terms favorable to the foreigner, *i.e.* the US. Gulf Oil was paid much more money, the Soviets were forced to leave Bolivia and thousands were arrested, many of whom were tortured and some killed. Some of the indigenous people were forced off their lands while even more white South Africans were promised land stolen from the indigenous peoples. The CIA supported this violence by supplying the Banzer government with information to help capture the priests who were the leaders advocating human
rights in Bolivia. As the NYTimes said in 1964, “No country in the Western Hemisphere is more dependent on Washington’s aid and nowhere has the United States Embassy played a more obtrusive role in establishing that fact.” And so the coup was a great failure for America as their efforts helped to destroy America’s reputation in Bolivia. Virtually everything that America helped to create in Bolivia worked against the people of Bolivia and so America lost as they have in so many other countries where they elected to support the bad guys instead of the good guys.

Instead of seeing this manipulation as a disgusting example of one country wrecking the democratic aspirations of another, America regarded this political and economic devastation as a success. Due to this warped sense of right and wrong, various greedy American leaders went on to repeat this ‘success’ in other South and Central American countries.

Another surprise, Banzer was overthrown in 1978 in yet another Bolivian coup. In 1979 Lidia Gueiler Tejada was installed as President but overthrown after only 8 months in yet another military coup. She was the first female president of Bolivia and also wanted a better life for Bolivia’s poor. That meant that the rich had to share with the poor and that meant that she was a socialist and socialists just didn’t make it with America on guard. She also cooperated with the American Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to try and eliminate those in the Bolivian government who were protecting the drug dealers. The American CIA desire to get rid of a socialist overruled the DEA’s desire to get rid of the drug dealers. Lidia was overthrown by a reprehensible gang supported by the CIA.

Luis García Meza Tejada and Klaus Barbie, yes the Nazi, and Stefano Delle Chiaie, yes the terrorist, formed the next Bolivian government in June, 1980 in another coup. This coup was controlled by a paramilitary force calling itself Los Novios de la Muerte, ‘The Finances of Death’. The Novios released all the drug traffickers in the Bolivian prisons and destroyed their police records. Bolivia went on to produce 80 percent of the world’s cocaine. The DEA agent, Levine who had infiltrated Roberto Suarez’s drug circle, learned that Suarez’s cousin, Colonel Luis Arce-Gomez, was appointed Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, and eventually became known as the ‘Minister of Cocaine’ for his role in expanding Bolivia’s cocaine industry. These guys could never have overthrown the progressive Bolivian government if the US had supported Lidia. Their cocaine government was brief but while it was around it assisted various drug dealers

The first woman President of Bolivia tried to reduce the drug influence in Bolivia and assist the people. She is now a Morales supporter.
while it brutally repressed the opposition in Bolivia. They killed over 1,000 people using the Bolivian military and security forces. Tejada is now in prison, Klaus Barbie died in prison and Chiaie was acquitted after a trial in Italy. He is now over 70 years old and wondering how it all went so wrong.

During the Reagan years Bolivia became the drug war equivalent of a public works project. Bolivia was targeted for coca-leaf eradication and drug control before such programs were even attempted in Colombia and Peru. Agents from the Customs Service, the DEA, the Border Patrol, and other federal agencies were dispatched to Bolivia to participate in drug suppression in what was an unprecedented display of ‘interagency cooperation’ in the drug war. In 1986, 170 US Army troops were deployed to Bolivia to conduct “quick strike missions against narcotics traffickers and their jungle processing labs.” The first such use of the military in a foreign anti-drug campaign.

In January 2000 Bechtel, a large American corporation, in conjunction with the World Bank began the privatization of Bolivia’s water. It didn’t work out the way Bechtel thought it would. The World Bank, which is basically an American bank, had Bolivia over a financial barrel and so they were able to get Bolivia to allow Bechtel to privatize their water supplies. Bechtel, being in the money making business, jacked up water rates an average of 50%. The people would have none of it but their own government back Bechtel. After demonstrations, beatings and a few deaths Bechtel was forced to back down and the people won back control of their water.

Eighteen months later Bechtel and their Spanish partner, Abengoa, made another major mistake. They filed a $50 million legal action against Bolivia in the World Bank’s trade court. The poor people of Cochabamba who had fought Bechtel in Bolivia would be tried in Washington, in English, and in a process so secret that no member of the public or press would be allowed to know when the tribunal met, who testified before it, or what was said. Bechtel said it was suing for its losses and the profits it wasn’t allowed to make. Records would show that Bechtel had spent less than $1 million in Bolivia.

What Bechtel did not count on was the firestorm of global publicity that protested this injustice. More than 300 organizations from 43 countries joined in a citizen’s petition to the World Bank demanding that the case be opened to public scrutiny and participation. Hundreds of articles and dozens of documentaries were published and produced worldwide, making Bechtel and its Bolivian water takeover a poster child of corporate greed and abuse.

Bechtel found it all more
than even it could take. In June, 2005, Bechtel raised the white flag and began negotiating a deal to drop their case, for a token payment of two bolivianos (thirty cents). Bechtel officials flew to Bolivia to sign the surrender and collect their two bolivianos.

The public victory over Bechtel was a direct hit against the web of global trade rules and the American way of doing business. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, coerce poor countries into privatization arrangements as a condition of aid. Corrupt and incompetent governments sit down behind closed doors with multinational corporations and cut bad deals. Often the people are left out in the cold but they and millions of others know that almost everything is for sale for the highest possible price. They also know that if the privatization ventures fail they will be stuck paying the bill.

That Bechtel battle helped to elect a former llama herder and coca leaf farmer who was inaugurated in early 2006 as Bolivia’s first indigenous president. He has promised to fight corruption, introduce a new tax on the wealthy, and renationalize energy companies. The new President, Evo Morales, has cut his salary by more than a half to a little over $1,800 per month. This means that the salaries of all Bolivian public sector employees will be reviewed, as no official can earn more than the president. President Morales said the money saved would be used to increase the numbers of doctors and teachers.

The new President has his work cut out for him. Already America has been throwing their weight around. Earlier in 2005 America stole surface-to-air missiles that Bolivia had purchased from China. The missiles, packed in several metallic cases, were boarded onto an unmarked C-130 operated by the State Department’s Narcotics Affairs Section and flown to the United States. The missiles were bought by Bolivia from China for $2 million and they have not been returned.

On the first of May, 2006 Bolivia’s President Evo Morales delivered a speech announcing the nationalization of the country’s gas and petroleum. Morales said, “The Spanish, the North Americans, the Europeans looted the tin, the silver and the natural resources. We should recognize that in 1937, under the leadership of the armed forces, petroleum was nationalized for the first time, the second nationalization was carried out in 1969 with the intellectual, Marcelo
Quiroga Santa Cruz, and his struggle continues today.” Bolivia, like most of
the world’s countries, has always found it a struggle to use their own resources
to benefit their own people.

In 1969 Quiroga was the minister of petroleum in a military government
led by Gen. Alfredo Ovando Candia, who was the partner in a military junta
with Gen. René Barrientos, the valued collaborator of the CIA. It was this
government who worked with the CIA and US special forces to kill Che Guevara
on October 9th, 1967. A memorandum to President Johnson on that same day
confirms that the Bolivians who killed Che were trained and supported by
America. Instead of eliminating him, the CIA turned Che into an icon.

Those who try to ensure some sort of
equality in society have existed in many
governments but those who would ensure
that too much ended up in the hands of
too few have usually prevailed. Bolivia
appears to be heading down the path of
greater equality that is always favored
by the majority but opposed by America.
Based on historical experience If the
government of Bolivia fails, America will
have had a hand in that failure.

By trying to ensure that the resources
of Bolivia actually help the people of
Bolivia, Evo Morales has to change the
current situation. He spoke recently to
the European parliament to explain why
he had sent troops to regain control of his
country’s gas and oil fields. He told the
parliamentarians that Bolivia’s resources
had been ‘looted by foreign companies’. His government is prepared to pay
these companies for their costs but not the actual resource that the companies
had no hand in creating. Extraction companies have often used this old scam
when a decent government is forced upon them. They try to claim compensation
for all their expenses, their future profits based on the excessive profits that
they have made, future profits that will be denied to them and the value of the
resource that they used to control. Not paying that type of extravagant claim
gets the CIA and the US government into the act when they try to remove
the government or destroy the economy of the country. Often they accomplish
both.

The despot that all too often emerges changes all the progressive moves the
government may have made and once again allows the American corporations
to exploit the resources of the country.

Instead of supporting Morales and his laudable goals, western countries,
particularly America, have tried to shaft him. Tony Blair told him to be responsible which is like the pot calling the kettle black. It will not be difficult for Morales to be far more responsible than Blair has been in Iraq. The Economist rag said Bolivia was “moving backwards” but it is unknown how many owners of The Economist magazine live on the average Bolivian wage. The Times newspaper in the UK is, of course, critical of Morales but we must remember these guys come from a country where the rich have run things for centuries and the poor have always been shafted. The British set the example which the power brokers in America are trying to recreate everywhere. Condoleezza Rice called Morales a ‘demagogue’, but she is obviously confused. ‘Demagogues’ do not reduce their wages to $1800 per month. If Condoleezza is looking for demagogues, she need look no further than the American oil executives that are so close to her. What the western media never seem to acknowledge is that Morales ran for President on a political platform that was well known and that he was democratically elected. That is democracy. By putting the so called ‘free-market’ ahead of democracy they do real harm. James Pinkerton, of the New York Newsday rag, called Bolivia “a country that is nationalizing, or, if you prefer, stealing, foreign-owned assets” and then grouped Bolivia with Cuba and Venezuela in an ‘Axis of Idiocy’. Men like Pinkerton simply show the world how brainwashed media moguls are as they attempt to tell us that the corporate thieves should retain their stolen assets.

Today Bolivia is South America’s poorest country. In the western hemisphere it ranks ahead of only Haiti, another country wrecked by the West. (see the Haiti chapter) Plutocrats in America and elsewhere have made this reality possible. According to the United Nations World Food Program 615,000 Bolivian children less than 13 years of age go to bed hungry every night. Every wealthy country needs to help countries like Bolivia who have had their minerals and other resources ripped-off for centuries.

Fortunately there are organizations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank that have been created to do just that, help the most needy. Unfortunately they don’t do their job. These organizations have an agenda, driven primarily by American ideology and you either toe their line or you get the boot. Antonio Furtado, the head of the IMF’s mission to Bolivia announced a few months after Morales was elected that the IMF will not extend new credits to Bolivia. The IMF claims that, “Bolivia benefits today from a high level of net international reserves, a low inflation rate and a fiscal budget under control.” Hey, the poorest country in South America doesn’t need IMF help. Great news, if Bolivia doesn’t need the IMF then no one needs the IMF so they can just shut the IMF down and save billions. No, they won’t do that; but what they will do is continue to manipulate poor resource-rich counties. All of these agencies could actually help poor countries establish democratic socialism but that viable solution is contrary to the inequality that is the American way.

As the American State Department says today in 2006. “The basic covert
Amoral America

(secret) action goals in Bolivia are to foster democratic solutions to critical and social, economic, and political problems; to check Communist and Cuban subversion; to encourage a stable government favorably inclined toward the United States; and to encourage Bolivian participation in the Alliance for Progress. The main direction and emphasis of Covert (secret) Action operations is to force Communists, leftists, and pro-Castroites out of influential positions in government, and to try to break Communist and ultra-leftist control over certain trade unions, student groups, and campesino organizations.”

So you can see, not much has changed. The Americans are still opposed to socialism in poor countries that are poor because a few have taken so much. Their ‘democratic solutions’ do not include governments, by the people and for the people, but they do include, ‘force’ to create governments ‘favorably inclined toward the United States’. It is all about America and ensuring that America continues to needlessly consume an obscene proportion of the world’s wealth. Naturally an important part of the way America operates is secrecy. Their solutions are so unjust they can’t actually reveal them.

This American attitude that has been foisted on Central and South American countries for over a century fosters the hatred that so many millions in this part of the world feel for America. America has had a choice; it could have been helpful and created more prosperity and equality in poor countries but it did just the opposite. Only when America makes that choice and truly supports equality will the millions in this area come to think of America as a friend.
BOMBING CIVILIANS

“In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought of unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.”

– Dwight Eisenhower, Jan. 17, 1961

“Man has no right to kill his brother. It is no excuse that he does so in uniform: he only adds the infamy of servitude to the crime of murder.”

– Percy Bysshe Shelley

“Everything, everything in war is barbaric... But the worst barbarity of war is that it forces men collectively to commit acts against which individually they would revolt with their whole being.”

– Ellen Key

“War is as outmoded as cannibalism, slavery, blood feuds and dueling, an insult to God and humanity.”

– Muriel Lester

“Never think that war, no matter how necessary, is not a crime.”

– Ernest Hemingway

Deadly wars, large and small, may have been a fairly recent development and ‘perfected’ primarily by Western powers. The plains Indians in America used to engage in ‘conflict’ with a stick and if you touched your opponent with your stick he was considered defeated. The Maori in New Zealand used to paint their faces and practice facial grimaces to scare their enemies into defeat. Montezuma’s large army was defeated by a few of Cortez’s men because they tried to capture the Spanish alive. In the European countries, that went on to conquer most of the world, the actual killing of your ‘enemies’ appears to have been part of the game since agriculture was established. During most of those centuries wars were thought of as a necessary evil, started by rich men who wanted even more wealth, land or power. Not much has changed in that regard except that the people now being killed are very much different. Until quite recently fighting in wars was between combatants who sought to protect
innocent civilians, on both sides. The deliberate killing of innocent people was regarded as a moral violation and something that virtually all those involved in war did their best to prevent.

Technology and the violent lust of modern political leaders has changed all that. As the ‘advancements’ in the war machine continued it became more and more possible to kill even more people, often in even more gruesome ways, without actually looking at them. This visual disconnection from the ‘enemy’ has made all the difference. Mankind, so it seemed, was now capable of killing thousands of innocent civilians as long as he didn’t have to look them in the eye. Soldiers have been able to get away with this, in large part, because the dead have never complained. The leaders who started the war in the first place encouraged this new ‘efficiency’ while ignoring the plight of the surviving family members, on both sides.

Today this detachment from the death and destruction in war is common in leaders that go to war due to their mental illnesses or personality disorders. Due to their power and influence they have been able to convince many people that their insensitivity and detachment to pending death and destruction is normal and acceptable. How much different this world would be if American Presidents had told his fellow citizens that the killing of innocent people was wrong in war, just plain wrong? Of course no American President has done that in recent times but those deaths are still wrong nevertheless.

If men agree to join a war and kill innocent civilians, when they can see that those civilians are unarmed, then it is considered a serious violation of, ‘the rules’. If the men who committed these killings are charged with murder, the rich and powerful will do their best to protect the men that killed in their name. On the other hand if a pilot drops bombs that kill even more innocent civilians, without actually seeing that they are unarmed then, hey, that’s OK, he may even be given a medal.

This abysmal hypocrisy is fostered and maintained by military and political leaders who are divorced from the killings and mentally incapable of the empathy that normal humans demonstrate. These ‘men’ are capable of putting their ‘winning’ ahead of the lives of thousands, sometimes millions of innocent people. These leaders may therefore be accurately called sociopaths however the evil of ‘patriotism’ prevents many people
from seeing this truth and it also prevents them from labeling their leaders as sociopaths. If people did have this awareness there would be no more war.

The numbers demonstrate just how far we have fallen, as our war machines have ‘progressed’ and the morality of our leaders has declined. In the First World War an estimated 5% of the casualties were civilians. In the Second World War the civilians were calculated to be 48% of the dead. In Iraq the numbers are hard to come by but appear to be in the 70-80% range. In Lebanon where the Israelis recently killed over 1,000 the civilian deaths may make up 90%, we do know that 45% of the dead in Lebanon were children. American strategists estimate that 90% to 95% of the dead in another major war will be civilians. This inexorable increase in the killing of innocent people is not a grotesque accident but a deliberate, desperate and deplorable part of a ‘winning’ strategy.

Since World War II this killing has been a military objective by the ‘good guys’, primarily America and her allies. Gone are the days when western politicians and military leaders abhorred the killing of women and children. The killing of all these innocents has become so accepted that when it occurs and could be stopped in a moment, by an American President, it is allowed to continue. If ‘civilization’ ever regains its collective sanity, the enabling of this killing by men such as President Bush and Prime Minster Blair, will result in their being prosecuted as war criminals. Those who dismiss such a possibility fail to remember that the future is unknown and often unexpected. Bush Jr. and
Blair are aware of this possibility and have taken various steps to prevent it. Those who dismiss the future trial of these men also dismiss the absolute wrong associated with the killing of innocent people. In other words the minds of these men have been altered by those who start, promote and manipulate wars and as a result they can no longer think straight.

One of the earliest deliberate killings of innocent people was the Nazi bombing of Guernica, Spain on April 26, 1937. The people of Guernica were no threat to Germany however an estimated 1600 people were killed and many wounded. It appears that the Germans bombed Guernica to test their equipment and to assist Franco who simply wanted to become the ‘king’ of Spain. This bombing is significant because it was well reported and started an acceptance among warmongers, and the public, that killing innocent civilians in war was an acceptable part of this bloody, appalling game.

During World War II, which enveloped much of the planet shortly after the bombing of Guernica, this killing of innocent people became more and more accepted, more and more deliberate and more and more devastating. No political leader called for the end of these murders because they were all guilty of them. Their non-existent or pathetic attempts to end this killing by negotiation were accepted by large numbers of the public on both sides as the fighting raged on. Even when men and women such as David Dellinger, Albert...
Einstein, Helen Keller, Norman Morrison, Peace Pilgrim, Jeannette Rankin, Bayard Rustin and others emerged to show Americans a better way, for the most part the public fell into line behind the war mongers.

The bombing of Dresden is one of the worst examples to emerge from any war, at any time. On the 13 & 14th of February 1945, over 1300 British and American bombers dropped bombs on Dresden, Germany. These bombs were specifically designed to create a firestorm in the city. Dresden had not been bombed prior to 1945 because it was of no real military significance. In other words the people behind this attack specifically engineered this bombing to kill, by burning to death, as many innocent men, women and children as possible. Although some authors have disputed the civilian nature of Dresden they have not disputed the large numbers of civilians in the city or the subsequent deaths.

To kill one innocent person in the pursuit of a military objective is a war crime and must be treated as such. If an enemy came to your country and killed an innocent son, daughter or grandchild of yours, would you consider that a war crime? Why is it so hard for you to extend that thinking to a child killed in Iraq? Why do the majority of Americans stand by and do nothing, while their government kills thousands of children?

America’s battle in the Pacific was no less gruesome. Many Japanese people had been brainwashed into believing that their Emperor was a ‘God’ and somehow this made him worth dying for. This meant that the Japanese were less likely to surrender, even when they knew that the battle was lost. As
a result the Americans and the Japanese suffered many casualties that might not have occurred, including those caused by the Kamikaze pilots who were also willing to die for their ‘God’. This Japanese brainwashing also hardened the American attitude towards the Japanese and as the war continued they were less and less willing to deal with the Japanese as honorable adversaries.

Since the late 1800s various internationally accepted ways of conducting battles had been agreed to. For example, The Laws and Customs of War on Land (Hague, II), July 29, 1899, which was ratified by the US Senate on March 14, 1902 states that, It is especially prohibited:

a. To employ poison or poisoned arms; (This totally failed to stop the use of poison gas by both sides during the World Wars, napalm and herbicides in Vietnam, depleted uranium and white phosphorus more recently in Iraq)

b. To kill or wound treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army; (combatants and innocents are killed in every conceivable ’treacherously’ way during all wars)

c. To kill or wound an enemy who, having laid down arms, or having no longer means of defense, has surrendered at discretion; (Totally ignored, even in Iraq today, see web videos showing American troops killing wounded defenseless men and unarmed civilians)
d. To employ arms, projectiles, or material of a nature to cause superfluous injury; (Also routinely ignored however I am quite sure that nuclear weapons would qualify)

e. The attack or bombardment of towns, villages, habitations or buildings which are not defended, is prohibited. (Obviously ignored leading to millions of needless deaths)

So the rules of war are a lot of crap and therefore war is a lot of crap! No political leader makes any reasonable effort to enforce the rules of war because that might make ‘victory’ less likely. If the killers under his command, violate the ‘rules’ that his country has legally agreed to, he will normally do what he can to protect those murderers. This is further evidence that many of the western political leaders of today are amoral men who promote needless death and destruction due to their obsession with winning. Citizens who do not protest these actions are complicit in these crimes.

Although it is intrinsically stupid, it appears to be quite possible to find men of good will who will sit down and write up a nice set of rules explaining how to kill each other. During this ‘legal’ killing in war these rules are usually ignored because no one wants to argue with trained killers or the uncivilized men who started the war in the first place. It should also be obvious, that if we were capable of following rules of behavior during war, that we would be capable of not having the war. So the acceptance of murder during war, even a war based on false information such as Iraq, is common amongst civilians. Particularly the manipulated and brainwashed civilians on the side that started the war.
This acceptance of war is due to increasing apathy and inequality in society, the hopelessness people feel during war and the stigma applied to the anti-war citizens by the warmongers. It is remarkable that the warmongers have been able to convince so many, that those who oppose war are part of the problem, when the exact opposite is true. The opposition of those who have sought peace has been so ingrained that people have been shot by their own governments when they protested unwarranted killing by those very governments. Powerful men in England, who would not actually fight in the First World War themselves, had 304 young men killed for not fighting, exactly what they were doing. Many citizens have come to believe that the killing of innocents during war is inevitable, particularly when the innocents are on the other side. With this tacit support the killings continue, without it they would stop. The most recent example is the killing of innocents in Lebanon by Israel. The leaders of America and Britain did nothing to stop this killing, even though they could have, but they did supply the equipment that made the killings happen.

The Japanese were demonized during WW II because they were the enemy and because they often conducted themselves, like everyone else, in a ruthless and barbaric manner. In early June 1942, after the Battle of Midway, Japan continued to lose the war, becoming weaker and weaker in every way. Lack of ammunition, fuel, food, equipment and other essential supplies continued to be a problem for them as the war raged on. It would have been sensible for the
Japanese military leaders to have simply looked at a map of America and figured out that they were going to lose the war. This was a decision that any child could have made but those military leaders were anything but sensible. Even after the inevitability of their eventual defeat was absolutely clear they still did not surrender. The main reason that the Japanese were so slow to surrender was the American insistence on a complete surrender. If America had said, “OK you can keep your silly emperor,” which they eventually did, the war would have been over sooner. All this simply goes to show how impossibly bad leaders can be and how impossibly stupid war and many citizens are.

American leaders had known about the possibility of an Atomic bomb since 1942. They embraced the idea, knowing that it would cause the death of many innocent people and they approved billions in expenses to expedite the construction of this bomb, the most lethal and by design, the most indiscriminate killing device ever made. (see the WMD chapter) The war with Germany drew to a close before the atomic bomb was available to kill German civilians but the idiotic, egotistical Japanese warmongers wanted to fight on. With the destruction of Japanese air power and much of their navy, the Americans waged an increasingly one-sided devastation against Japan. The Japanese Mariana Islands fell in July of 1944. It was now possible for the Americans to bomb Japan without resistance. In just one night during March 1945 Americans dropped incendiary bombs that killed 90,000 men, women and children in Tokyo, most of them innocent of any crime. Japan was so weakened by that time that the Americans lost not one aircraft. In fact General Curtis Lemay said that they would run out of Japanese bombing targets by September or October 1945.

In early 1945 it was clear to everyone that the defeat of Japan was just a matter of time. The American Air Force could attack any target they wanted and a naval blockade had eliminated Japan’s ability to import oil and supplies. America also had the capacity to intercept all critical Japanese messages so that they knew what the Japanese were doing before they did it. Japan was now isolated, back on her original home islands, able only minimal defensive efforts but getting weaker and weaker due to the complete sea and air blockade.
America could have left things like that and suffered no further causalities except for America’s new enemy, the Soviets.

The Soviets were essential American allies in the war against Germany but the American hatred of socialism and need for a new enemy after the war turned the Soviets into the new bad guys. America wanted the help of those Commies but in their heart-of-hearts they knew that those Commies were going make the next great contribution to the American Military Industrial Complex. America knew that the Russians were in a position to attack Japan and they didn’t want those future enemies getting in on the defeat of Japan when the Americans had done everything except force the Japanese to sign the inevitable surrender documents.

Due to this irrational American fear of Communism some think that the atomic bomb was dropped, in part, to let the Soviets know that America had the bomb and was prepared to use it. There were also a great number of Americans who knew of this great bomb making effort and wanted the bomb used. In any case America did drop the two atomic bombs that ultimately killed hundreds of thousands of innocent people. It seems reasonable to state that America could have just stopped fighting Japan while maintaining the blockade and the war would have ended without these deaths, and, the reputation America acquired. For many years after the war the official line was that this bombing saved thousands of American lives. After the billions of dollars and the rush to complete the bomb before the war ended, combined with American hatred for the Japanese, stopping these bombs was not in the cards. (see the WMD chapter)
Many of those who were best able to make a good decision about nuking Japan were against it including, General Carl Spaatz, head of the US Air Force in the Pacific, Brigadier General Carter Clarke, head of Japanese cable interceptions, General Douglas MacArthur, most senior military man in the Pacific, Fleet Admiral William Leahy, Chief of Staff to the President, General Curtis LeMay Americas aggressive bombing commander, Admiral Ernest King, US Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet but the decision was a political one and Truman made it. In Truman's own words, “Discussed Manhattan (the nuclear bomb test) with Churchill; it is a success. Decided to tell Stalin about it. Stalin had told Churchill of telegram from Jap emperor asking for peace…” So Truman knew that the Japanese were willing to surrender at least three weeks before the bombs were dropped. Due to spies sympathetic to the Soviets, Stalin knew about the bomb before Truman but Stalin didn’t reveal that remarkable fact to Truman at the time.

To bomb or not to bomb Japan with nukes was and still is the question. For an answer to that question it seems most reasonable to rely on a comprehensive study of this question, done at the time, by the Americans themselves. President Truman requested that a panel study the bombings and their report was issued in July 1946. ‘The United States Strategic Bombing Survey’, declared, “Based on a detailed investigation of all the facts and supported by the testimony of the surviving Japanese leaders involved, it is the Survey’s opinion that certainly prior to 31 December 1945 and in all probability prior to 1 November 1945, Japan would have surrendered even if the atomic bombs had not been dropped, even if Russia had not entered the war, and even if no invasion had been planned or contemplated.” Or as Dwight Eisenhower said some time later, “...the Japanese
were ready to surrender and it wasn’t necessary to hit them with that awful thing.”

The deaths attributed to these bombing are now, in 2005, calculated to be, Hiroshima 237,062, Nagasaki 140,141.

After the atomic bombing of Japan the Americans made southern Japan off limits to all journalists so that the world would not see just how bad the devastation was. In spite of that restriction Wilfred Burchett, an independent Australian journalist traveled to Japan to see for himself. Even though this was one of the biggest stories of the entire war the US main-stream press fell into line and never covered the story. Burchett did make it to Hiroshima and was shocked by what he saw. Only by arriving in the bombed out areas soon after the attacks could journalists capture the true horror of the scene, exactly what the American leaders wanted to avoid. Burchett described people dying of mysterious deaths long after the bombs had exploded. “In Hiroshima, thirty days after the first atomic bomb destroyed the city and shocked the world, people are still dying, mysteriously and horribly—people who were uninjured in the cataclysm, from an unknown something, which I can only describe as the atomic plague.” “Hiroshima does not look like a bombed city. It looks as if a monster steamroller has passed over it and squashed it out of existence. I write these facts as dispassionately as I can in the hope that they will act as a warning to the world.” “In this first testing ground of the atomic bomb I have seen the most terrible and frightening desolation in four years of war. It makes a blitzed Pacific island seem like an Eden. The damage is far greater than photographs can show.”

On September 5th, 1945 his story appeared in the London Daily Express. The revelations shocked readers and caused a public relations problem for the US. The official US version of events had sanitized the killings and denied that radiation sickness even existed. The US response was typical of all governments during war years. They proceeded to smother the media with more lies and discredit the actual truth. General MacArthur ordered that Burchett be expelled from Japan. Burchett’s camera and film disappeared. They accused Burchett of falling for Japanese propaganda, denied once again that radiation sickness existed and said that Hiroshima was actually an industrial and military target.
Major General Groves, who had been running the atomic bomb program, then met with the NYTimes and their science reporter, Bill Laurence, to get the ‘truth’ out to the American people. The NYTimes, Laurence and the US military together published 10 articles which helped shape American public opinion regarding this weapon of mass destruction. Laurence claimed that the atomic bombs represented, “a new era in civilization” and that radiation sickness was, “Japanese propaganda.” Laurence knew that his stories were lies because he had been at the first atomic bomb test on July 16th, 1945 held in New Mexico, USA and he knew about the radiation that subsequently poisoned local livestock and nearby American citizens.

Those 10 articles by Laurence that downplayed the human suffering and spoke glowingly of America’s technical mastery helped to change American public opinion into admiration for this great technical feat. Laurence, it turns out, was not only a flack for the NYTimes but also on the payroll of the War Department, something the NYTimes knew about because this offer to work for the War Department was made by General Groves at the NYTimes offices. They later explained that Laurence was, “to explain the intricacies of the atomic bomb’s operating principles in laymen’s language.” Laurence was fully entrenched in the atomic bomb program and was allowed the ‘privilege’ of being on the plane that bombed Nagasaki. He said, “Being close to it and watching it as it was being fashioned into a living thing, so exquisitely shaped that any sculptor would be proud to have created it, one . . . felt oneself in the presence of the supernatural.” In spite of all the duplicity, compromise and lies, this reporter, Laurence from the NYTimes, received the Pulitzer Prize for the 10 articles that were spread across America. Mr. Burchett, the Australian reporter who actually told the truth never received the prize and the prize to Laurence was never rescinded by Pulitzer when they became aware of the facts.

No one knows how many innocent civilians have died violently because of bombing. Even Iraq, in 2006, the story is the same. It is still OK to kill innocent people, in that country the total is most certainly over 100,000 since the US-led invasion began in 2003. As the American General Tommy Franks’
For reasons unknown, American leaders fail to understand how bombing others and the subsequent random killings and destruction actually work against them.

lie and tell us they didn’t use terrible weapons, such as white phosphorus on Falluja. When that lie is exposed they mumble until the public forgets, but not all of the public forgets. Thirdly they tell us that their bombing only targets the bad guys. There are a few problems with this ‘excuse.’ Firstly you cannot possibly tell the bad guys from the good guys at 30,000 feet and secondly it is not possible to hit only the ‘bad guys’ with over one million tons of bombs. The amount the Americans have admitted using in Afghanistan and Iraq, the true amount is probably much higher.

Since the bombing of civilians began a few people have tried to make this killing illegal. This was tried at the fourth Geneva Convention in 1949. Guess what? The US and the UK refused to sign. These bastions of democracy refused to ban the killing of civilians? Could this have had anything to do with the fact that together they were responsible for virtually all of the civilian bombing deaths, worldwide, up to that time? In 1977, after the Americans had killed a few million additional innocent people, a protocol was added to that Geneva Convention that outlawed civilian bombing and the UK agreed!! The Americans still refused to sign and they still reserve the right to bomb the hell out of cities and kill civilians today. This American attitude will no doubt change after some country becomes powerful enough to bomb the hell out of American cities and then they will be more than happy to sign this Convention. We all need to remember Einstein’s first rule of social interaction, “What goes around, comes around.”

There is another aspect to bombing that is widely misunderstood and that is that it is ineffective. Killing non-combatants just doesn’t work, it not only doesn’t work, it works against you. This has never been understood or acknowledged by the bomb-nuts because then they would lose their bombing toys. It is seldom
acknowledged by anyone else because they assume that it must work or, our government wouldn’t do that. A good rule of thumb, don’t trust your government.

Over the years ‘governments’ have caused far more devastation than they have ever prevented. The fact is that wars are started and fought by relatively few people. Why do the innocent people in so many other countries have to die? They don’t, of course, but they continue to die because people, in the West, primarily, have not forced their ‘leaders’ to make bombing illegal and they have not elected people who forsake killing. Until that happens the immoral bombing-nuts will continue to kill, needlessly.

Just think what those men have done to make their weapons more devastating. They have invented bombs that deliberately start and sustain fires after first destroying windows so the buildings will burn better. They have dropped sticky blobs of flaming jelly that cannot be removed and cannot be extinguished, even under water. They have dropped bombs with time delays so that they explode just when the ambulances are trying to remove the injured. The most egregious bomb-nuts have developed weapons that destroy whole cities or, if you prefer, they can destroy all the people in the cities and leave the buildings undamaged. They have developed other clearly immoral weapons such as millions of cluster bombs and then they have the hypocrisy to complain about suicide-bombers who lash nails to their fatal explosives and kill a few. The design and use of these weapons is clearly immoral and stupid, do you hear me, stupid! For America to continue with their use simply shows how barbarous America has become.

So now here we are in early summer 2006 and the US Air Farce has just announced Afghanistan, yes Afghanistan, the same country that America devastated years ago and then abandoned, was bombed 750 times during May, 2006. On May 21st the US bombed the village of Azizi killing 34 civilians. No problem, the US 9th Air Farce said the killings were, ‘regrettable’. Once again, “The bombing has sparked opposition to the US, which Afghan lawmakers blame for a surge in Taliban support.” What is it going to take, for Americans to realize that they would also rise up if someone bombed the hell out of their country?
According to the American military they finally got Zarqawi by dropping 1000 pounds of explosives on him. No need to arrest him and bother with a trial as everyone just knew he was guilty and besides, those trials can be so unpredictable. On the other hand it was unfortunate that six others including a woman and child were blown to pieces.

So what else is new? The remarkable thing is that after Zarqawi had two 500 pound bombs dropped him he looked good enough in death for the Americans to present him in large framed picture.

It is not known how many innocent people have been killed since the beginning of bombing. Obviously those needless killings of innocent people have been nothing more than legalized murder, which has minimized the chance of peace in all the conflicts in which bombs were used. Whatever the total, it was horrific, wrong and criminal. Until people consider the killing of innocents a punishable crime then ruthless leaders will continue to ignore this ‘collateral damage’ and willing engage us in war that only they want. It is also important that people resist taking part in these killings just because someone ‘senior’ to them says it is OK. Until that attitude changes and people actually think for themselves then the outrageous abuse of power that leads to the deliberate murder of so many civilians will remain a disgraceful part of human history.

When is the US media going to cover these American bombings? In Iraq these deaths have been far greater than all the deaths caused by 100,000 ignorant, young, grunts? With the exception of Seymour Hersh very few American journalists have acknowledged this source of American killing. Quite simply, the most deplorable barbarism on the planet since the beginning of World War II but it is unlikely that many Americans see it that way. Many of the survivors of US bombing in: Belgium during WW II, the Netherlands WW II, Luxembourg WW II, Hungary WW II, Italy WW II, Tunisia WW II, Greece WW II, Austria WW II, Romania WW II, Thailand WW II, Nauru WW II, Solomon Islands WW II, Papua New Guinea WW II, the Marshall Islands WW II, Singapore WW II, the Philippines WW II, Germany 1942-
Bombing Civilians


America is the only country in the world to have dropped bombs on anything like this number of countries since 1945. America has consistently used the ‘false power’ of bombing in their failed attempts to subjugate various peoples. I say ‘false power’ because America simply refuses to understand that the killing America achieves through bombing only inflames the survivors and creates even more hatred and more resistance to America. Look at Iraq for God’s sake!

These failed bombing campaigns have consistently shown that they have stiffened resistance to America. Bombing just doesn’t work! It has been a massive failure since America first used it in Haiti back in the 1920s; it has killed more innocent people and created more American hatred than any other aspect of America’s recent wars. Whatever the number killed, millions hate America for using bombing and weapons of mass destruction, to kill so many innocent people.
“It is a scandal in contemporary international law, don’t forget, that while ‘wanton destruction of towns, cities and villages’ is a war crime of long standing, the bombing of cities from airplanes goes not only unpunished but virtually unaccused. Air bombardment is state terrorism, the terrorism of the rich. It has burned up and blasted apart more innocents in the past six decades than have all the anti-state terrorists who ever lived. Something has benumbed our consciousness against this reality. In the United States we would not consider for the presidency a man who had once thrown a bomb into a crowded restaurant, but we are happy to elect a man who once dropped bombs from airplanes that destroyed not only restaurants but the buildings that contained them and the neighborhoods that surrounded them. I went to Iraq after the Gulf war and saw for myself what the bombs did; ‘wanton destruction’ is just the term for it.”

– C. Douglas Lummis, political scientist, 1994

The following is a summary of US Air Farce or ‘coalition’ actions taken during just one day in Afghanistan (or what they prefer to call Southwest Asia). In spite of all this destructive power, death and destruction are never mentioned and the number of completely innocent people killed remain unknown to their killers or the citizens who support them. The dead and their families are never considered, counted or compensated. The gravely injured are never cared for by the US and frequently die lonely, miserable deaths.


In Afghanistan July 24, Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt IIs provided close-air support for coalition troops in contact with enemy forces near Asadabad. The aircraft expended cannon rounds against enemy troop positions, ending the engagement.

Air Force A-10s provided close-air support for coalition troops in contact with enemy forces near Gereshk. The A-10s expended guided bomb unit-12s on an enemy troop position, ending the engagement.

Royal Air Force GR-7s provided close-air support for coalition troops in contact with enemy forces near Kandahar. The aircraft expended rockets on an enemy troop location, ending the engagement.

Air Force A-10s also provided close-air support to coalition troops in contact with enemy forces near Orgun-E, and A-10s and Royal Air Force GR-7s provided close-air support to coalition troops in contact with enemy forces near Musah Qal’eh.

Additionally, nine Air Force, French Air Force and Royal Air Force intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, aircraft flew missions in
support of operations in Afghanistan.

In total, coalition aircraft flew 32 close-air support missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. These missions included support to coalition and Afghan troops, reconstruction activities and route patrols.

In Iraq, Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons provided close-air support to troops in contact with anti-Iraqi forces near Baghdad and Ramadi.

Additionally, 17 Air Force, Navy and Royal Air Force ISR aircraft flew missions in support of operations in Iraq. Air Force fighter aircraft performed in non-traditional ISR roles with their electro-optical and infrared sensors.

In total, coalition aircraft flew 46 close-air support missions for Operation Iraqi Freedom. These missions included support to coalition troops, infrastructure protection, reconstruction activities and operations to deter and disrupt terrorist activities.

On July 23, an Air Force rescue and medical crew on a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter flew one medical evacuation mission in support of OEF. The crew evacuated one Afghan National Army patient with injuries requiring urgent care.

Air Force C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster IIIIs provided intra-theater heavy airlift support, helping sustain operations throughout Afghanistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa. They flew approximately 160 airlift sorties, delivered almost 415 tons of cargo and transported 2,900 passengers. This included more than 12,000 pounds of troop re-supply airdropped in eastern Afghanistan.

In addition, a theater C-17 flew one mission July 24, transporting more than 78,000 pounds of equipment and supplies in support of the US Central Command’s mission in the assisted departure of American citizens from Lebanon.

Coalition C-130 crews from Canada flew in support of either OIF or OEF.

BRAZIL

“Repulics are created by the virtue, public spirit, and intelligence of the citizens. They fall, when the wise are banished from the public councils, because they dare to be honest, and the profligate are rewarded, because they flatter the people, in order to betray them.”

– Justice Joseph Story (1779-1845)
US Supreme Court Justice, 1833

“Poverty is but the worst form of violence.”
– Mahatma Gandhi

“The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, but he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them.”
– George Orwell

Brazil evolved like most ‘new world’ countries. The rich and powerful Europeans exploited the poor and that way of doing business continues to this day. Many of the original inhabitants were decimated by disease and the living conditions inflicted on them. When they could no longer do the work slaves

The Europeans invariably sought to control the poor with force rather than kindness.
were brought to Brazil to replace them.

The slaves also suffered high mortality rates and additional boatloads had to be brought to Brazil to replace the people who died due to poor treatment. Although slaves were expensive the need to ‘control’ them with force and treat them worse than animals was part of the slave owner’s mindset. The Portuguese ran Brazil from 1500 to 1822 although other European powers tried to get in on this vast land and its resources. Slavery was abolished in 1888, 23 years after America. A military coup overthrew a monarchist in 1889 and this military type of government was to ensure that Brazil would remain a poorly governed nation for over 100 years.

Another military coup took over in 1930 and then another in 1945. In 1941 America established military bases in the northern part of Brazil without waiting for authorization from the Brazilian government. Oh well, the Americans had been part of the Brazilian government for years anyway. The right-wing and the undemocratic Getulio Vargas, who the US supported, agreed to declare war against the Germans. More than 20,000 Brazilian troops eventually made their way to the war in Europe and almost 500 died in the fighting. The economy deteriorated after WWII and the President shot himself a few years later. In his suicide note he suggested that ‘foreign forces’ had caused Brazil’s latest economic crisis and coincidentally crowds attacked the US embassy in Rio.

There was a relatively fair election in 1950 but it is not really possible to say when an election has been ‘relatively fair’ without knowing about the back room machinations, that are always withheld from us. In any case a former military guy won this election as well, before being shot in August 1954.

The next President sought to kick start the economy by encouraging foreign investment, reducing taxes and giving corporations land. The foreigners thrived but the existing Brazilian businesses could not compete. The handouts to foreigners encouraged more American investment and involvement. The Americans who took advantage of this largeness wanted it to continue but they saw dark clouds on the horizon with the election of João Belchior Marques Goulart. Goulart was a rich land owner but also a leftist which he demonstrated by increasing the minimum wage by 100%. He was suspected by the right-wing Brazilian military for these tendencies and he continued to confirm those suspicions by nationalizing some oil refineries and expropriating unused land. He limited the money corporations could take out of the country and allowed the unions to return. For this and other reasons he was very popular

This military man overthrew the government in 1930 and was himself overthrown by another military man in 1945 however he was returned in a free election in 1950.
with most people in Brazil but not the wealthy American business interests.

Brazil had always been plagued by a rich minority and they worked behind the scenes to get rid of this rich leftist. By using the usual political smear tactics they accused him of wanting to establish a communist dictatorship. The man selected to replace him was General Humberto de Alencar Castelo Branco. The busy boys in the US embassy worked to discredit Goulart whenever possible while they worked to support those who plotted to overthrow him. The CIA was active for years as they worked against Goulart and his predecessor, who quit because of the threats. Goulart had turned down millions if Brazil supported the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba and that may have been his undoing. As the American plot against Goulart progressed America did not deliver the helicopters that Goulart wanted because America was not sure about where Goulart was going. He also got himself in hot American water by refusing to cooperate with American efforts to isolate Cuba. The CIA spent millions supporting opponents of Goulart and as the US ambassador Lincoln Gordon was to say, “that measures be taken soonest to prepare for a clandestine delivery of arms of non-US origin, to be made available to Castello Branco supporters in Sao Paulo.” US naval forces were used to deliver these guns, as the ambassador suggested, via an “unmarked submarine to be off-loaded at night in isolated shore spots in state of Sao Paulo south of Santos.”

President Johnson was convinced that this coup was important but not important enough to be made public. On the contrary, the US went to considerable lengths in Brazil to hide their involvement, including the refusal to release documents to this day (2006). The US also supported selected ‘pro-US’ Brazilian military officers in order to have a nucleus of support in the military. On April 1st, 1964 Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara told President Johnson that the task force had set sail and an Esso tanker with motor and aviation gasoline would soon be in the vicinity of Santos. An ammunition airlift was being readied in New Jersey and could be sent to Brazil within 16 hours. The US tankers were disguised as ships from Aruba and the airlift was to include 110 tons of ammunition and other equipment including ‘CS agent’, a special gas for mob control.

These operations are complex and many details must be considered but America has always been willing to spend big bucks to defeat those commies.
Over 40 Brazilian police officers were trained in the US between 1961 and 1963. The CIA infiltrated unions in Brazil to steer them in the ‘right’ directions. Almost 200 Brazilians attended CIA-directed labor training courses in the US from 1961-1964. The lines between Washington and the US embassy in Brazil were buzzing before the coup. During the coup there was confusion as to who was supporting who and some troops loyal to Goulart resisted the coup, to no avail. The one organized group with a plan knew what they were doing whereas the loyal government forces didn’t know what was going on. In the end the group with the plan prevailed and the coup occurred on March 31, 1964. On April 2nd, 1964 the CIA was able to send a signal to the White House, “Joao Goulart, deposed President of Brazil, left Porto Alegre about 1 p.m. local time for Montevideo.” The military was to rule Brazil, with American support, until 1985.

Branco fit right in and did what he was expected to do. He banned labor unions because the rich think that they cut into profits. He made it illegal to criticize the President. He had thousands of suspected communist arrested and many people were tortured and some killed, even though they weren’t communists. Land was stolen from the poor or the native people and given to friends. Senior government officials who were making vast sums off the drug trade were protected. He had Brazil join the World Anti-communist League. He changed the constitution which increased the power of the military and the President and he helped other military takeovers succeed in other South American countries, such as General Videla in Argentina. When Branco got the boot in 1967 he had changed the constitution so that the military and the President had much greater powers. Those changes made it much more difficult for democracy to return to Brazil.

These American efforts continued and led to years of right-wing military rule that Brazil is still recovering from. In short Branco and the decades of military rule that America made possible failed the people of Brazil but helping the majority of the people of Brazil was never a priority.

Once again America knowingly failed to support democracy, which a hypocritical America always professes to do. They stood by while thousands were tortured or killed. They caused real wages in Brazil to drop by almost 50% which led to

General Branco may not have been too bad on his own but in conjunction with his right-wing officers, that had been trained in the US at the School of the Americas, they made life impossible for any leftist.
further financial hardship to the people. They encouraged lawlessness by their underhanded illegal activities and in the long term they helped turn not only Brazil but many of the people in Central and South America against America. Only a completely new way of dealing with countries based on equality and honesty will reduce the hatred that many in Brazil feel for America.

The landless still protest in Brazil and in past protests many have been killed by the police.
“For most of the history of the American empire, government has been a tool for preserving and furthering the power and might of white male corporate elites ...”

– Cornel West

“In the eyes of empire builders men are not men but instruments.”

– Napoleon Bonaparte, French Emperor (1769-1821)

“The country is governed for the richest, for the corporation, the bankers, the land speculators, and for the exploiters.”

– Helen Keller

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed.”

– Mahatma Ghandi

“The be-all and end-all of life should not be to get rich, but to enrich the world.”

– Don Williams Jr.

Sir Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan of Brunei was knighted by the Queen of England presumably because he did something worthwhile. In fact he was knighted because he is rich just like the Queen. The Queen and the rich like to stick together; that’s all they have in common.

A reasonable person would be hard-pressed to consider the Sultan a good guy. This man is one of the world’s richest because he was born that way. He lives in a part of the world that is racked with poverty and oil, yet this man is quite content to spend billions on himself. To get around, he has two 747-400s and thousands of cars; not just ordinary cars, mind you, Ferrari stations wagons and over 200 Rolls-Royces. It is quite well known by RR owners that if you’re going to own one RR you might as well get 200. This avoids the difficulties associated with 199 of the RRs breaking down! Owning thousands of cars also means that you need five aircraft hangers and a maintenance department to service them. In the 1990s, his family accounted for almost one-half of all Rolls-Royce cars sold worldwide. His daughter is also on this
decadent gravy-train as she was given an Airbus aircraft for her 18th birthday; presumably it comes with a crew. Naturally the Sultan has a palace which he must get lost in from time to time as it has 1,788 rooms and these are not small rooms. The palace is thought to have cost over $1 billion dollars which makes Bill G. look like a bit of a piker.

This is obviously a guy who feels that it is quite proper to keep a vast amount of wealth for himself while billions have nothing. With that certainty in mind he was approached by good old Oliver North for a little contribution for the ‘Democratic Resistance’ in Nicaragua. This was the illegal war against a legitimate government waged by the CIA and the American President, Ronald Reagan. The Sultan was happy to kick in $10,000,000 for ‘democracy’ in Nicaragua even though there is none in Brunei. The Sultan spends lots of money to make sure that Brunei remains a monarchical dictatorship. In conjunction with those plans Brunei has been under a State of Emergency since 1982. This state of emergency is handy because it enables the Sultan can act more forcefully if a poverty stricken citizen should complain.

The Sultan also cooperates with the CIA and the CIA cooperates with him. The CIA
provides valuable information to the Sultan regarding threats or uprisings that may threaten his lifestyle. The Sultan also had some dough in the Nugan Hand Bank of Australia which eventually closed down. This bank was a CIA front in the 1960s and 70s for South East Asian drug operations and money laundering. In 1978 the Nugan Hand bank submitted a proposal to “provide His Highness, the Sultan, with a bank structure and depository system which he alone can control should any change of government take place.” In other words, should democracy ever kick this guy out, he, and he alone, would still have access to the billions he stole from the people of Brunei.

It is remarkably perverse but quite understandable that America and England, two plutocracies, should support this degree of selfishness. In fact England honored this despot with a knighthood so he is now, Sir Hassanal Bolkiah. I guess that’s the least they can do for a guy who buys so many Rolls Royce cars. America has never tried to assist the people who have protested the inequality in Brunei, on the contrary, they have supported the Sultan. According to Amnesty International, Brunei’s jails hold “at least five prisoners of conscience who have spent 25 years in detention without having been convicted of any crime.” The poor billions in this part of the world hate America for helping the super rich keep the wealth that everyone should be sharing.
CAMBODIA

“Americans have been taught that their nation is civilized and humane. But, too often, US actions have been uncivilized and inhumane.”

– Howard Zinn, historian and author

“No one has ever succeeded in keeping nations at war except by lies.”

– Salvador de Madariaga (1886-1978), Spanish writer, diplomat, and historian.

“The United States is the greatest threat to world peace, and has been for a long time, and not merely because it is the world’s only superpower. Equally important, the United States is also far more disposed to use its power than any other powerful nation currently is. Though Americans are culturally and emotionally blind to the fact, the mere intrusion of US power is, in and of itself, destabilizing.”

– T.D. Allman

The people of Cambodia were there for a long time before the Europeans showed up and decided that, “Hey, this is a nice place but we are running things around here now.” The same old arrogance they used on every country they came across. In 1863 the King of Cambodia signed an agreement with the French that resulted in French domination in exchange for French protection from other white guys. The French did not keep their end of the bargain.

King Norodom Sihanouk was installed by the French in 1941. He cooperated with the French but he was Cambodian and wanted independence for his country, along with most other Cambodians. The French finally agreed to a limited independence in October 1953 however Sihanouk sold it to his people as true independence and the whole country celebrated. In the late 1950s the CIA was in Cambodia and they
tried to get rid of Sihanouk at that time but their efforts were not successful.

Sihanouk tried to maintain neutrality for his country but the American war with Vietnam made this difficult. In the mid 1960s the Vietnamese moved troops into parts of eastern Cambodia with Sihanouk’s tacit approval. America wanted to attack those troops as the Vietnam War was raging and Sihanouk could not really protest when the Americans sought to bomb his country for ‘a short period of time’. The bombing lasted 14 months and was kept secret from the American people. Sihanouk allowed the American bombing and the Vietnamese into Cambodia because they were both too powerful for him to refuse but the bombing created death and enormous hardship for some Cambodians. These events did not make it any easier for Sihanouk to run the country.

At the beginning of 1970, Prince Sihanouk left Cambodia for medical treatment and he left General Lon Nol in charge. After the Prince had been away for a few months General Nol deposed him and took over. The CIA helped the military and Lon Nol overthrow Prince Sihanouk supporters even though the Prince was very popular with the people for keeping them out of the Vietnam War. Lon Nol, immediately threw Cambodian troops into battle which is just what his American supporters had convinced him he must do. This unpopular move strengthened the once minor opposition parties, like the Khmer Rouge.

America supported and encouraged this takeover of Cambodia because they thought Lon Nol would make life more difficult for the North Vietnamese. On October 9, 1970 the Cambodian monarchy was abolished, and the country was renamed the Khmer Republic. The Americans thought the new regime was working out just fine when Lon Nol told the North Vietnamese to get out of Cambodia but the North Vietnamese said they weren’t leaving. While all this was going on Nixon had ordered South Vietnamese troops, with American support, into Cambodia to kill the North Vietnamese Army units. These efforts were basically failures however it was becoming more and more difficult to run Cambodia as the communist forces were gaining in strength due to American support of the illegal Cambodian government.

In 1972 this secret war was no longer secret so the American Congress voted to cut off illegal CIA funds for this Cambodian adventure. In 1973 Nixon started to secretly bomb Cambodia, again, in an attempt to prop up the Lon Nol regime and kill the North Vietnamese in Cambodia. The Nixon administration secretly intensified this bombing of Cambodia, without the support or authorization of Congress. This
bombing also violated an agreement with North Vietnam signed in January 1973.

On July 31, 1973 Democrat Robert Drinan, introduced the first impeachment resolution against President Richard Nixon. Congressman Drinan’s resolution was a result of Nixon’s secret bombing of Cambodia. The fourteen months of massive B-52 carpet bombing killed tens of thousands of Cambodian villagers and an unknown number of Vietnamese communist soldiers. These bombings were also kept secret from Congress and the public, until exposed by the New York Times. In transcripts of telephone conversations Nixon is heard ordering more force to be used on the North Vietnamese in Cambodia. “It’s a disgraceful performance. I want gunships in there. That means armed helicopters, DC-3s, anything else that will destroy personnel that can fly. I want it done! Get them off their asses.” Even after knowing about this needless killing, the House impeachment committee voted against Drinan’s resolution.

American C-130 aircraft were used on flights from Bangkok to Phnom Penh to support the government of Lon Nol during 1973, 1974 and 1975. Arms, ammunition and supplies were organized by the CIA to oppose the Khmer Rouge.
The suffering of the Cambodian people increased the anti-American feelings and helped the communist Khmer Rouge insurgents gain strength. The US bombing had left countless of thousands dead and created millions of refugees. The economy was a mess and many were hungry and most blamed the US. After years of fighting the American supported government troops of Lon Nol, the Cambodian communists felt strong enough to launch a major attack in late 1975. After more than three months they defeated the South Vietnamese and the Cambodian troops that were supplied by America.

The leader of the Cambodian communists was Pol Pot and after victory in April 1975 he immediately ordered the urban Cambodians out to the rural areas for 'reeducation'. Everything indicates that Pol Pot was a brutal monster so it is hard to understand how he could have had such a following but war is a brutal master so maybe he fit right in. In any case many of the urbanites forced into the countryside were already starving before their expulsions and this move only made things worse. An estimated 2 million people eventually died, about one-third of Cambodia's population. This is equivalent to 100 million dying in America. The killings and dying continued until the North Vietnamese stepped in and overthrew Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge in 1979. Many of the Khmer Rouge escaped to Thailand where they received humanitarian aid and more arms from America. Pol Pot died of a suspect heart attack in 1998. Note: America

*The Prince in 1975. He was in and out of Cambodia numerous times in numerous roles thanks to outside influence or pressure.*

*Pol Pot 4 years before he died. His wife stood by him until the end. He was also a graduate of the Sorbonne in Paris.*
did not step in and stop the carnage that they started!

In 1979 a documentary was made about Cambodia called, ‘Year Zero: The Silent Death of Cambodia’. It described the American bombing that had provided the catalyst for the rise of Pol Pot, and it showed the shocking human effects of the embargo. Year Zero was broadcast in some 60 countries, but never in the United States, the ‘land of the free’. When the writer of this film flew to Washington and offered it to the Public Broadcasting System, he received a curious reaction. The PBS executives were shocked by the film, and spoke admiringly of it, even as they collectively shook their heads. One of them said, “John (Pilger), we are disturbed that your film tells that United States played such a destructive role, so we have decided to call in a journalistic adjudicator.” ‘Journalistic adjudicator’, my ass! The wimps at PBS had no guts!

PBS appointed Richard Dudman, a reporter on the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and one of the few Westerners to have been invited by Pol Pot to visit Cambodia. His dispatches reflected none of the savagery then enveloping that country; he even praised Pol Pot. Not surprisingly, he gave the Munro/Pilger film the thumbs-down. One of the PBS executives later confided to Pilger, “These are difficult days under Ronald Reagan. Your film would have given us problems.” So much for the PBS or American freedom!

Cambodia was occupied by the Vietnamese until 1989. In 1993 the UN supervised elections; Sihanouk was installed as King and normalcy started to return. The Khmer Rouge started to rapidly lose support after these changes in the mid 1990s. A coalition government, formed after national elections in 1998, brought renewed political stability and the surrender of remaining Khmer Rouge forces in 1998.

Sam Rainsy was finance minister of Cambodia in 1993 but was expelled from the party in 1994. He was accused of numerous corruption offenses and left the country. He was supported by the International Republican Institute (IRI) who were opposed to Prime Minster Hun Sen. The IRI is a well funded group of right wing American millionaires who meddle in the affairs of foreign counties to create governments that America likes. As if the CIA wasn’t enough!

Cambodia has suffered like no other country. If America had not helped to overthrow Prince Sihanouk

Sam Rainsy was fired from his job as finance minister but it is very difficult to know who the good guys are. Being support by rich American republicans doesn’t look good but it shows that Americans are still unwilling to let the people of Cambodia run their own country.
back in 1970 much of the disaster that then unfolded would never have occurred. America’s aggression was not the Cambodian way. By setting this aggressive, violent example and destroying the cultural ties that held Cambodia together America unleashed an unparalleled tragedy. Millions in this part of the world retain their hatred for America and the killing machine that they unleashed.
Canada is more like America than any other country. Although Canadians maintain they are very different, except in the province of Quebec, those differences are minor. Things have not always been smooth between the two countries. America invaded Canada in 1775 and 1812 and other skirmishes took place right up to Canadian Confederation which occurred in 1867. These American threats helped Canada to unite as many felt this would provide them with greater security from the various Americans who still sought Canadian land and resources. Since that time Canada and the US have been very close and today are each others largest trading partners, by far.

Although Canadians like to think of themselves as ‘peacekeepers’ they have been involved in more than their share of foreign wars. In 1884 almost 400 Canadians served under the British during a military operation in the Sudan. In 1900 almost 8,000 Canadians fought in the Boer War and were also involved in the brutal concentration camps in which thousands of Boer’s died. Over 600,000 Canadians were involved in World War I during which 67,000 were killed and 173,000 wounded. This was a casualty rate almost 500% higher than America who only entered the war in 1917. In 1919 Canada also sent troops to Russia to help defeat the new Russian commies but they, and the Americans, saw little action before deciding that Russia was too big to tackle. In a little over a week, after Hitler invaded Poland, Canada declared war on Germany, September 10th, 1939. America entered this war after the Japanese bombed Hawaii on the 7th of December, 1941. The number of Canadians killed...
at 42,000 and 55,000 wounded was not as bad as the First World War but still proportionately higher than the US due to Canada’s rush to war.

Due to Canada’s close alignment with America, Canada stationed troops and equipment in Germany and France during the cold war. Canadian Prime Minister Diefenbaker agreed to buy the American Bomarc missile but not the required nuclear warhead. He was replaced by Prime Minister Pearson who accepted nuclear weapons on Canadian soil but they were always under American control. Pearson did not join in on the Vietnam War; in fact he criticized this war during a speech he gave in the US. Canada maintained ties with Cuba and rejected the Organization of American States due to the large number of American supported dictators at that time. Pearson was replaced by the French Canadian Pierre Trudeau who removed American nukes from Canada, recognized China, reduced Canadian troops in Europe, said that the state had no place in the bedrooms of the nation, became a close friend with the Russian ambassador and smoked cigars with Castro, all very unpopular moves with US leaders.

More recently Prime Minister Chrétien refused to enter the ‘Coalition of the Willing’, also known as the War in Iraq. Many Canadians regard this as Chrétien’s best decision, by far. After many years as Prime Minister, during which Canada’s relationship with America remained cool, Chrétien retired and left his former finance minister, Paul Martin in charge.

In time a federal election was held between Paul Martin and an aspiring wantabe Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, plus a few others who didn’t stand a chance. Martin was generally seen as competent but not particularly inspiring. Harper was seen as more right-wing, tougher on crime, in favor of more military, less environmental control, reduced taxes and more pro-American.

If you took your car to an experienced mechanic because it had a ‘mystery’ ailment, the mechanic would be more likely to correctly diagnose the problem because of experience with similar problems. When you learn more about the way American governments have intervened in the affairs of other countries you no longer dismiss these interventions as commie propaganda but you come to recognize patterns or actions that seem possible or even likely.

The election between Martin and Harper fell into that category, a possible American manipulation however this possibility was never covered in the media or discussed by Canadians.

As countries go Canada is relatively progressive and developed so America must tread carefully as it tries to steer Canada along the American path. This statement reflects the fact that America tries to steer virtually every country along the American path. This manipulation or intervention may take many paths and may or may not be successful, but the effort is always made, when required or opportune. There are American agents or economic hit men at every American embassy or trade delegation around the world, when it is decided that their services are required. Even countries that America regards as intransigent or potential enemies like Iran, North Korea or Syria, do not escape scrutiny,
covert planning and eventual intervention, if and when America decides to act.

On January 26th, 2006 the Canadian federal election was to be held. The long-term Liberal government, led by Martin, faced a serious challenge by Harper of the newly revived Conservative party, primarily due to their own incompetence and a Liberal corruption scandal that received a lot of press. The Canadian media also played up a couple of other issues. They convinced the average Canadian that their military was woefully inadequate and needed billions in new (American) weapons. They also convinced many Canadians that ‘terrorism’ was a serious threat, which the Liberal government was not taking seriously enough. The Conservatives promised to correct these ‘errors’. The American government preference for a Conservative election was well know due to the fact that the Conservatives embraced many of the American policies and actions. For decades the Liberals had not been as, ‘on-side’, as various American governments would have liked them to be. Harper has also cozied up to the Americans during a number of visits and he has also been accepted into various plutocratic organizations such as the Bilderbergers, who Harper met with in 2003.

A few months before this election, on November 23rd, 2005 the Liberal finance minister announced certain tax policies but in the hours before his announcement it appeared that some people knew about those polices in advance and bought various shares on the stock exchange accordingly. Naturally there were calls by the opposition parties, including the leader of the Conservatives, Mr. Harper, for this finance minister’s resignation but he refused. On December 28th, 2005 the head of Canada’s national police force, RCMP Commissioner Guiliano Zaccardelli confirmed in a letter to an opposition politician, “We would like to advise you that a review of this matter has been completed. Based on the information obtained during the review, the RCMP will be commencing a criminal investigation.” This comment was immediately released to the press, as Zaccardelli knew it would be, less than one month before the January 26th, 2006 election date.

This RCMP announcement convinced many Canadians that this Liberal government was now guilty of more scandalous behavior. If the national police force was launching a ‘criminal’ investigation then the Liberals were up to their old tricks. This RCMP announcement was unusual because it came so close to an election, because the RCMP tainted one of the main political parties before any guilt was proven, because this type of action by the head of the RCMP is virtually unprecedented and because the RCMP has refused to release any information which they used to make their announcement in the first place.

The election was held and the Conservatives won a narrow victory. As the following polling graph shows, the Liberal lead, the top bar on the left, started to drop immediately after this RCMP announcement as the Conservatives, second bar on the left, started to rise.

The strange behavior of the police commissioner remains to be explained.
Making a statement that would obviously affect the election, without laying charges, was a serious breach of political neutrality that the RCMP is supposed to maintain.

It is well known that the RCMP and various American security and police forces work closely together. It is also well known that police departments are always pushing for more men and equipment so a new Conservative government would benefit the RCMP as fighting crime was a stated Conservative priority. In any case the RCMP is not supposed to manipulate Canadian federal elections and yet this is exactly what they did.

Since the Canadian election the new Conservative government of Mr. Harper has greatly expanded Canada’s involvement in Afghanistan, (see the Afghanistan chapter) they have spent billions on new military equipment, some of which can only be justified for offensive Canadian operations in other countries. They have supported the suspicious arrest and detention of 17 men who were allegedly plotting various terrorist actions against Canada but it is beginning to look like these men were encouraged by Canadian security forces and informants and that the treat they posed was exaggerated. They have honored the Prime Minister of Australia who has supported Bush Jr. at every turn, including incarceration without charge at Guantanamo. They have implemented Bush Jr. polices such as minimizing exposure for Canadian war dead as they returned to Canada and they have compromised in trade disputes with the US, to the advantage of the Americans. They have also abandoned the Kyoto Accord, which the former Liberals paid lip service to. In other words they are much more comfortable with the American way and the American ambassador to Canada said as much in September 2006. “We have entered a new era of co-operation in Canada US relations.”

Mr. Harper confirmed his willingness to co-operate with America during a recent (Sep. 2006) speech in NY. Canada wants, “a strong partnership in
building both a more competitive and more secure North America.” And Canada wants, “a common will to advance, in concert with our democratic allies, our shared values and interests throughout the world.” In other words Canada will work with the US to ensure that North America continues to grab an inordinate percentage of the world’s resources while at the same time forcing the rest of the world to accept American interests and values. This goes to the heart of the difficulties that America has and Canada will increasingly have with other nations.

Meanwhile a 30 month Canadian public inquiry was held into the rendition of a Canadian by the name of Mayer Arar. Dennis O’Connor, the inquiry commissioner reported that Arar was never a terrorist and yet he was sent to Syria and tortured for almost a year because Canada’s national police force, the RCMP, sent false information to the Americans. The Americans flew Arar to Syria from New York when he was on his way home to Canada. After O’Conner exonerated Arar the American Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales said that the US never sent Arar to Syria for torture. “Mr. Arar was deported under our immigration laws. He was initially detained because his name appeared on terrorists lists. Some people have characterized his removal as a rendition. That is not what happened here. It was a deportation.” HUH? If you deport someone, you deport them to their country of citizenship. Not half way around the world to a country with a record of violent interrogations, a country that the detainee does not want to go to.

This, however, is not the most inexplicable aspect of this case. The head of the RCMP, Giuliano Zaccardelli, has not, as yet, apologized for the errors that led to the torture and imprisonment of Arar. Stephen Harper, the relatively new Prime Minister of Canada, has also refused to apologize but more importantly has refused to discipline Zaccardelli. There is something funny going on here.

Why would anyone refuse to apologize to a man who was falsely imprisoned and tortured for a year? And why has Harper refused to discipline a man who is the head of Canada’s national police force?
police force? A police force that happily handed out false information about a Canadian, deliberately withheld crucial facts from the Privy Council, leaked misleading information to smear Arar, has fought tooth and nail to keep the names of any RCMP persons involved in the Arar case from the public, refused to provide the RCMP Public Complaints Commissioner with information that would have been helpful as well as having been being less than co-operative with numerous other cases of RCMP bungling? There is no logical reason to keep a man like this on the job, unless... Harper owes Zaccardelli for previous favors.

Zaccardelli’s previous announcement, just before the election that narrowly put Harper in office, was never explained. The RCMP is not in the habit of smearing a political party, by advising the country that it is subject to a criminal investigation, and then dropping the investigation. At the very least they should have kept the investigation secret and when ready, pressed charges. If Zaccardelli worked with the Americans to leak this information, so that the RCMP and the Americans could benefit, then it wouldn’t be the first time that America has manipulated the affairs of a friendly ally. Many of the chapters in this book deal with American interventions and the vast majority of those interventions were taken against countries that were not enemies of America.

Citizens in every country do not know what secret deals are made behind closed doors between government men with vested interests. Generally speaking citizens do know that these secret deals are commonplace but governments are working harder and harder to keep the complete truth from their citizens. Funding for these secret government departments has grown exponentially in recent years. Ironically this comes at a time when governments seek to know more and more about us, while keeping it secret, of course.

America has a long history of manipulation and intervention in countries around the world. Just pick up any newspaper, on any day, in any city and those actions are likely to make the front page. Until America comes to believe that they do not have the right to tell everyone else what to do those actions will continue. Freedom, equality, peace and prosperity will continue to suffer until that day.
CHILE

“With unfailing consistency, US intervention has been on the side of the rich and powerful of various nations at the expense of the poor and needy. Rather than strengthening democracies, US leaders have overthrown numerous democratically elected governments or other populist regimes in dozens of countries. . . whenever these nations give evidence of putting the interests of their people ahead of the interests of multinational corporate interests.”

– Michael Parenti, political scientist and author

“You will always have my unconditional loyalty, Mr. President.”

– General Pinochet when asked by President Allende about a pending coup.

“When the people fear the government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is democracy.”

– Thomas Jefferson

“Violence can only be concealed by a lie, and the lie can only be maintained by violence.”

– Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Of all the American interventions, in countries all around the world, the intervention in Chile is perhaps the best know. This overthrow of a competent, democratic government and the horrendous government that replaced it has been well documented. The subsequent abuse and killing of so many innocent people, as well as the economic disasters that befell Chile made the American actions all the more reprehensible. America helped to destroy the bright future that Chile could have had, never acknowledged their actions or made amends.

Chile followed the typical path that plagued all South and Central American societies. The Europeans showed up with their superior weapons and told the indigenous people what to do, or else. From the first Europeans to settle in 1537 until 1930 various powerful men fought to become the dictator of Chile and they invariably supported the rich landowners who of course supported
them. In 1932 the emerging middle class elected a government that tried to protect the interests of all the people. They were certainly more responsive that previous dictatorships and this type of government was democratically elected in Chile for the next 38 years.

During that period it became obvious to many Chileans that more needed to be done to improve life for the majority of Chileans who remained desperately poor. One of the leading politicians with that attitude was Salvador Allende and he nearly won the presidential election in 1958. America and their government manipulation team, the CIA, became very concerned. The last thing they wanted was a government that was even more socialistic than the previous elected Chilean governments. The American belief, that they had the right to tell the Chileans what kind of government they were going to have, stemmed from the same arrogance the Europeans used, to decimate every single aboriginal population in the western hemisphere.

In 1961 the American State Department, the CIA and the White House all worked together to stop Chile’s moves to the left. They proceeded to spend millions on getting the result they wanted in the 1964 election. They infiltrated and supported opposition political parties. They supported and trained ‘anti-communists’ wherever they could find them and they tried to influence, students, peasants, unions and ordinary Chileans whenever and wherever they could.

Allende was still actively seeking the Chilean presidency so the CIA needed a candidate they could support who would defeat Allende. They selected Eduardo Frei Montalva and mounted a massive anti-communist propaganda campaign to ensure his victory in the 1964 elections. Allende was not a communist but a Marxist which was close enough for the CIA and the White House. The CIA propaganda reached the press, radio, films, posters, leaflets, direct mailings, wall painting and others. Over 100 Americans worked, all secretly, of course, to ensure the election of Frei and the defeat of Allende. An anti-communist letter from the Pope was distributed by the hundreds of thousands. With typical CIA honesty the letter carried the statement: “Printed privately by citizens without political affiliation.”

The American Senate committee investigating the CIA’s role in Chile years later, reported, “The propaganda campaign was enormous.”

Allende is still revered as a good man in South America. His elimination by the United States is also well known throughout the world.
funded propaganda group produced 20 radio spots per day in Santiago and on 44 provincial stations; twelve minute news broadcasts five times daily on 3 Santiago stations and 24 provincial outlets, thousands of cartoons, and much paid press advertising.” “The (anti-Allende) group produced 24 daily newscasts in Santiago and the provinces, 26 weekly ‘commentary’ programs and distributed 3,000 posters daily.” In Chile between 1953 and 1970, the CIA subsidized wire services, magazines written for intellectual circles and a right-wing weekly newspaper, among others.

In the 1964 election Frie received 56% of the votes whereas Allende got 39%. The CIA was proud of their efforts manipulating the voters of Chile and regarded “the anti-communist scare campaign as the most effective activity undertaken.” As the Senate committee investigating the CIA was to say, Allende was the bad guy as he planned to “redistribute income and reshape the Chilean economy, beginning with the nationalization of major industries, especially the copper companies; greatly expand agrarian reform and expand relations with socialist and communist countries.” These plans by Allende were enough for America to mess around with the desires of the Chilean people for a democratic government. However, powerful arrogant Americans didn’t see it that way. Henry Kissinger encapsulated the American attitude very nicely when he said, “I don’t see why we need to stand around and watch a country go communist because of the irresponsibility of its own people.” Henry’s knowledge of democracy was dreadfully weak.

Another election loomed in 1970 and Allende ran again while America continued to spend millions to “ensure democracy in this part of the hemisphere.” It would appear that all of the Americans involved in these anti-democratic actions must have been drugged by the CIA into believing whatever the CIA wanted them to believe. The CIA operation in Chile received the following instructions in early 1970. “It is firm and continuing policy that Allende be overthrown by a coup. It would be much preferable to have this transpire prior to 24 October (1970) but efforts in this regard will continue vigorously beyond this date. We are to continue to generate maximum pressure toward this end, utilizing every appropriate resource. It is imperative that these actions be implemented clandestinely.
and securely so that the United States Government and the American hand be well hidden.”

An important question needs to be asked here. Why, if America is so proud of its efforts to bring ‘free enterprise’ and ‘democracy’ to various counties, do they work in secret and then try to keep their efforts secret? Is America not proud of what it does?

The CIA continued with their efforts to make sure Allende failed and the CIA was confident he would be defeated again but their efforts were unsuccessful. Allende won a very narrow victory, 36.3% of the vote versus 35.8% for the conservative candidate, supported by America, in the September 4th 1970 election. Because this was not a majority the National Congress of Chile had to vote and they voted for Allende 153 to 35. Clearly American plutocracy had failed in Chile but the Americans never accept defeat gracefully or admit they are wrong.

This outcome was remarkable because America did everything possible to defeat Allende. On September 15th 1970, Nixon, Kissinger and the head of the CIA met in Washington to decide what to do. Leaving Chile alone to run its own affairs was never considered an option but the head of the CIA then wrote the following to his ‘troops’, “One in ten chance but save Chile!... Not concerned with risks involved... $10,000,000 available, more if necessary... make the economy scream.” America then went to work by wrecking the Chilean economy and in this way getting rid of Allende.

The CIA gang first tried to bribe the Congress vote so that Allende’s small election victory would fail, that didn’t work so they tried to organize a coup by the Chilean military and then cancel the vote. They investigate killing Allende and started a new propaganda campaign telling the country what a disaster he would be as President. They let it be known that America would cut off aid and they planned to introduce numerous other measures to wreck the economy. After their initial efforts failed they concluded that this was going to take longer than planned.

America has always been committed to protecting the America plutocracy by preventing any genuine socialist government anywhere on this planet. Due to the Congressional vote Allende did become President of Chile so now America had to use any dirty trick, in the very dirty American trick book.
The CIA proceeded to arm the Chilean military men that they had bribed, with machine guns, tear gas and other weapons. Over time the Americans made economic decisions that make life more difficult for the new government. They continued with their propaganda to turn the people of Chile against Allende while canceling all economic aid to Chile. They stopped shipments of essential parts for Chilean equipment made in America, even though Chile agreed to pay cash. They increased military training for the Chilean forces in Panama and the States where they tried to brainwash these troops against Allende. Allende allowed this ‘training’ so that the military would not be antagonized. They promoted strikes and financed them so that they would last longer.

During the first year of Allende’s government their performance was impressive. Industrial growth was up 12%, gross domestic product was up 8.6% and inflation was down from 35% to 22%. Allende promptly raised the minimum wage 35 percent, he sent a ‘people’s health train’ around Chile with free medical supplies and trained personnel, and launched a program to provide every child and pregnant or nursing woman with free milk every day. He also added 3.5 million acres of land to the 8.5 million already ‘reformed’ by former President Frei which provided for the “expropriation with compensation of excessively large, ill-managed estates.” Unemployment dropped from 8.3 to 3.9 percent and Chile’s infant mortality rate dropped 11 percent. Very impressive performance but not good enough for America. Their sabotage of the Chilean economy was having an impact and the next two years were very difficult for all of Chile. By 1973 many Chileans had succumbed to the propaganda and many were exasperated by the American induced shortages. The numerous other American efforts were too extensive to detail here but there is no doubt that Allende’s government failed
due to these American actions.

In September 1973 a military coup overthrew Allende. It began in the coastal city of Valparaiso when US naval troops were sent to Santiago. American navy ships cruised offshore and American aircraft flew overhead. America supported ‘their man’, Augusto Pinochet, who led the Chilean forces on the Presidential palace. Allende was found dead inside, shot by Chilean troops manipulated and paid for the good old US of A. The official line was that he had killed himself. President Ford then said that the coup, “was to help and assist the preservation of opposition newspapers and electronic media and to preserve opposition parties.” Nothing could have been further from the truth. The day was the 11th of September. A day that would be a ‘payback’ day for America in the years to come.

Pinochet suspended the constitution, dissolved Congress, imposed strict censorship, banned the leftist parties that had constituted Allende’s Popular Unity coalition, and halted all political activity in Chile. America, that bastion of ‘democracy’ effectively put an end to 150 years of democracy in Chile. Pinochet then embarked on a campaign of terror against perceived opponents and leftists, killing approximately 3,200, who just disappeared. More than 29,000 were jailed and a great many tortured. ‘Extreme trauma’ affected over 200,000 Chileans while the secret police, DINA, tortured people throughout the country and carried out assassinations of Chileans who had fled the country. The Pinochet junta also set up at least six concentration camps. This was the guy that the USA supported!

During the years to come America was fully aware of all the devastation and destruction that the incompetent Pinochet government caused but America continued to support their man. Pinochet introduced wage controls while inflation soared to 3000% in a two year period. The cutbacks on government spending as well as the reduced purchasing power of the currency created extreme hardship. The country suffered from a depression while industrial and agricultural production declined. Unemployment rose to 25% in 1977 when it had been 3% in 1972. 5% of the population received 25% of the total national income in 1972 but in 1975 it received 50%. Half of the nation’s children suffered from malnutrition and infant mortality increased significantly. 60% of the population could not afford

Kissinger made immoral decisions that killed thousands but his primary concern was that those decisions remain secret so that his position as a despot would not be revealed.
the minimum food required while beggars flooded the streets. The small business class was ruined as the government monopolies pushed them into bankruptcy.

This junta relied on force to stay in power. The military and police received large salary increases and new military equipment was bought from America with loans from the World Bank. The unused land that was redistributed to the peasants by Allende was returned to the corporations.

Financial conglomerates were the major beneficiaries of the foreign bank loans and those banks received large sums in repayments. International lending organizations such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the Inter-American Development Bank lent vast sums ensuring that Chile would be indebted forever. America corporations such as ITT, Dow Chemical, and Firestone, which had all been bought out by Allende, returned to Chile.

In 1982 GDP dropped 14% while unemployment rose to 33%. Massive protests tried to overthrow the junta but they were unsuccessful. Throughout all this death, suffering and destruction America stood by Pinochet. He held a phony election in 1988 in which he was the only candidate but 55% of the people denied him the 8 year term he sought. Civilian rule returned to Chile in 1990 while Pinochet arranged for a lifelong term for himself in the Chilean Senate. He went to England for medical treatment but ended up under house arrest for one year due to torture charges. He faces additional charges today but may never be convicted however he will end up in the history books as an American lackey who wrecked Chile.

The American State Department reported to the White House on Aug. 18, 1970, that, “we identify no vital US national interests within Chile.” They went on to say in the 23 page report that Allende’s election did not even present a unique set of problems. “In examining the potential threat posed by Allende, it is important to bear in mind that some of the problems foreseen for the United States in the event of his election are likely to arise no matter who becomes Chile’s next president.” In spite of this information, the fearful leaders of America could not let a socialist government be successful. In addition the US State Department report never refuted the American perception that American can meddle with any government anytime the American President feels like it.

Well what goes around comes around. The Supreme Court in Chile has (April 2006) upheld a lower court ruling stripping Gen. Augusto Pinochet of the legal immunity he provided himself years ago. This ruling clears the way
for the former dictator to be tried for the kidnapping and disappearance of Chile’s citizen’s years ago. This story ain’t over yet but America has abandoned their old co-conspirator.

On April 28th, 2006 the Chilean newspaper ‘La Tercera’ advised Chileans of the following. That the Chilean Foreign Minister Alejandro Foxley had met with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on April 21st. Rice devoted almost the entire meeting with Foxley trying to convince Chile not to vote for Venezuela’s candidacy to the United Nations Security Council. Rice warned Foxley that if Chile supports Venezuela, “Chile could fall into a group of losers, against the feelings of the United States, Mexico, part of Central America and almost all of Europe.” The US Under Secretary of State, Robert Zoellick, also warned Foxley that should Chile vote for Venezuela, “the costs in terms of security and commercial trade (for Chile) would be extremely high.”

So America may have abandoned Pinochet but America still continues to try and manipulate Chile as well as other democracies to create the world order that suits the USA. Unfortunately those American desires are all too often based on greed and lies.

Without the American meddling in Chile the killings, torture and economic devastation that rocked the country would never have happened. Although there are some who feel that the US averted communism in Chile communism was never the issue. The issue was, and continues to be, the quest for some semblance of equality. Equality that America still strives to prevent and millions in Chile hate America for what they did as well as their ongoing inequality efforts.
“Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.”

– John F. Kennedy

“If the US monopoly capitalist groups persist in pushing their policies of aggression and war, the day is bound to come when they will be hanged by the people of the whole world. The same fate awaits the accomplices of the United States.”

– Mao Zedong

“Under capitalism, man exploits man. Under communism, it’s just the opposite.”

– John Kenneth Galbraith

“Our duty is to hold ourselves responsible to the people. Every word, every act and every policy must conform to the people’s interests, and if mistakes occur, they must be corrected—that is what being responsible to the people means.”

– Mao Zedong

America and China go way back. For the Chinese the memories are not good and for most Americans the memories are non-existent. In the early 1800s the English were the world’s largest and most powerful drug dealers. They organized the production of opium in India and shipped it to China. This was exchanged for Chinese silk, tea and other goods. It was an extremely profitable trade for the English because they paid the Indian opium growers next to nothing and extracted a large amount of goods in exchange for the opium that they promoted and sold to a growing number of opium addicts they created in China. Other European and American ‘businessmen’ looked at the profits and decided to get in on the action. The Chinese government was not happy with this trade which was destroying many Chinese lives and wrecking the Chinese balance of payments. In 1836 the Chinese government made the selling of opium illegal but the foreign ‘businessmen’ just bribed various officials and carried on. In 1839 the Chinese took more forceful action and shut down the opium dens and arrested both the Chinese and British who allowed the trade.
In those days of British ‘empire’ the Brits didn’t like being told what to do, even when they were breaking the law, so they refused to stop trading in opium.

The opium wars started in November 1839 when the Chinese attempted to turn back British ships with their cargos of opium. The Brits responded by sending gunships and troops to China in 1840. Due to superior British weapons the Chinese were out gunned and suffered many casualties and defeats. By 1842 the Chinese realized that they could not stand up to this technological superiority and reluctantly signed a peace ‘treaty’ that very much favored the British. There were other treaties, with other countries in the years to come. With Russia in May 1858 where the Chinese were forced to give up land that was Chinese according to a treaty signed in 1689. Another treaty in June 1858 with France, England, Russia and the US, forced the Chinese to open eleven additional Chinese ports to these foreigners. It permitted foreign legations into China, allowed Christian missionaries in and most importantly it legalized the importation of opium thereby creating millions of additional Chinese addicts in the decades after the signing of this treaty.

This unfair treatment of China only served to set the stage for further troubles, which the foreigners attempted to solve in the same old way, by using force. In October 1860 the Chinese were signing yet another agreement when the British, against the wishes of the French, burned down the Old Summer Palace. This palace and gardens covered 865 acres or over 4 times the size of the Forbidden City. There were hundreds of temples and pavilions surrounded by lakes and gardens. Innumerable Chinese art objects were stored in numerous halls making this the largest museum in the world. The British general, Lord Elgin ordered his 3,500 troops to set fire to the buildings which burned to the ground over a three day period, thus destroying one of the world’s great architectural masterpieces. Lord Elgin wanted to show those damn Chinese who the boss was but he was very ineffective. Many Chinese hate the British to this day. Of course other European countries and the Americans didn't want to miss out on all this action and money. In 1901 the Brits, Americans, Japanese, Russians, French, Germans, Italians and Austro-Hungarians signed another treaty with the Chinese after forcefully putting down the Chinese resistance. These battles claimed the lives of over 230 foreigners and thousands of additional Chinese. America played a forceful and important role in this war as they just happened to have ships and troops in the area after killing
many people in the Philippines. This war, the Spanish-American War imposed American domination over the Pilipino people just before these battles with the Chinese. (see the Philippine chapter)

The Chinese people were angered by the inability of their government to protect them from these foreigners and the unfair trade deals they imposed. As a result of these ongoing difficulties the imperial government gradually lost the support of the people and was overthrown, the new leader being Sun Yat-sen. After he died in 1925 Chiang Kai-shek assumed control but he was to face a long battle with Mao Tse-tung, the leader of the communists who gradually won the country and took over in 1949. It is ironic that America was instrumental in creating a Communist government in China but not many Americans saw, or see things that way.

The Chinese civil war pitted Mao Tse-Tung’s Communists against Chiang Kai-Shek’s Nationalists. The US-backed Chiang, naturally, but when he faltered the Americans also used Japanese troops to fight against the Chinese Communists, even before WW II ended. American support for General Chiang Kai-shek prolonged the Chinese civil war as it simply took longer for Mao to prevail with the Yanks helping Chiang. America had received extensive support from Mao’s forces during World War II, as they were both fighting the Japanese, but that wasn’t worth much after the defeat of the Japanese. Chiang and America had a serious problem because the majority of the Chinese people supported Mao but America was not about to let democracy get in the way.

The American problem was that Mao was a declared communist and as we all know that is bad, very bad. Mao Tsetung and his followers wanted to rule China and they were making real inroads in that direction. Almost immediately after World War II, Mao’s supporters were ready to overrun Peking (Beijing) the Chinese capital and Shanghai, China’s second largest city. This would never do, having a huge impoverished country

Chiang Kai-shek, seen here in his pajamas, was a Chinese leader, supported for many years, by the Americans. Like virtually all of the leaders supported by America he acquired vast wealth and lived an extravagant lifestyle.
fall into the hands of the people who actually lived there.

America therefore decided to use the Japanese soldiers, still in China, to assist in restraining the Chinese communists. President Truman decided that it was better to have American soldiers fight with the Japanese enemy rather than have those communists take-over their own country. There was no time to lose. Most of the Chinese supported Mao but were poorly armed and supplied. The American army quickly sent US Marines to Peking and airlifted hundreds of thousands of General Chiang Kai-shek’s troops to Shanghai and other parts of China. It was now 1946 and so another war was on, a civil war in China, with a little help form the global intervention team in the good old US of A. The 50,000 US Marines sent to China were used to guard various facilities and keep those commies in line. They did engage in battles with Mao’s forces and did kill men that had so recently supported America and saved American lives.

Perhaps President Truman became more aware of the support Mao and his troops had from the Chinese people and knew that his Marines and General Chiang’s troops could never ‘win’ against those millions. Whatever his reasons America started to pull its troops out of China in 1947. America then reverted to the other way of fighting a war, that they were to use so frequently in the years to come. Secretly support the anti-communist side, even if they are the bad guys, with money, supplies and arms. In just a few years America supplied Chiang Kai-shek with billions, yes billions in weapons and cash. This support came at a time when the vast majority of the Chinese people supported Mao and hated General Chiang. Their hatred was well founded. Chiang’s corruption, lavish spending, decadence, arrogance and cruelty were well known to all, including the Americans but they continued to support him for years. In 1949 the will of hundreds of millions of Chinese resulted in Mao assuming the leadership of China. General Chiang fled to Taiwan with his hoards of cash and Chinese works of art, which, by the way, have never been returned.

Meanwhile back in the US many American leaders were pissed that they had ‘lost China’, as if it was theirs in the first place. They could not believe that the Chinese people had actually supported a Communist government. With that certainty in mind it was easy for them to come to the conclusion that others must

Mao in 1946, also shown here in his pajamas, fought for the freedom of the Chinese people from the rich. His revolution was slowed by American efforts against him but he was eventually successful in 1949.
have had a hand in this outcome and that those others could only be those commies in Russia. America however was not willing to take up arms and ‘free’ the Chinese from this obviously atheistic and morally corrupt political system. A system that was actually helping the poor. There were simply too many of those brainwashed Chinese and besides, they might fight back. What America did do was try to purge themselves of the many communists that must have infiltrated every corner of America and allowed this travesty to occur.

A great American anti-commie leader emerged, Senator Joseph McCarthy. This man had risen in public life by lying about his accomplishments, smearing his opponents and still getting ‘democratically’ elected. For years he was able to get America all excited about thousands of American Communists. They weren’t actually there but this made-in-America paranoia ruined many American lives.

A key member of Mao’s government was Zhou Enlai who became Premier and Foreign Minister in 1949. A kind and moderate man he and his wife adopted many orphaned children, one of whom was to become the future Premier of China. Zhou Enlai did not believe that the political differences between China and America should prevent them from working together and being friends. He therefore suggested to the American government that they work together and he requested American help for his poor country. America responded by helping to try and assassinate Zhou by blowing up his aircraft using Taiwanese agents. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on your point of view, Zhou changed planes just before his flight departed but the people on his original flight were all killed.

By the early 1950s American combat troops had been withdrawn from China but that didn’t mean that America was going to leave those commies alone to run their own country. The CIA organized dissident Nationalist soldiers from Taiwan to attack China from Burma using American supplies and aircraft. It is impossible to know how many deaths resulted from these attacks but they may have been in the thousands including some members of the CIA. The Americans also encouraged Chiang Kai-shek to attack China from islands off the Chinese coast. Mao’s forces repulsed these attacks as well as many the others over the years.

Western Enterprises was founded by the CIA in 1951 to funnel covert American assistance to the Republic of China who were Mao’s enemies. Their activities included airborne intelligence flights over mainland China as well as dropping agents, using aircraft and crews of Civil Air Transport. In 1952, the CIA also trained 5 Taiwanese pilots and 2 mechanics in Japan in low-level flights and drop techniques, and in 1953, this new ‘Special Mission Team’ or

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Zhou Enlai as Premier and as a young man.
Special Operations Unit was supplied with two B-17s on loan from Western Enterprises – with more to follow.

On the evening of 29 November 1952, a Civil Air Transport (forerunner to the CIA airline, Air America) C-47 aircraft with CIA agents John T. Downey and Richard G. Fecteau departed Seoul for Kirin Province, China. Their mission was to pick up a number of resistance agents who were inserted into China the previous July. The C-47 was shot down, the pilots killed and the two CIA agents imprisoned by the Chinese. The fact that they were missing was not publicly mentioned by the American State Department for two years until after the Chinese announced that they had been shot down and imprisoned. The American State Department then responded as follows:

“How they came into the hands of the Chinese communists is unknown to the United States. The continued wrongful detention of these American citizens furnishes further proof of the Chinese Communist regimes disregard for accepted practices of international conduct.”

Lying has never been a problem for the US State Department.

Steve Kiba was a crewmember onboard a B-29 that was also shot down, this time over North Korea, January 12, 1953 and was released by the Chinese on August 4, 1955. He subsequently stated,

“I reported these sightings (of the other American prisoners) to our Air Force Intelligence, the CIA and the State Department upon my return to freedom. Their reaction was one of indifference and I was admonished to forget not only the fifteen but also Downey and Fecteau. It was suggested that perhaps
I had imagined that I had seen these men. Some time during my debriefings I was ordered to forget what I had seen and to forget the three weeks we spent with Downey and Fecteau and to never discuss this matter with anyone.” In other words the American government did not care about those Americans in China and did nothing to get them home.

Fecteau was eventually released in 1971 and Downey in 1973 (more than 20 years later) shortly after President Nixon publicly acknowledged that Downey was a CIA agent. At the University of Texas at Dallas there is a bronze plaque with the names of almost 300 Air America crewmembers who died in the service of this secret branch of the American military machine.

In the 1960s Mao diverted millions, which he had hoped to use to improve the lives of the Chinese, to moving and expanding China’s nuclear weapons program. He did that because of imperialistic moves on the part of the US. America planned to attack the Chinese nuclear weapons sites more than 20 years after America began to build thousands of nuclear weapons for themselves. The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences has recently published a new book that tells how China’s 1966-1970 five-year plan was shifted from, “improving people’s livelihood to preparing an all-out war against the ‘imperialists’ particularly the United States.” George Rathjens of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency wrote on December 14, 1964 that the United States was considering an attack on China’s nuclear facilities. There is no doubt that China, has and continues to, spend billions on defence because of the perceived threat from America. America continues to foster that threat. As recently as May 2006 the US

Typical aircraft used by the CIA during the secret military efforts against China.

Chinese H-bomb, compliments of the USA.
Seems to work OK?
China

military held a large naval ‘exercise’ off the coast of China. It seems clear, if America can convince the Chinese that they continue to be a threat, that China will continue to build arms and America will have to meet this threat by building more weapons of their own. This perversion is an essential part of the American Military Industrial Complex and the associated profits.

Today China has taken over many of the jobs producing many of the goods Americans used to make. The country is full of American computers, plasma cutting machines and other high-tech equipment. The CIA no longer tries to overthrow China as that would interfere with the profits that rich Americans are now making in China. Everything has worked out nicely, unless you happen to be one of the dead associated with this history or a Chinese worker making next to nothing. This is not to say that the Americans have not stopped spying on the Chinese. In fact they spend billions keeping track of Chinese military efforts. A Boeing 767 that the Chinese bought for the use of former president Jiang Zemin was found to be riddled with eavesdropping devices. Silly stuff like this only serves to sustain the mistrust that exists between these two countries.

Today the Chinese are happy to do business with the Yanks but they have not forgotten how badly America treated them for over 100 years. As a result their hatred is just below the surface however they now have enough US cash to buy California.

UPDATE, JUNE, 2006: The US Defence Department released a report to Congress entitled, ‘Military Power of the People’s Republic of China’. It concluded that China was a military rival even though Chinese military spending is 5% of America’s and that they do not have the accumulated military hardware that America has spent trillions accumulating in recent decades. On a per capita basis America spends more than 50 times as much as each person in China yet it is the Chinese that are more threatened. They even went so far as to suggest that China is also a nuclear threat to the US when there is no way that China would ever engage in a preemptive war against the US. This type of war mongering is exactly what the US did to convince Americans that the Soviets were such a great threat when they were not.

This American military report has taken a few comments from Chinese authorities and tried to indicate that America is or may be threatened. For

A new Chinese tank, built to counter the American threat.
example, a Chinese General said that if the US attacked China they would respond with nuclear weapons. What did the Yanks expect him to say? What would the Yanks do if China attacked America, sit on there thumbs and not use the nukes they have spent zillions on? The report also quotes Chinese scholars who said, “If foreign countries launch a full-scale war against China and deploy all types of advanced weapons except nuclear weapons, China may renounce this commitment (of no first use of nukes) at a time when the country’s fate hangs in the balance.” This eminently reasonable position does not abandon the Chinese ‘no-first strike’ position. These American concerns can be completely eliminated if America doesn’t attack China in the first place.

America needs to understand that the rest of the world knows that America routinely attacks other nations first, without justification. It is this aggression that has created a reasonable and justified fear of America and it is this American imprudence that fans the flames of militarism.

This self serving Pentagon report may tragically convince some Americans that they are once again threatened by a non-existent enemy. The Bush Jr. government has sought to instill fear in Americans to justify the government’s extensive efforts to upgrade and modernize its own nuclear arsenal. America now seeks the ability to eliminate any threat with a nuclear first strike capability against any perceived adversary. This threat of nuclear war will cease to exist only when the majority of Americans come to understand that the greatest threat of nuclear war comes from America itself.
Congo

“Every evil, harm and suffering in this life comes from the love of riches.”
– Catherine of Siena, Dominican Tertiary, 1370

“The death of one man is a tragedy. The death of millions is a statistic.”
– Joe Stalin, comment to Churchill at Potsdam, 1945

“It is the professed goal [of U.S. multinational corporations] to control as large a share of the world market as they do of the United States market.”
– Harry Magdoff, The Age of Imperialism

“Only the grand scale and technocratic impersonality of the crimes conceived and directed by the [U.S.] ruling elite acting under cover of state authority distinguish them from garden variety killers.”
– Darrell Hamamoto

A study by the reputable New York based International Rescue committee states, “The Congo is the deadliest crisis anywhere in the world over the past 60 years. Ignorance about its scale and impact is almost universal and international engagement remains completely out of proportion to humanitarian need.” So the deadliest conflict since Hitler goes virtually unnoticed in the West, hummmmmm.

The civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo has claimed 3.9 million lives and in the year 2004 was responsible for 38,000 deaths a month, over one thousand a day. It seems safe to say that if it was 10,000 a day the media in the West would respond in a similar non-existent fashion. Ironically this is not a Congo war at all, it is a Money war. Money that the western world is prepared to pay for diamonds and other resources, which goes somewhere, but not to the people of the Congo.

This conflict began when Uganda and Rwanda invaded the Congo to fight with rebel groups but stayed on to hunt for diamonds and other wealth. Eventually five other countries invaded with their troops. Officially the war began in 1998 and ended in 2003 but these wars are never that simple. The rest of the world is now paying for 17,000 UN Peacekeepers in the Congo as gunmen still roam areas rich in minerals.

All this conflict, death and suffering in a bountiful land. While one in five children are malnourished and many have easily preventable diseases, the
Amoral America

rich nations fail to provide the assistance for a problem that they caused and could have so easily prevented.

This most recent conflict in the Congo has involved forces from Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe as well as armed opposition groups and Congo government forces. Stopping the flow of weapons from the developed nations would be a real step forward however that would cut into the arms manufactures profits so that doesn’t happen. In addition many of the companies making big money from this home of ‘blood diamonds’ deal with the Congo government to help them with their various battles.

All this started long ago. By the fifteenth century the Kongo Empire had evolved into a sophisticated society that traded slaves and minerals to others up to 1000 miles away. It appears that the leaders of this empire were pretty greedy as their society collapsed after they sold too many citizens into slavery.

The Europeans became seriously involved in the Congo in the mid 1800s. In 1885 the king of Belgium was able to convince the other European big-wigs that he really owned the Congo. He then proceeded to extract as much money as possible, while treating the true owners of the resources, as despicably as possible. He formed an all-white police force that went to the Congo to basically terrorize the indigenous peoples. They enforced strict rubber production quotas and if you missed your quota your hand or arm was cut off. I believe that these actions failed to help meet the quotas as it is more difficult to produce your rubber quota with one arm missing. Indeed this was counter-productive but it was meant to be ‘encouragement’ for the other workers. An estimated 10 million people were killed in the Congo as a result of the King of Belgium’s policies.

This atrocious regime gradually became the Belgium Congo as the kings private empire was turned over to Belgium. Life was never easy for the black man in this Congo as the white man took virtually all of the wealth in order to live the lavish lives they cherished so much. Meanwhile the black man was left with next to nothing except fatigue and poor health. No people could put up with this abuse so the Blacks struggled for freedom and independence and in 1960 it was finally achieved, or so they thought.

The Americans were also involved in the Congo as there was money to
be made. If there is money to be made there are usually Americans to be found and they were found in the Congo as it was also a good source of uranium. The Americans ‘needed’ uranium for their first nukes as well as other nukes they were to build.

In June 1960 Patrice Lumumba was elected Prime Minister in a free, and apparently, fair election. The descendant of the brutal king of Belgium came to the Congo for the transition of power and made the following abysmally stupid speech on Independence Day, June 30, 1960, just 7 days after Lumumba had become Prime Minister.

“The independence of the Congo is the crowning of the work conceived by the genius of King Leopold II, undertaken by him with courage and continued by Belgium with perseverance.

“For 80 years, Belgium has sent to your land the best of its sons–first to deliver the Congo basin from the odious slave trade which was decimating the population, later to bring together the different tribes which, though former enemies, are now preparing to form the greatest of the independent states of Africa.

“Belgian pioneers have built railways, cities, industries, schools, medical services and modernized agriculture. It is your task, gentlemen, to show that we were right in trusting you.

“The dangers before you are the inexperience of people to govern themselves, tribal fights which have done so much harm, and must at all costs be stopped, and the attraction which some of your regions can have for foreign powers which are ready to profit from the least sign of weakness.”

These words were to be followed by those of Joseph Kasavubu the new ceremonial president but in light of the kings outrageous remarks he was unable to deliver the address he had planned. Lumumba then rose to deliver the following words,

“Men and women of the Congo, who have fought for and won the independence we celebrate today, I salute you in the name of the Congolese government.

“I ask you all, friends who have fought relentlessly side by side to make this 30th of June 1960 an illustrious date that remains ineradically engraved on your hearts, a date whose significance you will be proud to teach to your children, who will in turn pass on to their children and grandchildren the glorious story of our struggle for liberty.

“For, while the independence of the Congo has today been proclaimed in
agreement with Belgium, a friendly country with whom we deal on an equal footing, no Congolese worthy of the name will ever be able to forget that independence has only been won by struggle, a struggle that went on day after day, a struggle of fire and idealism, a struggle in which we have spared neither effort, deprivation, suffering or even our blood.

“The struggle, involving tears, fire, and blood, is something of which we are proud in our deepest hearts, for it was a noble and just struggle, which was needed to bring to an end the humiliating slavery imposed on us by force.

“Such was our lot for 80 years under the colonialist regime; our wounds are still too fresh and painful for us to be able to forget them at will, for we have experienced painful labor demanded of us in return for wages that were not enough to enable us to eat properly, nor to be decently dressed or sheltered, nor to bring up our children as we longed to.

“We have experienced contempt, insults and blows, morning, noon and night because we were ‘blacks.’ We shall never forget that a black man was addressed informally, not because he was a friend but because only the whites were given the honor of being addressed formally.

“We have seen our lands despoiled in the name of so-called legal documents which were no more than recognition of superior force. We have known that the law was never the same for a white man as it was for a black man: for the former it made allowances, for the latter, it was cruel and inhuman.

“We have seen the appalling suffering of those who had their political opinions and religious beliefs dismissed as exiles in their own country, their lot was truly worse than death. We have seen magnificent houses in the towns for the whites, and crumbling straw huts for the blacks; a black man could not go to the cinema, or a restaurant, or a shop that was meant for ‘Europeans’, a black man would always travel in the lowest part of a ship, under the feet of the whites in their luxurious cabins.

“And finally, who can ever forget the shooting in which so many of our brothers died; or the cells where those who refused to submit any longer to the
rule of a ‘justice’ of oppression and exploitation were put away?

“All this, brothers, has meant the most profound suffering. But all this, we can now say, we who have been voted as your elected representatives to govern our beloved country, all this is now ended. The Republic of Congo has been proclaimed, and our land is now in the hands of its own children. Together, brothers and sisters, we shall start on a new struggle, a noble struggle that will bring our country to peace, prosperity and greatness.

“We shall show the world what the black man can do when he is allowed to work in freedom, and we shall make the Congo the focal point of Africa.”

That truthful speech was to contribute to the death of Lumumba, an educated man that could have helped the Congo to become a successful country. Belgium sought to create havoc for Lumumba due to his ‘bad’ attitude. They supported various leaders who sought to secede from the Congo. During the associated unrest Lumumba requested Soviet aid. CIA Director Allen Dulles who saw a communist under every rock and behind every tree stated that a “communist takeover of the Congo would be disastrous for the free world.” Naturally it would be ‘disastrous’, whenever America faced a socialistic trend it, was described as ‘disastrous for the free world’, what crap! Dulles knew that any Soviet aid to a leader might start a trend that must be stopped. Unfortunately Dulles never did understand or care that the imperialistic Belgium was already a disaster for the Congo. The American government supported the secession of the Katanga state from the Congo as it was rich in copper, uranium and gold to name just a few. All this wealth and Lumumba’s leftist tendencies were enough for the CIA to plot his assassination. In 1960 the CIA’s Dr. Gottlieb who ran the project MK-ULTRA, personally carried a clear odorless, tasteless poison to the Congo and hand-delivered it to the CIA agency’s station chief. Numerous Americans also had a financial interest in the Congo’s wealth and could see no reason for it to end up in the hands of the black Congolese. The CIA was also working on other plots to get rid of Lumumba and eventually decided not to use the poison when these other options looked more promising.

During this period of turmoil the president of the Congo dismissed Prime Minister Lumumba which he was not legally able to do. The president was motivated to make this move as he had previously been paid and indoctrinated by the CIA. Obviously America did not come to the aid of this democratically elected leader, on the contrary, UN forces shut down the radio stations so Lumumba could not speak to his people. Lumumba then spoke
before parliament and both houses reaffirmed his role as Prime Minister. Unbeknownst to him the CIA had organized a military coup by a Congo military man named Joseph Mobutu. By now Lumumba knew he was targeted and tried to escape his enemies. America helped the Mobutu forces to track down Lumumba and he was seized by them on 1 December 1960. Mobutu held on to Lumumba until December 17th when he delivered him to the leader of the Katanga province, the same Tshombe that had tried to secede from the Congo. Lumumba was assassinated as soon as he ended up in the hands of Tshombe. It appears that the CIA involvement in Lumumba’s death was exacerbated because Allen Dulles, ‘misinterpreted’ a comment by Eisenhower that Lumumba should be assassinated.

And so began the American era in the Congo as America, via the CIA, continued their work to ensure that the Congo never strayed too far from American interests.

After five years of political instability, Joseph Mobutu, now a Lieutenant General overthrew the President that had tried to dismiss Lumumba. Mobutu would end this instability by instituting a ruthless dictatorship supported by America for 32 years. It was obvious that Mobutu was a sociopath but he wasn’t the first the Americans had supported, a despot over a socialist, anyone but a socialist! This incompetent and despotic rule, for so many decades, caused untold hardship for millions of Congolese which continues to this day.

In his first few months of rule Mobutu executed numerous potential rivals before large audiences. Former Prime Ministers and other politicians were hung while others were tortured to death in the most gruesome manner. He would run in the odd election where he was the only candidate. He expropriated firms without compensation and gave them to relatives who stole their assets. In 1971 he changed the name of the country to Zaire. In 1972 he changed his own name to, “The all-powerful warrior who, because of his endurance and inflexible will to win, will go from conquest to conquest, leaving fire in his wake,” or, Mobutu Sese Seko for short. Before the evening news pictures of him floating down through clouds would appear on the nations TV sets. His picture adorned every bank note and civil servants were forced to wear his portrait at work even though they were often not paid for months. He would drive all over the country in a fleet of Mercedes limos, often passing his starving citizens. He ripped off the country for an estimated $5 billion, most of it in Swiss banks and his friends and relatives siphoned off billions more.

Over time the CIA admitted, “Mobutu is screwing up Zaire pretty good. He simply has no idea how to run a country.” But America never tried to change this situation that they created. Mobutu’s $5 billion personal fortune could have paid his countries national debt. In 1974, when the US sent $1.4 million to assist troops fighting a civil war, Mobutu pocketed the entire sum. The Congo has more resources than most other countries in the world but it is one of the poorest.

During all these decades of despicable behavior, America and institutions
controlled by America, such as the International Monetary Fund, continued to supply Mobutu with loans, millions in cash, military equipment, mercenaries, military personal and training. No company exploited the wealth of Zaire (the Congo) without a ‘gift’ to Mobutu. One third of the countries children died of malnutrition, he imprisoned and often tortured people without charge or trial, just like some American prisons today. But, Mobutu upheld his end of the bargain by pretending to be pro-western and anti-communistic. That, apparently is all he had to do.

In 1990 Mobutu agreed to share some political power as the locals were getting restless but he still called the shots. He was suffering from illness and went to Europe for medical treatment but while he was away the Tutsis captured eastern Zaire. This got the ball rolling and in May, 1997 Mobutu fled eventually ending up in Morocco. He died later than year from cancer.

The country has since been renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo but that name may not be accurate. The next president was soon overthrown and the country was invaded by Zimbabwe, Sudan, Angola, Chad and Namibia. The next president was assassinated in 2001 while fighting raged on over diamonds, gold, coltan and cassiterite. Coltan is used in capacitors and at one point reached a price of $600/kg.

The American intervention in the Congo was instrumental in creating the abysmal conditions that exist in the Congo today. Although many American corporations gained great wealth from the Congo, America the country, helped to wreck the lives of millions who still continue to struggle with war and just putting food on their plates. America helped to eliminate the good guy and supported a real bastard for decades, simply because they were real bastards themselves and didn’t give a damn. Millions of Congolese died, lost their homes and suffered as a result of these American decisions. America, once again set a deplorable example in the Congo, which other neighboring countries emulated thereby making life miserable for millions more. America
could have helped Lumumba and allowed the Congo to evolve into a prosperous partner but instead America’s greed and insensitivity helped create the greatest humanitarian disaster since WW II. American efforts to solve this crisis, that they have a responsibility to do, have failed because they have done far too little, far too late.

America has made far too many of these greedy, bloody errors in Africa and millions in this great land do not understand why a rich powerful country would create the suffering they have had to endure. Whatever the reason, many in Africa hate America for taking so much and giving so little.
CORPORATIONS

“The real truth of the matter is, as you and I know, that a financial element in the large centers has owned the government of the US since the days of Andrew Jackson.”

– Franklin D. Roosevelt

“24.9 percent of American children live in poverty, while the proportions in Germany, France and Italy are 8.6, 7.4 and 10.5 percent. And once born on the wrong side of the tracks, Americans are more likely to stay there than their counterparts in Europe. Those born to better-off families are more likely to stay better off. America is developing an aristocracy of the rich and a serfdom of the poor—the inevitable result of a twenty-year erosion of its social contract.”

– Will Hutton

“The corporations don’t have to lobby the government any more. They are the government.”

– Jim Hightower

“What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful, and childhood more happy and bright.”

– Samuel Gompers

American corporations have contributed to the hate for America throughout the world. The basis of that hatred is the same old inequality that is such a part of the American corporate world. Many people in other countries hate America because American companies show up in their country, extract millions and leave things pretty much as poverty stricken as they were. Many Americans have come to hate their corporations for the same basic reason. While the worker is involved in the actual production or service that makes the corporate profits the bosses are paying themselves hundreds of times the wage of the production worker. Nowhere in the industrial world is the discrepancy between the bosses and the workers pay greater than in America. Nowhere in the world
has the pay of the bosses skyrocketed while the pay of the workers has actually declined. America has entered a new era of massive inequality.

American interventions in other poor countries have failed because the Americans who intervened in those countries did not seem to realize that by protecting the interests of the rich they were contributing to the poverty of the vast majority. The perception by the rich that they are entitled to many times the wealth of others is the fundamental problem facing America and the fundamental reason for all the screws-ups described throughout this book.

The strangest part in all this is that American workers don’t seem to realize that there is a direct correlation between what the bosses make and what they make. A corporation can be compared to a country in that they both produce a certain amount of money. Neither of them can set up a printing press to produce unlimited money to pay higher wages or make a bigger profit. The amount of money available is always limited in both cases. Although that amount of money may be affected by efficiency and other factors there is ultimately a finite amount. Therefore this finite amount of money, in a successful business, can be spread around to make the bosses rich and the workers poor or the bosses satisfactorily paid and the workers happy. Even in a country as rich as America you can’t make everyone rich. In America’s recent past, the workers have had enough to live good lives and the bosses have made good money. In recent years the bosses have become much richer while the workers have had to accept less as a direct result. The multi-million dollar annual payments that are now common for many American CEOs have contributed to the decline of workers wages but unions and workers alike do not seem to have made the connection. Many American unions have settled for increases that do not keep up with inflation while the bosses at those same companies have received huge increases.

This will come as no surprise to some and be denied by others but there is no connection between CEO pay and how capable they are. A study by the $96 billion Ontario Teachers Pension Plan concluded, “In general there is no empirical evidence that compensation has become linked to performance.” Over a number of years the study looked at some of the largest firms in Canada and the increase in CEO compensation compared with their companies market performance. The calculations were complicated by the complexity and lack of openness regarding CEO pay but it should be clear that people work hard for $50,000 per year. They also work hard for $10 million dollars per year but it is simply not possible to be 200 times smarter or work 200 times harder. This vast inequality between one segment of American workers and another is possible because one group is in a position to pay themselves so much more. It has nothing to do with working harder or being smarter but everything to do with being part of an inequality that is not only accepted but aggressively created, maintained and protected.

The most egregious corporate rip-offs and con-artists are the extraction guys. These are the corporations who suck up the oil, metals, timber and fish
Corporations

and sell it as fast and as profitably as possible. Without restrictions these guys would catch the last fish, cut down the last tree and pump out the last barrel of oil and when it was all gone, they would have tons of dough so they just don’t care. It is no surprise that the most profitable corporation in history is an American oil company. Exxon made a profit of almost $40 billion in 2005. Hell, it took Bill Gates years to make that kind of money. Exxon’s profit was over $80,000 per minute, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. In corporate America that is considered good, the more profit the better, there is no limit. The fact that Exxon is just part of a hugely profitable industry that fixes prices while pissing away this amazing resource doesn’t even register. (see the Global Warming chapter for more on Exxon) The fact that Exxon’s profit is larger than the economies of most countries is not considered abnormal and the fact that many people in the countries that supply the oil to Exxon don’t even have enough to eat is no big deal either.

Home heating oil costs have risen over 100% since the year 2000. Unless you can buy it from that Venezuelan Commie Chavez, who actually helps the poor, even in America, then you are stuck with the bill. Too bad Exxon can’t afford to help the poor in America but then it’s not Exxon’s fault that many Americans live where it gets cold. Exxon fat-cats zip around in their fleet of executive jets enjoying the finest of booze or of a game golf in Scotland without giving a thought to the plight of the poor. And don’t get me started on the $7 billion American subsidy to the oil industry in the 2005 energy bill. Thanks a bunch George.

What the American public, their government and certainly the corporations seem to forget is that in a democracy these resources are supposed to benefit all the people. They are a gift from the planet and they are all free. For America to support a system that makes some of the people multi-billionaires while others starve to death is quite simply, wrong and un-American.

Here’s a class act, Lawrence M. Coss made over $100 million in 1996 as the Chairman of Green Tree Financial Corporation. Green Tree Financial, you probably never heard of it. It turns out that this guy is a money lender and can charge more for loans than banks because he is lending money to America’s poor. Green Tree lends money to purchasers of mobile homes, the same people who usually can’t afford a conventional house. Because these people are poorer they pay a higher rate of interest. Trust me, that’s the way it is, because, well just because. For reasons unknown Mr. Coss thinks he is worth more than $50,000/hour or more in one hour than the average working American makes in a year. In 2005 there were over 100 Americans making over $10 million a year, 99% of them men. This, of course, is not the whole story. These guys have arranged other compensation that can be hidden, such as pension benefits, stock options; paid apartments in New York, food, flowers; you name it, they have thought of it all.

A guy that always makes a good buck is CEO Anthony F.J. O’Reilly who works for the ketchup outfit, Heinz. At one point O’Reilly laid off 2,500 people
Mr. O’Reilly who made over $60 million in 1996 could have saved Heinz more money if he laid just himself off.

The American median household income in 2004 was $44,389. That’s all the money made by all the working people in the average house. That income was $46,058 in 2000. The numbers are actually a little more Americanized than that. The decrease in white households from 2000 to 2004 was $1,066, in Hispanic households it was $2,141 and in Black households it was $2,407. The percentage decline for American CEO income was 24% between 2002 and 2004. Oops, did I say decline, I actually meant a 24% increase according to Business Week and this increase comes on top of other excessive increases in previous years. In just two years, 1995 and 1996 average CEO wages in America doubled, during that same time profits were up 30% and wages 4% which was less than inflation so workers wages went down in real terms. The CEOs must be doing something right because profits are up even if manufacturing jobs are down from 17,101,000 in 2001 to 14,283,000 in 2005. So almost 3 million lost their jobs but profits are up and you’d better believe it, profits are #1.

Those median income Americans are making less money today but they are also working more hours to make those smaller incomes. Parents today work 22 more hours per week than parents did 35 years ago. That’s 22 hours less per week to spend with their families. And guess what, back then just one parent made the same as forty thousand of today’s dollars. Their fixed expenses back then, taxes, mortgage, car, gas, insurance, etc. equaled 55% of their monthly income. Today both parents typically work and those fixed expenses are now 75%. That Reagan revolution worked like a damn!

American workers have bought into all this, usually because they thought they didn’t have a choice but many have actually bought the corporate line. They could join a union but unions have been unfairly painted in a very negative light and many workers have bought it. Look at Wal Mart, a company with billionaire owners, who never go to work, while thousands of Wal Mart workers can’t make ends meet. Wal Mart has fought unions at every turn and convinced most of their workers that unions would be bad, very bad. This is ass-backwards but then they never told the workers that unions would be bad.
for Wal Mart profits.

In 2000 69% of American companies provided health care to their employees. Today it is less than 60% and falling, as a result the number of Americans without health insurance has increased by six million since the year 2000. In Canada 0% of the population had no health care in 2000 and in 2006 it was still 0%. Everyone has health care coverage in Canada but as we all know Canada is a much richer country than America. While the inflation adjusted wages of many American workers has gone down, university costs, to mention just one, have gone through the roof.

In fact middle income Americans who lacked health care for part of the year in 2005 rose to 41% from 28% in 2001. More than half of these uninsured adults said they were having problems paying their medical bills. These people are obviously less likely to have proper medical care. About 46 million Americans did not have health insurance in 2004 and that number continues to rise. 60% of these uninsured Americans either didn’t buy drugs they needed or took less than the recommended amount. In the ‘there’s no free lunch’ department, America’s largest for-profit hospital chain said its earnings fell 9% due to uninsured admissions where they couldn’t collect. The amount owing that hospital chain rose to almost $900 million.

General Motors has been building wastefully excessive cars for decades. They have fought safety innovations at every turn, from safety glass, to seat belts, to airbags. Over all these decades they have promoted bigger is better to increase their profits which has helped America to waste its once enormous oil reserves. Due to this mismanagement General Motors is now cutting back even though they have billions in the bank. They are no longer providing traditional pensions to their employees hired after 2001. This announcement was the green light many American companies needed to cut back on their own workers pensions. Motorola, Bethlehem Steel, HP, IBM, United Airlines, etc. etc. are all changing their pension plans to save money at a time when executive pay has never been higher. These unilateral moves reek of the increased greed that is now part of the nation’s boardrooms. America is now working in a globalized world and Americans are now competing with workers who are even more egregiously exploited on the other side of the planet. Is it not extremely
strange that the only group who benefited from globalization were the guys who distributed the higher profits and that those higher profits went to them?

So this massive change in pension benefits means that many employers will no longer contribute to the employee pension plan. They can contribute but they don’t need to. The number of Americans covered by these new pension plans grew from 14 million in 1980 to 64 million today. The number of workers who are still part of the old defined benefit plan are less than 20% of the workers. The only problem with the new plans is that they won’t work unless you have them for all your working life and that the money set aside is invested without loss. These days, 2005, the average amount of money in a new pension plan for individuals ages 55 to 64 is only $23,000. It will take at least a $250,000 pension investment in addition to Social Security for the average American to have a decent amount of dough during retirement.

Let’s look at how a few American corporations are dealing with the people that make their businesses successful. Delphi is the world’s largest auto parts maker. It used to be part of GM and still makes a huge number of parts for GM. Delphi is not totally broke but the CEO Steve Miller took the company into bankruptcy and proposed slashing the workers wages by more than 50%. Perhaps Mr. Miller has been away from planet Earth for some years but the hourly workers in America cannot take a 50% hit and continue to live like Americans. Perhaps that is the idea. Perhaps it wouldn’t be so bad if everybody was cut to less than $20,000 a year while the company pulled up their socks but Miller sure isn’t suggesting that. He has agreed to take $1 a year, what a guy! Mind you it is a little easier to live on $1 a year when you have recently received a $3 million dollar signing bonus and $750,000 a year before making the $1 a year pledge as well as another bonus that will not be disclosed. Miller also proposed a “Key Employee Compensation Plan” that would pay executives and only executives, $43 million over two years and that the top 500 executives get $88 million after bankruptcy, and that the top 600 executives get 10 percent of the shares of the post-bankruptcy Delphi. What a deal, no wonder this guy is the boss.

ExxonMobil has spent millions on a number of front groups who spread an anti-global warming message without telling the public that Exxon Mobil was paying for the misinformation. EM also used its political clout to minimize pesky scientists who spread the vicious rumor that there is a connection between oil and global warming.

It is handy having a bunch of oil guys running the government as they understand how important it is to make as much money as possible now, rather than reducing profits with conservation and efficiency plans. They don’t worry about Americans 100 years from now because they won’t be here. A lobbyist for the American Petroleum Institute and chief of staff of the White House’s Council on Environmental Quality, Philip Cooney, resigned in June 2005. Why, because Cooney cooked the books to make global worming look less threatening. A week later, Cooney was working for ExxonMobil, the same
company that is still stonewalling payments to Alaskans after their stupid Exxon Valdez spill. The same company that wants to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The same company that is paying the dictators in Chad and Cameroon, who then buy weapons, but EM gets a pipeline. The same company that encourages, and of course accepts, tax breaks brought to them by their friends in the White House. With the world’s highest profit, in America, you still get tax breaks. Lee Raymond, the chief executive of ExxonMobil, has retired with a fairly decent package, befitting someone who has fought global warming for years. For his 12 years as the boss at EM during which time Exxon pumped about 6 billion tons of carbon into the atmosphere Lee is to get about $400 million. That should allow him to continue with the lavish life style he prefers.

Eighteen of the wealthiest families in America, who have recently benefited from huge tax cuts courtesy of Bush Jr. are now working to repeal estate taxes from American law. They estimate that this would save them over $70 billion. The campaign has made many false claims as it worked to convince the average voter that these taxes were already hurting small businesses and family farms. In fact these taxes current affect less than 1/3 of 1% of all estates. The current law has already been changed to exempt estates less than $3.5 million for an individual and $7 million for a couple. Most millionaires in the House of congress have already agreed to repeal the tax but the Senators have yet to approve this repeal.

This campaign to eliminate $290 billion from the tax collector over the next 10 years has the support of most Americans because they have bought the arguments put forward by the very rich and perhaps because they think the trillions in American debt is not important. Families fighting for this tax break include families that own WalMart, Nordstrom’s stores, Mars candy, Campbell’s soup, Cox media, the Timkens, Gallo wineries and more. Joan Claybrook, president of The Public Citizen called this anti estate tax campaign, ‘one of the biggest con jobs in recent history’. The tax cuts are also opposed by a few rich Americans such as Paul Newman, Bill Gates Sr. and some of the Rockefellers.

Ford, like their friends at GM, have been committed to producing the most wasteful, excessive vehicles on earth. Not far from now, when oil is hard to come by, people will look back at America in the early 21st century and think, “Boy, what a bunch of dummies!” Ford will be one of the outfits at the head of that dummy list as Ford could have brought America an efficient, safe, electric car but they put their profits ahead of their country. In more recent years more than twenty police officers have been killed in Fords that were rear ended and burst into flames. This fire-trap Ford car is the only mass-produced passenger car with body-on-frame construction in the United States. This construction style has been replaced by the now more commonly used construction style where the body panels are also load-bearing components. Ford agreed to fix the police cars and limo’s but not the similar passenger cars. Most owners
of these Fords are not aware of the problem. When Ford owners called Ford dealers in Canada the dealers had never heard of this fix. This problem with fire and Ford cars goes way back to the Pinto. Ford knew this car would kill people but decided not to fix it because they calculated the cost of the deaths would be less than the cost of fixing the cars. They were wrong but it appears that the same guys with the same thinking are still running Ford. Ford has had many prosperous years and some of those years were the 60s and 70s when Ford produced 6 million cars in one New Jersey plant. At the same time, Ford dumped millions of gallons of paint and other sludge into the surrounding area. Ford says they met all the dumping requirements which was true because there were no dumping requirements but Ford knew this stuff was not being disposed of correctly. A proposal by a Ford engineer to install an incinerator and make power from the waste was not adopted by management even though it would have saved Ford money. The toxic crap is still out there but Ford has no plans to clean it up. The cancer rates in the area are now higher than normal.

BP oil is one of the worlds biggest and of course profitable oil companies. Like their buddies at Exxon they are all in favor of drilling in the Arctic Refuge but that is partly because they don’t understand the meaning of the word ‘Refuge’. They also don’t seem to understand that it is wrong to be part of a process which will deplete this planet of oil in just a few generations. They are also running a business which has had too many accidents. In March 2005 their Texas City refinery suffered an explosion which killed 15 and wounded almost 200. BP has stated that they will spend $1.7 billion on upgrading this facility and better training to prevent another accident like this. It was the third fatal accident at this BP facility in four years. This is the same Texas town where hundreds died in 1947 when the whole town went up in flames. In America BP has had almost 4000 accidents since 1990, the highest number in America. BP is also known for secrecy and PR efforts which tell only part of the story. In September 2005 BP was fined $21 million for violating safety laws. In October 2005 U.S. News and World Report held a press conference to announce ‘America’s Best Leaders 2005’. The event was paid for by BP who prevented reporters, who might have asked embarrassing questions, from attending.

Halliburton (H) sure gets lots of bad press; maybe it deserves it? The company has worked to get closer ties to Iran when you would think that they know the government says Iran is promoting terrorism. After a hassle, the Army agreed to pay H almost $2 billion for work nobody is sure got done. The Justice Department opened an inquiry into possible bid-rigging by H when Cheney was boss. In March 2006, Pentagon auditors found $108 million in overcharges. The LATimes reported that H worked with the government to avoid some pollution laws. The State Department said H work in Iraq had serious cost overruns and poor performance. A number cruncher with the Army Corps on Engineers testified at a congressional hearing that: “I can unequivocally state that the abuse related to contracts awarded to KBR (an Halliburton subsidiary)
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represents the most blatant and improper contract abuse I have witnessed during the course of my professional career.” In July H announced that its KBR subsidiary profits jumped 284% during the 2nd quarter of 2005. A US Senator said that Cheney’s Halliburton options are worth more than $9 million and that he should divest himself from H. Cheney said he will donate the profits from stock sales to charity so there is no problem. The H subsidiary is accused of exposing troops and civilians to contaminated water from Iraq’s Euphrates River. H is charged with hiring as many as 100 undocumented immigrants to clean up areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina. They are also accused of abusing immigrants and undocumented workers. A reporter observed: “squalid trailer parks where up to 19 unpaid, unfed, and undocumented KBR (H) site workers inhabited a single trailer for $70 per person, per week.” In December the Army Corps of Engineers paid $38 million in bonuses to Halliburton for work in Iraq even though Pentagon auditors declared $169 million in costs for the work to be ‘unreasonable’ and ‘unsupported’. It all sounds like a tough, but profitable year for H.

Some of the most unscrupulous corporations in America are the tobacco guys. In mid 2006 a US Judge, Gladys Keesler, convicted the tobacco industry of a decades long conspiracy to cover up the lethal effects of smoking. She went on to allow big tobacco to advertise in motor sports and exempt them from contributing to a billion dollar non-smoking campaign. Naturally big tobacco is appealing as it has always been big tobacco’s policy to be offensive and deny, deny, deny.

KPMG keeps the books for various outfits and tries to minimize their taxes. Recently they “admitted to criminal wrongdoing in the largest-ever tax shelter fraud” according to the US attorney general; but there was no conviction, plea agreement or trial. Guilty but no fuss; it pays to have friends in high places. Mind you, KPMG did agree to pay a fine of $456 million which might be big enough to buy them a ‘get out of jail card’. On the other hand KPMG admitted that it engaged in a fraud that generated at least $11 billion in phony tax losses and that would cost the taxpayers about $2.5 billion.

A US Senate subcommittee recently, August 2006, announced that US corporations using the offshore tax dodge cost the American taxpayers over $100 billion in tax losses each year. There are only three reasons for Americans and their corporations to conduct their money business offshore, money laundering, tax evasion and market manipulation. In spite of the fact that all of these reasons are illegal the government efforts to eliminate the use of offshore tax havens by the richer segment of Americans have been ineffective.

In 2001, the drug company Roche sold $76 million of the flu vaccine Tamiflu. Along came the bird flu and Tamiflu was promoted as the best protection available. The Center of Disease Control said an outbreak could be bad and the press always likes bad so everyone wanted Tamiflu. I don’t know who these guys are but someone estimated the economic cost of a bird flu outbreak at $71.3 billion and the media actually repeated this number which is simply an
impossibly accurate error. In any case Roche is happy because sales reached $1 billion in 2005 except they couldn’t make the stuff fast enough. Normally you solve this problem by letting other companies make the drug and have them pay you a royalty. Roche said that couldn’t be done because “the manufacturing process was extremely complicated and dangerous, and that the key ingredient to make the drug was in short supply.” Well, that was unfortunate; but at the same time, Roche knew that the bird flu the public was all upset about wasn’t likely to happen and that they would make more money if they just made this drug themselves without sharing the profits with any other company. This scam would have worked very well for Roche if a company in India had not made the same drug along with several other companies. Suspicions confirmed, the drug did not take other companies the ‘two to three years’ that Roche said it would take to produce Tamiflu. The ‘10 complicated steps’ were figured out in less than 2 weeks by some other firms who said they could produce 1 million doses in no time. The drug that was ‘in short supply’ according to Roche, well that wasn’t true either. Roche is still busy making Tamiflu and hundreds of millions in profit off a drug that most people don’t need.

Between 1980 and 1996 the pay of CEOs has risen over 800%, profits 170% and factory wages 77%. Of course the real important numbers are the ones adjusted for inflation. CEO wages up 730%, profits up 80% and workers wages down 11%. Somebody is getting screwed here! Don’t make the mistake of thinking that CEO pay doesn’t affect you. The top five guys on any CEO compensation list are usually raking in over 1 billion per year. Although there are relatively few people making millions per year collectively the excess money that the rich take out of the system could solve a huge number of problems that America can ‘not afford’.

“World gains 102 more billionaires,” shouts the Houston Chronicle. There are now about 800 of them and their wealth grew 18% last year. Currently, they control about $3 trillion, according to a Forbes estimate. Ian Dew-Becker and Robert Gordon of Northwestern University produced a research paper, “Where Did the Productivity Growth Go?” It states that between 1972 and 2001 the wages and salary of well off Americans, who make more money than 89% of all Americans rose 34% which doesn’t sound too bad. The people who made more money than 99% of all Americans had their income go up by 87%. If you were an American making more than 99.9% of all Americans you income went up 181% and those making more money than 99.99% of all Americans you made 497% more. From these numbers it is very clear that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. This is not an accident folks; this is how it is designed to be in the American plutocracy. Want to know where you fit in? Those making more than 99% of their fellow Americans are making more than $400,000 a year, 99.9% is almost two million a year and 99.99% is over six million a year.

More for the rich and less for the poor has been a deliberate policy in America for generations. Here is a 1935 quote from America’s most decorated
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marine, Major General Smedley Butler: “I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period, I spent most of my time as a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902–1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested.” That kind of honest opinion is very difficult to find amongst powerful Americans today.

Under the American system no amount of money is too much. Bill Gates has over $50 billion and he is regarded as a philanthropist for giving away hundreds of millions. I suggest that it is very easy to give away billions if you still have billions. The fact is that you cannot become a billionaire without ripping off millions of others. America was once famous for producing good products at a good price. When guys like Bill Gates sit around in the office these days they don’t say, “Well, we spent $5 million to develop this software and we expect to sell a million copies; so in order to make a reasonable profit we should sell it for $10 each.” Nope, that conversation never takes place. Bill and the boys know that it cost $5 million to develop the software and that they will sell a minimum of a million copies but they also know that they can sell it for a maximum of $399 so that is the price. The retail price has nothing to do with the cost and everything to do with the profit. This is the new way to do business in America and it is wrecking America but it is also making a few guys like Bill obscenely rich as this software example shows. In that case the profit is $389 million instead of $5 million. That is how you end up with $50 billion in the bank, be it software, oil, banks, whatever. You must charge much more than your cost and what would be a reasonable profit. It’s called a rip-off, or by the supporters of the system, ‘free enterprise’ but it ain’t free.

Many utility companies across America are collecting billions from their customers for corporate income taxes then keeping the money instead of passing it on to the government. Hey, this is America and this is legal. Utilities in 26 states have pocketed the money and others can legally do it in another 21 states. One of these companies’ Pepco supplies electricity to four states and DC. They collected $545 million in taxes from customers over three years but did not pass this on to the government. In fact the Pepco parent company made sure they got a $435 million refund.

Numerous western multinational corporations have made billions by exploiting African bio-resources taken from some of the poorest countries on earth. In some cases the companies have patented these discoveries. This legal maneuver then denies the host country any sovereignty over them. When these
companies search the planet for plants, bacteria and anything else they can make a buck on, the host countries receive not a penny in return.

Phillip Morris has changed their name to Altria. Funny how the guys with products that kill people are not very proud of what they do. Phillip Morris, oops, Altria gives away big bucks which would almost make them altruistic but altruism that stems from deadly products is simply blood money. Altria ranks 50th on a list of good American corporations which seems to make the list a little flawed. Altria ranked above Martha Stewart Living, Sprint phones, ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch/Shell, Halliburton and United Airlines, all this says something about America corporations.

Many of you who remember $3 per gallon gas prices in early 2006 probably also knew that the cost of production remained basically stable while oil prices tripled. A sure fire way to make a few billion more. Republicans have criticized those soaring prices, something they needed to do to placate the voters, because they didn’t actually do anything to rectify the situation. In fact the Republicans decided to eliminate the provisions in a major tax bill that would have forced the oil companies to pay billions of dollars in taxes on their profits. Bush Jr. cut taxes to the oil gang and now the House Republicans have raised strong objections to Senate-passed provisions that would raise nearly $5 billion in taxes over five years. For the Republicans to maintain the breaks for the oil companies, behind closed doors, while the President is talking tough, is just a little hypocritical.

Car companies in America routinely lose court cases after being sued by an injured American or the family of a deceased driver. Roof’s of pickup trucks collapse, wiring catches fire, gas tanks explode and it’s been a heyday for the lawyers. The American government has responded by seeking legal protection for automakers and that is just one in a series of recent steps by federal agencies to shield leading corporations from state regulation and civil lawsuits. The Department of Transportation is backing auto industry efforts to stop California and other states from regulating tailpipe emissions they link to global warming. The Justice Department helped industry groups overturn pollution-control rules in Southern California that would have required cleaner-running buses, garbage trucks and other fleet vehicles. The U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has repeatedly sided with national banks to fend off enforcement of consumer protection laws passed by California, New York and other states. The Food and Drug Administration issued a legal opinion last month asserting that FDA-approved labels should give pharmaceutical firms broad immunity from most types of lawsuits. The Interior Department’s just-published budget plan anticipates that the government will let companies pump about $65 billion worth of oil and natural gas from federal territory over the next five years without paying any royalties to the government, estimated loss to the taxpayers, $7 billion.

In 2005, The Economist magazine, a very pro-capitalist periodical had a few things to say about the US of A. They mentioned the large and growing
Corporations are always trying to make a buck which often conflicts with the common belief that essential goods and services must be controlled by the public.

income disparities. Thirty years ago the average CEO pay was about 30 times the average worker. They found that today it is up to 1000 times the pay of the average worker. They found that the American education system was “increasingly stratified by social class, in which poor children attend schools with fewer resources than those of their richer contemporaries.” They also found that America’s celebrated universities were increasingly ‘reinforcing rather than reducing’ these educational inequalities. They found that American corporations were no longer successful agents of upward mobility. It is now harder for people to start at the bottom and rise up the company hierarchy by hard work and self-improvement. The editors of The Economist studied all this evidence and concluded that the United States “risks calcifying into a European-style, class-based society.” In 1960 John F. Kennedy said, “A rising tide lifts all boats;” but for many Americans the tide is not rising and they are not even in a boat. They are hanging on to the edge of a life raft while health care costs become unaffordable and housing costs go through the roof along with higher education and transportation. The economist Robert J. Gordon summed it up when it said, “the top one percent has gained the most of all, more in fact, than the entire bottom 50 percent.”

Just what kind of America do we have here? It looks like the kind of America that shuns work. An America where the favorite way to make a buck is by not working at all. Just sitting around in your luxury home, checking on your investments and at the end of the day being thousands richer. Somehow this unearned income is now America’s favorite way to make a buck but it is a real problem. How can many hard working Americans be happy with so little when others who do nothing have so much more? This is now a country where the workers produce the wealth and 1% of the population controls it. It is basically unfair for business owners to give as little as possible to workers and keep as much as possible for themselves however this may not work in America forever. It has never been a smooth road when one side keeps getting ripped off. Of all the industrialized countries in the world the greatest gap between the rich and the poor occurs in America. It is a real shame that the unions and the Democratic Party are both dead but one day American workers will see
America has vast number of poor who struggle to make it, with little help from their government. Thirty seven million Americans live in poverty. That is 12.7 per cent of the population, the highest percentage in the developed world. The American poor are found from the hills of Kentucky to Detroit’s streets, from the Deep South of Louisiana to the heartland of Oklahoma. Each year since 2001 their numbers have grown. Under President George W Bush an extra 5.4 million have joined those on the poverty line. Most have jobs, many have two, but the economy, stripped of worker benefits, like healthcare and facing cheap imports is having trouble paying good wages. In Kentucky, to name just one state, the minimum wage of $5.15 an hour has not risen since 1997 and, adjusted for inflation, is at its lowest since 1956. The gap between the rich and the poor has never been wider. Bush’s trillion-dollar federal budget recently increased the already massive amount of defence spending and slashed billions from welfare programs. The top twenty percent of Americans take home 60% of the income and the bottom twenty percent take home 3%. In America being poor is your own fault and every American is born with the same chance to make it. These myths are so firmly ingrained into the American psyche that most Americans can ignore the poor without taking action to help them improve their lives.

Many Americans know that Haiti is a mess, a poverty stricken disaster (see the Haiti chapter) but most Americans don’t know that parts of America are next on the list of poverty areas in the western hemisphere. The American Pine Ridge Indian reservation has an unemployment rate of over 80%, 70% of the people there live in poverty and life expectancy is in the 50s. In spite of the horrendous history of the Indians, at the hands of the Americans, the situation for these people continues.

In early 2006 Judge Robert Drain approved a Delphi Corporation plan that will provide its top executives with tens of millions of dollars in bonuses while hourly workers face a wage cut of up to 60 percent and suffer the loss of 24,000 jobs. The good judge said it would be difficult for union workers to accept the lucrative executive bonuses while they were facing severe wage cuts but he said the settlement was needed to make Delphi ‘competitive’. Judge Drain is a true American in the new era. Delphi President and Chief Operating Officer Rodney O’Neal, with an average annual salary of $1.2 million, could receive more than $20.3 million; Vice Chairman David B. Whoolen, with an average annual salary of $890,000, could receive more than $16.2 million and Chief Financial Officer Robert J. Dellinger, with a $750,000 average annual salary, could receive more than $12.5 million. Delphi CEO Robert Miller, received a multi-million-dollar signing bonus when he hired on at Delphi, just months before declaring bankruptcy. He has repeatedly suggested that auto workers are overpaid and under-worked.

Jose Bove is a French farmer who dismantled, with a few friends, a McDonald’s restaurant that was under construction near his sheep farm in
France. Bove is now known in France and abroad as a thoughtful theorist and strategist. His criticisms of the World Trade Organization’s pro-corporate agenda have done much to alert activists around the world. Bove, who has been a frequent visitor to the United States since he played an important part in the 1999 anti-WTO demonstrations in Seattle, is no longer welcome in George W. Bush’s America. When he arrived at New York’s JFK Airport to attend Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations he was stopped by US Customs and Border Protection agents who told him he was suddenly ‘ineligible’ to enter America, the land of the ‘free’.

Oxfam recently (May, 2006) reported that top American shoe brands such as Adidas, Nike, Fila and Puma contract factories in Asia where, mostly women, are forced to work long hours for crappy wages and they get fired if they complain. This was a big issue some years ago and the companies said they would clean things up but many have simply moved to countries where unions are not recognized. Oxfam reported that Nike makes 38% of its shoes in countries where workers have no legal right to freedom of association, compared with 52% in 1998. In recent years Nike has stopped working with suppliers who negotiate with unions, to make sure they pay bottom dollar. In 2004 Nike sales were about $10 billion. The Adidas shoes, that the poorly-paid David Beckham wears, are made in Indonesia where 30 union workers were recently fired for taking part in a legal strike. Fila, an American company, appears to be one of the worst of the worst. The Fila factory in Indonesia denied workers their basic rights, subjected women to sexual harassment and committed serious labor abuses. When confronted with the evidence in 2004, Fila said there was little it could do but they did close the factory, leaving its workers without jobs.

Between 1996 and 2000, which were boom years, more than 60% of U.S. corporations didn’t pay any federal taxes. The General Accounting Office confirmed that corporate tax receipts have shrunk to just 7.4% of overall federal receipts. Avoiding taxes has become an entrenched part of American corporate culture. The reason of course is simple; less tax equals more profits and more profits equal more pay, especially for the owners and the boss. Not that a corporate loss deters these guys as many continue to make millions while their companies lose money. Here are the incomes of a few guys during 2004, their hourly rate is based on an 8 hour day but I’m sure they would tell you they work much harder than that.

At Delphi the bosses screwed up the company and the workers took the hit.
Figures on CEO pay are often complex or hidden because they do not want their share holders or the public to have a clear picture. Often their pay includes stock options that have not yet been cashed in. Although these amounts vary depending on the stock price, when this was calculated the highest outstanding stock options were:

1. $659.5 million, Millard Drexler, The Gap;
2. $544.5 million, Timothy Koogle, Yahoo;
3. $496.3 million, Barry Diller, USA Networks;
4. $481.8 million, Charles Wang, Computer Associates;
5. $435.3 million, Louis Gerstner, IBM.

It is no coincidence that many of these overpaid executives are men working for companies that can charge excessively for their products. They often work for drug manufacturers, oil companies, health care providers, financial services and computer related industries. There are no farmers on the list, no teachers, no professors, no truck drivers, no police officers or firefighters. In other words these men, making tens of thousands of dollars per hour, cannot make this money on their own. They must be part of an organization that overcharges their customers and they must keep a disproportion amount of that money for themselves, there is no other way to put millions in your pocket.

These facts are ignored or disputed in America because the American rich have convinced most people that they too have a chance at the ‘good’ life. So many Americans believe that financial equality actually exists and that they are therefore capable of having what the con-artists have. This is not true. Most people in America are not con-artists and most in America do not get their fair share, ever.

When Allan Greenspan was chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, that bulwark of American capitalism, he said that, “The main danger faced by the US economy is the threat of rising wages due to a tight labor market”. If the wages of the average America worker increased as quickly as the average American CEO a $25,000 wage in 1994 would be well over $100,000 by 1998. Clearly that hasn’t happened. Real wages have actually decreased in recent years but Greenspan never complained about CEO wages.
When Cheney was CEO of Halliburton in 2001 they had defense contracts worth $427 million. By 2004 they were worth $4.3 billion of which a third were received without having to worry about another bidder. The Bush administration 2007 budget calls for a major increase in military spending. Those billions can only be used to wage an aggressive campaign of global militarism. A Defense Department review mentions a ‘long war’ which presupposes that war will always be with us and that no political power can actually find peace. The assumption can be made that the administration doesn’t actually want peace because it is not good for the American corporations. The amount allocate by America on the military is now greater than all other countries combined. Something President Eisenhower specifically warned America about in his 1961 farewell speech.

General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, Boeing and Lockheed Martin all saw their stock prices increase sharply in the wake of the 2007 budget announcement. Not only has the American military industrial complex received more money during ‘peacetime’ but they have delivered far less for each dollar. The air force has actually paid over $2 billion for one aircraft, which is the way military spending is going. Corporation profits are obviously enhanced if the product is more expensive, more complex and more capable, even if it that capability is not required. The Lockheed Martin profit was up 60 percent in the first quarter of 2006 to $591 million. Selling a small jet fighter for over $300 million probably helps. One of the pilots couldn’t open the canopy on one of these aircraft so they had to cut a hole in the canopy. No problem really, repair costs for a single plastic canopy, $1.28 million.

As the US government states: “Currently, the struggle is centered in Iraq and Afghanistan, but we will need to be prepared and arranged to successfully defend our Nation and its interests around the globe for years to come.” Defend our nation? Our interests around the globe? Do Americans ever ask? Why do we have to protect interests around the globe? Why do we have troops all over the globe? Why do we need to spend so much more on arms than anyone else? Unfortunately the answer is, so that some corporation can make money militarily. Unfortunately America has failed to accept that it could have made less money peacefully.

IBM, the famously profitable corporation, announced in early 2006 that it would freeze its pension plan, to increase profits, of course. The IBM chief executive is not worried. He will receive an annual pension of $4 million when he retires at age 65. That works out to $75,000 a week, or more than $10,000 a day, including weekends. Mr. Palmisano needs that kind of pension for life because his pay at IBM during 2004 was a measly $7 million a year. ALCOA just announced that they will not offer pensions to new hires. The executives who are cutting pension benefits see nothing wrong with keeping their guaranteed retirement luxury while new employees will have to fend for themselves. In fact by cutting pensions, they make their companies more profitable, thus boosting their own bonuses. Big shareholders are not about to
complain about a CEO making a company more profitable so these practices aren’t about to change anytime soon.

Motorola wiped out defined-benefit plans for new employees last year. If Motorola Chairman and CEO Edward Zander gets laid off or quits, he has the right to two years worth of salary, bonus and health benefits. He got $6.1 million in salary and bonus in 2004, as well as restricted stock that Motorola recently valued at $9.1 million. Not bad Zander!

Sears Holdings, after cutting pension benefits for mortal employees continued to guarantee that Chief Executive Aylwin Lewis, if he is laid off or even if he quits, still gets his base salary, bonus and benefits for three years. Last year that base salary and bonus were worth $1 million each. In 2004, the company awarded him 50,781 restricted shares worth $4.5 million, along with other restricted stock worth $1 million at the time. Ensuring that you are paid millions while cutting the benefits of others is becoming the American corporate norm.

One, the combined wealth of the world’s three richest people is greater than the total gross domestic product of the 48 poorest countries.

Two, in 1960, the average income of the richest 20 per cent of the world’s population was 30 times higher than that of the poorest 20 per cent. By 1995, this had become 82 times greater.

Three, in 1970, the gap between the per capita GDP of the richest country, the United States of America ($5070) and of the poorest, Bangladesh ($57) was 88:1. In 2000, the gap between the richest, Luxembourg ($45,917) and the poorest, Guinea Bissau ($161) was 267:1.

Four, a study of 77 countries (with 82 per cent of the world’s population) showed that between the 1950s and the 1990s, inequality rose in 45 countries and fell in 16 countries.

Of course all this pretty much proves that inequality is growing by leaps and bounds in many countries. This will be denied by the World Bank and other globalization nuts however it is always a good idea to ignore those with vested interests. Those vested interests include most of the worlds rich and the powerful as well as the rich politicians who work for them. Together they represent a powerful force for globalization which is why we have seen so much of it. The fact remains that the people, if they become sufficiently educated and motivated, can stop globalization and concentrate on improving equality and happiness. Those goals are far more laudable than the creation of more money for the people who already have too much.

On April 10th 2006 USA Today told us about the largest CEO cash grabs in 2005. #1 Richard Fairbank, CEO of Capital One Financial, total compensation of $280 million. The other executives at large companies breaking the $100 million mark were KB Home’s, Bruch Karatz at $164 million, Cendant’s, Harry Silverman at $133 million, Lehman Brothers, R.S. Fuld Jr. at $119 million, Genentech’s, Arthur Levinson at $109 million and Occidental Petroleum’s, Ray Irani at $106 million. The 240 executives on the USA Today list received
a total of $4.5 billion. The article also mentioned that the “median 2005 pay among chief executives running most of the nation’s 100 largest companies soared 25 percent to $17.9 million per year, dwarfing the 3.1 percent average gain by typical American workers.” A few others were not on the list: Jerald Fishman of Analog Devices at $150 million and Omid Korestani in the Google sales department, $288 million.

A few of the top earners were not included among the largest companies. These included the CEO of Analog Devices, Jerald Fishman, “who cashed out $144.7 million from his deferred compensation plan and made another $4.3 million in salary, bonus and options gains,” the newspaper reported. Perhaps the executive with the highest income was Google’s head of global sales, Omid Korestani, who exercised stock options giving him a massive $288 million.

Another study by the Wall Street Journal showed that executives at the largest 150 companies in Silicon Valley, California took home $1.55 billion in stock options during 2004, up 50% from 2003 and 177% from 2002. In 2005 it was even higher. The NYTimes reported that average CEO pay increased 27% in 2005, to over $11 million. Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics that shows the average salary of a production worker is $28,000, these CEOs earn about 400 times the pay of ordinary Americans. This is simply a result of the guys who can, paying themselves the money they can. It has nothing to do with stock price as numerous studies have show that executives still make big bucks

Some of the most profitable companies in America make killing machines to replace killing machines that are not yet obsolete.
when the stock dives. The guys in high places are protecting the guys in high places. The Bush Jr. Government tax cuts on investment income will hand back an average of $500,000 to taxpayers with incomes of $10 million or more. The guy making $28,000 per year will get little more than zero.

How about the defense contractor, David H. Brooks, CEO of DHB industries. This guy threw a Bat Mitzvah for his daughter and lined up Steve Tyler and Joe Perry, Kenny G, 50 Cent, Tom Petty, Stevie Nicks and others to perform for her. DBH Industries makes bulletproof vests but the Marine Corps Times said the vests failed various tests when they suffered “multiple complete penetrations.” David Brooks should be OK though; it is reported that he sold $186 million in stock last year and ‘earned’ $70 million in 2004.

Pfizer CEO Henry McKinnell is also going to have to get by on only $6.5 million per year when he retires at 65. He also happens to be chairman of the Business Roundtable, one of outfits who gave way too much money to Bush and encourage him to privatize Social Security.

Aquil Inc. CEO Richard Green, will have a pension of about $1 million. This is just OK but when he was running the company the stock dropped 90% and over 1,000 employees were laid off. Unfortunately there are too many more examples.

Corporations are turning to bankruptcy courts to eliminate union contracts. Probably the best known examples are the airlines that have been falling over each other to declare bankruptcy, slash existing contracts and pay suppliers a small part of what they are owed. Companies have been able to get out of virtually every contract no matter how sacred, pension payments, accounts payable, you name it. If they want to pay themselves millions and they can get the courts to agree, it’s all OK.

Wal Mart is the world’s largest employee with the motto: ‘always low prices’. This has also meant poverty wages, sweatshop conditions, and the destruction of local businesses and communities. Customers flock to these stores because they believe they will save money and on some individual purchases they do. Unfortunately the little money saved does not make up for the Wal Mart tactics. Recently a Wal Mart document was leaked entitled, ‘Warehouse Chip Away Strategy 2005’. This document outlines how Wal Mart plans to drastically undermine labor standards. Work breaks would be cut, grievance mechanisms removed, and health and safety conditions weakened. The document proposes removing the right to take individual grievances to external arbitrators. They plan to introduce ‘single man loading’ even though their own ‘risk assessment says two men are required for loading’. Line managers are advised to ‘lead by example, not taking all the breaks that hourly paid workers get’ in order to ‘take credence away from breaks’. Wal Mart requires that labor costs be kept to less than 8% of each store’s sales. In addition, managers must reduce the labor costs at their stores by 0.2% each year. This puts constant pressures on managers to get their workforce to work harder each year but it also produces billions for the Wal Mart owners and that’s what counts. One internal audit of 25,000
employees in 128 Wal Mart stores in the US found 1,371 violations of child labor laws including minors working late, too many hours a day, and during school hours. It also found 60,000 instances where workers were forced to work through breaks and 16,000 where they worked through meal times. America has set a global example of how countries should behave and now Wal Mart is setting the global retail example so other firms must slash employee wages and benefits in an attempt to compete. It is a race to the bottom with the owners on top with their billions.

Due to these actions Wal Mart has a PR problem and lucky for them, ‘independent’ think tanks have stepped up to the plate to help solve that image problem. Outfits such as the American Enterprise Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the Pacific Research Institute and the Manhattan Institute are happy to tell us how great it is to have Wal Mart in our communities. These ‘conservative’ think tanks have told newspapers and other media outlets how beneficial Wal Mart has been and they even go to the trouble of defending Wal Mart before committees in Washington. Funny thing though, they don’t go to the trouble of telling us about the millions Wal Mart pays them to tell us the ‘truth’.

Wal Mart’s anti-union policy is fundamental to the company. Wal Mart provides managers with its ‘Manager’s Toolbox to Remaining Union Free’ which states: “Staying union free is a full time commitment. Unless union prevention is a goal equal to other goals and objectives in the organization, management will not devote the necessary day in, day out attention and effort.” If there is any evidence of moves towards unionization, managers are ordered to phone the Wal Mart hotline immediately. In the UK, too, workers have come up against Wal Mart’s anti-union mandate. Wal Mart took over unionized stores in England and has tried to get rid of the unions. After four years of negotiations, a 2004 agreement between Wal Mart and the union does not provide for collective bargaining. Managers at a unionized distribution depot offered workers a 10 percent pay increase in exchange for the requirement that workers give up collective bargaining. When workers rejected the proposal, Wal Mart withdrew the 10% pay increase. When Wal Mart workers in Canada agreed to join a union Wal Mart eliminated the store rather than have a union in North...
America. As the largest retail corporation in the world, Wal Mart has immense power over suppliers and uses this to dictate everything from prices to delivery schedules. Wal Mart relentlessly squeezes cost efficiencies out of the supply chain, frequently requiring suppliers to open their books for inspection and telling them exactly where to cut costs. When national labor or environmental standards create a barrier to cost cutting, suppliers are encouraged to relocate to a labor market that will enable them to produce at the price Wal Mart requires. The cost savings that Wal Mart squeezes out of suppliers are not always passed on to the consumer. If Wal Mart can squeeze more out a supplier than required to meet the price that Wal Mart wants for that market the difference goes to owners, not the employees or the customers. In August 2002 Wal Mart (UK) sparked a banana retail price war with lasting effects on the banana industry and banana workers worldwide. Wal Mart specifically targeted key items such as milk and bananas as part of its strategy to brand itself as Britain’s low-price supermarket. In the end, some consumer prices were lowered by 25%. Wal Mart’s exclusive deal with Del Monte (formerly United Fruit Co.) contracted at what industry experts describe as a “ridiculously low price,” means that it is supplied with bananas grown and harvested under the worst labor and environmental conditions in the world. Independent growers in countries with adequate worker and environmental protection, such as Costa Rica, can no longer sell to Wal Mart and other British supermarkets without suffering a loss. Check out the movie, ‘Wal Mart, the high cost of low price’.

The Royal Society, Britain’s top scientific organization has asked ExxonMobil to stop funding global warming deniers. This ExxonMobil policy to confuse the public regarding the real threat posed by global warming will come back to haunt ExxonMobil but they are blinded by their quest for ever more billions in profit. The Royal Society found that EM gave millions of dollars to various groups who provided ‘inaccurate and misleading’ information to the public. In the years to come Exxon Mobil will be the poster child for corporations who would ruin the planet in their pursuit of profit.

The American company Freeport-McMoRan (FM) operates the world’s largest gold reserve in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Grasberg mine has already dumped a billion tons of mine wastes into a nearby jungle river. Operating in countries like Indonesia is not easy as the fat cats in that country prefer a direct piece of the action rather than reasonable legislation that could benefit everyone. Between 1998 and 2004 FM gave the military in Indonesia almost $20 million. The company needs the security of the military because the company and the Indonesian military ensure that the people who are causing the security problem get none of the benefits from the mine. Paying bribes to individual members of the Indonesian military is a violation of Indonesian law. Operating a mine in this manner helps to perpetuate the problems of an entire country. It also places FM outside the law. They can ignore environmental concerns; pay bribes to whomever and whenever and support people who might not be in the best interests of the country. For FM to operate a multi-billion
Corporations

dollar operation in a secretive, illegal manner is to demonstrate that for many American corporations only the money matters.

One of America’s largest businesses is medical care; those in the business like to call it the greatest health care system in the world. That is pretty silly but it certainly is the most expensive. It also has the most medical errors and over one half of all Americans reported that they missed a medical treatment because of the cost. The US spends 15% of national income on health care compared with Germany 11%, Canada 10%, Australia 9% and the UK 8%. Yet the US ranks last or is tied for last in safety and efficiency in the developed countries. The real difference between America, Germany, Canada, Australia and the UK is that in all those countries America is the only country without socialized medicine. Funny thing, it is also the most expensive, by far.

For many, the American dream has become a pipe dream. Over 70% of American workers now believe that it will be harder for them to financially achieve what their parents achieved. This is quite understandable as workers incomes have fallen by 12% since 1973, when adjusted for inflation, while CEO income has skyrocketed. Americans now work more hours than they did in 1973 and 200 hours more per year than other industrialized countries. Congress voted for a huge cut to the student loan program just when college is more expensive than ever. All the globalization, outsourcing, less R&D and delayed infrastructure repairs aren’t working too well. America is now the world’s largest debtor nation, the balance of payments is a mess and the debt has grown enormously since Bush Jr. took over and he still labels himself as a conservative. In 2002 of the worlds largest 100 companies 38 were American and 36 were European. In 2005, 33 were American and 48 were European. Significantly the pay for CEOs in Europe is about 12 to 18 times the pay for a worker. In America the CEOs make hundreds of times as much, work it out at your company but it may be difficult to find how much his pension, stock and other hidden benefits are worth.

Pittsburg Plate Glass Industries has asked the workers at their West Virginia plant to ratify a contract that creates a ‘second class’ citizen out of the new workers. Naturally all the new employees under this contract would make less, significantly less than workers made in the past. The workers seem a little mystified as to why this should be required as the plant is busy with record sales and profits. PPG had sales of $9.5 billion in 2004 and profit was up 38%. In the first quarter of 2005 profits were up 56%, not bad but management knows it could be higher if the workers worked for less. Hell, if they worked for nothing it would be perfect and PPG would never ask for another pay cut. The workers don’t need to be mystified, it’s called greed. The workers have a difficult time understanding this greed because many of them would not rip-off the workers if they were running the company. The fact is that greed is running PPG, as well as thousands of other American companies. These guys are quite happy to lay you off, outsource your job or move the whole plant to China as long as enough money ends up in their pockets. Get used to it; it is now the
Wal Mart has been embraced by many Americans because they don’t make the connection between low prices and their own declining wages.

American way.

ExxonMobil and other major oil companies could make massive profits on Iraq oil. Surprise, surprise, agreements were drafted by the US state department, before the war on Iraq. The U.S. drafted contracts could bring the oil companies profits on investment ranging from 42% to 162% compared to the minimum of 12% return that is considered normal. Contracted access to one of the major southern Iraq oil fields could double ExxonMobil’s oil reserves, doubling the worth of the company. In January, 2003, the Coalition Provisional Authority, CPA, appointed former senior executives from oil companies to help set up the framework for a longer-term oil policy in Iraq, with Gary Vogler of ExxonMobil, being one of the first advisors. ExxonMobil is on the board of directors of the International Tax & Investment Centre (ITIC), which is seeking Production Sharing Agreements in Iraq. Before the war started, ExxonMobil was in the hunt for Iraqi oil and it continues this quest during the occupation. And you thought this war was about ‘freedom’.

Noble Prize winning Joseph Stiglitz has also said that the war, in inflating oil prices, has brought huge profits to U.S. oil companies. ExxonMobil’s recently-retired Chair and CEO Lee Raymond appears to have had a major role in US policy making, including planning for access to Iraqi oil and promoting the war against Iraq. Mr. Raymond has personal access to Vice President Dick Cheney; for example, he met with him privately 10 days after the first Bush inauguration. Shortly after that Cheney’s energy task force began drafting an
energy policy. The Vice President went to court to keep the energy task force work secret, but the few papers forced out by law suits have included maps of Iraqi oil fields. Two months before the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Mr. Raymond became the vice chair of the board of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), possibly the foremost ‘think tank’ in engineering the Bush Administration Iraq War Policy, and central in promoting the war. Mr. Raymond is still vice chair of the AEI’s even though he has retired from ExxonMobil. Lee Raymond was paid $686 million during the 12 years he ran Exxon Mobil which equals over $140,000 per day. I’ll bet he got free coffee too!

According to a UN study the oil, gas and mining industries account for nearly two-thirds of all violations of human rights, environmental laws and international labor standards. The extraction guys also account for the worst abuses, up to and including complicity in crimes against humanity. These abuses are typically committed by public and private security forces protecting company assets, large-scale corruption, violations of labor rights and a broad array of abuses in relation to local communities, especially indigenous peoples. “The problems of corruption and the misallocation of public revenues have been endemic,” says the UN report. “They undermine the rule of law, impede the pursuit of social objectives, and contribute to conflicts that frequently foster human rights abuse.”

Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) is the 56th largest corporations in America. Sales of $36 billion, over 25,000 employees and over $1 billion in profit. ADM is America’s largest producer of ethanol, which both the President and ADM claim to be a great energy source. Unfortunately it doesn’t quite work out that way. ADM is increasingly using coal to power their ethanol plants. You could ask why they don’t use part of the ethanol they make to run the plant but if they did that there would be very little ethanol left to sell. This issue has been disputed before and really gets the ethanol guys worked up. They say it isn’t even close to being true but if you add up all the energy inputs that go into the production of ethanol they exceed the energy in the ethanol produced. If this is true the entire process is a waste of time but as they say, ‘figures can lie and liars can figure’. What is not in dispute is that the coal used to power the production of ethanol produces pollutants that include carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methanol, toluene, and volatile organic compounds, some of which are known to cause cancer. Just one ADM ethanol plant in Iowa produced nearly 20,000 tons of pollutants including sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds in 2004, according to the EPA. This agency considers an ethanol plant as a ‘major source’ of pollution if it produces more than 100 tons of any one pollutant per year.

ADM deals with agricultural products and presents itself a ‘green’ company. According to the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts ADM is the 10th worst air polluter in the country. The Federal government has charged the company with violations of the Clean Air Act in hundreds of processing units, covering 52 plants in 16 states. As a result of
these illegal acts ADM paid $351 million to the government in 2003. This is not the only multi-million dollar settlement ADM has paid. ADM is one of the world’s largest processors of soybeans, corn, wheat, and cocoa. ADM is also experienced in the lobbying department which paid off again as the Department of Energy is going to throw $160 million at ADM for 3 more ethanol plants. Those subsidies are one of main reasons the plants make money while they ‘lose’ energy. They are also helped by ethanol tax credits, tariffs against foreign ethanol competitors, and federally mandated ethanol additive standards. This, however, is not a one-way street; ADM gives millions to both Republican and Democratic politicians. ADM also helped put a 54¢ tariff on Brazilian ethanol so that Brazilian ethanol canot be imported. Ethanol is also made possible by billions in federal and state corn and ethanol subsidies. There is also a 51¢ tax credit for every gallon of ethanol sold and the government has made sure that billions of gallons will be sold by mandating that all gasoline in America contains ethanol. We’re not going to argue about the inefficiency of the entire ethanol process here but there are significant environmental factors other than the coal emissions already mentioned. Corn requires more nitrogen fertilizers, herbicides (including atraxine which is banned in the EU), and insecticides than any other crop, while causing the most erosion of top soil. Nitrogen runoff flowing into the Mississippi River has created a vast bloom of dead algae in the Gulf that starves fish and other aquatic life of oxygen.
ADM lends money to farmers who plant in areas of the Brazilian rainforest that have been illegally cleared. They grow soy which is shipped to Europe for cattle feed. ADM is also being sued by the International Labor Rights Fund for alleged involvement in the trafficking, torture and forced labor of children who cultivate and harvest cocoa beans in the Ivory Coast. The suit states that ADM knowingly ignored the use of forced child labor in the Ivory Coast cocoa plantations. As International Labor Rights Fund lawyer Natacha Thys says, “They could have put a stop to it years ago, but chose to look the other way. We had to go to court as a last resort.”

Governments are supposed to be there for all their people. Now that US corporations wield such power in the American government virtually everything the government attempts to do is vetted by corporate lobbyists and/or think tanks. If they oppose the proposed government action and they have enough clout it will not be done. This ability, on the part of corporations, is one reason why they continue to pay less and less tax and in many cases get millions of tax dollars just for doing business in a certain area. This fact is exacerbated because corporations are considered to legally have the same rights as people. When that was legally established, in America, in 1886, it opened the door for all sorts of abuse because it is basically wrong. A corporation is not a person and does not need those rights. Of course thousands of lawyers have complicated the hell out of this and used it to benefit the companies who pay their bills. Corporations cannot vote but they claim the right to influence elections with their campaign contributions. They claim their 4th amendment right to privacy so that they can refuse to provide information about the toxins they produce and refuse to allow inspections of their facilities, etc. etc. As

ExxonMobil has simply put the health of their profits ahead of the health of the planet.
the tables turn for the corporations the workers are losing. As the AFL-CIO said in 2006, “On an average day in 2004, 152 workers lost their lives as a result of workplace injuries and diseases and another 11,780 were injured.” For the first time in decades the rate of death and disability among workers has been climbing since Bush became president. Partly this is a result of funding cuts to government safety departments. Republicans also want to eliminate the right asbestos victim’s currently have to sue for damages. This would protect companies like Halliburton that have huge asbestos liabilities and leave the dying workers in the lurch.

In East Helena, Montana there was once a lead smelter, owned by Asarco. In 1999 it was sold to Grupo Mexico which is an international conglomerate. The boss there is Larrea Mota-Velasco who is listed in Forbes magazine’s ‘The World’s Richest People’ as a billionaire. Two years after buying this smelter, Grupo Mexico shut it down throwing 200 people out of work. In 2003, the company unilaterally hiked health-care premiums for retirees. Executives claimed the company was under financial duress and that it thus “reserves the right to amend or terminate the plans at any time for any reason... even after you retire.” Retirees were forced to accept the increases while a lawsuit dragged on. In that same year Asarco’s corporate parent reported more than a quarter-billion in profits in the fourth quarter alone—yet the company refused to back down. Then the company began delaying disability checks to retirees, property tax payments to the budget-strapped East Helena schools and cleanup operations at the old smelter. Then the company pressed a three-year wage freeze and reductions in pension and medical benefits for its workers in Arizona. These moves came as Grupo Mexico reported profits of more than $1 billion in 2005. On February 19th, 2006 there was an explosion in a Grupo Mexico mine in Mexico. Sixty-five miners were trapped underground and never found as the Grupo Mexico said it was too dangerous to keep looking for them. The mine workers in Mexico had gone on strike against Grupo México at least 14 times, “not only for salary increases... but because of its constant refusal to review security and health measures.” These companies get away with this because they can.

Both General Motors and Ford are demanding wage and benefit cuts from their workers as things are tough for the car executives who have put themselves ahead of their customers, their employees and the planet. General Motors CEO Richard Wagoner Jr. got a lousy $2.5 million bonus in 2004 on top of his $2.2 million in salary but both companies have huge amounts of cash, $20 billion at GM and $23 billion at Ford. It must be difficult to cry poverty with that amount of money in the bank but that’s what the bosses are doing.

Nike, the running shoe guys who pay their workers in the third world such crappy wages, paid Michael Jordan $20,000,000 in 1992 for endorsing its shoes. This just happens to be more than the entire 30,000 people in the Indonesian workforce who made the damn shoes. But it gets worse. The workers had to work for less than $2 per day for a year whereas Jordan had to stand around for
a few hours getting his picture taken. People are beginning to understand that the race to the bottom, inspired by globalization and the World Bank is a big mistake. Even the boss at Nike has seen the light but he can’t really change the world he and his buddies have created. Nike CEO Phillip Knight said in 1988 that his shoes, “have become synonymous with slave wages, forced overtime and arbitrary abuse.” He forgot to mention that he was part of this crappy example for corporations around the world in order to maximize profit.

Big outfits like Starbucks are pretty thin skinned. When a couple of native guys from the Haida nation opened a coffee shop on their isolated islands off the west coast of Canada they called it Haidabucks, Starbucks then hired a high priced lawyer and sued them. The suit would have forced these guys to change their name except for the public, who told Starbucks how stupid they were. Starbucks eventually dropped the suit. McDonalds restaurants has been waging a 26-year battle against a man called Ronald McDonald whose McDonald’s Family Restaurant has been open in a small town in Illinois since 1956. A Scottish cafe owner called McDonald was also sued by McDonalds, even though the family business had been operating well over a century. The UK’s McLibel trial, which began in 1990, seriously hurt McDonald’s - even though the firm eventually won the case - because it forced the hamburger giant to be open about its business practices. After suing two British environmentalists, for saying that McDonalds food was crap, the firm was forced to spend a humiliating 313 days in court, the longest trial in British history, defending every last detail of its business and making a number of spectacular gaffes along the way, such as one executive’s claim that Coca-Cola is nutritious because it is “providing water, and I think that is part of a balanced diet;” and another that McDonald’s burial of rubbish in landfill sites is “a benefit, otherwise you will end up with lots of vast empty gravel pits all over the country.”

Although manufacturing has declined in America because business owners think they can make more profit in other countries, manufacturing is still a going concern in many countries. The items manufactured are often produced under terrible conditions in free-trade zones that have been set up in Indonesia, China, Mexico, Vietnam, the Philippines and elsewhere so that the rich guys can avoid taxes. In the Philippine ‘sweat shops’ there are rules against talking and smiling. There is forced overtime, but no job security, it’s ‘no work, no pay’ when the orders don’t come in. Toilets are padlocked except during two 15-minute breaks per day, some of the seamstresses sewing clothes for western chains have to urinate in plastic bags under their machines. Some of these workers have long commutes that consume a large percentage of their pay. One women, Carmelita Alonzo, who sewed clothes for the Gap and Liz Claiborne, died after being denied time off for pneumonia, a common illness in these factories. The Disney CEO Michael Eisner makes over $10,000 an hour, the Haitians workers sewing Disney merchandise make 28 cents. Think about that when you consider buying products made by these unconscionable companies.
Have you heard of this guy? Philip Anschutz, named Fortune’s ‘greediest executive’. He runs movie theaters or more accurately he runs almost your entire movie going experience. He owns newspapers who advertise the movies, he runs the ads at the movies you don’t complain about and he owns the movie theaters. He controls such a big chunk of this infrastructure that studios often agree to his demands. What he wants is more leaders like George Bush, more anti-gay rights legislation, more discrediting of evolution and sanitized television. Anschutz wealth gives him power and he uses it by negotiating agreements with the studios, contracts which determine where a movie is played, to how long it is played, etc. etc. Anschutz is also a big republican supporter, he helped pay to overturn a law protecting gay rights, tried to stop medical pot, he gives money to conservative Christians and the organization that started almost all the indecency complaints to the Federal Communications Commission. All he needs to do now is run for politics!

Stocks of highest paid CEOs’ companies performed dismally. If you had invested in the stock of the company led by the year’s single highest paid CEO since 1990, you actually would have lost money. You would have done nearly six times better by investing in the S&P 500 index. A $10,000 investment in the Greedy CEO portfolio in 1991 would have decreased in value to $8,079 by the end of 2004, while a similar investment in the S&P 500 would have
increased to $48,350. So much for higher executive compensation actually doing anything for anyone other than the executive elite.

Inducted into the CEO Hall of Shame in the Stock Tanker category is Computer Associates’ Charles Wang. A billion dollar loss attributed to one man. Over the last 15 years, the cumulative pay of the ten highest paid CEOs in each year together totals more than $11.7 billion. Of the 150 possible slots for the highest paid executives over this period, not a single one was filled by a woman, and only one non-white male appeared on the list, Charles Wang, founder and former CEO of Computer Associates. Inducted into the CEO Hall of Shame in the Gross Pay category is Citigroup’s Sandy Weill, whose $1.1 billion in cumulative executive compensation since 1990 topped all others.

For a dozen years, the Institute for Policy Studies and United for a Fair Economy have collaborated to track the problem of excessive executive compensation. Most of the major business publications also issue annual CEO pay surveys, and many of them have been increasingly critical of executives they considered overpaid. But the fixation of most of the corporate world and the business press has been on whether CEO pay reflects performance—defined narrowly by stock value. The Institute looked not only at how CEOs have performed for shareholders, but also at how they have treated their workers and society in general. Public reaction to these reports shows that many Americans agree that executive pay should reflect these broader values and that extreme inequality undermines democracy. This year, as the war rages on in Iraq, the Institute decided to devote a special section to executive compensation for top defense contractors. The war has illuminated deep inequalities in our society at many levels. There are the gaps between the many young men and women who join the military for financial reasons and those who can afford not to. There are divisions between the soldiers on the ground and their more highly paid counterparts employed by private contractors. And, as their report shows, there is a growing chasm between those on the battle lines and the men in the executive suites who are making millions off the defense-spending boom. As the death toll mounts among Americans and Iraqis, it seems particularly unjust to see executives profiting personally from the horrors of war. Excessive executive pay can also hurt morale and performance for those lower on the ladder, in this case, the men and women in combat. Excessive pay is a problem not only in the defense industry. The ratio of CEO pay to average worker pay increased to over 400-to-1 in 2004, up from over 300-to-1 in 2003 and over 100-to-1 in 1990.

The Institute for Policy Studies reported in August 2006, that executives from both defence contractors and oil companies have been able to use the Iraq war to create, “personal jackpots”. They went on to say, “Unfortunately, partisan politics has stopped Congress from effectively overseeing this war contracting free-for-all.” The money paid the top 34 of these CEO was almost a billion dollars since 9/11. Enough money to pay one million Iraqis to rebuild their country for one year. These CEOs made almost 50 times what a General
made and hundreds of times what an Army grunt made. The CEO who heads United Technologies has made over $200 million since 9/11, hey, this is the American way! In 2005, William Greehey of Valero Energy made $95 million, Ray R. Irani of Occidental Petroleum made $84 million and Lee Raymond the CEO of ExxonMobil a paltry $70 million.

Not that these guys aren’t happy to pay a fair share in taxes, yeah right. Approximately $12 trillion, billion with a ‘T’ is held offshore by rich Americans. Estimated taxes not paid on this money equals $225 billion a year. Avoiding taxes is the main reason for banking offshore, there are no legitimate reasons. A Senate investigation into this situation revealed that rich Americans are prepared to hire, “an army of attorneys, brokers and other professionals” to set up their offshore corporations and trusts.

There are other ways for the very rich to look good and avoid taxes and that is to give the money away. Warren Buffett got some good PR recently when he gave almost $40 billion to various charities, $31 billion to The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Of course virtually everyone in America applauded Warren and it occurred to very few that it is appalling for one person to have $40 billion while over a billion people live on less than $1 a day. Over three billion live on less than $2 per day. People who do bitch about Warren’s billions are usually dismissed as jealous. Mr. Buffett may be a good guy but he has been
part of a system and used a system which clearly allows some people to starve to death while a few have billions. A good billionaire is not going to fix that, he is not going to even get close.

In 2005 U.S. corporate profits increased over 20% over 2004 which is not bad. They now account for the largest chunk of the national income in 40 years. Way to go George! The commerce department also tells us that this was due to ‘subdued wage growth’ how bout that. American workers don’t need more of the national income so they can take less. Is there not a union in America with any guts?

The American compensation trends during the last few decades, have paid CEOs excessively, are hurting workers, have cut employee pensions and resulted in corporations not paying their fair share of taxes. All of these trends damage America but the rich guys behind the trends don’t care because they are OK. Perhaps this is the greatest American problem, too many Americans just don’t care about the other guy.

Mr. Bernanke, the new Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board thinks this is all OK, perhaps because he works for the rich guys. He tells us this is just supply and demand at work and a result of getting a good education. Typical American myths. This increasing inequality is all about power, not supply and demand or education. The very rich associate with, and do business with, the very rich and if you don’t support that system you will never get there. That is also why this Plutocratic system will fail because it becomes corrupt. Today US...
Congress appropriation committees that oversee federal spending can operate in secret. The Congressmen can direct spending without public oversight. This is not a flaw in the system, this is the system, it was designed this way to benefit the congressmen and their friends, not the American public. Unfortunately this system kills a lot of people and ruins a lot of lives in the process but these failures will lead to eventual collapse.

The narrow corporate focus in America that concentrates on profit and share price has resulted in the failure of American capitalism. Until Americans, all Americans are able to share in the wealth that the workers produced, it will remain a failure. Until all American realize that they do not have the right to exploit other countries America will be a failure overseas. This inequitable system also generates hate, both in America and abroad. That hate will eventually turns around and bite those that support it. The American plutocrats are doing their very best to export the American system worldwide but it cannot be exported for the simple reason that this planet cannot support the waste and inequality that America currently represents. America’s deadly military adventures only exacerbate the hate and the problems.

“We’re not a democracy. It’s a terrible misunderstanding and a slander to the idea of democracy to call us that. In reality, we’re a plutocracy: a government by the wealthy.”


“Those in power are blind devotees to private enterprise. They accept that degree of socialism implicit in the vast subsidies to the military-industrial-complex, but not that type of socialism which maintains public projects for the disemployed and the unemployed alike.”


“What would have happened if millions of American and British people, struggling with coupons and lines at the gas stations, had learned that in 1942 Standard Oil of New Jersey, part of the Rockefeller empire, managers
shipped the enemy’s fuel through neutral Switzerland and that the enemy was shipping Allied fuel? Suppose the public had discovered that the Chase Bank in Nazi-occupied Paris after Pearl Harbor was doing millions of dollars’ worth of business with the enemy with the full knowledge of the head office in Manhattan, the Rockefeller family among others? Or that Ford trucks were being built for the German occupation troops in France with authorization from Dearborn, Michigan? Or that Colonel Sosthenes Behn, the head of the international American telephone conglomerate ITT, flew from New York to Madrid to Berne during the war to help improve Hitler’s communications systems and improve the robot bombs that devastated London? Or that ITT built the FockeWulfs that dropped bombs on British and American troops? Or that crucial ball bearings were shipped to Nazi-associated customers in Latin America with the collusion of the vice-chairman of the U.S. War Production Board in partnership with Goering’s cousin in Philadelphia when American forces were desperately short of them? Or that such arrangements were known about in Washington and either sanctioned or deliberately ignored?”

– Charles Higham, researcher, about US-Nazi collaboration during WW II.

For some interesting insights into who has profited from the Iraq War go to: http://www.alternet.org/waroniraq/41083/

For a good book on the decline of the American middle class go to: http://www.mythical.net/screwed/book.htm

Or catch the movie, IRAQ FOR SALE: The War profiteering.
COST OF WAR

"Nations have recently been led to borrow billions for war; no nation has ever borrowed largely for education. Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization. We must make our choice; we cannot have both."

– Abraham Flexner

“It’ll be a great day when education gets all the money it wants and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy bombers.”

Author unknown, quoted in ‘You Said a Mouthful’

– edited by Ronald D. Fuchs

“Civil disobedience is not our problem. Our problem is civil obedience. Our problem is that numbers of people all over the world have obeyed the dictates of the leaders of their government and have gone to war, and millions have been killed because of this obedience. Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world in the face of poverty and starvation and stupidity, and war, and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obedient while the jails are full of petty thieves, and all the while the grand thieves are running and robbing the country. That’s our problem.”

– Howard Zinn, from ‘Failure to Quit’

“Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience… therefore individual citizens have the duty to violate domestic laws to prevent crimes against peace and humanity from occurring.”

– Nuremberg War Crime Tribunal, 1950

The cost of war is inevitably inordinate as war is based on the destruction of lives and property. Destruction is always so much faster than construction and war is therefore the most expensive, traumatic, inequitable and unsuccessful way that mankind has yet found to resolve disputes. Killing is clearly illegal for mere mortals who wish to resolve a dispute but would-be-kings resort to killing and destruction with impunity. It is that idiocy, that selfishness and egoism that people everywhere must resist.

Those who pay the ultimate price don’t go to war for themselves. They
are invariably ignorant young men who have been misled by the egoists who wanted their war. Far too many others, including the parents who love their young warriors, often allow their patriotism and gullibility to place the interests of the egoists ahead of the lives of their own children. It is a tragic situation that has been repeated millions of times however the egoists try to ensure that the truth is denied to those parents as well as the rest of us. The rich, who invariably want even more money, usually support war because they seldom get hurt and believe that war will bring them even more riches, as it often does. The egoists and the rich always remember to say how sorry they are that all those young lives were lost but, hey, ‘freedom’ comes at a price, a price they are never willing to pay. Also the millions of young voices that have been snuffed out never protest the loss of the life they never got to live. Those realities make war possible. The severely wounded, the patriotic, often ignorant young men whose lives have been shattered, are rarely seen by the majority of the public, who did very little to stop the war but now would prefer not to actually look at the wounded. Of course war would never happen if we were all to suffer but only a minority of Americans suffer in a modern war. The same cannot be said for the far greater number of people who suffer when American egoists decide to attack them.

The severely wounded would do the future a favor if they all got into their wheelchairs or had friends push them along in their beds so that the public had some idea of their immeasurable loss and this tragic cost of war. That same insensitive public would also do themselves a favor if they thought about the needless suffering, that they are so willing to accept when it happens to others.

During World War II, 23% of American casualties died from their wounds, 17% died in Vietnam and only 9% have died in Iraq. This improvement in medical survival has not eliminated the American wounded, on the contrary. Almost 30,000 young Americans have been killed or wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan up to the end of 2006. Johns Hopkins University calculates the Iraqi deaths at over one-half a million. While many American deaths have been avoided with improved medical intervention the number of severely wounded has gone up. In Vietnam 3% of those wounded required amputations, in the Iraq war it has doubled to 6%. Those percentages are probably higher in the Marine Corps as they have done much of the fighting in Iraq but they do not release casualty figures. They probably feel that these numbers would be bad for recruiting.

There is a new type of wounded patient, the polytrauma patient. These people have multiple traumas including

Even minor wounds can scar people for life.
serious head injuries or vision and hearing loss, nerve damage, multiple bone fractures, unhealed body wounds, infections or emotional and or behavioral problems. Some have severed limbs or spinal cords. Hundreds of American soldiers fall into this category and are being treated at four specialized centers that will hopefully provide life-long, full-time care. The innocent civilian that becomes a polytrauma patient as a result of an America attack on their country either dies or suffers without proper care. In America the pentagon is obviously planning for future conflicts as the Department of Veteran Affairs plans to construct 21 more such polytrauma care centers. For example, one young marine has serious brain injuries, burn and nervous system damage. He will require hundreds of thousands of dollars of assistance each year to ensure adequate care but a Dr. Scott at his care facility says, “We expect to follow these patients for the rest of their lives. But I have a great deal of concern about our country’s long-term commitment to these individuals. Will the resources be there over time?” His concern stems from the shear number of injured Americans created in various wars. In addition to the 30,000 already mentioned there are tens of thousands of others with “non-battle injuries” or disease, and tens of thousands more who have developed psychological problems since their return to the United States.

Once American soldiers return from a ‘modern’ conflict the number of war casualties increase dramatically. The number of Afghanistan and Iraq veterans who have sought health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has already passed 100,000. The number from the Gulf war is much higher. The cause of many of these ailments is unknown but that does not mean that these ex-soldiers are not sick. The effects of exposure to depleted uranium are not fully understood but the resulting illnesses may be extensive. (see the depleted uranium chapter) Leukemia, lung cancer, chronic kidney and liver disorders, respiratory ailments, chronic fatigue, skin spotting and joint pain can all be expensive to treat and have thereby create a legacy of payments for the American taxpayer.

Many of the returning American soldiers have difficulty accepting what they have done. Although the American military teaches young men too aggressively kill others, most people are intrinsically opposed to that type of
behavior, particularly when the person they have killed did nothing to them or America. When they are back home and separated from their killing buddies they may feel a separation from the military and society. Alcohol abuse can result and among returned veterans over 20% suffer from that difficulty. Twenty two percent suffered from anger and continuing aggression and most eventually break up with their partners. Teaching young men from any country to be aggressive killers is fraught with long term problems.

While newly wounded veterans are being created every day in Iraq an increasing number of veterans are also emerging from the Vietnam War and the 1991 Gulf War. Additional vets from the WW II era are also seeking medical care as they get older. The Bush administration’s proposed budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs in fiscal year 2007 is $US81 billion, with some $US34 billion being requested for health care, a one year increase of 11%. The soaring cost of these health benefits and medical treatments for various war wounded will double in 7 years if this increase continues. Considering the near impossibility of reducing the money spent on the American Military Industrial Complex the increased cost of the war wounded will result in cutbacks to other programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid and/or Social Security. Although many Americans feel isolated from the post World War II American wars absolutely everyone shares in the cost of these wars.

Would American congressmen and senators have been so quick to support President Johnson’s war in Vietnam or President Bush’s war in Iraq if they really thought about all the long term consequences and the elimination of other priorities?

*Baghdad burning after another American air raid. American bombing has hardened the Iraqi resistance just as bombing has in all other conflicts. Like other bombings, America will not repair the damage they cause.*
At the start of the Iraq war the United Nations placed $23 billion dollars in a trust held by the Americans for the ‘purpose of benefiting the people of Iraq’. The money came from Iraqi oil sales, bank accounts and seized assets. The money was placed in an account with the Federal Reserve in New York. During the first 14 months of the Iraq occupation 363 tons of new $100 bills were flown to Iraq, a total of $12 billion.

In Iraq the Americans tolerated an environment that suspended Iraqi law, suspended American law and it became a lawless land. As they now say, “In a free fire zone you can shoot at anybody you want. In a free fraud zone you can steal anything you like. And that was what they did.”

A good example was the Iraqi Currency Exchange program (ICE). The Yanks decided to get rid of all the Iraqi money with Saddam’s image on it. To distribute the new money an American company set up by Scott Custer and former Republican Congressional candidate Mike Battles won the contract. They were to invoice for their costs plus 25% as profit. Not bad! But Custer and Battles also set up fake companies to produce fake invoices which were then submitted to get more than the 25%. They left paperwork lying around that showed, in one instance, that they charged $176,000 to build a helipad that actually cost $96,000. They hoped to bilk the ‘system’ of millions. Remarkably the US government, once it knew about the scam, took no legal action to recover the money. Why should they bother, this was Iraqi money. On another occasion almost a million was stolen from a US controlled vault, two Americans left Iraq with $1.5 million, there is no end to the stories. With the pending takeover by the interim Iraqi government, the Yanks went on a huge spending spree with this Iraqi money. Five billion was spent in one month, most of it unaccounted for. While the Americans were throwing all this cash around the people of Iraq were suffering in poorly equipped hospitals and in having less electricity and water than they did under Saddam. How is it possible that after more than three years of occupation and billions of dollars of Iraqi money, that the country could be less functional than before?

A big part of the problem was the people the Bush gang sent to Iraq. One example, to reconstruct the Iraqi health service they sent a committed evangelical Christian and a loyal Bush supporter with no medical experience. Their efforts were a complete failure which they now blame on ‘the system’. Basic equipment and drugs should have been distributed within months. The
Americans didn’t even have had to pay for these drugs but they failed to do so, not just in health, but in every other area of life in Iraq. The invasion of Iraq destroyed a modern functioning health care system; this was not a third world situation. As disgruntled Iraqis will often point out, despite far greater devastation and crushing sanctions, Saddam did more to rebuild Iraq in six months, after the first Gulf war, than the Americans managed in three years with the Iraqi billions.

There has been, according to the US Army a ‘slight increase’ in the number of US soldiers who took their own lives last year, 2005. The 83 deaths were the highest number since 1993 but the total may be higher as other deaths are being investigated. The suicide rate is somewhat higher that the civilian rate for a similar age category. A little off topic here but interesting just the same. Suicide is a very difficult thing for most of us to understand. In almost every country the male suicide rate is much higher than the female rate. The notable exception being China. In some countries which have the highest rates, Russia for example, it seems to make sense but then the rate is zero in other poverty stricken countries, so go figure? In the USA 70 men kill themselves every day. If 70 whales beached themselves everyday there would be a huge investigation.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld tells us that his $439 billion, 2007 Pentagon budget, which does not include about $100 billion in war costs, is actually a defense budget at an historic low, as a percentage of the gross domestic product. What he does not explain is that this amount of money is approaching the amount Reagan spent when he was trying to outspend the Soviets. In 1963 Kennedy spent $392 billion in 2006 dollars. Regan in 1982 spent $375 billion in 2006 dollars. Defense spending dropped in the 1990s but have been increasing under Bush. In 2002, $382 billion in 2006 dollars in 2003 $439 billion in 2006 dollars and in 2006, $429 billion but the figures from 2003 on do not include supplemental appropriations for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq which are now more than $400 billion. Wars are terribly expensive, terribly destructive, and terribly deadly. Why are some leaders so keen to go to
war when it invariably ruins their administration and their legacy? Why do so many other men follow them?

Therefore the total military spending today is greater that the spending during the height of the cold war. Mr. Hellman a defense analyst with the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation rejects Rumsfeld’s use of the military % of GDP. “The GDP argument is the last refuge of scoundrels,” Hellman said. Comparing the defense budget to GDP is a measure of the program’s burden on the U.S. economy. The spending levels are a measure of a program’s burden on the American taxpayer. In 2004 Americans spent 47% of all the money spent by all counties on military spending. In 2007 America is expected to spend more on arms that all other countries in the world combined. The big question remains, why is America so much more fearful than everyone else when they are already far more able to retaliate than anyone else? Why does America rely on retaliation to solve problems?

In 2004 the US Army cancelled a stealth helicopter called the Comanche. This aircraft was three years behind schedule and almost $4 billion over budget. No problem, the army gave Boeing and Sikorsky, the Comanche builders, $34 million as an ‘award fee’ which was just a small part of the over $200 million in ‘award fees’, already paid for this project. Award fees are there

Devastation and waste are synonymous with war. Although a few make millions this waste destroys wealth that could be used to produce durable assets and solve more serious problems.
for contractors who ‘perform’ but being years behind schedule and vastly over budget is a strange type of performance. Approximately $8 billion in ‘award fees’ was paid by the US taxpayers to military contractors between 1999 and 2003. This money is over and above the billions that were part of the contracts. What a deal!

Shortly before the Iraq war Bush administration economist Larry Lindsey suggested that the war might cost between $100 and $200 billion. These numbers were much too low but Lindsey’s estimate was better than any other. He was fired when the Office of Management and Budget Director, Mitch Daniels put the number at $60 billion. If you are going to have a war you don’t want to look bad right off the bat. Current estimates now indicate that the total bill will be over one trillion dollars or 20 times more than the Bush ‘experts’ estimated. If all the other costs are included, such as lost opportunities that could have made America more competitive, the impact of higher oil prices as a result of the war, the improved efficiency of America had this money been spent on schools, roads and other infrastructure improvements then the total cost could well approach two trillion dollars. The exact figures are not the issue. What is important is that the Bush administration has been lying from day one about the true cost of this war of choice. The original White House estimate of the total war cost was $60 billion, including the destruction of all Iraqi ‘weapons of mass destruction’. Well they saved some money destroying those but Undersecretary of Defense, Paul Wolfowitz is obviously not very good with numbers. No problem, he is now president of the World Bank.

www.costofwar.com is a site that can tell you the cost of the war in your state or community. For example the cost of just the Iraq war in California is $35 billion, for Massachusetts it is $8 billion, Nevada $3 billion etc. You can also determine the cost in your individual community or the cost per person which is now over $1000.00 each. These prices do not include all the war costs and will keep going up for some time, even if the war ends. It is too bad that Bush Jr. didn’t spend any time in Vietnam. He might have learned that foreign interventions just don’t work very well and often lead to civil war which is just where Iraq now seems to be.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has given the Navy the go-ahead to develop a conventionally armed Trident missile. Two dozen existing nuclear-armed submarine-launched missiles will be converted to carry conventional warheads. The missiles will then be assigned “global strike” missions to allow quicker pre-emptive attacks. Is there no end to the insanity that America employs to justify these killing machines? What possible situation would call for an American sub to fire missiles half way around the world? When they were on their way to their target would the Russians, the Chinese, the Indians and the North Koreans all be notified? After this relatively small amount of high explosive detonates would America then send troops into this area? Would they invade this country? Would this missile kill innocent bystanders? What Donald Rumsfeld is really saying is that the existing nuclear-armed missile
subs, that cost trillions, are not really needed but can be used to kill ‘suspected’ terrorists. If only there was more brain power in Washington!

Since 2002, the U.S. Department of Defense has spent millions of dollars creating a database that lists every 16 to 25 year-old in America. In this way the Pentagon can target the 30 million young Americans more effectively with its $4 billion annual recruiting campaign. It should be noted that the sons and daughters of congressmen and senators are not on the list!

In a startling revelation, the former commander of Abu Ghraib prison testified that Lt. General Ricardo Sanchez, former senior US military commander in Iraq, gave orders to cover up the cause of death for some female American soldiers serving in Iraq. Col. Janis Karpinski told a panel of judges at the Commission of Inquiry for Crimes against Humanity Committed by the Bush Administration in New York that several women had died of dehydration because they refused to drink liquids late in the day. They were afraid of being assaulted or even raped by male soldiers if they had to use the women’s latrine after dark. So the women took matters into their own hands. They didn’t drink in the late afternoon so they wouldn’t have to urinate at night. They didn’t get raped. But some died of dehydration during their sleep in the desert heat, Karpinski said. Sanchez’s attitude was: “The women asked to be here, so now let them take what comes with the territory,” Karpinski quoted him as saying. Karpinski said that Sanchez, who was her boss, was very sensitive to the political ramifications of everything he did. She thinks it likely that when the information about the cause of these women’s deaths was passed to the Pentagon, Donald Rumsfeld ordered that the details not be released. “That’s how Rumsfeld works,” she said.

Twenty nuclear American submarines waiting to be scrapped. This is a very expensive proposition due to nuclear contamination over the life of the ship, not to mention the abysmal waste.
The Iraq war is reaping a fierce psychological toll, exposing a mental health crisis inside Iraq, and searing hundreds of thousands of US troops with combat trauma. US soldiers returning home from tours in Iraq, are initially showing a higher incidence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) than in other American conflicts. Around 317,000 veterans who received a primary or secondary diagnosis of PTSD were treated at medical centers run by the US Department of Veterans Affairs in 2005. About a third had a subsequent diagnosis of a mental health disorder, said Dr Antonette Zeiss, the department’s Deputy Chief Consultant for Mental Health. “It is higher than initial rates in previous wars,” said Zeiss, adding that part of the rise may be due to a vigorous effort by the department to find out what help veterans’ need.

Iraq’s doctors and specialists, subjected to persecution under Saddam Hussein are now the target of insurgent bullets and bombs. Dr Sabah Sadik, a Britain-based doctor who advises Iraq’s Health Ministry, said he was shocked at the dilapidation of the hospital system when he returned to Iraq for the first time since the 1970s. Scores of doctors fled the country under Saddam, and now more are leaving despite recruitment efforts, he said. “It is very difficult when doctors and intellectuals have been targeted by the terrorists.” But a wide variety of ailments can be expected in a nation stifled by decades of tyranny, foreign occupation and three years of post-Saddam violence. “It is a very easy for a lot of people to lose hope with ongoing violence and ongoing intimidation. Iraqi citizens were also devalued and targeted by the Iraqi regime,” said Dr Husam Alathari.

The cost of war is also borne by the planet. The US military is the world’s largest polluter. It generates 750,000 tons of toxic waste annually, more than the five largest chemical companies in the US combined. This pollution occurs globally as the US maintains bases in over 100 countries. In America there are 27,000 toxic hot spots on 8,500 military properties. The Fairchild Air Force Base is the number one producer of hazardous waste, generating
Amoral America

over 13 million pounds of waste in 1997. Not only is the military emitting toxic material directly into the air and water, it’s poisoning the land of nearby communities resulting in increased rates of cancer and other diseases. The military currently manages 25 million acres of land providing habitat for some 300 threatened or endangered species. The testing of Low-Frequency Sonar technology is suspected of having played a role in the stranding death of whales around the world. Rather than working to remedy these problems, the pentagon claims that the burden of regulations is undercutting troop readiness. The Pentagon already operates military bases in and outside of the US as ‘federal reservations’ which fall outside of normal regulations. Yet the DOD is seeking further exemptions in congress from the Migratory Bird Treaties Act, the Wildlife Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Pentagon now employs 10,000 people with an annual budget of $2 billion dollars just to deal with the legalities that arise from the Military’s toxic waste. The Federal Justice Department policies frustrate attempts by the public to obtain knowledge. In one case the US Navy demanded $1500 for the release of documents related to compliance with environmental laws at the Trident nuclear submarine base in Puget Sound. Other requests are simply not processed and attempts at legal countermeasures are thwarted. The Pentagon has also won reductions in military whistleblower protection laws. These measures have made the Freedom of Information Act less accessible and America less democratic but collectively they cost America in the same way the militarism costs everybody everywhere.

U.S. DEFENSE AND SECURITY SPENDING FISCAL YEAR 2006

Grand total for the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, (but not all Congress has appropriated to DOD) $454.5 billion

Military Construction Appropriations: $12.2 billion

Total Appropriated to Date to Dept. of Defense $466.7 billion

2006 Supplemental (Possible amount to complete Iraq/Afghanistan war costs for 2006) $50 billion

Likely Total for DOD for 2006 $516.7 billion

Department of Energy/Defense Activities Appropriations (Funds nuclear weapons activities): $16.4 billion

Other non-DOD defense activities (Funds Selective Service, National Defense Stockpile, etc.) $4.7 billion

Total for ‘National Defense’ (Constitutes the National Defense Budget Function ) $537.8 billion
Homeland Security (Approximate amount for non-DOD Homeland Security costs): $41 billion
Veterans Affairs $68 billion
International Security (Approximate amount for reconstruction aid, foreign arms sales, development assistance, etc.) $23 billion
Total for non-defense but security related costs $132 billion
Grand Total for all international security and defense costs $669.8 billion

Or, approximately $2,300 for every man woman and child in America in 2006.

In early 2006 the major American defense manufacturers announced their 2005 financial results. Although some of these guys also make non-war stuff they are all big in the killing game. The numbers have been rounded off.

- Boeing Sales were $55 billion, profit $3 billion, up 37% over 2004
- General Dynamics Sales were $22 billion, profit $2 billion, up 20%
- Lockheed Martin Sales were $37 billion, profit $2 billion up 44%
- Northrop-Grumman Sales $30 billion, profit $1.5 billion, up 29%
- Raytheon Sales were $22 billion, profit $1 billion, up 110%

With all these billions floating around fraud, incompetence and corruption are common even amongst the stalwarts in the industry, such as Boeing. There’s Halliburton who receives no preferential treatment from the government because their former CEO who is now vice-president and just wouldn’t do that, yeah, right. Halliburton got all sorts of no-bid contracts worth millions while other lesser know American corporations where robbing the Iraqi people blind. Even the awarding of the $592 million US Iraq embassy contract was kept secret but it is no secret that the embassy will never be built for $592 million. In fact the company building the embassy is not even American. The contractor is a Kuwaiti firm that has gone from $35 million in sales in 2003 to almost $2 billion today, not bad for a few years. An American company, Framaco bid $70 million less but never got the contract but then Kuwait was the only country bordering Iraq that allowed US troops into their country prior to the 2003 invasion.

Due to the America efforts, which have created an extremely dangerous Iraq, the US is now spending big bucks to build an embassy in Baghdad that will be ‘more secure than the Pentagon’. The price does not include the security costs which the American taxpayers will pick up, for decades. Although America is now in Iraq, ‘only to bring democracy to the country’ the taxpayers will also be footing the bill for four massive military super bases around Iraq’s
capital. The huge desert complexes, including airstrips and aircraft hangars, are up to 20 miles square in size and are not featured on civilian maps. The Americans are undoubtedly counting on using Iraqi oil to pay for all this but they have not yet asked the Iraqis if this is OK.

Here’s an interesting inevitability, the Defense Department’s Office of the Inspector General has said that the US military is now so large that it is, “un-auditable.” The Pentagon uses more than 250 accounting systems, which undoubtedly don’t work together, so the Inspector doesn’t know what’s going on and neither does Congress, not that they ever did. This is causing big problems for the military as well as American taxpayers. The General Accounting Office who is supposed to check all this stuff, found that of the $100 million owed by defense contractors, the feds collected less than 1%, that 94% of Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers pay was incorrect, that $1.2 billion in supplies shipped to Iraq couldn’t be found, that $100 million in airline tickets were never used and that there is about $35 billion in excess supplies or equipment. I guess having a smaller military is out of the question?

Over 10,000 military aircraft sit in storage while the American military industrial complex busily builds new ones. This waste is a gross obscenity that clearly illustrates Americas disdain for the 30,000 people who starve to death, each and every day!

One of the US military’s favorite ways to keep the tax dollars flowing into their pockets is to order superior equipment to replace perfectly good equipment. A good example is the Lockheed Martin F-22 ‘Raptor’. Naturally this aircraft is much more expensive that the aircraft it replaces and naturally the Air Force says they must have it. The cost to the taxpayers is around $361 million each, more than a new 747, but hey, it can drop bombs!

The massive cost of these weapons seems to have convinced some Americans in high places that war must go on, that America must prevail. Now the Pentagon has a plan to fight ‘dirty wars’ that involve American death squads, secret torture, secret armies and yes, even terrorism. This is not to win ‘wars’ against declared enemies but ‘long’ wars and secret wars against secret enemies. According to Rumsfeld this is now the Pentagon’s ‘highest priority’ in the ‘global war on terror’. (see the War on Terror chapter)

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War is also very expensive for democracy. An informed public has never been allowed to vote for or against a war. Can any country claim to be a democracy without that right?
Rumsfeld’s plan has been accepted by both the President and vice-president so the military is gearing up. Many more ‘secret’ soldiers are being trained to engage in secret fights with secret enemies. This means that these battles can be completed without congressional approval or even, knowledge. A few comments from those in the game are enlightening, “Do you remember the right-wing execution squads in El Salvador? We founded them and we financed them. The objective now is to recruit locals in any area we want. And we aren’t going to tell Congress about it.” and “The rules are, ‘Grab whom you must. Do what you want.” Yes, this could be a never-ending war.

War always includes atrocities and it is not the poor shmucks who do the killings who are to blame. It is the aggressive nature of the training that these ignorant young men undergo to become trained killers. Killing a person, who did nothing to harm you, is not a natural act. Powerful forces are used to get men to kill a wounded men lying on the ground, to kill civilians running across a road or gathered in a crowd. All places where American troops have killed and been caught on video. Although they were not caught on video, US marines killed 24 innocent civilians simply because they were pissed off. Naturally the military tried to cover this up as they did at My Lai and in every other case. Usually they succeed but too many people saw this one. It is simply foolish to take young men, put them through an aggressive killing program and then put them in a situation where their friends are killed, and then expect them to act normally. They have been compelled to act abnormally ever since they got in the military, why should they change in battle?

So here we are May 2006. The Iraq war is getting more unpopular and more expensive. The ‘war’ in Iraq and Afghanistan will cost about $120 billion this year which of course is not the total cost, just the way the government likes to tell it. Iraq cost $48 billion in 2003 and will cost almost $100 billion this year. If things go on like this the ‘war’ will cost the taxpayers more than the Vietnam War by 2016 even when adjusted for inflation. Both the Republican and Democrat leaders said they would grant Bush Jr. his requests for more money.

Even now the government numbers try to minimize the war costs. The Congressional Budget Office gang is now talking $500 billion, almost ten times higher than the original numbers and yet people are still paying attention to these guys. The
$500 billion does not include directly related war costs, such as veterans care. Almost 30,000 badly wounded Americans, some costing hundreds of thousands a year to keep ‘alive’, are costing billions and they would rather not be there. These estimates don’t include the cost of destruction or wear and tear on US equipment. It is considered ludicrous to suggest it but it certainly doesn’t include the devastation in Iraq and making that right. Also missing are the increased costs of recruiting bonuses as many don’t want to go to Iraq but can be bought for a few thousand dollars. Now we are up over $700 billion but there are other costs that should, in all fairness, be included. The cost of a death or an injury is not paid by the taxpayers, other than death and disability payments, but the loss is still considerable. What is the life of a young American, who would have lived a prosperous life, worth? What would that American have produced over their lifetime? We will never know but it could have been significant. And, we mustn’t forget the interest. Because America is so grievously in debt every dollar for this war must be borrowed from foreigners so the taxpayers are also on the hook for billions in interest.

Several studies, including one by a Nobel laureate in economics, which should mean something, concluded that the ‘real’ cost of this war will be over $1 trillion dollars and that this is a conservative calculation. Americans need to ask themselves how their government can sell them a war that is supposed to cost $60 billion and yet it ends up costing over 20 times as much. Is it remotely possible that the people leading America can be that incompetent? Is it possible that the think tanks, the universities, the elected officials, the cost-benefit analyses and the American people can look at this perverse spending and not do anything? Probably, it happened before in Vietnam, but this is injustice on a grand scale. American officials cannot create mayhem, death and destruction without being held accountable. Not in a world that works, for Americans and everyone else.

Here’s some good information from a politician, no less. Senator Ted Kennedy’s office put together what one day of Iraq war spending could buy. Since his figures came out the cost of the war has increased but they are still shocking. These items reflect congressional estimates but this is still the government estimate so you can be sure that the real cost will be even higher but they do point out what a fantastic waste war really is!

War brings out the worst in everyone. These are young German men starved and abused by the British AFTER WW II. The British kept their torture camps secret for 60 years. Under the current UK-US intelligence sharing agreement the Brits and the Yanks have agreed to share ‘evidence’ acquired under torture. The cost to Britain and the US, when they set these abysmal examples is incalculable.
ONE day of Iraq war spending could pay any of these things instead:

- Purchase 1,500 fire trucks for improving local emergency response capabilities.
- Employ 9,248 fire fighters, 7,937 police patrol officers, or 13,257 paramedics and emergency medical technicians for one year each.
- Double the federal budget for nuclear reactor safety and security inspections to ensure that these potential terrorist targets are adequately protected and have almost $200 million left over.
- Provide 18,330 port container inspection units to detect hazardous materials being trafficked into the country.
- Cover the full cost of attendance for one year at a public college for more than 32,148 students.
- Employ 8,025 elementary school teachers or 7,570 secondary school teachers for one year.
- Provide health insurance coverage for one year to 716,090 uninsured children in America.
- Employ 6,762 additional registered nurses for one year.
- Provide unemployment benefits for almost 1,357,000 unemployed Americans for one week.
- Fund Social Security retirement benefits for one day for over 12.7 million Americans.
- Provide paid sick leave for almost one million workers for an entire year.
- Pay for one year’s gasoline consumption for 183,000 Americans, even at today’s prices.
- Feed all of the starving children in the world today for over 9 days.

A comment like this could only come from a person who has no idea about the horrors of war.
• Vaccinate all of the children in Africa for measles and give millions a lifetime of protection from the disease and still have over $100 million left over.

• Build 10,473 AIDS clinics in Africa.

• Provide 1,222,000 women in Africa living with HIV/AIDS, antiretroviral treatment for one year to extend their lives and improve the lives of their children.

Instead Mr. Bush choose to start a war that ran for not just one day but years, killed hundreds of thousands and wrecked his Presidency and his place in history. Go figure?

Many Americans are against war but seem to feel that it is good for the economy. This delusion has been supported by those who do benefit from war but destruction can never be nearly as good for the economy as good decisions that actually benefit everyone in a more durable way. The Iraq war is a good example, it has increased the profits for the arms manufactures and in particular the American oil companies but not the average American. On the contrary it has and will continue to cost them billions. If all these war related billions had been spent on education, efficiency, solar energy or other helpful technologies America would have less crime and less poverty. That would have saved additional billions as well as creating peaceful wealth that is so much more valuable than the creation of the evil destructive wealth that benefits so few. America would also have been a stronger country. Instead America is weaker and that weakness will grow as debt and the lack of American competitiveness plaque the country.

After looking at some of these numbers and the results of these expenditures it must be apparent that war is a crazy process, I mean, why would you ever want to go there? The Presidents ratings are in the toilet, along with those of his buddies and even the government, who first estimated the cost of the war at $60 billion now admits that it will be ten times that. The Department of Defense has said that
it is burning through $6.4 billion a month in Iraq and $1.3 billion a month in Afghanistan and the number keeps going up, now close to $10 billion a month. How much are the bad guys spending? Maybe $400 or $500 bucks per month, they get their explosives and bullets for free and don’t have uniforms so maybe that’s a little high but doesn’t it seem a little strange that one side in a conflict would spend $148,000 per minute and the other side is spending a buck or two? If we’re talking just dollars here, one side is clearly winning, big time. Unfortunately these numbers don’t include many of the other costs that the war guys tend to leave out but surely America has other things it could spend these borrowed billions on? No?

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute recently released its 2005 annual report. America came out on top having spent 48% of the global total of $1.118 trillion on arms. Most of the large increases occurred in the Middle East in particular Saudi Arabia. Europe actually spent 1.7% less on the military with the largest declines in Italy and Britain. The global military spending was equal to $173 for each person or 2.5% of the global gross domestic production. The military spending in the US was $1,604 for each person. The next highest was America’s staunch ally Israel at $1,430 per person. The Chinese spending was less than 2% of the American spending at $31.20 per person. Spending in India was 1% of the American amount. It is not known why Americans feel that they are 50 times more threatened than the Chinese.

Perhaps the greatest cost of war is the destruction of the moral compass that has affected so many people, including so many Americans. In June 2006 NBC and the Wall Street Journal released recent polling results. This was after the massacre at Haditha was well known. A massacre, where unarmed Iraqi families were murdered by US troops. A third of Americans said this type of incident was “common” in war and almost 50% said that the killers should be, “reprimanded but not brought up on criminal charges.” It is the same with torture, most Americans, except the President, know that their government has tortured for decades, but there is no outrage. They also know that the actions of their government killed thousands of innocent people, but there is no outrage. What has happened to American...
values? This powerful country unilaterally kills thousands of their own and tens of thousands of others, who never threatened them and most American’s just carry on as if it wasn’t happening. This is one of the greatest costs of war, people stop caring and when the bombs start to fall on them, it will too late.

Without those who accept war this would be a very different planet. It would be marvelous, simply marvelous and virtually 100% of the population would regard any politician who clearly worked for that goal as a man to grace the history books. In contrast the pro-war Bush Jr. is hated by billions and will be remembered only for his mistakes. Being on the side of goodness is not rocket science!

The tragic American violence that has been unleashed numerous times since WW II will come to be regarded as the most needless and prolific waste of lives and resources in human history. Virtually every human difficulty today could have been eliminated if the resources spent on arms and conflict had been used to solve the real problems associated with poverty, ignorance and inequality. As the worlds most powerful and prosperous nation during all those decades, American had an obligation to set a peaceful and compassionate example. Billions hate America for doing just the opposite.
CREATING HATE

“And so, to the end of history, murder shall breed murder, always in the name of right and honor and peace.”
– George Bernard Shaw - Irish playwright.

“Hatred paralyses life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.”
– Martin Luther King Jr.

“Hatred is the coward’s revenge for being intimidated.”
– George Bernard Shaw

“Hatred is the madness of the heart”
– Lord Byron

“Love blinds us to faults, hatred to virtues”
– Moses Ibn Exra

The creation of hatred in the good old US of A follows the tried and true path that has been used everywhere else. This is the promotion of inequality and a failure to consider, let alone implement the ‘golden rule’. America today is a nation of mostly affluent people who ignore the golden rule because they fail to understand how ignoring it creates so many of the problems they face. It is the failure to implement this rule to ‘DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU’ that has created so much hatred for and between Americans. Make no mistake; this hatred was the basis for 9/11, Oklahoma City, gated communities, kidnappings and much of the crime in America. As America continues to divide into the haves and have-nots, it seems that many Americans would rather have all their needless stuff, than share with those who will ultimately come to hate them.

The old saying, ‘Money is the root of all evil’ certainly applies to hatred in America. The early attempts to bring financial fairness to all Americans have been largely eliminated under various Republican governments before and after Reagan. The inequitable path that has been embraced by both Bush Jr. and the Democrats is now firmly entrenched in America. It is a path based on lower taxes, patriotism, militarism and selfishness. None of those attributes will result in peace, understanding, compassion or sharing. They represent the rich and those who would be rich and they take care of themselves, it is as
simple as that and it will lead to failure.

Graduated taxes, whereby you paid more taxes on the higher portion of your income, was a fundamental part of the American tax system when it got started in 1913. In 1917, the top rate was 77% and during WW II the maximum rate went up to 94%. In 1980, the maximum rate on investment income was 70% and on wages 50%. After Reagan an already seriously flawed system became less equitable. He lowered the top rate for all income to 50% and in 1986 to the lowest level since 1931, 28%. This was raised to almost 40% in 1990 but Presidential candidate Forbes proposed a flat tax of 17% for all income over $36,000. This was rejected but under Bush Jr. America has come a lot closer to a flat tax. The top rate today is 35% but no one pays that as it only applies to income over $326,450 per year. The lowest rate 10%, applies only to the first $7000 of income. The Social Security tax of 6.2% only applies to the first $90,000 of income so the more you make over that amount the less you pay as a percentage of your income. As a result, people with income between $500,000 and $1 million owe almost the same share of their income in combined federal income and payroll taxes, 22% as did taxpayers in the $100,000 to $200,000 range who paid nearly the same rate, 20.6%. Those in the $50,000 to $75,000 range paid 17.4%; taxpayers in the $40,000 to $50,000 range paid 15.8%; and those in the $30,000 to $40,000 range paid 13.6%. That’s what it says on paper but in real life the situation favors the rich even more. The Vice President made about $9 million in 2005 and by giving away a fair chunk of dough paid a little over 7% in tax. Virtually no wage earner in America paid a 7% rate of tax and none of those workers took home anything close to what Cheney did. Those who ‘make’ big money can arrange their lives so that the taxes they pay are miniscule. The Rolling Stones, who are more public figures than most zillionaires, have paid €3.9 million on royalties of €240 million over the last 20 years. This rate of .08% per year is not unusual for the very rich as they can resort to any scheme to avoid taxes, including moving their assets to a country that charges no tax. Many multi-millionaires avail themselves of

The Chicago cops ‘lost it’ in 1968. Generally speaking cops and the military are trained to do what they are told without thinking about whether or not they would like that done to them. Not thinking is always a big problem.
loopholes so that they pay a smaller percentage of their income in taxes than an American making $50,000/year.

The almost flat tax rates of today become even more similar when taxes on everyday items like gasoline, and booze are included because they affect everyone equally. In addition the average family income fell by 2% between 2001 and 2004 after adjusting for inflation. Thanks to more credit card debt and borrowing against their homes, the 25% of Americans at the bottom of the wealth scale had negative net worth in 2004. On average, these families owed $1,400 more than their possessions were worth. At the same time a typical corporate chief executive made almost 300 times the average pay of a non-supervisory production worker. All of this is consistent with the plutocracy that America has become although patriotism causes most Americans to reject that categorization.

In 1990 about 1% of American corporations declared their profits in tax havens such as those that exist in the Caribbean. In 2002 it was 17% and it is still increasing. Corporations are motivated to save taxes and if it works for one of them it will probably work for all. One of the reasons more large American corporations don’t move to a tax haven is that it’s not necessary. Between 1996 and 2000, 61% of them paid no federal income taxes anyway. A good example is Enron, the Senate Finance Committee did an enormous investigation of Enron and published a 1600-page report. One of the key findings was that Enron’s tax shelters were so complicated that the IRS couldn’t figure them out.

While many Americans are desperately poor, zillionaires like Paul Allen think nothing of spending hundreds of millions on their second ‘boat’. Note the size of the man on the end of the boat, if you can find him. It is necessary to rip off millions of people to ‘legally’ get this kind of dough.
This inequality between those that benefit the most from living in America and those that struggle is shocking and getting worse. Between 1979 and 2003, the income of the richest 1% of Americans more than doubled, the income of the middle 15% grew by only 15%, and the income of the poorest 15% actually declined. By the late 1990s, the richest one percent of American households had a third of all the wealth in America, and took in 60% of the country’s income. This inequality is greater in America than in any other industrialized country.

Larry Bartels of Princeton studied the voting record of the Senate between 1989 and 1994, a time when the Democrats controlled Congress. He found that Senators were very responsive to the richest third of the voters, somewhat attentive to the middle third, and completely ignored the policy preferences of the poorest third of Americans. In fact the Senators were only likely to vote for a minimum wage increase if and when their wealthier constituents favored it, the views of those directly affected by the hike had ‘no discernible impact’ on their decisions. Plutocracy in action!

This should not be too surprising as Congress is, for the most part, a millionaire’s boys’ club. In the 435-member House of Representatives, 123 of those guys made at least one million dollars last year and most of the rest are also millionaires. In the Senate the situation is much the same but only one in a hundred Americans actually makes the kind of money made by their elected politicians. The problem, of course, is that most of those ‘ordinary’ Americans keep voting for the rich Americans as if they were more capable, kind, compassionate or altruistic. None of which happens to be true.

America is a rich country, unfortunately the rich don’t know why they are rich and they want to get richer. This is turning America into a third-world country in terms of wealth distribution. This always has and always will create the fundamental problems that have plagued countries throughout history. People in America who work at minimum wage dead-end jobs know that they are being treated unfairly but most of them don’t know what to do about it. Many others try to even the score and end up in jail in which case everyone losses. The American middle class who used to feel that the world was treating them fairly, are now getting fed up with the two jobs, the long commutes, the never ending bills and knowing that some guy who is
no smarter than them made millions last year and never lifted a finger. The American system has been corrupted and they know it.

State governments are reacting to the changes by spending more on prisons than universities but those are just band-aids that don’t get close to actually solving the problem. (see the Prisoners chapter) American governments are not even close to eliminating the political favors that continue to benefit the wealthy primarily because the wealthy are running the political system. The more benefits they receive the more power they have to make changes that benefit themselves. $2 trillion in tax cuts and inheritances are just one recent example. Remarkably the Democrats and Republicans are both complicit in this destruction of the American middle class. Not having a universal health care system in a country as rich as America is a glaring example of how the rich have kept that money out of the hands of the poor.

Right-wing radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh was charged with ‘doctor shopping’ for prescription medication for chronic back pain. It is funny that in America you can’t have as much pain medication as you want but Limbaugh was not sent to jail and promised to be good for 18 months. Regular schmuck Richard Paey, who lives in a wheelchair and is a victim of multiple sclerosis, is charged with, you guessed it, ‘doctor-shopping’ to get enough pain medication to ease his pain. He is in the slammer, now getting more pain killing drugs than he ever did, compliments of the taxpayer for a minimum of 25 years. This is a good example of the inequality that ripples through all levels of American society but strangely it always seems to favor the rich and famous but not the Richard Paey’s.

Those black families in America have 18 cents for every white dollar because they didn’t get an education, or because their criminals or just plain lazy, right? Well maybe not quite, the government has always made it easier for the white guys to succeed, something you don’t have to tell the black guys. In the good old days the white guys certainly benefited from having all those black guys work for nothing while the white run governments looked on. Land ownership was restricted to white citizens for over 100 years and citizenship was limited to white guys for over 100 years as well. We don’t have to mention what happened to the guys who had their land stolen from them, do we? The last of those racial restrictions were finally removed in 1952. One in four white Americans today have ancestors who were given Indian or Mexican land. The Indians and Mexicans were not asked if this was OK. President FDR’s ‘New Deal’ excluded most colored people because those laws just happened to excluded domestic and agricultural workers. Today the parents and grandparents of some colored Americans are being supported by younger generations because they could not access Social Security benefits under the ‘New Deal’. Almost all veterans of color were unable to access the GI Bill’s educational and mortgage benefits. Discrimination by realtors and colleges make it very difficult for colored vets to access benefits and the VA and FHA lending rules actually blocked mortgages in mixed-race and urban neighborhoods. Knowing this history is
it any wonder that so many Americans of color hate the whites. Whitey has also encouraged this hatred today by making sure that white welfare recipients receive more of a helping than an American of color. The Bush Jr. tax cuts are basically useless for poor colored Americans but they sure work well for the rich white guys.

Unless they are on the take, cops in America are not rich but they frequently display a hatred of the poor while failing to understand that the guy with hundreds of millions is one of the guys contributing to so much poverty. Cops in the US have killed over 200 people with Taser weapons, a ‘non-lethal’ alternative to their guns. Amnesty International (AI) reports that most fatal Taser electrocutions involved unarmed subjects who posed no serious threat to cops or civilians at the time they were Tasered. Many of these people were electrocuted while already in restraints and/or received multiple shocks. The report also showed that the cops used the Taser on the mentally ill, children, pregnant women and the elderly. AI also documented the widespread policy of using Tasers as a routine compliance tool on subjects, who were passively resisting or simply not perceived to be complying with orders. This type of brutality demonstrates the attitude that many Americans have towards their fellow American. They don’t care enough to take the time to really understand the situation and respond in a understanding humane manner. Firing a Taser is much faster but ultimately this kind of police violence creates more problems than it solves.

In early 2006 senior FBI agent Charles Rasner gave a lecture ‘Counter-Terrorism Efforts in Texas’ in which he listed Indymedia, Food Not Bombs and the Communist Party of Texas as ‘terrorist watch’ groups. None of these groups have anything to do with ‘terrorism’ but in America it is important to create enemies to justify the vast anti-enemy infrastructure that dominates American society. Nothing is more important in America that getting those hated enemies in America, Iraq or Vietnam. The fact that they are often not enemies never seems to register with the cops, the FBI, the CIA, the American military or the American government. The problem, of course, is that all of these organizations
would be very much smaller if they dealt with real enemies.

After one of the Bush Jr. State of the Union addresses, the White House and Congress moved swiftly to slash funding for health care and education while allocating vast new sums for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and tax cuts for America's wealthy elite. Congress approved a $40 billion five-year budget-cutting package. Most of the savings were cut out of Medicare and Medicaid but this is OK because they only provide minimal health care coverage to the elderly, poor and disabled anyway. You have to hate these people as well as the people in Iraq to allocate hundreds of billions to create a disaster on the other side of the planet while cutting Medicare in your own country.

Since 2000 the number of Americans living in poverty has risen to almost 40 million. Included in this group are 13 million children who will grow up hating America simply because they know that many Americans have so much more than they can spend while they have next to nothing. More than 25% of all American families with children make less than $30,000 a year. If they are black families the number is 46% and for Hispanic it is 44%. Vice President Cheney, who paid 7% of his $9 million income in taxes in 2005 is sympathetic. Three days before Christmas 2005 he cast the tie-breaking vote to cut spending for the poor, the infirm and the elderly. The Republicans also gutted spending on health care, child support, and education subsidies for low-income families. They also cut federal student-loan programs by $12.7 billion. On the very same day that Cheney was being so helpful the Senate passed legislation that drastically cut the funding for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The cuts to the Head Start program for kids eliminated some 25,000 slots for low-income children. On New Year’s Day, what a coincidence, tax cuts went into effect that will save rich Americans more than $150 billion over the next ten years. 97% of the money from those

Uniformed Americans feel that they are fighting for the good guys and the guys who pay their wages make sure they think that way.
cuts will benefit Americans making over $200,000 per year. And get this, only .1% will go to American households with income of less than $100,000 per year. Those numbers will create a lot of American hate in the years to come.

Treating the poor in America inequitably is part of the American psyche. Since the displacement or murder of the native population, to the exploitation of the African people, to the draft and the inequitable tax system, equality has always been an elusive goal in America. It has never mattered that there was more than enough to go around; sharing is simply not the American way. That reluctance to care for each other is getting worse and the ramifications will be felt but the haves don’t care. As we have seen in America’s staunchest ally, Israel, most of the people in that country, as well as in America, would rather spend vast sums on security than have less needless stuff, ‘DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU’, The Golden Rule is more and more likely to be ignored and this reality hurts everyone.

There are a multitude of serious problems in America and America, of all countries, has more than enough resources to solve them. There is more than enough money to eliminate homelessness, unemployment, lack of medical care, the 60 hour week, pollution, energy costs, millions in prison, you name it. The fundamental problem is that a relatively few spend trillions on themselves or the military and that money cannot be used for any of these problems.

The US has an infant mortality rate of 6.63 per 1,000 live births, significantly higher than Hong Kong at 2.97, the Czech Republic of 3.97, Spain at 4.48 and Greece at 5.63. In fact America has one of the highest rates in the industrialized world. The Black American infant mortality rate of over 14 deaths per 1,000 children born is similar to many third world countries. This large racial discrepancy is due, in part, to the lack of universal health care that America cannot afford. Almost all of the 31 countries that have a lower infant mortality rate than America, including Cuba, have a form of universal health care.

A recent UN report showed that white, middle-aged Americans are far less healthy than their contemporaries in England, despite spending more than twice as much on healthcare as the English. Americans also spend over twice as much on health care than Canadians and they are not as healthy as Canadians either. Contrary to common perceptions this Harvard study concluded that Americans have more trouble getting care and have more unmet health needs than Canadians do. Dr. David Himmelstein, an associate professor at Harvard said, “These findings raise serious questions about what we’re getting for the $2.1 trillion we’re spending on health care this year,” “Canadians are healthier, and live two to three years longer,” “had better access to most types of medical care (with the single exception of pap smears),” and “were 7% more likely to have a regular doctor and 19% less likely to have an unmet health need. US respondents were almost twice as likely to go without a needed medicine due to cost.” This lack of basic medical care for 47 million Americans can add to the burden of hate which produces other problems such as crime and
One of the great American myths is that everyone in America can live the ‘good’ life if they just work at it. A study by economist Tom Hertz of American University, found that a child born into a poor family, defined as the bottom 20% has a one-in-a-hundred chance of making it into the top 5% income level. Hertz measured economic success that was independent of ones family social standing for both the bottom 5% of income and also the success of those who came from families in the 40 to 60% income range. Even the kids from the 40 to 60% income families only make it into the top 5 percent 1.8% of the time, almost the same as the poor kids. The study also showed that life is tougher for Blacks in America. 47% of the kids from poor families remain poor but it is 63% for Black kids. Only 3% of African-Americans jump from the bottom quarter of the income distribution to the top 25%, while for whites this number, still small at 14%. This stable economic structure in America shows that for most people being born poor means that you will remain poor. Working your butt off is not likely to change that.

While the majority of Americans slid further into debt they used their home equity to sustain the life-style they think they need. They also have to work harder than ever but for many the quality of life continues to decline. While their government tells them that inflation is low they know that housing, health care, food, university and energy prices are soaring. In typical American fashion while many suffer many get rich. In 2005, the net growth in second mortgage debt nearly doubled to $178 billion. Record numbers of Americans have become ‘home owners’ due to exotic loans and ‘hidden’ costs. Thirty million homeowners are spending a third of their income to support their home costs. Thirteen percent of American homeowners are spending more than 50% of their total income to keep their homes. This might not be so bad if the homes they were trying to hang on to were decent homes but for millions of poor Americans they are little more than dumps. When the inevitable decline in housing prices starts, many of America’s poorest homeowners will be hurt through no fault of their own.

Thirty-six million American families live in rental units. The National Low Income Housing Coalition calculates that an average two bedroom unit requires a wage of just under $16.00 per hour to pay the rent and the other costs. This number is up 41% in just one year. The Federal minimum wage in America is $5.15 an hour whereas the national average wage for renters is $12.22 per hour. This is a very skinny surplus so a minor downturn will cause millions of Americans to be angry that all their efforts were not enough.

The treatment of ‘criminals’ in America is based on punishment and the ethnic background of the ‘criminal’. That is never admitted or considered in the punishment but due to the racism in America it is fundamental. This subject is covered more extensively in the ‘Prisoners chapter. The end result is that many Americans hate how they have been treated by the economic and justice systems. They are not happy with the lives they live and they blame the system.
that doesn’t work for them.

Homegrown hatred is probably a more serious long-term issue for Americans than a few hundred pissed off guys on the other side of the planet. This hatred is exacerbated by the way America deals with crime (see the Prisoners chapter) but what remains true is that the increased inequality that American governments seem determined to promote, will create more hatred and more terror for Americans in the decades to come.

PS: the golden rule

DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU.

The only way to solve every problem on planet earth.
“Cuba has ... been condemned for not allowing its people to flee the island. That so many want to leave Cuba is treated as proof that Cuban socialism is a harshly repressive system, rather than that the US embargo has made life difficult in Cuba. That so many millions more want to leave capitalist countries like Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, El Salvador, Philippines, South Korea, Macedonia, and others too numerous to list is never treated as grounds for questioning the free-market system that inflicts such misery on the Third World.”

– Michael Parenti

“If today all South Africans enjoy the rights of democracy; if they are able at last to address the grinding poverty of a system that denied them even the most basic amenities of life, it is also because of Cuba’s selfless support for the struggle to free all of South Africa’s people and the countries of our region from the inhumane and destructive system of apartheid. For that, we thank the Cuban people from the bottom of our heart.”

– Nelson Mandela

“We (in the USA) aren’t really interested in democracy and human rights. We just use those words to hide our true reasons.”

– Wayne Smith, former US Interests Section Chief, Cuba

“It is also impossible to ignore the disastrous and lasting economic and social effects of the embargo imposed on the Cuban population over 40 years ago.”

– UN Human Rights Commission

America has exerted more covert effort and venom on Cuba than any other country. This effort has been disastrous for both countries however America has yet to come to that realization.

The first European to visit Cuba was Columbus on October 28th, 1492. During the next several hundred years much of the indigenous population of Cuba was decimated by the killing and disease that the Europeans brought to Cuba. The Spanish established and expanded Cuba’s sugar growing capacity and by the 1800s Cuba was the world’s most important sugar producer.
As early as 1848, America expressed a serious interest in Cuba when President Polk offered Spain $100 million to buy Cuba but Spain refused. Again in 1854, President Pierce offered Spain $130 million for Cuba but again Spain rejected the offer. At $5 per acre that would have been a pretty good buy. The notion that Cuba did not actually belong to Spain never occurred to either America or Spain.

In 1868 the ‘Big War’ started when Cuban rebels intensified their fight for independence from Spanish rule. This inconclusive war was fought for ten years until Spain agreed to certain concessions, including the freeing of all slaves. The Cuban rebels were not happy with this ‘peace’ as the Spanish were still running Cuba. In 1892 the Cuban Revolutionary Party was formed by Jose Marti, who carried on with the independence struggle. The Spanish exacerbated the Spanish-Rebel animosity with their brutal treatment of the rebels that they captured. Marti wanted independence in a hurry due to America’s overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. (see the Hawaii chapter) Marti felt that this was also in the cards.
for Cuba if independence was not achieved soon. Over time the rebels gained the upper hand by winning many battles during which thousands were killed on both sides. In 1895 Jose Marti was also killed on May 19th at age 42. In that same year President Cleveland stated that America was neutral in this Cuban-Spanish conflict however Spain was able to buy American weapons while the rebels were not.

In February, 1897 an American, Dr. Ricardo Ruiz, was arrested and killed by the Spanish prison authorities. This killing helped to fan the flames of American anti-Spanish feelings. In December of that same year the rebels declared victory over the Spanish but President McKinley did not recognize their claim. In early 1898 the American naval ship the, USS Maine was send to Cuba to protect, ‘American interests’ On February 15th, 1898 the ship exploded killing over 260 Americans. Although the cause of this explosion was not determined various newspapers in America pushed for war with Spain to avenge those American deaths. The American civil war had weakened the US so President McKinley was not in favor of rushing into a new war. On the other hand the media had created such a war furor that many Americans clamored for a war with Spain. On April 25, 1898 Congress declared war against Spain and the battle was on. American troops arrived in Cuba in June 1898 and initially suffered serious casualties. During the fighting the American navy defeated the Spanish fleet while the American soldiers recovered and proceed to wipe out a Spanish squadron. The Spanish then decide to sign a peace agreement on July 16th, 1898. These various battles for Cuba were quickly over due, in large part, to the years of rebel fighting against the Spaniards that preceded the Americans.

Part of the declared American war effort was to help the Cuban patriots gain freedom from Spain. Unfortunately when the Spanish were defeated and relinquished control to the Americans, via the Treaty of Paris, the Americans insisted on considerable control over Cuba. This included the use of Guantanamo Bay, until both parties agreed to reverse this arrangement. Other restrictions effectively ensured that Cuba was not the independent country that so many Cubans had hoped that it would become. In this peace treaty with Spain, that determined the future of Cuba, Guam, the Philippines and Costa Rica, the indigenous people were not allowed to be a part of the process. In November of 1898 an American, Samuel Gompers wrote: “Where has flown this great
outburst of our sympathy for the self-sacrificing and liberty loving Cubans? Is it not strange that now, for the first time, we hear that the Cubans are unfit for self-government?"

In December 1898, the Treaty of Paris was signed, but only by the US and Spain, the Cubans who had fought for so long and with such losses were not allowed to be part of the negotiations. This treaty officially put an end to hostilities between America and Spain. It also granted independence to Cuba but for some reason the American flag flew over Havana. On February 6th, 1899 Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris just as war broke out in the Philippines. *(see the Philippines chapter)* During the remainder of 1899, the disappointment amongst Cubans was profound. They demonstrate their disquiet via strikes and other forms of unrest. In 1901 municipal elections were held across Cuba and the parties in favor of American annexation are soundly defeated. President Roosevelt did removed American troops from most of Cuba by 1902 but sent them back to Cuba in September 1906 when many Cubans again agitated for independence.

Racism had never been a real problem in Cuba but got a start there during the years when segregated American troops ruled Cuba until 1909. In 1912 the blacks in Oriente province rose up against the racism that now existed in the Cuban government. America sent in troops to quell these disturbances. Troops were also sent to Cuba in 1917 ‘to protect American interests’. During these few decades Americans bought many Cuban sugar plantations as well as many businesses, because they were cheap. In May 1920 Cuban sugar sold for over 22 cents per pound but by the end of that year it had dropped to 5 cents per pound. The sugar crop was the primary agriculture export and was exported almost exclusively to America. Having one crop, sugar and one customer, America, created great hardship for the Cubans due to this price volatility.

Machado was elected the fifth President of Cuba in 1924 and in 1928 declared himself the only legal candidate and increased his term to six years. He seemed to be moving away from the people and the democracy they sought for Cuba. By this time many Cubans had come to believe that American influence had corrupted the political process as well as many other aspects of Cuban life. In 1930 labor unrest continued as well as the killing of nationalists by Cuban government soldiers. Incrementally these disruptions continued to erode the people’s faith in the government. In 1930 all the schools were closed, in 1931 various respected members of society were arrested for anti-government activities. In 1932 the President of the Senate was killed. Strikes and labor unrest continued to escalate and during this unrest the American Ambassador met with various right-wing groups to provide them with advice and support. In August 1933 the Cuban President stepped down during a general strike along with some encouragement from the Cuban military. Carlos Cespedes took over as interim President. The American Ambassador then invited various right-wing leaders to join the new cabinet, without consulting with the new Cuban President.
In September 1933 the ‘Revolt of the Sergeants’ was lead by a man named Batista who took over the government and Cuba. Cespedes, the interim president, and his cabinet left the Presidential palace the next day. Ramón Grau San Martín, a respected doctor, became President with Antonio Guiteras as his Vice President. While Batista organized things and established control behind the scenes, the new President and his VP moved quickly. They were well known and respected men that Batista had selected to provide his government with legitimacy and they acted accordingly. They introduced changes including an 8 hour working day, opened the universities to the poor, gave peasants the right to land that they were farming, reduced electricity rates by 40%, gave women the vote, nullified the Platt Amendment (except for the Quantanamo naval base lease) and they established a Department of Labor. US Ambassador Sumner Welles refers to these changes as ‘communistic’ and ‘irresponsible’, and the US government never did recognize this government.

During the next few months’ troubles continued in Cuba. It was very difficult for the various groups to work together, often because the Americans were actively working to ensure that the ‘communistic’ and ‘irresponsible’ government, which had done so much for the people in 100 days, was unsuccessful. Horace G. Knowles, former US Ambassador to Bolivia and Nicaragua, accused the American ambassador to Cuba of ‘openly helping the counterrevolution’. He suggested that the US should recognize the revolutionary government but due to the refusal to do so by the American government, only Uruguay and Mexico actually recognized this government.

In November 1933, the American ambassador was replaced with Jefferson Caffery who made his loyalties pretty clear when he said, “Diplomacy, as I interpret it, nowadays consists largely in cooperation with American business.” At the end of that year there was a huge gathering of the people to thank the government for the ‘communistic’ and ‘irresponsible’ progress they made so far. In this same year Batista formed a long-term business relationship with mobster Meyer Lansky. Lansky was one of the most successful American
mobsters who was to run gambling and other similar business with Batista, thereby turning Havana into a very profitable American gambling, prostitution and party town.

On Jan 14th, 1934 the left-leaning Cuban Vice President Antonio Guiteras announced the takeover of an American electric company. It appears that this socialistic decision was one too many for the American government. Batista with the support of American ambassador Caffery and the military forced the Martín-Guiteras government to call it quits. Batista was already running the army but then installed Carlos Mendieta as the new President as this made the government look better. Three days later the American government recognized this Batista run government. In 1935 a general strike was organized to bring down Batista but the effort failed. Guiteras, the former Vice President, who was still active in Cuban politics, was killed by the Army. In 1940 Batista was elected President. Due to leftover socialists in the government, a popular Constitution was passed. In 1943 the Communist party was legalized due to the support of those same leftists. In 1946 the mobster, Lucky Luciano was issued a Cuban passport in Italy. He made his way to Cuba and was met by Meyer Lansky and other senior underworld figures who were now well established in Havana. In 1951 a public opinion poll showed that Batista was running third during his ‘democratic’ attempt at running for President again. Batista, knowing that he won’t win the election, took over the government without bloodshed and canceled the upcoming election. He also canceled the 1940 Constitution which was so popular. Batista’s illegal actions were entrenched when the American government immediately recognized his fraudulent government.

In 1952 Castro was about to make a name for himself in Cuba. He was the best high school athlete some years previously and was now a graduate lawyer running for Congress under the Orthodox banner. Castro regarded Batista as a crook, under the thumb of the Americans. He knew that the vast majority of Cubans lived in poverty with 30% unemployment and insufficient money for basics such as food and clothing. This situation compelled Castro and about 150 mostly young, idealistic, Cubans to train and arm themselves for a secret attack on one of Cuba’s largest army bases. This attack proved to be too ambitious and failed while many of the student rebels were captured. Batista’s forces tortured and killed many of the captives when they tried to determine who was behind this attack. They had a difficult time believing that these young people were acting on their own. Eventually all the rebels were caught, including Castro, who provided an elegant statement at the end of his trial. He was sentenced to 15 years in jail; however his trial statement was printed and distributed to many Cubans. This long statement detailed many of Batista’s failings and moved the people to sympathize with the young rebels. After 20 months in jail the surviving rebels were released when the public came to learn of Batista’s brutality. Batista then tried to bribe the rebels into joining his side but none of them accepted. They were then advised that they were no longer welcome in Cuba and they left for Mexico in June 1955.
During their 18 months in Mexico, Castro and his rebel compatriots planned a revolution to overthrow Batista and the American domination of Cuba. They then left Mexico for Cuba in a small boat with 80 men. A few days after their arrival they were attacked by Batista’s troops and most were killed. Castro, his brother and Che Guevara, who joined them in Mexico, managed to escape into the Sierra Maestra mountains with a few others. At the end of 1956, there were just 15 rebels left with only 7 guns. In January 1957 the rebels attacked a small military post and things started looking up as they then had 20 guns. Also in January there was a student/rebel attack on a radio station and the presidential palace in Havana. Almost 40 of these student rebels were killed and Batista ordered the killing of another 4 which further alienated him from ordinary Cubans. During this time the Cuban defense minister was in Washington seeking US support. On June 4th, 1957 it was announced that 800 US trained and equipped troops would be sent into the mountains to deal with those pesky rebels. Battles and arrests by Batista’s forces continued during the remainder of the year. The inequality and poverty in the Cuban countryside continued to enhance Castro’s popularity and support. Cuba was increasingly owned by rich Americans who only paid poor wages while many Cubans were upset that over ten thousand Cuban women now worked in the tourist trade as prostitutes.

It is incredible to think that these few men changed the entire history of Cuba, but it fact they didn’t. The history of Cuba was actually changed so dramatically by the inequality that the Americans in Cuba created and supported. With or without Castro, the Cuban people would have emerged to overthrow the selfish people who had riches and wanted more. It was this American and Spanish support for inequality that caused the great changes in Cuba. This is the tragic irony of the American interventions which have been imposed all over this planet. It is not an individual like Chavez in Venezuela that causes difficulties for the US. It is the American plutocracy, that seeks to further enrich itself, that is always to blame. Like all American governments, the Bush Jr. government still sees itself as a force for good and men like Castro as the problem. That falsehood has been created and reinforced in the minds of the average American since before Castro.

1958 was a pivotal year for the rebels. As Batista received millions in American military aid, the rebels continued to win battle after battle. These battles for the hearts and minds of the Cuban people

Castro as a young man and after 40 years as the strong man in Cuba.
were lost by Batista when he continued to torture and kill approximately 10 young Cubans a week. Some of the rebel victories occurred when government troops surrendered and joined with them, but most of the military conflicts were decisive military victories for the rebels against unenthusiastic government troops. The American, Terrence Cannon, writes: “The US did not send in the marines for one basic reason: it did not fear the Revolution. It was inconceivable to the US policy makers that a revolution in Cuba could turn out badly for them. After all, US companies owned the country.” There is a major error in that statement. It should read: “US companies claimed to own the country.”

In spite of the US desire to own and run Cuba since the early 1800s, America simply failed to understand the suffering they inflicted on the Cuban people with the inequality they promoted between peoples. They also seemed to forget about the decades of losses Cubans endured to be an independent people. Without this understanding, or the willingness to treat Cubans fairly, it was inevitable that the Americans would lose the country to Castro’s forces. This pivotal event occurred on January 1, 1959. On that day the rebels took Havana and the rest of the country while Batista fled to the Dominican Republic where he was welcomed by Trujillio, another dictator supported by America. (see the Dominican Republic chapter) Many of Batista’s senior people, their families and the movers and shakers in Havana fled to Miami. A new President and Prime Minster were installed on January 2nd. Castro arrived in Havana on the 7th and America recognized his government on that same day. During the next few months many of Batista’s henchmen were executed after cursory trials. There is never an excuse for brutal treatment or cursory trials but tit-for-tat is an all too common human response and obviously the rebels felt they had a lot to get even for.

During February 1959 the 1940, Constitution was reinstated while the killing (execution) of Batista’s men continued. Castro made an interesting comment regarding the future of elections in Cuba: “Elections could not be held now because they would not be fair. We have an overwhelming majority at present and it is in the interest of the nation that the political parties become fully developed and their programs defined before elections are held.” In the years to come, Castro changed his attitude towards elections. Although Castro can simply be described as a dictator, the ongoing and continuous American actions to overthrow his popular government undoubtedly convinced him that he had to remain in control or lose the equality that his revolution provided. Once again we see the Americans creating the situation they claim that they want to prevent. (see the China chapter) The ongoing America attacks against Cuba virtually eliminated any likelihood that Cuba would evolve into a democratic state. It should have been obvious that American support would have enabled Castro to feel more secure and that this would have enabled democracy to emerge. This support would also have compelled more equality in America, however the plutocrats their have always put their own needs first

The Cuban government took over the phone company, which was a
subsidiary of ITT, and reduced phone rates. During the spring of 1959 almost 500 men who killed or fought the rebels were executed by the new government. A number of other men, including Americans, were arrested for plotting to kill Castro. The Cuban government passed the Agrarian Reform Law which limited land ownership to a maximum of 1,000 acres, 3,000 if you were growing sugar or grazing cattle. The government expropriated all other land. At this time five American sugar companies controlled over 2 million acres and 75% of Cuba’s agricultural land was controlled by foreigners, mostly Americans.

In April 1959 Castro visited the US at the invitation of American newspaper editors. He made a good impression when he offered his hand to numerous American officials who declined to shake it. Camilo Cienfuego, one of the important leaders of the Cuban revolution, died when his plane mysteriously disappeared on October 25th, 1959.

In early 1960 the Russian Deputy Prime Minister visited Cuba. In a subsequent agreement, Cuba agreed to exchange sugar for Russian oil and other supplies. Russia also loaned Cuba $100 million at 2.5% interest. For many Cubans it appeared that their various wars for independence were at long last over. They were mistaken. The American leadership initially accepted the new Cuban government but soon decided that Castro and his policies had to go. Batista was in the US and talking to Eisenhower about how bad the commies were. Eisenhower secretly ordered Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Allen Dulles to train Cuban exiles for an invasion of Cuba. There was no shortage of anti-Castro feeling on which America could capitalize. All of the men, many of them criminals, who had been getting rich off the gambling, prostitution, clubs and related activities in Havana, were now looking to get even with the new Cuban government that forced them out of business. An anti-Castro CIA office was established in Florida in addition to other groups of Cuban exiles that were dedicated to destroying Castro. The anti-Castro CIA station in Miami was to become the largest CIA station in the world with hundreds of employees. Many of these men were used to getting their way and did not hesitate to kill if that was required. The number of attacks against Cuba by both the CIA and other anti-Cuban organizations will never be known but there have been many thousands.

There were also hijackings from Cuba to America soon after Castro took over and these hijackers were welcomed into the US as freedom fighters. Then the tide turned and even more aircraft were hijacked from the US to Cuba, of course these hijackers were considered criminals by America. In all there were well over 200 hijackings, each one an expensive, potentially dangerous diversion. On one occasion Cuba relied on US justice and sent two hijackers back to the States where they received 40-year jail terms. At that same time, two Cubans who hijacked a boat to the US were charged and went to trial but were acquitted by the Miami jury and went free. During the following decades, it became clear that America did not wish to punish those that committed murder and other serious illegal acts against Cuba but they were going to invoke long jail terms for
those that supported socialism and Castro.

In February 1960 Cuba requested negotiations with the US but insisted that American first agree not to take unilateral action against Cuba during the negotiations. The American Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, refused but this is not surprising as he has already approved a number of anti-Cuba plans including plans to kill Castro. In March a French ship exploded in Havana harbor killing almost 100. The Cubans investigated and concluded that the arms and munitions aboard the ship were sabotaged by the Americans. The CIA denied any involvement but admitted that they had tried to stop the shipment. President Eisenhower then initiated a secret plan to cripple Cuba. This included organizing Cuban exiles into an armed invasion force, no more oil sold from the US to Cuba, no more Cuban sugar purchases, no arms sales which was a restriction introduced in 1958. Of course Castro became aware of these changes and this pushed Cuba even closer to the Soviets. Just what America didn’t want to happen occurred when Cuba and the Soviets established diplomatic relations on May 8th, 1960.

The Americans set up radio stations in the US, Radio Swan, to send their version of the truth to Cuba. The Shell, Esso and Texaco refineries in Cuba were advised by the American State Department not to refine Soviet oil and they complied. Castro then expropriated the refineries. In response the US banned all Cuban sugar imports before the Eisenhower secret plan was to take effect. Cuba then seized all US property and businesses. China and Russia agreed to buy the sugar the Americans would no longer buy. On September 26th, 1960 Rolando Rojas, who was under a court order to remain in the New York area, left Miami with 4 boats to invade Cuba. Only one boat made it and the three Americans onboard were eventually executed. On October 19th, 1960 the US started an embargo that excluded food and medicine. In December the CIA started one of their most reprehensible operations. They broadcast on Radio Swan the following news item: “Cuban mothers, don’t let them take your children away! The Revolutionary Government will take them away from you when they turn five and will keep them until they are 18. By that time, they will be materialist monsters.” The message was repeated over and over until the CIA felt that enough fear had been installed in the mothers of Cuba. With the assistance of the Catholic Church, the CIA arranged for Visas
and transportation for 14,000 kids but not their parents. The parents did not accompany their kids to the US. Instead they were left behind, now motivated, presumably, to help with the resistance against Castro.

And on and on it went, America hit Cuba and Cuba hit back but the Americans do not give up simply because they have met a political leader who can be as tough and ruthless as they are. Especially a leader who is a socialist from a small impoverished island. Castro is not going to push the US around! Most importantly, America would do anything to ensure that Castro would never be allowed to establish a successful socialistic state on America’s doorstep. These aggressive, ongoing American actions achieved two useless goals. They drove Cuba closer to the Soviets and they forced Castro to be less democratic in order to protect the Cuban revolution.

Under Eisenhower, Cuba and America severed diplomatic relations on the 3rd of January, 1961. On January 20th, JFK became the 35th President of the US. Early in 1961 the CIA, the State Department, Robert Kennedy and various Mafia leaders were all working to kill Castro. Some of the assassination plots were fanciful. A beach shell filled with explosives placed so that Castro will pick it up and place it to his ear to ‘hear the ocean’, a box of Castro’s favorite cigars modified by the CIA’s Technical Division to poison him with a lethal gas. Then there were the various poisons to be delivered by various ‘friends’ of Castro. The lethal cigars and pills were delivered to sources close to Castro but never succeeded. Additional efforts to kill Castro, utilizing various underworld figures who worked with the CIA, were constantly instigated by the Florida CIA station.

On April 13, 1961 the El Encanto department store, one of the biggest in Havana, was destroyed by fire. Years later, former CIA agent Philip Agee confirmed that CIA explosives were used to start the fire. Attacks were also made on Meliá Varadero Hotel (1962), Sol Palmeras Hotel (1995) and Meliá Las Américas Hotel (1996).

On September 24th the Cuban government announced that it had uncovered another attempt to kill Castro by exile Cubans trained at Quantanamo. Another CIA plot was discovered in October and, as a result, various individuals fled Cuba or were arrested. The CIA’s top assassin in Central America, David S. Morales, was permanently transferred from Phoenix to the CIA station in Miami.

On April 15th, 1961 eight unidentified B-26 bombers attacked Cuban airfields destroying approximately one quarter of the Cuban air force. Two days later President Kennedy, with a great deal of encouragement from virtually all of his advisors, ordered an invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. It was an immediate failure simply because the CIA, once again, failed to understand that most Cubans supported Castro and would not join in on this American-led invasion. JFK was not willing, or prepared, to then launch an all out American military invasion of a sovereign country. Kennedy’s unwillingness to supply complete military support in the face of defeat was the only decision he could
have reasonably taken but the Cuban-Americans behind this invasion certainly didn’t see it that way. President Kennedy made some rabid enemies by not providing complete military support for this foolhardy and illegal invasion.

In May 1961 Sheffield Edwards, the CIA Director of Security, was talking to the FBI about mobsters trying to kill Castro “in connection with the CIA’s clandestine efforts against the Castro government. No results yet, but several of the plans are still working and may eventually pay off.”

On November 9th, 1961 JFK talked about killing Castro and prophetically stated, “If we get into that sort of thing, we’ll all be targets.” Reading through the records, it appears that President Kennedy was losing faith in the tactics recommended by his advisors. In November he confided to reporter Tad Szulc that he was under terrific pressure to agree to Castro’s murder. On November 30th he authorized operation ‘Mongoose’ which was to involve 400 Americans, over 2000 Cubans, private speedboats, weapons and a budget of $50 million per year. Mongoose proceeded to harass Cuban ships and aircraft outside Cuba as well as non-Cuban ships transporting Cuban goods. This involved the contamination of Cuban sugar, the sabotage of machinery going to Cuba and numerous attempts to kill Castro.

JFK indicated that Americans were the good guys, when in a November speech he said, “We cannot, as a free nation, compete with our adversaries in tactics of terror, assassination, false promises, counterfeit mobs and crises.” In fact, America was doing all of that and more as they encouraged, funded and enabled thousands of covert actions against Cuban, including all of those that he condemned in this November speech. In February 1962, Mongoose plans were expanded to include: “open revolt and overthrow of the Communist regime,” ”political, psychological, military, sabotage, and intelligence operations as well as proposed attacks on the cadre of the regime, including key leaders.” Also in February the American embargo started by Eisenhower was expanded by Kennedy to ban all trade except non-subsidized food and medicines. In March of that year food rationing began in Cuba.
On March 13th 1962, General L.L. Lemnitzer, Chairman of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff submitted an operational plan to General Craig, Chief of Operations. This 14 page report entitled ‘The Joint Chiefs Report for Military Intervention in Cuba’ was remarkable for what the most senior military men in America advocated. The following are quotes from this report.

“World opinion and the UN forum should be favorably affected by developing the international image of the Cuban government as rash and irresponsible, and as an alarming and unpredictable threat to the Western Hemisphere.” “all projects are suggested within the time frame of the next few months.” “Start rumors (many). Use clandestine radio.” “Land friendly Cubans in uniform to stage attack on base.” (Quantanamo) “Capture Cuban (friendly) saboteurs inside the base.” Start riots near the base main gate (friendly Cubans.” “Blow up ammunition on base; start fires.” “Burn aircraft on air base (sabotage).” “Lob mortar shells from outside of base into base.” “Capture assault teams approaching from the sea.” “Capture militia group which storms the base.” “Sabotage ship in harbor: large fires.” “Sink ship near harbor entrance. Conduct funerals.” “A ‘Remember the Maine’ incident could be arranged in several forms:” “We could blow up a ship in Quantanamo harbor and blame Cuba.” “We could arrange to cause such an incident in the vicinity of Havana.” “Casualty lists in US newspapers would cause a helpful wave of national indignation.” “We could develop a Communist Cuban terror campaign in the Miami area and even in Washington.” “We could sink a boatload of Cubans enroute to Florida (real or simulated).” “We could foster attempts on lives of Cuban refugees in the United States even to the extent of wounding in instances to be widely publicized.” “Use of MIG type aircraft by US pilots could provide additional provocation.”

This plan then went on to explain how a civilian passenger aircraft, with CIA selected passengers, could take off from the US for some Latin American country. At some rendezvous point near Cuba another similar but drone passenger aircraft would continue on the original flight plan while the passenger plane would dive for Eglin, a US air force base. Phony emergency messages would then be transmitted from a US aircraft pretending that the drone airliner was under attack by Cuban fighters. Of course this airliner would be shot down over the ocean and all ‘onboard’ would be reported as

General Lemnitzer was the military boss when the now infamous American attempt to frame Cuba and start a war was produced. Do we have any reason to believe that this sort of subversion has actually stopped?
killed.

All this so that Cuba looked like a rogue state and therefore a reasonable one for America to attack. This secret plan also emphasized that it was: “NOT be forwarded to commanders of unified or specified commands.” “NOT to be forwarded to US officers assigned to NATO activities.” “NOT to be forwarded to the Chairman, US Delegation, UN.” This plan was presented by McNamara but rejected by JFK. Three days later JFK told Lemnitzer, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, that there was no way they were going to use this sort of deception to take over Cuba. Lemnitzer lost his job a few months later, but now Kennedy had even more ruthless enemies to watch out for. The ice that Kennedy was skating on was getting thinner and thinner. It is clear, however, that the most senior military men in American were prepared to go to war and possibly kill thousands based on deliberate deception and lies. Fortunately for the world America learned from that possible disaster and wouldn’t do that again!

On April 21st, 1962 the mob advised their CIA handlers that in addition to Castro they have also targeted Raul Castro (Fidel’s brother) and Che Guevara. The Cuban exile community in Florida was supplied with explosives, guns, ammunition and other supplies by the CIA. One of the main reasons the mob was so willing to cooperate with the US government was because the American government agreed to drop serious criminal charges against them, if they agreed to assist. During an August 10th meeting McNamara stated, “the only way to take care of Castro is to kill him”, he then added, “I really mean it.” In September 1962 the poison pills were still in Cuba but had not yet been delivered.

August 23, 1962 JFK was informed that Russian nuclear missiles may be installed in Cuba. On September 8th and 15th Soviet Medium Range Ballistic Missile’s arrived in Cuba onboard Soviet ships. On September 27th five CIA agents were arrested in Havana with a large amount of weapons. On October 22nd the ‘Cuban Missile Crisis’ began when JFK informed the world about the missiles in Cuba. He ordered a blockage of Cuba and over the next few days 15 Soviet ships were inspected and turned back while a few were allowed through. On October 26th a U2 spy plane was shot down and the pilot killed. Other American spy aircraft continued to photograph Cuba.

Khrushchev and JFK tried to reach an agreement and finally the Americans secretly agreed to remove the missiles that they already had on the Soviet border and not invade Cuba. The Soviets then agreed to remove the Cuban missiles and the crisis was over on October 29th. The Americans were not told the details about this agreement. Thirty years later it was revealed that mobile nuclear weapons were operational in Cuba along with 40,000 Soviet troops to counter an American invasion. During all those decades, it was not generally known by Americans, that it was their country that precipitated the Cuban missile crisis by first installing American missiles on the Soviet border.

In April 1963 Lisa Howard, an ABC reporter, was finally given permission to interview Castro, Castro’s first interview with a US network since 1959.
The interview was to be aired in America on May 10th but the White House had a transcript of the interview a week earlier. This allowed the US government to modify the interview, if necessary, so that the American people had access to their version of this interview, rather than what was actually said.

Kennedy adviser McGeorge Bundy’s analyzed the transcript and in a May 3rd report stated, “Public airing in the United States of this interview would strengthen the arguments of ‘peace’ groups, ‘liberal’ thinkers, Commies, fellow travelers, and opportunistic political opponents of present United States policy, as well as provide Castro with a wide audience for his reasonable line.”

In the interview Castro was reasonable and stated that he wished for normalized relations. Lisa Howard urged the US government to take advantage of this situation and send someone to Cuba as Castro’s words to her in private were even more encouraging regarding better relations. JFK was given a memorandum from CIA Deputy Director Helms telling him that “Fidel Castro is looking for a way to reach a rapprochement with the United States.” CIA Director John McCone adamantly opposed Howard’s approach to Cuba, arguing that it would leak and compromise a number of secret CIA operations against Castro. In a May 2, 1963 memorandum to Bundy, McCone stressed that the “Lisa Howard report be handled in the most limited and sensitive manner,” and “that no active steps be taken on the rapprochement matter at this time.” In other words, the American people were not to know that Cuba wanted a peaceful and productive relationship but that American didn’t. They were also not to know that the continuation of secret and illegal CIA operations were to supersede normalized Cuban-American relations. This situation shows us, once again, how a small number of selfish, aggressive, warlike men in America sabotaged the desire for peace that is intrinsic to most Americans.

JFK ordered an end to Operation Mongoose, but the CIA continued to proceed with some of the operations. Bobby Kennedy found out about this and the head of Mongoose was fired. Now Bobby Kennedy was on a hit list just like his brother. Three of the ten scheduled Mongoose sabotage teams had
already left for Cuba and on November 8th one of these teams carried out its mission, the destruction of an industrial facility. On December 24th, Cuba exchanged 1,113 prisoners left over from the Bay of Pigs invasion for $53 million in baby food and medicines. During 1962 there were over 7,000 disruptive events as well as over 700 acts of sabotage against important economic facilities in Cuba. On February 8th, 1963 Kennedy made travel to Cuba illegal for Americans as well as all commercial transactions. On July 9th Kennedy froze all Cuban assets in the US.

In Havana on September 8th, 1963 an American reporter, Daniel Harker, interviewed Castro who told him that American leaders who plan to eliminate Cuban leaders will not themselves be safe. In spite of the pressure from almost all of JFK’s advisors, the efforts by the civilian Lisa Howard and others opened a few doors to dialogue between Cuba and the US. On November 17th Kennedy told Jean Daniel, a French journalist in Cuba, to speak with Castro and tell him that he is now ready for normal relations and that he may drop the embargo. Daniel met with Castro twice. During their second meeting, on November 22nd, 1963, an aide interrupted them and advised them that Kennedy has been shot. Castro turned to Daniel and said, “This is the end to your mission of peace; everything is changed.”

Kennedy uniquely withstood pressure from the military and CIA when he withdrew from the failed Bay of Pigs invasion. Against advice he did not use more force in Laos. He resisted the military and CIA and got a nuclear test ban treaty with the Soviets. Tapes reveal that during the Cuban Missile Crisis, he was often the only person in the room resisting the calls for war. In other words, most of the Americans who advised JFK then, and I am sure America’s President today, are aggressive men who advocate violence and war to solve America’s problems. It took wisdom and strength to overrule them.

The Warren Commission determined that a lone gunman killed JFK but does not question the CIA chief Helms about any possible Cuban, Cuban American or CIA involvement. The end result of this flawed investigation is that most Americans don’t know who killed their President and, more than 40 years later, they still don’t. Due to this same type of failed investigation it appears that America will not know what really happened during 9/11, 40 years from now. (see the Mysteries chapter)

On February 12th, 1964 Castro tried to deliver a message to President
Johnson via Lisa Howard. In part, it said: “Tell the President that I understand quite well how much political courage it took for President Kennedy to instruct you (Lisa Howard) and Ambassador Attwood to phone my aide in Havana for the purpose of commencing a dialogue toward a settlement of our differences.” Johnston did not even respond to Castro’s desire for better relations as he didn’t want to appear ‘soft’ on Communism. On July 6th, 1964 Castro again tried to improve relations but his efforts were rejected by the State Department unless Cuba met unreasonable American demands. Castro tried again on July 26th with the same results. On December 12th, 1964 Cuban exiles fired a bazooka into the UN building while Che Guevara was giving a speech.

In 1965 the Cuban airlift began and 45,000 people left Cuba. Che left Cuba to try and help the poor people of Bolivia, the poorest country in South America that had been devastated by dictatorships and the classic, very rich-very poor struggle. On November 2nd, 1966 President Johnson changed the immigration laws so that any Cuban who had arrived in the US since 1959 could become a permanent resident. 135,000 apply. On December 29th, 1966 US Air Force pilot Everett Jackson was shot down over Cuba after dropping arms for anti-Castro forces. In 1967 US Federal agents arrested almost 70 men with machine guns and ammunition who were plotting against Cuba.

In 1966 The New York Times writes about Cuba: “There have been improvements in child care, public health, housing and roads. The typical leveling down of the whole social and economic structure that accompanies revolutionary ‘equality’ also means, however, that the poorest and most backward elements, especially in the rural areas, has been ‘leveled up’. Cuban Negroes, for the first time, has equal status with whites, economically and socially.”

On October 9th, 1967 Che was captured by Felix Rodriguez who was in charge of the task force the CIA sent to Bolivia in 1966 specifically to kill Che. With that action the CIA turned Che into an icon who is still revered today. He was shot after a short period of questioning. In January 1968, two businesses were bombed in Miami “for doing business with Cuba.” In March Castro nationalized 55,000 small businesses. On September 16th Orlando Bosch fired a bazooka at a freighter in Miami. He went to jail but was paroled a few years later.
Amoral America

In 1970 the US warned the Soviets to stop construction of a submarine base in Cuba. It is ironic that the Americans had a base in Cuba that the Cubans didn’t want but told Cuba that they could not have another foreign base that they did want. The vast majority of Cuban trade was now done with countries associated with the Soviets. In 1971 the well known Cuban poet, Herberto Padilla, was arrested and jailed for 39 days for writings critical of intellectual freedom in Cuba. When he was released, he denounced himself for his ‘errors’. Later Castro went to Padilla’s home and told him he could leave Cuba. He left for the States and never saw his homeland again.

During the Nixon years, 1969-1974, American cloud seeding was attempted to see if flooding could be caused in urban areas and drought in agricultural areas. Using the ever-eager Miami Cubans, the CIA moved African Swine Fever from Fort Gulick in the Panama canal zone into the Cuban pig population. A virus that was unknown in North and South America. In response the Cubans had to kill all of their pigs—over 500,000 animals. Cuba was subject to other mysterious biological outbreaks that were unknown anywhere else. In 1982 the CIA delivered dengue fever to Cuba which caused almost 300,000 people to become sick and 158 to die, of which 101 were children. The US Army biological warfare base at Fort Detrick included research into the Aedes aegypti mosquito and its ability to carry this fever. In 1985 the leader of Omega 7, an anti-Cuban terrorist group, Eduardo Arocena Perez testified at his New York trial for murdering a Cuban UN attaché, that anti-Castro groups had a mission to “carry some germs to introduce them in Cuba to be used against the Soviets and against the Cuban economy, to begin what was called a chemical war.” During that period, Cuba suffered through simultaneous outbreaks of hemorrhagic dengue fever, hemorrhagic conjunctivitis, tobacco mold, sugar cane fungus and another outbreak of African swine fever. As a result of these mysterious chemical and biological outbreaks, Cuba now has a world class chemical and biological detection capability. America has stated that this laboratory is really a front for biological warfare! (see the list at the end of this chapter)

Orlando Bosch, a dedicated anti-Castro terrorist responsible for many deaths. He is wanted in several countries but was pardoned by President Bush Sr. in order to keep those anti-Castro Florida votes.
In 1974 secret talks occurred between Cuba and the US towards normalizing relations. In 1975 Cuban exile leader Luciano Nieves was murdered in the US after advocating dialog with Cuba. The Organization of American States voted to allow individual member states to trade with Cuba rather than support the American embargo which America had initiated years previously. In August the US announced that they would no longer penalize other countries for trading with Cuba.

Rolando Masferrer was a Batista supporter and a Communist who was kicked out of Cuba when Castro accused him of stealing millions. He then made several attempts to kill Castro; but on October 31st, he was killed when his car blew up in Miami. In November, the Angolan government asked the Cuba government to send troops to help fight white South African troops in Angola. Castro complied however the normalization talks between the US and Cuba broke off as a result. In April 1976 Kissinger said ‘no way’ to improved relations with Cuba while Cuba had troops in Africa. On October 6th a Cubana airliner was blown up after taking off from Barbados. Castro blamed the CIA but Luis Posada Carrilles was indicted. He was an anti-Castro terrorist who was trained by America along with Orlando Bosch who was also implicated.

In March 1977 President Carter dropped the ban on Americans traveling to Cuba and by the end of the year, Cuba had sent troops to Ethiopia. In 1978 Castro called for an end to the bombings of various Cuban facilities and for the US to leave Quantanamo. In July the Cuban Interest Section at the UN was bombed. In September the Cuban Mission to the UN was bombed. In 1979 over 100,000 Cuban-Americans were permitted to visit their families in Cuba. Cuba tried to support the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. In November the first batch of volunteer teachers left for Nicaragua.

President Carter tried to lighten up on Cuba but he was dealing with a hostile American anti-Castro group in Florida as well as similar attitudes in his own government.

In March 1980 the Cubans, at the request of the Grenadian government began to build a new Grenada airport. In April a dozen people sought asylum at the Peruvian embassy in Cuba. Peru then decided to open the doors to their embassy and 7,000 people flooded in, seeking asylum. In late April, the Cuban government decided that anyone who wanted to leave Cuba could proceed to the Port of Mariel. By the end of September 125,000 people had left for the US. In September an attaché at the Cuban embassy in New York was assassinated.

In January 1981 Reagan became President and strengthened the embargo against Cuba. On November
6th the Pentagon stated that the military maneuvers in the Caribbean were expected to send a message to Cuba. Cuba was on full alert, expecting a US invasion. On November 22nd the Cuban Vice President and American Secretary of State met but reached no agreement. In April 1982, Reagan cancelled travel to Cuba, made it illegal to send money to Cuba and let the 1977 fisheries agreement with Cuba die. In October 1983 America invaded Grenada and took over the government. Of the 780 Cubans working on the island of Grenada most were construction workers. The Americans killed 24 Cubans and wounded 60. This invasion was a violation of international law. (see the Grenada chapter)

In May 1984 America proposed to spend almost $50 million on the Guantanamo base. In June Jesse Jackson visited Cuba and left after securing the release of 26 prisoners and an agreement to open talks on Cuban-American immigration. In December the US agreed to 20,000 Cubans per year but only 2000 are actually allowed in. In May 1985 the Reagan government started to broadcast radio programs to Cuba. Cuba then cancelled the immigration agreement. In October Reagan banned travel to the US by Cuban government officials and almost everyone else. In 1986 Russia announced a $3 billion aid and loan package to Cuba. Farmers markets, which had been legal since 1980, were now banned. In 1987 the infant mortality rate was lower than the US rate. In March the UN voted against a US resolution critical of Cuba’s human rights. In August Castro agreed to an agreement that would remove all foreign advisors from Central America but the US would not. In 1988 US human rights leaders inspected Cuban prisons and reported that prison conditions were generally no worse than those in US prisons, that there was no evidence of systematic abuse and that some policies such as conjugal visits were more humane than in the US.

In 1989 America refused asylum to Orlando Bosch, the career anti-Castro terrorist (see his pictures above). In 1990 the US starts beaming TV to Cuba and Cuba jammed it. Today (2006) America is still at it, beaming Marti TV via
an aircraft at 20,000 feet, the effort costs tens of millions. The Cuban Museum of Arts and Culture was bombed in Miami. President Bush Sr. then pardoned Orlando Bosch after meeting with right-wing Republican congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen. The meeting was arranged by her campaign manager, Jeb Bush. In October the US prohibited all trade with Cuba by subsidiaries of US companies even when those companies are located outside the US. It also eliminated aid to any country that bought sugar or other products from Cuba. In 1991 the Soviet troops left Cuba and at the end of the year the Soviet Union broke up ending Soviet assistance to Cuba.

In February 1992, in a nice touch, US Congressman Robert Torricelli introduced the ‘Cuban Democracy Act’, and said the bill was designed to ‘wreak havoc on the island’. This Act was strongly supported by Ms. Ros-Lehtinen who worked so hard to pardon Bosch, the man who helped to kill so many innocents during his terrorist career. Commandos carried out at least eight raids on Cuba from speedboats. The Cuban government protests to the American State Department are ignored. On October 23rd, President Bush Sr. signed the ‘Cuban Democracy Act’ into law. It prohibited subsidiaries of US companies, outside

May 2005. Over one million Cubans demonstrate against US supported terrorism against Cuba. Cuba has had to deal with this for over 40 years but is not part of the ‘War on Terror’. 

The infamous US base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. 36% of Americans think the treatment of prisoners there is ‘better than they deserve’, 36% think it is ‘about right’ and 20% think it is ‘unfair’. 100% of those queried had never been a prisoner there. Have a look at the prisoner’s chapter.
the US, from trading with Cuba. It eliminated travel to Cuba by US citizens and sending money to their families in Cuba. Congressman Torricelli said this bill would bring down Castro ‘within weeks’. Castro is still there but Torricelli was brought down for dealing with mobsters. In November the UN voted 59 to 3 in favor of eliminating the US embargo. The three opposing were the US, Israel and Romania.

In 1993 Tony Bryant, another anti-Castro exile, announced more raids on Cuban hotels by his Commandos. At the end of the year, the UN reprimanded Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Iraq for abusing the human rights of their citizens, 74-20. In 1994 numerous Cubans tried to flee Cuba due, in part, to the poor economic conditions created by the US embargo. In August Castro declared an ‘open immigration’ policy and over 30,000 Cubans were taken to Quantanamo by the US Coast Guard. They languished in Quantanamo but eventually most reached the US. In September a new immigration agreement was reached with the US that allowed 20,000 Cubans into America per year. On October 26th the UN General Assembly voted 101 to 2 to end the American embargo against Cuba. Only Israel voted with the US.

In 1995 Cuba was allowed to join the Internet; however Canada had exchanged emails with Cuba since January 1992. In 1995 small planes dropped leaflets over Havana. This was repeated numerous times during the coming months. In January 1996 the Cuban government made an official diplomatic protest and told the US that these planes would be shot down if they continued to violate Cuban airspace. After a number of warnings, two light aircraft were shot down over international waters on February 24th. Four Cuban exiles were killed while a third aircraft escaped. On March 12th President Clinton signed the Helms-Burton Act which prevented foreign companies from doing business in Cuba. It allowed US citizens to sue foreigners who make use of assets claimed by Americans but now owned by the Cuban government. It also denied entry into the US to these foreigners.

In November 1996, for the fifth year in a row, the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to end the US embargo against Cuba 137 to 3. Each year the number of countries opposed to the embargo grew. In 2005 it was the rest of the world against the embargo, the US and Israel in favor.

The UN General Assembly has voted numerous times, almost unanimously, to end the American embargo against Cuba but America ignores this unanimity.
In 1997, there were several explosions at Cuban hotels, nightclubs and restaurants. In October the US Coast Guard found sniper rifles and ammunition onboard a US yacht and one of the men on board said that he planned to kill Castro. Seven exiles were charged but they were all acquitted. By March 1998 both the Pentagon and a US intelligence report concluded that Cuba was no threat to America. Various countries including the EU and Canada moved to legally prevent the Helms-Burton Act from being enforced on their citizens. In August seven Cuban exiles were indicted in Puerto Rico for trying to assassinate Fidel Castro. One of them was Jose Antonio Llama, a director at the Cuban American National Foundation. This organization had boasted about its terrorist activities against Cuba over the years.

In January 1999 President Clinton decided not to review the Cuban-US relationship over the objections of 24 Senators. In November 1999 a huge fuss was created when a young boy was rescued by Americans after his mother drowned trying to escape from Cuba. His father was still in Cuba but many Americans did not want the boy returned to his father. After seven months the boy and father were reunited in Cuba. In November 2000 four Cubans exiles were arrested in Panama for attempting to assassinate Castro. They were convicted in April 2004 but pardoned four months later by the outgoing Panamanian President who met just previously with none other than Colin Powell. In March ex-President Carter, Kofi Annan and 100 others nominated Castro for the Nobel Peace prize for his humanitarian efforts to help other countries. Cuba has 300 political prisoners, thirty of whom said they were there because they said something the Cuban government didn’t want them to say. In Cuba these men are generally regarded as American flaks who want to discredit the Cuban way. About 4,000 students from Latin America received scholarships to attend university in Cuba. After a tour of Cuba’s medical facilities, former US Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders said, “Cuba’s health care system is better at keeping people healthy than the US system.” In 2001 Cuba purchased about 150,000 tons of grains and edible oils from the US. On November 30th the US government rejected an offer from Cuba to compensate Americans for property seized over forty years ago. In a speech American Undersecretary of State John Bolton accused Cuba of potential bioterrorism. A week later ex-President Carter, who was in Cuba, denounced the accusation.
During most of 2002, many American officials visited Cuba and many stated that the US should normalize their relationship with Cuba. There were two hijackings to America from Cuba in 2002, one by boat and one by aircraft. The Cubans requested the return of the hijackers and aircraft; however America released the hijackers and sold the aircraft at auction.

In 2003 the American Senate and House of Representatives voted to end the travel ban to Cuba that had been in effect since 1963. President Bush Jr. was not pleased and later signed a Proclamation banning boats from traveling from the US to Cuba. In 2004 Cuba bought approximately 100 million dollars in food from the US. Apparently it was OK for the American government to sell millions of dollars of food to Cuba while at the same time criminally charging individual Americans for trying to send humanitarian aid to Cuba. President Bush Jr. increases the severity of the rules against American Cubans with relatives in Cuba. They can now visit relatives once every three years instead of annually and they can now spend only $50 per day, down from $164 as well as some other rules that will make life more difficult for Cubans and their American relatives in the US. By 2004 the Americans were fully engaged in the ‘War on Terrorism’, or were they? At that time the Treasury Department had four employees investigating Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein but over two dozen investigating Cuban Embargo violations. Over 10,000 ‘enforcement investigations’ into embargo violations were opened since 1990. Between 1990 and 2003 ninety three ‘enforcement investigations’ were opened into terrorism. By a vote of 221 to 194, the US House of Representatives voted to oppose President Bush’s recent actions against Cuba.

In October 2004 Cuba shut down over 100 factories due to a lack of power. The US State department denied travel documents for 65 Cuban scholars to visit the US. This was the first time in 25 years that the scholars were prevented from attending this conference. In 2004 tourism in Cuba was up 8% from the previous year, to 2 million

Thousands of Cuban doctors have helped in many countries, including 1,440 to Kashmir during the 2005 earthquake. In late 2005 a humanitarian program to restore the sight of millions via free eye surgery was implemented by Castro and the Venezuelan President Chavez. Over a dozen hotels were allocated to accommodate people who will arrive in Cuba blind but leave with their sight restored. Apparently these are the types of programs that America cannot afford.
annual visitors. Cuba had a comprehensive, free healthcare system and one doctor for every 170 Cubans, compared with 188 in the US and 250 in the UK. Unlike the US, it does not cost thousands for a minor medical procedure.

In November 2005 Dr. Vicente Vérez was refused permission to travel to the US to be presented with an award for helping to develop a vaccine that may help to save the lives of many children. He was deemed to be ‘an individual detrimental to the interests of the US’.

Five Cuban men were arrested in Miami on September 12th, 1998 and charged with violating the federal laws of the United States. They had come from Cuba to infiltrate armed organizations that were planning terrorist attacks against Cuba. These attacks have killed over 2,000 Cubans over the years as well as causing significant other damage. These men waited 17 months for their trials which took a further 7 months. One was sentenced to a double life term, two got life, while the remaining two got 19 and 15 years. This case is revealing because the US has protected known terrorists who have killed Cubans but these men, who hurt no one, received long prison terms. It is also revealing because in America a person is only a terrorist if America says so. This American treatment of these Cubans also shows the meanness that can emerge in American society. These men are each in different maximum security prisons, hundreds of miles apart and two have been denied visits from their wives for the last 8 years. This is the same American attitude that has failed America at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and around the world.

America, with its embargo and self imposed restrictions on Cubans and Americans alike, continues to treat Cuba like it was part of America stolen from the Motherland. America refuses to accept the sovereignty of certain countries simply because America is ‘right’. America has acted more vehemently against Cuba than any other country for several reasons. First is Cuba’s proximity to America. That proximity means that Cuba is under the American sphere of influence because America says so. Americans also ‘know’ that America is the ‘best’ country in the world, in the same way that they know that Cuba is one of the ‘worst’. That belief means that Cuba, such as it is, simply can’t be allowed to exist. The fact that Cuba does exist is a craw in the side of America. Secondly, Cuba has played tit-for-tat with America since America started the game back in 1959. When America pushed, Cuba pushed back just as hard and bullies don’t like playing the game that way. Thirdly, considering all the difficulties America has imposed on Cuba, the country has prospered. Equality, health,
education and happiness are much better for the majority of Cubans now than when Americans effectively ruled Cuba. More revealing, their lives are better than the lives of millions in America itself. Fourthly, America has done its very best to make sure that Cuban socialism failed because, more than anything else, America does not want a successful socialistic country anywhere, especially right next door.

In mid-2006 those American efforts to destroy socialism in Cuba continue. The White House Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba recently (July 2006) recommended an additional $80 million in funding for Castro opponents. They recommended additional radio and television broadcasts to Cuba and more enforcement of the sanctions against Cuba that have been in effect for decades. Some of the other recommendations remain secret. As Ricardo Alarcon, President of Cuba’s National Assembly, said, “What they always keep secret are the plans for political assassination, a campaign of terror or a military invasion.” American has made it known that they want to prevent Castro’s younger, but still elderly, brother from assuming the presidency of Cuba. What American has not agreed to do is to let Cubans run their own country.

This litany of actions and counter actions by these two countries is simply remarkable and, of course, reprehensible. It cannot be denied that one of them is a large powerful country and that the other is not. It is also obvious that only one has tried many times to overthrow and destroy the government of the other. The differences between these two countries have been manipulated by powerful, selfish interests who see only their own prejudices and care nothing for the people, for peace or for cooperation. These people have set a deplorable example for other nations with their deceit, aggressiveness, violence and stupidity. The result has been the killing of the most senior members of their respective societies, the utter waste of billions upon billions that could have been spent so much more wisely, the pain and suffering of millions and the continuation of a ridiculous situation that reasonable people could resolve in an afternoon. America is alone as it tries to destroy Cuba. For the 14th year in a row, the UN General Assembly voted on November 8, 2005, against the US embargo against Cuba. Every country on this planet voted against the United States except those countries that must vote with America, Israel, the Marshall Islands and Palau.

For millions of reasons there are millions of people who hate America for what they have done to Cuba.
INTERESTING BIOLOGICAL ‘EFFECTS’
CUBA HAS DISCOVERED SINCE
CASTRO TOOK OVER IN 1959.

• 1962 A US intelligence agent gives several thousand dollars to a Canadian to introduce a disease infecting Cuban sea-turtles.

• 1965 A plastic balloon descends on a farm in Santiago de las Vegas. When it hits the ground it expels a white dust that spreads to cane plantation which is later destroyed.

• 1968 A foreign specialist working for an international agency is expelled after he is confirmed to have introduced a virus affecting coffee crops.

• 1970 The US is caught seeding clouds over Cuba in an attempt to affect the sugar harvest. The project was part of a research plan called ‘The Cooling’ which intended to manipulate Cuba’s weather.

• 1971 African swine fever is introduced. The Cubans claim that the virus came from Fort Gullick, a US military base in Panama. Those involved have since testified to their part. The entire pig population of Cuba was slaughtered.

• 1977 Cane smut is detected in Pilón, eastern Cuba. The disease was unknown in Cuba.

• 1978 An unknown Blue mould hits the sugar crops. Loss 344 million pesos.

• 1978 Sugar cane rust affects a new variety of cane imported from Barbados. As a result 1.35 million tonnes of sugar are lost.

• 1979-80 Two different strains of African swine fever are discovered emanating from distinct areas of contamination. 300,000 pigs are slaughtered.

• 1981 A previously unknown Bovine skin disease erupts affecting young cows and bullocks throughout the island.

• 1981 A sudden outbreak of hemorrhagic dengue fever affects 350,000 people. 158 people, including children, die from the disease. The disease is later discovered to be exactly the same strain of the
disease which caused an outbreak in New Guinea in 1924. Just prior to the outbreak it was discovered that the entire personnel at the Guantanamo naval base had been vaccinated against dengue.

• 1981 Hemorrhagic conjunctivitis caused by the Enterovirus 70 strain spreads throughout the island. The Pan American Health Organization is baffled because this strain had never been seen in the western hemisphere.

• 1982 The US magazine Covert Action, August 6, 1982, suggests the dengue outbreak might have been a CIA plot.

• 1984 Eduardo Arocena, a counter-revolutionary of Cuban origin and head of the Omega-7 terrorist organization, stands trial in the US accused of the murder of Felix Garcia Rodriguez, a Cuban diplomat to the UN. Arocena confesses to having introduced ‘germs’ into Cuba as part of the US biological war against Cuba. He affirms that the dengue outbreak was introduced by terrorist groups into the island.

• 1984 An outbreak of dysentery causes the death of 18 children in Guantanamo province. Investigators pin down the start of the outbreak to two workers who had participated in a festive activity inside the Guantanamo naval base. The disease was again of a type previously unknown in Cuba.

• 1985 An infectious bronchitis poultry virus seriously disrupts egg production.

• 1989 Ulcerative mammillitis in dairy cattle caused by a herpes virus spreads throughout the island affecting milk yields.

• 1990 Black sigatoka, infects banana plantations throughout the island. Once again the disease had been unknown on the island. The disease appeared just as Cuba began to start intensive banana production.

• 1991 Acariasis disease which affects bees is discovered, just as Cuban honey starts to be exported.

• 1991 30,000 tobacco seedlings are discovered to be 15% infected with fusario which once in the soil means tobacco production has to be halted for three years.

• 1992 Black plant louse which carries a citrus disease is discovered.
• 1994 Citric sapper blight is found in Pinar del Río and Camagüey.

• 1993 122,135 rabbits have to be slaughtered after an outbreak of a viral disease.

• 1995 February 10. A camera case in the luggage of a visiting US scientist is found to contain four small test tubes of a biological substance. On examination it is discovered to be the citric tristeza virus.

• 1995 Coffee borer discovered in Granma province. Losses of 80% were attributed to it and considerable resources had to be spent on containing it.

• 1996 Varroasis, another bee disease is diagnosed in three apiaries in Matanzas. Previously unknown in Cuba, this disease is the worst of all affecting honey production.

• 1996 Thrips Palmi attack in Matanzas by State Department plane.

As a result of all this ‘biological activity’ in Cuba the Cubans established the National Center for Scientific Research which is one of the most advanced biological and virus labs anywhere. On the 21st of April, 1976 Cuba ratified the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. The Bush administration, after conducting a review of policy on biological weapons, decided that the proposed protocol did not suit the national interests of the United States. (see the Biological Weapons chapter)
DEPLETED URANIUM

“Aerosol DU exposures to soldiers on the battlefield could be significant with potential radiological and toxicological effects.”

– The US Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command

Depleted Uranium is a “low level alpha radiation emitter which is linked to cancer when exposures are internal, [and] chemical toxicity causing kidney damage.” “Short term effects of high doses can result in death, while long term effects of low doses have been implicated in cancer.”


“Depleted uranium is more of a problem than we thought when it was developed. But it was developed according to standards and was thought through very carefully. It turned out perhaps to be wrong.”

Brent Scowcroft, former National Security Advisor to Bush Sr.

– 3 January 1996.

“While the depleted uranium normally poses no danger, it is to be handled with caution. The main hazard associated with depleted uranium is the harmful effect the material could have if it enters the body. If particles are inhaled or digested, they can be chemically toxic and cause a significant and long-lasting irradiation of internal tissue.”

– FAA Advisory Circular to crash investigators regarding DU equipped aircraft after a crash.

America uses depleted Uranium (DU) in bullets, shells and other military equipment for four reasons. DU is 1.7 times heavier than lead and when you are making a projectile from DU you get more power into the projectile and therefore you are more likely to defeat or kill your enemy. Secondly, while a DU projectile is burrowing its way into some bunker or tank to kill the people inside, it tends to be self-sharpening unlike other tough metals that tend to form a mushroom shape and stop penetrating. Therefore DU is a better penetrator and voilà, more dead enemies. Thirdly, DU is also used in armor because it is effective in stopping projectiles that may be heading your way. Therefore American DU-clad tanks are less susceptible to penetration from both DU and non-DU munitions. Fourthly, DU is also really, really cheap or really, really
expensive, depending on whom you talk to. No one is arguing over the fact that DU is really cheap initially but the costs associated with DU after it enters the environment are in dispute. The reason DU is so cheap is because the atomic power guys are more than happy to get rid of it. They are currently spending big bucks to store approximately 1,000,000 tons of DU.

DU contaminated military equipment from the first Gulf war has never been removed or recycled. 467 US personnel were killed in this 1990-91 three-week Persian Gulf War. Of the 592,560 soldiers who served in this war about 200,000 were on permanent medical disability by 2000.

Uranium is mined in many countries mainly for use in nuclear power plants, atomic weapons and coincidentally, DU weapons. DU is also used in industry for many reasons. It seems counter-productive but a Boeing 747 carries about 1,700 lbs of DU in various counter-weights. Australia has the world’s largest reserves of uranium and produces about 30% of the world supply of uranium oxide, over 10,000 tons annually. Uranium occurs naturally in the environment as U-238, which makes up about 99.3% of the ore found. U-235, which is about .7% of the ore and U-234, which is a very small percentage makes up the rest. Unfortunately the nuclear power guys just use the U-235 so most of

DU contaminated military equipment from the first Gulf was has never been removed or recycled. 467 US personnel were killed in this 1990-91 three-week Persian Gulf War. Of the 592,560 soldiers who served in this war, about 200,000 were on permanent disability by 2000. Others suffer from less serious medical problems. This means that a decade after the war almost 60% of the soldiers who served there now have serious medical problems.
the uranium mined, the U-238 just sat around taking up space until some really nice guys said, let’s make bullets out of this stuff. DU is also pyrophoric, which means that it ignites on impact into a very fine radioactive dust. This may drift around and get into various lungs and other places where it shouldn’t go. As I said, really nice guys.

All three types of uranium are radioactive which means they emit particles as they break down. In the case of U-238 or DU this process takes billions of years, which is another way of saying that this stuff will be around forever. During this decay process U-238 gives off weak alpha radiation and gamma rays. If these stay out of your body you are probably OK. If ingested by breathing or swallowing you could have health problems. Of course the guys who want a more powerful bullet as well as the guys who want to just get rid of this stuff love DU weapons. The people who ingest DU particles and get sick as well as the guys killed by DU weapons are not nearly as enthusiastic.

Aside from the fact that America has eagerly spent billions on having the world’s most deadly bullets, shells, bombs and missiles the dust produced by the disintegrating DU weapon is, or is not, a problem, depending on who you are talking to. Anyone you talk to will admit that this stuff is getting around. The US Navy had DU weapons in 1968. It was used in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, the 1990-91 Gulf war as well as Iraq. It has also been supplied to Israel by the Americans since 1973 in response to the improved Mk II Palestinian slingshot (just kidding about the slingshot). America denied that DU was used in Yugoslavia but scientists in Yugoslavia measured elevated gamma radiation after carpet-bombing by the US. After a weapon that didn’t explode was identified as DU, Lord Robertson, the head of NATO, admitted that DU weapons had been used.

The use of DU weapons is no longer disputed but there is something funny going on here. Four hundred and sixty-seven (467) US soldiers were ‘officially’ killed during the 1990-1991 Gulf war, 147 in combat. If about 600,000 served in this conflict then the percentage killed in combat is about .02%. Therefore for every American killed in this war about 2,000 end up with serious long-term health problems. This is unlike any war in history.

WW II was hell and some Americans suffered from the same horrors in that conflict but the vast majority of the vets who received medical compensation were physically wounded. The question that America is unwilling or unable to answer is, are the hundreds of thousands of sick Americans who served
in DU areas, without receiving so much as a scratch, sick as a result of DU exposure, something else, or are they all faking?

Dr. Jenan Ali at the Basra hospital in Iraq said studies show a 100% rise in child leukemia in the decade after the first Gulf war with a 240% increase in malignancies. Niloufer Bhagwat, from India, sat on an international panel of judges investigating the war in Afghanistan. The panel ruled that America had used weapons of extermination on present and future generations. The guys who love DU munitions dismiss these concerns as more whining by the wimpy leftists.

Karen Parker, an American humanitarian lawyer, says that there are four rules regarding weapons:

- Weapons may only be used against legal enemy military targets and must not have an adverse effect elsewhere (the territorial rule)
- Weapons can only be used for the duration of an armed conflict and must not be used or continue to act afterwards (the temporal rule)
- Weapons may not be unduly inhumane (the humaneness rule)
- Weapons may not have an unduly negative effect on the natural environment (the environmental rule).

Using those criteria, DU is not looking good. In fact, it may fail to meet any of the rules. DU drifts with the wind so does not harm just the intended target. Secondly, with a half-life in the billions of years DU can remain dangerous ‘forever’. Thirdly, DU can damage cells and many reasonable people believe that this can cause suffering through illness or birth defects. Lastly, DU cannot be contained, is not contained and therefore damages the environment.

Karen Parker took this issue to the UN in 1995. In 1996, the UN Human Rights Commission described DU munitions as weapons of mass destruction that should be banned. An eminent Canadian scientist involved with the European Committee on Radiation Risk (ECRR). Dr. Rosalie Bertell, said that deadliness of DU is derived, not just from its radioactivity but also from the durability of particles formed in the 3000-6000º C heat produced when the DU weapons impact. Geoscientist Moret states, “There has to be a moratorium on the manufacture, sales, use and storage of DU. The Middle East has been severely contaminated. That region is radioactive forever.” The World Health Organization (WHO) says that cancer rates worldwide are set to rise by 50% by
2020, although it does not link this publicly to DU.

Meanwhile President Bush said that statements about DU being dangerous are just, ‘propaganda’. He also went on to say, “Scientists working for the World Health Organization, the UN Environmental Program and the European Union could find no health effects linked to exposure to depleted uranium.” That WHO 2001 report actually said that there was no significant risk but it accepted that high exposure could pose a health risk. A more recent WHO study in 2003 warned of the dangers of DU but—surprise, surprise, refused to publish its findings. Dr. Keith Baverstock, who was the main author of the study said, “There is increasing scientific evidence the radioactivity and the chemical toxicity of DU could cause more damage to human cells than is assumed.” When asked about the refusal to publish his report he said, “I believe our study was censored and suppressed by the WHO because they didn’t like its conclusions.”

The American military is simply not going to give up the use of a material that is almost twice as heavy as lead and penetrates better than any other material. The American military is in the killing business and eliminating collateral damage, which appears to include planet Earth, has never been a real priority. As General Tommy Franks, says, when referring to the 30 or so thousand Iraq civilians killed so far, “We don’t do body counts.”

So General “We don’t do body counts” Franks, and President “We don’t do torture” Bush Jr, and the American Veterans Affairs Department don’t deal with the facts. Of the approximately 600,000 Americans who served in the first Gulf War 13,000, are now dead which seems odd for people who were mostly
Depleted Uranium

under 40 years old in 2000. Almost half of the Gulf War I survivors have medical problems, some of them very serious. In WW II it was 5%; in Vietnam it was 10%, so what has happened here? The American who never served will not get off scot-free either. The Veterans Affairs Department expects to pay out billions of dollars to care for these veterans in the next few decades.

In February 2006 a report was released in the United Kingdom (UK) that showed a fourfold increase in atmospheric uranium levels after the ‘shock and awe’ bombing campaign in Iraq. Of course, the UK government didn’t come out and say that. The citizenry had to file a freedom of information request for the evidence that depleted uranium from the shells was carried by wind currents to Britain. This doesn’t mean anything because the government has already said the DU is harmless and we know from Vietnam and other wars that the government is always right and would never lie to us. However it does sound as if the US and the UK are reading from the same page on this one. An advisor to the government on radiation believes that uranium aerosols from Iraq were widely dispersed in the atmosphere and blown across Europe. “This research shows that rather than remaining near the target, as claimed by the military, depleted uranium weapons contaminate both locals and whole populations hundreds to thousands of miles away.” The Ministry of Defence says that this is ‘unfeasible’, so believe who you like but remember, never trust.
a vested interest.

American authorities from the President on down have told us how harmless DU is but the US army manuals detail the precautions that should be taken when handling DU. If it is harmless, why take precautions? In 1979 when depleted uranium particles escaped from the National Lead Industries factory near Albany, NY, it was a different story. National Lead Industries was manufacturing DU penetrators for 30mm cannon rounds for the US military. The DU particles that escaped from their plant traveled 26 miles and just happened to be discovered in a laboratory filter by Dr. Leonard Dietz, a nuclear physicist working in his laboratory. His discovery led to a shut down of the National Lead factory in 1980, for releasing more than 0.85 pounds of DU dust into the atmosphere every month. New York ordered the closure not because of the dust but because of the radioactivity which exceeded a NY State radioactivity limit of 150 microcuries for airborne emissions in a given month. This incident shows us that DU particles can be carried great distances and that they can be radioactively dangerous. The 3.8 micrometer diameter spherical uranium dioxide particles analyzed by Dr. Dietz at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory had a fall rate of 56 ft./hour. The particles therefore had to reach a height of only 200 ft. in the warm exhaust plume from the National Lead plant for a gentle breeze averaging 3 mph to carry these particles 10 miles. Even smaller particles created in explosions and lifted by the strong winds or convection currents in the Middle Eastern desert regions could obviously carry this type of contamination much further. The contamination that happened in America resulted in a massive cleanup which is ongoing and the cost was recently, April 2006, reported to be $160 million. In American war zones, where literally tons of DU is distributed, that contamination is considered completely safe and no cleanup is required, or even considered.

Dr. Durakovic was Chief of Nuclear Medicine at the veterans’ hospital in Wilmington, Delaware during the late 1980s and early 1990s. He worked with the first American soldiers who appeared to have been exposed to DU contamination. The good Doctor wanted to find out what was going on so he started to investigate this phenomenon. The US Army didn’t feel quite the same way and fired him as he researched this source of low level radiation and the associated symptoms. Dr. Durakovic has continued with this research, is one of the world’s foremost experts in the field and regularly tests vets for DU exposure. If you think you have been contaminated by DU, go to the Doctor’s web site - http://www.umrc.net/ Here you will get some accurate information regarding testing and health effects.

The US Army also knows a great deal about DU but their desire for a better bullet overrides any concerns they might have for the health of their own troops and civilian non-combatants. The army’s own study in 1990 concluded that there is no level of depleted uranium exposure that is so low that the probability of it causing cancer goes to zero. In other words even the army tells us that DU exposure may be dangerous.
Depleted Uranium

When radioactivity is present alpha and beta particles along with gamma-rays are produced. When tiny particles that release radioactivity make their way deep into the body, by inhalation or ingestion, they may have a significant impact. This released energy depends on the number of particles releasing the energy. The impact on various body parts is also different for different tissues and for different individuals. That is why some people can smoke for years and never get sick and some people can smoke much less and end up with lung cancer.

If you lined up 50 particles of DU two microns in diameter they would equal the width of a human hair. One of those DU particles would be very easy to ingest or inhale; in fact it would be easy to ingest thousands in an area heavily contaminated with DU through breathing, eating or drinking.

Let's look at just one of those DU particles, deep inside the lungs or the digestive system. This tiny, single particle contains 170,000,000,000 atoms of U-238 and will emit 31 alpha particles per year. A minority of those alpha particles will come from the associated U-234, U-235 and U-236. Those 31 alpha particles equal a radiation dose of about 13 rads per year. If we use a Relative Biological Effectiveness factor of 10, to determine the effect this will have on the body these rads convert to about 140 rems. This particle is also small enough to get deep in the lungs and not get out. Therefore this radioactive particle may emit an excessive amount of alpha radiation right next to sensitive cells for much longer than any of us will live, in this case a few billion years. On one hand the government tells us that we should not get more than 1/2 rem per year and on the other hand that DU is basically harmless. Since just one tiny DU particle is many times the allowable limit, then the government story doesn't add up.

Alpha radiation is the weakest radiation because it doesn't penetrate well, but it will damage cells and cause mutations if it is close to these cells, exactly where it might go, if inhaled or ingested. It is this weakness that makes it difficult to measure because holding up your hand can stop alpha radiation. The government testing has been defective because it has not detected this radiation deep inside veteran's bodies where it can remain, slowly doing fatal damage. Another serious problem with this issue is that many of the military people are very loyal to the system and just cannot admit that this very same military may be killing the very people it is supposed to protect. DU has killed people and the evidence is irrefutable. Unfortunately there have always been ‘experts’ who

Dr. A. Durakovic was fired from the Department of Veterans Affairs when he started to investigate DU. He now runs his own lab and can be counted on to get to the truth.
denied that people could fly, that mosquitoes could kill or that atomic energy was possible. ‘Experts’ with vested interests cannot be trusted.

This issue is enormously important and it will be forever. Unfortunately and remarkably, this issue is still basically ignored or denied. While the war mongers profit and manipulate the truth, the ignorant continue to suffer. Many people hate America for promoting and using DU weapons and it seems quite reasonable to say that millions more will join them when further research proves how foolish it has been to kill civilians and military personnel while permanently contaminating our planet with needless radiation in a toxic dust.
Diego Garcia is the largest of over 50 islands that make up the Chagos Archipelago approximately 1000 miles south of India in the Indian Ocean. The British claimed ownership of these islands even though they were not the first discoverers and even though they have not put so much as a foot on some of them. The British used this land claim method; the so called might-is-right method, extensively in the past. This resulted in the so-called British Empire that ran roughshod over a great deal of the planet.

The first recorded visitors to these beautiful tropical islands were the Portuguese in the 1500s. To these early European voyagers this meant that the land they ‘discovered’ was theirs, even though in most cases, it was obvious that other people already lived there. By having more sea-power than the Portuguese the English eventually claimed ownership of these islands and they are now considered part of the British Indian Ocean Territory, BIOT. In the early 1800s a few plantations were set up on Diego Garcia and by 1860 the population was reported to be 550. Eventually the plantations expanded so that by 1960 the population was estimated to be over 2,000. Some of these people could claim
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being a 5th generation Chagossian. Prior to November 1965, the Chagos islands were part of Mauritius but an Order in Council by the Brits formed the new colony the BIOT, as mentioned previously.

This separation of the Chagos islands from Mauritius was done for a reason. The Americans wanted a base in this part of the world to counter the Soviets even though those pesky Commies had no base within thousands of miles. Why the Americans want bases all over this planet has yet to be clarified. The tricky bit was that the Americans wanted an island base without residents, none at all. Diego Garcia looked good but to meet the American demands the Brits had to get rid of the people who already lived there. To encourage the Brits in this regard the Yanks offered the Brits $14 million in the form of a Polaris missile rebate. Sometime after 1967 the islanders were encouraged, deceived or coerced into leaving the island. They were allowed one suitcase, no furniture and no pets. Many thought they were coming back and needed to see the doctor in Mauritius anyway. Coming back? No way, these people were dumped off in Mauritius without compensation, housing arrangements or any other consideration. They were refused permission to return and some time later when they asked to come back to visit the graves of their ancestors, the Americans refused that request too.

The Yanks meanwhile were busy building an Indian Ocean military base and had no time to worry about a few, now impoverished, natives. In fact the Americans did hire a few thousand foreign workers to help them run the base, most of them from the Philippines. For reasons unknown they refused to consider hiring any of the people they caused to be displaced. And the
Diego Garcia

base: what a great killing machine it is. Over $600 million spent on building the base itself, B-2 bombers that cost the American taxpayers over $2 billion each as well as the good old B-52. Billions and billions spent to …… bomb those terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unfortunately the billions and billions spent on the Diego Garcia killing machine failed to prevent any of the estimated 100,000 deaths of innocent civilians killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. In fact this base was responsible for some of those deaths.

While the original residents of Diego Garcia were now struggling with poverty, drugs, alcohol, joblessness, prostitution and poor education, the American military personnel who now occupied the island had a very different life. According to the US Navy the island now has:

- Gymnasium – Located at Bldg. #115. The gym complex consists of an enclosed basketball court, one multi-purpose court for volleyball and special classes, a Nautilus Fitness Room, a free weight room, a cardio-vascular room, a Body Master Circuit Room, four racquetball courts (eye protection is mandatory), and male and female dressing rooms.
- A 25-meter Swimming Pool is located between the Main Outdoor Theater and the Turner Club, Facility #105.
- The Outdoor Athletic Facilities - Located adjacent to the gym are: six lighted tennis courts, three horseshoe pits and two softball fields. Volleyball courts are located at the Beach House, Short Pier and BOQ/BEQ areas.
- A nine-hole golf course is provided as well as a driving range and a Marina – Located across from Splendidville. The Marina rents powerboats, sailboats, windsurfers, etc. Fishing equipment and supplies are available. The Marina has specially designed classes for patrons wishing to obtain proper certification to operate the specific watercraft. Also provided is a fish cleaning service. Four deep-sea fishing boats (Ocean Master) can be chartered for fishing trips through the Marina.”

Ain’t that grand! Nothing for you and everything for us.

The US Navy Diego Garcia web site also has a section on the, ‘History of the island’ but fails to make any reference whatsoever to the people that these islands were stolen from. It is also strange that they also fail to mention the prison on the island where a number of ‘terrorist’ may be held, interrogated and if this is like other American prisons, tortured. (See the Prisoners chapter) Perhaps a prison is located here as Quantanamo Bay is too close to prying eyes. During email correspondence with American military personal on Diego Garcia, they were annoyed when it was suggested that someone would questions their ‘War on Terror’. They were also completely unaware that these islands used to be the home of people who had lived here for generations. Perhaps this is not surprising, in March, 2006 a Zogby poll revealed that 85% of the US
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troops in Iraq believed that they were fighting in Iraq, ‘to retaliate for Saddam’s role in the 9/11 attacks’.

Louis Bancoult has emerged as a leader of the Chagossians and he started legal action against the Brits in 1998. On the 3rd November 2000 the High Court of London said that they had been evicted illegally and that they had the right to return. Being a normal person Bancoult thought that he and his people had won a major victory. Not so fast, the Brits and the Yanks do not respect normal rights and they were not going to allow a few ‘natives’ to overrun a zillion dollar airbase. Under Tony Blair the British passed an Order in Council motion, which bypassed Parliament, and this ‘legally’ prevented the Islanders from ever returning. But the fight goes on as Bancoult is appealing the legality of this motion. And what happened to all those Islanders’ pets? They were gassed by the deadly exhaust fumes from the American trucks.

This abysmal treatment of a few thousand poor people by the Americans, with a little help from the Brits, is just another example of American arrogance and insensitivity and another reason why so many people hate America.

UPDATE: In yet another court victory, May 2006, the UK High Court ruled that the islanders were illegally removed by the UK government. The leader of the Chagos Refugee Group, Olivier Bancoult, who has won this victory before, said it was a “special day, a day to remember.” Knowing how the Brits and Yanks have conspired together to shaft these people in the past I hope that the islanders do not put too much faith in the power of the courts. Apparently the islanders have given up on a return to the main island, which used to be their home, but want to return to some of the other islands in the group. This entire hassle
is particularly tragic because America could have eliminated this total mess if they had allowed the people to remain and work on the air base in the first place. Of course, not having a destructive airbase in the middle of nowhere was never considered!

In the High Court, Sir Sydney Kentridge QC said that the treatment of the Chagossians was “outrageous, unlawful and a breach of accepted moral standards.” Naturally the lawyers who represented the American and British governments, who kicked the islanders out in the first place, said they did nothing wrong. Although the Americans are not using the other islands and would not be adversely affected if people did live there, you can count on the Americans to use their power to keep these people from returning to the islands of their birth.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

“People of privilege will always risk their complete destruction rather than surrender any material part of their advantage.”
– John Kenneth Galbraith, economist

“That who own the country ought to govern it.”
– John Jay, first chief justice of the United States, 1787

“The men and women who enlist in this country’s military should be told the truth, that they are not protecting the United States, they are and always have been protecting corporate interests.”
– Chante Wolf, Veterans for Peace activist

“The only thing worth globalizing is dissent.”
– Arundhati Roy, author

The large island of Hispaniola is made up of the Dominican Republic on the east and Haiti on the west. These two countries have both suffered terrible atrocities at the hands of the white guys. These men first showed up in 1492 and soon started fighting amongst themselves. Their leader, Columbus, tried to get them to treat the welcoming residents of the island properly but he was ultimately unsuccessful. As more Europeans arrived the estimated 500,000 residents on this large island were increasingly abused. Some of their women were stolen; many of the men were killed or were enslaved while hunger and disease claimed many more. The Spanish estimated that by 1508 only 60,000 of the Taíno people remained alive. By 1535 they were virtually extinct, a problem the Europeans solved by importing, enslaving and mistreating millions more.

The new slaves from Africa first arrived in 1518. Millions more were captured in Africa and suffered deplorable conditions during their forced voyages to ‘the new world’. Like the destroyed native society on Hispaniola the people of Africa had a rich culture and organized societies. They rebelled against their oppressors in 1522 and some escaped into the mountains where they lived amongst themselves.

During the next century agriculture and the population grew while the Europeans continued to fight between themselves over who owned what. In 1697 Spain agreed to ‘give’ the western third of Hispaniola to France. The
French were also opposed by their slave population who increasingly resisted slavery, mistreatment and inequality they saw all around them. They rose up and fought many battles with the French but finally overthrew them in 1804. (see the Haiti chapter) This created the first black republic in the history of the western hemisphere.

Back on the eastern portion of Hispaniola the French fought the Spanish and even the British got in on the act. At one point Haiti held power over all of this area but the people on the eastern side of Hispaniola thought of themselves as different from those on the western end of this large island. This sentiment eventually led them to independence in 1844 but the fighting wasn’t over. In 1863 yet another ‘war’ led to eventual independence from Spain a few years later.

America was actively involved in Haiti and the Dominican Republic as well as Cuba. For reasons unknown American political leaders regarded the Caribbean as an American lake and it was therefore perfectly OK for them to tell other countries in this ‘lake’ what to do. America moved US customs agents into the Dominican Republic in 1905 because the country had committed an ‘offense’ and was then placed under a ‘customs receivership’. Ongoing conflicts and resistance to American intervention led to a US invasion in 1916. This US marine invasion kept American troops in the country until 1924. The US also trained and organized a brutal national guard to enforce US interests just as they had in other Latin American countries.

An election resulted in a fairly good leader who tried to care for the people of the Dominican Republic while protecting American interests. Horacio Vasquez lasted until 1930 when he was overthrown by Rafael Trujillo, a member of the National Guard that was trained and supplied by the US. Although Trujillo was court-martialed in 1920 for rape and kidnapping, he continued his rise to power. America supported this sociopath because he claimed to be an anti-communist. For over 30 years Trujillo took care of his friends which resulted in widespread corruption. He ruled as a dictator but seems to have had some sort of ego problem. He changed the name of the capital, Santo Domingo, to Trujillo City and the countries highest mountain Trujillo Peak. He also forced kids at school to end their daily prayers with “God, country and Trujillo.” Many houses were forced to post plaques saying that they were loyal to his political party and many statues of him were erected around the country. He also formed and armed
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Trujillo thought it was just fine for him to have everything while others had nothing.

a secret police force that tortured and/or killed any opposition to his dictatorship. Of course he also eliminated any ‘communists’ that American was always so concerned about and for this he was supported by America and kept in power. He also ripped off the country and amassed a vast personal fortune. Everyone in the country knew that America had backed this brutal dark horse.

Even though he was a dictator who amassed great personal wealth, killed innocent people, held elections in which his party was the only party running while his army killed thousands, America kept him on the payroll for over 30 years. After the murder of several women, the attempted killing of the Venezuelan President and the attempted killing of a CIA agent by Trujillo’s forces, the US decided that they had almost had enough. Trujillo’s fatal error was dealing with the Soviets. Although those dealings were not substantial that was enough for the USA. The CIA agreed to support disloyal Trujillo military men and he was subsequently shot on May 30, 1961. This was the first time that the US had eliminated an ‘anti-communist’ leader that they had created and there were a number of others just as bad as Trujillo.

Trujillo’s son was able to take over and he had a number of people killed who he thought had a hand in his father’s killing. This succession makes it clear that the Americans had no desire to replace Trujillo with a democratic government for the benefit of the people. The people however, had had enough of the Trujillo’s and by the end of 1961 forced the Trujillo family to France where they continued to live their lavish lives. In the ensuing vacuum various men, supported by America, tried to run the Dominican Republic.

In 1962 elections were held and a dissident exiled writer won with a comfortable majority. Juan Bosch was welcomed by President Kennedy as just the sort of person the Dominican Republic needed and he took office in early 1963. He went right to work solving some of the countries long-term problems. He made efforts to improve public works and low cost housing. He made some land reforms and transferred some private land into public use. He improved civil liberties and legalized the communist party. He tried to reduce the importation of luxury goods the country could not afford and he believed that the Dominican Republic was a sovereign country. All very reasonable moves for the leader of a
poverty stricken nation.

The American media began to report that ‘communists’ were taking over the country but it turns out that the reporter who wrote the story was a CIA agent. Perhaps the CIA had nothing else to do and wanted ‘their’ country back but anti Bosch feeling was spreading in the US based on next to nothing. The military in the Dominican Republic also yearned for the good old days that put them first and all those poor people a distant second. The military told Bosch that he had to spend more money fighting those ‘communists’ and if he didn’t they might just do something. Bosch was not supported by the US, on the contrary, they specifically supported the military which ended the Bosch presidency, after only seven months.

Less than two years later a revolution by the people tried to put Bosch back in power. The people had the support of the younger military officers but not the US government who continued their support for the military cabal they put in place when they ousted Bosch. For the fifth time the US government sent in the Marines, using that good old, ‘to protect American interests’ tactic. Eventually 23,000 American troops were landed while Air Force and Naval forces were pressed into action, 42,420 troops plus other personal, almost 50,000 yanks in this sovereign nation. This American invasion was clearly illegal and a violation of the OAS treaty which specified that intervention is prohibited, ‘for any reason whatever’ in the affairs of any other state. The Johnson government claimed that the US troops were there to get those commies but that turned out to be a bit of a bad joke. The Americans released a list of over 50 communist but it turned out that most of them either weren’t commies or they were in jail. In a revolution supported by tens of thousands, an invasion to get 50 men, who probably weren’t even communists, clearly fell into the American anti-communist obsession category.

Once again an American embassy, along with its CIA troops, had exaggerated a non-existent threat which cost the lives of many innocent people. But they got the job done, legal or illegal, it didn’t matter. The Dominican Republic was back on the American straight and narrow. In 1966 another election, with American troops on the streets, put the American candidate Joaquin Belaguer into office. It could hardly have turned out any other way. The people knew that if they
elected Bosch again the Americans would react in the same way and they were tired of occupation. They were also influenced by the American propaganda, leaflets, radio ads and actions which blocked information from the opposition parties. During his years in office Belaguer proved to be acceptable to the Americans as the rich got richer and the poor got poorer. He lasted, off and on, until 1978 during which time foreign investment grew substantially along with the millionaires. The government security service became more sophisticated and managed to keep the poor from creating too much trouble. The election that defeated Belaguer was the first, basically democratic election, in the country’s history. Other basically democratic elections followed but these leaders of the country all knew that to stray too far from the American line would invite more trouble than they could handle.

In 1982 the government of the Dominican Republic succumbed to the American dominated International Monetary Fund and this led to the usual hardships for the poor. In 1984 the people rioted over high food prices and over 100 were killed by government troops. In 1989 inflation reached 60% while the local currency proceeded to lose about 75% of its value. This produced even more profits for the foreigners, mostly Americans, who owned the factories and large agricultural operations where people worked for even poorer wages. The government continued to play ball with the Americans and sent troops to Iraq thereby becoming part of the ‘coalition of the willing.’ The Americans have also used the Dominican Republic as a staging and training area in their support of the Haitian rebels who overthrew Aristide. Aristide was the democratically elected leader of Haiti that was also forced out of office with American assistance. (see the Haiti chapter) Unlike the Haitians who continue to resist the American plutocracy, the people of the Dominican Republic try to live their lives without too much difficulty. They quite rightly feel that there is not too much they can do about some Americans making millions off their land or labor. This lack of active resistance has not diminished the memories that many have of the decades of poverty and suffering that they or their ancestors endured under various American supported despots. The hatred that American created in this land so many years ago will not be easily erased by mere propaganda.
ECUADOR

“Exploitation and oppression is not a matter of race. It is the system, the apparatus of world-wide brigandage called imperialism, which made the Powers behave the way they did.”

– Han Suyin

“Religion is a means of exploitation employed by the strong against the weak; religion is a cloak of ambition, injustice and vice.”

– Georges Bizet

“The law was made for one thing alone, for the exploitation of those who don’t understand it, or are prevented by naked misery from obeying it.”

– Bertolt Brecht

Like virtually every other country in North and South American Ecuador has had a hard time at the hand of the Europeans. From the arrival of the Spanish in the early 1500s onwards the indigenous peoples have been exploited or worse. After being the elite for over 300 years the Spanish were evicted by the new elite who were not much better as far as the masses were concerned. The 1800s were unstable with many rulers but the poor remained poor, many of them no better than slaves. In the 1940s Peru attacked Ecuador to acquire land in a dispute over a poorly defined border. Peru was much more powerful and ended up with a significant portion of Ecuador that was in the Amazon basin.

After WWII, three Ecuadorian presidents were democratically elected and completed their terms. A fourth democratically elected president was Jose Velasco Ibarra who won a majority in September 1960. He was not a communist and it is fair to say that he was not even a socialist but he did support Cuba and thought that communists should be allowed to exist.

That attitude was not good enough
Amoral America

for America. Ecuador, one of the smallest and poorest countries in South America was in for an intensive period of CIA and US state department meddling. America and the CIA knew that capitalism and free enterprise were inferior to socialism in a poor country like Ecuador. Nevertheless they proceeded to manipulate Ecuador in every possible way to prevent the people from having the government that they knew to be in their best interest. The question the CIA never seems to ask, or answer, is why do they have to use an illegal and secret force to defeat a government that the people want?

The CIA proceeded to infiltrate virtually every political organization, labor union, government department and media outlet worth their time. They paid informers, planted information, paid to have phony information published, financed conservative groups, bribed select Ecuadorian military leaders, bombed churches and right wing organizations to make the leftists look bad and placed CIA agents in high government positions. All secretly, of course, which is another CIA mystery? If they are so sure that their way of government is so good why not let it compete openly?

At the end of 1961 their efforts paid off. The democratically elected president was forced out of office by the military. Vice President Carlos Arosemana replaced him and surprise, surprise, this new President was a former CIA agent. Another surprise, President Arosemana saw no need to cut ties with Cuba, one of the CIA’s demands. He was only allowed that bad attitude for a few months when he was told to comply, or else. He did for a while but was never very acceptable to the CIA; so in July 1963 he was overthrown by a CIA instigated military coup. When these new men assumed control they cancelled the 1964 elections and start abusing human rights. Now America was happy.

Jose Velasco Ibarra, democratically elected but then overthrown by America.

The slums on the hillsides lack many basic services.
This new government was better at taking orders and passed laws banning communists and other leftists. The CIA supplied this ‘government’ with their standard, ‘Subversive Control Watch List’. These lists were used to round up the ‘bad’ guys and over the years and in many different countries were used to kill thousands of innocent people.

The military junta ruled until 1966 but then Ecuador entered into a long period of political instability, including military rule and dictatorships, always with American influence. During the various periods of military control the American oil companies were allowed to exploit Ecuadorian oil fields and make other inroads.

Jaime Roldós Aguilera became President of Ecuador on August 10, 1979. He was a popular president in his own country but not popular with the USA. He wanted more of Ecuador’s resources to benefit the poor. In particular he wanted a more favorable deal from Texaco who were involved with oil extraction in the Ecuadorian jungle. In November 1980 Reagan took over from Carter and he was very aligned with US business interests. In early 1980 the Roldós hydrocarbon law went before parliament. A few weeks later he made an impassioned speech in which he said that all foreign interests must also work for the benefit of the people of Ecuador or they would have to leave the country. He died in a mysterious aircraft crash on May 24, 1981. The only crash in Ecuador recorded in the accident records on that date was a midair collision between a Beech King Air (FAE723) and a Twin Otter (FAE457) in which 27 people died. The government announcement of his crash described the aircraft as an Avro 748 that ran into a mountain in heavy rain. Eyewitnesses describe his aircraft falling from the sky. His death is also considered suspicious due to the death of the popular leader of Panama in a plane crash a few months later. In any case, John Perkins, the American author of ‘Confessions of an Economic Hit Man’, tells us that Roldó’s aircraft was deliberately blown up. The men who arranged this crash have not talked about it because they have been led to believe that killing a well-intentioned leader, his wife and 6 others, was the right thing to do.
The people of Ecuador have often protested the foreign (mostly American) oil companies who take billions out of their country when nothing changes for them. Tens of thousands have protested and been met by thousands of police. The problem is simple. As long as the majority suffer from poverty, in some cases extreme poverty, while they see undreamed of wealth in the hands of a few, the country and the people will suffer.

Bolivar Beltran is a lawyer in Ecuador who sued to obtain contracts between the Ecuadorian military and 16 multinational oil companies. It is not surprising to learn that all of the contracts with these oil companies were negotiated in secret. This skullduggery is a result of 4.5 billion barrels of proven oil reserves in the Ecuadorian jungle. Oil that has been extracted from Ecuador’s eastern province has ended up in the US while the people have been left with public health problems and environmental disasters. In this oil rich area 70% of the population still lives below the poverty line.

Much of this land is still controlled by the indigenous people who continue to be exploited by the oil companies. In one 2001 case, Agip Oil Ecuador agreed to give the Hurarani Indians, medicine, food, a $3,500 school, plates, cups, an Ecuadorian flag, two soccer balls and one whistle, in exchange for access to their oil lands. It appears that giving them two whistles was going too far. Also in 2001 the Ecuadorian Ministry of Defense and 16 oil companies, including Petroecuador, the state oil company, and U.S.-based companies Kerr-McGee, Burlington Resources and Occidental Oil signed a 5 year secret deal, “To establish, between the parties, the terms of collaboration and coordination of actions to guarantee the security of the oil installations and of the personnel that work in them.” The agreement went on to state that the Ecuadorian military was to provide security for the oil companies for trouble from the Indians, when the Indians realized that they had been ripped-off.

The government holds the Indians to these agreements even though the Indians don’t know what the agreements say because they ‘sign’ the
agreements by using their thumbprints. When oil companies take advantage of mismanaged countries or ignorant Indians they create future problems for themselves as well as everyone else. When the American government knowingly allows this exploitation to occur they only add to the difficulties. America should know by now that there is no such thing as a ‘good deal’ that is good for only one party.

America trampled on the Ecuadorians again in 2000 when the poor once again protested US imposed policies such as privatization. Numerous other supporters joined the protests which resulted in the resignation of the countries president. America was not happy with these democratic calls for more equality but it was enough for them to threaten senior Ecuadorian politicians and military men who once again squelched this attempt to improve the lives of the poor.

Between the overthrow of Ibarra and today, Ecuador has had over 20 presidents. This would never have occurred if America had tried to assist Ecuador back in the 1960s. Instead America has continued to influence Ecuador into taking the American path. The path most Ecuadorians would never choose. During those almost 50 years the poor have remained poor while a few have gained great riches. Once again the American support for inequality and unfairness has emerged as Ecuador’s greatest problem. What Ecuador needs is an altruistic leader who is willing to empower the poor and bring equality, health, education and relative prosperity to the country of Ecuador. Unfortunately that violates the type of plutocracy that American leaders prefer. America’s actions, secret or otherwise, have perpetuated the hatred that many in South America feel towards America.
“War is caused by elites acting in what they take to be their own interests, institutional violence promulgated by ruling groups for personal gain.”
– The Nation magazine

“With unfailing consistency, U.S. intervention has been on the side of the rich and powerful of various nations at the expense of the poor and needy. Rather than strengthening democracies, U.S. leaders have overthrown numerous democratically elected governments or other populist regimes in dozens of countries... whenever these nations give evidence of putting the interests of their people ahead of the interests of multinational corporate interests.”
– Michael Parenti, political scientist and author

"The greatest of fault, I should say, is to be conscious of none.”
– Robert Carlyle (1795-1881)

No nation is too small for an American intervention effort. This reality explains why every American embassy keeps track of the local situation, not just to know what is going on but to ensure that it is not moving towards any type of government that America might object to. This is the big problem, America has felt since World War II, that they have the right to police and influence the entire world.

As we all know America has been the worlds #1 proponent of nuclear weapons and they have resisted any attempt to restrict their ability to use these nukes anywhere they want. The French have also threatened the South Pacific, against the wishes of virtually everyone living there, by exploding numerous bombs in Polynesian territory that they fraudulently claim as their own.

Fiji has had an indigenous population for thousands of years. Like every indigenous population in the western hemisphere the white guys showed up and started telling the Fijians what to do. This invariably included exploiting the land and the existing residents. To do this in Fiji the British bosses started growing sugar. The indigenous population could see little sense spending all day in the hot sun cutting down some plant that was going to be used by someone who didn’t even live in Fiji. So the white guys had a problem as they weren’t about to do the dirty work themselves and they needed cheap workers. This was after
the days of slavery so the white guys imported workers from India and other countries where the wages paid by their contemporaries was also poor.

In the years that followed these new comers to Fiji came to outnumber the indigenous Fijians. There was no real problem between the two groups but they did not integrate into each others cultures and, as events were to show, this lack of integration was to be exploited by others with vested interests. In April 1987 Fiji held their fifth general election since their independence from Britain 17 years previously. This election was different because it was the first time that the indigenous Fijians Alliance party was defeated by a coalition government led by an East Indian.

Up until this time the Alliance Party had been led for many years by an idiginous politician, Sir Kamese Mara, and he had been a good American ally. Mara cooperated with the US, he encouraged American businesses and he welcomed American ships. The new East Indian Prime Minister, Dr. Timoci Bavadra, had made a number of promises to get elected and one of Bavadra’s most popular promises was that he would support a ‘nuclear-free South Pacific’. To most of the people in the South Pacific and to the people of Fiji, a nuclear-free Pacific sounded like a good idea but to the Americans ‘nuclear-free’ was to be avoided at all costs. The former US ambassador to Fiji, William Bodde said, “a nuclear free zone would be unacceptable to the US given our strategic needs.” Now strategic is defined as: “having to do with or designating materials essential for warfare”. It is abundantly clear that no one in the South Pacific wanted a nuclear war so why would America continue with that ‘strategic need’ against the wishes of the people who actually lived in the South Pacific? The answer is always the same. America puts its ‘strategic needs’ ahead of the needs of everyone

For many years America regarded he South Pacific as their personal atmospheric nuclear weapons testing area. This is a picture of Johnston Island. Now America regards the south Pacific as their personal nuclear weapons deployment area.
else. America is programmed to take care of America first; it’s as simple as that.

One-time American General and CIA operative Vernon Walters was known in his business as the ‘Typhoid Mary’ of coup making because he made them happen. He arrived in Fiji shortly after this election of the ‘nuclear free’ East Indian Prime Minister. We are not aware of all ex-general Walters activities during the next few weeks but we do know that a Fijian General, Sitiveni Rabuka, stormed the Fijian Parliament in May 1987 and arrested the newly elected anti-nuke Prime Minister. Mr. Bodde, the former US Ambassador also made the American position clear when he said, “The US must do everything possible to counter this movement,” when referring to anti-nuke Dr. Bavadra whose government lasted just thirty-two days. A Pentagon spokesperson agreed, “We’re kinda delighted, all of a sudden our (nuclear) ships couldn’t go to Fiji, and now all of a sudden they can.”

General Vernon Walters was a talented linguist and CIA operative. As Reagan’s ambassador-at-large he visited over 100 counties between 1981 and 1985. He was present during the Iranian coup in 1953 and the Brazilian coup in 1964. The number of governments he illegally influenced will never be known. His patriotism and loyalty were unbridled. He regarded Vietnam as a “battlefield of freedom” and “one of our noblest fights”.

Like so many of other dictators that America supported, General Rabuka aligned himself with other dictators. According to deposed Fijian Prime Minister Bavadra, “It did not take long for our illegal rulers to establish strong ties with Indonesia, Taiwan, and South Korea.” Amnesty International has since reported that for the first time in Fijian history there were cases of illegal detention and torture. Fijian political scientist James Anthony has said, “This is the Latinization of the Pacific.”

The illegal government of Rabuka and/or his cronies was to last until 1999 when Mahendra Chaudhry, an ethnic Indian, became Prime Minister. In 2000 another coup and this time bloodshed when 8 soldiers were killed in the unrest. In 2001 the new indigenous Prime Minister

An American underwater nuclear test in the South Pacific. Now that the Yanks have these weapons they reserve the right to use them anywhere, whether you like it or not.
failed to appoint cabinet seats to the opposition party members who were mostly East-Indian. In 2003 the Supreme Court ruled that this failure to cooperate with the opposition parties was illegal. In 2006 the indigenous Prime Minister won another narrow electoral victory but Fijian tranquility had been shattered by all the unrest and divisions in the country. America could have supported the elected candidates, whoever they were, and with their influence worked to ensure harmony and a nuclear free Pacific. By putting their perceived interests first, America helped destroy the peaceful spirit of cooperation that once existed there.

America has taken other actions in the South Pacific, when other governments sought to rid their part of the world of this immense American nuclear menace. America gave New Zealand a hard time when they tried to do the right thing. Tragically the American obsession with militarism has failed to promote peace, equality and prosperity in this vast area. For this reason the hatred for America is also common in the South Pacific.
FOREIGN AID

“To maintain this position of disparity (US economic-military supremacy)... we will have to dispense with all sentimentality and day-dreaming.... We should cease to talk about vague and... unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of the living standard and democratization. The day is not far off when we are going to have to deal in straight power concepts.... The less we are then hampered by idealistic slogans, the better.”

— George Kennan, Director of Policy Planning US State Department, when talking about the US having 6% of the world’s population and 60% of the wealth.

“Let us remember that the main purpose of American aid is not to help other nations, but to help ourselves.”


“A nation as such does not give aid to another nation. More precisely, the common citizens of our country, through their taxes, give to the privileged elites of another country. As someone once said: foreign aid is when the poor people of a rich country give money to the rich people of a poor country.”

— Michael Parenti

“Wisdom outweighs any wealth.”

— Sophocles (496 BC-406 BC)

The ‘War on Terror’ chapter states that there is, in fact, no ‘War on Terror’. This chapter begins with another rarely acknowledged truth, that there is no American ‘foreign aid.’ The amount of this aid and the way it is provided amounts to zip, nada, not worth mentioning. In fact, it is worse than that. American interventions in many countries, that America claims to have helped, have more than eliminated American foreign aid efforts. Americans invariably believe that they, through their government, are the most generous foreign aid donors on the planet. Most Americans, unfortunately, have no idea what they are talking about. America and many other wealthy countries are positively miserly but America is the most miserly of all. Read on.
The 4 tallest bars represent the amount that Americans think their federal government gives to foreign aid, the next 4 bars represent how much Americans would like their government to spend on foreign aid and the little bar represents how much the federal government actually spends. So it appears that Americans want their government to give half of what they think it is giving but 10 times more than they are actually giving. Something is very wrong here. The 1% shown on the little bar is not even correct. It is actually much less than 1%, as I said in the beginning it is actually zip!

This enormous American boondoggle has been ongoing for decades, costs the American taxpayers zillions and is of virtually no net benefit. It is very reminiscent of the recent reconstruction efforts in Iraq, which have consumed billions in Iraqi money, and left the country with less medical care, housing, electricity and water than before the Americans started their ‘reconstruction’ efforts.

Perhaps the main reason why so many Americans think they are great foreign aid donors is because they once were, but that was many years ago. Coincidentally those years of giving were also the best years in America. In the 1950’s and 60s America gave an average of almost 10% of the Federal budget but during the last 30 years it has been closer to 2% and is now less than 1%. Unfortunately the numbers do not begin to tell the whole story, but we’ll get to that.
The following table (2004) shows how various countries performed and that only five countries have met the .7% of GDP that most of them agreed to at the Earth Summit in Rio during 1992.

America is shown at the bottom here but the numbers are hard to quantify. When everything is considered America actually looks much worse.

This next graph shows Official Development Assistance in 2005 in millions of US dollars. In this case America comes out on top as Japan has slipped to number two in absolute terms. The American total, however, is not straightforward. The good news is that most countries are now claiming that their aid has increased in recent years. In 2003 this total was $70 billion, it 2005 it was almost $100 billion. The bad new is that ‘claimed’ is an important word to use here because what governments say they will provide and what is actually spent on the needy are vastly different.

As you can see America did contribute more ‘foreign aid’ than any other country in 2005. Something it has done numerous times before but that simply reflects the per-capita wealth in America and the hundreds of millions of relatively affluent citizens. The only valid measurement is the amount of money contributed per person, in this case, during 2003 Norway contributed $380 per person, Holland $205 and France $100. In fact every country in Europe contributed more per capita than the US, including Portugal. The percentage
of the American Federal budget that went to foreign aid in 2005 was actually well below 1% but like everything governmental, the answer is complex and misleading.

Even considering the contributions from individuals America is not at the top of the per capita giving list. If you combine government and private donations America ranks about 15th at .3% of income. Another way of looking at this is that one cent out of every three US dollars is contributed. However there is a fly in the ointment and that fly is Israel. America gives billions to Israel each year, the total since 1949 is over $200 billion. Most Americans are not aware that the largest recipient of American foreign aid goes to this one country, with only .001% of the world’s population and one with one of the world’s higher average incomes. Israel is not only the largest recipient of American foreign aid but it is also the largest recipient of American military aid. This amount of money from America is remarkable and has resulted in a relationship that is so close that an American cannot be elected to a high political office today, if he or she deviates from this well worn path.

Between 1974 and 1989, $16.4 billion in US military ‘loans’ to Israel were converted to grants, in other words these ‘loans’ were forgiven as have all the

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<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
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<td>Luxembourg</td>
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ʻloans’ from the US to Israel. Aid to Israel since 1982 has been given as a lump sum at the beginning of the year. This means that the US taxpayer has also picked up the tab for the interest on this money. To date American taxpayers have paid well over $50 billion in interest incurred by grants or ‘loans’ to Israel. In addition Israel sometimes buys US treasury bills at the beginning of the year with this US aid money and therefore collects additional interest. So the American taxpayer pays interest to Israel on the money they have given Israel while they also pay interest to another country for the money they lent to America so they could give it to Israel.

Many additional billions are also given to Israel by private individuals in America and these are considered tax-deductible donations by the US government. Israel is the only country allowed this provision which means that the US taxpayers at large give up additional billions that would otherwise be collected in taxes. This aid to Israel equals approximately 30% of the American foreign aid budget. This largeness is going to a country with a GDP higher than Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza, combined. According to the World Bank Israelis enjoyed a higher per capita income, $17,380 in 2004,
than the oil-rich Saudi Arabians, $10,430 or the Palestinians who had to get by on $1,120 per year. American aid to the Palestinians, who are so desperate for aid, was virtually non-existent in comparison to the US aid to Israel. In fact the American government this year, 2006, declared that it will not even talk with the democratically elected government of the Palestinians or assist the Palestinians to recover their own money that Israel has refused to return to them.

Therefore the American aid to the Middle East, both military and other, has created huge inequalities that have exacerbated the already difficult situation. (see the Israel chapter) As America continues to sustain these inequalities the situation in the Middle East continues to deteriorate. (see the War on Terror chapter)

It is unreasonable for America to provide one of the worlds wealthier countries with $10 billion a year when there are people in the region with much more pressing needs. Unfortunately this unreasonableness is not confined to Israel. America imposes difficult trade restrictions on poor countries, which in effect keeps them poor. In many cases the cost of these restrictions exceeds the aid that America provides. The greatest outpouring of American aid in recent years has been the $350 million pledged for tsunami relief. Although that money has not been delivered, America collected $1.8 billion in duty on imports from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and India in 2004. America collects almost as much in duty from Bangladesh as it does from France, yet France exports 14 times as much to America as Bangladesh. These American trade barriers hit the poorest countries the hardest. If these barriers were removed they would more than equal American aid to these countries. This is just one of the reasons I suggest that American foreign aid amounts to zip.

Removing these barriers would be a big step forward but not the only answer because some of these countries are so impoverished. In parts of the world the aid they receive equals about $30 per person per year. Thousands of Palestinian homes have been destroyed by Israel forces because they have been given the power to do so by the Americans. These aggressive actions only serve to exacerbate the problems but the aid to Israel keeps flowing.
The people have nothing even with that help so it is not reasonable to expect them to export goods to the rich countries just because trade barriers have been eliminated. More help must be provided to put these people on their feet and the rich countries, particularly America, have more than enough money to do it.

Back in the early 1980s America was running along OK. In fact many would say that America was doing better back then than it is doing now. The government was telling the taxpayers the same old story; that the country could not afford more foreign aid. Imagine if the government then said that Americans will spend 2% to 3% of their GDP on something they don’t have, don’t need and can’t imagine needing. Everyone would have said that that was crazy. Americans would never spend billions and billions on something they didn’t have and didn’t need, but in fact, that is just what happened. Computers arrived on the scene and now most people happily spend thousands on them. Billions have been spent, not just on computers but other excesses that were not required and did not improve the happiness of the American people. America is a country that quickly responds to personal desires, be it personal computers, cell phones, Blackberries or SUVs and the billions are always there. When it comes to choosing between another computer and a child in Burma who needs life saving medical attention, many Americans choose the needless computer or something else they want, but don’t need.

After the ‘cold war’ ended, a war that America spent trillions of dollars fighting, foreign aid actually fell. There was no ‘peace dividend’ because America searched for and found a new enemy, the ubiquitous terrorist and the ‘War on Terror’ was on. Now trillions are being spent on that ‘enemy’ and as a result American aid dropped during the 1990s as well. There was a significant increase in private American aid during this period but most of this aid went to middle-income countries. The poorest that obviously needed help the most were almost completely ignored. According to the World Bank, the aid to poor countries dropped between 1990 and 2002 while non-aid loans were less than the bank repayments which created a net decrease. Private aid dropped, during that period, from $14 billion to $9 billion, a period of greater population, more need and less to share. The middle-income countries actually enjoyed more aid but only from private donors as government aid fell from $29 to $9 billion.

No matter how much is provided by governments or individuals it frequently never gets to the people who need it. Bureaucracies, overhead, corruption, incompetence and other factors such as war, reduce the amount donated, in some cases like Iraq, to much less than zero.

Probably the most effective aid is provided by individuals who become aware of a need, pack up and go to that country to try and solve the specific problem with their own money and expertise. These people are unsung heroes, they are out there and doing great work. Not only are these people effective but they receive enormous satisfaction from knowing that their efforts actually accomplish something tangible and in some cases they save lives. Although
these efforts are very commendable and important, they are sometimes stifled by local governments. Individuals cannot deal with the big problems that governments need to tackle. We can only hope that government efforts will become more responsive, effective, efficient and honest. Governments also need to remember that sanctions only harm the poor people in a country. US politicians like the former US Secretary of State, Albright, do America no favors when they say that the death of 500,000 children, as a result of American sanctions, were “worth it”.

During the last few decades the rich have gotten richer while the poor have gotten poorer, for the same old reason. There is only so much to go around and if the rich get more, as they have under Bush Jr., then poor must have less, in the USA and everywhere else. America’s ‘war on terror’ cannot be won if America continues to pursue policies which create inequalities at home and abroad. Tragically the American leadership has failed to understand that the trillions they are now spending on their ‘war on terror’ would have been far more effective, fighting terrorism, if it was actually spent fighting poverty.

Oxfam recently pointed out that rich countries like the US and some in Europe, use their Export Credit Agencies to subsidize many of their exports including agriculture products. This is reaching record levels just when official development assistance is being reduced. These government subsidies to their own people amount to about 10% of world trade and make it virtually impossible for poor countries to compete. In 2000 these subsidies from industrial countries equaled $64 billion, much more than the official development aid of $51 billion. Another one of the significant reasons to say that American foreign aid ain’t worth much.

Since the 1970s the Multi-Fiber Agreement (MFA) has set quotas to protect the rich countries from clothing and cloth imports from the poorer countries. This arrangement has

*Children working at a makeshift mining operation.*
been extended five times and according to Oxfam is: “The most significant non-tariff barrier to trade which the world’s poorest countries have faced for over 20 years.” The MFA has been replaced by more paperwork but the total cost to developing countries of restrictions on textile imports into the developed world has been estimated to be some $50 billion a year. This is more or less equivalent to the total amount of annual development assistance provided by richer governments to the poorest nations. Another reason to say that foreign aid ain’t worth much.

According to, Christian Aid, sub-Sahara Africa is $272 billion worse off because of ‘free’ trade forced on them as a condition of receiving aid and debt relief. This is the income lost over 20 years as a result of having to open their markets to imports. Those 20 years have cost this area roughly what it has received in aid over the same period. This research reveals that in 2000 alone the cost for Africa was US$28 billion, enough to cut poverty in half. The cost for Mali, one of the poorest countries in the world, was US$191 million in 2000, more than what the country spent on healthcare that year. The reforms that rich countries forced on Africa were supposed to boost economic growth. In fact imports increased massively while exports went up only slightly. It is hard to believe that the rich guys who implemented these polices didn’t see this coming. Once again we see the rich countries giving with one hand and taking back with the other and making their total ‘aid’ effort worth nothing.

The US, Europe and Japan spend $350 billion each year on agricultural subsidies (seven times as much as global aid to poor countries), and this money creates gluts that lower commodity prices and erode the living standard of the world’s poorest people. As the President of the World Bank said, “These subsidies are crippling Africa’s chance to export its way out of poverty.” In other word the rich countries make it impossible for the poor countries to compete because of their subsidies to their own affluent citizens. Mark Malloch Brown, the head of the United Nations Development Program summarized the problem: “It’s holding down the prosperity of very poor people in Africa and elsewhere for very narrow, selfish interests of their own.”

This hypocrisy by the rich countries, who often complain about incompetent and corrupt governments in poor countries, is obvious, when they fork out billions to subsidize food to their own affluent citizens. Brian Atwood quit as the boss at USAID when he couldn’t change things “despite many well-publicized trade missions, we saw virtually no increase of trade with the poorest nations. These nations could not engage in trade because they could not afford to buy anything.” The West, however, could afford to buy the resources from the poorest countries but never ensured that those billions actually helped the poor people in those countries. The North America Free Trade Agreement has allowed subsidized American corn to be imported into Mexico where it is cheaper than Mexican corn. Over a million Mexican farms have been forced off their farms because of this ‘free’ trade.

Another major problem, created by the rich guys, is that large portions
of aid money, that do become available, are restricted to purchases of goods or services from the country giving the aid. In the year 2000, 71.6% of American bilateral aid was tied to the purchase of goods and services from the US. Obviously there is something wrong with a gift that comes with instructions on how that gift must be used. The most generous counties do not tie their aid to their own goods and services and the opposite also happens to be true. Countries that tie less than 10% of their aid include the most generous of countries, Ireland, Norway, the UK, Belgium, Finland, Switzerland and Sweden. Americans who contribute the least per capita also restrict aid the most, approximately 80% of its aid must be spent on American only goods and services.

In fact the USAID boss testified that 84% of all American aid ends up back in the US economy. The World Bank estimates that for every dollar America gives to the bank they get two back. The playing field is also tilted in favor of the US with the International Monetary Fund. In 1995 the poorest countries paid over $1 billion more in interest and debt than they got from the fund. The very poorest have the hardest time. In forty-six Sub-Sahara countries their payments to the IMF were four times their combined health and education expenses. Just another reason to say that there is no such thing as foreign aid. America and others have manipulated the ‘system’ so that they come out on top but, unfortunately, this is not the end of the manipulation.

America does not necessarily give aid to people who need it, need is not the determining factor. America has specific foreign policy objectives that come before aid to the needy. Not only does the US not provide aid to people with critical needs, like the Palestinians, but they provide billions to people that don’t need it, like the Israelis. America thereby creates massive problems by promoting inequality and militarism. America also considers their own corporations and farmers when providing aid and sometimes this ‘aid’ has actually created hunger, not eliminated it. Under Reagan the Secretary of State said that “our foreign assistance programs are vital to the achievement of our foreign policy goals.” To put it another way, we use our money to get what we want. This hardly qualifies as a gift to those who desperately need it.

Bush Jr. has made a number of multi-billion dollar announcements all of which fall well short of the .7% of GDP aid goal but they retain the ties, restrictions and foreign policy requirements which direct so much of American
aid to their ‘friends’ rather than the most needy. Eritrea, a poverty stricken country near the Horn of Africa, discovered that it would be cheaper to build its railways with local expertise and resources rather than be forced to spend aid money on foreign consultants, experts, architects and engineers imposed on them as an aid condition from America. Money that has been given to fight AIDS in Africa is also a form of tied aid. Washington has insisted that African governments purchase anti-AIDS drugs from the United States instead of buying cheaper generic products from South Africa, India or Brazil. The over priced US drugs could eat up $15,000 a year for one AIDS patient compared to $300 annually for generics. The American way treats one AIDS patient, the generic way treats many more!

The Americans also try to manipulate the policies of various countries with US aid dollars. The African Growth and Opportunity Act, a US law since 2000, forces countries “to refrain from any actions that may conflict with the Americas strategic interests.” Or no aid, simple, eh? Several African members of the UN Security Council, including Cameroon, Guinea and Angola, were virtually held to ransom when the United States was seeking council support for their war against Iraq in 2003. The message was clear, either you vote with the US or you lose your trade privileges. Bush Jr. was stretching the truth when he called the American allies in the Iraq war the ‘Coalition of the Willing’.

Perhaps the biggest indictment against American aid is how they manipulate countries and world peace with their so-called ‘military aid’. In 2005 America increased credits to buy US weapons and military equipment from $700 million to nearly $5 billion. In addition America worked hard to convince all these countries that all this weaponry was necessary and a good thing. Of course every dollar spent on weapons of war is a dollar not available for food, education, housing or medial needs. It is actually worse than that, money spent on weapons means that armed men are no longer available to improve housing or agriculture and, in fact, may go on to help destroy the existing infrastructure. At times it seems that America is deliberately trying to...
wreck other countries so that they can remain the dominate nation.

Although Bush seemed to increase foreign aid in 2005 much of the money will be spend by America on American related facilities and personnel overseas. In any case the total commitment to global foreign aid, with all its flaws, amounts to less than 4% of what Bush is happy to pay for just the US military.

America also tries to manipulate foreign aid by withholding money owing to the UN. The United Nations is the world’s largest agency trying to assist in many ways and when America withholds millions the UN cannot deliver. Indeed the American efforts to weaken the UN are sufficient for another book.

The most famous American doling out foreign aid these days is none other than Bill Gates. According to Bill he has saved 100,000 lives by providing vaccines to Africans, making AIDS drugs cheaper, etc. etc. Bill’s billions are made possible because of ‘TRIPS’, the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rules of the World Trade Organization. These rules help to give Bill a global monopoly on computer operating systems but they also prevent African governments from buying cheap generic drugs. Those monopolies and excessive prices have made Bill rich but the same policies that have protected him have hurt billions. Bush and Bill have ‘foreign aid’ policies that operate in the same way. There are strings attached, some of the ‘aid’ is actually loans, it must be spent on US goods and the trade rules that make life so difficult for African states are still there.

Bush Jr.’s priorities enable him to spend 25 times as much on America’s killing machine as America’s efforts to help the rest of the world. Bill Gates’ $100 million to India to fight AIDS is less than a quarter of the $421 million that Microsoft is prepared to spend to fight Linux. The $100 million for AIDS is to be spent over 10 years, the money to fight Linux is to be spent over 3 years. Obviously Bill’s focus is on making still more money. The following tells us why Bill’s contribution is not worth much as long as he keeps billions for himself. “And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the
Amoral America

treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, ‘Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.” Lk 21:1-4. In other words Bill will never miss the billions he is giving away and so his generosity is meaningless. The billions are not meaningless, his generosity is meaningless, an important distinction.

The biggest chunk of the American federal budget that goes to foreign aid is military aid at 26% which is described as “grants and loans to important US allies mainly for the purchase of American defense-related products.” It should be considered perverse to consider anything ‘military’ as ‘aid’. The next biggest percentage, ‘Other Assistance’ at 23% also includes anti-terrorism assistance, money to fight drugs, funds for weapons proliferation, etc. That sounds like a lot of American military aid as well. The next biggest at 18% goes to ‘Economic Support’ which, “ensures the economic and political security of countries of geopolitical importance to the United States.” In other words we

Although Bill gives away a lot of money his generosity is suspect if he retains billions for himself. The ‘system’ that allows Bill Gates to acquire billions hurts millions of consumers and exacerbates inequality. Bill’s billions and his $100 million house, much of which is underground, are considered positively by most Americans.
are spending our aid money on others if we get a benefit. 16% goes to, ‘Multilateral
Assistance’, which “includes contributions to multilateral development banks and inter-national organizations.” So the funding of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, which have so often promoted American policies in other countries, is considered ‘aid’. Another 5% goes to ‘Export Assistance’ which includes, “programs and agencies such as the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Trade and Development Agency that help the US compete globally.” That money goes to American corporations to make them competitive with cheaper goods from other countries. Therefore, as I noted previously, most American foreign aid helps Americans or their friends. In this entire foreign aid budget only .6% or $127 million was allocated for US peace-keeping efforts. American efforts to keep the peace are overshadowed by American efforts to make war, by almost 1000 to 1.

In March 2002 Bush Jr. announced he intended to undercut terrorism by attacking poverty overseas. “I’m here today to announce a major new commitment by the United States to bring hope and opportunity to the world’s poor.” America would increase its annual foreign aid to $5 billion and handle the aid in a new way. America would invest in poor countries to spark their economic growth and holding them accountable for their policies. “We will make the world not only safer but better.”

Bush’s promises failed. Instead of hiring aid experts, the administration staffed the new aid organization with conservative friends. Instead of working with other countries Bush’s new organization worked on its own. When problems emerged the administration responded with a bunker mentality. Four years after the Presidents announcement America has signed aid contracts with only six countries for a total of $1.2 billion rather than the $20 billion pledged. His 2007 budget is also billions of aid dollars short. Originally the administration wanted to staff the agency with less than 100 people, to distribute $5 billion a year. The British, who distribute $3.3 billion a year have a staff of over 2,000 to do it right. According to the American General Accounting Office the
American aid agency lacks the ‘critical skills needed to carry out its mission’.

That $1.2 billion that is slated to be spent include $86 million to mobilize investment and build the infrastructure needed to move goods to market in Cape Verde. $92 million in aid will be spent on infrastructure in Nicaragua. $32.5 million to establish a Wall Street-style investment for “enterprise development” in Georgia. An industrial park in Senegal and a tourist resort in Central America. All good American ideas. What the America planners don’t seem to realize is that the real need in all poor countries are simple, health, food, housing and education. Georgia is to receive a total of almost $300 million but the country does not even meet the guidelines for aid due to its corruption and human-rights abuses. Georgia is, however, providing the US military with a base in their country, so it gets the money. Madagascar asked for aid for hospitals and schools but a third of the aid will be used to improve credit standards and assist financial institutions, including $21 million to help banks in Madagascar clear checks. Four French banks and the richest one percent of Madagascar’s elite will be the primary beneficiaries of nearly twenty percent of the entire aid package. It all sounds depressingly familiar.

In June 2005 five African leaders visited the White House and ‘complained bitterly,’ in the words of Botswana’s president, about the program’s failure to deliver on its promises. While most of the America aid is going to help businesses, the US president has slashed funding for children’s health in the world’s poorest countries. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Liberia and northern Uganda, have all had their aid cut. The America government recognized the problems and has replaced the aid program CEO with John Danilovich, a businessman who contributed $20,000 to the Republican National Committee.

‘Figures can lie and liars can figure’ pretty much sums up any discussion Americans might have about their foreign aid however it seems clear that the situation is a mess. Massive amounts of money float around but it all becomes part of a bureaucratic nightmare with political overtones. The American taxpayers have said over and over again that they want to help the less fortunate but their own government helps those who they think will help them. Too often American aid has little to do with hunger, sickness or housing. Instead it has everything to do with wheeling and dealing, often with weapons of every conceivable lethality. As a result of this mess American aid fails both the needy and the American taxpayers.

All too often despotic regimes get millions or in the case of Egypt, billions. In 1998, the US government condemned the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) for its ‘terrorist actions’. A year later, in 1999, the United States christened the KLA, ‘freedom fighters’ and deluged them with arms and aid. America has provided Columbia with billions and then Human Rights Watch reported that the “human-rights situation in Colombia has deteriorated markedly.” We should not be surprised. The US government also gives more to the World Bank than any other country. Coincidently millions have seen their lives uprooted or
ruined thanks, in part, to the US dominated World Bank.

When it comes to aid that actually works, we are just not doing enough, not nearly enough. There are almost 7 billion people on this planet today and more than half live on less than $2 per day. Almost 3 billion go without electricity or clean water and as a result approximately 30,000 children A DAY die quiet, miserable, needless deaths. The rich countries consume 80% of what this planet offers while everyone else gets by on the remaining 20%. Ironically one of the greatest problems in America today is that 70% of Americans are too fat. This excessive consumption of poor quality food is a self inflicted calamity that is costing Americans billions of dollars while it robs them of billions of years. In a world where we now know more than we ever did, avarice and ignorance have prevented any improvement in this situation. In 1820 the rich countries were three times as wealthy as the poor ones. Today they are almost 100 times as rich. This is not some evolutionary quirk; it is a direct result of policies like those of Bush Jr. that favor the rich at the expense of the poor.

America under Bush Jr. has been eager to wage their ‘war on terror’. A war that has probably killed hundreds of thousands, most of them innocents, while creating almost 5 million refugees and exacerbating the hatred for America around the world. Apparently America has had no real trouble finding the billions for this war, an amount that is more than the amount needed to pay the debts of every poor nation on earth. The fact that most Americans have sat back while this carnage unfolded before their eyes made this war possible.
Good Americans must actively oppose the killings and destruction at the hands of bad Americans, while promoting the goodness that America is capable of.

The difference between paying for a war that nobody wants and foreign aid is not as great as it should be. The wars that most people never want help the West to control the world and create the outcomes the West wants to see. Foreign aid is also expensive but most of it ends up back in the West. Between 1950 and 1995 the West spent about one trillion dollars on foreign aid. A recent study on 30 countries in Africa showed that between 1970 and 1996 $187 billion left Africa for the West, much of it deposited into Swiss bank accounts. This transfer of funds indicates that the power brokers in Africa have huge private assets that they have set aside, rather than help their people. Much of this money came from the West and yet the West fails to ensure that it was properly spent. This study concluded that, roughly 80 cents on every dollar borrowed by African countries flowed back to the West in the same year that it was received. In other words rampant corruption is nullifying Western aid efforts. The West knows about this corruption, knows about the vast diversion of funds and does not stop it. Why continue with such a flawed process?

The hypocrisy, waste and inequality associated with America’s foreign aid efforts are simply appalling. Bush Jr. has said, “one dime of money into a terrorist activity is one dime too much.” While that seems to apply to Muslim aid organizations the US government has supported terrorist organizations for decades with disastrous results. That so much of American aid is military equipment or training simply exacerbates conflicts while promoting poverty. This must be considered the most serious mistake, in a world already overflowing with arms. When America uses aid to force countries to support American policies, it is a bribe, not aid. American hypocrisy is also apparent to all when billions flow to well off countries instead of those who have nothing. America was once the world’s most helpful nation but now much of its aid is self-serving or deceptive. Selfish, ignorant politicians and others have hijacked American foreign aid and perverted its purpose so that it now helps America first and the neediest last. All these selfish decisions have contributed to the hatred that so many feel for an America that could have helped so much.
GLOBAL WARMING

“If they could suppress it they would. If they couldn’t they would ignore it. If they could edit it they would edit it.”
– Government whistleblower talking about the Bush Jr. government efforts regarding global warming science.

“I am of the opinion that this is one of the greatest hoaxes ever perpetrated on the American people.”
– Dr. Bill Gray, Director of the NOAA’s National Hurricane Center, when talking about global warming.

“The whole global warming thing is created to destroy America’s free enterprise system and our economic stability.”
– Jerry Falwell, a Chevrolet Suburban driver.

“With all of the hysteria, all of the fear, all of the phony science, could it be that man-made global warming is the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people? It sure sounds like it.”
– American Senator James M. Inhofe, speech, July 28, 2003

“I doubt it.”
– President Bush, when asked if he was going to see the Al Gore documentary, ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ on global warming.

The United States emitted more greenhouse gases in 2005 than at any time in history and that upward trend continues. The latest figures show that the US carbon emissions have risen sharply despite international concerns over climate change. In April 2006 the US government quietly revealed that American global warming gases in 2004 increased almost 2% over the previous year. This means that an additional 110 million tons of carbon dioxide were added to bring America’s annual total up to 6,300 million tons of CO₂.

In the years to come the failure to deal effectively with global warming will be blamed primarily on America. The US produces over 40% of the worlds CO₂ and 35% of the combined greenhouse gas emissions but more importantly America has failed to join with other nations to stabilize and reduce these gases. America also fought vigorously to prevent any progress in setting limits.
Therefore America will be rightly remembered as the greatest creator of global warming gases, the nation that fought restrictions to slow global warming and the nation who could have shown the way but for ignorant selfish reasons failed to take effective action.

This issue and the associated global dimming is the greatest issue facing humankind. American greed, which has prevented any reasonable response to this pending disaster, will forever sour America’s relationship with virtually everyone else. Within 20 years this will be perfectly clear to everyone, even Americans themselves.

The humans on this planet use energy equal to burning about 200 million barrels of oil a day, every single day. To suggest that planet earth will continue to roll along without changing as a result of this enormous human atmospheric input is naïve. Individually the people who dismiss global warming may not make much of a contribution but they fail to understand that over decades all of the burning oil, coal, wood and other biomass materials must create a change in the atmosphere. This ain’t rocket science.

It might be interesting here to look at the oil business, particularly in America. This is a story of profligate waste without controls or common sense. The men that drilled America’s oil wells in the early days knew that they might get a lot of oil and they knew it was free. Therefore they could make millions, they could also waste millions and they often did. The San Joaquin Valley, in California, had many gushers but the Lakeview Gusher was the most spectacular. Spectacularly foolish as well. Back in the early 1900s the drilling equipment was inadequate which resulted in gushers. After the drill bit broke through to the pressurized oil it roared up the drill hole and gushed into the air.

Although the guys drilling the wells knew this could happen they did not have an effective way of shutting this flow of oil off. It sounds crazy today but the oil just flowed all over the place and often formed rivers that just flowed downhill and occasionally out to sea. Those were the days when there were fish in the sea but nobody cared. The oil rigs were made of wood back then which was strong enough to drill the hole but not strong enough to support a valve which could shut off and stop the flow of oil. On March 15th, 1910 ‘Dry Hole Charlie’ Woods hit oil at 2,225 feet. This well roared into life spewing 125,000 barrels of oil into the air and all over everything else, every day. This would be worth almost $9 million dollars a day now but there was so much oil back then that it was only worth 30¢ a barrel or for this well, $37,000 a day. That amount of money was only paid if you could collect the oil.
Having it float around on top of the ocean didn’t count.

The crew did try to stop the oil by running a 4 inch pipe to some large tanks but they couldn’t keep up with the flow. Land owners who were awash in oil sued the oil company. Efforts to stop the flow continued, without appreciable success. A nearby oil well caught fire which created fears that the fire might spread. On September 10, 1911, 544 days after the gusher started the bottom of the drill hole caved in and the oil stopped. In today’s dollars that one well had produced close to $5 billion but back then the oil company would have been lucky to break even. Most of the oil was wasted; the cleanup costs and lawsuits probably used up the rest of the money and after the oil stopped it never flowed again.

It was this enormous bounty that made many Americans think that oil would flow forever and that it was their patriotic duty to use it as fast as possible. Even when wells like the Lakeview Gusher dried up it did not occur to them that American oil could ever end. Indeed America’s oil resources have been amazingly bountiful. They could still be supplying all of America’s oil needs if America had just practiced a reasonable amount of conservation and efficient use.

The story was similar with natural gas, an energy source that was once burned off as a nuisance. The Hay #7 well blew out and caught fire on July 26th, 1919. This gas well burned at an estimated 50 to 140 million cubic feet per day for 26 days. The well fire was extinguished and went on to produce 43 billion cubic feet of gas during the next 7 years. Many oil wells just burned off any gas as there was just too much of it to use. Having the government restrict the way this resource was wasted was always vigorously opposed by the oil men.

The end result of all this waste is that America now gives about $400,000,000 per day to other countries for oil and natural gas that America pissed away in the past. Americans still retains a wasteful attitude that not only costs them billions more than they need to spend but this waste contributes to the global warming problem that their most senior government leaders deny.

The case for global warming is pretty much

![Global Fossil Carbon Emissions](image)

The human contribution to global warming has become much more significant in the last 50 years. It seems silly to suggest that these billions of tons will have no effect on our atmosphere. The graph represents 24 billion tons of CO₂ production or 7 billion tons of Carbon.
conclusive but many vested interests and doubters deny this. Indeed these same interests have worked hard to spread misinformation and have created a great deal of confusion. These anti-global warming gangs are sneaky. They form organizations with nice sounding environmental names and go to great lengths to mislead us with ‘facts’ that seem true but don’t tell the whole story. You can visit many on the web but like the Flat Earth Society (FES) they will gradually fade away. Unlike the FES they will have done tremendous damage with the misinformation they have used to put profits before the planet. Even in 2006 some Republican websites can be found telling us that global warming is a bunch of crap. How they conclude that what we are collectively doing to our shared atmosphere, will not change things, is difficult to comprehend.

In a nutshell global warming is caused by an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The science behind how CO₂ warms the earth is well understood. Indeed the entire global warming threat is well understood because a huge number of intelligent people have been studying the process for decades. A minor number of selfish, powerful people have been screwing around and trying to derail this science. Science that has shown that global warming is actually happening and that the threat is real.

The melting of glaciers is an unfolding disaster. This one is in the Himalayas. People downstream get used to more water from the melting ice but when the glacier is gone people will have to get by with much less water. That is like asking Americans to get by on 10% of their incomes.
Global Warming

Atmospheric CO\textsubscript{2} has been increasing exponentially since the early 1800s which coincided with the burning of fossil fuels and the industrial revolution. During the last 200 years this revolution burned ever more fossil fuels and today humanity creates energy that is equal to approximately 200 million barrels of oil every single day. One way or another, that massive human contribution has to affect something.

Both of these pictures were taken from the same place, about 80 years apart.

70 years apart. Washington, USA
Because the CO$_2$ increase is primarily produced by burning fossil fuels the coal and oil con-artists work hard to mislead us. At stake are billions in bucks in profit and they are not about to let that slip through their fingers if they can help it. They have a lot of change to play with. In 2005 Exxon made a profit of $80,842, per minute!

For hundreds of thousands of years, prior to 1800, atmospheric CO$_2$ levels remained relatively stable, around 200 to 250 parts per million. In the late 1950s an international team set up a CO$_2$ recording station at the top of Mauna Loa, an 11,400 ft. dormant Hawaiian volcano. Between 1800 and the establishment of this recording station the global CO$_2$ level had increased to 315, it is now close to 400 and increasing ever more rapidly. During the last half of the 1900s the CO$_2$ levels climbed about 1.3 parts per million (ppm) per year. In the late 1900s that figure increased to 1.6 ppm/year. In the early 2000s it was 2.0 ppm/year and 2.2 ppm/year in 2004. New research by European scientists has determined atmospheric CO$_2$ levels for the past 650,000 years ago from ice bubbles in Antarctic ice cores. The current level of CO$_2$ is almost 30% higher than the highest level found during all those 650,000 years. The amounts of CO$_2$ in our present and past atmosphere are not in dispute. What the anti-global warming con-artists try to tell us that this ever increasing CO$_2$ is no big deal. In a gulp of air it is no big deal but in the last 100 years it has equaled 100s of billions of tons of CO$_2$. This represents a dramatic increase in this gas and a dramatic increase in the ability of the atmosphere to warm the earth. That is the problem.
Decades ago global warming was more of a theory as it was very difficult to determine if the entire planet was actually warming up. Some places were hotter than normal and some places were colder so the total picture was confusing. As new and more accurate methods of measuring the global temperature have evolved the conclusions reached are more and more accurate. However this can still be a complicated issue. For example in this winter of 2005/6 it is colder than normal in Western Europe so people ask the question. What happened to global warming? In fact a colder Europe is just what global warming should lead to. As the planet warms more of the ice on Greenland melts and the increased fresh water, from this melting, makes the North Atlantic less salty. As the saltier and warmer Gulf Stream water moves up from the Caribbean and across the Atlantic it encounters the now less salty Atlantic water and starts to sink because it is heavier. Now the Gulf Stream gives off less warmth because it is under the colder North Atlantic water and Western Europe is colder. Obviously this cooling could have serious long term effects on Europe.

Cooling in Europe is just one of the more obvious changes. From small changes such as a change in Butterfly habitat to more serious changes such as less rain in the Amazon, less ice in the arctic regions, the thawing of permafrost, stronger and more frequent hurricanes, melting glaciers, less biodiversity, the list is endless, threatening and disastrous if we don’t take effective action.

The anti-global warming con-artists often mentioned that global warming and cooling periods have always been with planet Earth. True, but the problem they never acknowledge is the rate of change. That rate of change is the problem, fortunately that rate of change is being measured with increased accuracy, unfortunately, the rate is much faster than at any time in the hundreds of thousands of years that have been measured. The temperature difference between the historical warm periods and the ice ages periods has been 5 to 6 degrees Celsius. The time taken to go from the warmest period to the hottest period has been as short as 6000 years. Therefore it is not the change that is the great concern but the rate of change that may warm this planet by 5 to 10 degrees Celsius in the next few hundred years. That rate of temperature increase would be disastrous for many plants, animals and humans.

Here is the problem. The increase in atmospheric CO$_2$ continues to increase each year. The Republicans and other ‘experts’ are telling you that this will make no difference, just wait!
As if what we are doing to the atmosphere is not bad enough, corals and other marine creatures are also threatened by the carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels according to a National Science Foundation study. Some of this additional carbon dioxide in the air is ending up in the oceans. The acidity or alkaline level of a substance is measured by the pH which ranges from 0 to 14 with 7 being neutral. The pH of the oceans is known to have been very steady at 8.2 since 1800 and possibly for millions of years previously. The researchers estimate that between 1800 and 1994 the world's oceans absorbed 118 billion metric tons of carbon, reducing the natural alkalinity of seawater to a current level of 8.1. If no efforts are made to reduce $CO_2$ production the oceans will acidify to 7.4 in the year 2300 at which time it will start to increase due to the end of fossil fuels. That increase in acidity would be disastrous for the oceans.

Few understand the US government's climate-change research program better than Rick Piltz. He worked for over 10 years as a senior official in the climate research program. He quit this job and claimed that the Bush Jr. government undermined the credibility and integrity of the climate-change program. Apparently the Bush Jr. government had a White House official, formerly with the American Petroleum Institute, the oil industry's trade association; edit the text of government scientific documents on climate change. We don't need to mention on which side of the global warming argument these changes were made. In a complaint memo following his resignation Piltz said, “I believe the overarching problem is that the administration does not want and has acted to impede forthright communication of the state of climate science and its implications for society.” In other words the Bush Jr. guys were dinking around with the data. The obvious reason that the American government deliberately manipulated the scientific information was to make life easier and more profitable for the oil and coal gangs.

Some of these wealthy and powerful companies have gathered forces behind a host of industry front groups in an increasingly intensive campaign to derail agreement on global climate protection.

Their aim is to derail the global warming argument and prevent international treaties from demanding significant $CO_2$ reductions. Large corporations such as Shell, Exxon, Chrysler, Ford, DuPont, and many others hide their real agenda...
behind lobbying organizations with such innocent names as the Global Climate Coalition (GCC) or the International Climate Change Partnership (ICCP). Other front groups are the American Petroleum Institute and the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA). Nice sounding names but they are all there to ensure that the corporations funding them can continue to avoid their responsibilities and maintain their profits. Most of the major multinational oil, coal and car companies are part of a huge disinformation campaign that claims that there is no real need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or that it will be too expensive. You would almost think that they would absorb the higher costs, rather than passing them on to their customers, if there were higher costs and even that is not clear.

The Global Climate Coalition and Western Fuels Association, i.e. the US coal lobby, are notorious for spearheading the long fight to discredit the science behind climate change, particularly that of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). They rely on a few US science skeptics whose arguments are isolated and which in many cases have failed or in certain cases have never even undergone rigorous scientific peer reviews.

A few of the best known US skeptics, Sallie Baliunas, Fred Singer, Robert Balling, Patrick Michaels and Sherwood Idso are also members of the European Science and Environment Forum (ESEF) which promotes their anti-global warming views in Europe. The links between the fossil fuel industry and a handful of the key climate science skeptics is well documented. Have a look at Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Ross Gelbspan’s book, ‘The Heat is On’.

One of the world’s leading, qualified, global-warming scientists is James Hansen, head of NASA’s climate change studies. In late March 2006 he said, “In my more than three decades in the government I’ve never witnessed such restrictions on the ability of scientists to communicate with the public.” The Bush administration is restricting who Hansen can talk to and editing what he can say. He is in trouble for speaking out because what he believes is contrary to what Bush and the oil boys want you to believe. Hansen goes on to say, “The natural changes, the speed of the natural changes, is now dwarfed by the
changes that humans are making to the atmosphere and to the surface.” According to Hansen we have ten years to reduce greenhouse gases before global warming reaches what he calls a tipping point and becomes unstoppable.

Not every American corporation is in denial. General Electric has decided that global warming is a reality and that GE can make a profit while CO₂ emissions are cut. Perhaps that’s not entirely altruistic as GE also makes nuclear power plants. The real contributors to the problem, such as ExxonMobil are still trying to find and sell fossil fuels as fast and as profitably as possible. ExxonMobil may take a bit of a hit before important elections in the US at the end of 2006.

Oil, which has been subject to price manipulation for decades, will probably drop prior to those elections to give Bush Jr. a boost.

The temperature of the oceans, the first few hundred meters deep, have increased by over one-half a degree Celsius during the past 50 years. The oceans have also become more acidic, due to the uptake of anthropogenic CO₂. The Plymouth Marine Laboratory in England estimates that 48% of fossil-fuel CO₂, or 400 billion tons, have been absorbed by the oceans, making them the largest reservoir of carbon, a load greater than that borne by the atmosphere or the earth. CO₂, while more inert in the atmosphere, becomes highly reactive in oceans, leading to physical and biological changes. Carol Turley, head of science at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, warns that no such PH changes in oceans have occurred in the past 20 million years, and that the capacity of oceans to take up CO₂ is limited. Japan has just started urgent research to determine why seaweed around Japan is not growing as it used to and how this relates to warmer water and reduced fish catches. We humans are just not as smart as we think we are.

What might the consequences of such changes in the oceans be? An
August 2005 article in the Globe and Mail (Canada), on starving sea birds washing up on the Pacific coast beaches from California to British Columbia, reports that scientists believe that, at least for this year, the “bottom has fallen out of the coastal food chain.” Off the Oregon coast, the waters near the shore are 5 to 7 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal. A layer of warm water along the whole Pacific coastline prevents the usual upwelling of cool water rich in phytoplankton, the base of the food web for all marine life. People on the west coast of the USA and Canada are not that concerned about these findings because their governments allowed the fish stocks to be decimated years ago.

Zooplanktons, such as krill, depend on phytoplankton. The disappearance of zooplankton in turn affects seabirds and fish from sardines to whales. NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, found a 20 to 30 per cent drop in juvenile salmon off the coasts of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Monitoring in Central and Northern California shows the lowest number of juvenile rockfish in more than 20 years. And so it goes but that is not the scary part.

The scary bit is that it is difficult to heat something as large as this planet as the oceans act as huge heat sinks. Even a small change takes a tremendous amount of energy. As a result the real impact of global warming has been minimized since the oceans have absorbed so much of this heat and CO₂. The US National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) has suggested that global temperatures will continue to rise for the next 100 years, even if greenhouse gases are controlled. In addition the rate of increase will be greater and greater as the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere continues to increase. This seems inevitable, considering the lack of foresight and political leadership that seem to plague...
virtually every country. Even affluent Canada, which has agreed to meet Kyoto goals, has instead produced significantly more CO$_2$, while at the same time happily spending billions on inefficient SUVs, that most Canadians didn’t need.

The Antarctic, a virtually unvisited continent contains most of the world’s fresh water as ice. If all this Antarctic ice were to melt, sea levels would rise by over 50 meters (165 feet). The melting of all this ice has not occurred for the last 30 million years.

For many years scientists were at a loss when it came to explaining the sea-level rise of 1 to 2 mm per year because this represented more melting ice that was known. They now know that much of that new water was hidden as melting streams under glaciers and the Antarctic ice. The flows from those under-glacier rivers are much higher than previously thought. In 2002 an ice shelf the size of Luxembourg collapsed after having been intact for over 20,000 years.

Increasing levels of CO$_2$ are contributing to global warming but that warming may create another difficulty. For the first time since the last ice age a vast area of frozen peat in northern Russia is thawing. This peat contains an estimated 70 billion tons of methane, a gas 20 times more effective at warming this planet than CO$_2$. If this methane is released by thawing, the warming capacity of the atmosphere will be increased by about 20%.

On average, every person in the US produces 20 tons of CO$_2$ per year. People in Europe produce 8 tons each and the Chinese about 2 tons. A European, who enjoys a quality lifestyle equal to an American, uses one half of the electrical energy of an American. In many countries the CO$_2$ production is minor but China and India, to name just two, seem to want the lifestyle that America promotes. Of course this would be a disaster for planet earth. Some countries seem to see the writing on the wall and are moving forward but always without tackling the wasteful lifestyle that the rich countries regard as so important. Japan produces the most environmentally sensitive cars, the Europeans seem committed to alternative

Lake Mead at record low water levels.
energy sources. In America big oil and big coal are in control, over 50 new American coal fired power plants are being built. American cars are the world biggest gas guzzlers and politicians from the Republocrat party just don’t deal with the issue. Even Al Gore who claims to be an environmentalist saw the American CO$_2$ levels rise by 15% when he was Vice President. The author Michael Crichton and politicians such as Senator Inhofe, call global warming ‘shocking flawed and unsubstantiated’ or ‘a hoax’. We can only hope that when they reach the point that eventually overwhelmed the Flat Earth Society that they will be willing to put as much energy into the truth as they have put into the bullshit they are currently promoting.

What Crichton and Inhofe don’t tell us is that approximately 40 organizations who debunk global warming are funded by ExxonMobil and others. These include think-tanks, web sites, journalists, news analysis, research wantabes and commentary. Of course a FoxNews columnist got in on the take, as well as religious and civil rights groups. These groups received over $8 million between 2000 and 2003, chump change for Exxon. ExxonMobil CEO Lee Raymond serves on the board of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) the outfit that hosted Crichton’s little anti-global warming diatribe. AEI got over a million bucks from Exxon.

While all this is ongoing the Kentucky legislature is proposing a further relaxation of safety and labor standards for the coal industry. In the past three years, coal prices and demand for Appalachian coal have risen drastically. Production is up, more dangerous mines have been opened, and safety regulations are frequently violated, endangering workers and resulting in hundreds of deaths and injuries. In this year alone, 21 miners have been killed, 19 in Appalachia. During a time when all of us should be burning less coal, various American governments are moving to meet greater energy needs with more coal.
The campaign against the reality of global warming has been very successful. In 1991, before the oil and coal industry started trying to shape the minds of Americans, 35% of those interviewed in a Newsweek survey said they ‘worry a great deal’ about global warming. In 1997 only 22% of Americans responded in the same way. That’s progress!

The largest and most rigorously peer-reviewed scientific collaboration in history, the work of more than 2,000 scientists from over 100 countries reported to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Their 2001 conclusion? “That the burning of fossil fuels is causing a significant warming of the earth’s climate.” It doesn’t get any simpler than that!

Another group of scientists have been studying the effects of global warming on the arctic regions. They have determined that an area of arctic ice equal to approximately 30,000 square miles is melting each year. This melting feeds on itself as the normal ice cover reflects solar energy but the open water absorbs more energy. Many animals, such as the polar bear are at risk because they need the ice flows to hunt for seals. The inordinately slow responses from the countries that are producing most of the global warming gases show us that any future solutions to this problem will be long and difficult.

Over 100 scientists have been studying the Greenland icecap and they are now (2006) more concerned than ever. Their research shows that glaciers that have been stable for centuries are now getting smaller and that record amounts of the icecap surface melted last summer. If the Greenland icecap should melt the ocean levels would rise 20 feet. That 20 foot increase would cost trillions
of dollars to counteract, for every coastal country on the planet. Low lying countries such as Bangladesh, the islands of the south Pacific, the Netherlands and Florida, to name just a few, would be especially hard hit.

At the other end of the planet the Antarctic is losing over 30 cubic miles of ice a year. Two new NASA satellites were used to record that this amount of melting is equal to 25% of America’s total water consumption. Just this melting is causing a global ocean level rise of .5mm per year. Science magazine reports that by the end of this century one-quarter of the lakes and streams in Africa could be drying up. Surprise, surprise, a scientist funded by the oil and gas industries reported that the Antarctic situation is complex and requires more studies before we do anything rash.

Exxon may not agree with global warming but these guys did. The American Academy for the Advancement of Science, the American Geophysical Union, the American Meteorological Society, the National Academy of Sciences and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Screw Exxon!

A report for the Pentagon states: “The focus in climate research has slowly been shifting from gradual to rapid change.” The National Academy of Sciences issued a report concluding that human activities could trigger abrupt change. At the World Economic Forum the director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution urged policymakers to “consider the implications of possible abrupt climate change within two decades.” And so, many scientists and other experts who have spent decades working on this phenomenon conclude that the problem is real and every year the evidence becomes more conclusive. At the same time the rich countries continue to spend trillions on weapons of war while many
of their citizens spend trillions on stuff that exacerbates global warming, stuff they don’t actually need.

There is now no doubt, although there are still doubters, that human activities are warming the earth and that this will lead to disasters. Something that is not frequently mentioned when reading about global warming is air pollution. For much of the year, over much of this planet, on what would normally be a clear day a white blanket (when viewed from above) of air pollution completely obscures the surface of the earth. This pollution extends over vast areas for example over almost all of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to the Middle East in the west and often far to the east. In addition at any time there are thousands of aircraft flying in or close to the stratosphere and they frequently leave a white trail of ice particles behind them. While these trails exist they reflect solar energy and contribute to global cooling. The net result of all human activities is to still warm the planet but the very scary part is that air pollution has minimized global warming. So we are in the middle of a human induced balancing act and no matter which way we fall millions, perhaps billions will suffer. Tragically vested interests, as usual, try to manipulate any complex situation to increase the cash in their pockets; nothing else seems to matter to them.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences, which is the top scientific body in that country, announced in May 2006 that the glaciers of the Tibetan plateau are vanishing so fast that they will be reduced by 50 percent every decade. This rate of change will eliminate most of the glaciers in a few decades. Hundreds of millions will be devastated by reduced river flows while the rest of the population will have to put up with larger and more frequent sandstorms. A recent single sandstorm is estimated to have dropped over 300,000 tons of sand on Beijing. As the flows from glaciers drop China’s agriculture will be severely impacted. The plateau that spawns these glaciers covers 60,000 square miles and is currently home to over 40,000 glaciers. They exist because they are at

Wind and fires will both increase as global warming increases.
an average height of 13,000 feet but due to their proximity to the equator they are still vulnerable to slight temperature increases. This part of the world has about 15% of the world's frozen water.

People in other countries, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Laos will also be adversely affected. This potential water shortage comes on the heels of existing water shortages. All of this points to a human and ecological disaster that very little is being done to prevent.

In May 2006 scientists announced that satellite measurements from 1979 to 2005 showed that the atmosphere in the subtropical regions near the equator was getting warmer. This warming has pushed the jet streams about 70 miles closer to the poles and this in turn is pushing desert regions north. This means that desert areas around the world may expand both north and south from their present positions. In many of these areas the lack of moisture is already a serious concern.

Now for something about a small change associated with global warming but a loss that will be mourned by millions. Professor Arthur Shapiro, one of the most experienced butterfly trackers in North America, said in the spring of 2006, that he has found fewer butterflies in California this year than at anytime in the past 35 years. As an entomologist and professor of evolution, Shapiro

A remarkable map that shows just how foolish we are. The black dots represent the total area required to produce all the pollution free solar energy needed to replace all current energy sources. Oil, coal, nuclear, hydro, wood, etc. This area assumes a conservative 8% solar collector efficiency. Of course, this would require an immense degree of cooperation and foresight so we are not likely to see this solution any time soon.
monitors 10 locations in the western US and maintains one of the two largest butterfly databases in the world. Near Vacaville at Gates Canyon in April 2005, he found 21 species and 378 individual butterflies. But this year (2006) he counted 10 species and 43 individual butterflies. Many species are already at low levels due to human factors such as loss of habitat but these population numbers are ominous. Shapiro believes that temperatures did not drop enough to trigger the butterflies to end their winter dormancy. If you don’t think the end of the butterflies is important then you need to learn more about, ‘the butterfly effect’.

Americans may have just less than 30% of the world’s cars but they produce over 50% of the greenhouse gases associated with cars. It turns out that US cars are driven more miles, use more fuel per mile and burn fuel that contains more carbon. Americans drove their 2 ton cars almost 3 trillion miles in 2005. As the currently popular SUVs age they will produce even more pollution so America is likely to retain this #1 spot as the world’s biggest and best polluter for the foreseeable future. The Big Three car makers convinced Americans that big was the way to go and it will take years to significantly change the make-up of the American car fleet. The American car makers have also failed to bring the electric car to market. The electric car would solve a great number of problems but it is not as profitable for the American car companies or the oil companies. Free enterprise is not about doing the right thing; it is about doing the most profitable thing.

In mid 2006, a movie that deals with Global Warming, ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ is showing to large crowds. The anti-global warming gangs are having a hard time responding with reasonable comments. Ironically NASA, under Bush Jr. is canceling or delaying satellites that look at climate. One of these satellites is called the ‘Deep Space Climate Observatory’ and was designed to measure solar radiation, clouds, ozone and water vapor but it has been cancelled. In 2007 NASA is delaying other missions which were designed to further our understanding of severe weather and climate. The Bush Jr. goal to return to the moon by 2020 is sucking up money and making it difficult for NASA to launch

That’s a lot of melted ice in 63 years! Far faster than in past warming periods.
earth science projects that actually matter. It seems clear that every effort to understand climatic change more fully should be NASA’s first priority. The $100 million Deep Space Climate Observatory that has been cancelled was first proposed by Al Gore back in the 1990s and has already been built. NASA’s efforts to study the earth from space were healthy until about two years ago when other missions were also delayed or cancelled.

The Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), which just happens to be funded by American oil interests and car companies, has produced TV ads telling us not to worry. The ads ran in May 2006 and told us that the world is just doing what it has always done and that humans have nothing to do with the current warming trend. Sometimes ‘free’ enterprise just doesn’t work very well. According to the CEI pissing away global fuel resources is a good thing and nothing should stand in the way of that waste.

Professor Peter Cox recently told the Royal Geographic society that due to the human induced ‘compost effect’ temperatures could rise 8C by 2100. He also estimates that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels would rise 50% faster than previously estimated. He is forecasting CO₂ levels of 1000 ppm by the year 2100. Although the global warming deniers are gradually fading away it is always foolish to err on the side of potential catastrophe.

The poor people on this planet are increasing looking at the actions of the rich. As they become more and affected by global warming problems that were inflicted on them by the wasteful rich countries, they will quite rightly hate America for doing so little, when America could have done so much.

UPDATE: Lloyd’s of London, the world’s oldest insurance market, yesterday (June 5th, 2006) warned U.K. insurers that they are in danger of being ‘swept away’ by future global warming-related claims. In a report entitled ‘Climate Change, Adapt or Bust’, Lloyd’s asked insurers to adjust coverage to factor in future climate-change, instead of using historical data. Increased flooding in vulnerable areas is so likely that providers should restrict or entirely withdraw coverage in those areas. “If we don’t take action now to understand the changing nature of our planet, we will face extinction,” said Lloyd’s director Rolf Tolle.
GMOs & FARMING

“GM-Free” does a wonderful job of explaining why genetically modified foods are not safe for human health or the environment. The dedicated scientists who have teamed up to produce this landmark document realize the importance of getting the truth out to the public.”
– Craig Winters, The Champaign to Label GM Foods.

“We have biologists across the United States and around the world whose research grants depend on corporate financing.”
– Jeremy Rifkin

“GM foods and crops are dangerous to human health and the environment. So many of the assumptions underlying industry’s safety claims have been proven wrong, it’s astonishing that GMOs are still allowed on the market.”
– Jeffery Smith, author, ‘Seeds of Deception’

“I have seen first hand how Monsanto and the FDA have resorted to scientific deceit of the highest order to market genetically engineered milk.”

Farming has been with us for thousands of years and for most of that time has seen relatively few changes. Only after the Second World War did chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides become an established part of the farming ‘business’. Those chemical inputs to the growing of food are now so firmly entrenched that many consumers and farmers have come to think that farming is not really possible without them. Indeed that is just the type of thinking that the chemical guys have worked long and hard to establish.

The facts are quite different and it is tragic that so many people have been adversely affected by this widespread use of chemicals. Many people die early for reasons that remain unknown to them, even on their death beds. No one will deny that cancer rates have risen dramatically in recent decades. In typical American fashion the reason for that increase in cancer gets nowhere near the attention that a ‘cure’ does. Although Americans have spent billions on this ‘cure’ the cancer rates keep rising and yet this failure is simply considered
the road to eventual success. Finding a ‘cure’ for cancer without a complete knowledge of what caused the cancer in the first place is like fighting the American ‘war on terror’ without eliminating the reasons for the hatred of Americans. Neither will work!

In America today the use of the ‘O’ word in modern farming is decried as heresy and yet the food eaten by most people is still grown ‘O’rganically. Not in America of course, but America represents only 5% of the world’s population. Many people, even in America, after looking at all the problems that chemical farming has created have concluded that organic is the way to go. It will be shown in the years to come that they were right and that the chemicals that were so well received by most farmers have been an environmental and financial disaster. In their arrogance the chemical guys and the farmers simply think that they are better at growing things than Mother Nature.

You could take the best chemists, farmers and geneticists on this planet, put them in a room with every element known to man and years later they would still have failed to come up with a single blade of grass let alone a peach, apple or cob of corn. And yet these guys, who cannot create a single blade of grass, are not happy with the marvelous natural systems that make life on earth possible!

All over North America there are hospitals in farming communities full of old farmers dying of cancer. Just one reason to work with Mother Nature, rather than against her. The economic benefits of chemical farming are the greatest fallacy since ‘the check is in the mail’. This is typical of the way the American accounting systems work. In fact they don’t work when they fail to include all the costs, including those costs associated with a dying farmer or consumer. Due to the vast amounts of money involved in chemical farming the vested interests are quick to denigrate organic farming but their arguments are flawed.
and incomplete. Have a look at http://www.i-sis.org.uk/OrganicAgriculture.php which begins to explain that organic farming is the cheapest, safest, most sustainable way to grow food.

Almost five years ago Nature magazine reported that a team of Chinese scientists tested the growing of rice. They planted a single type of modern productive rice in a large field and several strains of rice in a much smaller field. They found that the multiple types of rice growing together had 18% more yield and that they were able to avoid the use of poisons to defeat a normally occurring fungus. Three years ago (2003) Nature magazine also published another paper which showed that yields of organic maize were the same as maize grown with fertilizers and pesticides but that the soil quality in the organic fields was much better. In Hertfordshire, England wheat grown with manure has produced consistently higher yields for the past 150 years, than wheat grown with artificial nutrients. These results have been documented in many countries but the power of the chemical gangs to influence farmers, particularly on large farms is considerable. Even in America a study has shown that farmers can produce much more income per acre by going organic. The chemical farmers are quick to point out that this simply won’t work. They are right in that much of today’s farm land is depleted and needs these chemicals to produce. That simply means that chemical farming is not sustainable and requires artificial inputs to keep producing. The organic farmer seeks to maintain fertilization and organic matter levels continuously. The switch to organic by many American farmers is rejected, in part, because it is difficult to admit that you have been doing things the wrong way for decades.

The newest wrinkle in the quest to grow safe, sustainable food is the Genetically Modified Organism (GMO). Corporations like Monsanto are

![New organic product introductions are led by beverages, prepared foods, and snacks](chart)

The number of organic products continues to grow but it is a struggle in a country that is solidly behind chemical farming.
firmly convinced that these modifications can make them big money and they are off to a good start. Some of their genetically modified plants can only be managed by using other Monsanto chemicals. So the farmer is locked into buying Monsanto seeds and chemicals. The main danger is that there is no end to the modifications that will inevitably follow. Plants, animals and people can and probably will be modified however the people doing these modifications are not that smart. Everything they now modify has been under development by Mother Nature for millions of years. In their arrogance these guys are quite prepared to fiddle around for a few years and unleash their creations into the environment. Remember that these are the same guys who can’t create so much as a blade of grass.

Another technology that the modifiers would like to spread around the planet is called, Terminator Technology. This ‘living’ process allows the crop to grow after buying the seeds from the GMO company but the seeds from this crop would not reproduce. Handy eh? This means that farmers cannot save a percentage of their seeds for the next year. Is there no end to the steps American companies will take to make more money? This process has been patented by an American company and the US department of agriculture. So it is not difficult to tell which side of the fence the American government is on. It was also the American government that approved the ability to patent various living plants and this will undoubtedly be extended to all living things that

In 2000 the number of organic farms in Europe was over 100,000 and has grown since then. Europeans are much more aware that the health of their food affects their own health.
these companies modify by a millionth of a percent.

President Bush Jr. is behind GMOs and he has said he wants to protect the American consumer. This is the same Bush that wants to protect Americans from those dangerous, cheaper drugs from Canada. Yep, this is the same America where the Food and Drug Administration could not cite one incident of harm from Canadian drugs. Could this be all about money? Canada is in step with the US in that 70% Canadians want GMO foods labeled as such but the Canadian government has refused to allow this, even when the organic companies wanted to do it.

America has negotiated trade agreements with many countries and these agreements invariably promote trade and business opportunities. What they do not do is promote individual rights, health, local economies, diversity or organic farming. The World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and big agribusinesses are all dominated by America. Those institutions are so pervasive that many countries agree to work with them because they fear being left behind if they don’t. That is a fear that works against the ‘third world’ as the decline in the quality of life in the countries that have engaged these organizations has shown. The people and leaders of countries that have not yet poisoned their people and their land need to understand that the chemical and modified agriculture promoted by America is doomed to failure. Why do they want to emulate a country that pays massive subsidies to its farmers, who themselves suffer from negligible profits, illness and debt?

The World Trade Organization has moved to force the European Union to accept GM foods. This American effort is happening just as more and more studies confirm that GM foods are harmful to human health.

- Research by the Russian Academy of Sciences released in December 2005 found that more than half of the offspring of rats fed GM soy died within the first three weeks of life, six times as many as those born to mothers fed on non-modified soy. Six times as many offspring fed GM soy were also severely underweight.

- In November 2005, a private research institute in Australia, CSIRO Plant Industry, put a halt to further development of a GM pea cultivator when it was found to cause an immune response in laboratory mice.

- In the summer of 2005, an Italian research team led by a cellular biologist at the University of Urbino published confirmation that absorption of GM soy by mice causes development of misshapen liver cells, as well as other cellular anomalies.

- In May of 2005, the review of a highly confidential and controversial Monsanto report on test results of corn modified with Monsanto MON863 was published in The Independent/UK.

- A scientist working in Germany, Dr. Pusztai, found differences in kidney weights and some blood parameters in rats fed GM corn.
• French Professor Seralini has been working for over a year to get all the documents relating to a Monsanto study MON863. He has been unsuccessful.

• The world’s largest rice processor, Ebro Puleya, which handles 30% of the EU’s rice has stopped importing all rice from the US. This is due to numerous instances of Bayers GM rice GE LL601 which was found in packages of rice being (2006) sold throughout Europe. This rice was grown by Bayer during field trials in the US but has not been approved for human consumption. Numerous multi-million dollar lawsuits are now in the works.

• The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has concluded that some GMOs have been put on the market ‘when safety issues are not clear’.

• GMO studies are normally conducted by the companies promoting the product. Governments are not willing to spend the money to thoroughly investigate these private studies while the WTO juggernaut rolls over what most people want. This is the America way. Profits first, people second!

The following 188 countries, which make up just about every country on the planet, ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity. This international treaty was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It aims to conserve biological diversity, promote biological sustainability and to fairly and equitably share the benefits arising from genetic resources. Only one country is noticeably missing from the list, the good old US of A who, once again, has put the almighty dollar ahead of everything else.
Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, EU, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, North Korea, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Now that the yanks are running Iraq, or at least claiming to be, they are doing their best to ensure that America benefits. As part of a sweeping ‘economic restructuring’ implemented by the Bush Administration in Iraq, Iraqi farmers will no longer be permitted to save their seeds, which include seeds the Iraqis themselves have developed over hundreds or thousands of years. Instead, they will be forced to buy seeds from US corporations. That is because in recent years, transnational corporations (mostly American) have patented and now own many seed varieties that originated or were developed by indigenous peoples. Iraq is now living under the new American credo: ‘Pay Monsanto or starve’. When Paul Bremer was the US boss in Iraq, he updated Iraq’s intellectual property laws to “meet current internationally-recognized standards of protection,” ie American standards. This is particularly important when you are bombing the hell out of a country! The updated law makes saving your seeds, for next year’s harvest, illegal. Instead, farmers will have to obtain a yearly license for Genetically Modified (GM) seeds from American corporations. These GM
seeds have typically been minutely modified from seeds that were shared freely amongst farmers. Trust the Yanks to turn the staff of life into a profit center however they do seem committed to pissing everyone off in Iraq, even the farmers.

The American willingness to accept GMOs, herbicides, pesticides, artificial fertilizers, growth hormones, artificial flavors and colors, preservatives and many, many more, is part of the American psyche. Americans typically want results today and don’t want to wait. Killing plants with herbicides appears to be much faster and cheaper than caring for your land. Spreading manure around is more work than dumping it into the lakes or oceans. Planting smaller fields and encouraging diversity takes more time. These farming methods do not calculate all the costs and do not improve soil fertility or human health. When America pushes its massively subsidized agricultural ‘success’ on farmers elsewhere, they are often rebuffed. Not all farmers are in a great rush to fail. Many of these farmers in other parts of the world look at the big picture and reject chemical and manipulated farming. America is sure to generate more hatred overseas if they persist in pushing their idea of the future on others who don’t want it.

Large farms = large equipment
= oil dependency = chemical dependency
= large input costs = contaminated product
= miniscule profits = huge subsidies.
America should realize that this farming method is not workable overseas.
GOOD ONES, BAD ONES

The first sentence in this book states that most Americans are good people; there is no doubt about that. But some have really stuck their necks out to make a positive difference. These days it has become necessary to stand up for fairness as so many others are working against it.

It is easy to tell the good guys from the bad guys. The good ones actively defend the truth, equality, peace and the environment. The bad ones actively defend state secrets, individual wealth, nationalism, religious intolerance, aggression and military spending. One group would bring us a prosperous world without war and suffering, while the other group continues to bring us more of the same. That so many Americans and others have not yet figured out who the good ones are is one of the great tragedies of our times.

THE GOOD ONES

Paul Robeson was a black American who excelled academically, athletically and artistically. Throughout his life, he was harassed and stifled by his own government and authority figures but he carried on. Princeton would not accept him even though he was more than qualified. He was an All-American athlete whose name was struck from the roster of the 1917 and 1918 college All-America football teams even though he was the best player in the country. He founded the ‘American Crusade Against Lynching’ which included Einstein as one of the members but the government and the FBI then had him investigated. He became a famous singer and actor but in 1950 the US government demanded he sign a statement saying he was not a communist and he refused. Then they revoked his passport and would not even let him visit Canada, even though a passport was not required to visit Canada. He sang to 30,000 Canadians from the US side of the border while the US government looked stupid. The Supreme Court ruled in 1958 that his rights were violated when his passport was taken. It is suspected that he was poisoned by the CIA in 1961 as he suddenly became inexplicably ill. Like many of these events conclusive proof is impossible to come by as the CIA is dedicated to keeping what they do secret. If they are a force for good, why are their actions secrets? He died in 1976 but he left a remarkable legacy which would have been so much more, if so many lesser Americans had not tried to destroy him.

Sy Hersh, Ed Murrow, Daniel Elsworth, Howard K Smith, Bob Woodward, Michael Smith, Carl Bernstein, Laura Rosen, Robert Dreyfuss and more, were/are a few of the good journalists who shared two qualities that
are missing from so much of American media these days. One is that they tried
to tell the truth but more importantly the whole truth. Secondly they were not
blinded by patriotism and an obsessive desire to protect their government just
because it was the government.

**Iraq Veterans Against the War.** These American veterans have been
there and done that. Although a war cannot be happen unless young men fight
it, the IVAW deserve a mention in the ‘good guys’ section. The reason that
wars are invariably fought by young men is that their ignorance is fostered
and maintained. Young men have simply not lived long enough to acquire the
wisdom necessary to know that all wars are bad. In addition the men they fight
for certainly don’t go out of their way to ensure that soldiers are well informed.
No matter what the situation, it is not possible to ‘fight the good fight’ by killing
other ignorant young men. That needs to be universally understood before wars
will end.

**Frank Willis,** was a security guard making his rounds on June 17th, 1972.
He discovered some tape that prevented a door from locking and he removed it.
When he came back to check again the tape was back. He called the police and
the Watergate burglars were arrested at gunpoint. He had trouble finding work
after that as no one would hire him. In 1990 he returned to South Carolina to
care for his sick mother while they shared his $450 a month income. When
she died he was too poor to pay for her funeral. He also died penniless and
unknown on September 27th, 2000 after having changed history and having
been ignored by his fellow Americans.

**Dr. Asaf Durakovic** was Chief of Nuclear Medicine at the veterans’
hospital in Wilmington Delaware in the early 1990s. There he discovered
the first Gulf War veterans with symptoms of exposure to depleted uranium.
Deplete uranium is now the American militaries favorite weapon material. Dr.
Durakovic commenced research into this material and the associated illnesses
and was promptly fired when he refused to stop. He has continued with this
research and has conclusively documented that depleted uranium is implicated
in the deaths and illness of veterans. Naturally the Military Industrial Complex
still denies this as big money is to be made from a needless, poisonous waste.

**Wilfred Burchett** was an independent Australian journalist who traveled
to Japan to cover the aftermath of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. General
Douglas MacArthur had declared southern Japan off-limits so no Western
journalist saw the associated death and destruction. Burchett was determined
to see for himself what this nuclear bomb had done so in defiance of MacArthur
he traveled to Hiroshima. Burchett’s story was published in London September
5th, 1945 and refuted the official American story which denied widespread
radiation sickness and the resulting deaths. US authorities responded by
smearing Burchett and ordering him out of Japan. His camera and photos
disappeared, he was accused of buying into Japanese propaganda while the US
continued to deny radiation sickness. The NYTimes science reporter, William
L. Laurence, then wrote ten articles for the Times that praised the nuclear
program while downplaying or denying the human impact of the bombing. Laurence won the Pulitzer Prize for this reporting. (see the Media chapter) Coincidently Lawrence was also being paid and coached by the US War Department. The Pulitzer Board never rescinded Lawrence’s prize because of his deceptions.

John Pilger was born in 1939 and for over 40 years has delivered truthful journalism and documentaries. Some of his work was so truthful and by necessity critical of America that it was never shown in the good old US of A, the land of the free. Many of his short (1 hr.) documentaries are available for free on the web or can be ordered on-line. Well worth seeing.

Tom Nelson is an attorney in Portland, Oregon. His office and home were broken into by FBI or NSA agents. Due to their incompetence they left all sort of clues behind after their break-ins. Rather than be intimidated by these illegal activities Tom is fighting back. He has launched a lawsuit against the government but the government is trying to prevent a Judge, the only independent arbitrator Tom has, from hearing his case.

Check: http://www.alternet.org/module/printversion/35807

The Citizens’ Commission to Investigate the FBI. In 1969 some unknown person/s broke into a small FBI office in Pennsylvania and stole 1,000 FBI documents. These documents revealed that the FBI had been illegally wiretapping on Americans, manipulating the media and repressing protests. So what else is new? The unknown person/s then started mailing these documents to various newspapers. Attorney General John Mitchell tried to prevent the newspapers from revealing the contents from the FBI files but the Washington Post, for one, refused. This information first became public on March 24, 1971 and showed how the police, post office workers and the phone companies had worked to spy on campus students and black people in the Philadelphia area. More documents were released but the FBI failed to uncover who leaked the information. Much more information has since come to light that shows the FBI frequently violating the rights of Americans and at times contributing to their deaths, see Jean Seberg on the web. Although many Americans are blinded by their patriotism these unknown person/s deserve the gratitude of all for exposing illegal activities that are still illegal, even when committed by the government.

Najim Abid is a busy man these days but he would much rather not be. He prepares the bodies that are brought to him for burial. With all the violence that has come to his country and in particular his city of Baghdad, he can hardly keep up. He is respectful of the “clergy, doctors, policemen, soldiers, laborers and painters” that he has cleaned for burial, usually as a result of a violent death. “I’ve washed Sunni and Shiite. This sectarian violence touches everyone. Once came a child of 12 killed in a mortar attack. They are all dear to me. They are all Iraqis.” The civil war which now (mid-2006) rages in Iraq is killing almost 100 people a day. Tragically, these people are not dear to everyone.

Alberto Mora is the recently-departed, former general counsel of the US
Navy who had the wisdom to condemn torture. Unfortunately he seems to believe that his boss, William Haines, and his boss, Dick Cheney, are basically good guys who mistakenly favor torture. That belief must be incorrect in the same way that torture has been shown to be incorrect. Mora can’t have his cake and eat it too. If your boss supports torture, then he stops being a good guy. The fact that Americans have killed people during torture simply proves how wrong Cheney, Haines and, ultimately, Mora have been.

**Michael Ferber** opposed the Vietnam war and he is still at it by opposing the Iraq war. Although this seems like something that any sane person would do, the fact is that many Americans have actually supported both wars. You could have a look at the media chapter to get a small insight into this phenomenon.

**Joseph Heller** is still out there but has made his mark with his books and plays by exposing the bad guys including bureaucracies, wars, the business world and other dehumanizing aspects of our society.

**Marcus Raskin** has been active in the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), a left-wing think tank. This ‘think tank’ works to create a more responsible society. IPS strives to create a society built around the values of justice, nonviolence, sustainability, and decency. Sounds good but many Americans distort these efforts by labeling them as a step towards a ‘big brother’ society.

**Helen & Harry Highwater** run http://www.unknownnews.org/ I don’t know what it is with these two, but they have a rare passion for the truth and fairness. They actually expect authority figures in our society to act ethically and they call them on it when they don’t. If only the New York Times would do the same!

**Mitchell Goodman**, a teacher and author who became an outspoken opponent of the Vietnam War during the 1960s, died at the age of 73. Mitch took part in rallies to protest the Vietnam War and was convicted in 1968 of supporting draft resisters and sentenced to two years in prison. An appeals court overturned the conviction.

**Harry Belafonte** was born in America in 1927. He became one of the most successful singers in America and could have elected a life of leisure. It is particularly admirable when people who have ‘made it’ choose to speak the truth that is rejected by so many of the ‘haves’ in America. He was an early advocate for civil rights in the 1950s and he has continued to speak out, for which he has paid a high price. In spite of being a close friend of Martin L. King and his wife, as well as a consistent civil rights worker, his invitation to Mrs. King’s funeral was cancelled when organizers decided that he would conflict with Bush Jr. who he has often criticized. The fact that funeral organizers would choose Bush over Belafonte demonstrates how warped values can become in America when the good guys grovel for the ‘authorities’.

**Dr. Benjamin Spock** wrote the world’s best selling book, more bibles have been printed but many were not sold. In any case Dr. Spock became a renowned pediatrician who advocated the peaceful way from an early age. He spoke out against the Vietnam War and ran for President in 1972 but the
American people were too brainwashed to elect him. He died at the age of 93 after a very full life.

**Father Daniel Berrigan** is a man with a conscience who happens to be a priest and a leader in the American peace movement. He organized resistance to and spoke out against the Vietnam War and if he had been in charge millions of deaths would have been prevented. Most Americans do not understand how profound that basic fact is.

**Staughton Lynd** is an equality kind of guy and has been for many years. He has been a conscientious objector, peacenik, civil rights activist, lawyer, author, professor and tax resister, which it must be mentioned, are all admirable qualities.

**Jeffrey St. Clair** is an author who brought all of us a very important book, ‘Grand Theft Pentagon’ as well as other writings. Mr. St. Clair is one of the good guys because he strives for the truth and believes in fairness. Much of his writing concerns the environment which quite rightly must be a priority for any concerned writer.

**Specialist Samuel Provance** is one of the good guys who tried to expose the abuses at Abu Ghraib prison. Unfortunately he was working for the bad guys who didn’t want to uphold professed American values. He was also working for the US Congress who never take the decisive actions required to actually prevent this type of bullshit.

**Charles V. Stuart** was a delegate to the California constitutional convention in September 1878. At that time the considerable number of Chinese in California had no rights and the convention proposed to entrench this under law. Of all the delegates to the convention, Stuart was the only one to speak up for the Chinese.

**William Blum** brought us a number of important books from his State Department and editor experience. They include, ‘Rouge State’, ‘Freeing the world to Death’ and ‘Killing Hope’ among others. He has also been a credible CIA critic. People like Blum would solve most of America’s problems and certainly end all the killing but too many powerful Americans are actually opposed to that.

**Mike German** reported that FBI agents had screwed up a major case and changed files to cover their asses. The Justice department confirmed his perceptions but his security clearance was eliminated. Actually behaving like a responsible American can be harmful if you are working for those who do not represent what America is supposed to stand for.

**Patrick Cockburn** is an Irish journalist who quite simply knows a hell of a lot more about Iraq than the entire American government. A CIA study showed that Cockburn’s knowledge of Iraq was 1.6 million times greater than Bush and Cheney put together. Cockburn thinks that the war in Iraq is a lot of crap.

**Karen Kwiatkowski** is a retired USAF lieutenant colonel who spent her last four years in the US air force at the Pentagon. She would normally have continued in the USAF but had trouble with “the ethical difficulties brought on
by witnessing the misuse of intelligence in order to support an agenda for an
unnecessary, unwarranted war of choice against Iraq” and her civilian bosses as
“ politicized, emasculated, obedient to the bureaucracy and ignorant of the
Constitution.”

**Stephen Lendman** is a retired American who keeps busy writing about
injustice at the hands of those who want have more than their fair share. Have
a look at his site - [http://sjlendman.blogspot.com/](http://sjlendman.blogspot.com/)

**Harry Browne**, unlike the current Republican leaders, truly believed in
smaller government and fewer trillions of government debt. He also put his
money were his mouth was by running for President in 1996 and 2000. He was

**Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer** divulged that the Pentagon identified Mohammed
Atta before he became the lead hijacker in the 2001 terrorist attacks. Of course
that truth makes the Pentagon look bad so Shaffer’s security clearance was
revoked.

**Russell Tice** was harassed by his bosses at the defense department when
he tried to expose illegal actions at the National Security Agency. He was told
not to tell the Senate and House Intelligence Committees about these actions.
And you thought the defense department was on your side!

**Dr. Peter Rost**, drug company executive with a difference. He has said
importing drugs from Canada and other countries is safe and that efforts by the
industry and the Republican government to stop this practice are misplaced.
Unfortunately Dr. Rost works for Pfizer and they fail to understand how
shafting poor Americans is not in their best interest.

**Richard Levernier** ended up retired after he reported that US nuclear
weapons related tests failed 50% of the time. Something his bosses didn’t want
the public to hear about. His security clearance was eliminated.

**Lawrence Wilkerson**, a long time US military man, Republican and Colin
Powell’s former chief of staff, has had the guts to say some interesting things
about the way things are. The war against Iraq was, “a hoax on the American
people, the international community, and the United Nations Security Council.”
and that, “there were major doubts inside the intelligence community about
everything that was being said about the Iraq threat, even as Powell’s speech
was being planned and delivered.” Believe it or not, many Americans do not
understand these statements.

**Lieutenant General William Odom**, retired, calls the Iraq war “the
greatest strategic disaster in our history, not in terms of its present body count,
but rather because of its radiating consequences for the region and the world.”
Mr. Odom is one of a number of high ranking military men who have spoken
out about the War in Iraq. Why is it that only retired military bosses can speak
the truth without overwhelming negative repercussions?

**Michael Berg** is the father of Nicolas Berg, the American who was
beheaded in Iraq, reportedly by the recently deceased Zarqawi. Mr. Berg is a
most remarkable man because he basis his opinions on the truth, rather than
patriotic nonsense. When told about the death of Zarqawi he said, “Well, I was not relieved, not comforted by his death. In fact, I was saddened by his death, as I am about any human’s death. Zarqawi is not the only one that died if 1,000 pounds of bombs were exploded there. Aside from being a human being and having people that love him that will suffer the same pain that my family and I have suffered, Zarqawi is a political figure. He and George Bush have been playing a volleyball game of revenge for too long now, and this is just another spike in that volleyball game, and it will bring about only more death, more sadness, and it will perpetuate this endless cycle of revenge.” Yes siree, Mr. Berg is a remarkable man.

Brigadier General Andrew Gatsis, retired, who has been around for awhile said this of Iraq: “It was never in the US interest and has not become so.” All this sounds like the litany of officers who were against the nuking of Japan. They were ignored too.

Joseph Darby, US Army Specialist, received a commendation for exposing the abuses at Abu Ghraib prison. The actions by Joseph Darby, “for standing up for what is right” revealed an ugly aspect of the American psyche. For doing what is so obviously right and protecting America from future harm as a result of the actions of the abusers, Mr. Darby has been forced into hiding as a result of death threats. He and his family have been uprooted from their home, cut off from normal extended family ties and are now guarded by the US military from the wrath of their fellow Americans.

Cesar Chavez, during his lifetime, was dedicated to helping America’s farm workers through non-violence, public action, equality, education, respect for other cultures and volunteerism, to name just a few. He signed the first collective agreement between farm workers and growers in 1966. His union was the first to acquire rest periods, clean drinking water, hand washing facilities, protection from harmful chemicals and the banning of some chemicals. His union was the first to supply growers with workers from union halls which gave the workers some seniority and job security. All of his victories were reasonable, what wasn’t reasonable was the fight that was required to implement them.

Bunny Greenhouse worked as a senior number cruncher for the US Army Corps of Engineers. She turned out to be a real pain to the Corps because she kept asking why a Halliburton subsidiary, KBR, got $12 billion worth of exclusive contracts for work in Iraq. For years, Greenhouse asked tough questions of her boss about why the Corps kept giving exclusive, non-compete contracts to a Halliburton subsidiary worth billions. At the end of 2004 the Corps Major General Robert Griffin handed Ms. Greenhouse a letter that explained she was being demoted for poor performance, which was strange as she had just had a good review, or she could retire with full benefits, which was also strange. Ms. Greenhouse hired a lawyer, the FBI is investigating and she still has her job. Hopefully the FBI will do the right thing but don’t hold your breath.

Niko Matsakis of Boston, MA and Elias Vlanton of Takoma Park, MD
created www.costofwar.com, a website that displays a running cost of the Iraq war and how that cost is distributed to various American communities as well as other important priorities. After maintaining it on their own for a year, they gave it to the National Priorities Project. Check it out.

**Stephen Kohn**, Chairman of National Whistleblower Center, “We are extremely dismayed that the Bush Administration has chosen not to protect whistleblowers. The position advocated by the Solicitor General will reverse thirty years of law and undermine traditional First Amendment protections afforded state employees.” This is another situation where the Department of Injustice has gone to bat for the guys who pay their wages rather than the justice they are supposed to serve. Mr. Kohn goes on to say, “If the lower court’s decision is reversed, government employees will be stripped of their Constitutional protections under the First Amendment. Public employees, who disclose to superiors, incidents of government corruption, abuse, and fraud within their workplace—such as stealing from taxpayers, lying under oath, or putting innocent defendants in prison—will be stripped of their whistleblower rights. Worse, employees who make such disclosures at work could be fired simply for blowing the whistle.” I wonder why Bush and the boys would want to hide, ‘government corruption, abuse, and fraud’?

**General Anthony Zinni.** It’s tempting to put guys like Zinni in the ‘good guys’ chapter because he had the guts, unlike Powell, to say the war in Iraq was a dumb idea. "In the lead up to the Iraq war and its later conduct I saw, at a minimum, true dereliction, negligence and irresponsibility; at worse, lying, incompetence and corruption.” His comments are welcome, in that the truth is always welcome; but we have to ask, “would America still interfere with the rest of the planet if the American military was run by men as truthful as Zinni?”

**Deb Mayer** was a teacher of little kids at Clear Creek Elementary School in Bloomington, Indiana, during 2003. During a class discussion the pending war in Iraq came up. A student asked Ms. Mayer if she would ever participate in peace march to which she said, “When I drive past the courthouse square and the demonstrators are picketing, I honk my horn for peace because their signs say, ‘Honk for peace.’” The Clear Creek Elementary School refused to renew her contract because she is a real danger to war and potential military recruits. The case is before the courts but I hope Deb is not holding her breath.

**Fannie Lou Hamer**, who died on March 14, 1977, was a woman who epitomized what the ‘Democratic’ party should be. She championed civil rights, non-violence and doing the ‘right thing’. Instead of these lofty ideals many in the Democratic Party morphed into republicans some years ago.

**James Comey**, a former prosecutor, resigned as Deputy Attorney General in 2005. Although he didn’t raise the shit he might have, he ultimately did refuse to violate his sense of right and wrong by quitting the Department of Injustice. What we need are many more Comeys who are also willing to speak out.
Craig Williams learned the US government planned to incinerate 523 tons of chemical weapons 8 miles from his home in rural Berea, KY. As a Vietnam vet, Williams was concerned about the risk and decided to do something. During the last 15 years he has formed the Chemical Weapons Working Group, written a zillion letters and changed things. As a result, the US Army has agreed to destroy these weapons more safely, in his part of America and elsewhere.

Jack Goldsmith, like Comey, tried from the inside to change the direction of the Bush government but left in 2004 for Harvard. It is a great shame that the price, to speak out, against current government policies is so high. Due to that reality men like Comey and Goldsmith must do more than just quit.

Peter De Mott, Teresa Grady, Clare and Daniel Burns—all from the Catholic Worker Community—went to the local Army-Marine Recruiting Center and poured some of their own blood in the recruiting center. After arrest, charge, trial, time and expense they were convicted and sent to jail for 4 to 6 months. Being a ‘good’ American Judge McAvoy must think that it is better for the US to kill hundreds of thousands in other parts of the world rather than have this type of anarchy in his part of the world.

Joseph Rotblat was recruited to be one of the 100 scientists on the top secret Manhattan project to build the atomic bomb. When it became clear to him that Germany was not producing this weapon he immediately quit as there was “No need to make this bomb”. He was the only scientist to quit. For the next 20 years America banned him from the US. He also maintained that weapons of Mass Destruction meant that there would be no winners if they were ever used. For many years he tried to organize scientists into rejecting WMD and in 1995 received the Nobel Peace Price. The guys who pushed for the bomb never got the peace price and are now largely forgotten but their terrible legacy lives on because of other fools like themselves.

Mike Malloy, an announcer for Air America Radio, is a tell-it-like-it-is kinda guy. Unfortunately that attribute, on American radio, means that you are relegated to an obscure network when most people are sleeping. Nevertheless Mike seems committed to the truth which is a rarity in American media. He lashes out at all hypocrites and therefore has few friends in high places. Mike is a former writer and editor for both CNN and CNN-international, and one of the top 100 talk show hosts out of 4000 in the US. He survives by telling the truth to the American listeners on Air America radio. He is still there so there must be a few informed listeners left.

Dahr Jamail, is a unique individual who got tired of the US media bullshit and went to Iraq to report on the war himself. Dahr has gathered a following on his own web site and with other progressive news outlets. Look him up.

Raymond McGovern, was a member of the CIA for 27 years which pretty much makes him one of the bad guys however he is now an important voice trying to tell the truth about the Bush Jr.’s war. He helped start, ‘Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity’ which sounds like a good place to start.

Katherine Jashinski was a US Army National Guard Specialist who
requested conscientious objector status but it was denied. Rather than join the ‘war’ in Afghanistan, she accepted a bad conduct discharge and 120 days of confinement. Ms. Jashinski is a rare individual however; the case for war to defend America must be clear before young Americans willingly join a deadly fight.

**John Brady Kiesling** quit the Foreign Service because he could no longer deal with a government that violated his idea of what America stood for. America loses a great deal when people with 20 years of experience quit, particularly when they quit in disgust. By insisting that everyone agree with the President America loses when the President becomes surrounded by ‘yes’ men. That has happened before with equally disastrous results.

**Thomas Bodenheimer** and **Robert Gould** wrote an important book entitled ‘Rollback’. It tells about the American hypocrisy that supports dictators and despots while overthrowing democracies.

**John H. Brown** also quit the Foreign Service and stated that this government failed: “To explain clearly why our brave men and women in uniform should be ready to sacrifice their lives in a war on Iraq at this time; to lay out the full ramifications of this war, including the extent of innocent civilian casualties; to specify the economic costs of the war for ordinary Americans; to clarify how the war would help rid the world of terror; or to take international public opinion against the war into serious consideration.” Another good man lost because of the myopic Foreign Service ‘team’.

**Hugh Thompson, Jr.** was a US military pilot in Vietnam who helped to stop the My Lai massacre on 16 March, 1968. He landed his helicopter between the unarmed villagers and the US troops, determined what was going on and ordered the troops in his helicopter to fire on the Americans troops if they continued to kill the Vietnamese civilians. Tragically, many Americans, including some of Mr. Thompson’s fellow soldiers and at least one US Congressman, were so blinded by their patriotism that they threatened Mr. Thompson with death. Lt. Calley was convicted by an American jury for ordering the killing of over 100 defenseless Vietnamese and sentenced to life in prison (507 people were actually killed). What many Americans didn’t seem to understand was that there were no shots fired at the American troops, there were no enemy soldiers seen or captured, the people killed were old men, women and babies and a number of women were also gang raped by the Americans. In spite of all the minute testimony, in the most exhaustive court martial in US history, Calley never served any jail time and was accepted into the southern community where he now lives. Without Hugh Thompson many more innocent people would have died.

**The Fellowship of Reconciliation**, learned of the 1950s famine in China and decided to mail thousands of little bags of rice to the White House with a tag quoting from the Bible: “If thine enemy hungers, feed him.” For more than ten years the little bags of rice were sent to the White House but they were never acknowledged. The Fellowship of Reconciliation only learned years later
that when President Eisenhower met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff to consider China the generals twice recommended the use of nuclear weapons which might have killed millions. Each time this happened, President Eisenhower turned to his aide and asked how many little bags of rice had come in. When told they numbered in the tens of thousands, Eisenhower told the generals that as long as so many Americans were expressing an active interest in having the US feed the Chinese, he certainly wasn’t going to consider using nuclear weapons against them.

Raymond Bonner was a reporter for the New York Times who broke the story of the El Mozote massacre. Almost nine hundred villagers at El Mozote and the surrounding area of El Salvador were killed by the American trained and equipped Salvadoran army in December 1981. This was an important story because of the deaths but also because these deaths would never have happened without the support of the Regan government. The US government denied the killings and tried to smear the reporters who told the truth. No American investigation was ordered. Even ‘Accuracy in Media’ accused Bonner of lying. The story was eventually confirmed in 1992, not by the Americans but by the Argentineans. Check out Bonner’s book, ‘Weakness and Deceit’.

Alma Guillermoprieto also reported on the El Monte massacre with Raymond Bonner, although she worked for the Washington Post. Her newspaper did not fully support her and did not follow up with another investigation and she left the paper two years later. The problem today, in 2006, seems to be that we still have the stories but the publishers are even more reluctant to publish them than they were twenty years ago. Ms. Guillermoprieto is also an important author, check out ‘The Heart that Bleeds’.

Representative Lynn Woolsey had the smarts to oppose the war in Iraq from the outset. She spoke from the floor of the House of Representatives over 130 times to tell Americans about the bullshit that many of them bought when they supported this war. Unbelievably she has had a difficult time convincing politicians and Americans alike that this war is a sham but she is gaining support.

Dave Dellinger died in 2004, one of the most influential and respected American radicals of the 20th century. His autobiography is called: ‘From Yale to Jail’. Dellinger was smart enough to oppose WW II and had the guts to take the punishment that a foolish society dished out rather than hide behind some legal status. He spoke out about government idiocy and was jailed for doing so in ‘the land of the free.’ He never gave up and never stopped trying to tell the truth. Due to his opposition to war and racism he lived a very rich life and was helped by many true friends. Rich men never get close.

Stanislav Petrov: you might just be here because of him. In 1983 he was monitoring a satellite system for signs of an American nuclear attack. After midnight on September 26, he saw the launch of an attack on his Ballistic Missile Early Warning System. Everyone else in the Russian launch crew saw it as well. After the system showed five missiles heading for Russia, Petrov
was supposed to hit the ‘START’ button which would automatically launch a counter-strike but he hesitated. “I just couldn’t believe that, just like that, all of a sudden, someone would hurl five missiles at us. Five missiles wouldn’t wipe us out. The US had not five, but a thousand missiles in battle readiness.” It just didn’t seem like any scenario considered by military intelligence before. Petrov considered the alarm false and reported it to his superiors as such. They waited for confirmation that there were no missiles and none arrived. Voilà, no nuclear war! Stanislav Petrov put logic before Standard Operating Procedures and saved millions.

Richard Clarke had thirty years with the government and was the #2 intelligence man under Regan. When Bush Jr. showed up, Clarke came to believe that Bush was doing a ‘terrible job’ fighting terrorism. Not only was Bush ignoring the evidence, he wanted Clarke to produce a non-existent link between al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. When Clarke said there was no such link, his memo was sent back with: “Wrong answer. Do it again.” Clarke eventually quit after being demoted.

Paul O’Neill served two years in George W. Bush’s cabinet as Secretary of the Treasury after heading large companies like ALCOA. He opposed the President’s tax cuts and was fired at the end of 2002. Bush’s tax cuts have gone on to create the largest deficit in the history of this planet. This from a Republican that calls himself a conservative.

Flynt Leverett was a director on President Bush’s National Security Council, (NSC) and a specialist on the Middle East. He felt that Bush Jr. was fixated on Iraq and just wanted to get on with it and not bother with the facts. He resigned rather than work under Bush.

Charlie Haden is a great jazz musician, but has also stood up against war. During the Vietnam War he started the Liberation Music Orchestra that played anti-war songs and songs of tribute to people like Che Guevera. More recently he took on the Bush Jr. government and issued an album entitled ‘Not In Our Name’.

Ben Miller, was a member of the CIA and an expert on Iraq. He objected to taking troops out of Afghanistan and putting them into Iraq when they were close to catching Osama bin Laden. He was forced out for disagreeing and Osama has never been caught.

Hillary Mann, a Foreign Service officer to the NSC and an Iran expert, was fired for disagreeing with ‘da boss’. Any organization is seriously compromised when critics within that organization are prevented from voicing opinions that they regard as truthful.

James Gordon Prather is a physicist who has served with the Federal Energy Agency, the Energy Research and Development Administration, the Department of Energy, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Department of the Army. Dr. Prather had earlier worked as a nuclear weapons physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California and Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico. He has also taken to writing about the
politics of nuclear weapons. His truthful efforts in the hypocritical American nuclear world are admirable and unfortunately all too rare. Unfortunately, Gordon has also taken the time to tell us that global warming is a lot of crap. Hey, you can’t be right all the time.

Yonatan Shapira is not an American, but one of the good ones nevertheless. Shapira was a pilot in the Israeli military who finally figured out that Israeli actions were no better than the actions of the ‘terrorists’ who were blowing up innocent Israeli civilians. Since that realization he has spoken out against violence on both sides and help found -http://www.ffipp.org/ and http://www.combatantsforpeace.org/ Check them out!

Larry Lindsey was a top economic advisor to Bush Jr. and, in that capacity, estimated that the Iraq war could cost $200 billion. Although Lindsey’s estimate turned out to be far too low, his estimate pissed Bush Jr. off. Telling Americans they may spend more than Bush Jr. says is grounds for job loss. As of 2006 the total is now closer to $600 billion, but this government cost estimate fails to consider many of the associated costs.

John Stockwell spent 13 years at the CIA. At some point he saw the light, quit and has been telling the American public about the illegality of the CIA ever since. He has written an important book about the CIA in Angola, where he was Station Chief, ‘In Search of Enemies’. He is also a tireless public speaker and certainly worthy of a ‘good guy’ designation.

Ann Wright was a long-term diplomat in the Foreign Service who resigned on the day the US launched the Iraq War. She stated, “I believe the Administration’s policies are making the world a more dangerous, not a safer, place. I feel obligated, morally and professionally, to set out my very deep and firm concerns on these policies and to resign from government service as I cannot defend or implement them.” What Ann hasn’t figured out is that the Military Industrial Complex can only thrive if the ‘dangers’ continue. Bush and the boys are not looking for a safer world.

John Brady Kiesling, served four presidents over a twenty year span as a diplomat in the Foreign Service. He stated, “The policies we are now asked to advance are incompatible not only with American values but also with American interests. Our fervent pursuit of war with Iraq is driving us to squander the international legitimacy that has been America’s most potent weapon of both offense and defense since the days of Woodrow Wilson. We have begun to dismantle the largest and most effective web of international relationships the world has ever known. Our current course will bring instability and danger, not security.” As a result, he resigned; hopefully he will now find time to read William Blum’s book, ‘Killing Hope’ and complete his education.

Ray Anderson was the boss at Interface Inc. the world’s largest carpet manufacturer. For many years he was responsible for wrecking the planet along with millions of other industrial big-wigs. Then in 1994 he read, ‘The Ecology of Commerce’, by Paul Hawken and it turned his life around. He decided that he and his company could and would do better and they are in the process of
doing just that. Anderson also changed his personal life by driving the most ecological car available and living in a self sufficient home. What Anderson has done is not difficult but you must be aware and concerned. America is not there!

Randy Beers was the National Security Council’s senior director for combating terrorism but resigned as he felt the ‘war on terror’ “was making us less secure, not more secure… “As an insider, I saw the things that weren’t being done. And the longer I sat and watched, the more concerned I became, until I got up and walked out.” Keep talking to us, Randy!

General Eric Shinseki, as a General, cannot really be considered a good guy; but as the Army’s Chief of Staff he can be admired for telling the truth. When he told Congress that the occupation of Iraq could require “several hundred thousand troops,” he was being truthful; but the Bush gang was not happy. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz wanted him gone so the Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld took the unusual step of announcing that Gen. Eric Shinseki would be leaving when his term as Army Chief of Staff ended.

Charles ‘Jack’ Pritchard was a retired US Army Colonel who worked for the State Department and the National Security Council. He served as the State Department’s senior expert on North Korea and as the special envoy for negotiations with that country. He resigned because of the “administration’s refusal to engage directly with the country made it almost impossible to stop Pyongyang from going ahead with its plans to build, test and deploy nuclear weapons.” And you thought those rogue bombs were North Korea’s idea?

Rev. William Sloane Coffin, a Presbyterian minister, served as Chaplain at Yale University and Pastor at Riverside Church in New York. A liberal and a follower of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., he went on the Freedom Rides in the South in the 1960s. He protested against the Vietnam War, nuclear proliferation and he worked for civil-rights. He had the right idea about the war in Iraq as well. “The war against Iraq is as disastrous as it is unnecessary; perhaps in terms of its wisdom, purpose and motives, the worst war in American history. Our military men and women were not called to defend America, but rather to attack Iraq. They were not called to die for America, but rather to kill for their country. What more unpatriotic thing could we have asked of our sons and daughters?” The good Rev. is gone now but you have to wonder why all the other Reverents of today are so silent?

Major John Carr and Major Robert Preston, USAF legal prosecutors, quit their legal assignments under the military commission system President Bush set up in 2001 to deal with those at Guantanamo. They considered the process “rigged against alleged terrorists held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.” The US Supreme Court eventually agreed but months after the Supreme Court said that the Bush policies were illegal, nothing much has changed. That’s not true. It has gotten worse. The most senior politicians in American have now agreed to discard aspects of the American justice system that have been in place for
hundreds of years!

**Captain Carrie Wolf**, a USAF officer, also asked to leave the Office of Military Commissions due to concerns that the Bush-created commissions for trying prisoners at Guantanamo Bay were unjust.

**Colonel Douglas Macgregor** left the US Army but said, “The biggest problem we have inside the Department of Defense at the senior level, but also within the officer corps, is that there are no arguments. Arguments are seen as a sign of dissent. Dissent equates to disloyalty.” I wonder where that attitude comes from?

**Kate Adie** was frequently a conflict correspondent for the BBC. A straight shooter, she always tried to tell the truth without bias for one side or the other. As she said, “My job is to get to the heart of a story, to find out what’s really going on; to get it verified and, then, to get it out to as many people as possible as fast as possible.” If only the media moguls thought the same way!

**Paul Redmond** worked for years with the CIA and was then promoted as the Assistant Secretary for Information Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security. In a congressional hearing he said that he “didn’t have enough analysts to do the job and my office still lacks the secure communications capability to receive classified reports from the intelligence community.” Honesty is not your best policy if you want to keep working for the incompetents.

**John W. Carlin**, the Archivist of the United States, was pushed by the White House to submit his resignation. “I asked why, and there was no reason given,” said Carlin. Some have suggested that Bush Jr. may have wanted a new archivist to help destroy or keep his and his father’s sensitive Presidential records under wraps. There is something funny going on here.

**Howard Zinn** was a trained killer in WW II but survived to understand that war and inequality were invariably bad and unnecessary. His book, ‘A People’s History of the United States’ is unique in that it is a truthful history book. America is not yet ready to use this truth in their history classes; but, due to the efforts of many people like Zinn, that day is coming.

**Susan Wood** and **Frank Davidoff**. Ms. Wood was the Food and Drug Administration’s Assistant Commissioner for Women’s Health and Director of the Office of Women’s Health; Davidoff was the Editor Emeritus of the journal ‘Annals of Internal Medicine’ and an internal medicine specialist on the FDA’s Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee. Wood resigned in protest over the FDA’s decision to delay, yet again, due to pressure from the Bush administration, a final ruling on whether the ‘morning-after pill’ should be made more easily accessible–despite a 23-4 vote, back in December 2003. Ms. Wood said, ”I can no longer serve as staff when scientific and clinical evidence, fully evaluated and recommended for approval by the professional staff here, has been overruled.” Days later, Davidoff quit over the same issue. “I can no longer associate myself with an organization that is capable of making such an important decision so flagrantly on the basis of political influence, rather than the scientific and clinical evidence.”
Thomas E. Novotny, the Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services, was the guy working on an international treaty to reduce cigarette smoking around the world. Novotny quit because of the Bush Jr. administration’s weak position on key issues, including fewer restrictions on second-hand smoke and the advertising and marketing of cigarettes.

Jo Wilding travelled to Iraq several times to find out the truth and challenged the American embargo that had killed so many Iraqi children. When she presented herself to the authorities as an obvious embargo criminal, they refused to arrest her. She has made a great deal of information available to the media and they have ignored it.

Joanne Wilson was the Commissioner of the Department of Education’s Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) who quit because of the administration’s efforts to gut the office’s funding and staffing and their attempts to dismantle programs critical to helping the blind, deaf and otherwise disabled to find jobs. On February 7, 2005 the Bush administration announced that it would close all RSA regional offices and cut personnel in half.

James Zahn, a respected microbiologist, was asked by his boss at the US Department of Agriculture not to publish his study which “identified bacteria that can make people sick—and that are resistant to antibiotics—in the air surrounding industrial-style hog farms.” Zahn resigned after the D of A imposed additional restrictions on his ability to tell the truth.

Serene Sabbagh was a TV producer with Fox News. He resigned along with a colleague and in their resignation letter they said, “Not only are you an instrument of the Bush White House, and Israeli propaganda, you are war mongers with no sense of decency, nor professionalism.” There is every reason to believe that they were talking to Murdoch.

Tony Oppegard and Jack Spadaro were members of a team of federal engineers investigating the collapse of barriers that held back a coal slurry pond in Kentucky. These barriers held back toxic wastes from mountaintop strip-mining. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, this collapse had been the greatest environmental catastrophe in the history of the Eastern United States. Oppegard, who headed the team, was fired the day Bush was inaugurated. All eight members of the team, except Spadaro, signed a whitewashed investigation report. Spadaro resigned from the team and filed a complaint with the Inspector General of the Labor Department. Two months before his 28th anniversary as a federal employee, and after years of difficulties Spadaro quit. “I’m just very tired of fighting.”

Scott Ritter was a senior UN weapons inspector in Iraq between 1991 and 1998 and could have been relied on to determine the existence of WMD. He wasn’t and the results have been a disaster for America, Iraq and hundreds of thousands who have suffered at the hands of the Bush war machine. He is also the author of ‘Frontier Justice’, ‘Weapons of Mass Destruction’ and ‘The Bushwhacking of America’. Scott continues to speak out against the fundamental injustice that Bush Jr. continues to deliver.
Tom Degan could be just an average America; but he’s not. Tom has seen the light and is spreading it around. He keeps up on things and frequently comments on the web. One of his goals is to expose the criminality and corruption in the Bush Jr. government. For reasons unknown there are Americans who oppose those efforts but Tom is not giving up.

Teresa Chambers, after speaking out about budget problems in her organization, the US Park Police Chief was placed on administrative leave. A few hours after her lawyer filed a demand for reinstatement, she was fired.

Tyler Drumheller was a CIA employee for 26-years, but must have been one of the good ones. He agreed to appear on the CBS program 60-minutes and tell about the Bush lies regarding the Iraqi WMD. Drumheller was the top CIA guy in Europe. He provided the government with information that Iraq did not get uranium from Niger and also confirmed that Iraq’s WMD program was over; but as Drumheller said, “The war in Iraq was coming. And they were looking for intelligence to fit into the policy, to justify the policy.” The millions spent by the CIA to determine the truth was wasted and as we know, many have been killed.

Daniel Ellsburg was an educated man who ended up working for the Pentagon in 1964. In that capacity he learned that the US government was lying to the American people about the Vietnam War and with difficulty he made that information available. Remarkably this action was not universally cheered. Many Americans supported the liars however Ellsburg was eventually cleared by the courts. Ellsburg went on to protest war and was arrested over 70 times. As JFK was to say, “War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.”

Martha Hahn was the director for the Bureau of Land Management in Idaho. She found her authority drastically curtailed after the Bush administration took over. The ‘new’ administration blocked public comment and opened up previously protected areas. After she protested concessions to cattle bosses she was advised she was being transferred from Idaho to New York City. She was told to accept or resign so she resigned.

John Hutson, Donald Guter and David Brahms are retired generals and admirals who have written public letters stating the obvious, that America under Bush Jr. should respect the rule of law. If more Americans joined them things would change more quickly. Apathy always works for the bad guys.

Andrew Eller was with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and his research didn’t jibe with a huge airport project slated for a sensitive area. He refused to modify his position and was fired.

Sister Dianna Ortiz was an American Nun in Guatemala teaching small children to read and write in their own language. How anyone could consider that a problem is beyond comprehension but they did. She received death threats but carried on. One day she was abducted and subsequently tortured while American ‘advisors’ looked on. She survived and is now active with
Good Ones, Bad Ones

www.tassc.org, a torture abolition organization. Support them!

Mike Dombeck was the boss of the US Forest Service but resigned. “It was made clear, in no uncertain terms, that the Bush administration wants to take the Forest Service in another direction.”

James Furnish is a conservative and a Republican. He was the former Deputy Chief of the US Forest Service who “viewed the administration’s actions as being regressive;” so he is gone from that job.

Mike Parker was the Director of the Army Corps of Engineers who testified before Congress that the Bush-mandated budget cuts would have a ‘negative impact’ on the Corps. He was then given 30 minutes to resign or be fired. He had previously had clashes with Mitch Daniels, former director of the Office of Management and Budget, who refused to increase funding after been shown steel from a Mississippi canal lock that was completely corroded and falling apart.

Sylvia K. Lowrance was a top Environmental Protection Agency official who stated, “We will see more resignations in the future as the administration fails to enforce environmental laws. This Administration has pulled cases and put investigations on ice. They sent every signal they can to staff to back off.” Lowrance retired.

Bruce Boler resigned as an EPA scientist. “Wetlands are often referred to as nature’s kidneys. Most self-respecting scientists will tell you that, and yet private developers and officials at the Army Corps of Engineers wanted me to support their position that wetlands are, literally, a pollution source.”

Eric Schaeffer was Director of the Office of Regulatory Enforcement, at the EPA. He resigned and said, “In a matter of weeks, the Bush administration was able to undo the environmental progress we had worked years to secure. It became clear that Bush had little regard for the environment–and even less for enforcing the laws that protect it.”

Bruce Buckheit was a 30-year veteran of government service but he retired in frustration over Bush administration efforts to weaken environmental regulations. When asked by NBC, “What’s the biggest enforcement challenge right now when it comes to air pollution?,” the former Senior Counsel with the Environmental Enforcement Section of the US Department of Justice, and then Director of EPA’s Air Enforcement Division, was unequivocal: “The Bush Administration has decided to put the economic interests of the coal fired power plants ahead of the public interests in reducing air pollution.”

Rich Biondi retired as Associate Director of the Air Enforcement Division of the Environmental Protection Agency. “We weren’t given the latitude we had been, and the Bush administration was interfering more and more with the ability to get the job done.”

Martin E. Sullivan, Richard S. Lanier and Gary Vikan, three members of the White House Cultural Property Advisory Committee, they all resigned to protest the looting of Baghdad’s National Museum of Antiquities. The Committee Chairman, Sullivan, wrote: “The tragedy was not prevented, due
Buffy Sainte-Marie, composer of ‘The Universal Soldier’, a song which tells about the ultimate reason for war. She has written many famous songs but more importantly she is a mother, a peace activist, an educator and also on a US government blacklist that sought to suppress her music.

UNIVERSAL SOLDIER, written by Buffy in 1966, quite rightly asks soldiers to accept their responsibility for war, something they usually reject.

These are the lyrics from the Donovan version.

He’s five foot two,
and he’s six feet four,
he fights with, missiles and with spears,
he is all of thirty-one,
and he’s only seventeen,
he’s been a soldier for a thousand years.
He’s a Catholic, a Hindu,
an atheist, a Chein,
A Buddhist, and a Baptist and a Jew,
and he knows, he shouldn’t kill,
and he knows, he always will,
killed em for me, my friend, and me for you.

And he’s fighting for Canada,
he’s fighting for France,
he’s fighting for the USA.
and he’s fighting for the Russians,
and he’s fighting for Japan,
and he thinks we’ll put an end to war this way.
And he’s fighting for democracy,
he’s fighting for the Reds,
he says it’s for the peace of us all,
he’s the one who must decide,
who’s to live and who’s to die,
and he never sees the writing on the wall.

But without him, how would Hitler
have condemned in Meslabar,
without him Caesar would have stood alone,
he’s the one, who gives his body
as a weapon of the war,
and without him all this killin’ can’t go on.

He’s the universal soldier,
and he really is to blame,
his orders come from far away, no more,
they come from here and there,
and you and me, and brother,
can’t you see,
this is not, the way, we put, the end, to war.

THE BAD ONES

Like the good people list, this list of bad ones is far from complete. It is surprising how many of the bad ones do not want their life’s work exposed. I wonder if it seems strange to old CIA agents and others, when their life’s work is over, that it should be kept a secret? After all, if they worked so hard at something for so long they must be proud of it and we all want to divulge what we are proud of. But we still have to ask why so much of what America has done remains a secret?

The following is an important link but the twenty-five pages of information are too much to include here but it tells us who some of the seriously bad guys are. Of course they don’t think of themselves that way, on the contrary I’m sure. However they are the ones who stand to benefit from American wars, 9/11, homeland security and all the other bullshit espoused by the neo-con artists. They can be found at http://www.projectcensored.org/downloads/Global_Dominance_Group.pdf

Bill Gates, Bill is at the top of the bad guy list because he is the #1 inequality guy. Inequality can quite rightly be classified as this planets most serious problem. Bill has worked hard to make sure that he is less financially equitable than anyone else. It is interesting to look at a guy who gave away about $500,000,000 in 2005 or to put it another way, about 1% of his wealth. Of course it is a good thing, when those who have far too much give some to others but in Bill’s case there are a few questions. How did he acquire so many billions in the first place? In America having billions is considered successful because Americans do not seem to realize that they have less because others have so much. Does Mr. Gates understand that many have less because he has too much? By having more money than anyone else Mr. Gates epitomizes the wealthy class. Throughout history this class of people had never realized, or cared, that the wealth they have, made life so much more difficult for so many others. The philanthropy of Mr. Gates will be impressive when he lives a life with the materialism that this planet could support for everyone. Giving away
billions when you still have billions is a meaningless gesture for Mr. Gates in that it changes his life not one iota.

Robert Murdoch, is another billionaire who doesn’t understand how bad that is. As a media owner he is a force for evil because he manipulates the truth. He has called the oppressed, “Nazis” and environmentalists, “a threat to prosperity and well-being.” In fact there are few threats greater than Murdoch himself. His flawed media empire is responsible for countless deaths, some of which Murdoch has admitted to as, “mistakes”.

Richard Armitage, was knighted, secretly, by the Queen of England. The secrecy is understandable. A knighthood is considered by many to be a reward for something well done. In this case the Queen knighted Armitage because he is a zillionaire who helped get England and America into the Iraq war. Armitage worked with Oliver North whose illegal activities were kept secret by Reagan. Guys like Armitage have worked hard to enrich themselves while making the world a more dangerous and inequitable place. He also recently admitted that he was the guy who ‘outed’ CIA agent Valerie Plame Wilson.

Arlen Specter, just doesn’t get it, he doesn’t even come close. The US Supreme Court cut down some of Bush Jr, dictatorial powers and Specter got right in there by introducing a bill that would give Bush even more power. Specter has clearly forgotten who he works for. Specter’s bill seeks to change the very nature of US democracy, or what is left of it. Specter embraces authoritarian rule and states that any Bush decision regarding national security cannot be questioned by anyone or any group, like, maybe a supreme court or a few hundred million voters.

Steve Bradbury, is another ‘patriotic’ American who seeks to wreck the country. As Deputy Attorney General he told the Senate Judiciary Committee that, “the President is always right”. This committee was chaired by none other than Arlen Specter. Check out the history of these guys and you will begin to fear for America, if you don’t already.

Wesley Clark, might be a good guy but it doesn’t look like it. Clark is a good example of an American who lived off the fat of the land and then failed to protect it. He is now a retired four-star general and aspiring president. As an experienced, high ranking, military man he has lots of friends in high places and knows more than the average American. He knew in November 2001 that the Bush Jr. government was actively planning to attack Iraq but was also planning a five-year campaign to attack Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Iran, Somalia and Sudan. He says this in his recent book but he also says that he was “deeply concerned” about those plans. If you are any kind of leader who knows about foolish plans you have an obligation to let your fellow citizens know. Writing about it in a book years after the foolish plans have been implemented just doesn’t cut it. Clark is another high ranking US military man who has allowed his loyalty to a flawed administration to overrule his loyalty to the country. He and many other rich and powerful Americans need to remember the words of M.L. King, “A time comes when silence is betrayal.”
Paul Wolfowitz said the US would be greeted as liberators, that Iraqi oil money would pay for the reconstruction of Iraq and that Gen. Eric Shinseki’s estimate that several hundred thousand troops would be needed was “wildly off the mark.” For getting all that wrong Bush promoted Wolfowitz to head the World Bank in March 2005.

Most blatant lie: “We, as the whole world knows, have in fact found some significant evidence to confirm exactly what Secretary Powell said when he spoke to the United Nations about the development of mobile biological weapons production facilities that would seem to confirm fairly precisely the information we received from several defectors, one in particular who described the program in some detail.” 3 June, 2003.

Douglas Feith, as Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, spearheaded two secretive groups at the Pentagon - the Counter Terrorism Evaluation Group and the Office of Special Plans - that were instrumental in drawing up documents that explained the supposed ties between Saddam and al Qaeda. The groups were “created in order to find evidence of what Wolfowitz and his boss, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, believed to be true.” Colin Powell referred to Feith’s operation as the Gestapo. In Bob Woodward’s Plan of Attack, former CentCom Commander Gen. Tommy Franks called Feith the “fucking stupidest guy on the face of the earth.” During interviews Feith is protected by a military henchman who ends the interview if the questions get embarrassing.

Feith resigned from the Defense Department shortly after Bush’s reelection. He is co-chairman of a project at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government to write an academic book on how to fight terrorism. Feith’s secretive groups at the Pentagon are under investigation by the Pentagon and the Senate Intelligence Committee for intelligence failures.

Stephen Hadley, as Deputy National Security Advisor he disregarded memos from the CIA and a personal phone call from CIA Director George Tenet warning that references to Iraq’s pursuit of uranium be dropped from Bush’s speeches. The false information ended up in Bush’s 2003 State of the Union address. On January 26, 2005, Stephen Hadley was promoted to National Security Advisor.

Richard Perle, the so-called ‘Prince of Darkness’, was the chairman of Defense Policy Board during the run-up to the Iraq war. He suggested Iraq had a hand in 9-11. In 1996, he authored ‘Clean Break’, a paper that was co-signed by Douglas Feith, David Wurmser, and others that argued for regime change in Iraq. Shortly after the war began, Perle resigned from the Board because he came under fire for having relationships with businesses that stood to profit from the war. Perle is now a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute where he specializes in national security and defense issues. He has been investigated for ethical violations concerning war profiteering and other conflicts of interest.

Most idiotic statement: “And a year from now (2003), I’ll be very surprised if there is not some grand square in Baghdad that is named after President
Amoral America

Bush. There is no doubt that, with the exception of a very small number of people close to a vicious regime, the people of Iraq have been liberated and they understand that they’ve been liberated. And it is getting easier every day for Iraqis to express that sense of liberation.”

Elliot Abrams was one of the defendants in the Iran-Contra Affair, and he pled guilty to two misdemeanor counts of withholding information from Congress. Nevertheless he was appointed Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director on the National Security Council for Near East and North African Affairs during Bush’s first term, where he served as Bush’s chief advisor on the Middle East. His name surfaced as part of the investigation into who leaked the name of an undercover CIA operative Valerie Plame. Abrams was promoted to deputy national security adviser in February of 2005.

Most idiotic statement (2003): “We recognize that military action in Iraq, if necessary, will have adverse humanitarian consequences. We have been planning over the last several months, across all relevant agencies, to limit any such consequences and provide relief quickly.”

David Wurmser, at the time of the war, was a special assistant to John Bolton in the State Department. Wurmser has long advocated the belief that both Syria and Iraq represented threats to the stability of the Middle East. In early 2001, Wurmser called for air strikes against Iraq and Syria. Along with Perle, he is considered a main author of ‘Clean Break.’

Wurmser was promoted to Principal Deputy Assistant to the Vice President for National Security Affairs; he is in charge of coordinating Middle East strategy. His name has been associated with the Plame Affair and with an FBI investigation into the passing of classified information to Chalabi and AIPAC.

Dan Bartlett was the White House Communications Director at the time of the war and was a mouthpiece in hyping the Iraq threat. Bartlett was also a regular participant in the weekly meetings of the White House Iraq Group (WHIG). The main purpose of the group was the systematic coordination of the ‘marketing’ of going to war with Iraq as well as selling the war at home. Bartlett was promoted to Counselor to the President on January 5, 2005, and is responsible for the formulation of policy and implementation of the President’s agenda.

Mitch Daniels was the director of the Office of Management and Budget from January 2001 through June of 2003. In this capacity, he was responsible for releasing the initial budget estimates for the Iraq War which he pegged at $50 to $60 billion. In 2004, Daniels was elected Governor of Indiana.

Most idiotic statement: He said the war would be an “affordable endeavor” and rejected an estimate by the chief White House economic adviser Larry Lindsey that the war would cost between $100 billion and $200 billion as “very, very high.” The estimated cost of the war, including the full economic ramifications, will be over $2000 billion.

George Tenet, as CIA Director, was responsible for gathering information on Iraq and the potential threat posed by Saddam Hussein. According to
author Bob Woodward, Tenet told President Bush before the war that there was a “slam dunk case” that Saddam possessed weapons of mass destruction. Tenet remained publicly silent while the Bush administration made pre-war statements on Iraq’s supposed nuclear program and ties to al Qaeda that were contrary to the CIA’s judgments. Tenet issued a statement in July 2003, drafted by Karl Rove and Scooter Libby, taking responsibility for Bush’s false statements in his State of the Union address.

Tenet voluntarily resigned from the administration on June 3, 2004. He was later awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom. Being cooperative helps!

**Colin Powell**, like Tenet, allowed his respect for authority to get the better of him. Despite stating in Feb. 2001 that Saddam had not developed “any significant capability with respect to weapons of mass destruction,” Powell made the case in front of the United Nations for a United States-led invasion of Iraq, stating that, “There can be no doubt that Saddam Hussein has biological weapons and the capability to rapidly produce more, many more. And he has the ability to dispense these lethal poisons and diseases in ways that can cause massive death and destruction.” Aside from the fact that America had supplied these very same “biological weapons” to Iraq at the time of Powell’s speech they were not militarily available, something Scott Ritter had confirmed.

Shortly after Bush and other fat-cats claimed that he was reelected in 2004, Powell resigned from the administration. He is now doing OK and is slated to succeed Henry Kissinger as Chairman of the Eisenhower Fellowship Program at the City College of New York. Powell regards his UK speech as a mistake but by not speaking the truth today and following in Henry Kissinger’s footsteps it is clear that this old soldier still puts loyalty ahead of the truth. Too bad.

Update: Powell has recently, Sep. 2006, distanced himself from the Bush Jr. fear mongering. Perhaps Powell will do the right thing eventually.

**Donald Rumsfeld**, prior to the war, repeatedly suggested the war in Iraq would be short and swift. He said, “The Gulf War in the 1990s lasted five days on the ground. I can’t tell you if the use of force in Iraq today would last five days, or five weeks, or five months, but it certainly isn’t going to last any longer than that.” He also said, “It is unknowable how long that conflict will last. It could last six days, six weeks. I doubt six months.”

Despite being the least popular politician on the planet he is still popular with Bush, hummm.

Most idiotic statement: “Turning our backs on postwar Iraq today would be the modern equivalent of handing postwar Germany back to the Nazi’s.” Cancel that!! Here is his most idiotic statement, “As we know, there are known unknowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns — the ones we don’t know we don’t know.”

To be fair to this warmonger that is a pretty tricky statement to make and you have to keep your brain engaged just to repeat it.

**Condoleezza Rice**, as National Security Adviser, disregarded at least two
CIA memos and a personal phone call from Director George Tenet stating that the evidence behind Iraq’s supposed uranium acquisition was weak. She urged the necessity of war because, “we don’t want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud.”

In December of 2004, Condoleezza Rice was promoted to Secretary of State. Loyalty is number one!

Most idiotic statement, “The United States government does not authorize or condone torture of detainees.” Kinda reminds me of Bill, “I did not have sex with that women.”

**Dick Cheney** claimed that Iraq may have had a role in 9/11, stating that it was “pretty well confirmed” that 9/11 hijacker Mohammed Atta met with Iraqi intelligence officials. Cheney also claimed that Saddam was “in fact reconstituting his nuclear program” and that the US would be “greeted as liberators.”

Cheney’s loyalty earned him another four years in power when Bush claimed to have won re-election in 2004. Despite recent calls from some conservatives calling for him to be replaced, Cheney has said, “I’ve now been elected to a second term; I’ll serve out my term.”

**George W. Bush Jr.,** as President, had a choice, war or no war and his pro-war decision caused a massive number of deaths, unbearable suffering and destruction. He emphasized Saddam Hussein’s supposed stockpile of weapons of mass destruction, Saddam’s supposed ties to al Qaeda and supposed nuclear weapons program. He was the man that led the effort to build public support for an invasion of Iraq and he was successful but dead wrong. President Bush has not fired any of the architects of the Iraq war. In fact they have been rewarded - not blamed - for their incompetence.

Remarkably in November 2004, Bush won re-election. In spite of all the lies (www.bushlies.net) Bush is still President.

Most blatant lie: “We found the weapons of mass destruction. We found biological laboratories.” 29 May, 2003

**John Hagee,** considers himself a pastor while he advocates conflict, aggression and violence. When speaking about the American aggression in Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon he said, “This is a religious war that Islam cannot and must not win. The end of the world as we know it is rapidly approaching... Rejoice and be exceedingly glad the best is yet to be.” Amazingly, millions of Americans believe this guy. Ignorance is not and never has been bliss.

**Bill O’Reilly,** is a befuddled extremist but it’s not fair to indicate that he is the only Fox News manipulator in this category. It’s just that he is so good at it. Very few have convinced so many, that intolerance, violence and obedience are the way to go. As is usually the case there are actually people who believe what he has to say. Number 1 on that list would be Bill himself.
And now a letter from the bad guys in which they use their lies to call for the overthrow of a foreign government.

January 26, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing you because we are convinced that current American policy toward Iraq is not succeeding, and that we may soon face a threat in the Middle East more serious than any we have known since the end of the Cold War. In your upcoming State of the Union Address, you have an opportunity to chart a clear and determined course for meeting this threat. We urge you to seize that opportunity, and to enunciate a new strategy that would secure the interests of the US and our friends and allies around the world. That strategy should aim, above all, at the removal of Saddam Hussein’s regime from power. We stand ready to offer our full support in this difficult but necessary endeavor.

The policy of “containment” of Saddam Hussein has been steadily eroding over the past several months. As recent events have demonstrated, we can no longer depend on our partners in the Gulf War coalition to continue to uphold the sanctions or to punish Saddam when he blocks or evades UN inspections. Our ability to ensure that Saddam Hussein is not producing weapons of mass destruction, therefore, has substantially diminished. Even if full inspections were eventually to resume, which now seems highly unlikely, experience has shown that it is difficult if not impossible to monitor Iraq’s chemical and biological weapons production. The lengthy period during which the inspectors will have been unable to enter many Iraqi facilities has made it even less likely that they will be able to uncover all of Saddam’s secrets. As a result, in the not-too-distant future we will be unable to determine with any reasonable level of confidence whether Iraq does or does not possess such weapons.

Such uncertainty will, by itself, have a seriously destabilizing effect on the entire Middle East. It hardly needs to be added that if Saddam does acquire the capability to deliver weapons of mass destruction, as he is almost certain to do if we continue along the present course, the safety of American troops in the region, of our friends and allies like Israel and the moderate Arab states, and a significant portion of the world’s supply of oil will all be put at hazard. As you have rightly declared, Mr. President, the security of the world in the first part of the 21st century will be determined
largely by how we handle this threat.

Given the magnitude of the threat, the current policy, which depends for its success upon the steadfastness of our coalition partners and upon the cooperation of Saddam Hussein, is dangerously inadequate. The only acceptable strategy is one that eliminates the possibility that Iraq will be able to use or threaten to use weapons of mass destruction. In the near term, this means a willingness to undertake military action as diplomacy is clearly failing. In the long term, it means removing Saddam Hussein and his regime from power. That now needs to become the aim of American foreign policy.

We urge you to articulate this aim, and to turn your Administration’s attention to implementing a strategy for removing Saddam’s regime from power. This will require a full complement of diplomatic, political and military efforts. Although we are fully aware of the dangers and difficulties in implementing this policy, we believe the dangers of failing to do so are far greater. We believe the US has the authority under existing UN resolutions to take the necessary steps, including military steps, to protect our vital interests in the Gulf. In any case, American policy cannot continue to be crippled by a misguided insistence on unanimity in the UN Security Council.

We urge you to act decisively. If you act now to end the threat of weapons of mass destruction against the US or its allies, you will be acting in the most fundamental national security interests of the country. If we accept a course of weakness and drift, we put our interests and our future at risk.

Sincerely,

Elliott Abrams  Richard L. Armitage  William J. Bennett
Jeffrey Bergner  John Bolton  Paula Dobriansky
Francis Fukuyama  Robert Kagan  Zalmay Khalilzad
William Kristol  Richard Perle  Peter W. Rodman
Donald Rumsfeld  William Schneider, Jr.  Vin Weber
Paul Wolfowitz  R. James Woolsey  Robert B. Zoellick
Greece

“Patriotism is as fierce as a fever, as pitiless as the grave, as blind as a stone and as irrational as a headless hen.”
– Ambrose Bierce

“It was absurd to believe that barbarous means would lead to civilized ends.”
– William Henry Chamberlin (1897-1969)

“Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I’m not sure about the former.”
– Albert Einstein

“The trend toward secrecy is the greatest threat to democracy.”
– Associated Press CEO and President Tom Curley in a speech about the importance of openness.

The most blatant American interference in the affairs of Greece happened years ago but not much has changed, America is still ready to interfere in Greece, anytime. This interference may now amount to no more than keeping an eye on the Greek situation and writing reports but many world leaders know that they are asking for trouble if they stray too far from the line in the sand that America drew decades ago.

The Nazis overran Greece during WW II but the Greek resistance made life difficult for them. In 1944 Greece was liberated from the German occupation by the British and the Greek resistance fighters. The Greek fighters on both the left and the right, having eliminated the Nazis, began to fight each other. Other than the cities, the Greek communists/socialists controlled most of the country even before the Germans were kicked out.

The victors in this tragic war against the Nazis were primarily the British, Americans and Soviets who proceeded to divided Europe up into various zones of influence. Unfortunately they forgot to mention this to the people in various countries who had fought for their own freedom and thought they would be running their own countries. Churchill was to get a non-communist Greece, Stalin was to get Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. The Greeks were to get to
do what they were told. Churchill wanted to keep the Soviets out of Greece to deny the Russian Navy access to the Mediterranean. The British also wanted to protect their business interests in Greece. The forces of the Greek socialists could have easily taken the city of Athens but instead they obeyed the orders of the British as they believed the British promise that told them they would have a part in the post-war government. They should have known the history of the British. (see the Israel chapter)

The Greek Prime Minister, George Papandreou, had been in exile during the war but when he returned to Greece his government was in a difficult position. On one side were the socialists who had been fighting the Germans and preparing for the day when they would take power and run Greece. On the other side were the British who sought to protect their own interests. These included returning the king of Greece to power and collaborating with the minority right-wing forces because they opposed the socialists. Papandreou got the Brits to agree that the Greek king George, who was also in exile, would not return to Greece until after a plebiscite. He thought this would help to keep the Royalists and the right-wing forces from fighting against the socialist communists.

Churchill then created a confrontation between the new Greek government and the former resistance fighters who wanted a socialistic government. Papandreou ordered 60,000 members of the resistance to disarm if they wanted to take part in the government. The socialists agreed, provided that all the Nazi collaborators were removed from positions of power and the ultra-right security battalions were also disarmed or arrested. The British had no desire to disarm the ultra-right groups because they knew they would help the Brits to get rid of the socialists/communists when the time came.

The Greek Prime Minister couldn’t carry out the programs of the British-backed extreme right because there were too many socialists but he also failed to support the socialists. The socialist ministers in his government resigned and a protest rally was staged by their supporters in Syntagma Square, to be followed by a general strike. The British ambassador demanded that the government stop the Greek people from protesting. The government agreed to break up the rally; the police open fire on the demonstrators, killing several.
As it so often does, this government over reaction started six weeks of fighting between the Greek fighters who had just finished a war with the Germans and the British troops in Athens who sided with the right-wing security battalions all over Greece. In early 1945 Churchill brokered a peace between the socialists and British forces. The two groups signed an agreement which was to disarm the socialist resistance fighters as well as the Nazi collaborators and the far-right groups who had been attacking the socialists/communists. Trials began for men on both sides who were charged with crimes but only the socialist side got severe sentences while the Nazi collaborators were let off lightly. Due to this bias the trials stopped but the persecution of the socialists continued. The Greek government had no power over the British supported right-wing para-militaries responsible for this persecution.

At the end of 1945 the disenfranchised communists/leftists met with various Bulgarian and Yugoslavian officers who assure them that they could use Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia as bases in the event of a full-scale war. When the Greek government failed to honor the agreement to rid the country of Nazi collaborators, who continued to attack those on the left, the leftist majority abstained from the elections. They then attacked a police station which was the beginning of the Greek civil war. In January, 1946 three thousand right-wing troops attacked the town of Kalamata, freeing imprisoned collaborators, killing 14 unarmed citizens and escaping with 150 hostages. They executed some of their hostages and killed some relatives of known communists. The Greek government failed or was unable to take action and in the United Nations the Soviet Ambassador detailed the attacks on Greek citizens by the British backed security battalions. Elections were approaching but the left, who represent the largest number of Greeks, decide not to participate knowing that they are fighting against the government, the British, the king and the right, who were running the process.

The British government pressured the Greeks to hold the elections as planned although they knew the results would rip the country apart. It was not only the British who wanted to rush this election; the US also made it clear to Prime Minister Sophoulis that it should proceed. Despite knowing that disaster was around the next corner, the Greek government declared that since not even a two month postponement would be permitted by the UK and the US, elections would go on as planned. In the first free Greek elections in 10 years, less than half the eligible voters actually voted. The two right-wing parties got a majority of these votes. The US and Britain lowballed the abstentions to give the election validity and claimed the elections fair since they had observed no violence or voter intimidation. But who was there to intimidate if the left did not participate?

The opening session of parliament called for the return of the king. Well armed gangs attacked the left and the liberals, and there were daily political assassinations. The right wing government used the power of the state against anyone who opposed them. People were dismissed from government jobs and
even private jobs if they had leftist leanings. At this point it was not only the communists who were heading for the mountains but terrified citizens. In yet another rigged election 68% voted for the return of the king. King George arrived in Greece on September 27, 1946. At the same time the British were writing a report calling their situation hopeless as the Greek people were not behind them.

While the Greek government fought the leftists in the streets of Athens the leftists formed a new Army to fight the government. By early 1947, this army controlled over 100 Greek villages and thousands of fighters. All this conflict was devastating to the Greeks who just wanted peace after a long war. In 1947 the communist party was outlawed in Greece and the government proceeded to arrest 3,000. The British, who had made such a mess of Greece, announce they were no longer able to support the government they put in power but not to worry, they are going to turn everything over to the Americans.

President Truman then poured money, weapons and military advisors into the country to support the right-wing royalist Greek government against the leftist whom the Americans prefers to call communists. President Roosevelt was gone by this time but he believed that Churchill should have left the Greeks alone to sort out their own problems. If left to work this out for themselves, without the intervention and manipulations of the British and the Americans, life in Greece might have been very pleasant after the war. It was anything but.

America’s aggressive control of the situation just made things worse. They never tried to get the two sides together and form a peaceful coalition. Nope, it was the same old ‘kill em all’ approach that is currently failing in Iraq. There was support for the leftist’s and communists in Greece and any government that represented the people should have included them. Instead tens of thousands were to die so that the one group, favored by America, could run the whole show. America and England could have worked to minimize conflict and got people working together. The American support for one side thwarted democracy rather than fostering it. Their intransigence and arrogance allowed them to reject a significant portion of the Greek people and ignore their concerns. It was not the Greeks who did not believe in democracy it was the Americans and the British because they knew what was ‘right’ for this
America was not asked to run Greece by the Greeks, they were asked by the Brits and then they tried to make it look like Greece had requested their help. The primary American motivation was to prevent the Greek leftists from turning Greece into a communist state. Something the Greeks and Stalin had no intention of doing. Hundreds of American officers came over to run the Greek army. America supplied them with weapons, uniforms; you name it, almost a billion dollars worth of goodies to fight their fellow Greeks. This civil war was made possible by America and it lasted until the end of 1949. Tens of thousands died, many Greeks were uprooted from their homes but in the end American money prevailed and corrupt right-wing governments, under the thumb of the Americans, continued to call the shots.

On May 16, 1948 the body of CBS News correspondent George Polk was found in a Greek harbor after he had gone to interview a leftist leader. Another journalist, who worked for a Greek Communist paper was arrested and tried. Gregory Staktopoulos was convicted of being an accomplice along with several guerilla leaders, two of whom may have been dead before the murder had occurred. Staktopoulos was tortured to get a confession that he later denied until his death in 1988. Staktopoulos appears to have been the scapegoat as Polk’s articles had been very critical of the American and Greek Governments. He had uncovered a scandal involving a leading Royalist and the Greek Foreign Minister Constantine Tsaldaris, which could have brought down the government.

It was obvious to the Greek people that the communists were the scapegoats and unlikely perpetrators of this killing simply because Polk was critical of the Americans and the right-wing Greeks, not the communists. The New York Newspaper Guild attempted to send an independent team of journalists to Greece to investigate Polk’s death. They were prevented from doing so by powerful Americans who refuse to back an independent inquiry. In January, 2004 the widow of Staktopoulou’s asked for a posthumous retrial based on claims of new evidence that proved her husbands innocence. It was rejected by the Supreme Court of Greece. It was only the US and Greek governments who
Amoral America

in 1948 and 2004 had anything to hide because they were the only ones with a motive.

This civil war was a disaster for the Greeks. Many more were killed during this period than during the Nazi occupation. The violent mistakes on both sides caused an estimated 12,777 Greek army deaths plus over 4,000 missing. Over 4,000 civilians were killed. An estimated 38,000 who fought on the leftist/communist side were killed. To this we must add the tens of thousands wounded, the homes destroyed and the millions spent on arms instead of rebuilding the country plus all of the infrastructure loses.

In the end the communists could not compete with American arms and realized that their struggle was over. Some were executed as traitors. Many were sent to prison on the island of Makronissos without charge or trial where many were tortured and forced to confess to treason. Others escaped across the border to Yugoslavia and Eastern Europe, never to return again. Almost all of these men were young patriotic Greeks who simply wanted a better life for themselves, their families and friends without the kings and millionaires who caused the war in the first place.

In the 1950s thousands of Greeks were still being rounded up and imprisoned if they were considered threats. This was made easier by the formation of a Greek secret service modeled after the CIA.

George Polk may have been killed by his own government.

Greece was now a strong American ally, they sent troops to Korea, they joined NATO, they were now anti-communist but it didn’t turn out this way because the Greeks were part of a democratic process.

In 1955 the Prime Minister died in office and the US Ambassador John Peurifoy counseled King Paul of Greece to appoint a young Greek politician as Prime Minister. It is so much easier running a country when you can go to your friends in high places and get them to call the shots. Democracy can be so time consuming.

Like most kings, George II lived a life of luxury and never had to get a job. This king was very cooperative with the US; all kings are.
The American choice for new Prime Minister, Karamanlis, was an able administrator and a conservative. During another election in 1961 he won but the results were disputed. Karamanlis replied that if there was voting fraud the king was up to it. This didn’t make him very popular with the king so after much bickering Karamanlis left for exile in France in late 1963. The country was in turmoil and this resulted in five Prime Ministers during 1963. The last elected one was George Papandreou in November. His progressive policies were bitterly opposed by the conservatives as well as the king and the CIA. King Constantine II openly opposed Papandreou’s government and there were frequent rightist plots in the Army which also destabilized the government. Finally the King engineered a split and in July 1965 he dismissed the government. During this maneuver the king was assisted by the CIA to ensure that the Papandreou government failed.

The Greek government was overthrown in a military coup in April 1967. Five officers took over, four of them involved with the US military or the CIA. The leader that emerged was George Papadopoulos, an ex-Nazi who had caught members of the Greek resistance during WW II. He had also been on the CIA payroll for some 15 years and was an avid anti-communist. The guy was perfect!

Henry Tasca, the American Ambassador to Greece said that this government was “the most anti-communist group you’ll find anywhere.” During Papadopoulos first few months in office he rounded up 8,000 leftists and many were abused. As a result of this torture, Greece was expelled from the European Commission on Human Rights but that didn’t stop American support for this regime. Papadopoulos went on to last 7 years with American support and the support of the Greek military, which owed so much to the Americans. He allowed US military bases on Greek soil, which housed everything from nuclear weapons to spies. To show their gratitude for all this American support this Greek government gave over one-half a million dollars to Nixon’s election campaign. When the US Senate tried to investigate this illegal political contribution it was quashed by Kissinger. The American government was fully aware of how crappy this government was for many of the Greece people but they were prepared to overlook this because they got what they wanted. When Papadopoulos and all of his...
gang were finally given the boot in 1974 he and his friends were tried for human rights abuses. He was found guilty and sentenced to death but this was later commuted to life in prison where he died at age 80.

After Papadopoulos was forced out in late 1973 the next two Greek Prime Ministers were CIA confidants or employees but they didn’t last long. In July, 1974, Karamanlis returned after 11 years in exile. He was more popular than ever and bought new freedoms to Greece, such as legalizing the communist party that America had gone to such trouble to crush. He went on to make the transition from military dictatorship to civilian rule in a competent manner. Eventually he was to spend 14 years as Prime Minister and 10 years as President. Although a conservative he was not opposed to state control if it seemed reasonable.

Andreas Papandreou is the son of the Prime Minister who was forced out by the king and the CIA in 1965. He became Prime Minister of Greece twice, for a total of 11 years. During his term Papandreou found that the Greece secret service routinely bugged senior government ministers and then turned over the tapes to the CIA. In fact the two agencies worked so closely together they might as well have been one. Papandreou wanted to take Greece out of the cold war which was basically America’s war. He thought it was OK to get along with the Soviets, that Greece should not be a member of NATO and that there was too much US military in Greece. America feared that he might make those changes but he never did. His 11 years in office were undoubtedly a result of his compromises that America accepted. The tragic Greek civil war is long over but many still hate America for the force they unleashed on so many of their young men when they could have promoted a peaceful resolution.
GRENADA

“One hundred nations in the UN have not agreed with us on just about everything that’s come before them, where we’re involved, and it didn’t upset my breakfast at all.”

– Ronald Reagan, after the illegal US invasion of Grenada

“If my soldiers were to begin to think, not one of them would remain in the army.”

– Frederick the Great

“Terrorism is the war of the poor, and war is the terrorism of the rich.”

– Sir Peter Ustinov

“I think people took Grenada for what it turned out to be, which was a very specific incident and from which one couldn’t necessarily make a lot of generalizations.”

– John Negroponte

“To initiate a war of aggression... is not only an international crime, it is the supreme international crime, differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole.”

– Nuremberg Tribunal

On March 13th, 1979, Grenada, a small island in the Caribbean with 100,000 people, got a new government. Their lousy government had been lead by a guy named Gairy who was implicated in various corruption scandals as well as having a personal protection unit called the ‘Mongoose squad’. Gairy had run the country into the ground and turned the local hotels and nightclubs into booming brothels. Gairy also spent an inordinate amount of time and money investigating why UFOs landed near Trinidad. Go figure? America did not intervene during all the years that Gairy ran Grenada into the ground.

Gairy was overthrown by Maurice Bishop who probably had some pretty strong motivations. Some five years previously, on January 24th, 1974, Gairy’s police force opened fire on unarmed civilian demonstrators killing a Mr. Rupert Bishop. It was this Mr. Bishop’s son who overthrew Mr. Gairy and, as it turned
out, was to be violently killed himself.

Two people were killed in the 1979 overthrow of the incompetent Gairy government. The new gang called themselves ‘The New Jewel Movement’ and they were a group of idealistic, naïve Marxist-Leninists with no government experience. Overthrowing an existing government is never a good way to get started; but there are times when existing governments should be replaced. For many years America has helped to get rid of governments with socialistic tendencies, it has is never been the other way round.

This new Bishop Government faced a formidable task as the government was broke and poverty affected many people in Grenada. They started with the basics, new schools, improved social services, tried to provide clean water, women’s rights, workers’ rights, free health care, free milk for kids, school books and uniforms and other solutions. Even today, this government is remembered for an effective popular education program, their expansion of secondary schools, their improvements to the health care system that provided free, quality treatment for the poor and the fact that they revitalized trade unions and encouraged involvement in local government.

They also sought help from Cuba; and that was their mistake. Cuba agreed to help Grenada but America has been obsessed about destroying the Cuban government, and any other government that cooperates with it, since 1959. (see the Cuba chapter) America therefore had to destroy this Grenadian government and fortunately one of America’s greatest commie fighters was to emerge in 1981.

During the next few years America kept an eye on this new Bishop government while the government of Grenada did their best. Like many new governments they were inexperienced and naïve so they could have used some help. They did make significant social progress and the people responded with new confidence and pride in their country. Crime was down and tourism was up. Unemployment dropped from 49% to 14% by 1983. The economy was well managed and equality improved however some of Grenada’s neighbours were not happy. They didn’t want this type of socialistic thinking spreading to their poor islands. One of the most opposed was Eugenia Charles, the Prime Minister of Dominica, which just happened to be one of the poorest islands in the region. Of course, as America watched, socialism make life better for most of the people in

Gairy was a long term leader of Grenada who simply failed to implement programs that could benefit the people. America never bothered him just because he was incompetent.
Grenada they decided to act and soon the CIA was up to its old tricks. America formulated the usual plan which was to wreck the Grenadian economy and therefore bring down this government that had by now been around for about three years. This was the same ‘helping hand’ that America had used to devastate so many other countries in Central America. (refer to any Central American chapter) The US tried to block loans to Grenada; they tried to discourage American tourists from visiting, they installed hidden microphones in Grenada’s UN mission offices and they spread propaganda about how dangerous the Grenadian terrorists were, in conjunction with those other commie terrorists. That was all well and good but President Regan was not particularly patient with commies that were obviously trying to wreck ‘the American way of life’ with Grenadian military might.

The Bishop government didn’t always help their cause. Like all governments, they made mistakes. They arrested some people and held them without charge. They didn’t hold elections as required, saying that it was a waste of time, even when they would have won. Many of their leaders were simply too young and inexperienced and by 1983 they had lost a significant amount of public support. We shouldn’t forget that the CIA was also out there helping to erode their support and this is always a difficult factor to quantify because the CIA prefers to keep their ‘helping hand’ a secret.

Due to a dispute between the Central Committee of Bishops own Revolutionary Government and Prime Minster Bishop, he along with some of his supporters were placed under house arrest on October 18th, 1983. This action was rejected by the people, an estimated 15,000 to 30,000 of whom showed up and freed him. Bishop and his band of supporters were taken to the army’s headquarters at Fort Rupert where they thought they could find loyal Army support. The Central Committee then arrived along with a military force who wanted Bishop removed from his supporters. Violence ensued and an estimated 20 people were killed including the 6 persons mentioned below. Bishop and five loyal members of his government were then executed in the Fort on that same day, October 19th, 1983. Also executed were Norris Bain, Fitzroy Bain, Jacqueline Creft, Unison Whiteman and Vincent Noel who were all associated with the Bishop government. Bishop’s body was never found.
These killings are very suspicious because Grenada is a very small country that was generally happy with the Bishop government. Their small military would not revolt against their Prime Minister and go so far to kill him, along with other senior government ministers, without extreme motivation from another faction. It is illogical to think that members of Bishop's own party would support a killing spree of this magnitude knowing that their involvement would precipitate their imprisonment and preclude their running the country. Also, why would they kill their own Prime Minister and so many Ministers in their own government, even if they disagreed with them?

America and their always meddlesome embassies, this time in Grenada, were aware of these difficulties. It seems crazy but in light of these difficulties, which were strictly Grenadian, President Reagan diverted a naval task force, on its way to Lebanon, to restore order on October 21st, 1983. The invasion was called Operation Urgent Fury which may have indicated that this invasion should be short as Lebanon called. The navy had no maps of Grenada but copied some tourist maps and landed 6,000 troops when a couple of cool headed cops would have done the job.

The British had many interests in Grenada but the Yanks forgot to tell them they were invading. Oh well, the UN called the invasion ‘a flagrant violation of international law’ in any case. Reagan said, “Our days of weakness are over! Our military forces are back on their feet and standing tall.” Presumably he was not talking about the 250 American troops who were blasted to hell by a huge bomb in Lebanon.

This invasion on the 25th of October 1983 with armed troops, ships and aircraft was ludicrous as Grenada was no threat to America. America did kill people in Grenada and did evacuate a few American medical students but it later became known that Grenada had offered to fly the American students out of the country so that reason for the invasion was bogus.

Reagan then told the world that the Soviets and Cubans were installing a major military facility to export terror and undermine democracy. Now that might be a pretty good reason-except it wasn’t true. Cuba had, in the course
of helping Grenada, over 700 Cubans on the island of Grenada, most of them, 636, were construction workers helping to construct the new airport. The remainder were doctors, dentists, nurses and 43 military personnel. Eventually America reduced its claim from almost 2,000 ‘professional’ Cuban military to the true figure of 43. That number was further reduced when they killed 24 Cubans and wounded 61. American propaganda also stated that a Soviet submarine base was being built in Grenada, in an area too shallow for subs and that the Soviets had shipped supersonic fighters, helicopters and other offensive weapons to Grenada but those were never actually seen or found. Reagan went on to say that the airport the Cubans were helping to build was actually a military airbase but the British contractor for the airport stated that: “The airport was being built to purely civilian specifications.” During the invasion, the American military allowed no media or journalists on to the island, from America or anywhere else.

America has had its eye on the entire Caribbean for a long time. In addition to regarding the Caribbean as their own private lake, America is focused on preventing any socialistic government from gaining a foothold in the region. In any case America violated international law with their invasion of a sovereign country. The UN General Assembly condemnation was ignored by the US and the Security Council resolution that also condemned this invasion was vetoed by the US.

The members of Bishops government who made up the Central Committee were arrested by the American troops and imprisoned on US ships. The Americans violated a number of other international laws in the treatment of these 17 citizens of Grenada. Their whereabouts was kept secret; they were not allowed legal representation during their interrogations, their imprisonment was inhuman, they were kept by the Americans when they had committed no crime against Americans or America.

Bernard Coard, who was the leader of this group and fifteen others, alleged that they were tortured by the Americans that detained them. During the trial the judge only examined the torture claims of one defendant. In short there were many violations of international law during the trial of these 17 people. The selection of the jury was suspicious and did not follow conventional Grenadian protocol. On December 4th, 1986, 12 of the defendants were
Amoral America

sentenced to death and five to 15 years imprisonment. Article 4.4, American Convention on Human Rights, states: “In no case shall capital punishment be inflicted for political offences or related common crimes.” The convictions were appealed and there were many irregularities with this process as well.

Many of the documents requested by the defendants’ lawyers were not made available by the government. Both the prosecution and the judiciary were assisted by the Political Office of the US Embassy in Grenada; in fact, the judge was paid by the US. The information received from the US Embassy reportedly included information on how to dismiss an appeal on the grounds of timeliness, how to prohibit oral submissions, and reportedly even on the content of the Court’s opinion. Why is the US Embassy involved in a trial of foreigners in a foreign country?

The 1991 appeal failed and the 14 remained on ‘death row’ while the sentences for the other three were actually increased by the government, not the courts. A gallows was built in the prison in full view of the prisoners. Their cells were 3 x 2 meters, had no window; running water or toilet facilities and the lights were left on 24 hours a day. The prisoners were allowed one piece of paper per month and could write on only one side. They were allowed to receive one piece of mail per month. The Appeal was never printed and the defendants were denied their legal right to a Privy Council appeal. The executions were not carried out but the 17 remain in jail, some with serious health problems. Eventually the death sentences were commuted. In early 2000 the three soldiers who received multiple 15-year sentences were released.

Oh, well. The Americans, with their 6,000 troops, prevailed and the socialist government was replaced by a government under American influence. Most importantly, the rest of the socialists were imprisoned and won’t be able to bring that kind of government back to Grenada. The airport was finished by the Americans and they made it suitable for their military. The propaganda continued as the islanders where told, over and over, how bad those commies were. Most of the world voted at the UN to condemn the American action but, then, America has been ignoring the UN for some time.

As the years passed, democracy in Grenada has had a hard time with American assistance. Reports from the American ‘Council on Hemispheric Affairs’ stated that prisoners on the island were being mistreated, that the US-trained police had a reputation for brutality, that the government was

Bernard Coard, still in a Trinidadian prison after it was hit by a hurricane in 2004.
increasingly authoritarian and that various media outlets and books were banned. In recent years reports of corruption, always so damaging in a poor country, have become commonplace.

In 1983, Ms. Karen Parker filed a successful suit against the United States at the O.A.S. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on behalf of the victims of Grenada’s mental hospital which was bombed by US forces during the invasion. Ms. Parker’s Grenada case represents the first time any international human rights forum had admitted an action against the United States, the commission finding prima facie evidence that the alleged crimes had in fact occurred. She also submitted an amicus curiae brief in support of the Center for Constitutional Rights petition regarding US actions in Panama.

Once again we had a well-
intentioned government in a small, poor country that could have really used some American support during their formative years. Instead America decided that their government was not acceptable to America and had to go. America then proceeded to spend far more militarily than they ever would have if they had chosen a peaceful path. The end result is always the same. The majority is still poor; the American supported government is corrupt and/or promotes inequality and hatred for America is more pervasive than ever. Although many people do not understand just how meddlesome America is, many do know that violent American solutions create far more problems than they solve. For America, and everyone else.
This chapter summarizes one of the most important American interventions in Central American history. Guatemala is important because it was the first time that America secretly overthrew a democratically elected sovereign government in this part of the world. The CIA had just overthrown Mossadegh, the Prime Minister of Iran, so perhaps they came to believe they could covertly overthrow anyone they wanted. The ‘successful’ American experience in Iran reinforced the American perception that this sort of illegal manipulation was good for America. This perception was and is, consistent with the impunity and arrogance that the white-man brought to the new world. It is still with us and still causing death, destruction, suffering and poverty in far off lands while wrecking havoc in America itself.

In the good old days the Mayans of Guatemala created a remarkable society more advanced than anything in Europe. Although much of their history has been destroyed or lost the remaining Mayan temples show that these people had an advanced civilization virtually unmatched at the time. When the Spanish invaded in 1523 everything changed and nothing got better.

Until independence from Spain on the 5th of September, 1821 the Mayans suffered at the hands of the Europeans. Life did not improve significantly for them in the new independent ‘Central American Federation’ which, at that time was made up of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Civil war between the rich and poor as well conflict between the liberals and the conservatives seemed constant. By 1840 the five states in the Federation
had had enough and decided to operate as separate countries. Ruthlessness at the hands of the Europeans during the previous 300 years established attitudes that continued to plague Central America.

The next leader of Guatemala was an illiterate dictator who continued to exacerbate the class divisions until his death in 1865. Next up was a leader who was part of a liberal group who seized power in 1871. He reduced the power of the church and aristocracy, improved education and allowed foreign investment. Unfortunately he also believed that the ‘Central American Federation’ of the 1830s should be restored. He died in a battle for that objective. The next leader rigisted the elections and amassed a personal fortune while in office. The Guatemala Congress finally got rid of him in 1920. The next dictator was a General who improved the lives of the indigenous people but ran a police state that banned free speech and a free press.

Hand in glove with some of these despotic rulers was a powerful American company, the United Fruit Company (UFC). They got started in Guatemala in 1901 when the dictator at the time granted the company the exclusive right to transport mail from Guatemala to the US. Over a relatively few years the UFC became known as ‘El Pulpo’ or the Octopus, due to its stranglehold on Guatemala. The UFC controlled virtually all of the transportation and communications in the country. They charged exorbitant rates for coffee growers to move their product on UFC banana trains. They negotiated an exception from almost all taxes for 99 years on some of ‘their’ land. They aligned themselves with and supported the right-wing dictators who usually ran the country. They owned the only seaport on the Atlantic side of Guatemala and they had the power to treat people ruthlessly if they wanted to use it. The company made huge profits for the American owners and as a result they were very well connected in America. In fact many of the senior members of the American plutocracy had invested in the UFC.

In 1944 the inevitable revolution occurred due to the oppression and poverty of the people. This resulted in a revolutionary junta, the first democratic constitution in the history of the country and the first free presidential election, won in a landslide (85%) by Juan José Arévalo. This new government improved health, civil liberties, education and
as a result life improved for the poor people of Guatemala. During this time Guatemala was one of the founding members of the UN and the Organization of American States. Women were given the right to vote, unions and other political parties were also permitted. Unfortunately the rich saw all this as a grave threat and during the five Arévalo years the military tried to overthrow him 20 times.

The next free election in 1950 was marred by the killing of the right-wing candidate who was supported by a Guatemalan military officer named Carlos Armas. Previously Armas was one of the people who tried unsuccessfully to overthrow the government of Arévalo. Armas was wounded during his take-over attempt and imprisoned but escaped from jail and made his way to Honduras. A left-wing candidate and former army officer named Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán took over as President in 1951 after winning a clear majority and he continued in the progressive footsteps of Arévalo.

At that time 72% of the land in Guatemala was owned by 2% of the population but only 12% of it was being used. Due to other uses only 10% of the land was available to over 90% of the people. To provide the people of Guatemala with land Arbenz expropriated unused land and gave it to the peasants. He agreed to pay the United Fruit Company (UFC) the same value for the land that the UFC declared it was worth for tax purposes, $1.2 million. Although the UFC was quite happy to pay taxes on this assessed value they were not happy to sell it for that amount. They demanded $15.9 million and the US government backed up that demand. This was outrageous as the UFC did not create the land, was not using the land to grow food and was only holding it, at no cost, to eliminate competition in the banana business. In addition they got it for next to nothing in the first place. Those considerations and the needs of the poor in Guatemala were insignificant as far as the rich politicians and mandarins in Washington were concerned.

Arbenz proceeded to expropriate the unused land and paid the UFC the value that UFC had declared it was worth. In March 1953, 209,842 acres of United Fruit Company’s uncultivated land was expropriated by the government. At that time UFC had about 550,000 acres but only 15% or 82,000 acres were cultivated. United Fruit Company’s largest shareholder, Samuel Zemurray, organized an anti-Arbenz campaign in the American media. This included the false claim that Guatemala was the beginning of ‘Soviet expansion in the Americas’.

Arbenz then proceeded to build 6000 schools, he improved health care and
had another railroad and seaport built to compete with the UFC. Arbenz believed that facilities for the benefit of Guatemalans should be built rather than expropriated from outfits like the UFC. The UFC and the corrupt dictators they supported created a difficulty with land that left Arbenz with no choice. If he was to improve the lives of the people, the government of Guatemala had to expropriate unused UFC land. As a result the CIA and the American government painted Arbenz as a Communist but there was nothing to suggest such a label. In fact Arbenz and the Guatemalan government often voted with the US at the United Nations. In spite of those facts the American government was not about to allow any government, democratically elected or otherwise, to exist unless the rich were allowed to accumulate excessive wealth without these restrictions.

The UFC complained to Washington about these ‘Communists’ in Guatemala. Eisenhower’s personal secretary was married to a senior UFC executive so Eisenhower soon got the message about those ‘Commies’ but he also got the message from a number of other sources. John Foster Dulles, who was Eisenhower’s Secretary of State, was a lawyer for the UFC. His brother Allen Dulles was the director of the CIA at the same time and also a member of the UFC Board of Trustees. With all these senior officials determined to get ‘justice’ for the UFC the American President agreed to take action and directed the CIA to get involved. Due to all the UFC muscle power in Washington the plot to overthrow Arbenz got top priority. After the CIA decided to remove Arbenz, a man named Wisner assumed overall responsibility for the operation. Richard Bissell who was head of the Directorate for Plans had experience conducting ‘anti-communist’ operations all around the world. Arbenz then became an ‘executive action’ target, but he was just one amongst many.

The Dulles brothers and other powerful Americans who were connected to the UFC were able to get the US government to apply pressure where the UFC wanted it applied. J.F. Dulles had already negotiated a very large 99 year lease of

Allen Dulles was the head of the CIA. He had just completed the ‘successful’ overthrow of the government in Iran so the overthrow of Guatemala was just another ‘success’. He and his brother caused incredible damage and took many secrets to their graves, including many about JFK.
Guatemala land, tax-free. Allan Dulles owned a large amount of UFC stock as did other US government officials. The American decision to remove Arbenz had nothing to do with ‘democracy’ or ‘communism’ and everything to do with money. That was reason enough for America’s elite to remove a democratically elected leader. It was reason enough to start a conflict that was to eventually kill over 200,000, according to a United Nations Commission and it was reason enough to call the secret operation ‘Operation Success’.

In CIA documents, heavily censored before finally being released in 1997, are lists of prominent Guatemalans to be eliminated, ‘through Executive Action.’ This was CIA doublespeak for murder. The ‘A’ list contained 59 names all of which were blacked out by CIA censors. Therefore it is not possible to tell which Guatemalan leaders were actually killed by CIA operatives. The CIA documents tell how the US began to train and arm Guatemalan exiles on UFC land in Honduras and Nicaragua. Carlos Castillo Armas, the man who tried to overthrow Guatemalan President Arévalo, was made the figurehead for this planned CIA coup. To soften up the people and the Guatemalan military, the CIA called uncooperative military officers, “between 2 and 5 am” and threatened them with death. They called the superiors of these officers and accused the officers of “tax evasion or treason.” They placed the ‘cooperative’ Guatemalan officers on the payroll and planned the assassinations of people they couldn’t bribe. Although the CIA broke every rule in the book there was one rule they always followed: “No assassination instructions should ever be written or recorded.”

Another CIA operative, Jake Esterline was placed in charge of the CIA’s Washington task force that was set up to overthrow Arbenz. This effort was called ‘Operation Success’ and Tracy Barnes was appointed the field commander. Propaganda (another word for lying) was always important in these operations and this was run by David Atlee Phillips. Phillips claims he said to Barnes: “But Arbenz became President in a free election. What right do we have to help someone topple his government and throw him out of office?” Barnes apparently convinced Phillips that it was vitally important that the Soviets did not establish a “beachhead in Central America”. Proving that the Soviets were actually involved in Guatemala was not considered necessary.

The CIA lying (propaganda) campaign included the distribution of 100,000 copies of a pamphlet entitled, ‘Chronology of Communism in Guatemala’. The CIA also produced three

President Eisenhower gave a great departing speech when he left the Presidency but he seems to have made decisions that, he must have known, would be disastrous for the people in Central America.
films on Guatemala which were shown for free in cinemas. Phillips, along with E. Howard Hunt, later of Watergate fame, was responsible for running the CIA’s ‘Voice of Liberation’ radio station. Faked photographs were also distributed that claimed to show the mutilated bodies of opponents of Arbenz. Another CIA agent, William (Rip) Robertson also helped out in the campaign against Arbenz.

The CIA provided financial and logistic support for their man, Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas. More right-wing support emerged from Anastasio Somoza, the dictator of Nicaragua (see that chapter) and this helped Armas form a rebel army in Nicaragua. It has been estimated that between January and June, 1954, the CIA spent about $20 million on this illegal army.

On the 18th of June, 1954, US controlled aircraft dropped leaflets over Guatemala demanding that Arbenz resign immediately or else the county would be bombed. CIA’s ‘Voice of Liberation’ also put out similar radio broadcasts. This was followed by a week of bombing the harbors, ammunition dumps, military barracks and the international airport.

Guillermo Toriello, the legitimate Guatemalan foreign minister appealed to the UN to help protect the Guatemalan government. Henry Cabot Lodge, the American UN representative tried to block the Security Council from discussing a resolution to send an investigation team to Guatemala. When this failed he put pressure on Security Council members to vote against the resolution. Britain and France were both initially in favor of the investigation team going to Guatemala but both buckled under US pressure and agreed to abstain. As a result the resolution was defeated by 5 votes to 4. The UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold was so upset by the US scam that he considered resigning from his post.

The CIA coup with Armas as the ‘leader’ invaded Guatemala in June 1954 and encountered very light resistance from the Guatemalan military. This had everything to do with prior CIA efforts such as the ones already mentioned plus, the bribing of Guatemalan military men, clandestine radio programs, false rumors, phony newspaper articles, phony sermons delivered from the pulpits of the Roman Catholic Church, planting secret arms cashes and blaming ‘Communists’, flying an aircraft overhead painted with Soviet markings, displays of military might and direct military assistance which included bombings. No stone was left unturned. During this coup, on the 27th of June, a British merchant ship, the Springfjord, was bombed and sunk by CIA aircraft. The British government covered up the incident, even confiscating a film of the attack taken by some of the crew. Some time later the CIA quietly paid Lloyds, the ship’s insurance company, the $1.5 million that Lloyds had paid out after the sinking of this ship.

The CIA was also busy bribing Arbenz’s military commanders. It was later discovered that one commander had accepted $60,000 to surrender his troops. Che Guevara was on his travels and happened to be in Guatemala and attempted to help the Arbenz side but after the coup he left the country. His
experience with the American actions helped convince him that Americans were imperialists and only interested in helping themselves. His attitudes were to affect the Americans in the years to come.

During this ‘invasion’ the UFC offices distributed phony CIA pictures of Guatemalans killed by ‘Communists’. Later the UFC public relations office admitted that those photos could have been from earthquake victims but the photos had done their work. Arbenz tried to organize the civilian defenses of his country but the corrupted army withheld the distribution of weapons. Arbenz now believed that he stood little chance of preventing Armas from gaining power. Accepting that further resistance would only bring more deaths, he announced his resignation over the radio. He tried to leave for Mexico but at the airport he was met by the irate and wealthy Guatemalans who had been successfully convinced by the CIA that he was a traitor and a thief.

The Guatemalan Foreign Minister, Guillermo Toriello, once again asked the United Nations for help against the secret actions of the United States. Toriello accused the United States government of categorizing, “as communism, every manifestation of nationalism or economic independence, any desire for social progress, any intellectual curiosity, and any interest in progressive liberal reforms.” President Eisenhower responded by claiming that Guatemala was a, “communist dictatorship”. His Secretary of State John Foster Dulles added that the Guatemala people were living under a ‘communist type of terrorism’, which only goes to show that the US was playing the ‘terrorist’ card way back in 1954. It may have also been another example of a good American President being manipulated and misled by his advisors.

President Eisenhower immediately recognized this deceitful new government and remarkably he seems to have believed that he has struck a blow for freedom. He couldn’t have been more mistaken. The new US installed president Armas represented the beginning of a 36 year civil war in which the country was devastated. Many of the reforms that were introduced during the Arbenz, ‘ten years of spring’ were reversed. The UFC got the land back the they stole in the first place and the poor got evicted from it, the ‘National Committee of Defense Against Communism’ was created and proceeded to round up union members, socialists and Arbenz supporters.

Thousands were arrested and many were tortured and killed. The new ‘government’ removed three-quarters of the people from the voters lists by banning illiterates from voting. Armas also outlawed all political parties, trade unions and grass roots organizations. ‘Subversive’ books were

Carlos Castillo Armas was set up by the CIA to take over from Arbenz. He didn’t last long as he was murdered after just three years as president.
banned and opposition newspapers were closed down. Armas was provided with $80 million by Eisenhower over the next three years and did a great deal of harm when he reversed many of the reforms instigated by Arbenz. But that is all the time Armas has, he was assassinated by military rivals in 1957, a fate that other Guatemalan leaders were to face in the years to come.

The next three decades in Guatemala were a return to the repression and exploitation that the poor experienced under the Spanish. The killings and fear would never have continued over all these years if the CIA had not supported every right-wing despot that came along. With their inordinate fear of communists, imaginary communists and leftists, America continued to support the right-wing dictators while ignoring the people of Guatemala. This American support for the bad guys sustained the tragic history that then came to pass in much of Central America.

One of these crappy leaders was the born-again Christian, General Efrain Rios Montt, the military ruler of Guatemala from March 1982 to August 1983. Naturally Montt was an anti-communist and a corrupt military leader who received US support, aid, and training. He came to power after a coup in 1982. At the time the US Ambassador said, “Guatemala has come out of the darkness and into the light”. President Reagan claimed Montt was not nearly as bad as the human rights groups claimed he was as he was only trying to clean up the mess from the Generals before him. The preceding General, Romeo Lucas Garcia had given $500,000 to Reagan’s 1980 campaign. His henchman, Mario Sandoval Alarcon, the ‘Godfather’ of Central American death squads, was a guest at Reagan’s first inauguration. Sandoval called his National Liberation Movement “ the party of organized violence”. Montt moved Garcia’s dirty war from the urban centers to the countryside where “the spirit of the lord” guided him against “communist subversives”. Most of the indigenous Indians that he targeted didn’t know what a communist was, no matter, as many as 10,000 of them were killed and over 100,000 fled to Mexico as a result of Rios Montt’s “Christian” campaign.

Another crappy leader emerged in January 1986 when ‘Christian Democrat’ leader Vinicio Cerezo was elected President. He said he had, “the political will to respect the rights of man”, but then proceeded to announce that Guatemala would continue to provide an amnesty for all past military offenses. The Reagan government continued to
lie to Americans, this State Department lie being typical, “there has not been a single clear-cut case of political killing, within months of Cerezo’s inauguration.” Americas Watch claimed that “throughout 1986, violent killings were reported in the Guatemalan press at the rate of 100 per month”. Altogether, Americas Watch said, tens-of-thousands were killed and 400 rural villages were destroyed by government death squads during Reagan’s term in office. According to Amnesty International, arbitrary arrest, torture, disappearance, and political killings were everyday realities for Guatemalans during the decades of US financed military dictatorship.

The killings, devastation, pain and suffering were to last for over four decades until they were finally over in 1997. An estimated 200,000 Guatemalans were murdered by US supported forces. Interestingly, in 1998 Marvin Bush, the Presidents younger brother, became a Director of Del Monte, the company which bought out the original UFC. He was also a director of the company responsible for the World Trade Center security before 9/11, but I digress.

Guatemala is still struggling with the legacy of the lawlessness that decimated so much of their civil society and took so many Guatemalan lives. Through ignorance and arrogance America lost the opportunity to truly help the people of Central America and America has still not stepped up to correct the wrongs that they perpetuated. On the contrary, Americans are still supporting Plutocracy while they try to crush socialism. Thanks to the inequality that America instilled in the country decades ago just 2% of the people own over 50% of the land today. These evil actions are the reasons that so many millions still hate the USA in Central America.

UPDATE: Finally on January 20, 2005 the Guatemalan Supreme Court upheld the conviction of senior military officer, Col. Juan Valencia Osorio, for the political assassination of Guatemalan, Myrna Mack Chang. The colonel has been sentenced to 30 years in prison however there are many Americans who should share his fate. If they had not been there to wreck Guatemala it might have been a happy, pleasant country during the past 60 years.
Cheap labor has always been at the heart of US-Haitian relations, ever since the Haitian Revolution in 1804. It was actually a slave rebellion, the first and still the only successful one in modern history. The US sided with French colonialism as the US economy was based on slavery at the time and Haiti represented the first “dangerous example.”

– Ricky Baldwin

“The higher the monkey climbs, the more you see his ass.”

– Haitian proverb

“No matter how paranoid or conspiracy-minded you are, what the government is actually doing is worse than you imagine.”

– William Blum

“For the third time in the last hundred years, the US has invaded and occupied Haiti. Working behind the scenes, the US conducted a destabilization campaign aimed at toppling the government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide. This is a message to the rest of the region: If you don’t obey, the US will impose sanctions, overthrow your government, install a client regime, and support death squads to crush any resistance.”

– Ashley Smith

Haiti, the poorest and perhaps the most troubled country in the western hemisphere, may be that way because Haitians stood up for themselves, over two centuries ago. Columbus was the first European to establish a colony in the western half of Hispaniola. At that time it was a land with numerous inhabitants who welcomed the newcomers with generosity and kindness. Over the next fifty years most of them would be dead as the Spanish claimed this lush tropical, former paradise, for themselves. The Spanish were not the only greedy bastards...
as the French also coveted this land and eventually took it from the Spaniards in 1697. During those few hundred years the original inhabitants were decimated and that left the Europeans with a bit of a problem. They needed slaves, as they were not going to do the actual work themselves. So people, or more accurately slaves, had to be found, as the Europeans also refused to pay people for the work they were forced to do. These slaves were found in Africa and ripped out of their homelands by the millions, forced on to miserable ships with crappy food, mistreated and, of course, many of them died as a result. Even though it would have been in their own best interest to take care of the people that they had gone to so much trouble to seize, the Europeans neglected to do so.

And so the work required to create the wealth that the Europeans coveted was done by the slaves they ‘owned’. Haiti became one of the most profitable colonies in the Caribbean.

At this time America was aware of the potential for wealth in Haiti. In 1801 President Thomas Jefferson sent Tobias Lear as the American consul to Saint Domingue, as Haiti was called back then. Lear was a well connected American and one of the reasons he agreed to this posting was to make some quick money and solve his personal debt problems. In this he was unsuccessful due to the fighting between the black insurgents and the French and Lear left in 1801. By sending such a well connected man as Lear, President Jefferson was sending a message that Haiti was important to America.

Remarkably these slaves were able to overcome their French oppressors and eventually forced the French out of the country. The long struggle started in 1791 and the American slave owners became very concerned that this quest for freedom might catch on in America.
Governor Pinckney of South Carolina sent arms, munitions and supplies to the white French slave owners in Haiti. During the next ten years the slaves won some battles but it was an uphill battle. Sensing the gravity of the situation Napoleon sent 25,000 men from France, under the command of his brother-in-law, General Leclerc. They arrived in 1801 and after killing many were able to put down the Black uprisings.

The General Leclerc then prepared to continue with his other orders which were to occupy New Orleans and Louisiana. Unfortunately for Leclerc he was in for a surprise; Yellow Fever attacked the French troops and decimated his men. It was this devastation that weakened the French and allowed the blacks to retaliate. They ultimately prevailed and that victory led to their republic on January 1st, 1804. The defeat of the French also changed American history. Instead of moving on to their Louisiana territory and entrenching themselves in that vast area, this defeat compelled the French to sell ‘their’ Louisiana territory to the Americans. As we shall see America has yet to express its gratitude to the blacks of Haiti.

This victory for the blacks was the first successful overthrow of a European oppressor since the Europeans took over the western hemisphere 300 years before. This revolt, which took over 10 years and probably cost over 100,000 lives, did not go unnoticed in Europe or America. True to form America failed to recognize the new country for 58 years. Prior to the ultimate Negro victory the Europeans sent troops from several countries and the new freedom loving country of America sent a large amount guns, ammunition and financial support to defeat the black majority. The 500,000 slaves prevailed because they outnumbered the whites by ten to one but the country was devastated in the process.

France decided not to fight in Haiti again but filed a legal suit which claimed millions in losses against Haiti. This claim hung over Haiti for decades as other European controlled countries refused to trade with Haiti unless they paid this claim. The wealthy in Haiti accepted this claim in 1825 in order to enter various markets.

The blacks in Haiti were lead by Toussaint L'Ouverture. In 1803 he was tricked into peace negotiations by Napoleon's men, captured, shipped to France, imprisoned and left without heat and food to die. Years later Napoleon was asked about this cruel treatment, “What could the death of one wretched Negro mean to me?” The moral: don’t trust those white guys!
Although Haiti was now an, ‘independent’ country, it was never treated as such. The white men running the rest of the world were for the most part racists and thought of blacks as ‘inferior people’. After 1850 American navy ships visited Haiti dozens of times to ‘protect American interests’. In 1915 President Wilson invaded Haiti but needed to create a reason to do so. The reason decided on was that the German’s were going to invade Haiti and so America had better invade first. This American invasion was brutal. Some of the American killers had gained experience with other ‘inferior people’ in the Philippines and during the American Indian wars. This conflict included the first recorded instance of coordinated air-ground combat. Atrocities were alleged and as a result a Marine inquiry was held. It found that over 3,000 Haitians were killed and hundreds executed. Marine orders called for an end to the indiscriminate killing of natives that had gone on for some time. On the other hand marine deaths and wounded amount to less than 100. Historian Roger Gaillard estimates total deaths at 15,000 and called the conflict ‘a massacre’. Major Smedley Butler recalled that his troops ‘hunted the Cacos like pigs’.

Major Smedley Butler was US Marine Corp leader who failed to restrain his troops in Haiti. At the end of his career in the Marines he said, “I spent 33 years and four months in active military service in the Marines. I helped make Tampico, Mexico, safe for the American oil interests in 1914; Cuba and Haiti safe for the National City Bank boys to collect revenue; helped purify Nicaragua for the International banking house of Baron Broches in 1909-1912; helped save the sugar interests in the Dominican Republic; and in China helped to see that Standard Oil went its way unmolested. War is a racket.” Smedley might have been a jerk but he was an honest jerk.

At the same time the American perception back home was a little different. “It was obvious that if our occupation was to be beneficial to Haiti and further her progress it was necessary that foreign capital should come to Haiti. Americans could hardly be expected to put their money into plantations and big agricultural enterprises in Haiti if they could not themselves own the land on which their money was to be spent.” The American occupation also imposed a new Constitution on the Haitian people that allowed foreigners to own land. The Haitian National Assembly was dissolved by the Marines when the Haitians refused to ratify it. In 1927, the State Department acknowledged that America had used “rather highhanded methods to get the Constitution adopted by the people of Haiti.” Elections were not allowed because America knew that the Haitians who represented the people would win.

In 1929 the most infamous Marine atrocity was committed when 264 protesting, unarmed peasants in the town of Cayes were killed. In the years to
come the American forces trained a local military force which was to become the ‘National Guard’ in Haiti. The Americans did remove their invasion force after 20 years but by then the US trained National Guard kept everyone in line under American supervision. Essential services, that responsible governments are supposed to ensure, such as, schools, medical care, local transportation and increased democracy failed to materialize. In fact, life continued to deteriorate just as it had in Cuba under effective American control.

With American help ‘Papa Doc’ Duvalier took over in 1957 but once again America had decided to back another low-life. In spite of that reality and the repressive Ton Ton Machoute paramilitary force that he established, Duvalier continued to get American support. Papa Doc was a dictator who used his lethal police force to intimidate and frequently kill Haitians. America did not stop this brutal treatment of the Haitian people and the abuses continued for decades.

After a life of corruption and despotism, Papa Doc died in 1971 and, of course, the best man for the job succeeded him—his son, ‘Baby Doc’. He was extremely well qualified for the job as he had watched his father destroy the country for all of his 19 years. He was also supported by America and their CIA operatives. Baby Doc continued in his father’s bloody footsteps with the full knowledge of the CIA. During the 30 years that the Duvaliers ruled Haiti, an estimated 60,000 people were killed and an unknown number tortured. The Duvaliers also stole the country blind, taking profits from corporations they controlled or stealing foreign aid. In 1980, the IMF provided $22 million to Haiti but it wasn’t long before $16 million ‘disappeared’.

In the 1980s, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) caused further destruction in Haiti with its so-called ‘structural adjustment’ programs. These caused agricultural production to decline along with investment, trade and purchasing power. A USAID-World Bank development strategy in 1981-1982 shifted 30 percent of cultivated land from local food production to export crops. USAID recommended “a
Haiti

Historic change toward deeper market interdependence with the United States.” In 1985 the World Bank (WB) stated that exports should be developed and domestic production “markedly restrained in order to shift the required share of output increases into exports.” Costs for education should be ‘minimized’, and such, ‘social objectives’ as persist should be privatized. “Private projects with high economic returns should be strongly supported” in preference to “public expenditures in the social sectors” and “less emphasis should be placed on social objectives which increase consumption.” This was not to be the last time that these insensitive over paid bastards would sit around in their air-conditioned banks and create more starving children! Perhaps this has something to do with the fact that the IMF and the WB are run by the US??

In 1981, the Reagan Administration introduced a new interception policy for Haitians fleeing the island. During the next ten years the US Coast Guard caught and detained 24,000 Haitians, 11 (eleven), were granted asylum as victims of political persecution while the rest were forced to return. During the same period 75,000 out of 75,000 Cubans made it to America.

In June 1985, the Haitian legislature unanimously adopted a new law requiring that every politician must recognize Papa Doc’s son, Jean-Claude Duvalier or Baby Doc, as President for life and supreme arbiter for the nation. The law also outlawed other political parties and granted this government the right to suspend the rights of any party without reason. Washington was impressed. On July 4th of that year, the US Ambassador stated that this was ‘an encouraging step forward’. The Reagan Administration told Congress that ‘democratic development’ was progressing and that military and economic aid could continue, into the pockets of Baby Doc and his gangs. The American Foreign Affairs Committee called on the Administration “to maintain friendly relations with Duvalier’s non-Communist government.” What was wrong with these guys?

This total US misrepresentation of the Haitian situation fell apart in December, 1985 when popular protests began the overthrow of Baby Doc and his rule of terror. Baby Doc, an insensitive and incompetent man, who did so little for the people of Haiti, was overthrown in 1986. By the time Baby Doc was driven out, sixty percent of the population had an annual per capita income of $60 or less, child malnutrition had soared, the rate of infant mortality was disgracefully high, and the country had become an ecological and human disaster zone. It is important to remember that America supported the Duvalier regimes and the despicable treatment of the Haitian people for almost 30 years. Once again American had supported the wrong guys and by doing so had helped to create all the human misery on this once-bountiful, beautiful island, only a few hours from Miami.

It took some years but finally fair and free elections were held in 1990. Competing against 10 comparatively wealthy candidates, leftist priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide captured 68 percent of the vote. The Americans, who never seem to understand the plight of the poor, and never, ever support a leftist, now
had to figure out how to get rid of this caring man.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide took office in February 1991 but the Tonton Machoute, Baby Doc’s ruthless police force, staged a coup and overthrew him in September of that same year. During Aristide’s brief seven months, the flow of refugees dropped significantly and crime was reduced as many Haitians thought that they might actually have a better future. America Watch reported in December that immediately after taking power on September 30, 1991, the US supported Haitian army “embarked on a systematic and continuing campaign to stamp out the vibrant civil society that has taken root in Haiti since the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship.” Haitian human rights groups estimated that at least 1000 people were killed in the first two weeks of the military coup and hundreds more by December. The worst atrocities usually occurred in the countryside. Reliable Haitian human rights groups reported that terror increased in the months that followed, particularly after the reconstituted Tonton Macoutes were unleashed in late December. Tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands, were in hiding. Many regard the terror as ‘worse than Papa Doc’. “The goal of the repression was twofold: first, to destroy the political and social gains made since the downfall of the Duvalier dynasty; and second, to ensure that no matter what Haiti’s political future may hold, all structures for duplicating those gains will have been laid waste.” Accordingly, unions and popular organizations were specifically targeted for violent repression, and the “lively and combative radio stations—the main form of communication with Haiti’s dispersed and largely illiterate population”—were suppressed. As popular opinion called for Aristide’s return, the CIA began a disinformation campaign painting the courageous priest as mentally unstable.

By 1993 the chaos in Haiti was so bad that President Clinton had no choice but to remove the Haitian military dictator, Raoul Cedras. The US, who were calling the shots, did not arrest Haiti’s military leaders for their many violent crimes, but instead ensured their safety and rich retirements. In the Haitis of this world, the local militaries are organized and support by the US, either up front or secretly. With this support, it was a time of fear and repression in Haiti. A terror group named FRAPH, run by CIA agent Toto Constant, operated paramilitary death squads to spread fear throughout the country.

Finally in 1994 President Clinton made a deal with Aristide and he returned
to Haiti along with a mostly American led UN ‘peacekeeping’ force. Aristide knew that he could not stray too far from policies that would be acceptable to America. Nevertheless he tried to make real changes that would result in a better country. He ordered that human rights violators be charged; he raised the minimum wage, which up to that time could not support a reasonable life in Haiti. He tried to eliminate the Army knowing that it was doing far more harm than good and ordered that human rights and freedoms be respected.

In 1991, during the period that Aristide was overthrown and in exile, about 300 Haitians were intercepted on the high seas by the US coast guard and taken to Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. According to US policy they should have been taken to America because they had legitimate reasons to fear persecution if they were returned to Haiti. Instead they were kept in Guantanamo and President Bush Sr. decreed that they could not go to the US and that people kept in Guantanamo had no legal rights. Even Clinton in 1992 maintained that the Haitians had no rights but the Haitians were supported by human rights lawyers in America and they sued on behalf of the Haitians. The Haitians won, years later, and the US government agreed to take the Haitians to America and not appeal this legal victory, if, the lawyers involved agreed to ‘vacate’ the decision. Which is to say, act like it never happened, so there was no precedent. This enabled future Presidents, like Bush Jr., to again claim that people who were incarcerated in Guantanamo prisons had no legal rights. Like Father, like son, so President Bush Jr. can now ignore the rights of Guantanamo prisoners. Hey, it’s the American way!

Aristide was also inhibited by Haiti’s debt and the reluctance of various outfits like the World Bank, the IMF and the Inter-American Development Bank to do their jobs and actually help this impoverished nation. With an unemployment rate of over 60%, no other country in the western hemisphere needed this help more.

According to Haitian law the President could not run for consecutive five year terms. Because Aristide was overthrown for three years during his first term, which ended in 1996 he should have been allowed these three years. America refused to allow his term to be extended for the three years that he
spent in exile. This refusal to extend Aristide’s term indicates how committed America was to removing any leader with socialistic leanings. In the 1995 parliamentary elections a pro-Aristide coalition won an overwhelming victory. In the 1996 Presidential elections a pro-Aristide candidate, Rene Preval, won with 88% of the vote. America was not happy with these results because they knew that the Aristide government was going to continue with policies that favored the poor. America has a hard time diddling with the ballots and therefore relied on other methods to get rid of ‘unsuitable’ leaders.

Even though the Aristide forces won overwhelming victories their ability to run the country was seriously diminished because America continued to support the anti-Aristide forces. In 2000 another Presidential election was held, this time with Aristide running again. He won, this time with 92% of the vote. The opposition parties made all sorts of insignificant complaints and in some cases didn’t even run as they knew they would be trounced. During his second term Aristide had more and more difficulty making the changes he wanted when faced with the turmoil that was often instigated and supported by America. About that time America asked, covertly of course, who will rid us of this troublesome priest? Due to the poor education of the people during the poppa and baby doc decades and the inequality that America always supported the usual suspects answered the call.

More serious anti-Aristide protests started in early 2004. A group called the Revolutionary Front that was armed, funded and trained by the US in the Dominican Republic was organizing violent protests in Haiti. The American, National Endowment for Democracy (don’t you love the names?) was funding opposition civilian groups and, I have no doubt, that the CIA was meddling around as well. We may know in about 30 years. The Associated Press fired a freelance reporter, Regine Alexandre, in Haiti after learning she was also working for a US government-sponsored organization, the National Endowment for Democracy as well the NYTimes. Another group, the Independent Republican Institute (IRI) is a right-wing group funded by American millionaires. The group used USAID funds for training sessions in the Dominican Republic for opponents of Aristide. In 2004, some of the people who attended IRI sessions were involved in the coup which removed Aristide from power. These activities are in violation of the IRI mandate to be non-partisan.

Because Aristide had reduced the Army as much as he could during his first Presidency he was outgunned by the Revolutionary Front but also, as he was about to find out, by the US Marines. On February 29th, 2004 Aristide was removed by American forces and flown to Africa. Bush Jr., never one to mislead the American people had this to say about the forced removal of Aristide. “President Aristide resigned; he has left his country. The constitution of Haiti is working. There is an interim President, as per the constitution, in place. I have ordered the deployment of Marines, as the leading element of an interim international force, to help bring order and stability to Haiti. I have done so in working with the international community. This government believes it essential
that Haiti have a hopeful future. This is the beginning of a new chapter in the country’s history.” “I would urge the people of Haiti to reject violence, to give this break from the past a chance to work. And the United States is prepared to help.”

It doesn’t look like the ‘help’ is working very well. MSF (Doctors Without Borders) medical and surgical teams have seen an alarming increase of people needing treatment for violence-related injuries, including a growing number of gunshot and knifing victims. In December 2005, MSF treated more than 220 gunshot victims. Nearly 50% of all MSF patients treated for violence-related injuries were women, children, or the elderly.

Once again, America removed a democratically elected, imperfect, well-intentioned leader whose first priority was to help the people who needed the most help. By first working against Aristide, rather than supporting him, America then tried to made his exit look like it was ‘for the good of the country’. American leaders never help a socialist leader in a poor country simply because socialists may try to create more equality than American millionaires can tolerate.

The comments by the US president and Powell just don’t add up. Aristide was re-elected in 2000 with over 90% of the vote, which as you may recall was even higher than the Bush percentage. One of the main reasons for this remarkable support was his courageous decision, in 1995 to dissolve the Haitian military. The same military supported by Papa Doc and the US. The same military that never went away and continued to terrorize the people of Haiti. He was also supported for his efforts to improve health care and education. The West did not assist Aristide with those efforts; on the contrary, America opposed him. Why should we believe the American version of events when they were the guys who made decades of deplorable government possible? The French and Canadians have also been involved in Haiti and their reasons for supporting this coup are self serving. Both refused to go to war in Iraq. Something they had every right to do; but America was not happy and has continued to put pressure on both countries to play ball. By supporting the US in Haiti, they
both earn brownie points. As they will both discover a few brownie points will not be enough; they will have to stay in the American game, with the US rules, for as long as the game is played.

The American media have told us that Aristide was mentally ill and that he rigged the elections in 2000. Those perceptions started somewhere but they are not truthful. A report by the International Coalition of Independent Observers concluded that “fair and peaceful elections were held” but you didn’t read that in the NYTimes. Aristide was ejected from Haiti because he wouldn’t play by the western rules that have been such a failure in poor countries. He is a principled man and, as a result, a popular man. For his intransigence he was discredited in the West and, whenever possible, in Haiti itself. America doesn’t really care about Aristide or Haiti but they will commit any reprehensible act to prevent the establishment of a successful socialistic government. Particularly one without a military, in the ‘American lake’.

Haiti (2005) today is more of a mess than ever. The Lavalas, Aristide’s party, are either on the run, in jail or dead. The military puppet government run by the US has not improved the lives of the poor. The so called ‘UN’ peacekeepers have not been able to keep the peace. The Americans have supplied the Haitian Police with thousands of guns, many of which have been used against citizens. Republican Senator Barbara Lee, stated that the Haitian National Police “are intimidating, murdering, and executing the poor and political opposition with weapons transferred free of charge from the United States to the Government of Haiti, and this is simply unacceptable.” America supplied the Dominican Republic’s border patrol with helicopters and 20,000 M-16 machine guns. This border patrol has 2,000 employees. Does this mean that they have to carry ten machine guns each, or, did some of these weapons end up in Haiti? The international community gave Haiti $75 million for the elections. Where did that $75 million go? Is an independent body going to find out? America has been calling the shots in Haiti for some time. The violence, the poverty, the non-existent social services, the forced labor, the prostitution and the child labor just seem to get worse. Why do the Americans feel that they have the right to do better than Aristide? Why do they feel that their undemocratic, expensive efforts will work?

There are thousands of ‘peacekeepers’ in Haiti. Where were they when Aristide was ‘leaving’ Haiti? Were they not obliged to ensure that he was leaving of his own free will? Was the end of this democratically elected government
and the removal of thousands of other elected officials, properly documented by the UN?

The elections that were to be held over a year ago (2005) have been cancelled four times. In any case when they are eventually held it won’t make much difference. The Lavalas (Aristide’s party) who received such widespread support in past elections won’t be running. Senior officials at Canada’s Foreign Affairs Department admit that Lavalas remains Haiti’s most popular party. Thus, an election without Lavalas will be a sham. America has taken Aristide out of the country and said publicly that he cannot return. The poor are having trouble registering to vote and the number of polling stations has been greatly reduced. The International Crisis Group reported that “a week before the scheduled close of registration, (for an election that was then cancelled) only 870,000 (out of 4 million) potential voters had registered, and none had the new national identity cards required to vote.” Some popular Haitians who would have run for office have decided not to because of intimidation and the knowledge that they would be harmed. Canada is responsible for cleaning up the police, the courts and the prisons but Canada is also supporting the American actions which are effectively eliminating the chance for real democracy. Canada does not seem to realize that it cannot help Haiti when they support an undemocratic process.

The popular former Prime Minister, Yvon Neptune, has been jailed for months with no charges laid, along with the ‘priest-of-the-poor’, Father Jean-Juste, who just happens to be an Aristide supporter. James B. Foley, the US Ambassador to Haiti, left his post earlier than normal in August 2004 for pretty obvious reasons. Foley called some of the actions taken under American control as a “sham”. He called the imprisonment of Neptune as, “a violation of human rights, an injustice and an abuse of power”. Professor and author Edward Herman calls this a “Demonstration Election”. It doesn’t have to be free and fair but it has to look good; or, like the Presidential elections in the good old US of A, it has to look good enough.

Preval was elected in 2006 but faces an uncertain future. After the election he charged that the vote count was plagued by ‘gross errors and probably gigantic fraud’. Interestingly here in Canada his portion of the vote was reported at 49.6% for several days, just short of the 50%

Five young men arrested by the Haitian police March 2004. The next morning the bodies of three of them were discovered. How can the ‘police’ get away with this? Where were the UN soldiers?
required to win. One can only assume that this was to give those rigging the election time to devise a plan. A week after the election things came off the track when someone found thousands of ballots in a garbage dump north of the capital. This discovery made it difficult for those running the election to continue claiming that the election was honest. Eventually the people running the election capitulated and declared Preval the winner as the people of Haiti were getting agitated. The US State Department has said that it is willing to work with Preval, but who do they think they are? Why do they think Preval even wants to work with them? It is clear that Haiti would be better off if there was no America.

This perception was recently confirmed in the ‘The Lancet’, a journal published by the British Medical community. In a recently published study they reveal that after the US ousted Aristide in February 2004 the country suffered from widespread abuse. All this occurred during the 22 month period when the US backed an interim government, effectively running the country. During that period 8,000 people were murdered in the Port-au-Prince area, 35,000 women and girls were raped along with an assortment of other deplorable crimes. Those responsible include the police, UN ‘peacekeepers’, anti-Lavalas gangs and criminals. Once again we see an increase in the violent solutions that are so common when America imposes her will on another country.

Millions of Haitians know that America manipulated their country which reduced their prosperity and freedom. Inequality remains the fundamental problem in Haiti. There are approximately 3,000 rich families in the country who live in their guarded houses without sharing in the wealth that they enjoy. This group has always fought a government that would share Haiti’s resources. By joining in the American repression, Canada and France also supported government by plutocracy. Most people throughout the Caribbean hate America because they know that American had a choice and could have helped the Haitians achieve better lives but, instead, made life worse for everyone, including the rich.
HAWAII

“One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we’ve been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We’re no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It is simply too painful to acknowledge—even to ourselves—that we’ve been so credulous.”

— Carl Sagan

“This is the sum of duty: Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you.”

— Mahabharata 1517

“Consider the rights of others before your own feelings, and the feelings of others before your own rights.”

— John Wooden, legendary UCLA Basketball coach

“Nothing doth more hurt in a state than that cunning men pass for wise.”

— Sir Francis Bacon

It is thought that Hawaii was first settled about 2000 years ago. The Spanish may have been the first Europeans to visit Hawaii but Captain Cook was the first recorded European visitor in 1778.

In the early 1800’s many more foreigners arrived, dealing in sugar and making one-sided deals for the land of the indigenous Hawaiians. In 1877, a group of 400 American businessmen formed ‘The Hawaii League’. They wanted to reduce the power of the Hawaiian monarchy and of course increase their own power and prosperity. Their ultimate goal was total control of Hawaii by America. They forced King Kalakaua to sign a new Hawaiian constitution, which sharply cut his powers. This document is now known as ‘The Bayonet Constitution’ because King Kalakaua was forced to sign this document with a bayonet at his throat. The Bayonet Constitution made it virtually impossible for the indigenous people to vote. This
The constitution stated that you now had to have an annual income of at least US$600 and own private property worth at least US$3000 in order to vote. This effectively eliminated the ability of the Hawaiian people to have any say in their own country.

This constitution worked well for the rich Americans as they were now a much more powerful force on the island and they hadn’t fired a shot. The Bayonet Constitution also removed the monarch’s power to appoint and scrutinize members of the upper house of the Hawaiian legislature. Only those selected by a group of US citizens could now serve in the House of Nobles. The King died in 1891 and was succeeded by Queen Liliuokalani who tried to reverse the Bayonet Constitution but she was overpowered and out maneuvered by none other than the US government. The Queen tried to restore the monarchy’s authority, return the right of all indigenous Hawaiians to vote and strip American non-citizens of their voting eligibility but her attempts failed. The Department of State Minister to Hawaii, John L. Stevens, was concerned about the legitimacy of the American maneuvering for Hawaii and wanted the matter settled quickly before the Hawaiians realized what was happening. He ordered the US Marines to Hawaii aboard the USS Boston and they arrived with Gatling guns and other weapons.

On January 16th, 1893 the marines came ashore in Honolulu and headed for Queen Liliuokalani’s palace. She watched from her balcony as the marines took up their positions. The Americans made it clear that they would resort to violence if the Queen did not cooperate. The next day she was forced to give up power over Hawaii and her people. The Queen and her niece Princess Ka‘iulani appealed to President Grover Cleveland for help. He said he was sympathetic but claimed he could not take action until an investigation he had ordered was completed. Of course he could have ordered the marines home and power returned to the Queen but a lengthy investigation would give him time to consolidate his position.

Sanford Dole was by now the largest pineapple plantation owner in Hawaii and one

Queen Liliuokalani tried to change the laws that the Americans had passed but the US Marines blocked her way.
of the leaders in this Hawaiian coup. He was made president of the Republic of Hawaii by his other powerful American friends in 1894. The Hawaiian people rose up but they just didn’t have the any of the force required to reverse the situation. Many of them were jailed, along with the Queen after ten days of fighting. Queen Liliukalani was charged with treason by the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, the judicial arm of the United States military. While the US waited for things to calm down the Queen was held prisoner for many months in a small room in her former home, the Iolani Palace. The Americans also declared a transfer of authority from the monarchy to a provisional government led by a bunch of Americans, Lorrin A. Thurston, Sanford B. Dole and the Committee of Safety. This committee was that same old, now successful group of Americans who had planned the overthrow of the Queen in the first place. The same 400 American businessmen who formed The Hawaii League in 1877 also controlled the Committee of Safety. They worked hand in glove with the American government to put Hawaii in American hands. When Liliukalani was finally released in 1896, she appealed to the president for help once again, but once again he muttered platitudes and claimed he could do nothing.

Now the Americans had want they wanted, the Kingdom of Hawaii out of the hands of the thousands of indigenous Hawaiians and into the hands of a few privileged Americans. The Committee of Safety declared itself the Provisional Government of Hawaii and then organized itself as the Republic of Hawaii and a territory of the United States. All in all, a very successful relatively bloodless takeover which only showed, once again, that the legitimate rights of indigenous peoples don’t mean a damn when land or money are at stake. While they were at it the Americans also claimed the Palmyra Atoll hundreds of miles south of Hawaii.

*The Hawaiian Islands are not thought of as stolen from the Hawaiian people. The islands just naturally ‘belong’ to America.*
Liliukalani never accepted this America coup but wrote about her loss in her autobiography, Hawaii’s Story by Hawaii’s Queen. She died in Honolulu in 1917 at the age of 79. In 1992, one hundred years after the Americans overthrew the Hawaiians, President Clinton offered an official apology but by then it was way too late and no effort was made to address this injustice.

Today some of the world’s very richest people have homes along the Hawaiian waterfront and, of course, the American military has extensive bases on most islands. There are very few native Hawaiians left and America has not been good to them. It is difficult to say how many pure blood Hawaiians remain but it is probably no more than a few thousand. When Captain Cook arrived it was estimated at 400,000. Although the Hawaiians were forced to give up over 7 million acres of land to the Americans, without compensation, those that claim Hawaiian blood now make up over 40% of the Hawaiian homeless population and their average economic well being does not begin to approach that of the rich in their waterfront homes. Nevertheless the theft of their land is keenly felt and just another reason for so many to feel hatred for America.

NOTE: ‘The Queens’ book which details the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii can be found on the web at: http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/liliuokalani/hawaii/hawaii.html
“Our position is that whatever grievances a nation may have, however objectionable it finds the status quo, aggressive warfare is an illegal means for settling those grievances or for altering those conditions.”
– Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, the American prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials, in his opening statement to the tribunal.

“The whole history of the world is summed up in the fact that, when nations are strong, they are not always just, and when they wish to be just, they are no longer strong.”
– Winston Churchill

“If you want peace, work for justice.”
– Henry Louis Mencken

“The administration of justice is the firmest pillar of government”
– George Washington

“Though force can protect in emergency, only justice, fairness, consideration and cooperation can finally lead men to the dawn of eternal peace.”
– Dwight Eisenhower

Which was the only industrialized country on the face of this planet to have voted against the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998? Read on.

The UN first proposed the need for an international court to deal with genocide or other crimes of similar gravity in December 1948. Draft statutes were prepared in 1951 and 1953 but the process was delayed while a definition of aggression was debated. Then the political implications of the court were debated while some countries wanted to expand the mandate to include drug trafficking or ethnic cleansing. The discussions continued over decades which how things seem to work at the UN. The International Law Commission
completed its work for an international criminal court and in 1994 submitted
the draft statute to the General Assembly. In typical UN fashion the General
Assembly then established the Ad Hoc Committee to further study the matter
and then it created the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an
International Criminal Court (ICC) to prepare an acceptable draft text. These
committees met from 1995 through 1998. The General Assembly then decided
to convene the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries
on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, which was held
in Rome for over a month in 1998. During that conference they finalized
and adopted a convention to establish the International Criminal Court.
Whewwwwwwwww!

The need for this ‘missing link’ in the international legal system has always
been recognized by progressives and that need has grown over time as Kofi
Annan explained, “For nearly half a century – almost as long as the United
Nations has been in existence -- the General Assembly has recognized the
need to establish such a court to prosecute and punish persons responsible for
crimes such as genocide. Many thought . . . that the horrors of the Second World
War -- the camps, the cruelty, the exterminations, the Holocaust – could never
happen again. And yet they have. In Cambodia, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in
Rwanda. Our time -- this decade even – has shown us that man’s capacity for

Kofi Anan speaking at the beginning of the ICC treaty signature process.
International Criminal Court

evil knows no limits. Genocide... is now a word of our time, too, a heinous reality that calls for a historic response.”

The existing International Court of Justice at The Hague handles only cases between States, not individuals. Without an International Criminal Court for dealing with individual responsibility as an enforcement mechanism, acts of genocide and egregious violations of human rights often go unpunished. In the last 50 years, there have been many instances of crimes against humanity and war crimes for which no individuals have been held accountable. In Cambodia in the 1970s, the Khmer Rouge killed an estimated 2 million people. In armed conflicts in Mozambique, Liberia, El Salvador, East Timor and other countries, there has been tremendous loss of civilian life, including horrifying numbers of unarmed women and children. The need for such a court was obvious and long overdue. It has never been acceptable to have a situation where you are more likely to be convicted for killing one person, than a million.

The UN rules required that 60 countries agreed to form the court however 139 signed their intention to support the court and 99 ratified this intention so the way forward for the Court was clear. In 1998 the Rome Statute was opened for signature by all States in Rome, until 17 October, 1998. After that date, the Statute was opened for signatures in New York, at United Nations Headquarters until 31 December 2000.

The following are countries that are members of the ICC as of September 2005. Of course all of these countries understand the very great need for this court, a need that has been resisted since the beginning of conflict by those who would use conflict to achieve their goals.

On December 31, 2000, which was the last possible day, President Bill Clinton signed the treaty to establish the International Criminal Court. His signature signified that America was onboard and supported the court. Unfortunately President Bush did not ratify this treaty so America is not a member of this court. It is reprehensible for the leading ‘democracy’ on this planet to reject such an important international alliance. Rejecting the ICC was one thing but America and Bush Jr. went much further. On May 2nd, 2002 Bush Jr. effectively removed Bill Clinton’s signature from this treaty. In July 2002 the Bush Jr. government then launched a full-scale campaign to defeat the very existence of the International Criminal Court.

Firstly, America sought to compel countries to sign agreements that prevented Americans or even people working for the Americans, from being turned over to the ICC from any of these countries, for any reason. If these countries refused to sign these agreements America threatened to cut off their aid, this was bribery pure and simple. It is one thing to bribe a country so that they feed their poor or provide health care but it is quite another to bribe a country to prevent them from doing something beneficial that should have been done decades ago. Secondly the Bush boys signed a new law that makes it illegal for the US to cooperate with the International Criminal Court. Thirdly Bush Jr. authorized ‘all necessary means’ to release US personnel that might be apprehended by the ICC. In other words American does not want any of their people to be subject to international law no matter what they have done. That only America can determine if their citizens are guilty of a criminal offence, no matter what it is, or where it occurred. The law makes a military invasion of the Netherlands legal in order to recover apprehended Americans and is consistent with the numerous American violations of international law to date. These actions are also consistent with the American rejection of almost every other international treaty in existence. Years ago when President Reagan talked about the ‘evil empire’ he did not foresee the day when that very same expression would apply to America.

So far about 25 countries have refused to sign the, ‘immunity agreements’ that the US has used to try and kill the ICC. In response the United States has cut aid to these countries. All over the world but especially in Latin America and the Caribbean those cuts are creating anti-American feelings. The American General Craddock stated that the US policy had excluded Latin American officers from military training programs but that China had picked up the slack as China wants military ties in those areas.

Most of the aid cuts have been cuts in military training but a new US bill has been passed (2003) that also permits cuts to social and health-care programs. Leaders such as President Palacio of Ecuador said that he would not cower to Washington. Ecuador lost $15 million prior to 2004 and $7 million in 2004. It is no coincidence that Ecuador recently, December 2006, elected a leftist president.

In 2002 The US refused to submit its troops to the ‘war crimes’ jurisdiction.
of the new International Criminal Court. And why should they? As we all know from the My Lei massacre, where 507 innocent civilians were murdered in Vietnam, America can deal with these issues. The single American, who was charged, convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the massive crime at My Lei never served a day in jail for all those deaths. We also have conclusive evidence that some American troops in Iraq are guilty of war crimes however many of them have never even been charged.

The International Criminal Court is now backed by over 140 countries but the US can still wreck things by casting their UN veto’s and other legal tricks or outright bribes. America is always pressuring other countries and all too often these countries back down because they fear the loss of American economic benefits. There are very few countries, for example, who would welcome an American military base without the associated money this brings into their country. This economic pressure shows up very clearly when the American efforts to destroy the ICC are examined. Most of the 100 countries that have signed ‘immunity agreements’ that provide criminal immunity to American troops have been signed by poor countries who feel that they really need the American aid money. To add to the hypocrisy, the Americans have exempted wealthy ‘allies’ like Japan, Australia, Britain, Canada and Germany from these agreements.

In Latin America the immunity agreements, and the sanctions, have been financially difficult for some of the poor countries but the policy has backfired. As recent elections have shown, this area is moving further away from America. Many countries say they will not knuckle under to American pressure but the loss of US aid is a constant reminder to them that they must do things the American way, or else. It is the heavy-handed American actions such as this that are helping countries to elect anti-American governments. In February 2006 the American military held a military exercise dubbed ‘New Horizons’ in the Dominican Republic. It was described by the Americans as a humanitarian aid mission that includes the building of clinics and schools. Dominican opponents of the deployment pointed out that these troops came equipped with vast amounts of combat gear. Americans with hammers and nails were not seen. The US SOUTHCOM website states that the Pentagon “uses these humanitarian exercises as a vehicle to train US forces.” In order for this ‘humanitarian deployment’ to proceed the Dominican Republic had to sign a waiver granting the US troops immunity from prosecution for war crimes or other offenses before the International Criminal Court. If the US is there on a humanitarian mission why do they insist on this wavier and why do they arrive with so many guns?

In addition the policy is probably unnecessary. Due to the fact that America is full of lawyers America already has legal agreements with some countries to exempt Americans from the laws that apply to everyone else. Since 1974 America has had a treaty with Colombia that says everyone in Colombia must respect the law, Indians, Chinese and the Colombians, everyone except
the Americans. This is exactly the situation the Bush Jr. government is trying to create in every country. If the US did belong to the ICC and an American was charged by that court America could simply throw a small percentage of the one million US lawyers at the court and they could tie it up for years. America could probably afford to spare a few lawyers as the US has 70% of the world’s lawyers and just 5% of the world’s population.

Over a year ago the United Nations recommended that gross human rights abuses in Darfur be referred to the new International Criminal Court. A guy named Pierre-Richard Prosper, the U.S. ambassador at large for war crimes issues said, “We don’t want to be party to legitimizing the ICC,” so the abuses at Darfur have not gone before the ICC. America, it seems, will do anything to supposedly protect Americans, even when something like the crimes of Darfur should come before the ICC. About 30 African countries have joined the ICC and four have asked the ICC to investigate atrocities committed within their borders; Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and the Ivory Coast.

The following globes show the countries who have signed to join the ICC in white, those who have joined as shaded and the countries who have something to hide as darkest.

America wants to ensure that the ICC cannot prosecute Americans under any circumstances. Although that appears to be the case it is not the real reason and we’ll get to that. When this matter was discussed in the American Congress the discussion centered on protecting Americans, not about doing the right thing. It should be obvious that any citizen from an ICC
member country will be subject to prosecution by the ICC if that citizen commits crimes that the ICC regards as prosecutable. That is the whole idea behind the ICC. To suggest that the ICC is going to take on meaningless cases just to ‘get the Americans’ is pure paranoia.

The message America has tried to project is that the ICC is not acceptable. Therefore America under Bush Jr. has sought legal protection for all Americans everywhere, who may commit the most horrendous of crimes. Instead of agreeing to and working towards the day when no American would commit an ICC crime, America reserves the right to protect criminal Americans from this Court. Throughout their recent history the American government has sought to protect Americans from prosecution from the ICC and yet this very same American government is happy to throw innocent American citizens into jail for life when they have committed no crime. (see the Prisoners chapter) There is something very strange and hypocritical about this obsessive effort to protect ‘Americans’.

During the winter of 2002 as the Bush Jr. government prepared to go to war with Iraq they publicly accused Iraq of supplying incomplete weapons declarations. Iraq had supplied America with 11,800 pages of documentation but the US had removed 8,000 of these pages. The missing pages might have gone unnoticed except Iraq also supplied the Europeans and the UN with the same 11,800 pages. The chair of the UN Security Council at
that time was Colombia, a country basically occupied and funded by the US. Colombia agreed to look the other way while the US edited the Iraq weapon declaration and then returned it to the UN. The other members of the Security Council, such as the Europeans felt that it was not in their best interest to expose the US editing, indeed China and Russia were also selling arms to Iraq. The report with the 8,000 missing pages was then accepted by the Security Council as the ‘official’ Iraq weapons declaration.

The US government had gone to all this trouble because those pages detailed how 24 US corporations as well as the Reagan and Bush Sr. governments had illegally supplied Iraq with numerous weapons including chemical, biological and nuclear equipment that made Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction much more likely.

Starting in 1983 almost 100 shipments of dengue virus, gangrene bacteria, botulism, anthrax and west nile virus were made, some of them after Iraq used chemical weapons against Iran. Some of the big name US corporations involved in these shipments included Bechtel, Sperry Rand, Honeywell, Rockwell, Hewlett Packard, Dupont and Kodak as well as US government agencies such as Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratories, Sandia National Laboratories and the Department of Defense. These outfits, and others, who had supplied Iraq with these types of materials would now look bad so they were edited out of the declaration by the US government.

This editing of this Iraq Weapons Declaration was therefore done primarily to make America look good and Iraq look bad. It also demonstrates the real reason for the American opposition to the ICC. American leaders are most opposed to this court because they know that THEY could be charge with war crimes by the ICC. These crimes include the American assistance to Hussein when he slaughtered the Iraqi Kurds and for military aid during the Iraq war with Iran. Both of which Hussein could not have done without American assistance. They include the war with Iraq, a country that never threatened America. This action is quite rightly called ‘the ultimate crime in international law, the launching of an unprovoked attack upon another state’. The Bush boys have every reason to fear the ICC and have therefore done all they could to wreck this court. They have failed and their collective long-term futures remain uncertain.

Decades ago the UN adopted a treaty, the Treaty for the Rights of Women. Today 183 countries support that treaty, almost every country on earth, except the good old...
US of A. The most influential nation on earth deliberately goes out of its way to set a bad example. How could America, that shining light for democracy, be so backward, or is that so selfish? Various women’s groups in the US either don’t know why the US has taken this position or write it off as a lack of ‘political will’. Unfortunately this is only one, amongst a litany of treaties and conventions that America has blatantly ignored, subverted or violated. No other country on this planet is as dismissive of international cooperation as America. No other country on this planet causes so many problems as America and no other country on this planet is in such deep denial. The only country that comes close is that staunch American ally, Israel.

UNESCO adopted a treaty that tries to protect cultural rights worldwide. Guess which countries opposed it, America and Israel, 148 countries in favor. A few years ago most of the world met in Montreal to refine the Kyoto, global warming protocol. The US insisted on ignoring that one too and this may prove to be one of America’s greatest mistakes. Texas, just one of the 50 American states, currently emits more global warming gases than all of Canada, or all of the United Kingdom. Not only that, Texas plans to build 12 new coal power plants. Not new plants with new technology but new plants with old technology. There are 177 countries on this planet that produce less global warming gases than just those ‘new’ power plants in Texas. Texas, and the USA, they don’t give a damn about the rest of the world but those plants will make more profit. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, nope not good enough for the US of A, besides they love nukes! Here’s a really dangerous one, The Convention on the Rights of the Child, way too dangerous for America. Sorry I was being facetious; America has probably not ratified this treaty because many of the goods made for America are made by children. The UN Convention on Climate Change, nope that too would be tough on US oil companies. The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, nope the US needs all of the ABMs it can get. The Biological Weapons Convention, no, not that one either. The Treaty Banning Antipersonnel Mines, nooooo way the Bush Jr. government is actually planning to resume production of anti-personnel mines. Nearly every other nation has agreed to a global ban on these hidden killers. Allow the UN Human Rights Commission look at Guantanamo Bay, nope, America has something to hide there, not to mention all the secret CIA prisons around the world. Comply with The Chemical Weapons Commission, nah. On December 20th, 2006 the UN voted to adopt a treaty that bans the secret abduction of perceived enemies but this is also expected to be rejected by the US. The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, well America signed that one, but then violated it big time. In October, 2006 the UN General Assembly’s first committee endorsed a resolution that called for the establishment of a treaty to stop weapons transfers that fuel conflict, poverty and serious human rights violations. This deals primarily with slowing the transfer of small caliber weapons to conflict areas. 139 countries voted in favor of the resolution while only the United States, the world’s largest supplier of small arms, opposed the resolution. And we can’t forget all of America’s efforts
to wreck the International Criminal Court. Just what is America in favor of? It sure looks like America is in favor of America and to hell with everyone else! Could all this have anything to do with the global hatred of America?

The fact that President Bush Jr. commenced an illegal war with Iraq is well known. Bush Jr. ordered a so-called ‘decapitation strike’ against the President of Iraq, in violation of a 48-hour ultimatum he had given to Hussein. This violated the customary international laws of war set forth in the 1907 Hague Convention on the Opening of Hostilities to which the United States is still a party, as evidenced by paragraphs 20, 21, 22, and 23 of US Army Field Manual 27-10. President Bush Jr.’s assassination attempts against the President of Iraq were an international crime. The Bush Jr. war of aggression against Iraq is a Crime against Peace as defined by the Nuremberg Charter (1945), the Nuremberg Judgment (1946), and the Nuremberg Principles (1950) as well as by paragraph 498 of US Army Field Manual 27-10. The Pentagon’s ‘shock and awe’ upon Baghdad was contrary to article 6(b) of the 1945 Nuremberg Charter. As the occupier of Iraq under international law and practice, the US assumed this legal status which was formally recognized by UN Security Council Resolution 1483 on 22 May, 2003. In the subsequent letter from the United States and the United Kingdom to the President of the Security Council, both countries pledged to: “abide by their obligations under international law, including those relating to the essential humanitarian needs of the people of Iraq.” That promise has been violated numerous times; therefore Bush and Blair are in legal trouble here as well. There are numerous laws in effect that America has agreed to that have been broken by Bush. They have been broken because they can be broken. Who is going to tell America they can’t do what they have already done? More importantly who is going to punish the American leaders for the illegal acts they have committed? Stay tuned, as Pinochet found out old age can be difficult!

The annual death rates for children under 5 years of age is approximately 6% for children in Afghanistan, 5% for kids under 5 in Iraq and less than 1/10th of a percentage point for all the under 5 year olds in the countries that now occupy Afghanistan and Iraq. The vast difference in those death rates can only be explained by the policies that the occupying countries have inflicted on Afghanistan and Iraq. The annual death rate for westerners at the hands of Muslim terrorists during the last 20 years is .00003% and for the last five years, due to the ‘success’ of the ‘war on terror’ it is now .0001% more than 300% higher. So what the West is saying is that if your ‘terrorists’ are going to kill .0001% of our people, we are going to kill 5 to 6% of you children plus a few hundred thousand of your adults. Does anyone one in their right mind really think this will work?

Those statistics, and there are many to choose from, explain why Bush Jr. is so opposed to the ICC. He knows, and other senior members of his government know, that if the ICC becomes a fully functioning, fully recognized world court, that he and the senior members of his government could end up before
that court. That is why the US government is so opposed to the ICC. Not to protect some US army grunt who may lose it and kill some poor civilians. No, this opposition is just to protect American leaders who aggressively started needless wars. Although it is inconceivable to most Americans, Bush and many other American leaders really do need as much legal protection as they can get.

The ICC, if it had been around and functioning throughout history, would have tried and convicted every leader who ever started a war because starting a war is the ultimate crime and always has been. That would have put an end to war and this must be the ultimate goal of this fledging court. It has always been ludicrous that a political leader can start a war, leave millions dead and then just walk away from the entire mess. The end to wars can be achieved if we all support this court and its laudable aims. The end of war is the most important human achievement, other than protecting our environment, but this goal can never be achieved when men like Bush Jr. seek to destroy others while they seek to protect themselves.

The American refusals to join the ICC and the American actions against the ICC have created another stumbling block on the very long road to world peace. Over time these reprehensible American actions will become well known by the world’s peoples and this will give them another reason to hate America.

UPDATE: The 16th of March, 2006 and the United Nations is voting on a resolution to create a new Human Rights council. Guess what? Only four countries on this planet were opposed: Israel, who have abused human rights for decades, the Marshall Islands, Palau and that bastion of human rights, the good old US of A.
ISRAEL

“We are completely in bed with the Israelis to the detriment of the Palestinians.”

– President Carter

“It is no more anti-Semitic to speak out against the Israeli government than it is anti-American to speak out against the American government.”

– Unknown

“The Arabs will have to go, but one needs an opportune moment for making it happen, such as a war.”

– David Ben-Gurion, writing to his son, 1937

“How can we return the occupied territories? There is nobody to return them to.”

– Golda Meir, March 8, 1969

“Everybody has to move, run and grab as many (Palestinian) hilltops as they can to enlarge the (Jewish) settlements because everything we take now will stay ours... Everything we don’t grab will go to them.”

– Ariel Sharon, Israeli Foreign Minister, addressing a meeting of the Tsomet Party, 1998

Boy what a mess this is! Other than the Vietnam War this is the biggest American screw-up in all of the manipulations America has orchestrated since World War II. This Middle Eastern debacle has been on-going for over 100 years and as a result it appears complicated but it’s not really. However so much has happened over all this time that it is very involved and it seems to be impossible to determine who did what to whom, who is right and who is wrong. Of course the vested interests would have you believe their side of the story. Ultimately, I believe, this is simply a case of fairness denied and a violent response, in part, because every other response failed to resolve anything.

Of course the reason this situation

Jewish troops arrest a Palestinian fighter. This picture epitomizes the inequality in this conflict.
is so tragic is that the same killing and suffering has been ongoing for many
generations has been needless. At the outset the British, with help from the
French created this mess and they sustained it until they got tired of the problems
and quit. They never fixed their mistakes, that created such a mess, nor did they
attempt to rectify the grievous wrongs they committed. The Americans then
got into the act and they have sustained the inequality and suffering without
addressing the fundamental problem.

The difficulties go way back however the First Zionist Congress president
Theodor Herzl sent two Austrian rabbis to Palestine in 1897 to see if Palestine
could be the future Jewish state. After a period of exploration the rabbis cabled
Herzl, “The bride is beautiful, but she is married to another man.” The fact
that Palestine was the home to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians was
subsequently ignored by the Zionists as they began to buy land from the Arabs
in this area. The Zionists decided that the home of the Palestinians was going
to be the home of the Jewish state. NOT a Jewish and Muslim Garden of Eden,
that could have been created, but a land for Jews and Jews only. Soon more and
more Jewish settlers bought land in Palestine and lived there without significant
problems but this could not last as this xenophobic group continued to expand
without considering the rights of the Palestinians. This tragic approach to the
creation on the Jewish state is at the heart of this conflict. This conflict has
evolved into a never ending conflict because the same approach continues to
be used to this day. The Israeli leadership believes that one day the Arabs
will be gone from this land and the problems will be over. Inexplicably the
Zionist do not seem to have noticed that there are now more Palestinians than
there ever have been. Although the Zionists have concentrated on creating an
unbeatable military they have failed to understand that military might will not
solve this problem. The complete failure of this military ‘solution’ has not led
to another solution because the Zionists seem blinded by their vision and this
single way out. This myopic thinking will never solve this conflict but there is
no indication that any other approach will be taken.

The troubles for the Arabs really started during WW I, another needless
war, which the British were losing. In order to turn the tide and win that war,
the Brits made promises to anyone and everyone to get them on their side.
While that war was ongoing the Brits were also trying to protect their vast
city, which they claimed, simply because they had the power to do so.
One of the jewels in that empire was India and to get there they needed the
Suez Canal but this canal was in the Middle East. The vast oil wealth of Iraq
was also known by then and England wanted that too. As a result of those
oil riches England invaded and ruled Egypt beginning in 1882. She stationed
large numbers of troops there to oppose England’s ‘enemies’ who increasingly
turned out to be the Ottoman Empire, Austria/Hungary and Germany. As the
threat of war grew countries took sides and on England’s side were France, and
Russia under the Czars.

At the beginning of WW I, in August 1914, everyone thought that the war
would be a just a short skirmish and that there would be glory enough for everyone. They were sadly mistaken. It is truly remarkable that even today; men are starting wars when it is so well known that wars ruin lives, including their own. At the end of 1914 the warmongers discovered that far from being over, the war looked like it would go on and kill thousands of additional bright young men, in fact it went on to kill millions. Rather than end this foolishness British Prime Minister Asquith decided to widen the war and attack, as Churchill called it, the “soft underbelly” of their enemy which was considered to be Turkey, head of the Ottoman Empire. Britain decided to manipulate the situation and in March 1915 they entered into a secret treaty with the Czar of Russia by offering him Constantinople, after they had won the war. Naturally the people of Constantinople were not consulted. This war victory would give Russia access to the Mediterranean, something the Czar had always wanted and an offer he could not refuse. Coincidently the Brits and French had prevented the Russians from having access to the Mediterranean in the past but Britain’s desperation to win World War I was a powerful motivator.

Britain, France and Russia also bribed Italy into joining their side by offering Italy Anatolia, a significant chunk of the Ottoman Empire, in another secret treaty. England also exploited the emerging nationalism amongst the Arabs. By mid 1915 both Britain and France had sent agents to Arab lands to see if they could turn the Arabs against the Ottoman Empire, which, at that time, ruled over millions of Arabs. Naturally they had to offer the Arabs something in return and they offered them independence, if and when the Ottoman Empire was defeated. Hussein, Sherif of Mecca wanted independence for the Arabs and so he agreed to raise an Arab army against the Ottomans. On October 25th, 1915 the British responded by saying that they would recognize and support Arab independence.

Hussein and his son Faisal then organized an Arab army which put pressure on the Turks and this took some pressure off the Brits who were slowly losing against the Germans. Laurence of Arabia was involved in all this, (see the great movie, Lawrence of Arabia) but he eventually refused medals from the King of England because the

![Sykes-Picot Agreement, 1916](image)

*The British and the French divided up the Middle East for themselves, without telling anyone else.*
British proved to be such two-faced despots. While the Arabs were dying in these battles the British and French reached another secret agreement to divide up the Arab lands. This Sykes-Picot Agreement divided up virtually the entire Middle East between England, France and Russia. The people who had live in these lands for millennia were not consulted. The British and French planned to make Palestine an international zone except for the port city of Haifa which was reserved for the British as they intended to build a pipeline from Iraq to Haifa to transport all that cheap Iraqi oil to England. The Arabs, along with the British, fought the Turks and pushed them north but the British also moved in and occupied Palestine. No one, at that time, disputed the existence of Palestine or the Palestinian people.

Back in England there was a new Prime Minister, Lloyd George and he wanted America in this war. He felt that Jewish groups in America could influence American leaders but many Jews were pro-German and they were not as cohesive as Lloyd George thought they were. A new Jewish group, the Zionists had been formed in the 1880s and established their headquarters in Berlin. Zionism was based on the establishment of a new Jewish state. The formation of Zionism happened to coincide with anti-Semitism which was spreading all over Europe. After eliminating a few other options the Zionists decided that the new home for the Jews was going to be Palestine so they sponsored emigration to Palestine and started buying up Arab land. Jewish writings also endorsed this ‘return’ to the ‘promised land’.

Jewish people, in larger and larger numbers started moving into Palestine in the second half of the 1800s. In the beginning the Jews and Palestinians lived together in peace. In the late 1800s the Palestinians became increasingly concerned as this Jewish immigration signaled future difficulties. The Jews set up the Jewish National Fund in 1901 which bought land from Arab owners but their policy was to never sell it, or even lease it back to an Arab. By 1914 the Jewish population in Palestine made up 8% of the population in Palestine.

In England the Zionists were pressuring the British leaders for some sort of guarantee that Britain would support a Jewish state in Palestine, if Britain won the war. In 1917 Sykes, the same guy who carved up the Arab lands with the French, started negotiations with the Zionist leaders in England however the war was not going well for England. Although America was now in the war President Wilson was not yet prepared to send large numbers of young American men off to be killed as he had already promised to keep America out of this war.

The Russian people suffered terribly during this useless war and as a result finally overthrew the Czar in late 1917. Britain and France needed Russia in this war but the new Russian leaders, the Bolsheviks, had more sense and withdrew. This spelled defeat for England and France, without Russian help they could not defeat Germany. Lloyd George became desperate for American support and instructed his Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour to write Lord Rothschild.
Foreign Office  
2nd November 1917  
Dear Lord Rothschild:

I have much pleasure in conveying to you on behalf of His Majesty's Government the following declaration of our sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet. His Majesty's Government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country. I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours sincerely

Arthur James Balfour

(emphasis added) This declaration, to the powerful British Jew and Zionist, Lord Rothschild, was the beginning of the disaster that the Middle East has become. The British committed land to the Jews that was not British, before any agreement had been reached with the existing residents of Palestine, the Palestinians. This Balfour Declaration happened to coincide with the British military occupation of Palestine, the same Palestine the British had already promised to Hussein, Sherif of Mecca. Hussein and his Arab troops were fighting, and dying, for the British because they had been promised independence. An independence that is still denied the Arabs by the Western powers to this day. This Balfour Declaration was important because it represented the first ‘official’ support for a separate Jewish state but it was not a negotiated treaty, it was a unilateral declaration.

Lloyd George hoped that this declaration would influence Jewish leaders in America and that they would help get America into the war. He also hoped this would influence the Jewish leaders that were part of the powerful men now leading the new Russian government. Instead the 25 Jewish leaders in the Russian revolution issued a statement saying that they regarded the Balfour Declaration as a capitalistic idea and that they were opposed to Zionism. Not what Lloyd George wanted to hear! The Russian leaders also published the secret treaties that Britain, France and the former Russian government had used to divide up the Middle East. This was more than embarrassing for England and France because they had been fighting this horrendous war for ‘democracy’ when all their true actions were based on greed, empire and an abysmal lack of democracy. These revelations also informed the Arab world that the British could not be trusted. Although his war was now revealed as a sham millions more were to die.
The British occupied Jerusalem in December 1917 but the Arab army could not be found. The Brits didn’t want to lose their fighting capabilities so; once again, they assured the Arabs that they would support Arab independence. Hussein, Sherif of Mecca bought this British lie once again. Due to the manipulations by powerful men in England and America large numbers of troops were sent from America to Europe and this eventually won the war for England and France. Over 100,000 young Americans would die along with over 60 million other soldiers, civilians and flu victims in this needless war, the war so bad that it would be called, “the war to end all wars”. That optimistic declaration, which so many of the world’s peoples hoped for, was to be shattered countless times by amoral men who wanted more.

In April 1918 Zionists traveled to Palestine to announce a new Jewish university for Palestine. This alarmed the Palestinians as they began to think that perhaps the British were not going to honor their renewed commitment to Arab independence. In October 1918 the Arab army along with the British pushed the Turks out of Damascus in Syria. Faisal, who was still the head of this army proclaimed himself the new head of Syria. The British General advised him that his stay might be short lived as the French had been promised this land in the secret Sykes-Picot Agreement, which the British still planned to honor. On the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, World War I ended with the defeat of Germany, Austrian/Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. The guys who started this needless war not only walked free but some of them divided up the spoils. 75% of the French troops were killed compared to 44% of the British, 54% of the German, 74% of the Austrian-Hungary troops and 8% of the Americans. Twenty three countries lost young men in what was, up to that time, the most useless and most deadly war in history.

In January 1919 the victors met in Paris to divvy up the lands of the defeated, primarily the lands of the old Ottoman empire. The problem was that the Brits had made too many conflicting promises. Another problem was the American President wanted to provide independence to those countries that used to be under the Ottoman Empire, the Arabs among others, but in the end those lofty ideals were abandoned. The Sykes-Picot Agreement would be honored and Palestine would fall under British control. In a subsequent memo, Balfour would admit that the promises to the Palestinians were always going to be “violated”.

This was the beginning of the end of Palestine and the start of the debacle that people are still dying for today.

In June 1919 the League of Nations was formed and confirmed that the Arab nations would not be independent and could be run (exploited) by others. On November 21st, 1919 the French showed up in Beirut to run the Arab lands that they had agreed to give themselves. Faisal, the leader of the Arab army who had helped to defeat the Turks had already been confirmed as the legitimate leader by the local parliament but was deposed by the French in 1920. So much for Arab independence and democracy!
The promise in the Balfour declaration, “that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine”, was subsequently ignored.

Up to that time Palestine was a poorly defined country that was home to over 700,000 Arabs and 80,000 Jews. This land had been primarily Arab for over a thousand years. Many Jews asserted that these lands were merely being returned to the Jews but you are asking for trouble by not pressing your land claim for over 1,000 years. In any case Balfour summed up the difficulties in 1919 when he said, “The four powers are committed to Zionism and Zionism, be it right or wrong, good or bad, is rooted in age old tradition, in present needs and future hopes far more important than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land.” He also made it clear that British actions were totally one-sided when he said, “For in Palestine we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants of the country.” In other words, we are going to make space for Jews in Palestine because we have decided that their need is greater than the needs of the Arabs, who have been there for eons, and, by the way, we are not even going to talk to the Arabs about all this, let alone negotiate. Indeed the Arabs were already very concerned because they could see the juggernaut that was heading their way.

Of course the Arabs in much of the Middle East were angry that they had been so deceived and they did what they could to gain the independence they were promised. In Iraq tribesmen rose up and fought the British in June 1920. By October of that year the British had killed over 10,000 Iraqi’s while losing 450 of their own men. This atrocity also cost the British taxpayer over £40,000,000 which was a lot of dough in 1920. Not much has changed, Western powers are still killing a disproportionate number of Iraqi’s and their hatred of the British, and now Americans, is completely understandable.

The Jewish National Front bought their first land in 1903. By 1921 they had bought 25,000 acres. By 1927 it was 50,000 acres with 50 Jewish communities. By 1935 they had 89,500 acres and 108 Jewish settlements. This equaled about 365 square kilometers or 1.8% of the 20,000 square kilometers that represented Palestine at that time.

In 1920 the British granted themselves a mandate over Palestine but they did this through the League of Nations to make it look better. This was basically a division of certain lands by the victors of WW I because they were the victors and they called the shots, the old ‘might is right’ principal. Palestinians organized their first commercial strike in 1922. Ben-Gurion, the future Prime Minister of Israel, acknowledged privately that a Palestinian national movement was evolving. He wrote in his diary, “The success of the [Palestinian] Arabs in organizing the closure of shops shows that we are dealing here with a national movement. For the [Palestinian] Arabs, this is an important education step.”

During these massive changes in Palestine the Arabs simply didn’t have the organizational skills or military might required to protect Palestine from
illegal immigration and eventual domination. The Palestinians were, however, human and as such deserved to be treated fairly. The dictatorial way in which their lands were distributed did not meet any reasonable degree of fairness. As a result of this threat to their lands they revolted in 1929 during which 133 Palestinians and 116 Jews were reported killed but this was to be the last time that the two sides were evenly matched.

The Arab concerns continued to increase with the influx of many more Jews, in large part because it became clear that the Jews had no intention of integrating into their country but wanted to create their own country out of Palestine. Jewish immigration continued to increase particularly as the Second World War approached and the Jews found themselves under real threats in Germany and elsewhere. In 1935 there were 450,000 Jews in Palestine but only 10% were living on the 89,500 acres the Jewish National Front had purchased by that time. The other 90% were living on Arab land but the Jews didn’t see it that way. In the late 1930s the Arab’s revolted again but they were defeated, primarily with the military help of the British. Numerous Israeli terrorist groups were organized and they unleashed many attacks against the Palestinians. Between 1936 and 1939 it is estimated that 5,000 Palestinians were killed by British and Jewish forces and more than 10,000 wounded. Jewish deaths were estimated at 400 and the British deaths at 200.

One of the most important of these Jewish terrorist groups was Irgun but perhaps we should back up for a moment. Irgun was a more violent offshoot of Haganah which was established in 1909 to protect Jewish settlers from Arab attacks. This protection was necessary because there were Arab attacks however those attacks occurred because the land being used by the settlers was not acquired in a mutually satisfactory way. That was and remains the only real problem and it continues to sustain all the tragedies in Israel and the former Palestine today.

Irgun broke away from Haganah because they wanted to be more aggressive. Their poster showed a gun and a much larger part of the Middle East as the future Israel. Their radio station was called, “The voice of fighting Zion” and this aggression was to further escalate the hatred between the Jews and the Muslims. In 1944 Irgun was led by future Prime Minister Menachem Begin. His leadership coincided with the period in which the British and Arabs suffered from many attacks designed to expel both the British and the Arabs from ‘Israel’. Irgun was forced to disband with the formation of the Jewish state in 1948 however many of

An Irgun poster for distribution in Central Europe. The message was, free land here but you may have to fight for it.
the Irgun men were blended into the Israel Defence Force, the IDF. During their existence they committed many illegal attacks and helped to ensure that this would be an intractable conflict.

One of these Irgun terrorist acts was the explosion of the King David Hotel on July 22nd, 1946. The explosion killed almost 100 and wounded many more. Irgun blew up this hotel to eliminate information the British had gathered which proved that the terrorist activity in Palestine was committed by organized Jewish groups with the knowledge of the highest Zionist authorities. They also wanted the Brits out of ‘Israel’. This bombing was to be followed by many more massacres on both sides however I believe it is fair to say that the Zionists started and continued this violence to drive the Arabs out of areas that they regarded as part of the Jewish state. Their successes enabled them to proceed with the silence support of more moderate Jews.

It is important to mention these early Jewish attacks because aggressive public relations efforts over the decades have convinced many people that the Arabs are the violent ones and the Jews are simply defending themselves. This perception denies the reality of the situation.

In addition to the deaths and destruction at the King David Hotel there were other serious disputes between Zionists and Palestinians. Fighting took place at the Haifa Petroleum Refinery in January 1947. This led to deaths and killings on both sides. Revenge for this dispute was taken by armed Zionists against Arab homes killing many innocent people. In December 1947 there were many attacks against Arabs by the Zionists in the Arab villages of Yehiday, Khisas, Qazaza, Mukhtar and others. On January 5th, 1948 the hotel Semiramis in Jerusalem was bombed killing both Muslims and Christians. In April 1948 Jewish terror organizations attacked the Arab village at Dair Yasin. The Stern and Irgun gangs tried to destroy every home in the village to deliberately drive the Palestinians out. Many were killed in the process. Lehi and Irgun forces entered the village of Naser Al-Din on the night of April 13th 1948 killing many and destroying homes. The massacre at the Arab town of Tantura is interesting because it was disputed by various Jewish groups but both of them admit there was a massacre. A Jewish student did a thesis on Tantura which claimed that as many as 200 innocent Arabs were killed. Some veterans of this attack claimed that this wasn’t true and they won a battle in court against the thesis author. The fact is that this Arab village was attacked and both sides admit that at least 70 Arabs were killed. So the veterans won a legal victory because the deaths were exaggerated. What right did various Jewish groups have to attack any Arab village? There were many other attacks and deaths however the number of Jewish attacks against Arabs, on territory that was considered Arab by the UN partition of 1947, far exceeded the Arab attacks against Jewish settlements on land considered Jewish by this same partition. These attacks, which did not occur before the formation of the Jewish terrorist groups, set the violent stage for the years to come.

David Ben-Gurion, another future Israeli Prime Minster, was also active in
the formation of the Jewish state as he had helped with the illegal immigration of thousands of Jews to Palestine. In 1937 he said, “We must expel Arabs and take their places .... and, if we have to use force - not to dispossess the Arabs of the Negev and Transjordan, but to guarantee our own right to settle in those places - then we have force at our disposal.” Ben-Gurion was one of the most moderate Jewish leaders but as the tragic events unfolded in Europe he was to become more aggressive with the Arabs. In his writings and comments he occasionally mentions the rights of Palestinians and even mentions that they are a separate people but those feelings never seem to overrule his basic feeling that ‘Israel’ should be formed and comprise all of Palestine. He made this clear when he said in 1938, “After the formation of a large army in the wake of the establishment of the [Jewish] state, we shall abolish partition and expand to the whole of the Palestine.” Ben-Gurion was to become Prime Minister in 1948 and then had this to say, “Politically we are the aggressors and they (the Arabs) defend themselves… The country is theirs because they inhabit it, whereas we want to come here and settle down, and in their view we want to take away from them their country”. A few other straight shooters also commented on this situation at the time, “Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same way that England belongs to the English or France to the French. What is going on in Palestine today cannot be justified by any moral code of conduct”, Mahatma Gandhi, 1938.

What is most remarkable about the formation of this Jewish state is that that many Jews recognized that this was Arab land and that they obviously occupied it when they arrived from Europe. That they needed a refuge was understandable but they never sought an accommodation with the Arabs. They always seemed to assume that the Arabs would not cooperate and after they made it clear they were going to just take Palestinian land this was true. I believe that it is also true to say that they could have saved many lives and spent billions less if they had worked with the Arabs respectfully and cooperatively from the outset. Tragically that approach was never attempted by any Israeli leader.

What was happening to the Jews in Europe, particularly at the hands of the Nazis, created a real need for Jewish immigration; somewhere, anywhere. Many years before the Zionists had decided that Palestine was the place so the stage was set. Unfortunately none of the Allies really opened their doors to the Jews in their time of desperate need. Indeed, even the British made it difficult, or impossible, for some of the Jews to get to Palestine. At some point the British could see the problems; that they created, by sending all these people to this emerging, undeclared, Jewish homeland in Palestine. In spite of that reality British governments never tried to ensure fairness in this land.

President Roosevelt had agreed to contact the Arabs before more Jews were placed in Palestine however he died in April 1945 and was replaced by President Truman. Truman was under a great deal of pressure to push the British to form a homeland for the Jews in Palestine. He had a former Jewish business
partner, Eddie Jacobsen, who visited the White House on June 26, 1946 with Zionist officials and this resulted in numerous future meetings. Truman then requested that 100,000 Jews be allowed to immigrate to America. This was a gutsy political move as Jews were not welcome in America at that time. He also went on to say that the US government would support a, “viable Jewish state in an adequate area of Palestine.”

By this time the vast oil reserves of the Middle East were well known. Neither the Brits nor the Yanks wanted to alienate the Arabs and possibly reduce their access to this oil. At the same time the US was under considerable pressure from American Jews to support a Jewish State in Palestine. President Truman was getting fed up with the Jewish pressure which is evident in his memoirs, “The Jews, I find are very, very selfish. They care not how many Estonians, Latvians, Finns, Poles, Yugoslavs or Greeks get murdered or mistreated as Displaced Persons as long as the Jews get special treatment. Yet when they have power, physical, financial or political neither Hitler nor Stalin has anything on them for cruelty or mistreatment to the under dog. Put an underdog on top and it makes no difference whether his name is Russian, Jewish, Negro, Management, Labor, Mormon, Baptist, he goes haywire. I’ve found very, very few who remember their past condition when prosperity comes.” This Truman comment, and others, were released by the National Archives in 2003.

So President Truman was dealing with the issue that had caused so many tragedies for the Jewish people and resulted in their being so unwelcome in so many other countries. Even in mild mannered Canada it was common to exclude Jews from land ownership, club membership, or even hotel rooms. The reasons for this anti-Semitism could take up another book but this global anti-Semitism did not evolve out of thin air. President Truman was also dealing with another issue which became a crucial issue for all subsequent American Presidents. The Republicans were constantly criticizing Truman for not giving more support to the Jews. The Republicans, Congress, the American media and most Americans agreed with this support for a new Jewish state in Palestine. Extensive public relations efforts by the Zionists in the years previously helped to create this American public support. Truman believed that if he failed to push for this Jewish state he would lose the up-coming election in 1948.

The Jewish ability to affect American elections and the subsequent policies of the American government is blatantly apparent today. Here are a few comments from Democratic leaders during the July, 2006 bombing of Lebanese civilian targets. These are excerpts from statements made by Democratic leaders in the US. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer. “The House Democratic leadership strongly condemns the seizure of Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah terrorists operating from Lebanon. Israel has an inherent right to defend itself, and the United States supports our ally.” Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid. “Today’s attacks by Hezbollah in Israeli territory were disgraceful and unwarranted acts of violence by a terrorist organization. Israel has a right to live in peace and security,
and the United States will stand by our ally in this difficult time.” US Representative Gary Ackerman, Ranking Democrat of the House of Representatives International Relations Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia. “If the world is serious about peace in the Middle East, then Tehran and Damascus need to be held accountable for feeding, fostering, and occasionally unleashing, these rabid, blood-spattered killers.” PS: He is not talking about the Israeli’s. US Representative Alcee Hastings, Co-Chair, House of Representatives Democratic Working Group on Israel. “Hezbollah’s actions against Israel are unconsciousable. Israel must have the right to defend herself. Like the United States and other sovereign nations, Israel is justified in reestablishing its deterrent posture.”

US Representative Gene Green, Co-Chair, House of Representatives Democratic Working Group on Israel. “Attempts by Hezbollah to open a second front after the kidnapping from Gaza are an attack on Israel’s sovereignty. Hezbollah’s actions require Israel to defend itself, and Israel’s actions to take out terrorist camps along its borders to prevent this from happening again are warranted and justified.”

US Representative Robert Wexler, Ranking Democrat of the House of Representatives International Relations Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats. “I strongly condemn the horrific attack on Israel’s northern border carried-out by Hezbollah terrorists based in Southern Lebanon. These provocations stand in stark violation of international law, and I strongly support Israel’s unequivocal right to self-defense.”

Coincidently those comments came from people who received considerable financial support from Jewish organizations.

Nancy Pelosi, $57,000 from pro-Israel Political Action Committees (PACs)
Steny Hoyer, $92,000 from pro-Israel PACs.
Harry Reid, $318,000 from pro-Israel PACs.
Alcee Hastings, $23,000 from pro-Israel PACs.
By 1947 the US, along with Britain, had aggressively pushed for the partition (division) of Palestine to accommodate the new Jewish state but still the Palestinians were not included in the process. And so with American support it became a done deal via a UN vote. The push for this favorable vote took many forms, Greece was threatened with loss of foreign aid; Firestone threatened Liberia with a rubber embargo, etc. Numerous countries reversed their anti partition positions and voted in favor after American pressure. Dean Rusk, head of the UN desk in Washington at the time, wrote, “when President Truman decided to support partition, I worked hard to implement it....The pressure and arm-twisting applied by American and Jewish representatives in capital after capital to get that affirmative vote are hard to describe.” The division of Palestine into Jewish, Palestinian and international pieces, Partition, passed, 33 in favor, 13 against and 10 abstentions on November 29th, 1947.

Looking back it is hard to believe that the worlds most powerful countries, the US and the UK, could carve up another country without reaching an agreement with the majority of people who had lived in that country for centuries. This has always been the fundamental flaw and neither the UK nor the US has ever attempted to rectify it. Not reaching an agreement with the Palestinians was one thing but to allow the Palestinians to be treated as they were subsequently treated would ensure that this wound would continue to fester to this present day.

When Israel declared itself a state in 1948 the Jews owned about 5% of Palestine however the partition gave over 50% to the Jews and left over 40% to the Palestinians, who at that time made up over 70% of the population. Three percent went to an international zone. Unfortunately the Zionists were never happy with this amount of Palestinian land and immediately started pushing for more. Indeed this has been the long term Jewish goal as stated by Ben-Gurion in 1938 but now his attitude as Israel’s first Prime Minister was more militant, “The wisdom of Israel is now the wisdom of war, nothing else.” And yet a few days later he acknowledged, “They, the decisive majority of them [Palestinians], do not want to fight us.” This attitude by the Jewish leadership that Palestine was ‘all ours’ was to be reaffirmed by all future Jewish leaders and of course lead to many tragedies on both sides.

Meanwhile the British got fed up with all the problems they created and abandoned Palestine on May, 15th, 1948. They failed to honor their promises in the Balfour Declaration, their promises for independent Arab states or any real sense of fairness in Palestine. The Arabs did try to fight back and reclaim their land but the Jews had acquired more force and this reality continues. Many people today believe that the violent Arabs attack innocent Jews and the Jewish people simply exercise their legitimate right to defend themselves.

After Palestine was divided by the UN those borders might have been defendable and accepted over time. In fact the Arabs have said they would accept those borders and contrary to the perception that Israel continues to
create, Hamas and the Arab states have said that they accept Israel’s right to exist, if Israel accepts the borders of Palestine. This Israel has never agreed to do.

The Palestinians declared a general strike and they tried to organize military force against the Jews as they had no military might of their own. There was now considerable fighting between the two groups which the UN the UK and the US did nothing to stop. The situation continued to deteriorate with fighting in Jerusalem and in other centers as the Jews expanded their settlements. In April 1948 there were 13 Jewish attacks on Palestinians, 8 of them in the Arab part of Palestine. The Israeli author Simha Flapan in his book ‘The Birth of Israel’, states, “The ruthlessness of the (Jewish) attack on Deir Yassin shocked Jewish and world opinion alike, drove fear and panic into the Arab population and led to the flight of unarmed civilians from their homes all over the country.” This fighting became known to the Jews as their, ‘The War of Independence’ and is considered by most Jews to be a response to Arab aggression. Uri Milstein, an Israeli military historian writes about this war, “every skirmish ended in a massacre of Arabs”. The director of the Israeli army archives seems to agree, “in almost every village occupied by us during the War of Independence, acts were committed which are defined as war crimes”. At the very least I think we can acknowledge that the Palestinians lost land inside their UN mandated borders.

Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon sympathized with the situation the Palestinians found themselves in. Collectively they attacked Israel in May 1948 but they were not well organized and their military efforts against the Jews were ineffective. During this conflict many more Palestinians were violently displaced but the official word has been that the Arabs left their homes voluntarily. Menahem Begin as the leader of what we would now call, a terrorist organization, said, “in Jerusalem, as elsewhere, we were the first to pass from the defensive to the offensive...Arabs began to flee in terror... Hagana (another less militant Jewish group) was carrying out successful attacks on other fronts, while all the Jewish forces proceeded to advance through Haifa like a knife through butter.”

When Arab villages were deserted due to the fighting they were quickly destroyed by the Jews so returning to them would be much less likely. The UN, which approved this unworkable Partition in the first place, passed resolution #194 on December 11th, 1948 affirming the right of the Palestinians to return to their homes. This resolution has been denied or ignored by Israel so the UN has proceeded to pass it every year since and, surprise, surprise, these resolutions have been ignored as well. Israel has used almost every means at their disposal to prevent the Palestinians from returning to their homes.

Due to the defeat of the Arabs during this war in 1948 over 700,000 Palestinians found themselves in refugee camps. There numbers have grown over the years and now number over three million.

After this conflict it was estimated that only 150,000 Palestinians remained
inside the old borders of Palestine. The northern region of Galilee, the southern desert of the Negev and the centre of the country near Tel Aviv were almost entirely cleansed of Palestinians. Many Israelis today deny this event but it is more difficult to deny that over 400 Palestinian villages were destroyed after this war. The Israeli government established a department to clean up these emptied towns. The pretext was that the wrecked buildings might be a safety hazard or that children might fall into old wells or even that the Jews might find the remains unsettling. The Jewish National fund then used donations from America to buy millions of trees to eliminate any remains of the villages. Or as Meron Benvenisti, the former mayor of Jerusalem wrote, “to camouflage the ruins”. Israel made sure that no villager returned to a destroyed village as they wanted to make sure that no Palestinian established a “right of return” precedent. This treatment of so many Palestinians is largely forgotten but a small group of Israelis are working to preserve this history even though the villages are long gone.

Much has happened since those years when Israel came into being but it is pretty much the same old tragic story. The Palestinians were shafted while the UK the US and the UN stood by. To give you one example, Israel not only prevented the return of the Palestinians that fled during the war by policing the borders and destroying their villages but they enacted, ‘the Prevention of Infiltration Military Order of 1948’. This placed the onus on Palestinians to prove that they had been inside the area of ‘Israel’ consistently for five years. If they could not document that fact they were usually deported and ended up in a refugee camp. At the same time (1950) the Israeli government enacted the Law of Return, granting every Jew in the world potential citizenship in ‘Israel’. Hundreds of thousands of Jews

After this war in 1948 the Palestinians lost even more territory. This was a depressing defeat for them as they already felt their land was stolen from then due to the UN division. Compare this map to the previous 1947 map.
immigrated to Israel and the former land of the displaced Palestinian refugees, who had no practical “right of return” was used to accommodate these new, Jewish immigrants from around the world. To be welcome in ‘Israel’ you had to be Jewish, to be human was not enough.

And so Israel gained more land after this ‘War of Independence’ but under international law land acquired during war cannot be kept by the victors. If this Israeli action was allowed many more wars would result and much more land would change hands. Primarily due to American support, Israel retained all the land they occupied in the 1948 war and returning it to the Palestinians was never considered.

Although the Brits withdrew from Palestine in 1948 and seem to have felt, from time to time, that this situation was unfortunate, they never missed an opportunity to sell millions in weapons to the Jews. Over time America has assumed that role and today Israel and America have become fully aligned. That is frequently demonstrated when they both attempt to solve problems in the same aggressive manner. As Iraq as shown, excessive aggression doesn’t work well.

And so the clashes and conflicts continued but it is indisputable that the Israelis have gained more and more people and more and more land over the years. Along comes 1967 and the ‘Six-day-war’ which is a decisive Israeli victory. This war is another good example of effective Israeli public relations. Most of the West was led to believe that Israel was simply defending itself and emerged victorious against overwhelming odds. It wasn’t quite like that. The reason for the war, as always, was the fundamental inequality that carved up the former Palestine and the subsequent treatment of those people. Palestine just seemed to disappear overnight when its name was unilaterally changed to Israel. Syria was also unhappy with this situation but they also had difficulties with the Israelis. They felt that Israel was abusing Syrian water rights along their joint border and Israel had shot down six Syrian jets in April 1967. To rub salt in the Syrian wounds the IAF then flew over Damascus just to show the Syrians who was boss. In May 1967 the Egyptians requested that the UN pull their ‘troops’ out of the Sinai and the UN complied. Nasser, the President of Egypt, then proceeded to put troops and tanks along the border with Israel. On May 30th Jordan put its troops under command of Egypt and four days later Iraq joined this ‘alliance’. While this was going on President Johnson was assured by Nasser that the Arab forces would not strike first. Johnson did not put the same pressure on the Israelis because he wanted to be rid of Nasser, he just didn’t want another war as Vietnam was already wrecking his Presidency.

At this time Egypt had 150,000 men in their army but 70,000, including their best units were involved with the civil war in Yemen. Jordan’s total army was 55,000 but many of them were also engaged in Yemen. Syria had 75,000 soldiers. Israel had a total strength of 264,000 but they had better training, morale and equipment. Israel also attacked first on June 5th, 1967 when they flew low over the Mediterranean and then in to destroy the Egyptian air force
on the ground, over 300 aircraft were destroyed and 100 pilots killed. They also wasted no time in bombing airports in Jordan, Syria and Iraq to prevent those airports from being used. In this way they established air superiority and were then able to dominate the entire conflict. The Israelis were also the first to launch attacks against the Egyptian army in the Sinai and at that time the Sinai was Egyptian territory. This battle in the Sinai raged for three days but was won by the IDF when the Egyptian commander ordered a premature retreat. Jordan didn’t want this war and without an effective air force the end result had to be a loss for them as well. After some heavy fighting and many deaths they were defeated. The Syrian army was attacked by the IAF for four days and some of the units fled so the Israelis gained control of Syrian territory, the Golan Heights.

On June 8th an American ship, the USS Liberty was also attacked off the coast of Egypt. Although it was clearly marked and flying a large US flag it was shot and torpedoed and nearly sunk by the IDF. 34 Americans were killed and 172 were injured. When the Liberty asked for help from a nearly US aircraft carrier, the USS Saratoga, planes were immediately launched but then recalled on direct orders from President Johnson. There was no congressional investigation, sailors were told not to discuss the incident or face a court marshal and other abnormalities. A very strange story that has not been resolved to this day. Go to http://home.cfl.rr.com/gidusko/liberty/

This story is important today because it illustrates to what lengths Israel is prepared to go to ensure that any of their illegal actions remain as hidden as possible. The USS Liberty was monitoring communications after the surprise June 5th Israeli assault on Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq. The IDF was well aware of the identity and position of the USS Liberty as the ship had previously been circled by IDF aircraft and the Americans had waved and seen the Israelis wave back. Suddenly the Israeli aircraft strafed the ship for 20 minutes. Israeli boats then continued with the attack hitting the ship with a torpedo that killed 25 Americans in the intelligence area. They closed on the ship using machine guns to pick off Americans who were trying to put out fires. From this distance it would have been impossible not to have known that this ship was American.
Captain William McGonagle then gave the order to abandon ship but the Israelis then fired on the rubber rafts so the Americans sought refuge below decks. This attack by the Israeli ships lasted for 1 hour and 15 minutes after which two-thirds of the crew of 292 men were either dead or injured.

This deliberate attack on an ally seems strange but the Israelis had something to hide and the first thing to hide was this attack and how it took place. President Johnson told the American public that there had been an accidental six-minute attack that had killed 10 Americans. The CIA reported that Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan had personally ordered the attack but President Johnson’s story became the ‘official’ story. Surviving crew members who wrote about the attack were called “anti-Semitic”. Medals were awarded to the crew in secret and their calls for an independent inquiry have been rebuffed to this day.

The Israelis may have also wished to hide or destroy information the ship acquired. The Israelis planned to claim that this 1967 war was simply defensive and just happened to result in the seizure of large amounts of Arab land. Israel feared that the information from the ship would have shown that the 1967 war had been planned far in advance. If the Israelis had allowed the USS Liberty to continue monitoring Israeli communications they might have shown that Israel attacked Syria first and not the other way round as Israel later claimed. This would have weakened their claim to the Golan Heights which they occupy to this day. Quotes from senior Israelis confirm the facts, “In June 1967, we again had a choice. The Egyptian Army concentrations in the Sinai approaches do not prove that Nasser was really about to attack us. We must be honest with ourselves. We decided to attack him.” Menahem Begin, future Israeli Prime Minister. “I do not think Nasser wanted war. The two divisions he sent to The Sinai would not have been sufficient to launch an offensive war. He knew it and we knew it.” Yitzhak Rabin, Israel’s Chief of Staff in 1967

I have mentioned this attack in some detail because it is identical to the recent attack on the UN observation post in Lebanon. This post was well marked, they had called the Israeli’s 10 times, immediately prior to the Israeli attack to warn them that the post was manned and still Israel went ahead and hit it with at least two ‘precision’ bombs killing everyone on duty. We may never know what the Israeli were trying to hide during their war with Lebanon. What that attack on the USS Liberty demonstrated to Israel was that they could literally get away with murder and not be reprimanded in any significant way by the West and in particular America. That freedom to act with impunity has been an intrinsic part of Israeli aggression since before 1947.

So the Israelis won a decisive victory in 1967 but then attacking first usually helps. They now had much more territory and another one million Arabs under their control. Another one half million had fled to Jordan, where they added to the refugee population and problem. In the Golan Heights about 80,000 Syrians escaped. The Sinai was eventually returned to Egypt in exchange for peace and few billion $$ from the US each year. This may have stopped Egyptian
attacks but it created a dictatorship with the associated loss of freedoms in Egypt. The Golan Heights were annexed by Israel and not returned to Syria. As Yitzhak Rabin said, “Words are not enough about the Golan Heights. We must put them into actions... Withdrawal from the Golan is unthinkable, even in times of peace. Anyone considering withdrawal from the Golan Heights would be abandoning Israel’s security.” Israel began settling the Golan immediately following the war. Kibbutz Merom Golan was founded in July 1967. By 1970 there were 12 Jewish communities and by 2004 there were 34 settlements of around 20,000 people on the Golan. Jordan and Egypt eventually gave up on their claims to the West Bank and Gaza but the Palestinians are still there.

Another important change after the 1967 War was the American attitude towards Israel. Although America vigorously supported the formation of Israel at the UN back in 1947 this war enabled the US to regard Israel as a base in the Middle East from which to make inroads while Israel regarded the US as a force that could help them consolidate their dominance over the territory they sought. After the Johnson years the relationship continued to grow by leaps and bounds. During the Nixon years, with much influence from Kissinger, America became a staunch ally of Israel by increasing military aid from less than $50 million in the late 1960s to an average of almost $400 million and following the 1973 war, to $2.2 billion. In order to keep this ball rolling the Israelis have called every President since Johnson, “the most pro-Israeli president ever”; with the exception of Carter and Bush Sr.

And then there is the truly important stuff that is hardly mentioned. About 800 Israelis died, 11,500 Egyptians died, 6,500 Jordanians were killed along with 2,500 Syrians. There were 44,000 wounded and thousands captured. Many lives, families and communities were destroyed but the Jews had more land and that was what this was all about.

Just after the Six-day-war, Israeli ministers were secretly warned that any policy of building settlements in occupied Palestinian territories violated international law. A “top secret” memo by the Foreign Ministry’s legal counsel said that settlements would “contravene the explicit provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention”. This advice was provided by Theodor Meron, who left Israel 10 years later and eventually became president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. In any case, the advice was ignored by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol who wanted settlements on the Golan Heights and in the Jordan Valley. Additional civilian settlements have been established by successive Israel governments, leading to an Israeli population of more than 250,000 in the West Bank today. Many other international legal experts disagree with the Israeli position but it doesn’t make much difference. Israel, right or wrong, is supported by the US and both countries have a history of ignoring ‘international law’. Both countries also consider the laws they make the only laws they need to obey. (see the International Criminal Court chapter)

Life is much easier if you do what you tell yourself you can do.

Two weeks after the war ended, on June 27th the Israeli Knesset approved
an amendment to the Law and Administration Ordinance, LAO. “The law, jurisdiction and administration of the State shall extend to any area of Eretz Israel designed by the Government by order.” A second amendment to the Municipalities Ordinance Law allowed the Minister to enlarge, by proclamation, the area of a municipality by inclusion of an area designated by paragraph 11B of the LAO. A third law, the Protection of Holy Places Law called for the protection of the holy places and freedom of access to them. The Israeli Army then demolished the Magribi (Moroccan) quarter of the Old City comprised of 132 houses and two mosques next to the Wailing Wall, in order to “make access” for Jewish worship. These actions were all legalized by the new legislation. All the Palestinian inhabitants were evicted. A total of 5,500 Palestinians, who resided in the ‘Jewish Quarter’, were given two hours to vacate their homes prior to their demolition.

The UN attempted another Resolution #242 on November 22nd, 1967 which called for Israeli withdrawal, “from [all] territories occupied” in the 1967 war in exchange for, “the termination of all claims or states of belligerency.” The word [all] was not included in the English version although it was included in versions printed in other languages. This Resolution also stressed, “the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security”. It is obviously important that states be compelled to return territory acquired by war or we would revert to the bad old days when the more powerful guys simply started wars and took what they wanted. This international law is perfectly clear. War cannot be used to gain territory, even defensive wars. The Israelis have simply refused to return the land they captured during the 1948 ‘War of Independence, the 1967 War and in fact continue to expand their own populations into Palestinian areas that the international community regards as such.

So the aggressive Israeli actions paid off again as aggressive actions often appear to do. However if a reasonable degree of fairness is not maintained the world will go to hell and we see that all around us. Therefore it is in everyone’s best interest to be fair but that rarely happens. It is completely reasonable to say that the Arabs in the former Palestine have not been treated fairly. Negotiating this so-called ‘fairness’ has taken many years, not only have these efforts been completely unproductive they have created immense frustration by never producing any results. Why would the Palestinians continue with that process? Negotiations have to work to be useful and that has never been the case.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization was formed to ‘liberate’ their people and desperate people resort to desperate acts. The terrorist acts committed by a minority of Palestinians worked against them but there is no evidence that they would now have an equitable and independent Palestine if they had been non-violent. This violence has also worked against the Palestinians because it was used to show how dangerous the Arabs are and why Israel has to use so much force to defend herself. The numbers will show that the Israelis have
actually been much more violent than the Palestinians.

On October 6th 1973, Egypt and Syria attacked Israeli forces in an attempt to regain the lands lost in the 1967 war. This war would not have occurred if the lands lost in 1967 had been returned in exchange for security, if the UN had been able to restore the land or if America had tried to ensure some fairness. None of that happened. The Arabs made some progress during the first three weeks of the war but by this time the US was solidly behind the Israelis. The massive American military and financial support during, but more importantly, before the conflict turned the tide against the Arabs. Kissinger managed to negotiate disengagements between the two sides but the Arabs did not get their land back. As time passed most Israelis came to believe that this land had been won fair and square in the war of 1967 and would never be returned. The UN Resolution #242 was reaffirmed and made binding by UN Security Council Resolution #338 after this 1973 war but the problem was that Israel simply ignored UN resolutions with the assistance and veto power of the US.

Returned or not returned the land was occupied by the Israelis and the Palestinians subject to this occupation should be protected according to the fourth ‘Geneva convention’. The UN and the International Red Cross have confirmed that these territories are occupied by Israel which seems pretty obvious when you see the Israeli military tanks and soldiers enforcing Israel’s will. Unsurprisingly Israel disputes that these lands are occupied at all. This, they claim, presupposes that the land was the Palestinians in the first place. This gets back to the same old Israeli position that all of former Palestine was stolen from the Jews so there is nothing to argue about and those Arabs should just go ‘home’. This position and the opposite Palestinian position make it perfectly clear that any discussions between these two groups are a complete and utter waste of time.

For reasons unknown this is exactly what has been attempted for eons, without an iota of success. It is much more reasonable and logical to convene a panel of impartial experts who could make binding recommendations regarding this dispute but the Israelis will not accept such an arrangement. They know that the inevitable compromises on both sides would be unacceptable to many Israelis but their rejection of everything comes at a high price.

Many Israelis continue to feel that all of Palestine is actually the state of Israel and that fighting to accomplish this is worth the bloodshed, knowing that most of the blood with be Arab. The long-term Israeli policy is not based on violence but on making life very difficult for the remaining Palestinians, so difficult and miserable that they ‘voluntarily’ leave. If during this process some Palestinians react violently the Israelis will respond with even more violence to discourage future Arab violence.

In 1982 Israel attacked Lebanon to eliminate the PLO ‘terrorists’ there. The fighting was intense but due to superior military equipment, thanks to America, the Israelis prevailed and the PLO fighters finally agreed to withdraw from Lebanon. In September 1982, after the Palestinian men had surrendered
their weapons under an internationally brokered peace arrangement they were deported from Lebanon leaving their families under the protection of the international peacekeeping troops. The Israeli army, under Ariel Sharon, the future prime minister of Israel, then invaded Beirut in violation of the peace agreement. Sharon was the boss of the Israeli forces and he decided to allow the Phalangist forces into West Beirut on July 9th 1982. The phalange militia were Israel’s proxy army in Lebanon. They were recruited from the Maronite Christian community and trained, armed and paid for by Israel. In reality they were just an arm of the IDF that was used to do the dirty work. These forces were let loose and entered the Palestinians refugee camps on September 16th and when told this Sharon said, “Congratulations! Our friends operation is approved.” Coincidently the international ‘peace’ keeping force, which was controlled by the US, withdrew on September 15th. The Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps were rounded up. 800 (Israel’s estimate) to 3,000 (Palestinian estimate) unarmed men; women and children were murdered in cold blood. It should be mentioned that an estimated 20,000 Lebanese and Palestinians, mostly civilians were killed during this Israeli invasion. The Israelis did not withdraw after the PLO left but continued to occupy Lebanon. For an eye witness account of this bloody disaster by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Ang Swee Chai go to http://www.inminds.co.uk/from-beirut-to-jerusalem.html or Goggle, Sabra & Shatila

In 1987, having no other options the Palestinians started their Intifada which is the Arab word for ‘uprising’. The reason for the uprising, which included attacks, strikes and demonstrations, was what the Palestinians continued to regard the military occupation of their lands as illegal. The first Intifada lasted until 1991 when the Oslo Accords looked promising. This Intifada was seen by most Israelis as simply a terrorist campaign but it should be remembered that people do not commit terrorist acts because they have nothing else to do. In the early 1990s, ‘peace talks’ took place between the two sides but there was no real resolution. In 1993 Israel deported 415 Palestinian men to Lebanon saying that they were militants. In 1994 a Jewish settler opened fire on a crowded mosque killing 29 and injuring 130. The Israeli government strongly condemned these killings but in the ensuing turmoil another 25 Palestinians and 4 Israelis were to die.

After years of talks the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in October 1994 to Israel’s Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Yasser Arafat of the PLO. A Peace Prize is always a good idea but there was no peace, a fact that seemed to escape the Oslo guys. This was as rediculous as giving Kissinger the Peace Prize. In January 1995 a suicide bomber killed 19 in Israel, in March, 3 more died, in April another 6 dead, in July another 6, August another 5 and in November Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, was killed by a Jewish right-wing extremist. This killing demonstrates that a small minority of Jews will go to any lengths to prevent anyone but Jews in the State of Israel. Rabin’s killer was concerned that he might be too ‘generous’ with the
Palestinians. During this period numerous Palestinians were also killed which is always the case and the Palestinian deaths are always significantly higher than the Israeli deaths.

In January 1996 more than 100,000 people attend the funeral of Yehiya Ayyash, a PLO bomb maker killed by Mossad. His death was avenged by Hamas who then killed 25 Jews which only goes to show that arrest, legitimate trial and conviction are the only way to go. An approach the Israelis have always been capable of, but have consistently rejected in favor of ‘smart bombs’. The bombings continued and Israel invaded Palestinian villages in response. They also blew up three homes where, now dead suicide bombers, used to live. In most cases the Palestinian families did not know that their relative was going to be a suicide bomber so this policy was completely counterproductive. The man who murdered Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin went to jail for life. Palestinians who were suspected of ordering suicide bombings were routinely assassinated. Israel arrested hundreds of Palestinians to find certain Hamas members. These prisoners were sometimes brutally interrogated. Pissed off Arabs in Lebanon fired home-made rockets into ‘Israel’ and Israeli helicopters fired back with bigger and better rockets. The Israeli government and the PLO began more peace talks, which must be considered another waste of time. Netanyahu became Prime Minister but he was a right-winger and that usually meant even more trouble. Sure enough, he announced he would not give up any land for a Palestinian state, in fact he allowed more settlements on disputed land occupied by the Israelis since 1967. Hamas offered peace if Israel released prisoners and land in Gaza and the West Bank, Israel refused. In September Israel announced that it intended to build 2,000 more new homes in the West Bank. Fighting broke out between Palestinian police and Israeli forces. Israel warned that it would take control of even more Arab areas if the fighting continued. In November the Israeli High court approved torture against Arabs, something that has frequently been used in the past. Netanyahu gave permission for more Jewish settlements to be built in the Jordan Valley. In December Israeli authorities also released plans to expand the Jewish settlements in Arab east of Jerusalem, which caused more outrage among Palestinians. So 1996 drew to a close as Israel continued with the plan. That plan was to stall any real movement towards a Palestinian state while slowly expanding into the Palestinian, or as the Israelis prefer to call them, the ‘disputed’ areas. The plan was working well. A few Israelis were killed, many more Palestinians are dead but each year Israel has more Jews, more arms, more power and more land.

In February 1997 Israel released Palestinian women prisoners according to the Oslo agreement. There are thousands of Palestinian prisoners, both men and women but no Israeli prisoners. In the same month they also announce up to 6,500 apartments on land that is part of the ‘occupied territories’. This development, Har Homa is located in east Jerusalem, an Arab area. In March Israel closed four Palestinian offices in East Jerusalem because they make the rules, even in Palestinian areas. This is a good example of Israeli actions
which serve no purpose other than to anger the other side. In March the Israeli cabinet approved an increase in West Bank land under Palestinian control of 9% but it is rejected because acceptance would legitimize a percentage that is much less than the Palestinians consider fair. Also in March, an Arab in Jordan opens fire and kills seven Israeli kids. He is found to be insane and the King of Jordan visits to apologize. New Jewish settlement construction begins at the Har Homa site. Three days later a bomb explodes killing three. US twice vetoes a UN Security Council resolution that describes this new Jewish housing construction as “illegal”. Israel, with this American support, then continues with this “illegal” construction. On July 30th, two suicide bombers kill 13 and wound many more. Same thing in September when 4 more were killed. The Israelis have been freezing Palestinian money which is just another way to put pressure on the Palestinians to do what they are told but it doesn’t seem to be working. There are more demonstrations and the Israelis fire rubber bullets but the Palestinians continue to demonstrate for their land. In October Sheik Ahmed Yassin the 61-year-old founder of Hamas was released after 8 years in an Israeli prison. He was originally sentenced to life for ordering the execution of two Israeli soldiers. His release was forced upon the Israelis when they tried to assassinate Khaled Meshal, a senior member of Hamas in Jordan. Jordan’s King Hussein was not pleased as he had a ‘peace deal’ with Israel which did not include Mossad assassinations in his country. Meshal was going to die from the poison that the Mossad agents injected into his ear. Two of these agents were caught and in exchange for their return to Israel the Israeli government provided the antidote to the poison and Meshal survived and Yassin was released. They are still trying to kill Meshal.

The Yassin case illustrates the unfairness of Israeli justice in the eyes of those who understand that justice must be equitable. One of the Palestinian leaders orders the execution of two Israeli soldiers and is executed or goes to jail for life. The Israeli leaders routinely order the death of Palestinian leaders, kill numerous citizens in the process and the Israeli leaders are never even charged let alone imprisoned or killed. Many people think there is something wrong with this Israeli impunity, an impunity which stems from American power. The Israelis have the power so they kill or imprison who they want. The Palestinians have no power so they kill who they can get to and those victims are usually innocent. From any perspective this is a stupid way to resolve a dispute. You would think that both sides would permit independent, unbiased, third parties to reach a binding settlement but only one side will agree to that. Coincidently that just happens to be the side without the power.

In January 1998 the Israelis demand many concessions of the PLO prior to a meeting in Washington between Arafat, Clinton and Netanyahu. After many meetings Israel agrees to a significant pullout from the West Bank and the PLO agrees to improve Israeli security. In February Israel expands their settlements while everyone is paying attention to the situation in Iraq. Israel further inflames tensions by searching refugee camps in the West Bank. Three
Palestinians were shot and killed at a checkpoint. The Israeli explanation was that their troops opened fire when the Palestinians tried to ram them with a car but this doesn’t make much sense. The Palestinians were unarmed, why would they try to ram armed soldiers in an area where the car has nowhere to go? These killings raised tensions further and 34 Palestinians were wounded during protests. British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook angered the Palestinians when he went to visit Har Homa, the controversial Jewish settlement project in Arab East Jerusalem, accompanied by an Israeli, not a Palestinian, delegation. Cook also managed to anger the Israelis when he voiced his disapproval of the new Jewish settlement.

The Israeli cabinet unanimously refused an American proposal to withdraw from 13% of the West Bank. Of course the Palestinians were looking for 100% but said they would accept 30%. The hardball uncompromising Israeli demands may be good negotiating tactics but they aren’t fair and the Arabs feel, once again, that negotiating with the Israelis is a waste of time. Another big funeral for another Hamas bomb-maker Muhyideen al-Sharif, who it turns out, was shot a few hours before a bomb blew him to pieces. Israel denied any involvement. The Israelis kill a man who didn’t stop at a checkpoint but his family disputes their version of events. More protests and violence erupts. A Palestinian was released from an Israeli prison after more than five years without charge. This is another Israeli policy which does nothing for Israel except increase Palestinian anger. A policy America is now using with their prisoners and getting the same results. More ‘peace’ meetings are planned for London but Netanyahu threatens to annex parts of the West Bank if Arafat declares a Palestinian State.

Why are the Palestinians not allowed to declare their own state and what gives the Israelis the right to stop that? The Israelis also refuse to determine a percentage of the West Bank they are prepared to return to the Palestinians. All these discussions, over next to nothing, seem to be designed to make progress fail in a deliberate but invisible manner. The London talks go into overtime and Arafat agrees to the security demands put forward by the US. Netanyahu refuses to meet the 13% request and the talks break off. He also indicates he may not attend further talks in the US, if he has to meet American ‘demands’. The founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin said, “Certainly we will continue military operations. As long as Israel remains on our land, we will continue the armed struggle.”

Israeli troops killed 10 Palestinians during demonstrations that marked 50 years of Palestinian exile and dispossession. Hundreds of thousands took to the streets to vent rage and frustration fueled by 14-months of stalemated Middle East peace negotiations. More talks between the parties in Washington. Israeli troops shoot dead another nine Palestinians. Arafat accused Netanyahu of intentionally prolonging their peacemaking crisis. Arafat lashed out at Netanyahu after he rejected a US proposal under which Israel would hand over another 13% of the West Bank to the Palestinians in return for stronger moves
against Muslim militants. In May, a leading Israeli human rights group reported that Israel tortures at least 850 Palestinian prisoners a year. More meetings but no progress, Arafat proposes an Arab summit. Israel demolished three Palestinian homes, which they said were built without permits in Arab East Jerusalem. Rights groups have accused Israel of using legal pretexts to deny Arabs building permits and then demolishing their houses while encouraging Jewish settlement in Palestinian areas. Netanyahu announced a program to strengthen Israel’s hold on Jerusalem.

So that’s the first half of 1998 and it’s pretty obvious that Israel is in no rush to conclude some sort of peace and fulfill any of the ambitions of the Palestinians. After a zillion meetings things are pretty much the same except Israel has, like every other year in their history, become stronger, more populated and more powerful, in large part due to that huge chunk of cash and military might from the USA. The rest of the year was just the same. A few killings here and there, another zillion meetings and a lot of time spent organizing another BIG meeting with Clinton. Ariel Sharon is named foreign minister which is more bad news for the Palestinians as Sharon has a reputation for violence and killing. At the start of the Clinton meetings in the US 60 people were wounded in Israel by a grenade attack but it doesn’t seem to be clear who made the attack. The feeling, of course, is that it must be one of those damn Arabs. The meetings in the US are extended and a deal is signed. This doesn’t mean much as it has to be ratified by the Israeli government. On November 12th, 1998 the cabinet did ratify the peace deal but still this doesn’t mean much. Their ratification is tentative as they want confirmation that the Palestinians will not declare an independent state and they want a clause in the Palestinian charter advocating the destruction of Israel removed. This entire process appears to be deliberately made much more complicated that it needs to be.

Here’s how the peace deal got wrecked. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon says that Jewish settlers should grab land in the West Bank and this is apparently official Israeli government policy. Then Netanyahu said Israel’s handover of (just 13%) West Bank land was on hold until Arafat publicly retracted his warning that a Palestinian armed uprising could flare up again. What was Arafat to say after Sharon sent Israelis on a land grab? In any case Arafat did retract his remarks but don’t hold your breath. Violence erupts between the two groups each accusing the other of breaking the deal. The Israeli parliament votes to hand over 195 square miles of former Palestinian territory to the Palestinians and release 250 prisoners. More clashes and demonstrations and 67 Palestinians are injured. A few days later more demonstrations because the prisoners have not been released and this time two Palestinians are killed. December 14th, 1998 President Clinton arrives and hundreds of Palestinians leaders renounce a call for the destruction of Israel. This has been a major stumbling block for years. A day later Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu told his cabinet that Israel would not proceed with a scheduled handover of more of the West Bank to Palestinians on Friday. Netanyahu said that Palestinians have
not satisfied the requirements for such a handover to take place. On the 23rd of December the Palestinian Authority freed the Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin. The ailing Yassin was mobbed by admirers in his wheelchair. To sum up 1998, a lot of talking, a lot of fighting, some killing, no progress but Israel has more settlements, more population, more money, arms, power and land.

During the first few days of 1999 people were killed on both side of the dispute. Hebron was home to 130,000 Palestinians and 450 Jewish settlers. Those settlers are a source of real friction as the Arabs know that these tough men are there to begin the Israeli takeover of this town, something they have seen many times before. If Israel really wanted to solve this problem they could have removed the small number of settlers and located them somewhere else. That would not have been a problem except for the fact that these settlers are there to do a long-term job, the beginning of the end of the Palestinians in Hebron. Netanyahu says he will not hand over more West Bank land, as required by the peace deal that took two years to negotiate, until he decides to. More killings, house demolitions and injured Palestinian demonstrators. On February 1st, the ‘peace-deal’ brokered by Clinton expired so now everything is back to square one. The Palestinian prisoners were not released and the Israeli troops did not withdraw from the agreed 13% of the West Bank. This is how things often turn out for the Palestinians; irrespective of who did what, the gains are all on one side. Once again the Israelis resort to the usual solution, more meetings. Over the decades many millions have been spent on many meetings with absolutely no change in the situation. This lack of progress simply confirms that the Israelis and Palestinians together can never resolve this dispute.

The UN General Assembly voted 115 to 2 to hold an international conference on Israeli settlements in the West Bank, Israel rejected the idea. Netanyahu was campaigning for reelection and promised to expand settlements throughout the West Bank. More red flags for the Palestinians. Sharon rejected a 1947 UN Resolution that suggested Jerusalem should be an international city. Netanyahu orders the official Palestinian news agency and two other Palestinian Authority offices closed in the Arab part of Jerusalem. Another move made only because the Israelis had the power to do so but one that knowingly angered the Palestinians.

In early 1999 the argument continued over whether or not the Palestinians should declare a Palestinian state. The Israelis have skillfully manipulated the Palestinians from making this declaration. Without a declared Palestinian state, which the Palestinians can point to, the Israelis are able to indicate that their new settlements are on ‘disputed’ lands, not Palestinian lands. This has been a serious tactical error on the part of the Palestinians. In April, Israeli forces captured the village of Arnoun in Lebanon. Israel decides to shut down ‘Orient House’ which was the Palestinian compound in East Jerusalem. The Oslo peace accords expired without the declaration of a Palestinian state. Ehud Barak, a long term Israeli soldier wins big against Netanyahu in the elections for Prime Minister. At the end of May Israeli police attacked a crowd of
Palestinian protesters at a construction site in East Jerusalem. Thousands of Palestinians are protesting a new Jewish settlement in the West Bank. Israel brings thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. The Israeli courts declared that certain interrogation techniques are illegal and this seems to have an effect on the amount of torture used on Palestinians. The new Prime Minister Barak and Arafat meet, the first such Israeli-Palestinian meeting in seven months. Barak tells the US that Israelis and Palestinians can work things out and don’t need so much American help. The exact opposite of what should happen although the US is too biased to be of any real help. He also says he should know more in 15 months which is the maximum length of time Israel feels they can stall without too much Palestinian violence. Months later more meetings but reports say the Palestinians and Israelis fail to reach an agreement. In September almost 200 Palestinian prisoners were released, months late and hundreds short.

In September Israel transferred administrative control of 7% of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority. This is less than the 9% previously offered, less than the 13% the Americans suggested, less than the 30% the Palestinians wanted and only administrative control. Basically this move represents a huge waste of time. Israel and Palestine agree on a link between Gaza and the West Bank, the two little pieces the Palestinians don’t control but like to think will one day be a Palestinian state. This link is supposed to be a road so that Palestinians

The only internationally recognized loss of Palestinian land was the UN partition of 1947. Every other loss since then has been a unilateral Israeli taking of the land because they had the power and support of the US. Even during times of peace this expansion of Israel continued.
Barak ordered the closing of unauthorized outposts in the West Bank while also approving 2,600 new apartments in the West Bank. A further 151 Palestinian prisoners released in October. Israel opened a 27 mile road between the West Bank and Gaza and a day later torn down three more Palestinian homes. Another bombing but no deaths because suicide bomber deaths are never counted. More meetings and the Israelis now agree to a troop withdrawal from 5% of the West Bank. Hundreds of Jewish settlers resist moving out of illegal settlements while other settlers move into other illegal areas. The negotiated pullout of additional Israeli troops is further delayed but the last 26 Palestinian prisoners agreed upon are finally released. Almost 10,000 remain in prison.

Arafat arrived in Washington for more talks with Clinton. The Palestinians reject an Israeli plan that keeps large chunks of the West Bank under Israeli control. The IAF attacked three power plants in Lebanon, claiming they were Hezbollah hideouts. This was in response to the killing of four men in the Israeli army. The Israeli State Comptroller issued a report that said Israel systematically used illegal force against Palestinian suspects during the Intifada. Something the Palestinians have claimed for years. March 2000 and more meetings in
Washington, DC. More Palestinian protests over new Jewish settlements in the West Bank, 15 wounded. The Israelis present the Palestinians with another map that gives them about 2/3 of the West Bank but it is not in one piece so a Palestinian West Bank would be in pieces surrounded by Israeli areas, not much of a ‘state’. Palestinians demonstrate again for the release of more prisoners. In May, the worst violence in years, three Palestinians killed and over 300 injured. In mid June 2000, Prime Minister Barak gives a speech in which he renews Israeli ambitions in the occupied Arab lands and rejects UN resolutions which ask Israel to withdrawal from these occupied Arab lands. He added that no one can deprive the Israelis of their right to achieve, “the dream in the whole lands of Israel.” Although those statements did not specifically call for the expulsion of the Palestinians they remain concerned that Israel is working to get rid of them. Barak also said that Israel is not morally or legally responsible for the cause of the Palestinians. Those statements from the head of Israel illustrate why this conflict has been so intractable.

Then there was the infamous “lost opportunity” in which Israel was said to have offered 90% of the West Bank and the Palestinians turned it down. In fact there was never any 90% offer for a Palestinian state. As the previous map shows the Israeli offer was a sham. This offer included a disjointed West Bank riddled with Israeli settlements and private Israeli roadways that no Palestinian leader could have accepted.

After more than 20 years Israeli tanks rolled out of Lebanon. It is now June and the ‘talks’ between the two sides must conclude in America by mid-September. Arafat again complains about the slow negotiations. Clinton announces that Burak and Arafat will meet with him to try and reach a deal by mid-September. After weeks at Camp David the ‘peace talks’ collapse but more talks are planned!! 2000 comes to a close with the usual demonstration and violence but the Palestinians are very disappointed to have negotiated for years and found themselves with less prosperity, less freedom, less autonomy and less land.

As a result of continually being shut down Palestinian unrest is just below the surface. Ariel Sharon exploited that unrest on September 28th, 2000, by
visiting the Al-Aqsa Mosque with numerous well armed Israeli troops. This visit was so disruptive because Sharon was well known as the leader of various military operations that killed many Arabs in Lebanon as well as Palestine. By visiting this Mosque he was saying that the Israelis can go wherever they want, including Arab Mosques. This is the type of provocation that Sharon and other Israeli leaders have deliberately created to stir up the Palestinians and then use the Israeli public relations machine to discredit the Arabs as violent killers.

The next day, to quell the unrest created by Sharon, Israeli troops stormed Al-Aqsa, opened fire, killed 7 Palestinians and wounded over 200. It is the worst violence in years and the beginning of the Al-Aqsa Intifada that should more accurately be called the Sharon Intifada. Of course the violence escalates and the next day 15 more Palestinians are killed with hundreds more wounded. This is a Muslim mosque and clearly an Arab place of worship and yet the Israelis insist on control. This is like waving a red flag in front of a bull and the Israelis know this. As the violence escalates the Israelis close the Mosque to Palestinians which is another slap in the face. During the beginning of this Intifada almost 10 Palestinians a day were killed with virtually no Israeli deaths. This violence was to last for years, for the same old reasons however the problems which are so obvious just don’t get fixed and other nations either don’t want to get involved, can’t do anything or like America, take sides. This debacle costs billions and if you include things like 9/11, the Iraq war and a portion of American militarism, costs trillions. The Intifada finally petered out in 2004 but it is not yet officially over. The damage done was horrendous. 3693 Palestinians met violent deaths between September 29th, 2000, the day after Sharon’s visit to the Mosque and the end of May 2006. During the same period 686 Israeli civilians were killed and 309 IDF personnel. In addition 62 foreigners were killed, sometimes media personnel however most were Jews involved in the conflicts. Most
of the Palestinians were killed by live bullets from IDF. Most of the Israelis were killed by bombing. So the killings maintained the long term average, about four Palestinians dead for each Israeli killed.

On 7 October 2000, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1322 by 14 votes to nil, with the USA abstaining. In Paragraph 1 the Security Council, “Deplores the provocation carried out at Al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem on 28 September and the subsequent violence there.” It thereby declared that Ariel Sharon’s provocative visit to the Temple Mount started the violence that then went on for years and killed thousands. In Paragraph 3 the Security Council called Israel ‘the occupying power’. The UN recognizes Israel as only a belligerent occupant of Palestinian land, with no sovereign rights in Palestine but Israel ignores international law and the US backs them up. There can be no solution with these attitudes.

During the last few months of 2000 the Israelis fire rockets at Arafat’s compound creating more hatred. A car bomb goes off in November killing two Jewish bystanders, more hatred. By the middle of December Israel had killed four Hamas leaders as well as a few Palestinian bystanders. By the end of the year the Intifada had resulted in the death of 350 young Palestinians and about 10% as many innocent Israeli civilians.

In 2001 Clinton worked to bring ‘peace’ to the warring parties but never got close. In Israeli elections Sharon soundly defeats Barak so it looks like the people of Israel like his aggressive ‘solutions’. An Israeli helicopter kills a Palestinian as he drives his car. Israel has a policy of “state assassinations” which is another good example of an Israeli policy that creates real problems. It is unacceptable in civilized society to kill ‘suspects’ and bystanders but Israel never seems to figure that out. In fact America uses that exact approach during their various wars with the same abysmal results. These targeted ‘state assassinations’ are made possible with American missiles and America helicopters but America never halts or restricts the sale of this hardware to Israel. Amnesty International investigated several cases in which Israel targeted and killed Palestinian leaders and concluded that the killings were illegal and unnecessary but then Israel and the US don’t care what A.I. has to say.

The Palestinians requested that the UN send a security force into the occupied Palestinian territories. This seems like a reasonable request when hundreds are being killed but the US and Israel lobby vigorously to defeat the request. Strange eh? There are many UN proposals that might
have made a difference in this dispute but the US has veto power and always sides with Israel, right or wrong. A Palestinian was killed when the Israelis fired a tank shell at Arafat’s compound. Israeli helicopters fire rockets into the Palestinian police buildings in Gaza and the West Bank town of Ramallah. Just what the Israelis hope to accomplish shooting up the Palestinian police stations cannot be determined. The US rebukes Israel for seizing another part of the Gaza strip. Occasionally America will criticize Israel to make America look more reasonable but they never compel Israel to be more reasonable. Israeli troops shelled a Palestinian refugee camp, killing a 4-month-old baby and wounding 24 including 10 children. Israeli troops briefly enter two Palestinian towns, a new policy that does not require prior permission. This is another red flag for the Palestinians. One of the raids kills a teacher as well as other innocents. More dead Israelis as angry young Arab men retaliate. Fourteen more homes leveled while a Palestinian woman in labor is held up at a checkpoint. She gives birth in the car but the baby dies some time later, having never made it to the hospital. This violation of basic human rights simply maintains the Palestinian hatred and anger amongst the entire population.

More killings, many by Israeli (US) helicopters, total Palestinians dead, 530 at the end of July 2001, about 45 Israelis and some Israeli troop suicides, not bombers. Israeli tanks take over the Palestinian government buildings, killing three and destroying a police building. The tanks withdrew after three hours and at least three deaths and more injuries. Eyewitnesses said Israeli bulldozers demolished more homes while Israeli snipers engaged Palestinian police. Abu Ali Mustafa a 64-year-old Palestinian leader was killed when two missiles were fired into his office.

9/11 happens and the Palestinians donate blood but it would seem that they need all they can get for their own wounded. More helicopter missile killings while Israeli tanks move into Palestinian towns. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Arafat agreed to a new meeting and as they do Israeli soldiers shoot dead a Palestinian teenager in the Gaza Strip. Jamil Jadallah, a Hamas leader is blown up along with 5 others. A suicide bomber blew up a bus killing three Israelis. In total, 25 Israelis are killed during the week and the Palestinians jail over 100 of their own people who are considered ‘suspects’. The IAF bombed
Palestinian buildings and in retaliation 10 Israeli settlers were killed. Israel has prevented Arafat from leaving his compound which is beginning to look more like WW II rubble. 2001 has been one of the worst years ever. Ariel Sharon is even more aggressive than Netanyahu but under both men, many have died. The deaths don’t seem to concern them, for these aggressive leaders it is all about winning and power and at the end of 2001 Israel has more of both.

In January 2002 there are more protests while the Israelis continue to wreck homes. Four Israeli soldiers and two Palestinians were killed so the Israelis rip up the entire runway at the Gaza airport. Just what this runway has to do with the killing of four soldiers, cannot be determined. On March 27th a suicide bomber blows himself up at the Netanya Hotel killing 29. Israel invades Tulkarm, a Palestine town and during their withdrawal they kill four ‘suspects’ and arrest 50 more. An Israeli tank kills two farmers while a helicopter kills a Hamas member and a few others. A sleeping pregnant mother was shot by a stray bullet but the baby was unharmed. A Palestinian shot an Israeli soldier and during the battle to get him an Israeli mother and her daughter were killed. To retaliate, IAF F-16s fire into a Palestinian prison wounding 11. Ho hum, more bombing more killings, more killings, more bombings, another typical day in the Holy Land. Another house destroyed, this time they didn’t give the Palestinians time to remove their belongings. An Israeli tank was destroyed and three soldiers killed so Arafat’s compound was bombed, again. He was not killed but five Palestinians were. Israeli troops assault two refugee camps, 8 Palestinians killed 90 wounded. Bomber blows herself up at checkpoint. New peace initiative at the UN is presented by the Saudi’s. The Arab world would make peace with Israel in exchange for Israeli’s withdrawal from the territories it occupied in the 1967 war, including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. No deal but surely the two sides both realize that Israel has no intention of giving up on settlements that now house hundreds of thousands of Jews. Another 25 Palestinians killed in various incidents. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declares, “We are in a war” but he didn’t mention that he started the mess by going to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, 18 months previously.

Arafat’s travel has been restricted for months and the average Palestinian is also subject to numerous arbitrary curfews and travel restrictions on their ‘own’ land. The UN calls for the creation of a Palestinian state. A car bomb is foiled by Israeli police. In April thousands of Israeli troops and tanks attack Qalaqilya, a Palestinian town in the West Bank. An Italian priest is killed while nuns and many others are wounded by Israeli fire. Hospitals report 15 Palestinians killed and many injured in the Jenin refugee camp by Israeli helicopters. The Jerusalem Post describes the violence at Jenin as, “a massacre” as hundreds are killed by bombs in the camp of 20,000. It was reported that the Israeli army refused to allow medics and rescue teams to reach the camp. True or not, the Arabs believe it and the hatred grows. On July 23rd the IAF dropped a one-ton bomb on Hamas leader Salah Shehadeh which turned out to be enough explosive power to kill him and 14 others. Another big funeral is
Palestinians who violate the strict Israeli curfew are shot at and some are killed including a Palestinian boy who tried to get back to his village. The Israeli army has imposed a tight “closure” on most of the Palestinian population centers, cutting them off from each other. A Palestinian bomber blew himself up, killing at least 16 people, the first bombing in Israel in more than three weeks. More raids in the West Bank, six killed and many arrested. A Palestinian kills three Israeli settlers in the West Bank settlement just hours after an Israeli motorist was killed. The Army reoccupies Nablus with tanks, armored personnel carriers and helicopter gunships. Eighteen Israeli soldiers and settlers were killed and 30 others injured when a car-bomb exploded near a bus in northern Palestine. Israeli troops and tanks invade Ramallah in early June, inflicting even more damage to the bombed-out headquarters of Arafat. Two defenders were killed and five injured. Five Palestinians including one child were killed by Israeli forces in the Gaza strip. Two soldiers were also killed in the fighting. Nineteen Israeli settlers and soldiers were killed and more than 30 injured in an early morning bus-bomb attack. This was in retaliation for recent Palestinian killings and the sniper killing of Walid Sbeih, a prominent member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. Seven more Jewish settlers were killed and twenty others injured in a bomb-attack in Jerusalem. An Israeli helicopter kills six Palestinians and wounds many others with a missile attack in Gaza. More Palestinian children are killed, one six years old. The Israeli army used two tons of dynamite to destroy the Imara building which was used by the Palestinian administration. Seven Jewish settlers killed by a roadside bomb while four more are killed by rifle fire. Over the last few years many Israelis have refused to join the Army and many are jailed. Israel does not jail those who refuse if they are officers or more politically embarrassing. The Israelis try to assassinate Hussein Abu Kuweik but he is not in the car so his wife and three children are killed instead. He is arrested later which only goes to show that the Israelis can arrest someone, if they choose to. As the more powerful, more educated and more ‘peaceful’ side in this conflict it is the responsibility of the Israelis to set a good example. Killing ‘suspects’, women, children and jailing thousands without charge is not usually considered to be setting a good example.

The Israelis demolish over 20 Palestinian homes in 24 hours which makes another few hundred of Palestinians homeless. More Palestinians killed by Apache (US) helicopters while a home collapses on the residents due to an Israeli demolition, nine injured. Israel rejects
a European Union peace plan which makes it very clear, yet again, that the only ‘peace plan’ acceptable to the Israelis is one that they propose. Five Palestinian kids were injured when a bomb went off in their school. In retaliation for Army killings a Palestinian blows himself up killing five and injuring 10. In less than 48 hours 14 Palestinians were killed in Gaza while more homes were destroyed. The former Mayor of Dura was given 5 minutes to leave his home before it was destroyed. Israeli soldiers opened fire on children in the Balata refugee camp to enforce a local curfew. September 29th 2002 and thousands march to mark the second anniversary of the Al-Aqsa Intifada, progress so far, zip.

During the week 12 Palestinians were killed, four of them children and three of them peacefully demonstrating. Sharon announces that he hopes to accommodate one million new Russian Jews in the years to come but no room for those Palestinians. Over ten Palestinians killed by Israeli helicopters near the Khan Younis Mosque. Two Israelis killed and 10 wounded by suicide bomber in Tel Aviv. An Israeli bulldozer crushed to death a three year old toddler after wrecking the family home. An Israeli human rights group, B’tselem points out that more than 80% of the Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli occupation troops during curfew-enforcing activities were children. They state the obvious, “Shooting a person simply because he left his home during curfews constitutes excessive use of force.” Israeli tanks fire on several Palestinian homes killing 8, including three children. Generally speaking it is very difficult to tell who you will kill when you fire a tank shell into a house at over 5000 feet per second. Palestinian towns are closed, curfews are in effect, hundreds of check points restrict movement and yet a Palestinian bomber rams a bus in Israel killing 14. Three soldiers were killed when a suicide bomber explodes in the West Bank. More Palestinian homes destroyed and many arrested. Three more Jewish settlers killed in a shoot out while another three are blown up. Two more homes blown up as bulldozers are now too slow for the Israeli army. Two killed and 25 injured in an Israeli shop bombing. Five more settlers killed in the West Bank, helicopter gunships retaliate. Another three-year-old toddler killed, this time by machine gun fire, mother seriously wounded. In retaliation for the killing of Palestinians by the army a suicide bomber blows up another bus killing ten Israelis while another Palestinian kills three soldiers with a grenade. Israeli tanks attacked the Palestinian town of Dier al-Balah. Two helicopter gunships also take part in the attack. Another home of a Palestinian ‘suspect’ was blown up. Abbas Rajee Al-Atrash, a three year old was killed by an explosive bullet used by the Israeli army. These bullets are considered inhuman by many security forces. More killings, more homes destroyed, more dead children, this situation is ridiculous but the rest of the world just sits back and does nothing.

The end of 2002 and the plan is still working, peace talks that produce absolutely nothing, more land taken by Israel, no land returned to the Palestinians while they are portrayed as vicious killers but Israel kills about five times as many Palestinians, so not a bad year.
On the second day of 2003 three Palestinians, aged 13, 14 and 15 are killed by the Israeli army for walking near the Jewish colony of Eli Seinai in Gaza. This litany of killing and mayhem is not addressed by the international community. It’s just more of the same. Every death a tragedy and every one unnecessary.

Bush Jr. claimed to be getting the ‘road map’ on track but of course this is a waste of time. Once again Arafat claims that Israel offered nothing. Sharon vows, “a war to the bitter end” but he is out of step with his people who want peace. Israel kills five more ‘militants’. Under US pressure Israel returns the main highway to Gaza to Palestinian control after a 30 month blockade. The only Palestinian airport is still wrecked. In early July Israeli patrols pull out of the West Bank to support a cease fire. At the end of July the Israeli army chief said the truce may not last much longer if a ‘peace’ plan is not forthcoming. 300 prisoners released out of almost 10,000 as a goodwill gesture, Palestinians call this a “sham”. Mid August Israeli troops kill a Palestinian and a few days later 18 Israelis killed by bomb in Jerusalem. Hamas declares the cease fire dead on August 21st and on the same day Israeli helicopter kills Hamas leader Ismail Shanab. Israeli F-16s also kill two more but miss their Hamas target. Israel decides to “remove” Arafat but gets a lot of bad press so backs off. Suicide bomb kills 19 in Haifa, Israel retaliates by bombing Damascus the capital of Syria. In a one month period 39 Israelis die. More attacks on refugee camps by the IDF with the usual killing of men, women and children. Air raids on Gaza city, 100 wounded nine dead. The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly approves a resolution demanding the Jewish State “stop and reverse” the construction of the unilateral separation wall it is now building on Palestinian land. The US and Israel vote against the resolution, of course. Six Palestinians killed, including three kids. The fourth Geneva convention’ says that the occupiers should treat the people under their occupation reasonably, it seems to be ignored. Of course this is unreasonable but if people were reasonable there wouldn’t be war or poverty, to name just two. Israel ratified this Geneva Convention in 1951 but now says the convention doesn’t apply to them and the reasons are not important. What is important is that these two peoples cannot and will not negotiate reasonably because it
is simply not possible after all the bloodshed between them. Any attempt is a complete and utter waste of time and decades have been wasted already.

On December 1st, 2003 just as Palestine and Israeli negotiators were to sign a ‘peace’ plan in Geneva the Israeli army launched another invasion of the West Bank, killing three and arresting others plus the usual blown up houses. Oh well, it was only an ‘unofficial’ peace plan anyway, but the timing of this invasion was destructive. 2003 ends as every year has for over half a century. The Israelis have more money, thanks to the USA, more military might, thanks to the USA, more illegal settlements, more immigration, more population and more land than ever before. The Palestinians have less of everything except anger and it is hard to build anything very positive with that commodity.

Remember Sheikh Ammed Yassin the guy who founded Hamas who the Israelis released from prison in 1997 in exchange for two Mossad agents? Well after he got out of prison he resumed the leadership of Hamas. In June, 2003 Israel said that he was, “not immune” to a “targeted interception”. That is Israeli double speak for, ‘we will kill you if you continue to resist’. Three months later the IAF dropped a 500 lb bomb on Yassin. This was one of those deadly accurate bombs that America has used so frequently in Iraq, with the same result. Yassin was only slightly wounded because the bomb missed. The handicapped Yassin continued with his regular routine although pushing his wheelchair surely qualified for danger pay. Sure enough Yassin was killed along with 8 others in March 2004 when the Israelis dropped another bunch of US explosives on him. His son replaced him and he too was killed by the Israelis a month later. Most Israelis supported these killings. One of the few Israeli leaders who spoke out against this foolish assassination policy was Shimon Peres when he said, “I do not believe that we can eliminate terrorism by assassinating its leaders.” The UN resolution condemning Yassin’s assassination was vetoed by the USA. This uprising never officially ended but by 2004 it was thought to be more or less over. During these bloody conflicts and attacks approximately 1000 Israelis and over 3,000 Palestinians died.

Here is the Amnesty International summary for Israel for the year 2004. “The Israeli army killed more than 700 Palestinians, including some 150
The Israeli army destroyed several hundred Palestinian homes, large areas of agricultural land, and infrastructure networks. Israel continued to expand illegal settlements and to build a fence/wall through the West Bank, confining Palestinians in isolated enclaves cut off from their land and essential services in nearby towns and villages. Israeli settlers increased their attacks against Palestinians and their property and against international human rights workers. Certain abuses committed by the Israeli army constituted crimes against humanity and war crimes, including unlawful killings; extensive and wanton destruction of property; obstruction of medical assistance and targeting of medical personnel; torture; and the use of Palestinians as “human shields”. The deliberate targeting of civilians by Palestinian armed groups constituted crimes against humanity.”

It doesn’t sound any better when Amnesty International tells it like it is.

So you get the idea, strike and counter-strike and the killing is worse today. Israel have just killed about 1300 in Lebanon while Hizballah killed 46 Israeli civilians. In Gaza the 1.4 million Palestinians have been isolated and subject to frequent attacks which have killed about 300. Hunger and deprivation are serious threats in Gaza while the world stands by.

Both sides still fail to understand that tit-for-tat will always result in failure. Israel, in particular, still fails to understand that impunity and abandoning the rule of law simply results in more lawlessness. The killing of Palestinian leaders and the associated Palestinian bystanders is an obvious failure. Calling everyone but themselves ‘terrorists’ is a crock when they do most of the killing. Tragically Israel also seems to go out of their way to deliberately inflame the Palestinians in what can only be considered deliberate attempts to create further conflict, knowing that they will win. After they have won, they will be able to further restrict the Palestinians bring more misery into their lives and hopefully drive them out of their country. At the very least they will be able to, once again, point out that the Arabs are a violent people bent on the destruction of Israel.
Over the years the Israelis have become unbeatable militarily. It is a gross exaggeration to ever suggest that in any conflict Israel is ‘fighting for her life’ or ‘just defending herself’. The numbers tell a very different story –

Israelis and Palestinians Killed Since Sept. 29, 2000

1,084 Israelis and 3,938 Palestinians have been killed since Sept. 29, 2000. These numbers are always subject to upward revisions!

The killing of each other is pretty one-sided at almost four dead Palestinians for each Israeli. This has been a one-sided conflict even prior to the beginning of the Jewish state in 1948. Since that time the Jewish state has put tremendous resources into their military might to ensure that they cannot be defeated. After 1967 America supplied arms in such quantities that Israel is now the 4th largest military on the planet. This has created tremendous problems in the entire Middle East which are currently being demonstrated by Iran’s nuclear efforts. Ostensibly this military might is to deal with an impoverished horde of pissed off Palestinians with no military strength. Like America, Israel has created a military far larger than it requires, a military that creates far more problems than it solves. The aggression that seems to be intrinsic to America and Israel make them the closest of allies and unable to see how much damage they cause. America’s military and technical support has been nothing short of obscene but it has not been enough for the Israelis. They have, with clandestine American and French support also created a nuclear arsenal that contains an estimated 200 nuclear weapons. Weapons that have always been denied but this overwhelming power imbalance has led to the destabilization of the Middle East, the repression of the Palestinians for generations, the fury of many Muslims, which caused 9/11 and the so called ‘War on Terror’. All this because the Israelis have been unwilling to accept the borders which they originally agreed to in 1947 or the much expanded borders of 1967. Both of which the Palestinians and Arab states have agreed to accept in

Left: An unarmed Tom Hurndall was shot and killed by the IDF as he tried to shield Palestinian children from Israeli shooting. During a visit to Israel his mother said, “We are hoping the coroner will address the culture of impunity in which the soldier was functioning and the enormous lack of cooperation we have experienced from the Israelis.”

Right: James Miller was also shot by the IDF. During the inquest into his death it was described as “cold-blooded murder”.

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exchange for peace.

A video, available on the web, taken by UN personnel, shows the bodies of many unarmed civilians killed by IDF at Qana in 1996. These killings involved the deaths of 100-200 innocent civilians and these deaths were never addressed by the Israeli authorities. On December 15, 2005, in New York, the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) served legal papers on Lieutenant General (retired) Moshe Ya’alon, the former Head of the Intelligence Branch and former Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). In the legal papers the General was charged with war crimes, extrajudicial killings, crimes against humanity, and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The experienced lawyers at the CCR would not go to the trouble of launching a large legal case based on unsubstantiated rumors.

Six times as many Palestinian children have been killed as Israeli children but if a conflict escalates to the point were the two sides are killing each others children then there may be no hope. On too many occasions Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted by the Israeli Defense Forces and then shot several additional times to confirm they were dead. IDF have also killed Palestinian children who violated Israeli imposed curfews. This is a monstrous use of excessive force. This killing ratio is odd in that number of children killed (6 to 1) on the Palestinian side is even higher than the number of adults killed (4 to 1). It is, after all, adults who try to kill each other. Of course you could say that suicide bombers also deliberately target the other side but I don’t think it is reasonable to say that suicide bombers have deliberately target children or the ratio would not be 6 to 1. The killing of children in any conflict is critically important because it further hardens, if that’s possible, the hatred between each side. As Dwight Eisenhower said, “There’s no tragedy in life like the death of a child. Things never get back to the way they were.” It is clear that a number of the children killed by Israel have been mistakes but it also seems clear that the Israelis have not made a reasonable effort to avoid the killing of children. This is just another way that
Israel works, to ensure that their enemies are bent on their destruction, enemies that they are sure they can defeat.

In June 2006 a Palestinian family was blown up on a Gaza beach. At first the Israelis admitted the mistake but soon changed their minds and blamed it on a bomb planted by Hamas. Apparently it is too much to expect a truthful investigation as the Israeli army concluded, without a through investigation, that they were not responsible. The Guardian newspaper conducted an investigation into this tragedy and it raised new questions about the Israeli military probes that investigate the Israeli military. Evidence from hospital records, doctors’ testimony and eye witness accounts challenge the military’s assertion that it had stopped shelling by the time seven members of the Ghalia family were killed. Human Rights Watch arranged for a former Pentagon battlefield analyst, Marc Garlasco to investigate. He said, “You have the crater size, the shrapnel, the types of injuries, their location on the bodies. That all points to a shell dropping from the sky, not explosives under the sand.” “The likelihood that the Ghalia family was killed by an explosive other than one of the shells fired by the Israeli army is remote.” As is often the case the Palestinians agreed to an independent investigation but the Israelis rejected the idea.

The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) has been involved in so many incidents such as this that they can only be regarded as overly aggressive. American media makes sure that the guys doing the killing are portrayed as Arabs.

As the Palestinians watched the Hamas election victory unfold on their TV’s a 9-year-old girl wandered away from home towards the fence between Gaza and Israel. Although she didn’t attempt to get through this impenetrable fence she was shot several times by an IDF soldier. The IDF said she was, “behaving in a suspicious manner, reminiscent of a terrorist.” For the second time in one week the IDF shot and killed another child. This time it was 13-year-old Munadel Abu Aaalia, shot in the back as he walked along a road reserved for Jewish settlers. The army said the boys planned to throw rocks at Israeli cars, which is considered an act of terrorism.

The following images show the tragic shooting and death of 12 year-old Mohammed Jamal Al-Durrah and the critical wounding of his father who took five bullets but survived. This video was taken in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, September 30, 2000 and is available on the web. The Israeli Defense Forces
Amoral America

(IDF) initially accepted responsibility for the death of this boy but then some Jewish supporters got into the act and claimed that the boy was either shot by Palestinians or the killing was faked to gather Palestinian sympathy. The IDF has killed almost 200 unarmed children under 12. Why would the Palestinians go to the trouble of creating another ½% of sympathy? The previous 200 deaths didn’t generate a lot of Palestinian sympathy. The ambulance driver who tried to rescue the pair was also shot and killed by the IDF and his ambulance assistant was wounded by IDF bullets.

Israelis and Palestinians Injured Since September 29, 2000

7,633 Israelis and 30,026 Palestinians have been injured since September 29, 2000. The start of the Sharon Intifada.

The number of Israelis and Palestinians injured are similar to the deaths
but about seven times as high for both sides. A tremendous price to pay rather than making the compromises required for a lasting peace. These compromises have not been possible because a minority of aggressive Zionists have pushed for and continue to accept no less than all of the former Palestine as the legitimate and rightful Jewish state. With that long held determination and ever increasing military might, along with policies which make the lives of Palestinians miserable they may accomplish their goal over time but they fail to realize that this will still be a loss.

Demolitions of Israeli and Palestinian Homes

0 Israeli homes have been demolished by Palestinians and 5,861 Palestinian homes have been demolished by Israel since September 29, 2000 to May 2006. Plus 299 sealed and 118 partially sealed Palestinian homes.

One of the Jewish policies deliberately designed to make the lives of many Palestinians miserable, is the deliberate destruction of their homes. If a Palestinian is ‘suspected’ of behavior that the Israelis regard as unacceptable his home or the home of his family may be destroyed. This is intended to punish the relatives and neighbors of Palestinians who carry out, or are ‘suspected’ of attacks against Israeli soldiers or civilians. These demolitions are supposed to be for the homes of the suspects but their guilt need not be proven and in some cases adjacent homes are destroyed as well. This policy is particularly

This house remained standing after the neighboring houses were destroyed. It is clearly unsafe but still occupied because the Palestinians have nowhere else to go. How would the good old boys in Texas react if someone did this to them?
counter-productive because many people who have nothing to do with an attack against Israel become homeless and, of course, hate Israel and America forever.

A Palestinian can also have his house destroyed if is in the way of a ‘buffer’ zone the Israelis have unilaterally decided they need to establish, but they do not establish these buffer zones on Jewish land. Most of these home destructions are intended to meet what Israel calls ‘clearing operations’ which are defined as a military need. They usually occur along the new Wall, borders, around Jewish settlements and army posts as well as along roads used exclusively by the IDF or Israeli settlers.

Thousands of Palestinian homes are also destroyed because the Israelis claim they were built without the proper permits. These destructions are a source of immense hatred because they take place on Palestinian lands that the Palestinians feel they should control. The Israeli’s claim control and refuse to issue building permits. When the home is built without the ‘required’ Israeli permit, it may be torn down. It is abundantly clear that by destroying a home in which many people live, without due process, that the Jews create many more enemies. I can only conclude that this is a deliberate attempt to make life as miserable as possible,
for as many as possible in the hope that the Arabs will simply move on. It ain’t workin’.

In October 2004 Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, said, “It is wrong, even in a democracy, to use superfluous military force against civilians in order to try to influence the military, I mean, that is Israel’s first line of argument for why suicide bombing is wrong. It is utterly wrong to attack civilians or their property for military objectives.” Human Rights Watch said that 16,000 people have been made homeless in southern Gaza over the past four years, regardless of whether their homes posed a genuine military threat. “Part of the rationale here seems to be to punish civilians for the conduct of militants. The people whose homes are destroyed are, for the most part, just ordinary civilians.”

Peter Hansen, the commissioner general of the UN Relief and Works Agency also toured parts of the Gaza Strip to see the damage caused by the Israeli incursion. “Most of what we have seen here ... over the past two weeks is in gross violation of international humanitarian law and we will go on protesting these measures which are not proportionate, which are not relevant to the targets that Israel has chosen to try to hit”. At 5861 homes destroyed and an average of 7.6 people per house plus and estimated 13 extended family members per house Israel has created an additional 121,000 committed enemies. This must be a deliberate Israeli policy to prevent peace and keep the conflict going. In any event it clearly demonstrates the aggressive policies that Israel has used to exacerbate this conflict.

New Settlements Built (March 2001-July 2003)

60+ new Jewish-only settlements have been built on confiscated Palestinian land between March 2001 and July 11, 2003. There have been 0 cases of Palestinians confiscating Israeli land and building settlements.

The construction of Jewish settlements on disputed land has always been at the very heart of this conflict. Without a solution to this long-term Israeli occupation of Palestinian land no peace will ever be possible. Both sides are fully aware of this reality however the Israeli side hopes to eventually expel the Palestinians. This will not bring peace but it may bring an end to the Palestinians in ‘Israel’. This myopic vision has been Israel’s goal but they do not seem to realize how flawed the country of Israel will be, if the Palestinians are expelled. Israel has only to look at the success of their former collaborators.
in white South Africa to get a good idea.

This unilateral occupation process is flawed simply because it is unilateral and because using force to get your way never works. Israel simply decides to build a settlement on disputed land and due to their overwhelming force they always prevail. This process, backed by military force, rather than the rule of international law, is exactly how the country was started but it has never worked worth a damn. The Israelis are the ones building the settlements, as the graph shows, so they are the ones who must reach agreements. They have never taken a negotiated approach so the building and the conflicts have continued unabated. This settlement building has also been strategic in that the Israelis have picked locations which deliberately make the likelihood of any future
Palestinian state much less likely. Although there have been some partial concessions by the Israelis in this regard (Gaza temporarily) the net result is always the same, an increase in Jewish settlements and population on lands internationally recognized as Palestinian. If both sides wanted to resolve this issue it would be quite easy however binding decisions by truly impartial third parties have never been acceptable to the Israelis.

Since the Palestinians have clearly indicated that they are not going to quietly disappear into some other Arab country, the Israelis have waged a relentless war to inflict misery on the Palestinians. In addition to the occasional armed clash, which the Israelis always ‘win’, they have instituted numerous policies to make the Palestinians a desperate, discouraged, despised, angry and misunderstood people. The Israeli aim seems to be the eventual end of the Palestinian independence movement and the associated end of a Palestinian state. The most provocative and permanent method the Israelis have used to eliminate the Palestinian people, over time, has been the construction of Jewish settlements on Palestinian land. Of course the people building these settlements don’t regard this as Palestinian land but it is probably also fair to say that they don’t even think about it. In any case these settlements are inside the 1967 Palestinian borders which the international community and the Arab states regard as legitimate.

One of the legalities which the Israelis ignore is the Hague Convention which prohibits the confiscation of private property in occupied territory. But that has been ignored by Israel. The UN Security council passed resolution 465, “Israel’s policy and practices of settling parts of its population and new immigrants” in the occupied territories constitute, “a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.”

In 2004 crop-spraying planes circled overhead the fields of wheat and barley that Shaikh Salih Abu Darim and his Bedouin
A typical Jewish settlement in the West Bank. Always on a hill top with a road that only the ‘settlers’ can use and always built before the land dispute is resolved.

The Araqib tribe had been growing to feed themselves and their goats and sheep for the year. The Araqib tribe have farmed the land close to the city of Beer Sheva in southern Israel since anyone can remember but in the past year the Israeli government has declared war on them and some 70,000 other Bedouin’s living in 45 communities that Israel refuses to recognize. The authorities stepped up the pressure on the Araqib to leave by spraying powerful herbicides on their crops, making the young shoots shrivel and die in the following weeks. This is the third time in the past two years that the Israeli Land Authority has sprayed the crops.

Unless this key land issue can be decided by independent, impartial parties it will continue to fester and may eventually be more destructive than it has been to date. Israel seems ready and willing to take that chance but that is simply an error in judgment. Can this conflict really be worth it if it leads to more needless deaths, hatred, associated wars and more 9/11s. Is it not time to really deal with the issues and facts on the ground?

There are numerous other Israeli polices which make life much more difficult for one side than the other. The Palestinians are allowed, by the Israelis, 83 cubic meters of water per person per year. The Israelis are allowed 333 cubic meters per person per year. In the occupied territories the new Jewish settlers are allowed even more. Another serious problem that exacerbates the situation is the violence initiated by the Jewish ‘settlers’ on land that is in dispute. Rather than solving these disputes, the Israeli government encourages these settlers to be the vanguard in these areas of ‘new’ Jewish settlement. They are well armed and respond to any Arab resistance violently but even if they are not provoked their actions are rarely punished by the government of Israel. Over 20 years ago Israeli prosecutor Judith Karpp reported that the Israeli authorities were not punishing the settlers who engaged in violence against the Palestinians and the situation remains the same today.

In 2004 Israeli settlers stepped up their attacks against Palestinians by wrecking their olive trees, burning their buildings and cars as well as using force to prevent Palestinians from harvesting their crops. On September 27th an Israeli settler shot and killed a Palestinian taxi driver. He claimed that he thought the taxi driver was going to attack him but the taxi driver was unarmed. The settler was released less than 24 hours after the killing.
In both September and October masked Israeli settlers attacked American Christian Peacemaker Teams as they escorted Palestinian children to school. The Peacemakers suffered a broken arm, knee, puncture lung and multiple bruises. The attackers came from and returned to the Israeli settlement Havat Ma’on but they continued to attack Palestinian children with impunity. The IDF and the Israeli police forces are aware of these incidents but they also abuse Palestinians so they are not sympathetic. The abuse, which includes unlawful killings, is rarely investigated or prosecuted. Thousands of serious human rights abuses were committed against Palestinians between 2000 and 2004. The Israeli investigations were few and the punishments were slaps on the wrist.

This impunity, which the Israeli army and police ‘enjoy’, means that they consistently fail to take steps to stop and prevent attacks on Palestinians. On the contrary, they routinely increase restrictions on the local Palestinians in response to attacks by Israeli settlers. If the situation is reversed the IDF is on the scene to protect the settlers. Palestinians are rounded up, interrogated, perhaps imprisoned without charge while a curfew is imposed. All the while the new settlements expand. In order to placate the Palestinians the Israelis occasionally promise to halt the construction of settlements but when the government changes or a new policy emerges the end result is always the same; an inexorable expansion of Israeli housing on ‘disputed’ land.

All of this occupation of Palestinian land is in violation of Article 49 of the Geneva Convention which states, “The Occupying Power shall not transport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.” The Jewish State was not made up out of virgin territory. There were hundreds of thousands of Palestinian people living there but their concerns and needs have been consistently ignored. No ‘State’ can hope to succeed if it is based on injustice, even if a significant proportion of the population ignores that injustice.

Daily US Assistance to Israel and the Palestinians

The US gives approximately $20 million per day to the Israeli government and military and $200,000 per day to Palestinian NGOs. The US recently took steps to deprive the Palestinians of their own money after the election of Hamas.

If anyone attempts to resolve a conflict, by providing just one side in the conflict with much more than the other side, the conflict will only get worse. That is just what America has done in this conflict and just what has happened, it has become worse. The amount of American aid to Israel amounts to many billions; unfortunately many of those billions have been military aid. The annual total aid is around $10 billion and has been that high for many years. Needless to say the US government figures things differently. They suggest that Israel has received almost $100 billion since 1949 however that total does not include
numerous costs that the American taxpayer actually paid. It does not include money for many military projects like the Arrow missile which recently has cost the US taxpayer over $1 billion alone. There have been many other military adventures but one of the offshoots of this military largeness is that Israel is now a formidable exporter of arms worldwide. In addition the total does not include the interest the Americans have paid on this aid. Due to American deficits most of this aid has been borrowed and the interest paid by taxpayers has amounted to about $50 billion more. This aid has therefore cost the American taxpayers over $25,000 for each Israeli but the actually money received works out to over $15,000 for each Israeli. That amount is based on every man, woman and child in Israel. Due to the fact that very little is spent on Muslims or Christians in Israel the amount per Jewish person is probably over $20,000.

This aid to Israel is not accurately presented in the US media simply because many Americans would ask why over one third of total US aid is going to an affluent country with .001% of the world’s population. According to the World Bank the average income for each Israeli in 2004 was $17,380, for Palestinians it was $1,120 during the same year, about 6% as much. The income in neighboring Arab countries is also interesting, in Egypt it was $1,310, Yemen $570, Syria $1,190, Jordan $2,140, Iran $2,300. The incomes for Iraq and Afghanistan were not mentioned but they were probably negative due to the American wars.

The Israeli income is higher than European countries such as Greece and Portugal and much higher than countries like Saudi Arabia. All of those countries have immigrants in the USA but none of them have lobbied for US military and foreign aid. This gets to another important issue, the Jewish lobby in America. Setting aside its effectiveness, the lobby effort is large. AIPAC the American Israel Public Affairs Committee has a multi million dollar budget, almost 200 hundred employees and several registered lobbyists who visit every member of Congress one a year or more. There are also dozens of other Jewish organizations who work with AIPAC to promote Israel’s interests. Some of these organizations have been involved in illegal activities when they compiled activities on their ‘enemies’ in America and some have been charged with spying on America. AIPAC has also formed numerous Political Action Committees (PACs) which do just that, get political action to work for them. The money

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An Israeli sub, one of three bought from the German government. This type of expenditure is due, almost exclusively, to the billions that America sends to Israel.
they raise only goes to candidates that support the Israeli position and they push elected officials to implement the policies they seek. These PAC’s are also sneaky in that they use innocuous names and do not make their fundamental purpose known. In 1992 the president of AIPAC boasted that he had input into the appointment of Clinton’s Secretary of State, his National Security Advisor and billions of US tax dollars. See http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/AIPACClinton.html

These efforts are effective. Sub-Sahara Africa with a population of almost 600 million, Latin America and the Caribbean with a population of almost 500 million together they received less aid than aid to Israel between 1949 and 1996. This means that for every dollar America spent to help an African it gave more than $250 to an Israeli. For every dollar they spent to help a person in Central America or the Caribbean they spent $214 on an Israeli. Can anyone explain why a relatively affluent people should receive so much more aid that truly needy people?

This is not the whole story. There have been billions in unreported ‘aid’ to Israel that have been uncovered in various US government department budgets. Those uncovered amounts equaled 12.2% of the announced aid to Israel during the years investigated. In addition Israel receives their aid at the beginning of the fiscal year, not quarterly as other recipients do. Congress has allowed Israel to invest these billions in US Treasury bills so that they make interest while the US taxpayers pay interest to the country America borrowed the money from in the first place. America has also provided Israel with billions in loan guarantees which enables them to borrow money at the most favorable rates. Israelis point out that Israel has never defaulted on a loan. In fact most of the loans to Israel are forgiven but they are called loans instead of grants because this exempts Israel from the oversight that usually accompanies grants. Israel is not told how to spend US aid money but whether it is aid money or loans Israel never pays it back. Most countries that get US military aid, are required to spend that money on US arms or services. Israel can spend US money on Israeli made arms and this has helped Israel become a major arms exporter. Other countries, such as Germany have also provided Israel with aid in various forms. American individuals that send money to Israel can deduct this money from their American income tax which costs the American taxpayers billions more. No other country receives this benefit.

American taxpayers also pay additional billions to keep things as peaceful as they are in the Middle East. Egypt has been given over $50 billion since they signed a peace deal with Israel back in 1979. Egypt has also been given goodies like 600 tanks for free but they weren’t free to the US taxpayer. Israel is truly a special country to America but it is doubtful that many American have any idea what this relationship costs.

On May 23rd, 2006 the US House of Representatives voted 361-37 to cut off aid to non-government Palestinians organizations. These are the humanitarian organizations that are so important to the Palestinian people who cannot survive
without their help. This comes on top of the Israeli action that is withholding the Palestinian’s own money from various Palestinian taxation sources that Israel controls. This amounts to almost $60 million per month. This type of collective punishment is in violation of the Geneva Conventions but that is ignored by both Israel and America. America has been collectively punishing the Cubans for almost 50 years and killed thousands of Iraqi children with their collective economic embargo of Iraq before the current war. Dov Weisglass, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Olmert, obviously doesn’t think this collective punishment of Palestinian babies, the ill and the elderly is a problem. He said, “The idea is to put the Palestinians on a diet.”

Other Arab nations have tried to help the Palestinians with their financial problems but both Israel and America have blocked their attempts. Millions of aid money is stuck in Cairo where at least four banks have refused to wire the money to Palestine. This is due to the American influence in Egypt which was described by as US spokesman as follows, “We have stated that if an organization or individual is facilitating direct fund-raising for Hamas, they open themselves up to action by the United States,”

**UN Resolutions against Israel and the Palestinians**

*Israel has been the subject of numerous UN resolutions however they have been ignored. The Palestinians have never been the subject of a UN resolution. Can the UN really be that biased or is there some rationale behind all these resolutions?*

The United Nations has attempted, on many occasions, to try and prevent the violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians. They have been ineffective, in part, because they were part of the flawed process that divided up Palestine. More importantly the ‘big boys’ in the UN have never sought to address this original mistake. Their vetoes and obstructions have simply turned any number of UN resolutions into no more than hot air. Prior to 1990 there were 690 UN General Assembly Resolutions, 429 requesting that Israel do things differently. Israel never has. For this reason no other country has been subject to as many resolutions as Israel. Either every other country, other than the US, is wrong or the way Israel conducts themselves is flawed. Unfortunately every UN leader knows that if they push too far, to address the fundamental Palestinian land problem, they will incur the wrath of America and Israel and that can be fatal to their careers. The UN and others have spent zillions of hours dealing with this conflict but no party without a vested interest has ever had the power to make a fair and equitable decision that could deal with the matter. Unless America comes up with a leader of immense support, who has a historical sense of fairness, neither the UN nor any other power, will stop the on-going destruction of the Palestinians and Israelis alike.
The following are a few of the UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS against Israel between 1955 and 1992, there are lots more you can look up. Strange, isn’t it, how one country can be so sanctioned by the UN and yet nothing ever happens. This is all due to the US veto which makes the UN very ineffective, which coincidently, is another American priority.

- Resolution 106: ‘condemns’ Israel for Gaza raid.
- Resolution 111: ‘condemns’ Israel for raid on Syria that killed fifty-six people.
- Resolution 127: ‘recommends’ Israel suspends its ‘no-man’s zone’ in Jerusalem.
- Resolution 162: ‘urges’ Israel to comply with UN decisions.
- Resolution 171: ‘determines flagrant violations’ by Israel in its attack on Syria.
- Resolution 228: ‘censures’ Israel for its attack on Samu in the West Bank, then under Jordanian control.
- Resolution 248: ‘condemns’ Israel for its massive attack on Karameh in Jordan.
- Resolution 250: ‘calls’ on Israel to refrain from holding military parade in Jerusalem’.
- Resolution 251: ‘deeply deplores’ Israeli military parade in Jerusalem in defiance of Resolution 250.
- Resolution 252: ‘declares invalid’ Israel’s acts to unify Jerusalem as Jewish capital.
- Resolution 256: ‘condemns’ Israeli raids on Jordan as ‘flagrant violation’.
- Resolution 259: ‘deplores’ Israel’s refusal to accept UN mission to probe occupation.
- Resolution 262: ‘condemns’ Israel for attack on Beirut airport.
- Resolution 265: ‘condemns’ Israel for air attacks for Salt in Jordan.
- Resolution 267: ‘censures’ Israel for administrative acts to change the status of Jerusalem.
- Resolution 270: condemns’ Israel for air attacks on villages in southern Lebanon.
- Resolution 271: ‘condemns’ Israel’s failure to obey UN resolutions on Jerusalem.
- Resolution 279: ‘demands’ withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.
- Resolution 280: ‘condemns’ Israeli’s attacks against Lebanon.
- Resolution 298: ‘deplores’ Israel’s changing of the status of Jerusalem.
- Resolution 313: ‘demands’ that Israel stop attacks against Lebanon.
- Resolution 316: ‘condemns’ Israel for repeated attacks on Lebanon.
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- Resolution 317: ‘deplores’ Israel’s refusal to release Arabs abducted in Lebanon.
- Resolution 332: ‘condemns’ Israel’s repeated attacks against Lebanon.
- Resolution 337: “condemns” Israel for violating Lebanon’s sovereignty.
- Resolution 347: “condemns” Israeli attacks on Lebanon.
- Resolution 425: “calls” on Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.
- Resolution 427: “calls” on Israel to complete its withdrawal from Lebanon.
- Resolution 444: ‘deplores’ Israel’s lack of cooperation with UN peacekeeping forces.
- Resolution 446: ‘determines’ that Israeli settlements are a ‘serious obstruction’ to peace and calls on Israel to abide by the 4th Geneva Convention.
- Resolution 450: ‘calls’ on Israel to stop attacking Lebanon.
- Resolution 452: ‘calls’ on Israel to cease building settlements in occupied territories.
- Resolution 465: ‘deplores’ Israel’s settlements and asks all member states not to assist Israel’s settlements program.
- Resolution 467: ‘strongly deplores’ Israel’s military intervention in Lebanon.
- Resolution 468: ‘calls’ on Israel to rescind illegal expulsions of two Palestinian mayors and a judge and to facilitate their return.
- Resolution 469: ‘strongly deplores’ Israel’s failure to observe the council’s order not to deport Palestinians.
- Resolution 471: ‘expresses deep concern’ at Israel’s failure to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention.
- Resolution 476: ‘reiterates’ that Israel’s claim to Jerusalem are ‘null and void.
- Resolution 478: ‘censures (Israel) in the strongest terms’ for its claim to Jerusalem in its ‘Basic Law’.
- Resolution 484: ‘declares it imperative’ that Israel re-admit two deported Palestinian mayors.
- Resolution 487: ‘strongly condemns’ Israel for its attack on Iraq’s nuclear facility.
- Resolution 497: ‘decides’ that Israel’s annexation of Syria’s Golan Heights is ‘null and void’ and demands that Israel rescinds its decision forthwith.
- Resolution 498: ‘calls’ on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.
- Resolution 501: ‘calls’ on Israel to stop attacks again.

Political Prisoners and Detainees

3 Israelis are being held prisoner by ?, while 9,273 Palestinians are currently imprisoned by Israel. Only
1,800 have been tried and convicted. This total includes women and 351 children 17 or less. The number of Israeli prisoners is likely to drop by 100% at any moment. Not so for the Palestinians.

A military victor can be judged by how they treat those they are victorious over. In both Israel and Iraq the Israelis and Americans look vindictive and vicious. If you are the ‘good guys’ fighting a necessary war, you need to act like the good guys. When you act like ‘bad guys’ you simply reinforce the belief that you are in fact ‘bad’ and must be resisted. (see the Prisoners chapter) The Israelis think they are the ‘good guys’ and they make sure that message gets out, all too often their actions belie their words.

The international Federation for Human Rights reported that Palestinian prisoners who are held by the Israelis are, “routinely subject to torture, degrading treatment and humiliation and especially to humiliating strip searches. Moreover, political prisoners are often placed in solitary confinement for extended periods of time.” The Federation called on Israel to meet the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. That has not happened; Israel continues with prisoners policies that are unjust. One example, Mr. Ziyad Hmeidan, has been detained since May 23, 2005, without charge. He was recently informed that his imprisonment will be extended for a further four months. Israeli authorities have justified Mr. Ziyad Hmeidan’s imprisonment on the basis of secret evidence that has not been disclosed to either Mr. Hmeidan or his lawyer. Initially Mr. Hmeidan was also denied access to a lawyer based on Military Order 378 of 1970. The reasons for the, ‘Order Prohibiting Meeting with Counsel’ was also not disclosed due to security reasons. This means that he cannot challenge his imprisonment or get a fair trial. This sort of secret evidence against someone is fundamentally unjust. Similarly the use of these polices by America in recent years has eroded the respect for America around the world. Israel also has almost 500 Palestinian prisoners who have been incarcerated since before the Oslo Accords (1993) when those accords called for their release. Other countries that most people think of as relatively civilized, such as Canada, are also locking up people without charge or trial. This type of arbitrary detention in Israel is not unusual and is compatible with so many of the decisions that Israeli authorities make to enforce Palestinian behavior. Israel seems not to have noticed that this approach has not been particularly successful.

Torture has been commonly used by Israel during interrogations. It has been estimated that Israel violently interrogated at least 850 Palestinians a year by means of torture. All governmental authorities, from the IDF to the Supreme Court, approved this torture. In 1999, the High Court of Justice ruled that some of the interrogation methods used against Palestinian detainees were illegal. This judgment caused a significant reduction in the use of Israeli torture; however there have been signs that torture is still being used. In July 2002 a
senior General Security Service (GSS) official said that ninety Palestinians had been defined as “ticking bombs” and “extraordinary interrogation methods,” i.e., torture, was used against them. Other Israeli interrogators have admitted that the GSS “uses every manipulation possible, up to shaking and beating.” Dozens of affidavits from Palestinians also confirm that torture is still part of Israeli interrogations. Torture has been totally discredited as a useful way to acquire truthful information. Its continued use can only be considered as a way to painfully express the hatred one side feels towards the other.

This hatred is exacerbated when Israel imprisons children. Probably no other Israeli policy angers the Palestinians more than the murder and imprisonment of their children. In the first three months of 2006, 350 Palestinian children were arrested and detained by Israel. In all of 2005, 700 Palestinian children were arrested. Do the Israeli authorities ever ask themselves why these young people act the way they do or is their behavior just considered normal for Arab kids?

During the Sharon Intifada, Israel formally adopted a policy of assassinating Palestinians that they determined should to be killed. B’Tselem is a Jewish human rights organization that documents this conflict. They state that since the beginning of 2004, Israeli security forces have killed eighty-nine Palestinians during arrest operations. Seventeen of the persons killed were civilians who were not wanted by Israel and were not suspected by Israel of having committed any offense. In addition, at least forty-three of those killed were unarmed, or were not attempting to use their arms against Israeli security forces when they were killed. None of these cases were investigated by the Military Police investigation unit. The B’Tselem investigations showed that in two cases IDF soldiers stormed the house of a wanted person and then fired at another occupant of the house when he opened the door, without prior warning and without offering them a chance to surrender. In two other cases, the security forces disarmed the wanted persons but then shot and killed them. In all these cases, the security forces acted as if they were carrying out an assassination and not an arrest. Based on the B’Tselem reports there is a grave suspicion that execution of Palestinians has become a norm among the Israeli security forces.

At the beginning of the Sharon Intifada soldiers were instructed to open fire in situations that were not life-threatening. The orders to open fire were given verbally, and were often vague. Since the beginning of this Intifada, the judge advocate general’s office has refrained from ordering Military Police
investigations into cases of Palestinian killings, except in exceptional cases. This failure to investigate has created an atmosphere of impunity, in which the security forces are not held accountable for their actions, even when wrongful executions occur.

Visitors are important to prisoners everywhere and the denial of visitation rights only serves to add to the punishment which exacerbates the hatred. Palestinian prisoners from Nablus were denied visits for almost one year while some were held in solitary confinement. When visitation rights for Palestinians do exist they are sometimes manipulated in mean-spirited ways. For example, Israel makes it too noisy for prisoners and visitors to talk, no human contact is allowed, the glass between prisoners and their relatives is too thick and restrictive, mail is slow or infrequent, phone calls are not possible and more. It seems clear that Israel works to exacerbate the animosity between themselves and the Arabs. One of the other important aspects of prison life is the food. If the food is poor it makes for one less thing to look forward to in a long day. If the food is poor and there are many other problems in prison the inmates may go on a hunger strike. This has occurred many times in Israeli prisons. A large hunger strike started in 2004 that eventually affected thousands of Palestinians. The response of the Israeli Security Minister, Tzahi Hanegbi, to this hunger strike was typical of Israeli prison officials. The Minister is a tough guy, he said, “They can strike for a day, a month, until death. We will ward off this strike and it will be as if it never happened.” The Minister’s attitude displays a callous disregard for the health and problems of the Palestinian prisoners. His statement, as the head of prisons tells everyone else who works there, ‘we don’t care about you’. It is this attitude, at the top, that allows the well documented violations of human rights in Israel to continue.

Israel has said that, “The IDF views with great severity the case and violence by IDF soldiers.” This sounds good and many Israelis believe it but life is not like that. Israeli security forces continue to beat and abuse Palestinians. There are two reasons, one is simply because they can but more importantly is the inhuman treatment that each side inflicts on the other. As the side with the most power Israel has been able to inflict more pain due to this mutual hatred. In 1992, complaints of brutality were transferred to the Department for the Investigation of Police. When various complaints were received by this department they responded by saying that the file was closed for various reasons including “insufficient proof”. At times the file was closed because the Palestinian could not make a statement because their request to enter Israel and make a statement was denied. Where police are found guilty they receive light sentences. Therefore the frontline Israeli security persons have come to understand that actual brutality is not discouraged and that your chances of punishment are slim.

Israel also imprisons Israelis who refuse to acknowledge the will of the state. Five Israelis, who had been held since October 2002, were tried before a military court 14 months later, for refusing to serve in the Israeli army. They
were charged without the assistance of a lawyer and testimony concerning the crime of refusing to obey orders as not allowed. Over three months later they were sentenced to one year in prison but the Israeli army reserved the right to add to this sentence at the end of their term. The UN has stated that this threat of repeated penalties violate the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights of 1966.

The five men refused to serve in the occupied Palestine territories and were given no other service option.

The best known Israeli prisoner is another Israeli, Mordechai Vanunu. He was a technician who worked for 9 years at the Israeli nuclear weapons manufacturing facility. He then decided that the world needed to know about this additional nuclear threat to world peace. He took a large number of pictures and smuggled them out of Israel. The media in Australia didn’t want the information but eventually the Sunday Times in London published his story. Vanunu then met a girl named ‘Cindy’ who said that she liked him and that she was also critical of Israeli policies. ‘Cindy’ bought tickets for them to go to Rome for a holiday. It turned out to be an 18 year holiday, 11 ½ years in solitary confinement when ‘Cindy’ turned out to be a Mossad agent. Although he has been freed from the Israeli jail he is still a prisoner as the Israeli government will not let him leave the country or even get close to an Israeli border. There are many other restrictions but once again the Israeli government has shown how ‘tough’ they can be to their own detriment. Israel also worked with South Africa to develop their nuclear weapons when South Africa was an apartheid state. Now the Israelis have created an apartheid state of their own in Israel.

Vanunu was called a spy by Israel but he was actually a whistle-blower as he thought Israel’s actions were dangerous. He may yet be proven correct.
Many people called for his release over the years but the Americans never supported Vanunu. Tragically they did support Israeli nuclear weapons, which were in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. For many years Israel said that they would not be first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East but they were lying as they have had these weapons for over three decades. Even when satellite images showed a large-scale presence of Israeli personnel at the South Africa’s Kalahari Desert test site, the Carter administration kept quiet. When a US satellite detected a successful Israeli atomic bomb test in the South Atlantic the Carter government helped to minimize public knowledge of this event. Reagan, Bush Sr. and Clinton also helped keep the Israeli bomb a secret as America continued to violate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty. This American financial and material support made Israel’s bombs possible but the American double standard is well known to the Arab states who are now threatened by these Israeli weapons of mass destruction.

The Iraq war was all about eliminating the non-existent Iraqi WMD and now America threatens Iran over its non-existent WMD. What the Americans conveniently ignore are the Israeli WMD and UN resolution 487 which called on Israel to place its nuclear weapons facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency trusteeship. America Presidents like Bush Jr. do not believe that UN Security Council resolutions such as this apply to the US or its allies. Vanunu did us all a great service by proving that this great threat exists. America did us all a great disservice by making this great threat possible in the first place. (see the WMD chapter)

There are also Israeli prisons that the International Red Cross has been refused permission to visit. One of these is Camp 1391 and it is run by the Israeli military. Dan Yakir, a legal adviser to the Association of Civil Rights in Israel stated, “A secret detention facility contradicts basic principles of every democracy, transparency and public supervision over the governmental authorities. And those principles are especially important in relation to the deprivation of freedom which is one of the most severe infringements of
human rights. The existence of a lockup like this gives rise to a double concern: first, of secret arrests and ‘disappearances’ of people; and second, an abuse of power, unfair treatment, violence and torture.” He was referring to the fact that prisoners in this camp are not told where they are and their relatives are not told they are there. They have ‘disappeared’ and they remain that way until Israel decides they will be released. Some prisoners have been incarcerated in this way for over 10 years, no charge, no trial, no contact, no hope. Israel cannot hope to deal successfully with the Palestinians if injustice is part of their dealings. This lack of justice, or if you prefer, lack of fairness is understood by every Palestinian. The Israelis make the rules that apply to one side, but not to the other. This unfairness is so basic that all Palestinians understand it and it hardens their resolve against the Jews. The Israelis are solving no problems and doing themselves no favors by being the unfair tough guys.

**Israeli and Palestinian Unemployment Rates**

The Israeli unemployment rate is 8.9%, while the Palestinian unemployment is estimated at over 50%.

The policies that Israel imposes on the Palestinians has a direct impact on the number of unemployed young men in ‘Palestine’. Numerous studies have shown that disenfranchised young men lead to violence. Impose other burdens, restrictions and injustice on young men and the violence is guaranteed. No one should be surprised that these Israeli actions lead to suicide bombings. Indeed, it seems reasonable to conclude that these Israeli actions are deliberate attempts to keep the conflict going.

The following are a few more Israeli policies that have served to exacerbate the divisions between Palestinians and Israelis.

Recently (May 2006) a petition to annul ‘the Nationality and Entry into Israel Law’ was dismissed. This law was introduced in 2003 as a temporary measure but it has been renewed. This law denies Israeli citizens the right to be reunited with their family if their spouse is a Palestinian who resides in the occupied territories. This law affects thousands of couples who are therefore forced to live apart. The Palestinian part of the couple

Paul Larudee, piano tuner and non-violent activist was denied entry to Palestine by the Israeli authorities and was held in detention at Ben Gurion Airport. Paul is a piano tuner from El Cerrito, California and one of the latest of over 13,000 people to be denied entry to Israel/Palestine in recent years. The Palestinians have no say in deciding who is allowed to visit them. Paul was scheduled to tune more than 20 pianos.
Hundreds of Palestinians wait at a typical checkpoint. This irritant is often illogical and always time consuming. No Israelis have to go through Palestinian checkpoints.

cannot live in Israel and the Israeli partner cannot enter the areas under, so-called, Palestinian control. They are then forced to live apart and there has been no solution to this cruelty. While this is forced upon thousands of residents in this land, complete strangers are encouraged to live in Israel. They can move into the occupied territories of Palestine with the blessing and financial support of the Israeli government. This law which wrecks families violates existing Israeli law and many international laws but there are powerful people in Israel who want to inflict this pain on Israelis who get along with Palestinians.

Israel has a Jewish majority today because of laws like this that expelled or dispossessed most of the Palestinians who used to be the majority. Israel imposed ‘legalities’ that made it much harder for many Palestinians to keep their land. Much of the land that used to be owned by the Palestinians was legally changed so that it could only be developed by Jews. Israeli-Palestinians are subject to restrictions that do not apply to Jewish citizens, who have arrived from some other part of the world. Jews who arrive in Israel receive financial assistance to get settled but Palestinians who were born there do not have the normal freedoms let alone money to make life easier. If you ‘pretend’ to be Jewish you can be jailed but it is OK to ‘pretend’ to be a Christian or a Muslim. The only form of Judaism recognized by the Jewish State is Orthodox Judaism. All of the Palestinians are subject to laws that do not apply to the Jews in Israel. It is difficult to hide your religion as everyone must have an identity card and your religion is shown in bold type; in addition the Palestinian identity cards are a different color. The Palestinians and Israelis have different license plates on their cars and there are many roads only for Jews. If you are Palestinian you had better not get caught on the wrong road! These Israeli policies as
Another delay as Palestinians try to get to work. The hundreds of checkpoints on Palestinian territory made a successful Palestinian economy much more difficult.

This three-year-old child was crushed to death by a gate at an Israeli checkpoint when she and her mother tried to visit her father in an Israeli jail.

well as others have simply created a huge number of people living within Israeli borders who are much more likely to fight Israel than cooperate with Israel. This is basically an apartheid situation but it has not received nearly the exposure that the apartheid system did when it operated in South Africa.

If you are a well intentioned traveler and want to see the Palestinian situation for yourself you will be denied entry into Israel. Everyone who tries to go to the occupied territories (Palestine) needs a good reason and visiting the Palestinians is not good enough. Every traveler to ‘Palestine’ must pass through Israeli security first. The only airport in the occupied territories was destroyed by the Israelis years ago and Israel will not allow the Palestinians to have their own airport.

What the Palestinians can do in the ‘occupied territories’ is completely controlled by the Israelis. The Israelis have set up almost 600 checkpoints in Palestinian areas to control the movement of the Palestinians. Many human rights violations have occurred at these check points and now
a group of Jewish women try to monitor the checkpoints but it is a big job. The Israeli women of Machsom Watch keep an eye on the behavior of soldiers at the hundreds of West Bank checkpoints. These women wear ‘Machsom Watch’ identification and each document what happens on their shift. Adi Dagan, a spokesperson for the group says the purpose of the checkpoints is, “to prevent free passage of Palestinian residents between their villages and towns.” She said the checkpoints hours of operation and procedures are “arbitrary” and often change, making access to jobs, schools, and hospitals for many Palestinians at best, time-consuming and at worst, impossible. The IDF says that this large number of checkpoints is to try and stop suicide bombers.

The IDF does agree that the checkpoint hours are arbitrary but claims that this is a result of, “general or specific intelligence.” This doesn’t make much sense. If they know that a suicide bomber is heading their way they would presumably like to keep the checkpoint open so they could catch them. It really looks like this is just one of the numerous steps the Israelis have taken to drive the Palestinians out of the country. Ms. Lourenco, one of the Machsom volunteers says that, “Most average Israelis don’t know what’s going on and don’t care. But our priority is to make the Israeli public know what’s happening in this region and show them that changes have to be made.” Over 400 miles of open roads bypass the checkpoints but these roads are only open to Jewish settlers and Israeli military vehicles. At one time the main road between Jenin...
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and Nablus was open to all but now it is just a narrow poorly surfaced road with an Israeli checkpoint and the associated razor wire.

The following exchange typical for a Machsom volunteer. A minibus from the Palestinian Archaeological Authority pulled up to the checkpoint and the Israeli soldier called out, “No authorization to pass today.” Ms. Lourenco called out, “But they came through this morning.” The soldier picked up the phone to check and the minibus was allowed through. Ms. Lourenco explained, “that decisions are all down to the individual soldier. That’s the biggest problem of all.” The Israelis also make life difficult with ‘rolling checkpoints’ that they set up wherever they want.

The Machsom Watch women have been doing this for five years. They know they help to reduce conflict but they also know that not a single checkpoint has been removed in all that time. They have also been unable to change policies that restrict the movement of Palestinians. As Ms. Lourenco says, “It is only getting worse.”

The ‘wall’ that the Israelis prefer to call a ‘fence’.

Another view of the wall being constructed on Palestinian land.

The women from Machsom try to monitor them all. They visit checkpoints in chaos, because a new restriction has banned taxis and buses. At times they find arrested Palestinians forced to sit restrained and blindfolded in the sun for trying to get past the checkpoint. Ms. Lourenco intervenes and after a brief argument the men are released.

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One of the 36 checkpoints along the almost 400 miles of the wall. About one every 11 miles. This will make it very difficult for the Palestinians to travel within ‘Palestine’.
The thick lighter line shown on the map above was recognized as the border by both Israel and the Palestinians. The route of the wall (black jagged line) was selected by the Israelis and they had a reason. If you look at this map along with a map of the underground water aquifers you will find that the wall now takes in a number of the important mountain aquifer water sources that were used by the Palestinians. This unilateral location of the wall allows the Israeli’s to gradually acquire more Palestinian land as well as access to more water which is more important that gold to Israel. This process is understood by all Palestinians and another reason for the ongoing conflict.
Over the years the Israeli High Court of Justice has tried to create a sense of justice but the Israeli politicians have countered all those efforts. Recently the High Court ruled that the IDF must act to ensure the safety of Palestinian farmers at the hands of Jewish settlers. The court stated that, “A policy that prevents Palestinian residents from reaching lands belonging to them, in the name of their own safety, is like a policy forbidding someone from entering his home in order to protect him from a thief.” The court was also critical of Israeli law enforcement officials who overlooked settler violence against Palestinians. “The violations of the law against Palestinian farmers are carried out by a small and extremist group of Israelis, whose acts tarnish the names all of the Israeli settlers in Judea and Samaria.” “The difficult picture that has been revealed to us is of harm caused to Palestinian residents and of disrespect of the law that is not treated appropriately by enforcement authorities.” “These extremist acts harm not only the security, safety and property of these local residents but also the image that the settlers seek to cultivate of law-abiding citizens, as well as the image and good name of the State of Israel, in which the supremacy of the law must be respected.” Although these ruling from the High Court are important the politicians send another message of conquest and that is the message the settlers have elected to follow and so the difficulties continue.

Another major irritant for the Palestinians is the wall that Israel is unilaterally building around the West Bank, on Palestinian land. This wall epitomizes the prevailing Jewish government attitude towards the Palestinians, which is to do what they want. The wall map on the previous page is from 2005 and Israeli.
The wall, if it has to be built, should be on Israeli land, along the West Bank border. In 2004 the International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled that the wall route was illegal. The Israelis ignored this court ruling but the route of the wall was moved slightly. This dark line represents the path of the wall now being built by Israel. It deviates from the so called border, in hundreds of places. In every single case the deviation takes land from the Palestinians and, of course, gives it to the Israelis. This would not be possible if the Israelis recognized that the Palestinians had any right, to any territory. In addition the IDF has unilaterally decreed that there will be a buffer zone at least 150 meters wide along this wall and in some cases 850 meters wide depending on the terrain. These orders do not apply to Israel behind the thick lighter line. See UN web site http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/oPt/

Not including the land taken up by the buffer zones the wall means the loss of over 100,000 acres of land for the Palestinians plus serious movement restrictions for all time. The fact is that since Palestine was partitioned (divided) into Jewish and Palestinian sectors in 1947 no Jewish government has ever acknowledged that the any land is definitely Palestinian. Indeed the aggressive unilateral building of Jewish settlements, without first resolving the land dispute, clearly indicates that all Jewish governments have planned to keep expanding their control over Palestinian land, while making life as miserable as possible for the impoverished Palestinians who remain.

The location of this wall was always considered by Israel to be the future border of the West Bank. That is why they tried to grab so much land with the original wall position. To avoid future international legal pressure they reverted to the present line which still annexes considerable Palestinian land. Israel’s Minister for Justice Affairs Tzipi Livni said, “One does not have to be a genius to see that the fence will have implications for the future border.” The Israeli government has said that the ‘fence’ is a temporary tool to stop terrorists but they have elected to spend millions building this wall without dealing with the

*IDF tanks firing into Gaza. The associated deaths of innocent Palestinians are ‘deeply regretted’ but the shelling continues.*
fundamental problem that the wall exacerbates. The millions being spent on
the wall are not particularly important to Israel as America is paying the bill.

On June 22nd, 2006 Binyamin Netanyahu, who is once again running to
be the Prime Minister of Israel said, “The IDF has the firepower to wipe out
an entire population if we want to but we are not doing this.” What a nice
guy! This may be true but it appears that Israel uses other tactics to get the job
done as Menachem Begin, another Prime Minister once said, “The Partition
of Palestine is illegal. It will never be recognized .... Jerusalem was and will
forever be our capital. Eretz Israel will be restored to the people of Israel. All
of it. And for Ever.” David Ben Gurion put it more bluntly in 1937, “We must
expel Arabs and take their places”. Golda Meir had another way to express
it, “There’s no such thing as a Palestinian people. It is not as if we came and
threw them out and took their country. They didn’t exist”. This commitment,
by all Jewish leaders, to take all of the former Palestine is incompatible with
fairness and therefore peaceful coexistence. For many decades the Jews have
complained that the Arabs have denied Israel’s “right to exist”. The Arabs,
including Hamas, have confirmed that right but the Jews continue to deny
Palestine’s “right to exist”. You don’t read that in the mainstream American
media.

This pressure on the Palestinians and the associated one-side reporting
of the conflict is changing Israeli public opinion in a way that will only lead
to more conflict. Martin Van Creveld, a professor at the Hebrew University
in Jerusalem said in 2003 what most Israeli believe. “The Palestinians should
all be deported.” “The people who strive for this [the Israeli government] are
waiting only for the right man and the right time.” According to Haaretz and
the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, “46 percent of Israel’s Jewish citizens
favor transferring Palestinians out of the territories, while 31 percent favor
transferring Israeli Arabs out of the country.” These percentages are up about
10% in ten years. “Transferring” is an interesting choice of words, in fact the
word should be, ‘ethnically cleansed’.

The Israeli mantra is that, “Israel has the right to defend itself”. The threat
that Israel needed to defend itself from were the Kassam rockets that were fired
by Palestinians into Israel. No one argues with the right of self defence but
the numbers are interesting. In the six months previous to the recent Lebanon
debacle the Israelis killed 80 Palestinians and fired thousands of artillery shells
into Gaza. This was in response to the Palestinians firing of Kassam rockets
into Israel. These home-made rockets may sound dangerous and they are if they
happen to hit you but in the last five years they have killed 8 Israelis. So we have
80 Palestinians, mostly civilians, killed in six months and 8 Israelis killed in five
years. Therefore the threat to the Palestinians has been about 100 times greater
than the threat to the Israelis. The Israeli leadership invariably exaggerates
the Palestinian missile danger while the world ignores the much greater
danger to the Palestinians. The former head of Israeli Military Intelligence
and commander of the War College, Maj.-General Ya'acov Amidror said, “The
Palestinians don’t even need to fire off that many [Kassams’] to completely change the fabric of life in the country. It will be enough for them to fire one rocket every two weeks into Ra’anana or Kfar Saba and one rocket every few weeks into Jerusalem to make life unbearable for all Israelis.” So, one home made, unguided rocket, that packs 1% of the punch of one tank shell, every few weeks will make life “unbearable for all Israelis” but thousands of much more powerful and accurate shells fired at the Palestinians during the same time period are no big deal. On April 20th 2006 the retired head of Mossad, Danny Yatom said that the entire Hamas Cabinet is now a legitimate target for assassination. “I understand that our sights are also trained on Hamas ministers, not only on the police chief,” Yatom told Israel Radio. “Nobody who deals with terror can have immunity by any means, even if he holds a ministerial portfolio in the Hamas government.” This hypocrisy is remarkable but nevertheless it is an intrinsic part of the Israeli public relations effort.

That same aggression has always been supported by the Jewish leadership. Ariel Sharon’s comment to Agence France Press on November 15th 1998 is a good example, “It is the duty of Israeli leaders to explain to public opinion, clearly and courageously, a certain number of facts that are forgotten with time. The first of these is that there is no Zionism, colonialization, or Jewish State without the eviction of the Arabs and the expropriation of their lands.”

Of course the Israeli government has the right to protect their citizens and the democratically elected Hamas government has the same right to protect their citizens. On June 25th, 2006 the world wide media told us that Palestinians had attacked an Israeli border post adjacent to Gaza. In the ensuing fighting two Israeli soldiers were killed and one was captured and brought back to Gaza. This incident appeared to start the violence in Gaza and then expanded into Lebanon. What the media did not tell us was that on June 24th, 2006 Israel captured two civilians from Gaza and took them off to who knows where. In the ‘civilized’ world the capture of civilians is considered more serious than the capture of a soldier but the Israeli capture of these men went virtually unreported. The only media coverage found was this small item in the English
newspaper The Observer, hidden away on June 25th. “Israeli forces have detained two Palestinians, who the army said were Hamas militants, in the Gaza Strip, in what observers said was the first arrest raid in the territory since Israel pulled out of the area a year ago.”

Israel does not know if the attack on their border post and capture of one Israeli soldier was ordered by the Hamas government however the Israeli government responded with the following actions. They dropped leaflets on two Palestinian towns advising them to leave their homes as their towns might be attacked. This is no big deal as 5000 Palestinians can just move into any nearby Hilton for a few weeks. The Israelis then fired 6 missiles into Gaza’s only power plant knocking out 60% of the electricity in Gaza. Ironically this plant was insured by an American insurance company so they will be out millions, if, the Israelis allow the necessary parts back into Gaza. The severe power shortage will, in any case, affect all 1.4 million Palestinians in Gaza for probably over a year. The Israelis claim they took this action to put pressure on the civilian population so that they would put pressure on Hamas. Yeah, that works real well in the US too. If you don’t like what your politicians are doing you just write them an email and they stop doing it! In any case destroying a power plant is a dumb way to get the civilians of Gaza to cooperate. It is also a violation of international law but we know that by now. Israel took over the airport they destroyed years ago as a staging area for their planned assaults into Gaza and, by-the-way, this only Palestinian airport has been destroyed for years. They fired rockets into the offices of various ministers of the Palestinian government. They dropped bombs into other parts of Gaza for reasons unknown. Before and after this abduction incident the IAF has been flying over Gaza creating sonic booms which are very stressful and upsetting for the civilian population. The Israeli Prime Minister Olmert declared, “I take personal responsibility for what is happening in Gaza. I want nobody to sleep at night in Gaza.” Another foolish action that simply creates more Palestinian hatred towards Israelis. Israel must believe that all Palestinians are all guilty, all the time, so any action against any Palestinian is always OK! The Israelis bombed the Islamic University in Gaza City and a Palestinian charity. They bombed three bridges in Gaza. They flew over other important buildings in other Arab
countries just to let them know that they were also at risk. Israel then arrested senior members of the Hamas government as well as many others. According to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Israel arrested last night (29 June 2006) about 100 members of Hamas. Those arrested are Hamas activists who had violated laws pertaining to the prevention of terrorism. While those arrested include ministers and legislators, it needs to be emphasized that the majority of those arrested are not. In any case, the arrests were carried out due to terrorist activity. The action was taken within the context of a normal legal criminal procedure, for the purpose of interrogation.” Mossad must be working overtime to have gathered evidence that all 100 of these men are guilty of “terrorist activity”. Note that the Israelis do not say, ‘suspected terrorist activity’, according to Israel these men are, like the women and children already imprisoned, guilty. These new arrests make up about one quarter of the Palestinian cabinet as well as many other government officials.

Numerous other Israeli attacks occurred resulting in the deaths of over 50 Palestinians in Gaza and these killings continue. As Major General Yoav Galant, head of Israel’s southern region said, “We are prepared to continue the operation a month, two months and, if need be, even more. The Palestinians will do their reckoning. They will count hundreds of dead terrorists, they will count the damaged infrastructure, the destroyed offices, the damaged factories.”

All of these actions, taken by Israel were a result of the capture of a single Israeli soldier. If you believe this you are missing the big picture. While almost 10,000 Palestinian men, women and children languish in Israeli prisons, all these attacks to avenge the kidnapping of one Israeli is grossly disproportionate. Obviously the Israelis used this kidnapping to hit the Palestinians and inflict more misery to further ruin their lives.

Although the Palestinians are weak militarily they have a few friends, Hizballah in Lebanon being one of them. Hizballah then abducted two Israeli soldiers near the Lebanese border with Israel. Israel, it should be mentioned, holds a number of Lebanese in prison. Israel then started a bombardment of southern Lebanon after which Hizballah started firing numerous rockets into northern Israel from southern Lebanon. Israel and the western media would have you believe that Hizballah fired first. Israel’s history of firing first is well known. Firing first is consistent with the impunity Israel brings to
every conflict. The media has also failed to tell us that Israel created Hizballah with their previous brutal actions in Lebanon. In fact the government of Lebanon does not and cannot control Hizballah and Israel knows this. Israel then responded by bombing numerous targets in Lebanon including 64 bridges, numerous roads and runways at the main airport in Beirut, Lebanon’s largest milk factory, a food factory, two pharmaceutical plants, apartment complexes, water treatment plants, grain silos, aid convoys, banks, power plants, a Greek church, the communication systems, villages, hospitals, a lighthouse in Beirut harbor (who knows why?), trucks, fleeing people and ambulance convoys. None of which had anything to do with Hizballah. They also hit a UN observation post with a “precision guided missile” fired from a helicopter, killing 4 UN observers. Israel then said this UN bombing was a mistake however the UN had advised Israel on 10 occasions during the hours before these killings that their munitions were falling too close to the well marked observation post. That helicopter missile could not have been a mistake. That type of attack cannot be a mistake in the same way that the attack on the USS Liberty was not a mistake. Israel simply didn’t want its war crimes in Lebanon observed. Impunity has been a hallmark of Zionist actions before the formation of the Jewish state in 1947.

Of course this aggression has simply resulted in more killing and more counter attacks. These attacks on Israel were also precipitated by all the Israeli policies that Israel has inflicted on the Palestinians for generations. What the leadership of Israel has refused to admit is that treating another people unjustly will always work against Israel. The imprisonment of Palestinians, the abductions, the killing of civilians, the destruction of homes, the enforced unemployment, the travel restrictions, the stupid wall that grabs more Palestinian land and of course the continual Israeli settlement expansions into the West Bank. All of these Israeli actions maintain the hatred for Israelis and make any attack much more likely.

None of this would be happening without US support for Israel and the American veto of virtually every UN Security Council Resolution that asked Israel to be less aggressive. In fact there is emerging evidence that America encouraged Israel to attack Hizballah. Seymour Hersh, in the August 21, New Yorker magazine quotes a Pentagon’s spokesman, “It was our intent to have Hezbollah diminished, and now we have someone else doing it.” Nothin’ like having a true friend to keep you out of trouble!

A UN resolution to condemn the recent Israeli actions in Gaza was 10 to 1 with the one against being America, of course. These UN veto’s by the US have helped to make the UN an ineffective body, which has been another American objective as they are adamantly opposed to any global power that would actually restrict them. On July 18th, back in the good old USA, politicians of all stripes overwhelming condemned Hamas and Hizballah while supporting Israel. The house version was approved 410 to 8 but Congress did not even write the resolution. It was written by AIPAC, which shows how incestuous
Israel's influence is in the American House of Congress.

If you look at the Hamas record since their election they have been well behaved considering the assaults on their people. The capture of one soldier and the deaths of two others pale in comparison to the losses on the Palestinian side. In spite of that restraint, America and Israel have punished the Palestinians for electing Hamas. Hamas leaders have acknowledged Israel’s right to exist and they have agreed to Israel’s security if Israel will agree to Palestinian security within a Palestinian state. This Israel has never done and this is what Israel really fears. They cannot continue with the slow dispossession of the Palestinians if they agree with the Palestinian right to exist. Whenever this ugly Palestinian possibility emerges, the Israelis elect war to derail the Palestinian objectives. They try to paint it as Israel simply defending herself but obviously all this Israeli overkill could have been avoided if Israel had simply agreed to exchange a few prisoners for the captured soldier. That shouldn’t have been a problem; Israel has almost 10,000 Palestinian prisoners to choose from.

Israel seems not to have noticed that one-half of the Palestinian population is under 16. Due to the Israeli aggression in Gaza and the West Bank ALL of these young people have learned to hate Israel. Israel regards the killing of a Palestinian leader, or to use their term, ‘terrorist’ as another victory but every day the Israel actions create another hundred to replace him. Creating hatred on such a vast scale will mean, as Rumsfeld says, “a long war”. It is hard to believe that this is what the average Israeli wants. Dr Khalid Dahlan, a psychiatrist who obviously cannot be trusted because he may be an Arab, heads a children’s community health project. He said, “The statistic I personally find unbearable is that 99 per cent of the children we studied suffer trauma -- a third saw family members or neighbors injured or killed.” Add to this mess, high unemployment, enforced poverty and numerous unfair policies and you create the inevitable ‘terrorists’.

We should also mention Mossad, the Israeli CIA with the forthright motto, “By way of deception, thou shalt do war”. There is something intrinsically wrong with armed secret organizations seeking war. If the activity of any group must be kept secret, it is probably illegal, immoral or both. Mossad collects ‘information’ for the Israeli government and the government then uses Mossad, the IDF or paid agents to act on this information. There are two problems with this, the information is not infallible, which it needs to be, because the Israeli government often orders the killing of persons based on this information. The second problem is that these state killings are done without meddlesome rules such as public trials. Mossad has been ordered to kill Canadians, Iranians, Egyptians and many others. Israel has paid or coerced Lebanese men to kill Palestinian men, any devious plot or ploy can and has been used to get the dirty work done. Mossad killings take place in France, Iran, Germany, anywhere and hundreds of innocent people have been killed in the process. This Israeli preference for killing goes back to the beginnings of the country. Menachem Begin, who finally became Israel’s Prime Minister
after many attempts, ran a terrorist organization in the early 1950s. His group, Irgun, plotted to assassinate Ernest Bevin, the British foreign secretary in 1946 to force the Brits out of Palestine so that his group could work, unimpeded, on getting rid of the Palestinians. Begin planned to send five terrorist cells to Britain to carry out bombings and assassinations. Details of the plot are included in MI5 files recently released at the National Archives in London. Mr. Bevin opposed the creation of a new Jewish state so he was specifically targeted by Irgun. Major James Robertson, head of MI5’s Middle East section at the time stated, “In recent months it has been reported that they (Irgun) have been training selected members for the purpose of assassinating a prominent British personality. Special reference has been several times made to Mr Bevin.” The planned terrorist attacks were changed to a letter bomb campaign however Bevin was not killed. The German newspaper, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, reported in June 2006 that Begin also tried to assassinate former West German chancellor Konrad Adenauer in 1952. Others involved in this plot reported that Begin organized the killing and provided the funding through the Zionist group ‘Etzel’. An explosive parcel bomb was mailed to Adenauer which exploded at the Munich post office killing a bomb disposal officer on March, 27th 1952. The numerous Israeli terrorist actions in the early days of the Jewish state are still a fact of life for the ‘enemies’ of Israel.

These Jewish killings, without charge or trial have created three realities. The decision by a few Israelis to kill a certain person often results in the death of that person and frequently innocent bystanders. Secondly this killing then creates many more enemies for Israel in the same way that the American killings in Iraq have recruited thousands into Al-Qaida. And thirdly these killings have legitimized the killing of Israelis in the minds of those who seeks to avenge the Israeli killings. And so these arbitrary assassinations by Israel, without due process, are not expedient and they do not solve problems. In fact they continue to ensure that a fresh crop of ‘terrorists’ will be created who will sustain the violence. That the Israeli leadership continues with these policies, after decades of failure, shows that in aggressive minds, vengeance often supersedes wisdom.

This failure to think was recently acknowledged by Efraim Halevy. A respected security expert and former head of Mossad and Israel’s national security advisor under Sharon. He said the efforts to eliminate Hamas are misguided. When referring to Hamas Mr. Halevy said, “Anyone who thinks it is possible to ignore such a central element of Palestinian society is simply mistaken.” He said you have to look at the Hamas actions not the rhetoric and he pointed out that in 18 months Hamas has kept their word and committed no terrorist acts. The current Israeli leadership prefers to believe that all terrorist acts originate with Hamas. In a population of millions, who all hate Israel, that is not possible.

Mossad has also spied on America, the most famous case being a Mr. Pollard who revealed American nuclear secrets to Israel. Israel not only used
these secrets but also traded them with the Soviets to get higher Jewish quotas from Russia. Years previously Israeli spies obtained enriched uranium from the American Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation. After 9/11 numerous Israelis were arrested in the US. Many failed lie detector tests, some were Israeli military, some were Mossad agents. Six worked for an American Israeli communications company, Amdocs that had contracts with 25 of America's largest phone companies. There were all inexplicably returned to Israel. The Israeli embassy in Washington says, “Israel does not spy on the United States of America”. The American government General Accounting Office says that Israel continues to, “conduct the most aggressive espionage operations against the United States of any US ally.”

What we do know with certainty is that outfits like Mossad complicated everything and obscure the truth. They are involved in scheming, reprehensible back room manipulations which are an anathema to good honest governments who have ideals and honestly try to improve the lives of all peoples. With secret scheming outfits like Mossad we have inexplicable events like the killing of JFK, the mysterious start of many conflicts and unexplained disasters like 9/11. Yes, 9/11 remains unexplained. In the end the whole truth is never revealed and the fools who keep these secrets actually go to their graves believing that they were one of the patriotic ‘good guys’.

A good example of this is an inexplicable incident that took place during the 9/11 attacks. Five men set up cameras on the New Jersey side to film the attacks while they were in progress. Police were called when the men started dancing around and appeared to be jumping for joy. This is a transcript of a police tape when a citizen called to report this bizarre behavior after their van had left the scene.

Dispatcher: Jersey City police.
Caller: Yes, we have a white van, 2 or 3 guys in there, they look like Palestinians and going around a building.

Caller: There's a minivan heading toward the Holland tunnel, I see the guy by Newark Airport mixing some junk and he has those sheikh uniform.
Amoral America

Dispatcher: He has what?
Caller: He's dressed like an Arab.

The police dispatcher advised all officers to look for the white van and it was soon stopped. It turned out all five men were Israelis. The driver said to the police, “We are Israeli. We are not your problem. Your problems are our problems. The Palestinians are your problem.” Some of the men turned out to be Mossad agents, one had almost $5,000 in a sock. The van was owned by ‘Moving Systems’ an American company with a Jewish owner named Dominick Suter. He abandoned his business and fled to Israel within two days. The five men were imprisoned, failed lie detector tests and were quietly returned to Israel 70 days later. For more details regarding this strange tale go to, http://www.sundayherald.com/37707 or http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/fiveisraelis.html or Google, ‘five dancing Israelis’. The end result is that someone protected these guys and that the truth never emerged.

On the day of the 9-11 attacks, former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was asked what the attack would mean for US-Israeli relations. His quick reply was: “It’s very good……Well, it’s not good, but it will generate immediate sympathy (for Israel)”

Since April 2006 Israel has implemented another policy which shafts the Palestinians. It has refused entry into the Palestinian territories (Israel) to Palestinians holding foreign passports. This mainly affects Palestinians living in Europe or the US who want to visit relatives. Israel has complete control over the West Bank and Gaza and has exercised that control since 1967. The Israeli’s may have pulled out of Gaza in 2005 but the Palestinians have never had the freedom of movement that most people take for granted. Besides the Israelis are back in Gaza and have killed hundreds of Palestinians since their most recent war with Lebanon. In another twist, many of these Palestinians, who have foreign passports, have them because Israel stripped them of their right to residency in the occupied territories, while they were abroad. This is just another way of weakening Palestinian society but how would Israeli’s react if they were prevented from visiting their relatives?

Perhaps the most serious Israeli policy flaw is that all of their actions are based on inequality. Israeli leaders order attacks that kill innocent Palestinian civilians and then say that those deaths are “deeply regretted” but they carry on doing the same thing. Palestinian leaders order attacks that kill innocent Israeli civilians and that is called a terrorist act that calls for massive retaliation. In this most recent case involving Lebanon Israeli aggression has resulted in massive retaliation and over 1,200 Lebanese deaths. The capture of a few
Israeli soldiers and the immediate military response rather than a negotiated settlement is one of the best examples of Israeli overkill. While these few Israelis remain imprisoned the real reason for this conflict remains the Israeli attempt to remake the map of the Middle East, as they have so aggressively and successfully done before.

Ali Abunimah says it well, “What is driving the conflict is the radical inequality between the Jewish minority, that rules all of the territory between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, and the disenfranchised Palestinian majority, who are paying the price for the luxury that Israel lives in… But what pays for that normality for Israelis is the total dispossession of the majority population. And Israel believes that it can hide them behind walls, in ghettos, as was done to Jews in Europe in the 1930s and ‘40s”.

This hatred on both sides could not be sustained without a deliberate attempt to hide or manipulate the truth. Nurit Peled-Elhanan, a Hebrew University professor knows this better than most. Her 13 year old daughter was killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber. Rather than seek revenge she has sought to understand the basis for this conflict and that has led her to examine school textbooks in both Israel and the Palestine territories. Her research has shown how Israeli schools indoctrinate children into believing that Palestinians are violent. In the Israeli textbooks she has showed that Palestinians are typically referred to as non-Jews or Arabs and shown in only four ways, with Arab head-dresses on camels, as primitive farmers working their fields, as refugees seen from a distance, or as terrorists. The books constantly refer to Palestinians as a “problem”, “threat” or “nightmare” and occasionally as “foreign workers”. When maps of Israel are shown they eliminate Palestinian villages, mosques and universities. Ms. Peled-Elhanan observed that Israeli textbooks are praised in Israel for being politically correct because they do include some of the killings of Palestinians but as Ms. Peled-Elhanan points out these books then go on to legitimize these massacres. The result of this is that students “learn to use the language and arguments of politicians and generals.” She stated that Palestinian textbooks do not show the same level of bias because they are monitored by the governments that pay for them, the EU, Denmark and Japan.

As of August 2006, much of southern Lebanon has been destroyed and the Israeli attacks in Gaza have killed over 200 Palestinians. We have to ask why would Israel further increase Jewish hatred? The answer is a little involved but consistent with the long-term Jewish plans for the region.

Hamas evolved during the first Intifada and this movement was encouraged by Israel to divide Palestinian nationalism created by Yasser Arafat. Hizballah evolved during Israel’s crushing occupation of Lebanon as a group that would defend their homeland. So Israel had a hand in the formation of both Hamas and Hizballah for only one reason, to divide the Muslims. What they didn’t count on was the support both these organizations received which has made the Muslims stronger. Israel has tried to counter the strength of both Hamas and
Hizballah by labeling them ‘terrorist’ organizations and killing their leaders. In general the West has accepted these Israeli actions and ignored the most grievous of Israel’s terrorist acts. A 20th August 2006 NYTimes interview with an Israeli general clearly shows how far this bias has gone when the general said, “Israel intends to do its best... to kill the militia’s leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah. There’s only one solution for him,” the Israeli officer said, referring to Nasrallah. “This man must die.” No other country in the world could routinely announce that they were going to kill political leaders without condemnation from the West!

By supporting these Israeli assassinations the West has also refused to admit that the Arabs are people just like us. The fact is that the majority of people everywhere do not support terrorists and yet both Hamas and Hizballah have received support from millions. They have received this support because they have accomplished many humanitarian acts and seek to defend their people from the Zionists and Americans. Only people who believe a varnished one-sided version of this conflict regard them as terrorists.

Israel has refused to negotiate with both Hamas and Hizballah for two reasons, to prevent strong Arab leadership and to encourage the extremists to resort to violence against Israel. This may seem counterproductive and indeed it is, but the Israeli leadership doesn’t see it that way. Israel wants the world to believe that they are the only decent democracy in the region and that they are surrounded by ‘terrorists’ and must therefore resort to military might to defend themselves. This policy has been implemented since the beginning and insofar as Israel now controls all of the former Palestine it is regarded by many Israelis as a success. So it is not the Islamic extremism that Israel fears but the moderate nationalism that may unite Muslims and convince the rest of the world that the Israelis are the problem. This would mean the loss of the current excessive American support and all of Palestine for the Jewish state.

Two things to remember. Israel controls the violence as they have virtually all the military might, including a few hundred nukes. Secondly they could always solve any crisis through negotiation but that option is never attractive to a combatant who has all the power and doesn’t want to negotiate because they want all the land.

Saudi Arabia has just

Hamas politicians, 4 of the 21 are shown here, have been imprisoned by the Israelis for 3 months but were unexpectedly released by an Israeli military court. Naturally the Israeli government is appealing their release.
(July 2006) announced that its 2002 Arab Peace Plan may be jeopardized due to the killings of civilians in Lebanon and Gaza. That Peace Plan offered Israel full recognition by all Arab states and security freedom if Israel returned to the pre-1967 borders. Israel has consistently rejected this offer but it prefers to take years to make that rejection known in a way that makes it look like the Arabs have rejected their generous offers.

The old saying, “Truth is the first casualty of war” is certainly true in this conflict. Various pervasive and deliberate attempts to disguise the truth have convinced many of those who have taken sides that their position is absolutely, utterly and completely correct. There is no other viewpoint other than theirs and deniers of their truth should be destroyed. The web is full of comments to this effect. When one side believes that there is no other side then you have an intractable situation. It is now impossible for the Israelis and the Palestinians to solve this problem. This conflict will only be resolved when impartial third parties unilaterally decide what shall be done and then enforce this fairness. Only a global power could make this happen and the US could never be that impartial party. The UN is the best choice but they lack the power of enforcement. Without divine intervention the only remaining option is more of the same. These killings have gone on for over 100 years. It is foolish for anyone to assume that they will be over in less than another 100 years.

There is one other long-shot. A small group of former Israeli soldiers and Palestinian fighters have formed, http://www.combatantsforpeace.org/ These former enemies have decided that ending the cycle of violence is the only answer. Of course they are right but they are not committed to the elimination of Palestinians from Palestinian land. This is the insurmountable barrier to peace that the Israeli leadership continues to pursue. With this as an objective the Holy Land will never be Holy or know peace. Another potentially powerful force for peace could be the Jews who know, or will come to know, how foolish all this death and destruction have been.

The Israelis now control 93% of the former Palestine but in truth it is 100% when the Israelis invade areas such as Gaza and the West Bank, as they are now (July 2006) doing. This is no accident but part of a long-term campaign by an aggressive minority of Jews to eliminate the Palestinians from lands that they believe are theirs. Politics throughout the world attract aggressiveness.
and in Israel that is no exception. Without fail, Jewish leaders over the decades have been aggressive. They have all stated that all of the former Palestine is the rightful home of the Jewish state. In early 1970 Moshe Dayan was responsible for the Occupied Territories. During a cabinet meeting he said that they should tell the Palestinians that we have no solution for them, that the Palestinians will live like dogs, and whoever wants to leave [Israel] can leave and we will see what happens. Forcing the Palestinians to live like “dogs” has not worked yet so other steps are being taken.

This remains Israel’s policy today. To deliberately make life as difficult as possible for the Palestinians with poverty; restrictions, humiliation, intimidation, unemployment, fear and occasionally death. Israel is confident that this miserable life and the occasional battle, that the Palestinians must lose, will eventually force them to abandon their homes and/or Palestine. The US is well aware of this policy and supports it with their arms, cash, veto’s and propaganda.

Two things are rarely mention together in the same sentence, 9/11 and Israel. The 9/11 Commission Report Co-Chairman stated that some Commissioners were worried that, “listing US support for Israel as a root cause of al Qeada opposition to the United States indicated that the US should reassess that policy”. That was avoided whenever possible but this same co-chairman did admit, “When you take certain actions to support a friend, the security of Israel, as we did, it has consequences. No question about it.” The final 9/11 Commission Report stated, “America’s policy choices have consequences. Right or wrong.” (page 376) One of those consequences was 9/11.

The creation of this apartheid state based on just one religion has left the Palestinians with just three choices, to abandon the land of their birth, to live miserable lives or to fight. It should be clear by now that the Palestinians are not leaving. They do not accept the miserable lives they have been forced to live so they fight, when and how they can. Although Israel kills a few from time to time it should also be obvious that there are more than enough Palestinians to replace the ones killed and the replacements have more than enough hatred for Israel due to the conditions Israel imposes on them.

The Jews of Israel are much better organized, educated and supported by Jews elsewhere and the American taxpayers at large, so the Palestinians are completely over-powered. In spite of this the Palestinians are proving to be much harder to ‘remove’ than the Zionists originally anticipated. This is due to three factors, the tenacity of the Palestinians themselves that stems from their deeply held belief that they are being shafted. Secondly there is a world wide perception that this land-grab is intrinsically unfair but no politician or country has been willing to go against America or the Jewish lobby. And thirdly, there are many fair-minded Israelis who try to ensure justice for the Palestinians. They are the type of people who would find a peaceful solution. See –

http://www.nkusa.org/index.cfm
Largely missing in this mess are the other Arab countries who continue to waste their billions on items as foolish as indoor ski hills (with real snow) while many of their own people suffer. They could have and should now be doing much more to peacefully help the Palestinians in this crisis. It should be mentioned that American interventions in the Middle East have overthrown democratically elected Arab governments (Iran) while supporting numerous dictatorships (Egypt for one).

It is tragic that the Zionists and their supporters decided that Palestine should become the home of Jews by conquest rather than cooperation. There was never any rational reason why the two groups could not have worked together and achieved a multi ethnic and religious Garden of Eden, it certainly would have been billions of dollars and trillions of tears cheaper. The white man in America also used force and conquest when they stole America from the millions of its original inhabitants. There is today however a crucial difference between that American theft and the current theft of Palestine. The theft of Palestine is happening during a time of global communications. Billions know that something is not right in spite of Israeli and American propaganda. People today are much more likely to reject empire, inequality, unfairness and violence. All of which have been inflicted on the Palestinians.

It is also tragically ironic that the Jews who were treated so badly by so many in the past are now creating a similar situation for so many in the country that they now call their own. The current plan is to unilaterally draw the borders of the Jewish State before Bush Jr. goes because they know that this land grab may not get the same support from a future American President. If they collectively decide to continue down this aggressive path of unfairness and eventually do manage to eliminate the Palestinians from inside the borders of Israel they will still have failed. Not just in the eyes of the world, who will increasingly understand what happened, but in the eyes of the Jewish people themselves. It will be a hollow victory that may ultimately come at a terrible price. To stop this, the people of Israel must reject leaders who put militarism and ‘victory’ before peace and cooperation. This, tragically, is not likely to happen.

And finally a little news item that was virtually ignored. On July 28, 2006, a Friday afternoon, as the war against Lebanon raged on, the US government quietly announced that they were selling $4.6 billion in arms to ‘moderate’ Arab states. Javelin anti-tank missiles to one country and Abrams battle tanks to another, Black Hawk helicopter gunships to some, armored personal carriers to another. This announcement to congress is required by law but there will be no members of congress protesting this expansion of the American killing machine while it does its deadly deed for Israel.

The Israeli actions in Palestine since the early 1900s are similar to many...
of the American actions that resulted in this book. Israel and America are two peas-in-a-pod in that they have both consistently violate the ‘Golden Rule’.

ʻDO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU.’

Adherence to this one simple rule would solve all of humanity’s problems but that reality has escaped both America and Israel and they have both lost immeasurably as a result. Even after another ‘victory’ they will both have more enemies but they never seem to understand why! It must be remembered that before the terrorists expanded Israel beyond the 1947 UN borders the US had no enemies in the region. Those enemies have been created by US policies and actions in the exact same way that today’s global hatred of America has been created.

Yitzak Rabin, former Prime Minister of Israel referred to the Palestinians as ‘refugees’ when he said, “Israel will create in the course of the next 10 or 20 years conditions which would attract natural and voluntary migration of the refugees from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to Jordan.”

Ehud Olmert, the present Prime Minister of Israel, “I believed, and to this day still believe, in our people’s eternal and historic right to this entire land”?

With these perceptions firmly implanted in the minds of every leader of Israel, no peace is possible. With or without the Palestinians.

In mid-September, 2006, after all the killing in Lebanon and the on-going killing in Gaza the US is trying to block attempts by Arab countries to have the UN Security Council play a larger role in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The US and Israel have agreed to try and convince the Arabs that they should rely on a ‘Presidential statement’ instead. Considering all the damage the US has done in the Middle East this is ridiculous but the US has worked for decades in this area to ensure that the Arabs leaders are on the side of the US rather than the side of their people. After meeting with Bush Jr. and secretary of state Rice Israeli foreign minister Tzipi said, “Israel is not going to cooperate with this kind of a process because this is not the right way to move forward,” In other words we want to control this process and we want no influence from unbiased third parties. Rice added that the Palestinians live up to “the three conditions of the international community, recognizing Israel’s right to exist, renouncing terrorism and accepting previous agreements signed with Israel.” She failed to mention that Israel has never accepted Palestine’s right to exist, that Israel has been responsible for most of the terrorism in the conflict and that Israel has violated international agreements since 1947. In a reference to the Palestinians Rice went on to say, “It goes without saying that it’s hard to have a partner for peace if you don’t accept the right of the other partner to exist, it goes without saying that it’s hard to have a process for peace if you do not renounce
violence.” If Ms. Rice was honest with us she would have mentioned that those comments more accurately apply to Israel.

For an excellent history of the Palestinians read this new book: ‘The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine’ by Israeli author Ilan Pappe.

The following is part of an important letter published in the German newspaper Allgemeine Zeitung September 8th, 2006. The writer is Evelyn Hecht-Galinski.

**Face up to the criticism!**

*Especially since I am the daughter of the former president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany Heinz Galinski, who was also a survivor of the Nazi concentration camps, I have felt it my duty to join the European Jews for a Just Peace. While we, the members of this organization, may differ widely on issues such as faith, Zionism, and nationality, we all agree on one point: the responsibility for this conflict largely rests with Israel. There is not only ONE Israel, and I am not willing to express my solidarity with an Israel which, in the course of nearly 60 years, has failed to enter into a peaceful coexistence with its neighbors.*

*It is the Israeli government’s foremost duty to protect its citizens by every means available to its state-of-the-art high-tech army but only along its own borders, and by that I mean the 1967 borders, i.e., the borders that existed prior to the June 1967 or Six Day War. What if the whole army, now illegally deployed in the Occupied Territories, were to be redeployed along Israel’s own borders to protect its citizens? It is inconceivable that the level of protection enjoyed by its population would be matched by any other state.*

*The number of Jews around the world protesting Israel’s policy, which for 39 years has been in constant violation of the Geneva Conventions, is growing. We are witnessing the continuing occupation; the dispossession, oppression, and daily humiliations of the Palestinians; the innumerable military assaults against a people which has neither state nor army; the targeted killings; the arbitrary land expropriations; the destruction of the infrastructure; the blowing up of houses; the uninhibited construction of fences and walls; the unimpeded building of settlements; and finally the latest war of aggression against Lebanon and Gaza. We cannot keep silent any longer.*

*The stereotypical cycle Israel destroys and the Europeans reconstruct, until Israel again wrecks havoc, driving the masses into poverty and leading to the economic decline of the Occupied Territories must be broken.*
Amoral America

As a German Jew, I feel it my duty to denounce injustice, even if it is being committed by the so-called only democracy in the Middle East. The Israeli government is not only misusing my name; it has the gall to even invoke the legacy of my murdered ancestors. The Israeli government is not ashamed to use my grandparents who perished in the concentration camps and mass graves of the Nazi regime, to justify its evil deeds in Palestine and Lebanon. The dead cannot defend themselves. But I can!

In 2004 the International Court of Justice ruled that the Wall being constructed around the West Bank should be torn down and the affected communities compensated. Israel responded by accelerating construction of the Wall.

This Wall is not just for Israeli security, it is also an attempt to utilize Palestinian workers at 20% of the Israeli wage, producing goods for Israeli companies labeled ‘Made in Palestine’. These industrial zones are to be located near the Wall, financed by the World Bank and controlled by the Israelis, on Palestinian land of course. This employment, which the Palestinians will be forced to take as they have no other option, will control many Palestinians via a type of economic colonialism on their own land. The US and Israel don’t quite see things this way as they push to get the Palestinians to pay for the gates in the Wall, a Wall the Palestinians fought against. The World Bank is also working to take over various Palestinian government functions such as payrolls and political control whenever possible. In this way various organizations associated with Israel and American can further erode any future Palestinian state while they ghettoize the people. However there is a fly in the ointment and that fly has been there for decades. That fly is the Palestinian will to resist that, under the circumstances, has been remarkable. Although successive residents at the White House have supported the dispossession of these people the tide may be turning. The Palestinian reality is becoming known to more and more around the world. They will not accept this injustice forever; there will be a day of reckoning.

Some up to date numbers from Foreign Policy in Focus. http://www.fpif.org/

Frida Berrigan and William D. Hartung | July 26, 2006

Much has been made in the US media of the Syrian- and Iranian-origin weaponry used by Hezbollah in the escalating violence in Israel and Lebanon. There has been no real discussion of the origin of Israel’s weaponry, the vast bulk of which is from the United States.

The United States is the primary source of Israel’s far superior arsenal. For more than 30 years, Israel had been the largest recipient of US foreign assistance and since 1985 Jerusalem has received about $3 billion in military
and economic aid each year from Washington. US aid accounts for more than 20% of Israel’s total defense budget.

Over the past decade, the United States has transferred more than $17 billion in military aid to this country of just under 7 million people.

Israel is one of the United States’ largest arms importers. Between 1996 and 2005 (the last year for which full data is available), Israel took delivery of $10.19 billion in US weaponry and military equipment, including more than $8.58 billion through the Foreign Military Sales program, and another $1.61 billion in Direct Commercial Sales.

During the Bush administration, from 2001 to 2005, Israel received $10.5 billion in Foreign Military Financing—the Pentagon’s biggest military aid program—and $6.3 billion in US arms deliveries. The aid figure is larger than the arms transfer figure because it includes financing for major arms agreements for which the equipment has yet to be fully delivered. The most prominent of these deals is a $4.5 billion sale of 102 Lockheed Martin F-16s to Israel.

America COULD call the shots in this conflict due to the billions in US aid and weapons supplied to Israel. Unfortunately America, like Israel, is obsessed with ‘winning’ and this comes before peace, cooperation and the lives of millions. President Bush could have gone past his weak calls for “restraint” and demanded a cease-fire between Israel and Lebanon. Apparently the 1,300 people killed were not that important.
JAMAICA

“There is nothing so powerful as truth, and often nothing so strange.”
– Daniel Webster

“The moment a man claims a right to control the will of a fellow being by physical force, he is at heart a slaveholder”.
– Henry C. Wright, The Liberator, 7 April 1837

“Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”
– James Madison

“False words are not only evil in themselves, but they infect the soul with evil.”
– Socrates

Jamaica is like a lot of small, poor countries around the world that were manipulated, coerced, cajoled, bribed or forced by America to do things the way America wanted them done. Clearly countries like Jamaica never could and never did threaten America.

This may be more history than you need but history is always interesting. Jamaica went through the terror that every country in the new world experienced with the arrival of the Europeans. The following is the remarkably arrogant letter from the King of Spain to the residents of the New World. It was carried by Columbus on his second voyage and written in Spanish. As these ‘first nations’ people were about to discover, it was considered very important by the Spanish that these words be absolutely understood and obeyed.

In the name of King Ferdinand and Juana, his daughter, Queen of Castile and Leon, etc., conquerors of barbarian nations, we notify you as best we can that our Lord God Eternal created Heaven and earth and a man and woman from whom we all descend for all times and all over the world. In the 5,000 years since creation the multitude of these generations caused men to divide and establish kingdoms in various parts of the world, among whom God chose St. Peter as leader of mankind, regardless of their law,
sect or belief. He seated St. Peter in Rome as the best place from which to rule the world but he allowed him to establish his seat in all parts of the world and rule all people, whether Christians, Moors, Jews, Gentiles or any other sect. He was named Pope, which means admirable and greatest father, governor of all men. Those who lived at that time obeyed St. Peter as Lord and superior King of the universe, and so did their descendants obey his successors and so on to the end of time.

The late Pope gave these islands and mainland of the ocean and the contents hereof to the above-mentioned King and Queen, as is certified in writing and you may see the documents if you should so desire. Therefore, Their Highnesses are lords and masters of this land; they were acknowledged as such when this notice was posted, and were and are being served willingly and without resistance; then, their religious envoys were acknowledged and obeyed without delay, and all subjects unconditionally and of their own free will became Christians and thus they remain. Their Highnesses received their allegiance with joy and benignity and decreed that they be treated in this spirit like good and loyal vassals and you are under the obligation to do the same.

Therefore, we request that you understand this text, deliberate on its contents within a reasonable time, and recognize the Church and its highest priest, the Pope, as rulers of the universe, and in their name the King and Queen of Spain as rulers of this land, allowing the religious fathers to preach our holy Faith to you. You own compliance as a duty to the King and we in his name will receive you with love and charity, respecting your freedom and that of your wives and sons and your rights of possession and we shall not compel you to baptism unless you, informed of the Truth, wish to convert to our holy Catholic Faith as almost all your neighbors have done in other islands, in exchange for which Their Highnesses bestow many privileges and exemptions upon you. Should you fail to comply, or delay maliciously in so doing, we assure you that with the help of God we shall use force against you, declaring war upon you from all sides and with all possible means, and we shall bind you to the yoke of the Church and of Their Highnesses; we shall enslave your persons, wives and sons, sell you or dispose of you as the King sees fit; we shall seize your possessions and harm you as much as we can as disobedient and resisting vassals. And we declare you guilty of resulting deaths and injuries, exempting Their Highnesses of such guilt as well as ourselves and the gentlemen who accompany us. We hereby request that legal signatures be affixed to this text and pray those present to bear witness for us.

It was ridiculous to expect that the estimated 60,000 native Arawaks or Tainos would understand or completely obey this edict so they were decimated,
to the very last man, woman and child. At the time of Columbus the population of the Caribbean was estimated at 2 to 3 million. In two hundred years a few thousand remained in isolated pockets. This systematic slaughter by the Spanish was caused by disease, killing and harsh treatment and in Jamaica the native people were deliberately eliminated. So now there was a ‘labor’ shortage but the Europeans solved that by importing slaves from Africa. In the mid 1600s the British arrived and kicked the Spanish out after the usual bout of war and killing. After the British settled in, the French would arrive from time to time, fight the good fight and then leave, occasionally with many captive slaves.

Slaves who escaped from the plantations and lived in the mountains of Jamaica were called Maroons. Occasionally they would band together and cause real difficulties for the ‘ruling class.’ In 1739 an enlightened governor of Jamaica agreed on a peace treaty with the Maroons, who were given land and left alone. There were several slave uprisings in the 1700’s that killed hundreds but the slaves always lost.

In 1774 the population of Jamaica was taken and showed 209,617 persons on the island of which 192,787 were slaves. In 1781 it became illegal to mutilate slaves who had committed crimes. In the late 1700s the French tried harder to beat the British in Jamaica but only succeeded in killing thousands of men, on both sides. In the late 1700s £4000 was allotted for five days of festivities associated with the arrival of a new governor. During that same period 15,000 slaves died from “want”, a lack of food associated with poor crops due to hurricanes. In 1807 the British parliament abolished slavery however there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica at the time and they remained slaves. There were no new slaves from Africa so the value of Jamaican slaves increased and they were therefore treated better. For example, in 1807 they were allowed a plot of land on the plantation where they could spend a day every two weeks growing their own food. If they had food left over they could sell it so for the first time some of the slaves had money of their own. In 1816 the £100 penalty imposed on a slave owner for freeing a slave was rescinded. In 1833 the British parliament voted £20,000,000 compensation for slave owners around the world. It is interesting that the British plutocracy paid the slave owners and not the slaves when slave freedom could no longer be denied. £5,853,975 was paid to Jamaican slave owners, which in those days was a hell of a lot of money. In spite of this payment it took a few more years for all slaves to be really free. On August 1, 1838 there were celebrations throughout the island to celebrate
the freedom of the slaves.

The plantation owners were not happy at having to pay workers they used to get for nothing. In fact these men had fought long and hard to prevent the abolition of slavery. They now made life difficult for their former slaves by burning their huts, denying them the use of land to grow food and more. In 1850 cholera arrived and killed 32,000. Jamaica entered a period of relative peace with the occasional riot and the more frequent hurricanes. Then in 1914 WWI started and in the next three years Jamaica was to send over 10,000 men and many thousands of £s to England to help with the war effort.

In 1937 independence was first proposed for Jamaica, in part because the island had just gone through the depression and many thought this might help. In 1938 the Peoples National Party (PNP) was formed and it sought to bring benefits to the working class in Jamaica. In 1939 WW II broke out and in 1940 Britain granted America, air, military and naval bases in British territory around the world. America selected locations for two bases in Jamaica and immediately started work. In 1942 the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission was formed to co-ordinate agricultural planning and other economic interests.

Between 1956 and 1962, 123,935 Jamaicans migrated to England. In 1962 Jamaica became an ‘independent’ country as a member of the British Commonwealth. American Vice President Johnson attended the ceremonies in Jamaica. In 1966 the inequalities that had been such a part of Jamaican life erupted into gang violence with numerous deaths. A more violent society was to become a fact of life in Jamaica as the inequality problems were never addressed.

In 1967 the Jamaica Citizens Bank Limited was formed, one-half owned by Americans. In 1969 a large American controlled alumina plant went into production. As Britain withdrew from the Caribbean the US implemented a new plan which started with Puerto Rico in 1947. America was involved in everything from tourism to mining and this was designed to establish and maintain the Caribbean as a close, cheap source of labor for manufacturing American goods, where the profits went to the States.

In 1972 the PLP won the elections with Michael Manley as Prime Minister. Manley described himself as a democratic socialist and made that fatal mistake of establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, Jamaica’s largest and closest neighbor. This cooperative approach to Jamaica’s potentially most important trading partner was regarded as an unpardonable sin by America. Manley also made other dangerous moves such as increasing the unlivable minimum wage,
improving health, education and social services and trying to get the, mostly American, aluminum companies to pay their fair share.

Manley did nothing that the Scandinavian countries would not have done but in the ‘America’s lake’ these actions were not permitted. Kissinger visited Jamaica in 1975 and suggested to Manley that his moves were not appreciated in the US. Manley made the mistake of assuming that he could continue to work for the people of Jamaica instead of the American government.

The CIA then started yet another destabilization program to eliminate a government that wasn’t playing by the (American) rules. America refused Jamaica $100 million in economic aid, they collaborated with the aluminum companies in Jamaica to close or cut back production. They organized locals into nice sounding groups to oppose the government. They bought CIA operatives into Jamaica who were experienced trouble makers who would create havoc with explosions or other violent acts. They secretly imported weapons and provided support to groups who increased crime and instability. They made sure that this increased violence was well publicized in the US so that tourists stayed away. And as always they infiltrated the local military and police with bribes to create disloyalty and they paid to publish propaganda in the local papers.

In spite of all this in the 1976 elections the Manley government was reelected but the ‘overthrow’ efforts were just getting started. Also during this year it was necessary for the government to declare a ‘state of emergency’ due to the increasing violence. This violence was a little hard to explain when the government was addressing so many important social issues but then the CIA was at work.
As the 1980 elections approached the violence increased and the economy continued to deteriorate. In March the government decided to discontinue efforts to finalize a standby agreement with the International Monetary Fund, this would be the same International Monetary Fund that gets countries into massive debt and then tells them how to run things, or else. On June 24, a plot was discovered by the Jamaica Security Force to overthrow the Government by force. Twenty-four JDF (military) personnel and three civilians were detained. All of those people were freed after the election of the next government, convenient, eh? By July of this election year, there had been 223 violent shootings in which eleven members of the Security Forces were killed by gunmen. There were also three, unsuccessful assassination attempts against the Prime Minister prior to the election.

In the October 1980 election the America efforts ‘paid off’ with the election of the opposition who were more aligned with American policies. As is usually the case, the violence that America encouraged to get its way, became the way that too many Jamaicans now used to get their way. It is clear that American never put the needs of the Jamaican people first. America wanted to protect her financial interests to ensure that the ‘American way of life’ continued. Jamaica was always just a very small cog in that process but America has fought socialistic tendencies ever since Castro took over Cuba in 1959. Although they failed in the case of Cuba they now make every effort to ensure that the Cuban experience is never repeated. Somehow that always means that others have to suffer but those who know hate America for manipulating their government.

Inequality and the associated poverty remain fundamental problems in Jamaica.
KILLING

“Man is the only animal that deals in that atrocity of atrocities, War. He is the only one that gathers his brethren about him and goes forth in cold blood and calm pulse to exterminate his kind. He is the only animal that for sordid wages will march out... and help to slaughter strangers of his own species who have done him no harm and with whom he has no quarrel.... And in the intervals between campaigns he washes the blood off his hands and works for ‘the universal brotherhood of man’– with his mouth.”

– Mark Twain

"We kill because we are afraid of our own shadow, afraid that if we used a little common sense we’d have to admit that our glorious principles were wrong.”

– Henry Miller, The Wisdom of the Heart, 1941

“Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience... therefore individual citizens have the duty to violate domestic laws to prevent crimes against peace and humanity from occurring.”

– Nuremberg War Crime Tribunal, 1950

“And so, to the end of history, murder shall breed murder, always in the name of right and honor and peace, until the gods are tired of blood and create a race that can understand.”

– George Bernard Shaw

“The whole idea is to kill the bastards. . . Look. At the end of the war, if there are two Americans and one Russian, we win!”

– General Thomas Power, Chief of Strategic Air Command, 1957 to 1964.

It is ironic that a nation that puts ‘In God We Trust’ on their money should so frequently ignore God’s seventh commandment, ‘Thou shall not kill’. America is quick to kill, not only each other but millions in other countries. As this killing continues the amount of American hatred grows. Since America’s independence in 1776 American leaders have sent trained American killers
to foreign countries almost 200 times. None of those countries threatened America in spite of what Americans were told. Millions of people were killed by Americans in those countries. But why is America so quick to kill? Why do so many Americans call for the death of a person they perceive to be evil when they don’t even know that person or the truth about their situation? Why do many Americans resent having their young soldiers being called professional killers, when that is exactly what they are? Why are Americans prepared to spend trillions to create and maintain a killing machine that is far more formidable than they require? Why is all this killing such a part of the American psyche and what effect has this attitude on the reputation of America abroad?

As mentioned in the introduction to this book many of the original inhabitants of America were killed for doing no more than being in the way of an American, usually a white American with a gun. That original killing spree included not only the legitimate human inhabitants of America but also much of the wildlife in America. It is true that other lands decimated their vast herds and flocks but never so quickly or with such waste. The killings that resulted in the virtual elimination of the indigenous peoples and the great animals in America were just part of an acceptance of killing that continues to be promoted in America today.

Studies have shown that 100% of the animated feature films produced in America between 1937 and 1999 featured violence. Over 60% of the broadcast programming between 1995 and 1998 glamorized violence with the highest proportion in children’s programming. Over 20% of the 33 most popular video games feature violence against women. By the time the average America reaches the age of 12 they will have watched an estimated 20,000 violent deaths. Each
Amoral America

year in America over 300,000 adolescents are seriously assaulted and almost 6,000 are murdered. No nation has been conditioned to killing like America.

Even if you are not an American who kills, if you live in America you are bombarded with it on a daily basis. Tens of thousands of young American men are professionally trained to kill each year and thousands more with no training acquire guns that can only be used to kill. The military training is so effective that the men who receive this training may be desensitized to killing for the rest of their lives. This training is based on decades of American military killing experience. The American army found that many American soldiers in WWII did not always kill another man when they had identified him as an ‘enemy’ and had the opportunity. This was obviously an inefficient way to win a war so the US Army developed training methods that makes killing more certain, voila, more dead ‘enemies’ but of course it’s not that simple. A significant number of these killers are bothered by their actions and they don’t talk to their grandkids about it.

Police are taught to use deadly force when dealing with deranged citizens and they do. Recently an American, who had not taken his medication, wanted to get off a flight while it was being prepared for departure at an American airport. He got up and tried to leave the aircraft in a stressed manner and was shot dead by two armed security guards who were also on the flight. They claimed he said he ‘had a bomb’ but none of the numerous passengers heard those comments. He had been through three security checks so it was unlikely that he had a bomb but now he was dead. The authorities said the guards did just what they were trained to do, which we have to assume was kill the man. Being taught to incapacitate or reason with a suspect is not considered viable to

During WWII it was the women who made the guns while the men used them on the ‘enemy’.
many armed security men in America.

Many Americans think that killing is a good solution to number of problems. In times of stress it is common to hear American leaders call for the death of their perceived enemies. Indeed it is official American policy to kill rather than capture ‘enemies’ and the occasional success is lauded by the President. Killing is fast and the dead seldom complain so there is a real efficiency to killing and Americans have always been fond of efficiency. In parts of America you can carry a gun only if it is displayed. Perhaps hiding it in your shorts is considered ‘unfair’? In other parts of America you must own a gun. Perhaps that is another attempt at ‘fairness’ or even equality? No one is immune from killing in America, grandmothers, movie stars, babies, presidents; you name it, about 40,000 violent deaths per year. The fact is American’s have been so conditioned to killing that they just don’t get upset by it unless it happens to someone they know. Of course not every American is happy with this situation but there are many Americans with vested interests who profit from this killing. American movies and TV have shown so many killings, to so many young people that viewing a death no longer repulses them. These days a death must be gruesome because a simple death just doesn’t entertain anymore. There are the gun makers and merchants, people who feel empowered by having a gun and millions who belong to a gun club and feel that they should be able to own any type of gun or as many guns as they want.

So it is a standoff and real change has proven to be impossible. The studies have been done a thousand times and they show a clear link between violent images and violence but the vested interests have prevailed. The opponents of guns and killing need to stand together and demand changes but that may never happen in an America that is committed to war and usually engaged in war.

Over 100 people have been released from various death rows in America since 1975. They were released because irrefutable evidence showed that they were innocent. To suggest that all of the more than 1000 people who have been executed in America since 1975 have been guilty is foolish. In fact it has been proven that at least one innocent man from Texas was executed. The number of innocent Americans put to death by various American governments will never be known but even one is too many. The people who run this system know that all of the people killed by the state were not guilty but they have a greater interest in protecting the system than saving an innocent person from being killed by the state. The number of suspected erroneous executions increases to grow as more information emerges. When Harvard University concluded that one in seven capital offenders in America were wrongly convicted the Governor of Texas, George W. Bush assured us that in Texas they don’t make those kinds of mistakes.

Ultimately we must acknowledge that there are people in high places who just don’t give a damn, who have little compassion and believe that killing solves problems. Some of those people are members of the Supreme Court, a minority of whom said it was OK to kill a retarded man. A majority of whom
said that it was OK to kill a juvenile and that it was also OK to kill an innocent man as long as you follow the rules. An old saying seems appropriate here: ‘the law is an ass’.

‘Support the troops’ is a common sentiment in the US these days but patriotism is a dangerous ally. Today the US ‘troops’ have all ‘volunteered’ to be members of the military. They may not have figured on a tour in Iraq but they knew it was possible. They also know that they are part of a huge killing machine and that Iraq is a long way from America. If they did any reading they would also know that Iraq is no threat to America and could therefore figure out that they are the killers and that the Iraqis are actually defending their country. This type of ‘crazy’ thinking is rejected by many Americans who support their government because respect for authority is part of the conditioning most Americans receive.

So why do so many Americans want to be trained killers and why do so many Americans want to support men when they are causing death and destruction in another country that never threaten America? Didn’t the American founders suggest that the American military should defend America? How can

It is easy for ‘leaders’ to get ‘good’ people to agree with and support evil actions.

A Palestinian teenager running from Israeli white phosphorus. This weapon, which is supplied to Israel by the US, is a sticky flaming blob that cannot be extinguished. This means that it continues to burn right down to the bone. Note the WMD in the hands of the teenager, the obvious reason why he was targeted with this deadly chemical.
Killing

sending Americans to the other side of the planet to attack a weak country be considered defensive? Except when America is truly threatened, the troops are part of the problem!

The American objective in war seems to be to kill. This objective is often expressed by US military leaders who seem to have no idea that this objective may actually work against America. To put this overwhelming force into place America has and continues to spend trillions. Most Americans never seem to think about how this vast amount could be spent in other more constructive ways. A large part of these military expenditures go into the development of new, always more deadly weapons. America continues to spend vast sums on its nuclear arsenal when there is no real enemy and no possible war in which that arsenal could be used. There is also no conceivable way in which those weapons of mass destruction could be used without killing countless innocent people. A fact that has not deterred America in the past. America has spent vast sums on depleted uranium weapons which have not only killed many innocent people but also many Americans. In addition these weapons leave behind a deadly legacy that will last, forever.

Americans denied using white phosphorus (WP) in Iraq because it is a gruesome killer. This material was developed and perfected in America and is a flaming blob of jell that cannot be prematurely extinguished, even

White phosphorus falling on Falluja during the Iraq war November 2004. It is not possible to protect innocent civilians during such an assault. Night vision and normal pictures.

A C-130 cargo aircraft which America has converted to a gunship so that it can carry a vast amount of deadly weaponry. Equipment such as this kills indiscriminately.
under water. The guys writing the March 2005 issue of Field Artillery were not aware that this denial was required and wrote about the use of WP in Iraq. Now the military has changed its tune and admits that WP was “used as an incendiary weapon against enemy inhabitants.” As you can see from the Falluja photos above the American use of WP would have killed or wounded any civilian caught in this rain of inextinguishable fire. The Geneva Convention bans the use of incendiary weapons in civilian areas, like Falluja.

US has not signed the 1980 Geneva Convention that restricts incendiary weapons simply because America does not want to restrict their ability to kill. America seems to be unaware that brutal killing simply results in even more enemies. No one likes a bully and this is exactly how America is perceived by most people throughout the world. A quotation from the Vietnam era about white phosphorous demonstrates the ongoing flawed American thinking, “We sure are pleased with those backroom boys at Dow. The original product wasn’t so hot—if the gooks [Vietnamese] were quick they could scrape it off. So the boys started adding polystyrene—now it sticks like shit to a blanket. But then if the gooks jumped under water it stopped burning, so they started adding Willy Peter so’s to make it burn better. It’ll even burn under water now. And one drop is enough; it’ll keep on burning right down to the bone so they die anyway from phosphorus poisoning.” This is the American empire in action!

You would think that a ‘nice’ country like Norway would stay away from munitions like this but, hey, it’s all about money. The Norwegian company Nammo produces ammunition that fragments on impact. The injuries inflicted are so bad that the International Red Cross has asked all countries to limit production and use of this weapon. Nammo has sold million of dollars worth of this ammunition to the American military and the Norwegian government has not halted its export. Now that I think about it, isn’t Norway still killing whales?

In February 2006 US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld acknowledged that a new type of missile is being developed. Naturally it will cost billions but it will be worth it! The new missile system is to be a non-nuclear, conventional explosives missile weapons system that could hit targets within hours or minutes of being launched. The new system is called, the Prompt Global Strike force but this new multi-billion dollar effort will be unable to
avoid killing innocent people.

On December 13th 2005 President Bush said, “I would say 30,000, more or less, have died as a result of the initial incursion and the ongoing violence against Iraqis. I made a tough decision. And knowing what I know today, I’d make the decision again.” The Americans in the audience applauded. Does this make any sense to you? The war starts because of weapons of mass destruction, because of a link between al Qaeda and Iraq and other factors that are all, it turns out, untrue and yet you would go to war anyway? Those 30,000 lives don’t mean anything to the American President and the thousands of Americans killed died for a reason yet to be determined? Remarkably many millions of American still support this war and Congress recently voted 100% in favor of more funding to keep this war going.

In the war on terror Americans in Iraq have killed individuals who were wounded, unarmed and unable to defend themselves. They have killed unarmed civilians who were simply driving a vehicle. They have killed families simply because they were pissed off. They have shot tank shells into buildings without know who that shell was going to kill. They have machine gunned crowds from helicopters and deliberately dropped bombs on people without knowing who they were. All of this and more is available as videos on the web if you look to find it.

The American Air Farce has killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians and the so called ‘smart bombs’ have killed many more. In all of these cases no reasonable efforts were made to ensure the safety of these innocent victims. That is why those people keep getting killed. The fact that the Americans are in the country of Iraq, that they started the killing and that they are the ones doing most of the killing is considered a crime, by everyone except the Americans.

The justification of American initiated wars is not examined in America. Honestly discussing the inevitable atrocities, criminality, economic destruction, waste and all the other foolishness is simply not part of the American killing mentality.

Even when a few Americans experience the horror of war and return to their communities with a new awareness of war’s folly their neighbors frequently reject their wisdom without any real understanding of the

Many thousands of children have been maimed or killed in Iraq. This is one of the more ‘pleasant’ pictures because others are just too horrible to show.
issues. American patriotism blinds many Americans to the truth and that patriotism is fostered for just that reason. Considering the depths of this nationalism and the associated ignorance I believe that many Americans would still believe in their government even if they found themselves surrounded by rubble and their dead children, just as the Iraqis are.

The trillions that Americans spend on their vast killing machine represent millions of dollars spent for every ‘enemy’ killed. The fact is that America would have no enemies and would never be threatened if America just treated all peoples fairly. Tragically Americans don’t and won’t believe that. “Do unto others as you would have them to unto you” has been forgotten in much of America.

The killing of these so called American ‘enemies’ without the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, is what the US professional killers seek and what they often achieve. Most Americans did not know that over 30,000 Iraqi civilians had been killed because of the American invasion of Iraq until President Bush mentioned the figure. When they heard it most Americans were not outraged. Many of those Americans who do regard these deaths as unfortunate mistakenly think they are inevitable in war. The friends and relatives of the people killed regard these deaths as enough reason to hate America and the people who keep track of these deaths calculate the total in the hundreds of thousands.
MEDIA

“Such as it is, the press has become the greatest power within the Western World, more powerful than the legislature, the executive and judiciary. One would like to ask: by whom has it been elected, and to whom is it responsible?”

– Alexander Solzhenitsyn

“Freedom of the press is limited to those who own one.”

– A.J. Liebling

“Never believe anything until it has been officially denied.”

– Claud Cockburn

“The most brilliant propagandist technique will yield no success unless one fundamental principle is borne in mind constantly... it must confine itself to a few points and repeat them over and over.”

– Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Propaganda Minister

“I wouldn’t call it fascism exactly, but a political system nominally controlled by an irresponsible, dumbed down electorate who are manipulated by dishonest, cynical, controlled mass media that dispense the propaganda of a corrupt political establishment can hardly be described as democracy either.”

– Edward Zehr (1936-2001), Columnist

“I never saw a foreign intervention that the New York Times did not support, never saw a fare increase or a rent increase or a utility rate increase that it did not endorse, never saw it take the side of labor in a strike or lockout, or advocate a raise for underpaid workers. And don’t let me get started on universal health care and Social Security. So why do people think the Times is liberal?”

– Veteran New York Times reporter, John Hess

“Look, if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you’re stupid. Did you hear that? - stupid.”

– Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, 1965
Although the media in America has had some memorable moments in general it has a shameful history as it has consistently supported financial inequality and American aggression abroad. Due to media conglomeration the situation is worse today as making money is the first priority. This obsession with wealth has minimized costly investigative efforts while the media alignment with the plutocracy has stifled criticism. A February 9th, 1917 quote from the Congressional record outlines the problem that has plagued American media since its inception.

“In March, 1915, the J.P. Morgan interests, the steel, shipbuilding, and powder interests, and their subsidiary organizations, got together 12 men high up in the newspaper world, and employed them to select the most influential newspapers in the United States and sufficient number of them to control generally the policy of the daily press of the United States. These 12 men worked the problem out by selecting 179 newspapers, and then began, by an elimination process, to retain only those necessary for the purpose of controlling the general policy of the daily press throughout the country. They found it was only necessary to purchase the control of 25 of the greatest papers. The 25 papers were agreed upon; emissaries were sent to purchase the policy, national and international, of these papers; an agreement was reached; the policy of the papers was bought, to be paid for by the month; an editor was furnished for each paper to properly supervise and edit information regarding the questions of preparedness, militarism, financial policies, and other things of national and international nature considered vital to the interests of the purchasers... This policy also included the suppression of everything in opposition to the wishes of the interests served.”

At that time the rich in America wanted a return to the good old days when robber barons got what they wanted, when government left them alone and cartels made excessive profits. Various liberal and progressive movements had made real strides for working Americans during the early 1900’s. These efforts were spurred on by the unbridled greed of the rich elite who were subsequently detested by most of the public. The hatred of the Rockefeller, Morgan, Mellon and other interests was fully justified however those fat-cats were not about to accept a more equitable distribution of Americas wealth without a fight.
As the rich gained control of the media they manipulated three American concerns to their full advantage, religion, patriotism and communism. To destroy the unions they manipulated the American mind to fear communism and socialism, two fears that are still promoted in America today. In 1919 various rich American families financed the American Legion and it became a union-busting organization controlled by business owners, bankers and other moneyed interests. In the 1920’s the Legion endorsed fascism. The Legion leader stating, “the American Legion stands ready to protect our country’s institutions and ideals as the Fascists dealt with the destructionists who menaced Italy.”

Most of the WWI veterans were well aware of the fact that they were used as cannon fodder by the rich and that awareness resulted in the formation of the VFW. This Veterans of Foreign Wars organization supported the various struggles that the veterans suffered while the Legion preferred to support Wall Street. The VFW is still out there and still supporting the troops but these days they are also supporting foreign wars, such as Iraq. In 1919 these veterans and the workers of America could see that the gains they had made in the previous decades were threatened. In order to retain those gains the labor movement went on strike almost 4,000 times during that year. Most of these strikes failed, in part due to the misinformation and manipulation by the newspapers of the day.

In addition to the press, the rich gained control of the government and worked to protect their interests rather than the interests of the common American. They formed organizations designed to appeal to the all-American patriot but were actually right-wing groups controlled by the rich and spouting policies designed to favor the wealthy. The National Protective League, The National Civic Federation, The National Security League and the American Vigilant Intelligence Federation were a few examples. These groups were financed by the Macy’s, du Pont’s, Rockefeller’s, Morgan’s and others. This ownership and control of the media, in addition to the manipulation by these groups, changed public opinion against unions, public ownership and laws that restricted the unbridled desires of corporations. Naturally these fundamental changes in American society were not exposed.

The Rockefeller center was made possible by the excessive wealth that J.D. Rockefeller acquired. This degree of wealth is admired by many Americans without realizing that if a few have a great deal then a great many will have much less.
by the media but the media definitely had a hand in the creation of the America we know today.

Soon American governments passed new laws that had a profound affect on many Americans. It was made illegal to criticize or be disloyal to the American government or the military. If you said, ‘the President is an idiot’ you could go to jail and Americans did go to jail for such ‘crimes’. Coincidentally, an American who told Cheney he was screwing up in Iraq was arrested in 2006. You could go to jail for intending to interfere with the success of the American military or expressing the hope that America’s enemies would win or attempting to cause insubordination or disloyalty. These laws were a response to the fear of socialism or communism that had been created by the press. The socialist movement in America that had done so much to create electricity networks and water works owned by the people for the benefit of all Americans was effectively destroyed. Many of the American leaders who advocated socialism were jailed as the media scare tactics regarding communism spread throughout America. Victor Berger was one of these men and also a member of The House of Representatives; he was not allowed to take his seat, even after being elected and he was subsequently sentenced to 20 years in jail for speaking his mind. In addition these socialists were also against WWI and that wasn’t acceptable to the rich guys who stood to make millions from this war. The media never stood up for the socialists or told the truth about them for the same old reason; the rich owned the American media then, just as they do today.

The young Edgar Hoover was put in charge of the new General Intelligence Division to get those American subversives. By October 1919, Hoover’s division had collected 150,000 names of potential socialists, communists and others, the vast majority of them good Americans. Starting in late November, 1919, US government agents wrecked labor union offices and offices of organizations deemed ‘un-American’, without legal niceties such as search warrants or respecting private property. The media approved of these illegal acts and then the American public went along too. In December 1919, without due process, 249 of the arrestees were put on a ship for Russia. The media described this vessel as an ‘Ark’ which was a strange way to describe the destruction of American families and lives. In January, 1920, a further 6,000 were arrested and many deported. In just a few months over 10,000 were arrested but this violation of rights would have never been possible
without media complicity.

After the atomic bombing of Japan the American General Douglas McArthur declared southern Japan off-limits to journalists. Wilfred Burchett, an independent Australian journalist wanted to see the effect of the atomic bomb for himself.

After sneaking into Hiroshima he was shocked by the devastation which no western journalist had witnessed. His story opened with, “In Hiroshima, thirty days after the first atomic bomb destroyed the city and shook the world, people are still dying, mysteriously and horribly, people who were uninjured in the cataclysm from an unknown something which I can only describe as the atomic plague.” “Hiroshima does not look like a bombed city. It looks as if a monster steamroller has passed over it and squashed it out of existence. I write these facts as dispassionately as I can in the hope that they will act as a warning to the world.”

His story was published on Sep 5, 1945, not in America but in the London Daily Express. The story caused worldwide revulsion as he described the devastation that the official American accounts had tried to minimize. Burchett’s reporting created an immense PR problem for the US military and they moved into high gear to deny his story. He was ordered expelled from Japan, his camera and film went missing, he was accused of repeating Japanese propaganda while the US denied, once again, radiation sickness and deaths.

The head of the US atomic bomb project invited the NYTimes science reporter William L. Laurence, to write about the atomic bomb. In conjunction with the War Department, the NYTimes dutifully published 10 articles by Laurence, the first headline, Sep 12, 1945, on the front page read, “U.S. ATOM BOMB SITE BELIES TOKYO TALES: TESTS ON NEW MEXICO RANGE CONFIRM THAT BLAST, AND NOT RADIATION, TOOK TOLL.” Laurence was very loyal to the US military when he said, “The Japanese are still continuing their propaganda aimed at creating the impression that we won the war unfairly, and thus attempting to create sympathy for themselves and milder terms . . . the Japanese described ‘symptoms’ that did not ring true.” Laurence was lying. He had witnessed the first atomic bomb test on July 16, 1945, and he knew that radioactive fallout had poisoned local Americans and livestock. He also knew about the Geiger counters that showed excessive radiation all around the test site in the US. Although the reporting by Laurence was inaccurate and untruthful he won the Pulitzer Prize for this reporting. His bias is a little easier to comprehend when you know that he was also on the payroll of the War Department, a fact that was known to the NYTimes. These 10 reports on the atomic bombs and their effects were distributed by newspapers all over America. In most case they were written by Laurence, approved by the War Department and reprinted verbatim.

Due to the efforts of the American government, the nations top science reporter and one of the countries top newspapers, many in America, even today in 2006, don’t know the truth about their atomic bombs in Japan. The
Pulitzer Board knew about Laurence's duplicity when they awarded him one of journalism's top prizes. They have certainly become aware of the truth in the last few decades but they never rescinded Laurence's prize. Remember that the next time that prize is awarded. Wilfred Burchett who did tell the truth was never awarded the Pulitzer Prize. In this way many Americans have come to accept the nuclear menace that threatens us all today.

Joseph Alsop, one of America's top journalists in 1953 was sent to the Philippines to cover an election. The newspaper he worked for did not send him, he was sent by the CIA. Over the years hundreds of American journalists and reporters have been used as spies by the CIA. This has worked very well as reporters and other media types were once regarded as impartial or at the least not a threat to those countries where they were 'reporting'. In most cases these CIA agents/reporters did their spy work with the full knowledge of their employers but in some cases they worked directly with the CIA. This was all part of CIA 'Operation Bluebird' run by Frank Wisner, one of the early CIA's secret operations agents. 'Bluebird' was designed to manipulate the American public. Wisner recruited Philip Graham of the Washington Post to coordinate 'Bluebird' with the American media. Together they got other media types to cooperate with 'Bluebird'. The NYTimes, CBS, Newsweek and others came onside. This program was expanded and overseen by Allen Dulles who became director of the CIA. Dozens of newspapers and some wire services were influenced by the CIA. This manipulation was supported by right-wing icons such Henry Luce of Time and Life magazines. Arthur Sulzeberger of the NYTimes, Joe Harrison of the Christian Science Monitor, James Copley of Copley News Services, William Paley of CBS, Jerry O'Leary of the Washington Star, Barry Bingham of the Louisville Courier-Journal and many others.

The articles by Joseph Alsop appeared in over 300 newspapers along with articles by many other journalists who were prepared to present the CIA point of view. The manipulation didn't stop there. The CIA was involved in the making of movies and other media outlets to try and ensure that American minds didn't stray too far from the official line. Frank Wisner, the man who started it all with his CIA bosses eventually committed suicide and many of those journalists/agents have looked back on their CIA days with regret when they came to realize that they were actually part of the problem.

Some American journalists are occasionally a little more candid about their role in the media business. John Swinton, the former New York Times Managing Editor back in old days, had this to say back when being truthful was more common.

"There is no such thing as an independent press. You know it and I know it. There is not one of you who dares to write your honest opinions, and if you did, you know beforehand that it would never appear in print. I am paid weekly for keeping my honest opinions out of the paper I am connected with. Others of you are paid similar salaries for similar things, and any of you who would be so foolish as to write honest opinions would be out on the streets looking
for another job. If I allowed my honest opinions to appear in one issue of my paper, before twenty-four hours my occupation would be gone. The business of the journalist is to destroy the truth; to lie outright; to pervert; to vilify; to fawn at the feet of mammon, and to sell the country for his daily bread.”

Not a ringing endorsement for the New York Times. This paper is considered by many to be the finest newspaper in America. It has been around a long time, is very influential and is often criticized for a liberal bias. That perception simply illustrates how America has been brainwashed by the right-wing conservatives. In the past several decades the ‘liberal, left-wing’ NYTimes has supported every illegal foreign intervention the American government has instigated, when and if they became public. It has never supported a labor strike or advocated more money for the underpaid. When it was announced that New York’s 174,000 security industry workers were going to receive 2005 bonuses averaging $125,000 on top of average wages of over $200,000 per year there was no suggestion that this might be excessive or unfair. The NY Times has never supported universal health care, improved Social Security or free university education that only rich countries like Cuba can afford. It has always supported bus fare increases and rent increases because the NYTimes knows that bus riders and renters have money to burn. And in America this is considered the ‘liberal’ NYTimes?!

Unfortunately the NYTimes is also thin skinned. Recently, in February 2006, the paper refused to consider an intern application from a journalism student because they didn’t like the student’s professor. As the the NYTimes said to the student, “Based on what Allan Wolper has written about us, I cannot imagine that he would want one of his students to intern here.”

The media in America, including the ‘liberal’ NYTimes simply fail to really serve American society because they always take sides. They seem to have forgotten that the reason for their existence is to report accurately on what is going on. Instead American media attempts, under the direction of their rich owners, to manipulate the news and report only part of the story. As Amy Goodman of Democracy Now stated at a February 2006 conference, “If people in the US had

The new NYTimes new building in New York. The NYTimes is one of the most respected companies in America which tells you a lot about American awareness.
a true picture of war - dead babies, women with their legs blown off, dead and
dying soldiers - they would say ‘no’... we need a media that is independent and
honestly showing us the images, the hell, ugliness and brutality of war, not
selling us war.” In the two weeks before the Iraq war a study of NBC, ABC,
PBS and CBS showed that they presented 393 interviews on the pending war.
Only three, less than 1%, talked about opposition to the war and yet most
Americans are opposed to war.

Therefore it is easy for an American President to go to war because the US
media drums up support for the war before it actually starts. Another egregious
example is the current (2006) warmongering the US is engaged in with Iran.
American intelligence services have said that Iran is probably 10 years from
a nuclear weapon. In spite of the fact that Iran has done nothing illegal and is
no threat to America over 50% of Americans are now willing to support a war
with Iran. This is truly remarkable because Americans willingly went to war
with Germany, Korea and Vietnam and lies were a part of all those conflicts. (see the applicable chapters) The current war with Iraq was based on lies and
yet many Americans seem to be incapable of determining that this could be
happening again. In spite of all these lies, over all these years, many Americans
still tend to believe their government when it wants to wage war?? Without
American media duplicity this would never happen.

When Americans take to the streets to protest they do so for a reason,
always an important reason yet the US media underplays these protests. They
minimize the number of protesters, they place the story on the back pages, they
maximize the negative behavior of the protestors and they don’t give editorial
support to the protestors. This manipulation of the American mind is done with
the full knowledge of the newspaper bosses for the full benefit of the minority
of Americans who benefit from the distortions.

During the Cold War and the Vietnam era the US media rejected reporters
critical of US policy or reporters who supported the anti-war protestors. Pro-
war protestors were given coverage disproportionate to their numbers. Protestors
who protested an American enemy often got front page
coverage. The NYTimes
printed a large front page
photo of hundreds of
protestors in Beirut after
Syria was suspected of being
involved in the killing of
Lebanon’s Prime Minister.
The 150,000 Iraq protestors
in Washington a few weeks
earlier were mentioned on

The American media and government both
manipulate and minimize the deep anti-war
sentiments that many Americans hold.
The protests in the Ukraine were given much more coverage than the protests in America. Presumably the NYTimes knows that Americans are much more interested in the Ukraine and Beirut than they are in America.

The NYTimes and other media suggested that Ralph Nader be eliminated from the Presidential debates because Gore and Bush gave Americans all the choice they needed. This is ironic because the distinction between the two major American political parties has been minimal to say the least. Indeed, the majority of both the Democrats and the Republicans are pro-war, pro-big business, pro-tax cuts for the rich, pro-military, anti-environment and invariably millionaires themselves. This media complicity is even more insidious because the media deliberately manipulates the American political scene by refusing to even mention competent candidates who they dislike. A good example is the way the media ignored Democratic presidential candidate Larry Egren in 1992. He just happened to call for a 50% cut in defense spending so the US media didn’t want to touch him with a 10 foot pole. Reducing the number of US wars would be bad for media profits, everyone knows that.

The American media usually supported the call for more military capability, even after the fall of the Soviet Union. They also supported more and more military knowing that American military power is usually expended offensively. This promotion of a bigger and better military continues in spite of the wishes of most Americans who would like to see less military and more social spending.

The American media supported the war in Iraq without doing their homework, without trusting the many experts who advised against the war and in fact misrepresenting some of them. Hussein Kamel defected from Iraq in 1995 loaded down with documents which he turned over to the UN. This man had run Iraq’s nuclear, biological, chemical and missile programs for 10 years. He stated that all those programs were destroyed by 1991 and he had the paperwork to prove it. The Clinton government hid this information from the American people until it was finally reported, not by the NYTimes, in 2003. In fact the NYTimes has still not mentioned this critically important information.

The NYTimes also failed to mention this comment from Colin

The US media has helped the military convince the public that smart bombs actually are, when there is no such thing.
Powell that was made before 9/11. Saddam Hussein, “has not developed any significant capability with respect to weapons of mass destruction. He is unable to project conventional power against his neighbors.” In other words Saddam was not threat to his neighbors let alone America. This massive media duplicity, regarding the entire Iraq war, could only occur as a result of a deliberate media policy to support the war, any war, no matter how crazy or stupid. That is the only explanation possible when you look at how this support permeated virtually every aspect of the media. This support could only have come from the media owners who always support their rich friends in high places and to hell with the grunts that may pay for the war with their lives.

The US media, for the most part, supported the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, NFTA, which was of course supported by big business. The reason for the business support is simple; they make more profits when they pay the workers making their products less. In most other countries workers are forced to work for less. Prior to the implementation of the NFTA a NYTimes editorial blasted the labor unions for spending $150,000 in an attempt to influence the outcome of the debate, a perfectly legal and reasonable action. No comment from the NYTimes about the multi-million dollar effort by big business or the Mexican government who tried to influence the debate and no attempt to project the wishes of most Americans who were opposed to the agreement. Of course America has free trade now, business profits are higher than ever and many American jobs have been shipped overseas or eliminated.

In international news the US media demonstrates the same old bias. The trial of Milosevic was covered in detail while the prosecutor was making his case. As soon as the defense started, the coverage fell to zip. The trial of another US bad guy, Saddam Hussein, has produced some news but the trial coverage cannot be considered impartial. In 1967 Bertrand Russell organized a War Crimes Tribunal to examine the U.S. war against Vietnam. The New York Times, when they mentioned this at all, spoke of it in a dismissive way. They acted in the same way when another Tribunal ‘Repression in Latin America,’ was held in Europe in 1974 and 1975. The impressive testimony that was presented detailed how the US had made Latin America the torture center of the world. That failed to appear in most of the US media. Other tribunals have been held regarding Iraq and they have been ignored as well.

Aaron Brown, who was anchor of CNN’s NewsNight for over four years delivered a speech recently at The Society of the Four Arts. Mr. Brown stated, “Truth no longer matters in the context of politics and, sadly, in the context of cable news,” “Television is the most perfect democracy. You sit there with your remote control and vote. The remotes click to another channel when serious news airs, but when the media covers the scandals surrounding Laci Peterson, the Runaway Bride or Michael Jackson, there are no clicks then,” Tom Brokaw, Peter Jennings and Dan Rather, “resisted the temptations of their bosses to go for the ratings grab, it will be years before an anchorman or anchorwoman will have the clout to fight these battles.” Brown says he is shocked, “by how unkind
our world has become” “E-mail and talk radio appear to have given people the license to say anything, regardless of how cruel or false it may be”, he said. “Any criticism of the administration is regarded as hatred of the president and hatred of the country itself.” “Many Americans on the left and the right aren’t interested in the truth, but simply want news that confirms their viewpoints,” he said. “You’d think that it’s no more complex than good vs. evil.”

When the NYTimes broke the story (Dec 2005) about the National Security Agency spying on Americans it was an example of a newspaper doing what they should be doing. Unfortunately the NYTimes sat on this story for over a year before deciding to publish it. Which begs the question – how many other stories has the NYTimes sat on and never published? Prior to the NYTimes belated release of this story a Baltimore peace group tried to provide the media with evidence that the National Security Agency was spying on them. Twice they called a Baltimore radio station, WYPR. They hand delivered information to the station. No response. They then wrote a letter to the Baltimore Sun. The Sun demanded proof. Once again proof was hand delivered but the Baltimore Sun did nothing. The NYTimes said they were not interested because this was not wiretapping. It is a great shame when American media is not interested in important stories like the violation of the American Constitution but is happy to cover Hollywood and other superficialities.

American journalists often allow their patriotism to overwhelm their sense of fair play and they don’t even seem to realize it. A major American TV
outlet recently portrayed Hugo Chavez as a cartoon character and a man, “in danger of joining a rogues’ gallery of dictators and despots – Washington’s latest Latin nightmare.” Condoleezza Rice was presented as a serious credible source even though she has lied to the American people on many occasions. Donald Rumsfeld was allowed to compare Chávez to Hitler which only goes to show how mixed up he is. In fact Chávez enjoys 70 percent popularity, has won nine democratic elections and referendums and provided subsidized oil to poor Americans. American media has gone so far as to claim that Chavez is helping Iran develop nuclear weapons. The end result of all this deception is that many Americans don’t have a clue as to the truth.

The LATimes, the NYTimes and other major outlets must have a direct line to anonymous ‘US authorities’ because they refer to them so often. This is somewhat remarkable because there have been far too many reasons for reporters to mistrust ‘US authorities’. We all know about the mythical weapons of mass destruction and the mythical Saddam and al-Qaeda connection to name just a couple. The ‘US authorities say’ are also known as, ‘US Justice Department confirmed’ or, ‘counter-terrorism official’ or sometimes, ‘the officials confirmed’ or the ‘a senior US intelligence official’ the phantom list is endless. Interestingly these ‘authorities/officials/experts’ never have names, let alone contact information but they are a qualified source of information for American media.

In addition to not telling us the whole truth when it was vitally important to do so, the US media failed to use a modicum of intelligence when they presented some major issues. When Ralph Nader ran for President the US media could not effectively criticize him so they ignored him. Here you have an American with decades of public service who has always fought for the truth, who publishes exactly what he stands for and what he would do as President and he is ignored. Instead the American media devotes their attention to a couple of millionaires with no real vision and no real record of sacrifice or altruism. Absolutely amazing!

When the media devotes time to environmental activists or activists working for important causes the people they pick are often spoiled members of American society, such as movie stars. Seldom do they do their homework and pick obscure citizens who do the job without help from some star status. American media has been an essential stepping stone for the establishment of the American plutocracy.

In his book ‘Bad News’, Tom Fenton, a veteran journalist, tells us just how poor the news of today is. During his three decades he often fought, in vain, for stories of substance rather than flash. He tells us how the news businesses have gutted their organizations of news-men and replaced them with superficial producers and executives. He tells us how this incompetent team fails to get the real stories and instead relies on ‘reliable sources’ and images. For his book he interviewed Dan Rather, Peter Jennings, and Tom Brokaw, who all agreed that they are part of a decline in quality news coverage. Tom Fenton cares about
the news business but it appears that most news-men today care more about the pay check.

As one of the most important papers in Washington, the ‘Washington Post’ might reasonably be expected to cover the Iraq war in an unbiased manner. Not so, the Washington Post might as well be a mouth-piece for the White House. Not only did the Washington Post fail to uncover all of the government lies before the war started they are still spreading the bullshit. Here we are in 2006 and the dummies at the Post are still writing editorials supporting the war and criticizing the war critics. It would be interesting to know how many of the ‘Post’ editors children have been killed in Iraq but I think we can confidently say that the number is zero.

One of the reasons the media caves so often is because the $$$ come first. Oprah Winfrey’s TV show on April 16, 1996 talked about mad cow disease and the risks to Americans. The meat industry ignored the warnings from Oprah’s guest Howard Lyman and continued feeding cows to cows, just to save a few bucks. Oprah was sued by the meat gang, a practice that usually shuts people up but Oprah had the bucks to fight back. She did eventually win the lawsuit by proving that the comments regarding mad cow disease on her show were correct. Feeding cows to cows is dangerous, foolish and just plain cheap. Due to that greed on the part of the meat gang, the disease has now spread across America and is still being hidden from the American consumer. Although Oprah won the lawsuit it is obviously an experience she doesn’t want to repeat. The system is designed so that even a legal victory is often a loss. Oprah probably spent millions; the process took years and in the end nothing really changed. As a result of her ‘victory’ she has never talked about mad cow disease again. Even copies of that April 16, 1996 show are not available from her network. American mainstream media knows how the system works and they don’t want to touch the topic either. Even the American government is on the side of the beef producers rather than the American people and we know how reluctant mainstream media is to take on the ‘government’.

The Israeli military often invades Palestinian areas and they invaded Balata in late 2004. Balata is a poverty-stricken community in Palestine’s West Bank. It is not really accurate to say that the West Bank is Palestinian territory because Israel acts as if it was theirs. In any case the Israeli military stayed in Balata about a half an hour and during that time there was no Palestinian violence. No rock throwing no nothing, the Palestinians were just waiting for the forces that had made their lives so difficult to leave. After most of the vehicles had driven away, an Israeli soldier stuck his gun out of his armored vehicle, aimed at a Palestinian boy and shot him. Coincidently an Associated Press (AP) cameraman had filmed the entire incident. The cameraman then sent his video to the AP control bureau for the region in Israel. This tape showed an important story, a war crime. Did AP protect this story? Did AP retain the tape for a criminal investigation? Nope, AP erased the tape. The reason is simple. In areas of the Middle East under the military control of the Israelis the news that
they approve is made public. They control the so called ‘independent’ news sources like AP and they make sure that all the news makes them look as good as possible and they make those fanatic terrorists, the Palestinians, look as bad as possible. Some people are buying this news manipulation but in fact the Israelis are responsible for far more atrocities than the Palestinians. A fact you won’t

The mainstream US media has manipulated the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in so many ways for so long that Americans have no real idea what is happening there. (see the Israel chapter)
Current events are not the only items that US media tries to distort. 1992 was the year in which many events celebrated the 500th anniversary of Columbus’s arrival in the new world. Mainstream US media virtually ignored the true history of this event, failed to discuss the atrocities that were subsequently committed and failed to feature any Native Americans and get their opinions on this anniversary. In other words they didn’t want to even talk about the millions who were killed because they would think of offending the ‘rich’ who just happen to own the media outlets.

In January 2006 American troops blasted their way into the home of an Iraqi journalist working for the Guardian newspaper, firing bullets into the bedroom where he was sleeping with his wife and children. Two months previously this journalist won the Foreign Press Association young journalist of the year award but the Americans troops covered him with a hood and hauled him away. Dr Fadhil, stated after his release, “They fired into the bedroom where we were sleeping, then three soldiers came in. They rolled me on to the floor and tied my hands. When I tried to ask them what they were looking for they just told me to shut up.” Media that tries to tell the truth can be in for a hard time from an American force that wants the ‘news’ reported in a certain way.

The US attack on the Al-Jazeera offices in Baghdad.
This attack killed Al-Jazeera correspondent Tareq Ayoub.
Bush would have killed more Al-Jazeera personnel
if he had not been restrained by Blair.
Al Jazeera is a Middle Eastern media outlet that has become a trusted news source for people in this region. It is that trusted news source simply because it tries to tell the truth. Since 1966 the staff at Al Jazeera have risked and sometimes lost their lives, trying to bring the truth to the people. Al Jazeera is the most popular broadcaster in the Middle East with over 40 million viewers. Like the ‘enemy’ in Iraq and Afghanistan Al Jazeera has been targeted by the American military. Their offices in both Afghanistan and Baghdad were deliberately targeted and destroyed by US forces. In Baghdad, the US attacked Al Jazeera and two other Arab media outlets killing an Al Jazeera correspondent Tareq Ayoub. His widow was never compensated by the US, on the contrary a month after his death the law was amended to exclude leaders of state and high ranking army officers from accountability for war crimes.

Al Jazeera reporters have also been systematically arrested and abused by US forces. These are strange actions from a country that professes to promote ‘truth and freedom’. Al Jazeera has been banned from reporting in Iraq and Afghanistan by the US but they are still the first and best media outlet in this part of the world. President Bush Jr. was going to bomb the headquarters of Al Jazeera in Qatar but Blair suggested to him that this might be a bad idea. US Defense Secretary Rumsfeld is not very fond of Al Jazeera either. “I can definitely say that what Al Jazeera is doing is vicious, inaccurate and inexcusable.” That’s true, he can definitely say that but the Secretary is wrong. His comments are actually much more applicable to mainstream US media. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the senior U.S. military mouthpiece in Iraq was also upset for the same reasons, “The stations that are showing Americans intentionally killing women and children are not legitimate news sources.” Kimmitt can say that too but it appears that he and Rumsfeld are not troubled by the dead women and children, only that they are shown on a TV network that is “not legitimate”.

Here is how Al Jazeera and the NYTimes reported the same massacre at Haditha. Other than the wording, the NYTimes was about 4 months later publishing the actual facts

Al Jazeera – “Yesterday evening, an explosive charge went off under a US Marines vehicle in the al-Subhani area, destroying it completely. Half an hour later, the US reaction was violent. US aircraft bombarded four houses near the scene of the incident, causing the immediate death of five Iraqis. Afterward, the US troops stormed three adjacent houses where three families were living near the scene of the explosion. Medical sources and eyewitnesses close to these families affirmed that the US troops, along with the Iraqi Army, executed 21 persons; that is, three families, including nine children and boys, seven women, and three elderly people.”

The NYTimes - “The Marine Corps said Sunday that 15 Iraqi civilians and a Marine were killed Saturday when a roadside bomb exploded in Haditha, 140 miles northwest of Baghdad. The bombing on Saturday in Haditha, on the Euphrates in the Sunni-dominated province of Anbar, was aimed at a convoy
of American Marines and Iraqi Army soldiers, said Capt. Jeffrey S. Pool, a Marine spokesman. After the explosion, gunmen opened fire on the convoy. At least eight insurgents were killed in the firefight, the captain said.”

Yes, these media outfits were talking about the same tragedy. These following correspondents or reporters were killed in Iraq in just a few weeks. Most were killed by American ‘mistakes’ although they were clearly identified as media personnel. During a 14 month period in this war, 63 were killed, the total is now well over 100.

For taking a job with one of the world’s finest news outlets former Marine Corps Captain Josh Rushing was considered a ‘traitor’ by some.

In 2003
8 April: Taras Protsyuk (Reuters, UK)
8 April: Tareq Ayoub (al-Jazeera, Qatar)
7 April: Christian Liebig (Focus, Germany)
7 April: Julio Anguita Parrado (El Mundo, Spain)
6 April: David Bloom (NBC, US)
6 April: Kamaran Abdurazaq Muhammed (BBC, UK)
4 April: Michael Kelly (Washington Post, US)
2 April: Kaveh Golestan (BBC, UK)
30 March: Gaby Rado (ITN, UK)
22 March: Paul Moran (ABC, Australia)
22 March: Terry Lloyd (ITN, UK)
The purpose of propaganda, said Aldous Huxley, “is to make one set of people forget that certain other sets of people are human.” In the great slaughter, or as it is sometimes called, WWI, the British Prime Minister, Lloyd George, stated, “If people really knew the truth, the war would be stopped tomorrow.” It should be obvious that Bush, Rumsfeld and Lloyd George did not want to tell the truth or stop the war.

Not much has changed today. There are many people trying to keep the truth from you and that is done not to protect you, but to protect them and their interests. That is why the ‘the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth’ in media fails to exist. If the media had advised us of the flaws in the reasons to go to war, not just in Iraq but in every war then millions of lives and trillions of dollars would have been saved. If Americans had not been lied to in the media about so many government actions obscene statements like, “shock and awe” would never be accepted. If leaders in other countries, like the UK, had a good example to emulate, outfits like the BBC would stop lying about their rigor and objectivity while echoing their own corrupt and lying government.

After all, two of the America’s most prestigious newspapers, the New York Times and the Washington Post, kept up a drumbeat for war with Iraq to bring down Saddam Hussein. They accepted almost unquestioningly the bogus evidence of weapons of mass destruction, the dubious White House rationale that proved to be so costly on a human scale, not to mention a drain on the American taxpayer. The Washington Post was more hawkish than the Times. They ran many editorials pumping up the need to wage war against Iraq but both newspapers failed the American people regarding Iraq.

When Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered his ninety-minute ‘bullshit’ speech to the United Nations on February 5, 2003 he made it clear that Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. After two US special weapons inspection task forces, headed by chief weapons inspector David Kay and later by Charles Duelfer, came up empty in the scouring of Iraq for WMD, did you hear any apologies from the Bush Administration? Of course not. It simply changed its rationale for the war, several times. Nor did the media say much about the failed weapons search. Several newspapers made it a front-page story but only gave it one-day coverage. As for Powell, he simply lost his halo. The newspapers played his back-pedaling inconspicuously on the back pages.

Why is American media so gullible? Did they really think it was going to be a “cakewalk,” a superpower invading a Third World country? Why is the Washington press corps so aligned with the administration? Where is the skepticism that should be a part of every reporter’s mindset?

Tribune Media Services editor Robert Koehler summed it up best. In his August 20, 2004, column in the San Francisco Chronicle he wrote, “Our print media pacesetters, the New York Times, and just the other day, the Washington Post, have searched their souls over the misleading pre-war coverage they foisted on the nation last year, and blurted out qualified Reaganesque mea culpas: ‘Mistakes were made.’”
Unfortunately that other source of infallible American news, the television networks were no better. CNN’s war correspondent, Christiane Amanpour, was critical of her own network for not asking enough questions about WMD. She attributed it to the competition for ratings with Fox, which is ‘run’ by top Administration officials. Amazing how those guys can ‘run’ the country and find time to ‘run’ Fox at the same time.

The American media also blew it when they failed to report on a damaging report in the London Times on May 1, 2005. That report revealed the ‘Downing Street memo’ which was the minutes of a confidential meeting that British Prime Minister Tony Blair held with his top advisers on Bush’s forthcoming plans to attack Iraq. At the secret session Richard Dearlove, former head of British intelligence, told Blair that Bush “wanted to remove Saddam Hussein through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy.”

The Downing Street memo was a bombshell but the mainstream print media ignored it until it became too embarrassing to suppress any longer. The Washington Post discounted the memo as old news. The LATimes editorial page editor Michael Kinsley decided that the classified minutes of the Blair meeting were not a ‘smoking gun.’ The NYTimes touched on the memo during the last days leading up to the British elections, but put it in the tenth paragraph.

The White House press corps finally realized it had fallen asleep at the switch, yet again. Some of them decided it was time to become more skeptical of ‘official’ sources and they tried to be more aggressive with their questions. One of the main problems with the White House press corps is their respect for authority. Indeed this is a serious problem everywhere simply because people do not seem to realize that it is the authorities who are responsible for most of the problems, particularly the serious ones. In any case the White House press corps needs to realize that authority figures that lie and create trouble deserve the most intense scrutiny.

Here is a sample of questioning at the White House by Helen Thomas answered by the always evasive spokesman for the president. In this case Scott McClellan.

Helen: “The other day, in fact this week, you [McClellan] said that we, the United States, are in Afghanistan and Iraq by invitation. Would you like to correct that incredible distortion of American history?”
Scott: “No. We are... that’s where we are currently.”

Helen: “In view of your credibility, which is already mired...how can you say that?”

Scott: “Helen, I think everyone in this room knows that you’re taking that comment out of context. There are two democratically elected governments in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Helen: “Were we invited into Iraq?”

Scott: “There are democratically elected governments now in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we are there at their invitation. They are sovereign governments, but we are there today.”

Helen: “You mean, if they asked us out, that we would have left?”

Scott: “No, Helen, I’m talking about today. We are there at their invitation. They are sovereign governments.”

Helen: “I’m talking about today, too.”

Scott: “We are doing all we can to train and equip their security forces so that they can provide their own security as they move forward on a free and democratic future.”

Helen: “Did we invade those countries?”

At that point Scott McClellan turned to another reporter.

Helen Thomas is 82 years old and has been a reporter for decades and is not as cowered as many reporters seem to be. Unfortunately not too many of her colleagues insist on the truth when questioning White House spokesmen. When his highness, Bush Jr. speaks, it can be hard on a reporter’s career if they question the President’s lies because he can simply put pressure on the reporter’s employer. The reporters need to stick together and if one is not answered another needs to take up the same question. We are not holding our breath.

Those lowly reporters asking the simple questions have an awesome responsibility to push for the truth because those answers can change situations. As Helen Thomas herself says, “I honestly believe that if reporters had put the spotlight on the flaws in the Bush Administration’s war policies, they could have saved the country the heartache and the losses of American and Iraqi lives.”

Journalists and the media who pay them are extremely important but they seem to be
able to put their paychecks or their loyalty to friends in high places, before the well being of this planet and the creatures that live on it. Over 40 years ago Suharto began the seizure of Indonesia with a wave of killings that the CIA described as “the worst mass murders of the second half of the 20th century”. These murders were never accurately reported and the details remain secret. The media reports of the more recent (2002) terrorist attacks against tourists in Bali never mentioned that near these attacks were the mass graves of some 80,000 people killed by Suharto mobs backed by the American and British governments. There were more bombing in Bali in 2005. If the media are not prepared to do their job and publish the truth there will be repercussions. If they did their jobs properly this would be a much safer planet.

In the 1990s an organization called ‘Associates for Research into the Science of Enjoyment’ was a very influential public health advocacy group, with a difference. Its purpose was to show how “everyday pleasures, such as eating chocolate, smoking, drinking tea, coffee and alcohol, contribute to the quality of life.” They went on to say that, “Scientific studies show that enjoying the simple pleasures in life, without feeling guilty, can reduce stress and increase resistance to disease.” David Warburton ran the organization and often spouted advice such as, “stop worrying about often ill-founded health scares” and, “listen to our bodies, which naturally seek to protect themselves from disease by doing the things we enjoy.” It turns out that Warburton was paid by the tobacco guys and other liars to con the public into believing that all the crap he represented was actually good for you. Over a period of many years he was able to spread these lies because no one in the media actually checked to see if they were true. They weren’t!

In 1994 the government released 9,000 pages in files that detailed 320 confirmed atrocities that were committed by Americans during the Vietnam War. (see the Vietnam chapter) This information has received negligible coverage by the US media and as a result similar atrocities were again committed by Americans in Afghanistan and Iraq. This clearly shows that the US media is willing to work with the government to keep embarrassing news from the American people while at the same time much of the world knows what has happened.
In March 2006 an important report by two respected professors from Harvard and the University of Chicago was presented. The paper was titled, “The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy” and is available on the web. The 83 page report was basically ignored by the American media. In fact, the authors only found a respectable British magazine to carry a shortened version of the report. This report is important news, particularly during this time of on-going Middle East conflict. As the authors state, “the centerpiece of US Middle East policy has been its relationship with Israel.” “the combination of unwavering US support for Israel and the related effort to spread democracy throughout the region has inflamed Arab and Islamic opinion and jeopardized US security.” The authors also questioned why, “the United States has been willing to set aside its own security in order to advance the interest of another state.” They go on to note that, “pro-Israel forces have been establishing a commanding presence at the American Enterprise Institute, the Brookings Institution, the Centre for Security Policy, the Foreign Policy Research Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the Hudson Institute, the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs.” They also say that, “The Israeli lobby has made it impossible to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” “The Lobby’s campaign to squelch debate about Israel is unhealthy for democracy.” “The Lobby’s campaign for regime change in Iran and Syria could lead the United States to attack those countries, with potentially disastrous effect.” “Thanks to the Lobby, the United States has become the de facto enabler of Israeli expansion in the occupied territories, making it complicit in the crimes perpetrated against the Palestinians.” Their comment that the Israeli lobby eliminates debate certainly seems true and this important topic remains virtually un-debated in the American media and amongst Americans.

The American media is keen to rely on ‘official sources’ in spite of a long history of lying, manipulation and government bias from those sources. In early 2006 various media outlets reported that, “leftist rebels belonging to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) massacred six members of a family, including an 80-year-old woman.” Guess what, not true! Although coming from Colombia, where there is a large American military presence, it should have been suspect. FARC was not responsible but there is a vested interest in maintaining the FARC ‘bad-guys’ image. It turns out that the killings were the work of the Colombian soldiers who were armed and trained by the US.

Propaganda is insidious. In addition to doing great damage it is fundamentally flawed because propaganda is just another term for lying. Somehow the men who wage war feel that lying to their own people is a good idea. Mind you, these are the same men who want war, so their logic is simply flawed. The pentagon, no stranger to lying or propaganda, is actually prohibited by law from exposing the US public to propaganda. In a strange twist the pentagon claims that this law does not apply to ‘blowback’ propaganda. In October 2003 US Defense Secretary Rumsfeld launched “Information Operations Roadmap’,
which is propaganda aimed at the rest of the world. Various ‘news’ outlets were paid, to plant stories that make America look good, in various media outlets throughout the world. Some of these stories end up returning to America when they are picked up by US media therefore the term ‘blowback’ propaganda. This is against current US law but a difficult problem for the US because they can’t be sure when a phony story will return to America and publishing corrections would be embarrassing. The Pentagon has once again investigated itself and surprise, surprise, the Pentagon has again concluded that the Pentagon did absolutely nothing wrong and will continue to do nothing wrong.

Czechoslovakia was once a Stalinist dictatorship. The dissident novelist Zdenek Urbánek made an interesting observation, “In one respect, we are more fortunate than you in the west. We believe nothing of what we read in the newspapers and watch on television, nothing of the official truth. Unlike you, we have learned to read between the lines, because real truth is always subversive.” UrbaneK realized that the western media is also flawed and frequently manipulates the truth but that westerns simply haven’t figured that out yet. The tide is turning, more and more Americans now regard their mainstream media as seriously flawed.

There are still a few experienced journalists out there who are prepared to tell the truth and one of them is the long-term Middle Eastern journalist Robert Fisk. He still retains a sense of outrage regarding all the carnage he has seen. He is very opposed to ‘sanitized images’ that are so much preferred by the modern day warmonger. He believes that is far better to tell it like it is and then, hopefully, there will be less telling to do. In America the sanitation of war has reached new lows. The bodies of dead Americans are kept out of the media and we’re not talking about the actual mutilated bodies; we’re talking about the caskets draped in the American flag. The American military goes to great lengths to ensure that no photographs are taken of mutilated Americans. Apparently too much of that type of truth is not good for America. Mainstream media pictures of the real war are seemingly banned. In all my searching I have never seen a mainstream media picture that showed the true horror of the Iraq war. Of course the reason for this is simple, as Robert Fisk himself says, “When you see the things I see, you would never support war ever again.”

In mid April, 2006, four respected journalists spoke at Colombia University on the ‘state of the world’s media’.

Robert Fisk is the most experienced western journalist in the Middle East. Fortunately he retains a sense of fairness and outrage as he reports on the unfairness and outrageous behavior endemic to this part of the world.
media.’ John Pilger, filmmaker/reporter, Seymour Hersh who writes for the New Yorker, freelance reporter Charlie Glass and Robert Fisk who writes for the Independent. A week later the American Secretary of State also spoke about the same issue. The comments at the two events couldn’t have been more different. Ms. Rice went on to reiterate that, “without a free press to report on the activities of government, to ask questions of officials, to be a place where citizens can express themselves, democracy simply couldn’t work.” John Pilger had this to say, “I think there’s a lot of reasons to be very concerned about the information or the lack of information that we get. There’s never been such an interest, more than an interest, almost an obsession, in controlling what journalists have to say.” “We get the illusion that we are seeing what might be happening in Iraq. But what we’re getting is a massive censorship by omission; so much is being left out.” “We have a situation in Iraq where well over 100,000 civilians have been killed and we have virtually no pictures. The control of that by the Pentagon has been quite brilliant. And as a result we have no idea of the extent of civilians suffering in that country.” John Pilger also challenged the very idea that America is at war. “We are not at war. Instead, American and British troops are fighting insurrections in countries where our invasions have caused mayhem and grief...but you wouldn’t know it. Where are the pictures of these atrocities?” “The other day, on the third anniversary of the invasion, a BBC newsreader described the invasion as a ‘miscalculation.’ Not illegal. Not unprovoked. Not based on lies. But a miscalculation. Thus, the unthinkable is normalized.” Pilger also stated that the BBC is not the independent source of news it claims to be. He referred to the fact that 90% of the BBC’s references to weapons of mass destruction, before the war, suggested that Saddam Hussein actually possessed them. He went on to describe how Iran, Syria and Venezuela are now being presented as problems that may have to be dealt with militarily.

Seymour Hersh spoke about Bush Jr’s plan to attack Iran, something he has studied and written about. “Here we’ve got a situation, which is really unique in our history. This is a president who is completely inured to the press. It doesn’t matter what we write or say. He has got his own vision, whether he’s talking to God or doing things on behalf of what his father didn’t do or whatever it is. He has his own messianic view of what to do and he’s not done.” Hersh has been criticized by other journalists who are more loyal to the system, “Yes, it’s important to beat up on us. As usual we deserve it. As usual we failed you totally.” “But above and beyond all that, folks, by my count there are something like 1,011 days left in the reign of King George the Lesser and that is the bad news. But there is good news. And the good news is that tomorrow when we wake up there will be one less day.” Obviously not a Bush fan but Hersh has been investigating this American government and others for decades. Is a knowledgeable, intelligent man like Hersh more or less likely to know what is going on than the average American?

Robert Fisk has spent decades writing, and living in the Middle East and he too is very critical about media accuracy and accountability. “In the
American press the occupied Palestinian territories become the disputed territories, a colony becomes a settlement or a neighborhood or an outpost. Here semantically, we are constantly degrading the reasons for Palestinian anger. Over and over again the wall becomes a fence. Like the Berlin fence—had it been built by the Israelis, that’s what it would have been called. Then for anyone who doesn’t know the real semantics of this conflict, the Palestinians are generically violent. I mean who would ever protest over a garden fence or a neighborhood? The purpose of this kind of journalism is to diminish the real reasons behind the Middle East conflict.” Fisk also complained about the control of journalists, “The Americans, and to a lesser extent the British, like it this way. They do not want us moving around. They do not want us going to the mortuaries and counting the dead.” Images from Iraq are routinely censored. His favorite restriction is, ‘We’ve got to respect the dead.’ We can kill them as much as we want, but once they’re dead we’ve got to respect them, right? And so you will be shielded from this war. You will be shielded from this reality.” Fisk also talked about how journalist students are told to tell both sides of a story, “To which I say well, if you were reporting the slave trade in the 18th century, would you give equal time to the slave ship captain? No. If you’re covering the liberation of a Nazi camp, do you give equal time to the SS spokesman? No. When I covered a Palestinian suicide bombing of a restaurant in Israeli west Jerusalem in August 2001, did I give equal time to the Islamic jihad spokesman? No. When 1,700 Palestinians were slaughtered in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in 1982, did I give equal time to the Israeli spokesman, who of course was representing an army who watched the massacre as its Lebanese Phalangist allies carried it out? No. Journalists should be on the side of the victims.” Fisk summarized his Iraq experience, “We have a real disaster on our hands because the American project in Iraq is dead and don’t believe anything anyone else tells you in any newspaper. It is a catastrophe and every reporter working in Iraq knows it, but they don’t all tell you that, and that is our shame.”

Charlie Glass was an ABC correspondent in the Middle East, “When I began journalism I approached it in the way a lot of young naive people do, in that it was a vocation, a higher calling to tell the truth. My three colleagues up here have managed to do that throughout their careers. I tried very hard to do that throughout my career…but I worked for an American network. It’s not easy.” Glass told about the Israeli Shin Bath death squads murdering Lebanese civilians. “We nailed this story. We folded one of the death squads. We got to the palace where they had assassinated a man half an hour after he had been killed. We filmed it. We filmed the eyewitness. We filmed UN soldiers, who had seen the same things, discussing it.” “ABC news didn’t broadcast it. But they won’t tell you they’re not going to broadcast it because they’re afraid of losing advertising. They won’t tell you they won’t broadcast it because they’re afraid of the public reaction. They tell you they just didn’t have room that night or the next night or the next night. And that’s just the way it is. That is why very
few people in this country have any idea what’s going on in the Middle East.” Glass went on to tell the audience the simple truth about the American media. “You don’t understand what’s been going on in Iraq because you’ve been lied to again. Just like you were in Vietnam. Just like you were in Lebanon and just like you were in the West Bank and Gaza.” “Nobody has a clue why things went wrong in Iraq. Well, I’ll tell you why. They were always going to go wrong in Iraq. It wasn’t because Bremer screwed up. It wasn’t because the U.S. pilfered the Iraqi treasury, which is true. It wasn’t because some soldiers misbehaved and shot some people in cars. It was because it could never go right in Iraq.” “The U.S. was not trusted by any Iraqi because the U.S. history in Iraq was so reprehensible—from the betrayal of the Kurds in 1975 when Henry Kissinger sold them out and they were massacred in the tens of thousands by Saddam, from the time they aided Saddam during the Iran/Iraq war, from the time they betrayed the Kurdish and Shia rebellions in 1991, from the sanctions regime that followed. “Who would trust a power to liberate them who had already behaved like that? It isn’t a question of what happened after; it’s a question of what happened before. We had an obligation to tell what happened before and we didn’t.”

There you have it, comments by some of the world’s most experienced journalist who all think that American journalism has failed. Of course this is a serious indictment but don’t look for changes any time soon. American mainstream media has three priorities, one, protecting the system that favors their friends, the plutocrats. Two, protecting their profit which means that they can’t spend big bucks on stories that may violated their first priority and thirdly working with each other and the government to ensure that Americans get their version of the ‘truth’. Ms. Rice has no idea what she is talking about when she defends this system.

A CBS Pentagon correspondent acknowledged recently (Feb 2006) that they cancel or modify stories if requested to do so by the US military. He also stated that the changes the military request are unnecessary and, “each time it’s turned out that going with the story wouldn’t have caused any harm.”

For the first time in years the former vice president Al Gore showed signs of leadership. Gore recently gave a meaningful speech in which he talked...
about the Bush Jr. Governments illegal activities and their violating of the US Constitution. He talked about the separation of church and state and other important issues. The NYTimes did not report it, not even excerpts. The Washington Post had a short item on Gore’s speech.

It is early 2006 and a major scandal remains unreported in the US media. While the ground war in Iraq is more or less a stalemate, America has done what it always does when they start to lose. They try to turn the tide by intensifying the ‘air war’ with the associated loss of civilian lives. American journalists have simply not reported on the air war which has killed tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children. In spite of the dismal failure of the air war in Vietnam, American military planners still continue to believe that might is right and by blasting the hell out of everything they will win!! Never mind the deaths of innocent people, hell with pissing people off so that become tomorrows ‘terrorists’ and hell with telling people the truth.

The dismal state of the American media can be demonstrated by the dismal knowledge that Americans display regarding the truth. In early 2006 over half of Americans believed that Iraqis are better off now than they were under Saddam. One half believes that Iraq, under Saddam was a serious threat to the US. One quarter of Americans now believe that several of the hijackers who attacked the US on 9/11 were Iraqis. Over one quarter still believe that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction when the US attacked Iraq. Almost one half believe that Saddam had strong links to al Qaeda. Almost one quarter believe that Saddam helped plan and support the 9/11 attacks. None of those beliefs are true. Almost 90% of the US troops in Iraq believe (March 2006) that Saddam had something to do with the 9/11 attack. That lie must have been part of their basic training however it is obvious that the US Army is making no effort to ensure that their troops are well informed.

It is no wonder that the American public is confused. The NYTimes stated, “Israel is not demonstrably in violation of Security Council decrees.” That is simply wrong. Israel has violated numerous Security Council resolutions and they would have violated many more if the US had not vetoed them. A UN resolution ordered Israel to withdraw from Lebanon but it stayed there, with US support. The Washington Post and ABC News released a poll of U.S. public opinion on Iraq. Unfortunately they lied, their “get out now” poll numbers were actually three times higher than they reported. Their actual numbers for “staying the course” were much smaller than the newspaper article suggested. Unfortunately there are numerous examples of the press deliberately lying and thousands of examples of the media just being wrong.

In February 2006 the NYTimes continues to blab on about the threat of nuclear bombs from Iran. There is no proof that Iran has or is developing nuclear weapons and the NYTimes knows that. In spite of this knowledge the NYTimes continues to beat the drums for war. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has found “no evidence” of a nuclear weapons program. The American, National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) projects that Iran will not be
capable of building nuclear weapons for at least 10 years. The American media is fear-mongering and Americans are buying it, again.

As 2006 rolls on the NYTimes is getting just a little too uppity for the Bush Jr. government. Recently the NYTimes and other media reported that the Bush gang had spied on the international banking system. This spying on confidential banking information was OK because as Republican Congressman Peter King from the Homeland Security committee said, “We are at war and for the Times to release information about secret operations and methods is treasonous.” Mr. King is now working to get Attorney General Gonzales to investigate and prosecute the NYTimes. Of course it’s the same old story, it is OK to infringe on the rights of millions during the ongoing ‘war on terror’ and if meddlesome journalists are going to get in the way we will prosecute them. The disturbing thing about this story is that the NYTimes and the government still don’t get it. The NYTimes did not uncover this story and publish it, as they should have. As Bill Keller, editor of the Times explains, “Our decision to publish the story of the Administration’s penetration of the international banking system followed weeks of discussion between Administration officials and The Times.” What kind of ‘free press’ is that? Why did the NYTimes go to the government to discuss a story? It is the job of the NYTimes to publish the news, not to get the people in power to give any story their approval. Mr. Keller has a lot to learn about what a newspaper should be!

But still the NYTimes is about as loyal to a corrupt administration as possible. Columnist Thomas Friedman had this to say in the NYTimes on August 4th, 2006. “Because the worst option – the one Iran loves – is for us to stay in Iraq, bleeding, and in easy range to be hit by Iran if we strike its nukes…. We need to deal with Iran and Syria, but from a position of strength – and that requires a broad coalition.” So the NYTimes is telling us that Iran has “nukes” now, that attacking another Middle Eastern country or two is as good an idea as attacking Iraq was when the NYTimes promoted that stupid idea. The NYTimes just doesn’t get it! Aggression, killing and attacking are the policies of losers and always have been.

Robert Scheer is an experienced, respected American journalist who appears in 20 important America newspapers. He has always been a gutsy guy which is a critically important quality for a journalist. But like all humans Robert Scheer made an important mistake. Unlike most important American political leaders he recently admitted his mistake. During the critically important presidential election in 2004 he was advised by CBS that they had uncovered the truth about Saddam’s WMD program. Revealing the truth regarding Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction at that time could have and most likely would have changed the outcome of the election. Robert Scheer agreed not to reveal the information he had because the CBS program ‘60 minutes’ was set to broadcast it. CBS chickened-out, as they have before, and did not broadcast this critical information until recently, April 2006. Better late than never but not by much. This airing of documented evidence that Bush lied raised hardly
a stir in America. Either Americans are sick of the lies, are not paying attention or don’t care but the information that your President has lied and that those lies have killed over 100,000 is vital. Clinton was impeached for a dilliance and Bush is ignored for a war that kills many innocent people. Something is very wrong with this picture but it is obvious that the guts, demonstrated by so many front-line journalists, are completely lacking by the media moguls.

On May 13, 2006, a NYTimes editorial told us how great nuclear power is and why it makes sense today. The nuke guys are now using Patrick Moore as a spokesperson. Yep, the same guy who shilled for the logging gang and told the folks on the wet coast that, “Clearcuts are temporary meadows,” and “Not one species has gone extinct as a result of logging.” The NYTimes editorial was equally untruthful. Nuclear, “fuel -- uranium -- that is both abundant and inexpensive.” “there is no doubt that nuclear power could serve as a useful bridge to even greener sources of energy.” Like windmills perhaps? Just imagine what the $100's of billions the US federal government has poured into all things nuclear could have done if put into conservation and renewable energy. Just imagine a world without nuclear energy and the nuclear weapons that are inextricably linked.

Big newspapers in America are in trouble in spite of their excessive profits. In 2005, publicly traded U.S. newspapers reported operating profit margins of 19.2 percent, down from 21 percent in 2004. This is more than double the
average operating profit margin of the Fortune 500 companies. Circulation was down 2% in 2004 which is the continuation of a trend that started in 1985. Circulation is down 13% since then. To solve this long term problem publishers have done all the wrong things. They have reduced the depth of investigations, reduced the number of investigative reporters, cut the space devoted to news stories and cut the amount of money used to gather the news. The guys running mainstream American media have lots of profit but less and less credibility, less and less real news and fewer and fewer readers. The TV guys are no better. The Centre for Media and Democracy, found at least 77 television stations were broadcasting phony news produced by the government to make the war in Iraq look good. Diana Farsetta, a researcher with Media and Democracy said, “I would say it’s pretty extraordinary. The picture we found was much worse than we expected going into the investigation in terms of just how widely these get played and how frequently these pre-packaged segments are put on the air. They have got very good at mimicking what a real, independently produced television report would look like.” One of these ‘video news releases’ provided by the Bush administration, showed an Iraqi-American in Kansas City saying “Thank you Bush. Thank you USA” after the fall of Baghdad. The scam was actually produced by the State Department, not a news source.

How about this quote from the Washington Post today July 2nd, 2006. “Israel has disrupted power supplies for slightly more than a tenth of Gaza’s population.” This after Israel destroyed Gaza’s only power plant which produced 60% of the power for Gaza. The remaining 40% may or may not be supplied by Israel but all 1.4 million people in Gaza were affected by this Israeli attack on a non-military target. Israel committed many more aggressive acts after that power plant bombing and as I write this in August 2006 almost 1000 Lebanese have been killed as well as almost 100 Israelis. The NYTimes, The Washington Post and the LATimes have all told us how Hamas and Hizballah started the conflict without mentioning all of the violent actions Israel has taken over the decades. (see the Israel chapter)

And so here we are, July 2006, over 4000 Americans have been killed in the Bush government wars. The media says 2,700 but they only count Americans who were members of the military in Iraq. Civilians don’t count, other coalition troops don’t count, dead Americans in Afghanistan don’t count and of course dead Iraqis and Afghans don’t count. Why should they count, they probably only number around a few hundred thousand, not the millions killed during the Vietnam War and those people didn’t count back then either.

Most Americans still don’t have a clue. Half of Americans now (July 2006) say Iraq had weapons of mass destruction when the United States invaded that country in 2003, up from 36 percent last year. How is that possible, that more and more Americans still believe the phony WMD story? Well those opinions don’t emerge out of thin air but once again patriotism rears its ugly head. Many Americans want to believe their President, even when there are more and more reasons not to. Certain politicians continue to muddy the waters by
indicating that old unusable chemical weapons were WMD. Senator Santorum said, “Filled and unfilled pre-Gulf War chemical munitions are assessed to still exist.” Republican Hoekstra still tried to make the war look like a good fight when he said, “Iraq was not a WMD-free zone.” In the same poll 72% of Americans say that Iraqis are better off now. I wonder how they think that a people can be “better off” when they have less water, less electricity, less medical access, less oil exports, a government in disarray, fuel and other commodities many times more expensive and the violent death of 100 civilians a day? Sixty-four percent of Americans still think that Saddam had “strong links” with al-Qaeda and this percentage is actually up when it has been stated a zillion times that he had no links with al Qaeda. More than half said that, “history will give the U.S. credit for bringing freedom and democracy to Iraq.” This sort of abysmal ignorance has made this devastating war possible as well as the on-going American conflicts in other areas such as Afghanistan and now Lebanon. These opinions have been created, it is not stupidity but it is a result of vested interests putting their priorities ahead of the truth.

What do the LATimes, the NYTimes and Washington Post, perhaps the three most influential newspapers in America think? They think that American troops should stay in Iraq. They continue to tell America that killing and force are going to solve problems but these media moguls, who could have prevented this war if they had told the truth, continue to spread their false message. When the Israeli’s killed almost 60 innocents, mostly children in the small Lebanese town of Qana, the American mass media rushed to interview the killers and Israel obligingly responded with stories that blamed the men defending Lebanon. American media seems to dismiss the fact that the Israelis are doing 90% of the killing and that most of those killed are innocent civilians. That bastion of truth the NYTimes had this to say, “Israel said the Qana strike was aimed at Hezbollah fighters firing rockets into Israel from the area, but an explosion caused a residential apartment building to collapse, crushing Lebanese civilians who were spending the night in the basement, where they believed they were safe. The Israelis raised the possibility that munitions stored in the building blew up hours after the air strike, destroying the building.” In other words, the Lebanese blew themselves up. Only the NYTimes tried disseminating this crap. None of the other major US media outlets cast any serious doubt on the Israeli military’s justifications.

In mid 2006 a word you don’t find in the US media is ‘impeachment’. This is somewhat remarkable as impeachment resolutions have been passed in Vermont, New Hampshire, Alaska, Maine, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado, California and Hawaii. There are also over 20 city or town councils that have passed resolutions and approximately 30 local political groups in America that have adopted impeachment resolutions. Primarily these groups believe that Bush Jr. has lied to them too often, conducted illegal activities without bothering to change the law, sanctioned torture and taken American into unknown debt territory. A recent poll asked Americans what
action would restore their trust in government. The no. 1 answer was, “personnel changes/impeachment.” Other polls have found support for impeachment to be between 40 and 50%. Over 80% of Democrats support impeachment according to these same polls. The chance of Bush Jr. being impeached is remote but it is remarkable that so many Americans support it and that so much of the US media ignore it.

After spending $900 million US taxpayers dollars in a 16 month investigation, the Iraq Survey Group determined, after America had started its trillion dollar war, that Iraq weapons of mass destruction did not exist. The UN inspectors made the same conclusion before the war in 2002-2003. The ineffective Iraqi WMD programs had been dismantled in 1991, something the US knew before the war. Got that? No WMD in Iraq before the war!!

This American media bias has roots and you only have to look at the guys running the show to know where those roots come from. As deregulation has spread throughout American media and telecommunications we have seen less not more competition, which was the idea in the first place. Mergers between the big-boys have resulted in multi-billion dollar conglomerates. These organizations are now so large and command such a presence that if you are an American reading the paper, watching TV, listening to music or news on the radio, buying recorded music or watching a movie that information was likely controlled and produced by them. TimeWarner is a conglomerate made up of Time magazine, Warner Brothers, AOL and others. As the largest internet service provider in the world AOL can eliminate news they regard as unacceptable. HBO is a subsidy of TimeWarner and their ‘competitor’ Cinemax is also controlled by TimeWarner along with other cable companies. TimeWarner also controls Warner Brothers Studio, New Line Cinema and Castle Rock Entertainment as well as 50 magazines and book publishing companies. They also control much of the independent Internet radio broadcasters as they own Shoutcast and Winamp which are the tools those companies rely on. When Internet radio music royalty rules were set they favored large content providers and forced many small broadcasters out. These deliberate efforts to enable larger and larger businesses simply give more control to fewer people. It is the antithesis of what works well for all but it has become the American way and now it is being pushed as the global way.

So I guess this item falls into the ‘suspicions confirmed’ department. Indiana University researcher, Dr. Julia Fox compared ‘The Daily Show’ with mainstream news outlets for accuracy and content during the 2004 elections. Although Jon Stewart’s Daily Show is a comedy show it turns out that if you watched his show you would have learned as much as a if you have watched a 30 minute news broadcast. It turns out that those 30 minute shows were actually 22 minutes long and 103 seconds (a minute and a half) provided you with accurate political information. The Daily Show was about the same but gave you more laughs as well. Dr. Fox went on to say that none of the shows were a good source of information but then only ‘The Daily Show’ wasn’t
trying to provide ‘news’.

Do Americans who watch CBS and NBC TV news know that it is deliberately censored to make the President look good? During an August 21st, 2006 press conference Bush Jr. made a number of comments that were edited out of his remarks so those of you watching the President on CBS or NBC didn’t hear them. These TV networks are not alone; numerous press outlets also modified the President’s remarks. This is done to protect the American plutocracy, of which the media owners are an important part. Mainstream media is often provided with alternative views to war, letters to the editor, articles, video for TV and more. During virtually every war that America has started or been involved in, those views have been ignored or minimized, even though most Americans have been opposed to almost every war. In World War I, President Wilson was elected on the basis that he would keep America out of that war. In World War II President Roosevelt worked hard to get America into that war and succeeded two years after the war started and after a massive PR campaign designed to make Americans hate the Germans and the Japanese. In the more recent Iraq war various peace groups, tired of never being heard, tried to buy TV time to get their message out. The networks refused to air their anti-war messages in this, the ‘Land of the Free’.

Unfortunately, the American government is not doing much to ensure accuracy in the US media, on the contrary. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ordered that a TV study be destroyed because it suggested that more media concentration, by the same few owners, would result in less news coverage. The 2004 report was kept secret from

You can get just as much accurate news from Jon as any of the biggest news outlets and a few laughs as well.

Due to alternative news sources mainstream media is increasingly regarded as untruthful or biased.
the American public but the Chairman of the FCC says he doesn’t know why. A copy of the report was leaked to Senator Barbara Boxer. According to A. Candeub, who is a law professor at Michigan State University, every copy of the report was ordered destroyed by senior managers at the FCC. And you really thought that the government was on your side?

The slanted misinformation that is so prevalent in American media can be and has been, a powerful force for evil that enables a minority to get the things they think they want. The PR campaigns that have been used to get America into various wars are alive and well today, but more subtle. The only way to change this is to restrict media ownership and to ensure that many voices are heard. Unfortunately the Bush Jr. government is doing the exact opposite. Change is therefore very unlikely however Americans do have other options. There are many news outlets on the web that strive to tell the truth but it is difficult for them to reach the millions the truth needs to reach. Therefore the future of truth, in American media, is bleak. The lies and half-truths they tell will continue to adversely affect American politics and policies. These aggressive and destructive policies will continue to create the hatred that poisons American relationships around the world.

“We allow the most atrocious lies uttered by political and moral prostitutes to go unchallenged. These lies are endlessly recycled in the commercial media until they become ingrained in the public conscience as truth. Worse than burying our heads in the sand, we bury them up our collective ass. How do you like the view?”

—Charles Sullivan

“The biggest political joke in America is that we have a liberal press. It’s a joke taken seriously by a surprisingly large number of people... The myth of the liberal press has served as a political weapon for conservative and right-wing forces eager to discourage critical coverage of government and corporate power... Americans now have the worst of both worlds: a press that, at best, parrots the pronouncements of the powerful and, at worst, encourages people to be stupid with pseudo-news that illuminates nothing but the bottom line.”

—Mark Hertzgaard

“Once the war against Saddam begins, we expect every American to support our military, and if they can’t do that, to shut Up.”

—Bill O’Reilly, Fox News

550
“Expecting FOX News to report real news is about as silly as waiting for George Bush and Dick Cheney to tell the truth... Americans care, but it’s tough to care when you don’t know what’s going on. That ignorance is what the warmakers count on and what the corporate media delivers.”

– Amy Goodman

These are the major media outlets in America that control virtually all of the news –

- General Electric
- CBS
- VIACOM
- Time Warner
- Disney
- News Corporation (Murdoch)

Of course Mainstream US media would never manipulate the news for Americans!
Same rag, same month.

Once again Newsweek decides that Global Warming is a big issue everywhere except in the USA.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The following letter was printed by CanWest, a major media outlet in Canada. The following letter, in response, was not printed. This is a good example of the not-so-subtle efforts that mainstream media in North America frequently use to manipulate public opinion.

Israelis should finish the job
9 August 2006
Dear Editor:

In the July 26 issue of your paper, two letter writers took Prime Minister Stephen Harper to task for rejecting the possibility of a ceasefire and from departing from Canada's tradition of “neutrality and peace.”

It is obvious the two letter writers have a very weak grasp of history. In each of the two world wars and in the conflict in Korea, Canada stood with the countries defending freedom for all people.

To say that Canada has a tradition of neutrality is ignoring the history of our country. But when people grow up without having to endure the threat of rockets, lobbed at them from within a supposedly sovereign country by a terrorist group, it’s easy to take the stance of neutrality.

It is easy to say that Harper should stand up for a ceasefire but a ceasefire only works if both sides are willing to end the conflict through mediation. In this case, Hezbollah would not agree to a ceasefire that would let the Jewish state continue to exist. Its aim is to exterminate all Jews.

Hezbollah started this war not the Israelis. The Israelis have a right to defend themselves. Had the Lebanese government done its job, Hezbollah would not have been throwing rockets into Israeli territory. The Lebanese are reaping what they have sown.

Also, Harper never said or implied that it’s OK to attack civilians.

I am a fairly intelligent person. I don’t like war. But sometimes war is the only way to guarantee peace and security.

What, pray tell, were the Israelis supposed to do? Let Hezbollah continue their rocket launches into Israel? Let them continue to kidnap Israeli citizens on Israeli soil? Voluntarily dissolve the only Jewish state on the planet to satisfy some barbaric terrorist group? What would you have done, apart from caving in to a terrorist group’s demands?

Both the letter writers ignored the origin of this conflict. All they suggested is an end to the war without addressing the fact that a ceasefire with Hezbollah still in place would solve absolutely nothing.
As far as civilian casualties are concerned, although deplorable, they are remarkably low notwithstanding the cries of outrage. Less than 400 civilian casualties have occurred after the tons of bombs that the Israeli air force and artillery have launched in Lebanon.

By all measures, that figure is nothing short of amazing. It shows the care and regard for human life that the Israelis have, in contrast to Hezbollah. If Israel really wanted to attack civilians, there would be a lot more casualties.

I hope the Israelis finish the job and obliterate Hezbollah.

Luc J. Maurice
North Vancouver

And the response, that was never printed –
9 August 2006

Dear Sir:

Perhaps you will permit me to respond to Mr. Maurice’s ‘grasp of history’ which he demonstrated in his letter to the North Shore News August 9th. He states, “Hezbollah would not agree to a ceasefire that would let the Jewish state continue to exist. Its aim is to exterminate all Jews.” Hezbollah agreed to a peace package that would have resulted in a cease fire on July 29th. That peace package included strengthening an international force in south Lebanon and disarming guerrillas. The European Union said that the proposal formed the basis for an agreement but it was rejected by Israel, Bush and Blair. In addition Hamas, the former PLO and the Arab states have specifically agreed to the existence of the Jewish state.

He also states, “Hezbollah started this war, not the Israelis.” Israel withdrew from Lebanon in May 2000 after 15,000 Lebanese deaths. Since that time the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon has reported that the Israelis crossed the border “on an almost daily basis” for several years and “persistently” since 2003. On October 2000 the Israeli military shot at unarmed Palestinian demonstrators, killing 3 and wounding 20. This tit-for-tat has been ongoing ever since however it is blatantly unfair to state that any Arab group is more responsible than the Israeli’s.

According to Mr. Maurice, “The Israelis have a right to defend themselves.” In June, 2006 Israel captured a Palestinian doctor and his brother and removed them from the Gaza strip. The Palestinians then attacked an Israeli border post near Gaza on June 25th, a fight ensued, two soldiers were killed and one Israeli soldier was captured. Ostensibly to get this man back the Israelis bombed the main electric plant in Gaza knocking out 60% of the power to 1.4 million people. Israel occupied the only airport in Gaza, that they destroyed years ago, as a staging area for their planned
assaults into Gaza. They fired rockets into the offices of various ministers of the Palestinian government. They dropped bombs in other parts of Gaza for reasons unknown. Before and after this abduction incident the Israeli Air Force had been flying over Gaza creating sonic booms which are very stressful for the civilian population. The Israeli Prime Minister Olmert declared, “I take personal responsibility for what is happening in Gaza. I want nobody to sleep at night in Gaza.” Israel bombed three bridges in Gaza. They flew over other important buildings in other Arab countries just to let them know that they were also at risk. Israel then arrested senior members of the Hamas government as well as many others. According to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Israel arrested last night (29 June 2006) about 100 members of Hamas. Those arrested are Hamas activists who had violated laws pertaining to the prevention of terrorism. While those arrested include ministers and legislators, it needs to be emphasized that the majority of those arrested are not.” Those members of the democratically elected Palestinian government are still being held without charge or trial, along with over 9,000 other Palestinians many who have never been charged. Do those sound like ‘defensive’ actions?

Mr. Maurice also tells us that he doesn’t “like war. But sometimes war is the only way to guarantee peace and security.” Perhaps he is referring to the years, 1914, 1939, 1950, 1965? In any case, Hezbollah captured 2 Israeli soldiers on July 12th, just over the Lebanese southern border. This is after years of Israeli incursions into Lebanon. This Hezbollah kidnapping was most likely done to accomplish a prisoner exchange, something the Israelis had done many times before. Israel refused a prisoner exchange and attacked Hezbollah positions and then Hezbollah started firing their rockets. Israel’s destruction in Lebanon is vastly greater than Hezbollah’s in Israel. To suggest that Hezbollah threatens the existence of Israel is ludicrous.

It is disingenuous of Mr. Maurice to tell us that “400” Lebanese deaths represent, “the care and regard for human life that the Israelis have, in contrast to Hezbollah.” The correct figures as of August the 8th are, Israel 97, the United Nations 4, Canada 8, the Gaza Strip 114, Lebanon over 1,000, Hezbollah unknown. Most of the Israeli deaths are military; almost all of the Lebanese are civilian.

Mr. Maurice closes by saying, “I hope the Israelis finish the job and obliterate Hezbollah.” That is what Israel is trying to do without realizing, apparently, that for every Hezbollah fighter they kill, five join in the battle. Killing is a foolish way for Mr. Maurice and Israel to solve problems.

R.W. Fearn,
North Vancouver
When significant inexplicable events happen in a country they raise the level of concern or fear in that country. In America there have been a number of significant events that in some cases have changed American and even world history. All of these pivotal American events were similar in that they were never satisfactorily explained or investigated. In all of those events some of the information that might have helped to explain what happen was withheld by the same government that professed to represent the best interests of the people. Why this remains so is a fundamental part of these mysteries. Was there a deliberate effort to increase anxiety in America so that tax dollars could be diverted to meet other so-called threats and make leaders look good? We don’t know but we do know that American never investigated these momentous events in a manner that reflected a genuine desire for the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We also know that American fear has been exploited to create conflict and this has led to more American hatred wherever that conflict has occurred.

**THE KILLING OF JFK**

Here we have one of America’s most beloved Presidents gunned down in broad daylight with hundreds of witnesses, a massive investigation and a huge fact finding commission and in the end Americans not only didn’t find out who killed their President in 1963, they still don’t know over 40 years later.
The commission that investigated this killing was eventually discredited but the details are too extensive to go into here. Even former President Ford, who is the last surviving member of this commission, was forced to admit that he modified some of the truth in the Commission report for “clarity” purposes. It should be mentioned that many American government departments are mandated to hide the truth from the American people and then spend billions of dollars each year on that goal.

As the obvious flaws in this investigative Commission report became known no other American President ever stepped up to the plate and ordered a new investigation. Many individual Americans have sought the truth and some might even have found it but without an officially sanctioned inquiry those efforts never acquired the required credibility. The Oliver Stone film, JFK, was initially discredited by the ‘experts’ but is now regarded as a good truthful effort.

We do know two things. None of the US governments since 1963 have made an investigation into this killing a priority. This is very strange, why would the American government not what to know what happened? Secondly, this killing could not have been as coordinated as it was and disappeared into the dustbin of history without some sort of organized assistance from several persons and that means that a conspiracy must have existed.

See: http://www.solstice.us/russell/16questions.html

THE DOWNING OF TWA FLIGHT 800

On July 17th, 1996 a 747 blew up shortly after taking off from a New York airport. Literally hundreds of credible eyewitness said they saw something travel up from the ocean and then hit the aircraft, which then exploded, killing all 230 passengers and crew. There was a very large investigation and the aircraft was virtually rebuilt from the pieces recovered from the ocean floor. Early on in this massive investigation traces of explosives were detected in the aircraft wreckage. The most contaminated areas were rows 23 through 26 but also in the cargo area. This was reported in the NYTimes on August 14th, 1966, “residue consistent with an explosive” had been identified by chemists in 10 field tests at Calverton, the center of the investigation on Long Island. CNN also reported
that investigators had found a second chemical on the plane, not only in the passenger compartment but also in the cargo area. Inexplicably these reports were later denied as an exploding fuel tank theory emerged.

The official explanation eventually stated that faulty wiring had ignited residual fuel in the center wing fuel tank and that this tank had then exploded. There remain real problems with the official explanation. The eyewitnesses were all discredited as unreliable and yet many of these people were sober professionals with no reason to make up some phony missile story, including the FBI agent who said that he saw an aircraft being shot down.

This type of fuel tank explosion had never happened to a 747 before and has never happened since. After this official conclusion was published pilots flying the 747 were not advised to change their operating procedures nor were they advised of modifications to the 747 that would prevent a reoccurrence of this kind of disaster. This is contrary to the AD’s, the airworthiness directives that are normally issued when a mechanical fault is determined to exist in any aircraft. Most of the inexplicable questions concerning this tragedy have come from independent investigators who in the final analysis have raised serious doubts about the official reason for this crash. Therefore the conclusive reasons for this disaster remain unknown and once again the reason why the government would settle for this ambiguity remains unknown. The only thing we can say with certainty is that the evidence so far makes fascinating reading. See www.twa800.com or http://www.angelfire.com/hi/TWA800/clintoneo.html

http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/RANCHO/CRASH/TWA/twa.html

**THE GULF WAR SYNDROME**

Something happened here and we still don’t have the whole story. In fact most Americans have now forgotten that this was such a big issue not so many years ago. America sent 590,560 personnel to do battle with Iraq when Bush Sr. was President. There were a reported 147 combat deaths and 325 non-combat deaths amongst those Americans. When these troops came home many of them started to feel sick. It must be mentioned that this sickness is not just joint pain or headaches. As of the year 2000 over 183,000 of the troops who participated
in the Gulf War have been declared permanently disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. An additional 142,000 have been diagnosed with various illnesses that have not rendered them permanently disabled. So America goes to war and 56% of those who come home, without so much as a scratch, get sick and over 31% become permanently disabled. What these numbers don’t tell you is that some of these troops returned home, apparently in good health but they then became so sick that they died miserable, painful deaths. This ‘syndrome’ has not affected just those who went to Iraq. A 2001 study showed that men who became fathers, who had participated in this war, were 1.8 times as likely to have a deformed child, women who became mothers who had participated in this war were 2.8 times as likely to suffer from the same difficulty. In spite of America’s best efforts the cause of Gulf War syndrome has still not been defined and the suffering continues in the USA and to a greater extent in the Middle East. It appears that Americas ‘best efforts’ are not nearly good enough. See the ‘Depleted Uranium’ chapter for more information.

THE 9/11 DISASTER.

This is perhaps the most inexplicable story of them all. Many people do not even know that three buildings collapsed on that fateful day, or, that other buildings did not fall when they were far more damaged than the buildings that did fall. World Trade Center #7 was a relatively new 47 story steel building that completely collapsed in 6.2 seconds when free-fall due to gravity would have taken 6 seconds. This building was not hit by any aircraft and never suffered from a major fire, yet it collapsed on its own footprint. This fall, at almost the speed of gravity, some 7 hours after the collapse of the two more famous towers, is very peculiar. This vertical fall means that ALL of the #7 buildings numerous steel supporting columns failed at exactly the same time. If some of the major supporting columns had remained undamaged, as they must have been, the building would have fallen at an angle or twisted as it fell. It didn’t.

Some of the tenants in building
#7 prior to its collapse are interesting. The US Secret Service, floors 9 and 10. The Securities and Exchange Commission, floors 11 through 13. The Office of Emergency Management, floor 23. The Inland Revenue Service, floor 24 and 25. The Central Intelligence Agency, floor 25. The Department of Defence, floor 25. This was a very strong building so it is difficult to believe that it could have collapsed the way it did without more extensive damage. For example the 5th floor was concrete 14" thick with imbedded steel. The 7th floor was similar but with 8" of concrete. This structural design along with other aspects of the buildings construction meant that it would not have fallen straight down at almost the speed of gravity without a massive failure of its entire structure. That massive failure was not caused by the collapse of the twin towers so we have no real idea why this collapse occurred. The official 9/11 Commission report did not adequately deal with this issue and today the collapse of building #7 is considered by many to be the greatest 9/11 mystery.

The much larger 110 story World Trade center towers #1 and #2 also collapsed at close to the speed of gravity in spite of very strong central cores that could not have been completely weakened by the aircraft impacts or subsequent fires. The fires were not nearly hot enough to melt steel but a considerable quantity of molten steel was found in the wreckage, much lower than the parts of the buildings that were on fire. How did that steel get so hot? Although experts have concluded that the aircraft induced fires were not hot enough to sufficiently weaken the massive steel center cores, both buildings completely collapsed in the same way. These collapses are also interesting because they represent the first and only time that steel framed towers have collapsed, even though similar buildings have caught fire and burned with much more heat for many more hours.

Numerous emergency personal noticed large explosions in the towers prior to their collapse and some of this testimony is available via video or on the web. There are many reasons to be suspicious of the official story but one of the more intriguing reasons is the analysis of some steel remnants from the twin towers.

Although the fires were not hot enough to melt steel molten steel was found in the basement of the towers. The explanation for that molten steel was never provided by the official investigation. Professor Jones has concluded that the molten steel was created by Thermite or perhaps Thermate. These materials chemically produce intense heat that cut through steel like a hot knife through butter. It is used in the demolition of steel buildings. Professor Jones acquired a sample of World Trade Center melted steel and had it analyzed. It showed traces of sulphur and other elements that are incompatible with structural steel, unless the steel had been exposed to Thermate.

The investigation into this disaster never did the forensic analysis that could have proven the reason for this tragedy because much of the evidence, including most of the steel was removed to China and India before an extensive analysis was completed. See the website by Professor Jones. http://www.physics.byu
Most remarkably, the Bush Jr. government did not even want an investigation into this tragedy. Their unwillingness was finally overcome by a number of 9/11 widows who demanded an investigation. Why were the widows of 9/11 victims pushing for an investigation? This was an inexplicable response from the American government and should have created outrage across the country but as is usually the case most Americans sighed a collective sigh. We still do not know why the Bush Jr. government was always so reluctant to conduct an extensive investigation into this disaster. We do not know why certain members of his cabinet were ordered to stop flying on commercial jets prior to 9/11. For months Bush Jr. refused to allow his senior officials to testify regarding this disaster. Once again he relented after public pressure compelled him to allow testimony before the 9/11 commission. When Ms. Rice testified she was evasive and contradictory. Finally, due to public pressure Bush Jr. and Vice President Cheney agreed to testify. The conditions under which they agreed to testify are remarkable. They agreed to testify but only together and only in secret and only if they were NOT under oath.

In the official 9/11 report they admit that some of the evidence they use to make conclusions regarding the attack on 9/11 came from captured men. Due to America’s treatment of these men the information obtained is suspect at best. This was no way to make 9/11 determinations.
Mysteries

in itself is another very strange aspect to the largest unexplained disaster in American history. So it was the widows of the 9/11 victims and the public who pushed Bush Jr. and others to testify but they eventually did so in an inadequate manner. The only reasonable explanation for their behavior is because they had something to hide. The 9/11 Commission Report’ was eventually completed but it remains as flawed as the Warren Commission that reported on the killing of JFK.

Here we are in August 2006 and those very same widows, who should never have had to push for a thorough investigation of 9/11 in the first place, are once again pushing for the truth. As new information has come to light they have concluded that this commission, “failed in its duties”. Their recent statement regarding the Commission report concludes, “What we needed from them was a thorough investigation into the events of September 11th. Inexcusably, five years later, we still do.”

There is evidence that the Bush boys knew about this attack in advance, did nothing to warn the American people, while they took steps to protect themselves. This could be an incompetence and selfishness issue which the government has been trying to keep from the voters. One man, Paul Thompson, an independent investigator, has done more to unravel the secrets of 9/11 than all the mainstream US media put together. He has connected many of the dots that US media failed to connect due to their incompetent, bias or lack of guts. Therefore mainstream US media failed America again but have a look at Paul’s web site -http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/project.jsp?project=911_project

Get on his mailing list and buy the movie, 9/11 Press for Truth which seems to be the best 9/11 DVD so far.

If investigators uncover why the Bush government acted so inexplicably, they will uncover the secrets of 9/11.

Four widows from 9/11, Van Auken, Kleinberg, Cazaza, and Gabrielle, have pushed the Bush government ever since to find out what happened. It has been an up-hill battle. More information has become available that the Bush boys knew more about this attack than they have admitted. The four women recently made a statement to that effect, it was as follows:

STATEMENT REGARDING AL QAEDA THREATS
OCTOBER 5, 2006

“Astonishingly, five years post 9/11 the public is made aware about an urgent July 10, 2001 meeting that took place between former CIA Director George Tenet and then, National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice. This information comes from Bob Woodward’s newly released book, “State of Denial”.

Despite this Administration’s rhetoric that they had “no warnings” leading
up to 9/11, it has become abundantly clear, that key Administration officials were made aware of the vast array of Al Qaeda threats and warnings that existed in years prior, and more importantly, in the weeks leading up to September 11, 2001.

When we add the July 10, 2001 meeting to the plethora of other clear warnings that our government had, a very concise view of the al Qaeda threat emerges. Those other warnings include, but are not limited to:

- Warnings from leaders of other nations and foreign intelligence apparatus’ of terrorist threats
- June 30, 2001 Senior Executive Intelligence Briefing (SEIB) entitled “bin Laden Threats Are Real”
- The threat of President Bush’s assassination at the G-8 Summit by al Qaeda in July of 2001 – using aircraft to dive bomb the summit building
- July 2001 Phoenix memo, which told of potential terrorists taking flight lessons
- 52 FAA warnings – five of which mentioned al Qaeda’s training for hijacking
- August 6, 2001 Presidential Daily Brief entitled “bin Laden Determined to Strike in US”
- National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) entitled “Islamist Extremists Learn to Fly”
- Intelligence agency heads describing themselves with their “hair on fire” to characterize the imminent nature of the threats they were intercepting from Al Qaeda and their sense of urgency in relating them to the Bush Administration
- The arrest of Zacharias Moussaoui in August of 2001
- FBI Agent Harry Samit’s 70 unsuccessful attempts to get a FISA Warrant to examine Moussaoui’s belongings

Aside from scheduling a National Security Council meeting on September 4, 2001, two months after the July 10 “connect the dots” briefing from CIA director, George Tenet, the abundance of post 9/11 reports and commissions found no evidence of any action taken by appropriate officials. The 9/11 Commission itself concluded that in spite of an unprecedented attack threat in the months before 9/11, US “domestic agencies never mobilized in response to the threat. They did not have direction, and did not have a plan to institute. The borders were not hardened. Transportation systems were not fortified. Electronic surveillance was not targeted against a domestic threat. State and local law enforcement were not marshaled to augment the FBI’s efforts. The public was not warned.”

While certain members of the 9/11 Commission recalled a January 28, 2004 closed session meeting with former CIA Director, George Tenet, where this urgent July 10, 2001 meeting was discussed, this meeting was not referenced
in the Commission’s final report.

In the transcript testimony, the former CIA Director described the non-
routine meeting that he and Cofer Black called for with then National Security
Advisor, Condoleezza Rice as one of the “starkest warnings” ever given by the
CIA to the White House on Al Qaeda.

To our continued dismay, both the Bush Administration and the 9/11
Commission have consistently failed to give a complete and honest accounting
to the American public with regard to their actions and inactions leading up to
the devastation of September 11, 2001.

The inexcusable result of this less than truthful accounting has resulted in
America making important national security decisions and passing legislation
using the 9/11 Commission’s conclusions and recommendations. Chillingly,
these decisions appear to be based upon an unclear combination of partial
truths mixed with distortions and omissions of important facts.

Incredibly, five years post 9/11 we have come full circle. In spite of all
the clear warnings that our government received, why did those in power fail
to invoke any defensive measures to protect our nation from the attacks of
September 11, 2001?

We demand the immediate declassification and release of these latest
documents and transcripts. The American public has the right to know what
their government did or did not do to protect us from terrorist actions.

Finally, instead of reorganizing an entire intelligence community because
they “weren’t sharing information”, and rather than telling us that “9/11 was a
failure of imagination”, what we needed was for the 9/11 Commission to state
the truth and hold those responsible to account. The most effective change for
America would be to have a National Security Council that understands that it
is their job to translate vital information into action.”

9/11 is the mother of all issues for Americans and it would be tragic if this
disaster went the way of JFK’s death and faded into the dustbin of history. On
the other hand many Americans are still searching for the truth and it may
yet emerge. It is not enough for most Americans to doubt the official truth,
they must demand reasonable answers. For the most part they have sat back
and expressed as much backbone as they did when their voting rights were
manipulated. Trust me, the bad guys are counting on your apathy!! What we
do know is that this disaster has been unscrupulously used to create fear in
America and the needless death and hatred of far too many in the Middle
East.
THE FOLLOWING IS A VERY INTERESTING COLLECTION
OF 9/11 ‘COINCIDENCES’ BY JEFF WELLS:

• That governments have permitted terrorist acts against their own people, and have even themselves been perpetrators in order to find strategic advantage is quite likely true, but this is the United States we’re talking about.

• That intelligence agencies, financiers, terrorists and narco-criminals have a long history together is well established, but the Nugan Hand Bank, BCCI, Banco Ambrosiano, the P2 Lodge, the CIA/Mafia anti-Castro/Kennedy alliance, Iran/Contra and the rest were a long time ago, so there’s no need to rehash all that. That was then, this is now!

• That Jonathan Bush’s Riggs Bank has been found guilty of laundering terrorist funds and fined a US-record $25 million must embarrass his nephew George, but it’s still no justification for leaping to paranoid conclusions.

• That George Bush’s brother Marvin sat on the board of the Kuwaiti-owned company which provided electronic security to the World Trade Centre, Dulles Airport and United Airlines means nothing more than you must admit those Bush boys have done alright for themselves.

• That George Bush found success as a businessman only after the investment of Osama’s brother Salem and reputed al Qaeda financier Khalid bin Mahfouz is just one of those things - one of those crazy things.

• That Osama bin Laden is known to have been an asset of US foreign policy in no way implies that he still is.

• That al Qaeda was active in the Balkan conflict, fighting on the same side as the US as recently as 1999, while the US protected its cells, is merely one of history’s little aberrations.

• The claims of Michael Springman, State Department veteran of the Jeddah visa bureau, that the CIA ran the office and issued visas to al Qaeda members so they could receive training in the United States, sound like the sour grapes of someone who was fired for making such wild accusations.

• That one of George Bush’s first acts as President, in January 2001, was to end the two-year deployment of attack submarines which were positioned within striking distance of al Qaeda’s Afghanistan camps, even as the group’s guilt for the Cole bombing was established, proves that a transition from one administration to the next is never an easy task.
That so many influential figures in and close to the Bush White House had expressed, just a year before the attacks, the need for a "new Pearl Harbor" before their militarist ambitions could be fulfilled, demonstrates nothing more than the accidental virtue of being in the right place at the right time.

That the company PTECH, founded by a Saudi financier placed on America's Terrorist Watch List in October 2001, had access to the FAA's entire computer system for two years before the 9/11 attack, means he must not have been such a threat after all.

That whistle-blower Indira Singh was told to keep her mouth shut and forget what she learned when she took her concerns about PTECH to her employers and federal authorities, suggests she lacked the big picture. And that the Chief Auditor for JP Morgan Chase told Singh repeatedly, as she answered questions about who supplied her with what information, that "that person should be killed," suggests he should take an anger management seminar.

That on May 8, 2001, Dick Cheney took upon himself the job of coordinating a response to domestic terror attacks even as he was crafting the administration’s energy policy which bore implications for America’s military, circumventing the established infrastructure and ignoring the recommendations of the Hart-Rudman report, merely shows the VP to be someone who finds it hard to delegate.

That the standing order which covered the shooting down of hijacked aircraft was altered on June 1, 2001, taking discretion away from field commanders and placing it solely in the hands of the Secretary of Defense, is simply poor planning and unfortunate timing. Fortunately the error has been corrected, as the order was rescinded shortly after 9/11.

That in the weeks before 9/11, FBI agent Colleen Rowley found her investigation of Zacarias Moussaoui so perversely thwarted that her colleagues joked that bin Laden had a mole at the FBI, proves the stress-relieving virtue of humour in the workplace.

That Dave Frasca of the FBI’s Radical Fundamentalist Unit received a promotion after quashing multiple, urgent requests for investigations into al Qaeda assets training at flight schools in the summer of 2001 does appear on the surface odd, but undoubtedly there’s a good reason for it, quite possibly classified.

That FBI informant Randy Glass, working an undercover sting, was told by Pakistani intelligence operatives that the World Trade Center towers were coming down, and that his repeated warnings which continued until weeks before the attacks, including the mention of planes used as weapons,
were ignored by federal authorities, is simply one of the many “What Ifs” of that tragic day.

• That over the summer of 2001 Washington received many urgent, senior-level warnings from foreign intelligence agencies and governments – including those of Germany, France, Great Britain, Russia, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Afghanistan and others – of impending terror attacks using hijacked aircraft and did nothing, demonstrates the pressing need for a new Intelligence Czar.

• That John Ashcroft stopped flying commercial aircraft in July 2001 on account of security considerations had nothing to do with warnings regarding September 11, because he said so to the 9/11 Commission.

• That former lead counsel for the House David Schippers says he’d taken to John Ashcroft’s office specific warnings he’d learned from FBI agents in New York of an impending attack – even naming the proposed dates, names of the hijackers and the targets – and that the investigations had been stymied and the agents threatened, proves nothing but David Schipper’s pathetic need for attention.

• That Garth Nicolson received two warnings from contacts in the intelligence community and one from a North African head of state, which included specific site, date and source of the attacks, and passed the information to the Defense Department and the National Security Council to evidently no effect, clearly amounts to nothing, since virtually nobody has ever heard of him.

• That in the months prior to September 11, self-described US intelligence operative Delmart Vreeland sought, from a Toronto jail cell, to get US and Canadian authorities to heed his warning of his accidental discovery of impending catastrophic attacks is worthless, since Vreeland was a dubious character, notwithstanding the fact that many of his claims have since been proven true.

• That FBI Special Investigator Robert Wright claims that agents assigned to intelligence operations actually protect terrorists from investigation and prosecution, that the FBI shut down his probe into terrorist training camps, and that he was removed from a money-laundering case that had a direct link to terrorism, sounds like yet more sour grapes from a disgruntled employee.

• That George Bush had plans to invade Afghanistan on his desk before 9/11 demonstrates only the value of being prepared.
• The suggestion that securing a pipeline across Afghanistan figured into the White House’s calculations is as ludicrous as the assertion that oil played a part in determining war in Iraq.

• That Afghanistan is once again the world’s principal heroin producer is an unfortunate reality, but to claim the CIA is still actively involved in the narcotics trade is to presume bad faith on the part of the agency.

• Mahmood Ahmed, chief of Pakistan’s ISI, must not have authorized an al Qaeda payment of $100,000 to Mohammed Atta days before the attacks, and was not meeting with senior Washington officials over the week of 9/11, because I didn’t read anything about him in the official report.

• That Porter Goss met with Ahmed the morning of September 11 in his capacity as Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has no bearing whatsoever upon his recent selection by the White House to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

• That Goss’s congressional seat encompasses the 9/11 hijackers’ Florida base of operation, including their flight schools, is precisely the kind of meaningless factoid a conspiracy theorist would bring up.

• It’s true that George HW Bush and Dick Cheney spent the evening of September 10 alone in the Oval Office, but what’s wrong with old colleagues catching up? And it’s true that George HW Bush and Shafiq bin Laden, Osama’s brother, spent the morning of September 11 together at a board meeting of the Carlyle Group, but the bin Ladens are a big family.

• That FEMA arrived in New York on Sept 10 to prepare for a scheduled biowarfare drill, and had a triage centre ready to go that was larger and better equipped than the one that was lost in the collapse of WTC 7, was a lucky twist of fate.

• Newsweek’s report that senior Pentagon officials cancelled flights on Sept 10 for the following day on account of security concerns is only newsworthy because of what happened the following morning.

• That George Bush’s telephone logs for September 11 do not exist should surprise no one, given the confusion of the day.

• That Mohamed Atta attended the International Officer’s School at Maxwell Air Force Base, that Abdulaziz Alomari attended Brooks Air Force Base Aerospace Medical School, that Saeed Alghamdi attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey merely shows it is a small world, after all.
Amoral America

• That Lt. Col. Steve Butler, Vice Chancellor for student affairs of the Defense Language Institute during Alghamdi’s terms, was disciplined, removed from his post and threatened with court martial when he wrote “Bush knew of the impending attacks on America. He did nothing to warn the American people because he needed this war on terrorism. What is...contemptible is the President of the United States not telling the American people what he knows for political gain,” is the least that should have happened for such disrespect shown his Commander in Chief.

• That Mohammed Atta dressed like a Mafioso, had a stripper girlfriend, smuggled drugs, was already a licensed pilot when he entered the US, enjoyed pork chops, drank to excess and did cocaine, was closer to Europeans than Arabs in Florida, and included the names of defence contractors on his email list, proves how dangerous the radical fundamentalist Muslim can be.

• That 43 lbs of heroin was found on board the Lear Jet owned by Wally Hilliard, the owner of Atta’s flight school, just three weeks after Atta enrolled – the biggest seizure ever in Central Florida – was just bad luck. That Hilliard was not charged shows how specious the claims for conspiracy truly are.

• That Hilliard’s plane had made 30-round trips to Venezuela with the same passengers who always paid cash, that the plane had been supplied by a pair of drug smugglers who had also outfitted CIA drug runner Barry Seal, and that 9/11 commissioner Richard ben-Veniste had been Seal’s attorney before Seal’s murder, shows nothing but the lengths to which conspiracists will go to draw sinister conclusions.

• Reports of insider trading on 9/11 are false, because the SEC investigated and found only respectable investors who will remain nameless involved, and no terrorists, so the windfall profit-taking was merely, as ever, coincidental.

• That heightened security for the World Trade Centre was lifted immediately prior to the attacks illustrates that it always happens when you least expect it.

• That Hani Hanjour, the pilot of Flight 77, was so incompetent he could not fly a Cessna in August, but in September managed to fly a 767 at excessive speed into a spiraling, 270-degree descent and a level impact of the first floor of the Pentagon, on the only side that was virtually empty and had been hardened to withstand a terrorist attack, merely demonstrates that people can do almost anything once they set their
minds to it.

• That none of the flight data recorders were said to be recoverable even though they were located in the tail sections, and that until 9/11, no solid-state recorder in a catastrophic crash had been unrecoverable, shows how there’s a first time for everything.

• That Mohammed Atta left a uniform, a will, a Koran, his driver’s license and a ”how to fly planes” video in his rental car at the airport means he had other things on his mind.

• The mention of Israelis with links to military-intelligence having been arrested on Sept. 11 videotaping and celebrating the attacks, of an Israeli espionage ring surveillancing DEA and defense installations and trailing the hijackers, and of a warning of impending attacks delivered to the Israeli company Odigo two hours before the first plane hit, does not deserve a response. That the stories also appeared in publications such as Ha’aretz and Forward is a sad display of self-hatred among certain elements of the Israeli media.

• That multiple military war games and simulations were underway the morning of 9/11 – one simulating the crash of a plane into a building; another, a live-fly simulation of multiple hijackings – and took many interceptors away from the eastern seaboard and confused field commanders as to which was a real hijacked aircraft and which was a hoax, was a bizarre coincidence, but no less a coincidence.

• That the National Military Command Center ops director asked a rookie substitute to stand his watch at 8:30 am on Sept. 11 is nothing more than bad timing.

• That a recording made Sept 11 of air traffic controllers’ describing what they had witnessed, was destroyed by an FAA official who crushed it in his hand, cut the tape into little pieces and dropped them in different trash cans around the building, is something no doubt that overzealous official wishes he could undo.

• That the FBI knew precisely which Florida flight schools to descend upon hours after the attacks should make every American feel safer knowing their federal agents are on the ball.

• That a former flight school executive believes the hijackers were ‘double agents,’ and says about Atta and associates, “Early on I gleaned that these guys had government protection. They were let into this country for a specific purpose,” and was visited by the FBI just four hours after the attacks to intimidate him into silence, proves
he’s an unreliable witness, for the simple reason there is no conspiracy.

- That Jeb Bush was on board an aircraft that removed flight school records to Washington in the middle of the night on Sept 12th demonstrates how seriously the governor takes the issue of national security.

- To insinuate evil motive from the mercy flights of bin Laden family members and Saudi royals after 9/11 shows the sickness of the conspiratorial mindset.

- Le Figaro’s report in October 2001, known to have originated with French intelligence, that the CIA met Osama bin Laden in a Dubai hospital in July 2001, proves again the perfidy of the French.

- That the tape in which bin Laden claims responsibility for the attacks was released by the State Department after having been found providentially by US forces in Afghanistan, and depicts a fattened Osama with a broader face and a flatter nose, proves Osama, and Osama alone, masterminded 9/11.

- That at the battle of Tora Bora, where bin Laden was surrounded on three sides, Special Forces received no order to advance and capture him and were forced to stand and watch as two Russian-made helicopters flew into the area where bin Laden was believed hiding, loaded up passengers and returned to Pakistan, demonstrates how confusing the modern battlefield can be.

- That upon returning to Fort Bragg from Tora Bora, the same Special Operations troops who had been stood down from capturing bin Laden, suffered a unusual spree of murder/suicides, is nothing more than a series of senseless tragedies.

- Reports that bin Laden is currently receiving periodic dialysis treatment in a Pakistani medical hospital are simply too incredible to be true.

- That the White House went on Cipro September 11 shows the foresightedness of America’s emergency response.

- That the anthrax was mailed to perceived liberal media and the Democratic leadership demonstrates only the perversity of the terrorist psyche.

- That the anthrax attacks appeared to silence opponents of the Patriot Act shows only that appearances can be deceiving.

- That the Ames-strain anthrax was found to have originated at Fort Detrick, and was beyond the capability of all but a few labs to refine, underscores
the importance of allowing the investigation to continue without the
distraction of absurd conspiracy theories.

• That Republican guru Grover Norquist has been found to have aided
financiers and supporters of Islamic terror to gain access to the Bush
White House, and is a founder of the Islamic Institute, which the Treasury
Department believes to be a source of funding for al Qaeda, suggests
Norquist is at worst, naive, and at best, needs a wider circle of friends.

• That the Department of Justice consistently chooses to see accused 9/11
plotters go free rather than permit the courtroom testimony of al Qaeda
leaders in American custody looks bad, but only because we don’t have
all the facts.

• That the White House balked at any inquiry into the events of 9/11,
then starved it of funds and stonewalled it, was unfortunate, but since
the commission didn’t find for conspiracy it’s all a non issue anyway.

• That the 9/11 commission’s executive director and “gatekeeper,” Philip
Zelikow, was so closely involved in the events under investigation that
he testified before the commission as part of the inquiry, shows only
an apparent conflict of interest.

• That commission chair Thomas Kean is, like George Bush, a Texas
oil executive who had business dealings with reputed al Qaeda financier
Khalid bin Mafouz, suggests Texas is smaller than they say it is.

• That co-chair Lee Hamilton has a history as a Bush family “fixer,”
including clearing Bush Sr of the claims arising from the 1980 “October
Surprise”, is of no concern, since only conspiracists believe there was
such a thing as an October Surprise.

• That FBI whistle-blower Sibel Edmonds accuses the agency of
intentionally fudging specific pre-9/11 warnings and harboring a
foreign espionage ring in its translation department, and claims
she witnessed evidence of the semi-official infrastructure of money-
laundering and narcotics trade behind the attacks, is of no account, since
John Ashcroft has gagged her with the rare invocation of “State Secrets
Privilege,” and retroactively classified her public testimony. For the sake
of national security, let us speak no more of her.

• That, when commenting on Edmond’s case, Daniel Ellsberg remarked
that Ashcroft could go to prison for his part in a cover-up, suggests
Eellsberg is giving comfort to the terrorists, and could, if he doesn’t wise
up, find himself declared an enemy combatant.
HIV, AIDS

It has been 25 years since this illness was clearly identified and considerable progress has been made in dealing with the disease. Huge dollars have been spent and huge dollars have ended up in the hands of the drug companies. The same American drug companies who have so reluctantly agreed to make life-saving drugs affordable to the world’s poor countries.

In America the treatment of a disease often takes a back-seat to what caused the disease in the first place. This stems from the American desire for a ‘quick fix’ which is also part of the reluctance to delve into the real reasons for other difficulties like, crime, terrorists, low voter turnout and more. The definitive reason for the AIDS epidemic is still unknown but there are some interesting theories. The leading theory, which just happens to let everyone off the hook, is that the virus was passed from monkeys in Africa and changed slightly so that it could do its deadly work. Some have said that the polio vaccine played a part, see ‘The River’ a very interesting book by Edward Hooper. Jim Moore, an American primate expert has concluded that the deplorable conditions that were forced upon Africans by colonists weakened their immune systems and made the transmission of the virus possible. Certainly contaminated needles and the reusing of needles in Africa, due to costs, contributed to the spread of the disease. Many people in Africa believe that AIDS was a deliberate attempt to kill black people by the whites. Considering what the whites did and are still doing to the people of Africa this is quite a reasonable belief. What seems certain is that the destruction of the natural world, that started with the white mans insatiable desire for all of Africa’s resources, contributed to the start of this disease.

An interesting thing about AIDS in America. While the rate of infection goes up and down in other countries, sometimes dramatically, in the US it has been stuck at 40,000 cases per year for over 15 years. Various government programs to change these numbers have failed to have a significant impact.

If the definitive reason for HIV AIDS is ever discovered, greed will no doubt have played an important role. I don’t think that it is a coincident that our species can existed for millions of years and just happen to be hit with something so new and deadly just as we started to wreck our natural world.
NICARAGUA

“It is a gross fabrication to claim that the contras are composed of democratic groups.... As I can attest, the ‘contra’, military force is directed and controlled by officers of Somoza’s National Guard.... During my four years as a ‘contra director, it was premeditated policy to terrorize civilian noncombatants to prevent them from cooperating with the Government. Hundreds of civilian murders, tortures and rapes were committed in pursuit of this policy, of which the ‘contra’ leaders and their CIA superiors were well aware.”


“In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.”

– Jose Narosky

“We have about 50% of the world’s wealth, but only 6.3% of its population.... Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity....”

– George Kennan, Director of US State Department Policy Planning Staff, 1948

“The first advice I’m going to give my successor is to watch the generals and to avoid feeling that just because they were military men their opinions on military matters were worth a damn.”

– JFK

“A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves.”

– Edward R. Murrow

More of the same. The Spaniards arrived in the early 1500s and set themselves up as the elite. They forced the indigenous people to do all the manual work as slaves and they kept all the wealth. This abuse continued for 300 years. There were the usual battles for independence in which the poor were talked into fighting and dying and the rich ended up running the country. In 1854 the US Navy bombarded the Nicaraguan town of San Juan del Norte

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because a port official had tried to charge American zillionaire Cornelius Vanderbilt a few dollars to keep his yacht in the harbor. This inspired an American from Tennessee to try and take over the country as he had always wanted to be king of somewhere. William Walker had previously tried to rule Mexico but failed and then retreated to California. At the time a war between the halves and the have-nots was raging in Nicaragua so Walker decided that he might have more luck there. The US Navy bombardment in 1854 was also helpful as the Nicaraguans now knew about American firepower. In May, 1855 he left San Francisco with some men and supplies. In Nicaragua he was joined by a few hundred more Americans and locals. They took the capital of the country, Granada and Walker became the king, just as he had always wanted. He installed a local puppet as ‘president’ and sure enough the American government immediately recognized his ‘government’.

Even back then rich Americans had their fingers in the Nicaraguan pie. The New York fat cat, Cornelius Vanderbilt had control over a shipping route from the east coast to the west coast of Nicaragua. This route avoided the long voyage around Cape Horn and was becoming a going concern as people sought the easiest way to the west coast of America. Because the takeover of Nicaragua was so easy, Walker was able to hire over a thousand American mercenaries for his proposed takeover of Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras. These mercenaries were shipped to Nicaragua for free by Vanderbilt who wanted to upgrade his route across Nicaragua by building a railroad to expedite his transport business. A competitor of Vanderbilt’s paid Walker big bucks for the rights to this railroad route as well as the money for more mercenaries. Vanderbilt was not pleased at being cut out of his railroad and got the American government to revoke its recognition of Walkers government. In
July 1886 Walker made himself president but he realized, with Vanderbilt as an enemy, that he needed more support. He then decided to revoke the Nicaraguan law against slavery that had been passed more than 30 years previously. This action attracted the support of many in the southern US who wanted a return to slavery, somewhere. The Central American states, that he had hoped to conquer, were aware of his plans and worked to make sure that he was never successful. He continued to try and be king somewhere but was shot by a firing squad in Honduras when he was 36.

After Walker various similarly unstable governments ruled Nicaragua, 14 by the time a guy named Zelaya showed up in 1893. Zelaya was a liberal and for that the US government figured he had to go. Zelaya was also trying to protect the natural resources of Nicaragua and that was not popular with the US either. In November 1909, after providing support to Zelaya’s conservative opposition, the US sent warships to Nicaragua. Zelaya was forced to step down and was replaced by 14 conservative puppets as Americans went on to rule the country for the next 24 years. This government lasted until 1933 and was backed up by US marines. The American attitude towards the western hemisphere was summed up by President Taft at this time with this comment, “The day is not far distant when three Stars & Stripes at three equidistant points will mark our territory: one at the North Pole, another at the Panama Canal and the third at the South Pole. The whole hemisphere will be ours in fact as, by virtue of our superiority of race, it already is ours morally.”

From 1927 until 1933 Nicaraguan General Sandino fought a guerilla war with the US backed conservative government forces and the US marines. He was successful and the US marines left in 1933. The US marines do not like to mention this defeat. In 1935, General Smedley Butler, who led the Marines into Nicaragua, said: “I was a high class muscle man for big business, for Wall Street and for the banks. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism – I helped purify Nicaragua for an international banking house.” During the years that America ran the country they established the Guardia Nacional which was a military/police force paid for and supplied by America to protect American interests. With the withdrawal of the marines the US put three people in charge of the

General Sandino (center) successfully fought American intervention in his country and was considered a hero as a result. The Sandinistas named themselves after him.
presidency. The American puppet, Anastasio Samoza Garcia, a figurehead Carlos Jarquín and the man the people revered, General Sandino who had fought for their independence. On the 21st of February 1934, Samoza had General Sandino murdered. Samoza then used the American military/police force to murder peasants and Sandinistas, the Sandinistas being supporters of General Sandino. In 1936 he eliminated the elected government and with US support remained a dictator until 1956. He was a corrupt and brutal leader who did nothing for the poor, while lining the pockets of his friends and himself. After more than 20 years of this behavior he was shot and killed by a young man willing to sacrifice his life to rid his country of this dictator. His killer was the poet Rigoberto López Pérez who was killed on the spot by Samoza’s guards.

With American backing Samoza’s two sons succeed him and continued in their father’s footsteps which were to take care of their friends and put millions in their own pockets. One became the dictator while the other had the real power as he headed the Guardia Nacional. The dictator’s bother died of a heart attack in 1967 and the other brother took over but the people of Nicaragua were getting fed up with a president who was no more than a kleptocrat.

Carlos Fonseca Amador formed the Sandinista National Liberation Front in 1961 to lead the people out of this morass. Tragically the American government that had made the miserable decades possible under the Samoza’s decided to aggressively fight the Sandinista’s as they tried to reclaim their country. Initially it was difficult to get the support of the people due to the power and fear of the Guardia Nacional but a natural tragedy was to help change all that. In December 1972 a strong earthquake killed 20,000 people in Nicaragua and left 250,000 people homeless. Foreign aid poured in but the Guardia Nacional pilfered most of it. Samoza then sold the aid food and supplies to the highest bidder and kept the cash. This corruption, in the face of disaster, turned many more people against the Samoza kleptocracy. In January 1978 the pacifist editor of La Prensa, one of the few media outlets in the country that tried to tell the truth, was assassinated. His machine gun killers were never identified but in a previous letter to Samoza he wrote, “I am waiting, with a clear conscience, and a soul at peace, for the blow you are to deliver.”

US Special Forces training Samoza’s troops 1967.
This killing of a respected editor caused riots, a general strike and further anti-Samoza resentment. During the years between 1963 and the eventual Sandinista victory over Samoza in 1979 the country was in an undeclared war. The Cubans supported the Sandinistas while the Samoza troops supported the Americans against the Cubans. The American embassy in Nicaragua was always been very involved in the assistance to Samoza but things changed when Carter became President. He seemed more aware of all the damage America inflicted on Nicaragua over all those years and ordered a halt to Nicaraguan military shipments in 1978. Although this slowed Samoza down he continued to use murder and torture in an attempt to eliminate his enemies. During this conflict an estimated sixty thousand Nicaraguan citizens were killed while America did nothing to stop the violence. In July 1979 the Sandinistas were victorious while Samoza fled to Miami and then Paraguay. Initially the Sandinistas were popular because they were committed to land reform and reducing poverty. Although Samoza was gone, in 1980 he was killed in Paraguay by the Argentinean Revolutionary Workers’ Party, his ruthless Guardia Nacional were still operating in Nicaragua and still supported by America but now they were called the Contras.

Under Carter America tried to help Nicaragua but he failed to appreciate the hatred American actions had generated over the decades and he may have also failed to understand the extent of American damage to Nicaragua. In addition the Nicaraguans knew that America stood for the rich and they wanted a more equalitarian society. As it turns out they were right as the American paranoia regarding anything socialist or even worse, communist, along with the Nicaraguan fear of a reversion to the bad old days, was to put the two sides on a collision course.

In early 1981 Carter was gone and now the anti-communist President Reagan was running the show. He immediately launched into an aggressive,
deadly, unreasonable and often illegal war with a poor country. He stopped aid to Nicaragua and supplied more arms and training to the Contras who then attacked Nicaragua from bases in Honduras and Costa Rica. Using the CIA he tried to make the Sandinista government fail. Once again the American media, both liberal and conservative, failed to tell the Americans the truth and the Nicaraguans were to suffer and in many cases die. Reagan vowed to defeat the government and stated that they will be, “pressured until they say ‘uncle’”. Just why Reagan thought he could offensively attack a small country that never threatened America is unknown.

The CIA distributed a ‘Freedom Fighters Manual’ to the Contra’s which included information on how to commit economic sabotage, torture, murder, bribery, propaganda, blackmail and political assassination. The Contra’s are good students and proceed to follow the manual. On February 13th, 1983 President Reagan was asked, “Mr. President, have you approved of covert activity to destabilize the present government of Nicaragua?” To which he answers, “Well, no, we’re supporting them, the - oh, wait a minute, wait a minute, I’m sorry, I was thinking of El Salvador, because of the previous, when you said Nicaragua. Here again, this is something upon which the national security interests, I just - I will not comment.”

In early 1983-4 Reagan ordered an attack on Nicaraguan ports and oil facilities. The US laid magnetic mines outside Nicaraguan harbors and took other actions that wrecked havoc in the country. Nicaragua then sued the US in the International Court of Justice and won but the US ignored the verdict of the court and refused to pay Nicaragua the award ordered by the court. America is the only country
that has ever treated the International Court of Justice in this way. The courts award was confirmed by the UN General Assembly who further ordered the US to pay but instead of paying Reagan ordered a complete economic embargo of Nicaragua which caused further hardship. That embargo was to last five years while America continued to ignore the World Court and the UN. The American message was clear, ‘we know what is best for you and if you don’t do it our way thousands of you will die or starve’. America, spreading democracy and freedom far and wide!

A reinvigorated war emerged between the American supported Contras and the government of Nicaragua and its supporters. The killings, torture and destruction continued virtually unnoticed in the US until the death of an American, Ben Linder, killed by his own government at the hands of the contras. He was doing what Americans should have been doing in Nicaragua; helping the poor to make a better life but his death started an angry debate in America. Many Americans, who were blinded by their patriotism, condemned Linder for being in ‘a war zone’. America was not at war with Nicaragua why would it be? America was secretly undermining a government supported by the majority of the people, in many places this is called democracy but in Washing DC it was just what they wanted to do, secretly. The Nuremburg charter is an important document that America was instrumental in creating. Article 6 of that charter states that, “CRIMES AGAINST PEACE: namely, planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression,” are crimes and the individuals at the top are responsible. We didn’t hear much about the Nuremburg charter during the Reagan years and not surprising, it hasn’t been discussed during the Bush Jr. years either.

There was an election in Nicaragua in 1984 but it was sabotaged by Reagan. It was observed by a rightwing Dutch government observation team, a big delegation of Latin American scholars and US and British parliamentary human rights group and others. They regarded it as a pretty fair election, not perfect but fair by Latin American standards. Well Washington

Reagan choose to unleash illegal violence against poor countries rather than actually help them. He is still considered a hero by many Americans but he was actually an America President who didn’t know what he was doing.
didn’t want that election, so it got its own candidate to pull out. He happened to be on the CIA pay roll, surprise, surprise, and tried to de-legitimatize the election and claim that the election didn’t take place. Take a look at the American and European press during that time and they say there was no election, the first election was in 1990. That’s typically what America does when its hand-picked candidate is going to lose an election.

In 1984 Regan was re-elected but enough members of Congress voted for the Boland amendments and these forced the CIA to give less money to the Contras. The last amendment eliminated this ‘aid’ but CIA Director Casey was not about to bother with a directive from Congress. He hands the operation over to Oliver North, who illegally continued to supply the Contras with arms and supplies. Some of this money is from secret sources and some of it is pawned off as “humanitarian aid” from obscenely rich Americans like Adolph Coors and William Simon. Some of it is also from illegal, exploitive weapons sales to Iran which only goes to show that these ‘good’ guys don’t give a damn about anything other than how right they are. In 1986 Nicaragua shot down a C-123 transport plane loaded with arms for the Contra’s. The two dead pilots turn out to be CIA employees after the only survivor Eugene Hasenfus was arrested by the Nicaraguans. It also turns out that the airplane is owned by the CIA and the whole mess makes a mockery of Reagan’s claims that the CIA is not illegally arming the Contras.

Although any competent journalist could have written about Reagan’s illegal war the American media didn’t bother until the plane crash made it necessary to do so. As a result of the publicity Congress held hearings but CIA Director Casey died before he could be questioned and Oliver North lied under oath. North, like Reagan is also a hero to many Americans. In any case Congress never takes the steps they might have taken to prevent this from happening again. It would be ironic if America or Israel bombed Iran in 2007 and were shot down by the arms illegally sold to Iran by Oliver North.

In the meantime the people of Nicaragua were once again fed up with fighting and the associated pain and suffering and as a result a ceasefire was signed between the Sandinistas and Contras in March 1988. And so ended a war between the US and Nicaragua that meant nothing to most Americans and yet devastated thousands in this poor country. This ‘peace’ paved the way for
the elections in 1990. The Sandinistas lost the election in February 1990 because of, in order of importance, the suffering inflicted by America via the Contras, the American attempts to destabilize the country, the American manipulation of the media, the secret American efforts to infiltrate various government departments or personnel and the Sandinista mistakes which included putting too many resources into fighting the American threat. New governments have made progress in some important areas. Democracy has improved, the economy has improved, human right violations have been reduced, some state owed businesses have been privatized and the laws of the country are more likely to be obeyed by the government.

On Monday, April 17, 2006 the US Ambassador in Nicaragua met with right wing parties in the country to discuss their opposition strategy against Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega who was running in the November 5, 2006 presidential elections. Support for Ortega was growing, and many expected him to win the race. The US had called on Nicaraguans to not vote for Ortega. Therefore not much had changed; in spite of the decades of despair, created by America, nothing had been learned. America still believed that it had the right to actively meddle in countries large and small.

US envoy Paul Trivelli lobbied right-wing parties to join forces and pick a single right-wing candidate to represent them and America in the election. Having done so much in the past to defeat the Sandinistas America would hate to see Ortega elected now. Trivelli claimed he was only working to improve democracy in Nicaragua. He supports Eduardo Montealegre of the right-wing Nicaraguan Liberal Alliance but doesn’t want the Nicaragua’s to make that decision all by themselves. “We need a change. It’s been bad, bad, bad” said 60-year-old Sandinista war veteran Daniel Sauro as he referred to 16 years of pro-Washington governments that took power after Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega was defeated in 1990. “We need to give Ortega another chance to show he can govern in times of peace,” Sauro said.

These days the number of US military in Latin America exceeds the combined number of civilians in key federal agencies, aid, state departments
Amoral America

and others. Furthermore, the training of the Latin American military, which has frequently been under US control, has recently shifted from the State Department to the Pentagon. Note this will not make much difference. The State Department destroyed many legitimate governments in Central America, the Pentagon can probably do just as well, we may just never hear about it.

It is now mid 2006 and America is still trying to tell the people of Nicaragua how to run their own country. More than 20 years after they illegally and viciously overthrew a democratically elected government America still does not understand that they have no right to run Nicaragua. They do not understand that Nicaragua is NOT the USA. This fundamental truth is ignored by the ‘leaders’ of America due to their arrogance, ignorance and myopic vision for the world. A vision that has been so devoid of justice and equality, during the past 50 years that this is recognized virtually everywhere, by everyone except Americans, as an immense failure. One day America will come to realize that this is not the happy, peaceful planet that it could, and should be. Whether American’s will ever come to realize that they have been largely responsible for that state of affairs is doubtful. There is little doubt however, that billions of people in the rest of the world have come to that conclusion.

Nicaraguans suffered terribly for decades because of the lying, corrupt American leadership that forced them into a war that they never wanted. The tens of thousands of deaths and the destruction that evolved from the American policies have never been acknowledged and America never offered compensation for those tragic losses. Nicaragua has still not recovered from those American blows but even now America continues to meddle in the affairs of Nicaragua to ensure that the country does not stray too far from the path that America still insists Nicaragua must take. All the death and destruction in Nicaragua was for naught, America was never too concerned because this death and destruction was a burden to the people of Nicaragua, not the people of America. If America had tried to help Nicaragua, along the more equitable path that the people of Nicaragua wanted, they would both be more prosperous and the hatred many feel for America would be non-existent.

PS: Daniel Ortega was relected inspite of extensive America efforts to defeat him. In the last decade Central and South America have moved to the left as most people know or remember some of the underhanded America interventions that ruined so many lives.
Columbus explored the Atlantic coastline of what is now Panama in 1503 and was advised by the local inhabitants of the geography. This was the first time the Europeans became aware that this land might be an isthmus. Vasco Núñez de Balboa was the first European to trudge over to the Pacific side of the isthmus in 1513. Without this native knowledge and assistance it would have been many years before the Isthmus of Panama was discovered.

When Balboa confirmed the existence of another ocean, so close to the Atlantic, the Europeans soon came to understand that they could haul goods across this isthmus rather than go all the way around South America. Of course the Europeans didn’t do the hauling; the indigenous people were enslaved to move goods that the Spanish had seized from those very same people. The natives were also enslaved to mine the gold and silver in South America, the
metals that were all important to the Spanish. This stolen wealth was in stark contrast to the devastation of the indigenous peoples. By the late 17th century a number of the native cultures had all but disappeared. The ‘mines’ the natives were forced to work also included the looting of their ancestors graves for any gold and silver they might contain. Millions died as a result of this Spanish greed for precious metals.

The path across the isthmus of Panama waned as the strength of the Spanish empire waned. Although it was the shortest crossing it was subject to English and Dutch pirates as well as attacks by black slaves who had run away from their cruel Spanish masters and were now living in the jungle. As the capability of ships improved they increasingly sailed around South America. In 1831 the future Panama became part of Colombia. There were a number of attempts to change this status during the next few years but in 1846 the US and Colombia signed the Bidlack-Mallarino Treaty. This allowed the US to build railroads through Panama, the right to militarily assist Colombia against Panamanian revolts and it guaranteed that the US would recognize Colombian sovereignty of the isthmus. Between 1850 and 1903, the US used troops to suppress the people of this area who wanted independence and this caused significant anti-American feelings. These feelings stemmed not just from the US interventions but from the white US soldiers who mistreated the locals. This resulted in large-scale race riots that were ultimately quashed by the US Marines and the hanging, on August 18th 1885 of Pedro Prestan, the leader of the uprisings. Fifty eight locals were rounded up, tried for treason and shot, many were innocent but all were fighting foreigners in their own country.

An irrepressible Frenchman by the name of Ferdinand DeLesseps was instrumental in the successful building of the Suez Canal which opened on November 17th 1869. He went on to promote the building of the Panama Canal and due to the success of the Suez was able to raise millions from the French public. He received permission from the Columbian government to proceed with construction in May of 1878. The
Panama

Americans also understood the importance of a canal that could save almost 10,000 miles of ship travel. They launched an expedition across the narrowest part of the isthmus in 1870 but it ended disastrously. Of the 27 men on the expedition eight died during the 49 days and the remainder were near death at the end of their travels. The leader of this American fact-finding trip, Isaac Stain survived but weighted just 75 pounds after his 49 days in the jungle. He died in Colon (the town on the Atlantic side) a few years later at age 36.

The Americans then decided that a route through Nicaragua or Mexico would be better because it would be closer to the US and many of the people pushing for those specific routes had vested interests in those areas. In the meantime DeLesseps had raised all the money he needed, so he thought, and work started in 1881. The French investing public had been assured by DeLesseps that canal building at Panama was, “perfectly well known”, when in fact he knew nothing about the upcoming difficulties. He planned on building a sea level canal without knowing that the land on the canal route rose to 339 feet. So 360’ of mountainside had to be removed to allow for a canal 21’ deep. This was an impossible amount of material to remove, even with the most powerful equipment available. He and his staff also knew next to nothing about the diseases which were to decimate their work crews. By the summer of 1881 the French were beginning to die from Malaria, the largest killer and Yellow Fever, the most feared killer. Various doctors had suggested that the mosquito infected people with Yellow Fever, as early as 1854, again in 1881 and 1882 and their ‘proof’ was actually irrefutable but the ‘experts’ rejected this information because it didn’t come from them.

This arrogance was to cause many mothers to despair when their sons failed to return home. The French actually exacerbated the situation by putting decorative plants in trays of water to stop ants from eating the plants. These trays of water were ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes close to where people could get infected.

As the French proceeded to double and triple their estimate of earth that needed to be excavated, the budget also doubled and tripled. In 1883 approximately 200 laborers a month were dying and by then the French had lost almost 2,000 of their own, many of them bright, young, enthusiastic, engineers. By October, 1884 there were over 19,000 workers of whom over 16,000 were black, many from Jamaica. In 1885 thirty-three Italian workers arrived and twenty-seven were dead in three weeks.

During the next several years the work and the

Ferdinand DeLesseps was the builder of the Suez Canal who thought he could build a canal on the Isthmus of Panama. He formed a French syndicate to build a sea level canal in 1881. Disease, his flawed sea level plan and lack of money resulted in failure on February 4, 1889.
deaths continued. The deception regarding the amount of material removed and the amount it would cost continued however these weaknesses were becoming more apparent. As this became better known, the banks and investors retreated and finally a stock issue could not be sold. The end came on February 4th, 1889. One million people in France lost money, some all they had and of course there were a few who made fortunes. The death toll was to reach over 20,000, the money spent was three times the Suez canal or 1.5 billion francs, $300 million USD. Fifty million cubic meters of earth and rock had been removed, equal to approximately 20% of the amount required for a lock canal.

On September 6th, 1901 the American President William McKinley was shot and his VP Theodore Roosevelt became President. Roosevelt at age 42 was young, brash and an empire builder. Roosevelt regarded a canal that could avoid the voyage around South America, as the most important construction project facing America and he took a personal interest in getting that job done. He wanted to, “see the United States as the dominant power on the shores of the Pacific Ocean.” He also wanted an American canal under American control.

Since the start of the French canal building in 1881 various Americans, with vested interests, had put a lot of effort into a Nicaraguan canal. Their promotion efforts had taken 10 years and the American public opinion had fallen into line behind this other canal and changing these opinions over to a Panama Canal was going to be difficult. Roosevelt wanted the canal built in the best place and the French investors wanted to get some money back from the Americans when they sold their Panama rights to them. An American commission concluded that Panama would be the best place for a canal but America did not have an agreement with Colombia. That should not have been a problem as the government of Colombia also wanted the canal built there. The Colombian government went on to say, “Everything in the way of a concession the United States needs to warrant it in undertaking to build the Panama Canal.”
Panama

Canal, Colombia is willing to grant.”

In January 1902 the Americans agreed to pay the French $40,000,000 for the work they had already done and the equipment they had left behind. If a canal zone 6 miles wide could not be negotiated with Colombia within, “a reasonable time” the President was to proceed with the canal at Nicaragua. The Colombians suggested that $10,000,000 compensation for America to pay for the Canal Zone would be satisfactory. Due to the time required to get correspondence to Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, and back to the American capital, as well as the civil war Colombia was waging at the time, the negotiations with the Colombians were very slow.

In the fall of 1902 Roosevelt sent US troops to Colombia (Panama) to secure the trans-isthmus railroad without permission from the Colombians, a clear violation of the 1846 American treaty with Colombia. The Colombians also thought that they should be dealing with the French and that the French could not assign their rights to the Americans without their consent. On January 21, 1903 the Colombian negotiators signed a treaty with their American counterparts. The US Senate ratified it on March 17th. The treaty provided for a zone 6 miles wide, for 100 years, renewable at the option of the US. The US was to pay Colombia $10 million plus $250,000/year rent. Colombian sovereignty was specifically recognized in Article IV.

The Colombian Congress in Bogotá was not willing to ratify the treaty. They didn’t like the perpetual lease; they thought the $250 thousand per year insufficient as that was what the small isthmus railroad was already paying Colombia. On June 13th while the Colombians were still kicking things around the New York World newspaper published a remarkable letter which was planted by the White House. It stated that Roosevelt was proceeding with the canal, at Panama, period. That the Colombian government was greedy and that they had worked themselves into a frenzy over sovereignty. The letter also stated that the State of Panama would secede from Colombia if the Colombian Congress failed to ratify the treaty and that America would recognize this new country. The American politicians who were in such a big hurry to push the Columbians into an agreement failed to realize that Colombia was a democratic country that had to talk about this issue and that this was taking time. Another problem was that many French and American big wigs were in line for some of

The French were inhibited by machinery that was far too small for the job and plans for a sea level canal that were far too ambitious.
the $40 million and they wanted the deal to proceed, now. There were further misunderstandings as the Americans continued to assume that the money to be paid to Colombia would go right into the pockets of a few crooks.

In August the Colombians rejected the Treaty. On the 28th Roosevelt settled on three possible actions, to forget Panama and proceed with Nicaragua, to delay work until they had a treaty or to proceed with the Canal and fight with Colombia if she objected. While these decisions were being made a few prominent Colombians from the state of Panama decided that they would rather be big wheels in the country of Panama than small wheels in the country of Colombia. They held a meeting in Colombia along with some prominent Americans to formulate a plan. The plan included one of them going to the US, talking with American Secretary of State Hay and ensuring that their proposed revolution, to take Panama out of Colombia, would have American financial and military backing.

The wheeling and dealing continued with the principal players attempting to get the situation to unfold as they wanted it to. The revolution against Colombia was also gaining support because those who had the most to lose were in far off Bogotá and unaware of these machinations. American support for this revolution was critical but in fact America supported the revolution because they would have control over the Canal Zone, as if it were American territory. The three men most involved were Secretary Hay, President Roosevelt and the Frenchman Bunau-Varilla, who was working to get the millions of US dollars for himself and the French investors but only the rich French investors. Together these three conspired with the movers and shakers from the Colombian state of Panama to overthrow the local authorities with American military help. The Colombians got word of this plot and sent troops to Panama but the Americans were able to isolate them by judiciously making the railroad cars inaccessible at the right times. America sent ships to both the Pacific and Atlantic side of Panama and skillfully convinced the Colombians that there was no problem and they left.

There had been no doubt, in the fifty seven years since America signed the treaty with Colombia recognizing Colombia’s sovereignty, that this part of the world was Colombia’s. Now due to Roosevelt’s impatience and his desire for an ‘American’ canal in a separate country ‘run’ by America, the legally binding treaty was abandoned. Colombia was unable to respond to the American naval and military strength and the Colombians from Panama who had thrown in with them.

In November 1903 Secretary Hay and Bunau-Varilla conspired together to remove Panama from Colombia.
Secretary Hay and Bunau-Varilla signed a Treaty named after them, shortly after ‘Panama’ declared its ‘independence’. This treaty gave America everything it wanted including the rights to the Canal Zone in “perpetuity.” The former Colombians, that had supported the revolution, hesitated to accept all of the American demands. They were then told to forget the whole thing and that they could now deal with the Colombians. This was not going to work as they were now considered traitors. It was obviously impossible for them to start negotiating a better deal for the new country of ‘Panama’ so they complied with the American demands.

Many Americans, in on this process, thought that America had behaved badly although Americans in general supported Roosevelt. During a cabinet meeting as Roosevelt sought to justify his actions he asked, “Have I answered the charges? Have I defended myself?” Elihu Root, the Secretary of War who must have been a pretty sharp character responded, “You certainly have Mr. President, You have shown that you were accused of seduction and you have conclusively proved that you were guilty of rape.”

But it was not a complete victory for the Americans. Many countries, particularly in South and Central America came to distrust America. Millions in other countries also came to learn that America would put her interests before the interests of those she could have protected.

America went ahead and completed this remarkable canal project which is told much more fully in the outstanding book, ‘The Path Between the Seas’ but our story of American politics in Panama is not quite over. With complete control over the Canal Zone, America was the dominant force in all of Panama. Although the canal was well run the country was not a democracy and America has not changed that since 1903.

Dr. Arnulfo Arias Madrid was President three times but was overthrown by the military each time. The last time, in 1968, he was replaced by Brigadier General Omar Torrijos. Torrijos did support the poor Panamanians by instituting a range of social and economic reforms that improved life for the poor which made him the first leader in Panama’s history to do so. His government was also a

Brigadier General Torrijos was killed by American agents when he put his own country ahead of American interests. He made significant land reforms, advances in health care and public works but he had socialist leanings and communicated with Castro so he had to go.
dictatorship plagued by corruption and nepotism. This created huge public debt problems which exacerbated the corruption. He was ruthless with those who opposed him and over time he became less and less popular with America.

He negotiated a Canal Treaty with President Carter in 1977 that allowed the Canal Zone to be gradually turned over to Panama. This treaty allowed America the permanent right to protect the neutrality of the Canal. If America had not allowed Panama to resume control of the Canal Torrijos was prepared to blow it up. America was not about to be told what they must do in the canal zone so Torrijos was himself blown up by American supported agents who planted a bomb in his aircraft on August 1st 1981. American interests also wanted to get rid of Torrijos because he was putting Panama’s interests ahead of American interests.

Manuel Noriega was the next military leader who took over in 1983. He had first met with CIA director George Bush Sr. in 1976 but Noriega had been on the CIA payroll since the 1960’s. In 1976 Bush Sr. increased Noriega’s ‘pay’ to over $100,000 a year when he knew that Noriega was involved in drug trafficking. Bush Sr. not only gave Noriega a raise but he dropped the requirement that intelligence reports on Panama include information on drug trafficking. With American support Noriega became the head of Panama’s military in August 1983.

Initially Noriega cooperated with the Americans by providing a home for the deposed Shah of Iran. He also worked with CIA and Israeli arms dealers to provide arms to the Contra’s based in Costa Rica. Noriega was also a graduate of the infamous ‘School of the Americas’ now called, ‘the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation’, at Fort Benning, Georgia. The name was changed because ‘School of the Americas’ is easy to say and is also recognized around the world as a training ground for despots. Therefore they picked a new name that would never roll off the lips of protestors.

In 1984 Noriega held peace talks in Panama for various Latin American leaders. Reagan was not happy with this move as he didn’t want peace until he had finished with the various socialists (Sandinistas) he opposed in Nicaragua. The peace talks also called for America to stop meddling in Central American affairs. Reagan certainly wasn’t about to have Noriega
stirring up trouble so decided he had to go. Noriega tried to maintain the popularity that Torrijos had with the poor but America made that impossible. Noriega was also involved in making big bucks off the drug trade. America was aware of that but continued their support. Not only that but the American Drug Enforcement Agency said in 1986, “that Noriega had a vigorous anti drug trafficking policy”, and that they, “welcomed their close association” with Noriega, one of the good guys!

But all was not well with Noriega and the US. The US wanted more help from Noriega with their secret war in Nicaragua. The control of the Canal was being turned over to Panama and the people taking control were not always the people America wanted. To decrease Noriega’s popularity with the poor, the US imposed economic sanctions, which Noriega couldn’t fix, so over time he lost the support of the poor. America sent additional troops to Panama and they hassled the Panamanian people in the hopes of creating an international incident which would give them an excuse to invade. America tried a coup against Noriega but this failed so America sent in 20,000 troops on midnight, December 19th 1989. This invasion called “Just Cause” hit 27 targets at midnight, many in crowded civilian areas. After 4 hours of shelling troops moved in and called for the surrender of the people. At 6:30 that morning troops threw incendiary devices into homes which were obviously not military targets. 18,000 people fled these areas and they were put in US detention centers. 7,000 were arrested and held without charge or trial. During the first three days of this invasion the National Human Rights Commission of Panama estimated that 4,000 Panamanians were killed, the majority unarmed civilians. The US military took many steps to minimize the knowledge of these deaths, such as burning bodies or burying them without documentation or identification. Several months after the invasion over a dozen mass graves were dug up. 20,000 Panamanians lost their homes as a result of this invasion, most of them in poor areas. US mainstream media reported it almost exclusively as an attempt to capture Noriega. The deaths of the innocent men, women and children were rarely mentioned. The invasion was clearly illegal as it was a violation of the UN charter and the OAS charter. That determination was made everywhere, but in the USA.

This was also the time to ‘demonize’ Noriega and let the world know what a really bad guy he was. Bush Sr. told the world that Noriega was the “drug related dictator of Panama” without mentioning
that he had been on the CIA payroll for over a
decade. The American media had failed to criticize
the Noriega elections, while lambasting Sandinista
elections that were far fairer but the tables had
turned and now Noriega, “the best goddamn
friend the DEA has in all of Latin America”
was surrounded by US troops. The mainstream
media in the US all supported the invasion but
on December 29th the UN voted on a resolution
that was overwhelming supported. They said, in
part, that this invasion was, “a flagrant violation of
international law” however the US vetoed both the
resolutions, naturally!

Noriega was captured and flown to Miami to
face numerous charges in 1992, almost all of which
occurred when he was on the CIA payroll. The
ʻjustice department’ that was prosecuting Noriega
had to completely alter their case several times.
They used numerous drug dealers as witnesses who
contradicted each other but they were given cash,
had their charges dropped or sentences reduced, in
order to nail Noriega. He was nailed in September
1992 and sentenced to 40 years so he is still in jail
in Miami. Noriega thought that the trial would
work out differently for him as he had George
Bush Sr. “by the short hairs” which was a reference
to various illegal activities committed
by the Americans. This information was
not allowed to emerge during the trial. Noriega has
written a book, ‘America’s Prisoner’ and the facts
were confirmed by Peter Eisner, a Latin American
correspondent for Newsday. The conclusion,
Noriega may not have been a saint but Reagan and
Bush Sr. look far worse, check it out.

On the day that Panama was invaded America
lifted a ban on loans to Iraq when the atrocities
were much worse than anything in Panama. After
the invasion President Bush Sr. announced a billion
dollars in aid to Panama. Over half of the money
went to American business interests in Panama.

After Noriega the US installed a new President
and vice-President who were both very unpopular
at the end of their terms. The US also passed a law in American that said the US could maintain a military in Panama indefinitely because Panama wasn’t up to the job. Then in May 1999, Mireya Moscoso won the job as she was well known as the widow of former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid, the man who had been President of Panama three times. This first woman President of Panama started out with huge support but this faded as the corruption of her government became apparent. After being elected she gave watches to all 72 members of her government worth $146,000.00. At over $2,000 each, duty free, these were probably nice watches. It seems fair to state that Ms. Moscoso had a difficult time relating to the poor of Panama but she lasted for her entire term because she was good at relating to American needs.

Next up was Martin Torrijos, the son of Omar Torrijos, the man who helped the poor but had many relatives on the payroll. His son is a good American ally and pushed through American styled policies, such as privatizing the Panamanian water system but the people voted for him anyway. He is very aware of the dangers of being too independent. He is currently, as of 2006, President of Panama.

Although the Canal runs smoothly and handles more traffic each year the country still suffers from the inequality that is at the heart of Panama’s problems. Panama was manipulated by the Americans for their benefit and many in Colombia and Panama have not forgotten that, or the deaths of so many innocents during the US invasion. They also realize that it is not possible to have zillionaires in Panama and still eliminate poverty. The rich don’t care but many of the poor hate America for sustaining such a system and allowing a war to ravage their country.
The Philippine-American War was America’s first significant war in Asia. It was started, by the Americans, on February 4, 1899, just a few months after the end of the Spanish-American War in Cuba. A war supposedly fought to free the Cubans from their Spanish oppressors. The Cubans and the Filipinos had been fighting for their independence from Spain for years and neither wanted to change from the Spanish oppressor to a new one. This war for the ‘hearts and minds’ of the Filipinos was considered by many in America to be a civilizing mission. Some thought of it as benefiting people they believed to be racially inferior or incapable of governing themselves. From late 1898 until July 4, 1902,
when President Roosevelt officially declared the war over, 200,000 US soldiers served in the Philippines. Approximately 5,000 of them were killed in battle. Approximately 20,000 Filipino soldiers were killed as well as countless civilians.

Many of the American soldiers who survived came to think of this war in the same way that many American soldiers came to think of the Vietnam War, some 60 years later. Other similarities with Vietnam included reports of needless brutality provided, ironically, by the War Department. Their reports showed that for every Filipino wounded, fifteen were killed, a very unusual wounding to death ratio. During the American Civil War a more normal five soldiers were wounded for every one killed. Like current wars the military censored the news from the Philippines. Most of the American public didn’t really know what was happening however a few letters slipped through the censors. Here are some actual comments from those American letters home.

**A Corporal in the California Regiment**

“We sleep all day here, as we do our duty all night, walking the streets. We make everyone get into his house by 7 P.M., and we only tell a man once. If he refuses, we shoot him. We killed over three hundred men the first night. They tried to set the town on fire. If they fire a shot from a house, we burn the house down, and every house near it, and shoot the natives; so they are pretty quiet in town now.”

**Another soldier in the Nebraska Regiment**

“We came here to help, not to slaughter these natives; to fight the oppressor Spain, not the oppressed. It strikes me as not very fair to pursue a policy that leads to this insurrection, and then keep us volunteers out here to fight battles we never enlisted for. I cannot see that we are fighting for any principle now.”

**General Reeve, lately Colonel of the Thirteenth Minnesota Regiment**

“I deprecate this war, this slaughter of our own boys and of the Filipinos, because it seems to me that we are doing something that is contrary
to our principles in the past. Certainly we are doing something that we should have shrunk from not so very long ago.”

Charles R. Wigand, Company C, Washington Volunteers

“This war is something terrible. You see sights you could hardly believe, and a life is hardly worth a thought. I have seen a shell from our artillery strike a bunch of Filipinos, and then they would go scattering through the air, legs, arms, heads, all disconnected. And such sights actually make our boys laugh and yell, ‘That shot was a peach.’ A white man seems to forget that he is human....

Hasty entrenchments were thrown up to protect our troops from this fire, the bodies of many slain Filipinos being used as a foundation for this purpose, entrenching tools being scarce. Other bodies were thrown into the deep cuts across the road, and with a little top dressing of dirt made a good road again for the Hotchkiss gun serving with the left wing to advance to a position commanding the bridge, where the regiment was to force a crossing in the morning. Many other bodies were thrown into the trenches and covered with dirt, while others, scattered about in the woods and fields over which the battle-line swept, still remain unburied.”

Sergeant Will A. Rule, Co. H, Colorado Volunteers

“When you can realize four hundred or five hundred persons living within the confines of five or six blocks, and then an order calling out all of the women and children, and then setting fire to houses and shooting down any niggers attempting to escape from the flames, you have an idea of Filipino warfare.”

A. A. Barnes, Battery G., Third United States Artillery:

“The town of Titatia was surrendered to us a few days ago, and two companies occupy the same. Last night one of our boys was found shot and his stomach cut open. Immediately orders were received from General Wheaton to burn the town and kill every native in sight, which was done to a finish. About one thousand men, women, and children were reported...
killed. I am probably growing hard-hearted, for I am in my glory when I can sight my gun on some dark-skin and pull the trigger. Let me advise you a little, and should a call for volunteers be made for this place, do not be so patriotic as to come here. Tell all my inquiring friends that I am doing everything I can for Old Glory and for America I love so well.”

Rev. C. F. Dole writes: “I have a letter from a father in another State whose son is a soldier at Manila...”

“The longer I stay here, and the more I see and think of the matter, the more fully convinced I am that the American nation was and is making a blunder. I do not believe the United States is equal to the task of conquering these people, or even governing them afterwards.... I don’t think I would miss the truth if I said more non-combatants have been killed than actual native soldiers. I don’t believe the people in the United States understand the question or the condition of things here or the inhuman warfare now being carried on. Talk about Spanish cruelty, they are not in with the Yank. Even the Spanish are shocked. Of course I don’t expect to have war without death and destruction, but I do expect that when an enemy gets down on his knees and begs for his life that he won’t be shot in cold blood. But it is a fact that the order was not to take a prisoner, and I have seen enough to almost make me ashamed to call myself an American.’’

The brutality of America troops was also widely reported in various newspapers. This item appeared in the Philadelphia Ledger newspaper in 1901: “Our men have killed to exterminate men, women, children, prisoners and captives, active insurgents and suspected people from lads of 10 up. Our soldiers have pumped salt water into men to ‘make them talk’, and have taken prisoners people who held up their hands and peacefully surrendered, and an hour later stood them on a bridge and shot them down one by one, to drop into the water below and float down, as examples to those who found their bullet-loaded corpses.”

These letters, and reports, were collected and published by the Anti-Imperialist League which was formed in America by Americans opposed to the war in the Philippines.

Of course the major reason for the brutality during this war
Amoral America

was the American leadership which set the tone. General Jacob Hurd Smith certainly set the tone with many of his statements. He was an Indian fighter in America and fought at Wounded Knee, one of the great massacres during that struggle. General Smith is infamous for an incident during the war in the Philippine. After a previous massacre in the Philippines Smith was promoted to brigadier general. Prior to one of the battles Smith said, “kill everyone over the age of ten” and make the island “a howling wilderness.” Just to make sure his troops got the message Smith went on to say, “I want no prisoners. I wish you to kill and burn, the more you kill and burn the better it will please me. I want all persons killed who are capable of bearing arms in actual hostilities against the United States.” Some of the newspapers back home called him, ‘The Monster’ but that didn’t stop the killing which eventually resulted in the death of several hundred thousand Filipino civilians.

Emilio Aguinaldo was the Pilipino leader who had led the fight for independence against the Spanish since 1896. When America started its war with Spain and started fighting the Spanish in Cuba and in the Philippines Emilio thought that this would help him achieve independence for his country from Spain. When America made her intentions clear by deciding to keep the Philippines as a colony, Aguinaldo and his army of nearly 80,000 troops realized that his ‘American allies’ in the Spanish War would actually turn out to be enemies. The Filipinos, under General Aguinaldo had declared victory and proclaimed their independence from Spain on June 12, 1898. Aguinaldo was elected by the Filipino people and became the first President of the Philippines.

This declaration of independence and the democratic election were ignored by the American leadership as they coveted the Philippines for themselves. In order to end the aspirations of the people of the Philippines the Americans fired the first shot in the beginning of a very bloody war in February, 1899. Aguinaldo soon discovered that he was outgunned by a superior force and reverted to guerilla tactics to survive. Many of the American soldiers had previously fought in the American Indian wars where a good Indian was a dead Indian and they applied those sentiments to the Filipino guerillas. This led to many senseless slaughters in this battle between Imperialism and nationalism. On March 23, 1901 Aguinaldo was captured by US General Frederick Funston,
who had gained access to Aguinaldo’s camp by pretending to surrender to the Philippinoes. The General agreed to spare Aguinaldo’s life if he swore allegiance to the United States. Aguinaldo did so on April 1, 1901. Although a few others continued to resist, Aguinaldo’s surrender ended the Philippino-American War after which American ran the country. The US made English the official language; they disestablished the Catholic Church and moved thousands of Americans to the country to run things.

During the Second World War over 200,000 Philippinoes fought for the Americans and over one-half were killed. The Philippinoes were legally American nationals due to the fact that their country was a commonwealth member of the United States. As such these veterans were promised all the benefits afforded to those serving in the armed forces of the United States. In 1946, Congress passed the Rescission Act which stripped the Philippino veterans of the benefits they were promised. Of the 66 countries allied with the United States during the war, only the Philippinoes were treated in this way. Many of these veterans have fought for these benefits ever since but American has refused to provide them. Aguinaldo, who was briefly the President of the Philippines back in 1898 before being overthrown by the Americans did live to see his country finally achieve a type of American controlled independence in 1946.

The Philippinoes elected in 1946 were not allowed to take their seats because the US said that force had been used to manipulate the elections. America did withdraw its sovereignty over the Philippines on July 4, 1946, as scheduled. The Liberal party was elected with American manipulation and allowed the US equal access to Philippino natural resources as well as sites for 23 military bases for 99 years. These bases were subsequently used to launch attacks against China, Vietnam, Korea and Indonesia. Under this Liberal government ‘the Hucks’ were declared illegal and eventually defeated with American help. The Hucks were a group who wanted all foreigners out of the Philippines as well as more fairness for the people.

In the 1950s the CIA was very active in the country and supplied the Philippino forces they approved of, with hundreds of millions in military equipment. Elections in 1953 were controlled by the US. In 1965 Ferdinand E. Marcos was elected and he repeated this in 1969. Ferdinand Marcos began his career early. At age 21 he was convicted of gunning down his father’s victorious opponent in the Philippines first national elections. He went to jail but was later released by friends in high places.

Emilio Aguinaldo led the Philippino people against the Americans.
Despite his record as a murderer, a fake WWII hero and a Nazi agent he was elected President. Under Marcos, the national debt grew from $2 billion to $30 billion, but US corporate profits soared which explains why the US didn’t protest Marcos’s imposition of martial law in 1972. The Marcos’s lived lives of luxury in this poor country and stashed billions in Western banks during their US-backed rule between 1965 and 1986.

Even the Carter Administration arranged for millions in World Bank loans to Marcos. They increased military aid to him by 300% when the country was already awash in excessive military spending. The Americans regarded Marcos as a ‘soft dictator’ but a 1976 Amnesty International report identified 88 government torturers who had treated suspects by slamming their heads into walls, burning their genitals with torches and beating them with clubs, fists, bottles, and rifle butts. By 1977, the armed forces had quadrupled and over 60,000 Filipinos were political prisoners. Not to worry, in 1981, Vice President George Bush Sr. praised Marcos for his “adherence to democratic principals and to the democratic processes”. Once again America had backed the wrong guy. Marcos was overthrown in 1986 by followers of Corazon Aquino, widow of the assassinated opposition leader that Marcos supporters had killed.

The Marco’s were allowed to flee to America but were indicted in 1988 for fraud and tax evasion. Marcos died in 1989 but his wife Imelda returned to the Philippines in 1991 and ran for President in 1992. She was beaten soundly. In 1993 she was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for criminal graft and to other long sentences for corruption. She is still free while she appeals. She was elected to Congress in May 1995 and ran for President again in 1998 where she came 9th out of 11 candidates. The government is still trying to recover the billions that disappeared when Marcos was running things. So far only the lawyers have hit pay dirt.

America’s military intervention in the Philippines over 100 years ago was very similar to American’s intervention in Iraq today. It was claimed way back then and it was declared in the case of Iraq that the war was necessary to bring ‘democracy’ and ‘freedom’ to the invaded countries. American leaders in both conflicts declared that the wars would be over quickly and cost much less than...
they actually did. Both wars were declared ‘over’ or ‘mission accomplished’ when the end was nowhere insight. In both cases there were violations of human rights and the deaths of many civilians and in both cases America’s reputation suffered serious blows.

America is still trying to influence life in the Philippines. The government of the Philippines is happy to have American troops there as they are trying to deal with separation forces in the southwest of the country. In 2006 the US rejected a formal Philippine request to hand over 4 US marines charged with rape. The US routinely insists on a ‘Visiting Forces Agreement’ which precludes the country they are in from charging any American with anything. Also in 2006 an additional 5,500 US troops were to hold ‘war games’ in the Philippines. This was just one of 37 ‘war games’ planned by the US military that year.

It was just over 100 years ago that America sent troops to this independent foreign land that never threatened America. The ensuing violence resulted in approximately 1,000 American combat deaths however a total of 4,324 Americans died, mostly due to disease. An estimated 20,000 Philippino combatants were killed. One million Philippino civilians were either killed or died prematurely due to some war related cause. American arrogance and greed caused this catastrophe and it remains one of the reasons why so many people in the Philippines hate America.
TALENT ROBBERS

“To become informed and hold government accountable, the general public needs to obtain news that is comprehensive yet interesting and understandable, that conveys facts and outcomes, not cosmetic images and airy promises. But that is not what the public demands.”

– Eric Alterman

“The ruling elites know who their enemies are, and their enemies are the people, the people at home and the people abroad. Their enemies are anybody who wants more social justice, anybody who wants to use the surplus value of society for social needs rather than for individual class greed, that’s their enemy.”

– Michael Parenti

“We are the only advanced nation without a national system of subsidized health care.”

– Elliott Currie, ‘Crime and Punishment in America’

“American leaders are perhaps not so much immoral as they are amoral. It’s not that they take pleasure in causing so much death and suffering. It’s that they just don’t care, the same that could be said about a sociopath. As long as the death and suffering advance the agenda of the empire, as long as the right people and the right corporations gain wealth and power and privilege and prestige, as long as the death and suffering aren’t happening to them or people close to them, then they just don’t care about it happening to other people, including the American soldiers whom they throw into wars and who come home, the ones who make it back alive, with Agent Orange or Gulf War Syndrome eating away at their bodies. American leaders would not be in the positions they hold if they were bothered by such things.”

– William Blum

The wealth inherent to a country as well as the education of the people in that country largely determines the quality of life for those that live there. America was blessed with inordinate wealth in the form of abundant, unexploited resources and now has a relatively educated population. Unfortunately much of
the wealth intrinsic to America has been wasted; oil, minerals, lumber, fisheries and more have been squandered. Although this type of wealth remains significant in American she now imports vast amounts of oil, lumber, seafood and minerals as well as numerous other commodities that she once had in abundance. It appears that these imports will only increase as Americans continue to seek lives that are far more wasteful than necessary. The vast amount of money that now flows out of America to pay for these goods, as well as various American military adventures will continue to create greater and greater financial problems for America as the debt to others increases. In the long-term the importation of these goods will also create problems for the countries that are now so eager to sell their resources to America. Many of these countries will one day wish that they had the oil, lumber and minerals that they sold for so little back in 2006. They will also wish that they had the profits that went to the American companies, who exploited these resources in the first place.

The way the so-called developed world sucks resources out of the so-called third world is reprehensible because all too often the poor in those countries fail to benefit while a few foreigners may gain enormous wealth. Unlike the slave trade this trade is often done willingly between the rich and poor countries but only because the vast majority of the poor people in those countries had no say and of course received no benefits from this trade. It is also reprehensible because it allows the wealthy countries to ignore the future global shortages they create in these poor countries during their never-ending search for more wealth.

Another trade, that is just as devastating as the simple removal of wealth from the poor countries is the one-way trade in people that has been instead of actually helping marginalized hospitals, the rich counties often steal their best workers.

Two people in a bed is better than no bed at all.
actively encouraged by the world’s richer nations, particularly the US. These rich nations are fully aware of the damage they are causing but have done little to change these policies. America is, once again, the leader in this reprehensible trade which is actually a two-edged sword.

America and other rich nations actively seek foreign trained workers to do jobs in their countries. While at the same time America fails to train many of their own people. Young Americans would love to do these jobs if they could get the training they cannot afford due to the expenses associated with American higher education. Therefore the rich countries acquire a trained worker from a poor country, where they are desperately needed, while one of their own people remains untrained or underemployed.

There are now almost 200 million people living in a country other than their country of birth, the highest ever and this number is growing exponentially. Fifty million have joined these ranks in the last ten years. America tops the list with almost 40 million immigrants. Acquiring even more trained workers is a constant effort by many American companies. This wouldn’t be so bad if it weren’t all about money. The American companies who so actively seek these workers are not looking for just anyone. They seek only trained workers that America is not willing to train because that is simply more expensive that taking trained workers from poor countries. The immigrant is happy because they get to live in ‘rich’

Due to a lack of money relatives often camp outside hospitals and cook food for the patients.
America and live a ‘better’ life. America is happy because they get a trained worker for very little cost. Tragically the poor countries are further decimated, one trained person at a time.

These poor countries will simply never emerge from poverty and the other ills that plague them if their best and brightest are constantly urged to seek another life in a rich country. The exploitation of nurses is a good example. Although there are many American young people who would like a nursing career it takes some years to get the training and in America this is expensive. A nurse from a crowded central African hospital has many reasons to leave and seek a better life. They are often overworked, have poor equipment, inadequate medications and supplies to name just a few of the difficulties on top of poor wages. These nurses can change their lives for the better but their home countries suffer without them.

The New York Times reported that the Lilongwe Central Hospital in Malawi has 830 beds and is supposed to have 530 nurses. Due to more attractive jobs there are only 183 nurses left and only 30 of those are registered nurses. The seriously ill patients remain, of course, with insufficient care and a deteriorating situation.

In the Caribbean 40% of their university graduates live in richer countries, for Jamaica the percentage is 83. For Africa over 30% of the departing immigrants have a

The basic problem is that some people have next to nothing because others take too much. Consumption in America is often wasteful, needless and damaging to many others.

The critical shortage of staff here is worse because of the job offers in rich countries.
Amoral America

In many cases there is no hospital and the available staff are simply insufficient.

university education compared to less than 3% of the people they leave behind. It is easy to understand how the poor nations of the world will never emerge from their difficulties if the rich nations exploit their resources as well as their best people.

Most importantly, the rich countries are helping to ensure that the best and brightest from these poor countries will help to provide the rich countries with future leadership. Not the poor countries where the need for good leadership is so much greater. The poor countries will just have to fend for themselves as they watch their skilled workers and future leaders, which they have paid to train, go to a rich country that won’t even pay to train their own people. The future leaders that might have helped the poor country with poverty, corruption and other difficulties just won’t be there!! In this way the rich nations really rip-off the poor countries in two ways, of skilled workers and future leaders.

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<th>RICH COUNTRY</th>
<th>DOCTORS FROM ABROAD</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>% OF TOTAL</th>
<th>NURSES FROM ABROAD</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>% OF TOTAL</th>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>99,456</td>
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This enticement of hundreds of thousands of doctors, nurses and other trained professionals from the poor countries of the world has been done simply so that the rich countries could save themselves a few dollars. They have effectively robbed these poor countries of essential staff and most importantly, future leadership. They have also deprived many in their own countries from
being doctors, nurses and other skilled workers as a result of this greed. America and their good buddies in the UK have led the way in this theft from the poor. (see the Foreign Aid chapter for more info)

Many of these professionals leave their countries reluctantly but they are encouraged to do so simply because the conditions in their homelands are so poor. If the rich countries really helped improve conditions in these countries then even those reasons for leaving would be drastically reduced. While the West continues to exploit trained Africans and others those same countries are forced to pay high wages to expatriates who come to those countries from the West. Inexplicably those workers are paid much more than similarly qualified Africans.

For the money that the Americans have put into just one of their aircraft, the B-2 bombers, designed and used only to kill, America could have trained all the nurses and doctors they needed, as well as many of the doctors and nurses needed in Africa.

Is it any wonder that so many people in the world’s poor countries hate America and other rich countries for being so shortsighted and greedy??
TORTURE AND PRISONERS

“The detainees at Quantanamo are among the most dangerous, best-trained, vicious killers on the face of the Earth.”
– Donald Rumsfeld before over 400 detainees were released, after years of confinement, without charge.

“Nobody was killed at Abu Ghraib.”

“Shoot to kill.”
– Mayor Richard J. Daley’s orders to Chicago police during protests, 1968.

“Power always has to be kept in check; power exercised in secret, especially under the cloak of national security, is doubly dangerous.”
– William Proxmire

“We don’t torture people in America and people who say we do simply know nothing about our country.”
– George W. Bush, October 18, 2003

“Shamefully we now learn that Saddam’s torture chambers reopened under new management, US management.”
– Senator Edward Kennedy

“The US record of war crimes has been, from the nineteenth century to the present, a largely invisible one, with no government, no political leaders, no military officials, no lower-level operatives held accountable for criminal actions... Anyone challenging this mythology is quickly marginalized, branded a traitor or Communist or terrorist or simply a lunatic beyond the pale of reasonable discussion.”
– Carl Boggs

This book is about the hatred for America and how counter-productive the creation of that hate has been. Much of that hatred has been generated in other countries but America itself is not really different. Many Americans also hate their own country for the same basic reasons. They believe that they, or
someone that they know, has been treated too harshly or inequitably by their fellow Americans. The following is a bit of a mouthful but an important statistic. In America today (2006), the number of prisoners serving life sentences, with no chance of parole, for crimes they committed when they were juveniles, is approximately 2,000. On the rest of this planet the number of juvenile prisoners from all other countries, serving similar sentences, is less than 100. This single statistic encapsulates the real problem facing America today. The real reason America struggles in Iraq, has made itself the world’s policeman, has stood by while millions died and done nothing while over 2 million of their countrymen are imprisoned? America personifies an arrogant insensitivity to the suffering of others, an inability to relate to equality and an overwhelming desire for more ‘stuff’.

Many Americans today surrounded themselves with materialistic comforts and close their eyes to injustice and the suffering of others. They have done this to be ‘happier’ but it’s not working, for them, or those that are suffering. If this suffering becomes known to the ‘haves’, they often shut down and do nothing because they have developed a rationalization that they use to protect their consciences. This rationalization is to blame the victim without knowing the facts. When many Americans hear about a young black man sent to jail for life without parole they are able to say to themselves, ‘he probably deserved it’ and dismiss him from their minds. That response is simply incompatible with the caring, just and safe society most Americans want to have. As a result of this attitude Americans do not have that type of society and this insensitivity is growing while American society deteriorates. When America throws more of its citizens in prison the internal hatred in America will rise. Every one of those prisoners retains a hatred for America whether they are guilty or not. Prison is invariably a negative experience and it doesn’t work well for a great number of young men to have a long-term negative experience. Thirteen million Americans spend some period of time incarcerated each year. Right or wrong that generates a lot of hatred.

This process has resulted in 2.2 million Americans or approximately one resident in every 130 being convicted and incarcerated for more lengthy terms.
Prisons take in about 70% whereas jails take in the remainder. Many of the Americans in one of the 3,370 local jails have never been convicted and are simply waiting for trial. Those that are ‘assumed innocent until proven guilty’ make up over 60% of those in jail. The jail populations are increasing much faster than the prison populations but this means that prisons will continue to increase as many are transferred from jail to prison.

Maine, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Vermont and New Hampshire had the lowest incarceration rates but these rates vary enormously depending on where you are or whether you are black or white. In 2002, 83 white men per 100,000 were imprisoned in the District of Columbia (DC) whereas 2,432 black men per 100,000 were in jail, a 29.4 to 1 ration, the highest in the country. Interestingly the actual incarceration rates in DC were some of the lowest in the country. The Connecticut black to white ratio was almost 17 to 1, New Jersey and West Virginia were over 15 to 1. West Virginia also had the highest percentage of blacks in prison; over 15% of all blacks in WV were in jail. Hawaii and Idaho had the lowest black to white ratio at just over 3 to 1. North Dakota had one of the lowest black incarceration rates at just under 3% whereas South Dakota had one of the highest at 14%. This vast difference in incarcerations rates between two adjoining and similar states clearly illustrate how the policies pursued in various states can drastically affect the number of prisoners in those states.

These statistics are for men between 18 and 64 years of age. In that group 2,330 persons per 100,000 were in prison in 2002. This rate is 1790% higher than overall rate which shows that youngish men are much more likely to end up incarcerated than women. American men are also much more likely to receive violence training from the US military and security forces than women.

Of course numbers don’t tell the whole story. There are now over 7 million Americans under some form of correctional supervision including parole and probation. There has been almost as many people do prison time at some point in their lives. That represents one in 37 Americans, the highest number in the world, once again.

In 48 states prisoners are not allowed to vote. Only Maine and Vermont allow prisoners to vote. In 14 states former prisoners are denied a right to vote and that ban is for life. When you finish your sentence in those states you are not treated like a normal American. That means that 5 million Americans cannot vote and almost half of them are minorities. That’s one way to keep those black guys from voting the wrong way! If present trends continue one out of every three black men will spend some time in jail and never vote again if convicted in Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, Virginia, or Wyoming. Arizona and Maryland permanently ban those convicted of a second felony from voting; and Tennessee and Washington have permanently disenfranchised those convicted prior to 1986 and 1984, respectively. Sanford McLaughlin was disenfranchised for life in Mississippi because he pled guilty to the misdemeanor of passing a bad $150 check. There are many other silly examples. Not only do most Americans not value the vote.
for prisoners, they don’t value it for themselves. In the majority of US elections less than half the people vote.

In 12 states over 10% of the adult black men are in prison. In 12 states black men are imprisoned at rates that are more than 12 times the rate for white men. In 15 states black women are in prison at a rate between 10 and 35 times the rate for white women. In 6 states black youths are incarcerated at rates 7 to 16 times higher than white youths. Hispanic incarceration rates are also much higher than the white rates but not as high as the black rates. In the 25-29 age groups, an estimated 11.9 percent of black men are in prison or jails, compared with 3.9 percent of Hispanic males and 1.7 percent of white males.

During the 1990s when Bush Jr. was running Texas it had the fastest growing prison population in the country. By the time the Bush Jr.’s years were over, one in 20 Texans were either in jail, on parole or on probation. As the prison population boomed and the number of men on death row were executed in record numbers, Texas did not become crime free. Bush Jr. had over 150 men executed, more than any other governor in American history. In the year 2000 after Bush Jr. had moved on to the White House, the Texas murder rate was worse than 37 other states. Most of those states with lower murder rates than Texas don’t permit executions or haven’t done them for decades.

This Dept. of Justice graph shows that the number of white and black prisoners on death row is similar however it fails to take into account that there are 8 times as many whites in America.
In 1907 when prohibition got its start, the US homicide rate was 1/100,000. It grew dramatically during prohibition reaching 10/100,000 in 1933 when prohibition ended. It then dropped to 5/100,000 by 1943 and stayed there until 1965 when it started to climb again. That climb happened to coincide with the beginning of the ‘war on drugs’ that has been embraced by every President since Johnson. Those statistics show that the prohibition of booze and the prohibition of drugs result in much more crime and violence. Those prohibitions also happened and happen to be compete failures.

When America adopted its ‘get tough’ policy in 1972 it did not reduce violent crime, which stayed about the same for the next 20 years. What it did do was put almost a million more American men in jail and cost the taxpayers billions. The early 1970s was also the start of the ‘war on drugs’. This means that 80% of the men being sentenced to prison today are going to jail as a result of sentencing policies and not a higher crime rate. In fact crime rates in America are similar to Canada and Western Europe, except, for violent crime which is considerably higher. Most men are not in prison for violent crimes.
From these statistics it is clear that the death penalty is no deterrent
however this is a passionate topic for many in America so statistics are routinely
manipulated to present a particular point of view.

Twelve states plus DC do not have the death penalty.
Six states have the death penalty but have had no executions since 1976.
Thirty two states allow executions and all have had
at least one execution since 1976.

On the above graph the individual dots represents executions
but this is not very meaningful as the American justice system
may take 20 years to execute a condemned person.

The bottom existing line, starting on the left,
represents the murder rate in States with the
death penalty but no executions since 1976.

The middle connecting line starting on the left
represents the murder rate in states
with no death penalty.

The top connecting line represents the
murder rate in states with the death penalty.

The murder rate is highest in the states with
the death penalty but that won’t change
any minds in those states.

From these statistics it is clear that the death penalty is no deterrent
however this is a passionate topic for many in America so statistics are routinely
manipulated to present a particular point of view.
Property crime has been decreasing for over 30 years but most Americans think it is worse than ever and they put their ignorance where their wallets are. 49 states have increased prison spending faster than education spending in the past 26 years.
CALIFORNIA
Prisons vs. Education Spending

California is interesting because during 1980 to 2000 the state built 21 new prisons and 1 (one) new university. All this, during a period of declining crime rates. I can only assume that politicians were running the show. Even the guys running the prisons think this is crazy. “Let the system settle down . . . stop the growth. Get back to the basics of running the system, not just adding these 3,000 beds, those 5,000 beds, another 7,000 beds.” – former Corrections Director James Gomez testifying at the Corcoran prison hearings. Five students could attend university in California for the cost of incarcerating one prisoner. It costs over one-half million dollars to incarcerate one prisoner convicted under California’s ‘Three-Strikes’ law. The money spent on keeping just the ‘three-strikes’ guys in jail could send 51,000 students to California State University, each and every year. Crazy California, crazy!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
<th>PRISONS</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980 - 81</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999 - 00</td>
<td>$143.07</td>
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% CHANGE
1980 - 00 304% 1%

Per resident spending from California’s general tax revenues on prisons and on higher education.

ALASKA
Prisons vs. Education Spending

In spite of the vast oil wealth that Alaska has shipped to the lower 48, spending on higher education has actually dropped significantly. All these dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation but they show that Alaska is now spending almost as much on incarceration as higher education.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
<th>PRISONS</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>1980 - 81</td>
<td>$134.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999 - 00</td>
<td>$202.59</td>
<td>$284.02</td>
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% CHANGE
1980 - 00 50% Minus 46%

Per resident spending from this state’s general tax revenues on prisons and on higher education.
TEXAS
Prisons vs. Education spending
In 1980 Texas spent an amount equal to 15% of education spending on prisons. That amount is now equal to 53% of the amount spent on education. If it keeps going like this prisons will suck up more than higher education by 2027.

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<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
<th>PRISONS</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
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<td>1980 - 81</td>
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<td>$190.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999 - 00</td>
<td>$140.50</td>
<td>$263.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% CHANGE
1980 - 00  501%  37%

Per resident spending from Texas general tax revenues on prisons and on higher education.

NEW YORK
Prison vs. Education spending
New York City, the home of more billionaires and millionaires than any other state in America. The state actually spent less on higher education in 2000 than in 1980. They also spent less total money on higher education than on prisons. Unfortunately it is not the only American city to actually spend less on higher education than prisons. In 1980 New York spent 260% more on higher education than prisons; they now spend 12% less. To spend more on prisons than higher education is a sure-fire way to wreck your country.

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<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
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<td>$120.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995 - 96</td>
<td>$126.78</td>
<td>$132.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999 - 00</td>
<td>$152.91</td>
<td>$134.78</td>
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</table>

% CHANGE
1980 - 00  265%  Minus 10%

Per resident spending from New York's general tax revenues on prisons and higher education.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Prisons vs. Education
The home of the nation’s capital, congress, memorials, the national archives, museums, the White House and the federal government! This is the most warped spending in the entire country. During the entire 20 year period
prisons cost more than higher education but then maybe this makes sense, we’re talking Washington, DC. Higher education spending is now 45% of what it was back in 1980. Since Bush came to town higher education has seen the most precipitous drop. It is now just 16% of the amount spent on prisons. Has anyone noticed that this approach is not working?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
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<th>EDUCATION</th>
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<td>1980 – 81</td>
<td>$238.16</td>
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<td>1985 – 86</td>
<td>$435.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990 – 91</td>
<td>$515.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995 – 96</td>
<td>$543.46</td>
<td>$136.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999 – 00</td>
<td>$438.76</td>
<td>$74.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% CHANGE</td>
<td>184%</td>
<td>Minus 55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Per resident spending from DC’s general tax revenues on prisons and on higher education.

MINNESOTA
Prisons vs. Education

This state is the exception to every other state, way to go Minnesota! By a minuscule 3% Minnesota kept pace with its prison expenditures. Minnesota residents spent just 19% of what the District of Columbia residents spent on prisons in the year 2000. More importantly Minnesota spent 500% more on higher education than DC and this is obviously one of the reasons why they spent so much less on prisons. In looking over all this data it seems clear that some states just don’t understand the basics, education good, prisons bad.

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<td>1999 - 00</td>
<td>$84.99</td>
<td>$368.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% CHANGE</td>
<td>228%</td>
<td>231%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Per resident spending from Minnesota general tax revenues on prisons and on higher education.

OHIO
Prisons vs. Education

Ohio has gone backwards more than any other state and increased the amount spent on prisons by almost 600% in 20 years. Although higher education spending has also increased, only a large chunk of dough in 1999 prevented prison spending from overtaking education spending.
FISCAL YEAR | PRISONS   | EDUCATION  |
------------|-----------|------------|
1980 - 81   | $28.43    | $119.99    |
1985 - 86   | $59.60    | $148.00    |
1990 - 91   | $64.06    | $158.32    |
1995 - 96   | $103.40   | $146.09    |
1999 - 00   | $167.98   | $215.75    |

% CHANGE
1980 - 00 591% 180%

Per resident spending from Ohio general tax revenues on prisons and on higher education.

The following is a sample of countries and their incarceration rates. Hey, America was #1 at the end of 2004 when these stats were compiled and, yes America is still #1 in having more prisoners as a percentage of the population and also a greater total number of people in prison than any other country on this planet. Americans are paying big bucks for this dubious distinction. The following table shows the number of prisoners per 100,000 persons in the population of various countries.

PLACING ON LIST | COUNTRY                                | PRISONERS/100,000 |
----------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
1               | United States of America               | 724               |
7               | Cuba                                   | 487               |
40              | Taiwan                                 | 259               |
48              | Poland                                 | 229               |
50              | Israel                                 | 209               |
63              | New Zealand                            | 189               |
68              | Brazil                                 | 183               |
92              | United Kingdom: England & Wales        | 144               |
110             | Myanmar (formerly Burma)               | 120               |
113             | China                                  | 118               |
122             | Canada                                 | 107               |
129             | Italy                                  | 97                |
142             | France                                 | 88                |
146             | Switzerland                            | 83                |
151             | United Kingdom: Northern Ireland       | 81                |
161             | Venezuela                              | 74                |
173             | Japan                                  | 62                |
190             | Bangladesh                             | 50                |
195             | Haiti                                  | 42                |
200             | Congo                                  | 38                |
207             | India                                  | 31                |
213             | Faeroe Islands, Denmark (the lowest)   | 15                |
The main reason that America has been on this prison spending binge is the so called ‘war on drugs’. The term is completely inappropriate but then there are many in America who have yet to realize that in any war everyone loses. Americans are now so brainwashed about this hard-line approach to dealing with drugs that they will not even allow other countries to try different approaches. Recently (early 2006) both Mexico and Canada discussed the legalization of small amounts of drugs in their countries. America jumped on both of those countries so hard that both governments backed down even though the vast majority in both countries supported these progressive policies.

Quite some time ago the British used to hang pick-pockets. It didn’t work out very well for some of the pick-pockets but at the hangings, which were popular public events, there were many complaints from the public about pick-pocket thefts. This should tell us something about human nature and capital punishment. The American prohibition of alcohol from 1920 to 1933 turned a majority of Americans into criminals and the murder rate soared. This was a very expensive attempt to prohibit booze and yet the prohibition was a complete failure. After 13 wasteful years prohibition was repealed and the murder rate dropped by half. Many people and the authorities have short memories. The prohibition of drugs is very similar to the prohibition of liquor, terribly expensive to enforce, turns many Americans into criminals and in any case is a dismal failure as drugs can be obtained all across America. About the only effect of enforcement has been to drive up the price which just makes the profits higher and drug dealing more attractive as a career choice. The hundreds of thousands of Americans who now find themselves in prison, for doing not much more than the past several presidents have done, are paying a high price and so is America. Another significant reason for all wars, including the War on Drugs, are the vast numbers of people who profit from wars. From the owners of jails, to the police and many others, these people have a vested interest in this ‘war’ and they continue to tell Americans how important it is to fight it.

In 2002 Bush Jr. was told by the Justice and Defense departments that he had the power to throw people in jail and throw away the key. That legal opinion came from ‘experts’ who have forgotten that there is a constitution and that the law applies to all or none. Bush then imprisoned thousands and according to those ‘experts’ some of them will be there “indefinitely.” This course of action, in conjunction with the inevitable torture pictures, which were seen around the world, have harmed America far more than the perceived benefit from throwing these men in jail without due process. This perception was confirmed when a British high court judge, Sir Andrew Collins, stated, “America’s idea of what is torture is not the same as ours and does not appear to coincide with that of most civilized nations.” In other words billions consider America uncivilized. Sadly this treatment of people, from their wrongful executions, imprisonment, torture, forced feeding and more, would be utterly condemned by 99% of all Americans if they were shown videos as it happened. The small percentage of
Americans who create these atrocities do so due to the secrecy, ignorance and blind patriotism that are now such an intrinsic part of how America operates.

The CIA are busy getting those bad guys, all over the world, but in Italy their actions have caused a bit of a fuss. Almost three years ago over 10 CIA operatives in Italy abducted an Egyptian-born Muslim preacher named Abu Omar, and ‘rendered’ (kidnapped) him to Cairo. The CIA agents left the batteries in their cell phones, which produce a signal even when turned off. Those signals allowed Italian police investigating Abu Omar’s disappearance to construct an almost minute-by-minute record of this kidnapping. In February 2003 the Italian police were able to identify nearly two-dozen people as his abductors. CIA director Porter Goss, was ‘horrified’ at the sloppiness of the Milan kidnapping and rather than apologizing for breaking Italian law he ordered a ‘top-down’ review of the agency’s procedures. So amateurish was the kidnapping that the Italian lawyer for the former CIA chief in Milan said that Mr. Lady was too good a spy to have been involved in anything so botched. Mr. Lady, who is now living in Florida, has been charged by the Italians along with 21 other CIA whiz kids. Milan judge Chiara Nobili said it was necessary, “to identify which agency is responsible for such a severe violation of international law as kidnapping a person legitimately living in Italy.”

The phone records show that the CIA agents made personal phone calls to friends and family. The Italian police found 19 cell phones in the vicinity of the kidnapping and that many of those phones had been talking to each other. Abu Omar claimed he was tortured in Egypt and it is most likely that the CIA accomplished little more than looking incompetent and raising the hatred of Abu Omar supporters.

At Guantanamo Bay much of what goes on there cannot be determined simply because America will not let impartial parties have a look. Of the 500 or so prisoners still at Gitmo only a minority were captured by Americans. The rest were turned over via a completely flawed bounty process or in other biased ways. Only 8% have been classified as al Qaeda and this determination is suspect due to the lack of an impartial process. After years of interrogation even the Americans have concluded that most of them have not, “committed any hostile acts against the United States or coalition allies.” A report by the American Seton Law School concludes, “The detainees have been afforded no meaningful opportunities to test the Government’s evidence against them. They remain incarcerated.”

Another man killed while under the ‘care’ of the American military.
THE 5TH AMENDMENT OF THE US CONSTITUTION

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

This part of the American Constitution, the law of the land, is constantly violated when we talk about American prisoners. The law uses the words, “No persons”, not the words, “No Americans”. In recent years Americans and foreigners alike have been denied their rights by being declared ‘enemy combatants’ to circumvent the law. Declaring that America is now involved in a never ending war helps to pull this off but it is asinine for any country, particularly a large powerful country, to allow a single person to declare war.

A few years ago, Attorney General John Ashcroft said, “Now, all Iraqis can taste liberty in their native land, and we will help make that freedom permanent by assisting them to establish an equitable criminal justice system, based on the rule of law and standards of basic human rights.” In May 2003, Ashcroft appointed a number of American prison officials to run Iraq’s prisons. The International Criminal Investigative Training Program is based

CNN’s Pentagon spokesperson Barbara Starr states, “under US military law and practice, the only photographs that can be taken are official photographs for documentation purposes about the status of prisoners when they are in military detention. That’s it. Anything else is not acceptable. And of course, that is what the Abu Ghraib prison scandal is all about.” Apparently Ms. Starr has yet to understand that the scandal is not about the pictures it is about the abuse. However abuse and torture do occur at the hands of Americans and if it was up to those in authority we would never learn about it!
in the Department of Justice and has acquired a questionable record while rebuilding criminal justice systems from Iraq to Haiti. Gary DeLand, Terry Stewart, John Armstrong and Lane McCotter were four senior prison officials sent to Iraq to improve the 100+ Iraq prisons which were all shut down. All of these men had run prisons and/or prison departments in various American states. All of them had been sued for various prisoner abuses or had prisoner deaths, killings or assaults occur numerous times on their watches. When they got going in Iraq they spent millions making some of the prisons habitable but the abuse that they failed to prevent in their American prisons continued in Iraq. What did the Republicans that appointed them expect?

The US Department of Justice is, or should I say, was, an important part of why America worked as well as it did. Today that ‘Justice’ department is eroding the faith that many Americans have in their justice system. For example, in January 2006 that very same ‘Justice’ department sought to dismiss more than 180 cases from people who challenged their imprisonment. These people have been imprisoned by America for years without charge or trial. Most Americans would regard that as a grave injustice if they found themselves in a similar situation. Apparently these very same Americans are not overly concerned because the people in these American prisons are not Americans. Therefore these humans are not entitled to the basic human rights that most Americans regard as important. Is it not reasonable to say that the problem with American justice is unjust Americans?

Unfortunately, for America, the relatively few prisoners at Guantanamo are just the tip of the iceberg. America, under Bush Jr., imprisons men with impunity. International law, American law, the Red Cross or the Geneva Conventions are considered innapropriate. Small ‘secret’ prisons have been located in Thailand, Poland, Romania, Diego Garcia, Qatar and Afghanistan. These “dark sites” and their associated “ghost” prisoners make it impossible to believe that America treats prisoners humanely. Thousands are also held in relative secrecy in American supervised jails and interrogation centers similar to the notorious Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq. America splits hairs by saying that these prisons are not American when America brings prisoners and the Egyptians, and others, do what America asks them to. The prisoners being held in these places are sometimes tortured in order to obtain the information that America believes they have. The American belief that information obtained in such a manner is, or may be, a net apparently Donald Rumsfeld is still incensed that people think that abuse occurs at Guantanamo.
benefit to America is simply false and foolish. The bits of information that may turn out to be accurate are simply not worth the wrath that these people, their family members or friends may unleash on American individuals or America itself in the years or decades to come. Remarkably the American leaders in favor of torture just don’t see this writing on the wall.

Recently the courts forced the US military to release thousands of pages of information regarding the hearings of prisoners Guantanamo Bay. Although the information was doctored, there was some interesting information. One of the documents records the trial of British prisoner Feroz Abbasi. Mr Abbasi asked the judge, a US air force colonel, what the evidence was against him, something the judge refused to reveal. Mr. Abbasi said that he has a right to know what he is in prison for under international law. The understanding judge replied, “Mr Abbasi, your conduct is unacceptable and this is your absolute final warning. I do not care about international law. I do not want to hear the words international law. We are not concerned about international law.” It is difficult to know what America is concerned about these days.

And from Australia, David Hicks, a drifter who went from Kosovo to Afghanistan were he was captured and sent to Guantanamo. There is no evidence that this guy has been a threat to anyone. No evidence that he fought for al-Qaeda, anyone else or that he is a terrorist. In this regard he is like the majority of prisoners at Guantanamo but they cannot be released because that would make the necessity for Guantanamo doubtful. The US Empire hates to abandon any plot of territory no matter how damaging it is to retain. Hicks is to face one of Bush’s “military commissions”. These ‘commissions’ can use information extracted by torture, they do not assume innocence until proven guilty, there is no right to cross examine witnesses therefore the process is a sham, why bother? Even American military prosecutors have quit in disgust.

Five men were turned over to the Americans in Pakistan for thousands

\[\textit{Spc. Graner, leaning against the wall, \#1 identified 4 other soldiers \#4, 5, 6, \& 7 as military intelligence? and \#2 and a civilian translator.}\]
of dollars in bounty money. The same American system that snared many of the people now in Guantanamo. These five men eventually ended up in Guantanamo where they spent four and a half years. Eventually the Americans admitted that these men were innocent and posed no threat. Unfortunately that was not the end of their troubles and they were kept in jail for another year. They are now living in Albania, the only country that agreed to take them back. The problem is that they are still separated from their families; they do not speak Romanian and they do not have work. After putting them through this hell, America refused to accept them, even after their ethnic group, Uighurs in the US, agreed to support them. One of the reasons they have been refused by every country, other than Albania, is because they are now branded as ‘terrorists’. America created this problem but America wouldn’t fix it.

In early 2006 many people called for the closure of Guantanamo but that will never happen and it has nothing to do with the usefulness of this prison. It has everything to do with being uncooperative with Cuba and in particular with Castro. America has taken thousands of actions to make life difficult for Castro and it not going to change now. It is tragic and ironic that American efforts to make life difficult for Castro have so besmirched the reputation of America around the world.

In the last few months some prisoners have been released, the names of the prisoners, that were kept secret for so long, have been published but it must be remembered that every humane action and release that came out of Guantanamo was forced upon the authorities. If the world had left the operation of Guantanamo to the current American administration the men there and their situations would still be unknown. It is also clear that the entire prisoner situation, not only in Guantanamo, but the Middle East is fraught with incompetence. Incompetence that reasonable legalities were designed to reduce. When the Bush administration abandoned those legalities they inevitably introduced incompetence. All those efforts, those thousands of trips to Guantanamo, those tons of legal papers, the millions of dollars, the abuse, the bad publicity, all for naught. Guantanamo got the small fry, or the innocent. The ‘bad guys’, or the newly created ‘bad guys’ are still out there, perhaps some of them are even in more secret American prisons. Michael Scheuer, the former head of
the CIA’s Bin Laden unit, yes, they have a bin Laden unit, said that less than 10% of Guantanamo prisoners are al-Qaeda operatives with any knowledge of terrorism. When talking about the prisoners collected by Pakistani bounty hunters he said: “We absolutely got the wrong people.”

The America Defense Department has even admitted that they are using the type of watch a person may be wearing as evidence that someone is a terrorist. Nine men have been through the wringer at Guantanamo based on that ‘evidence’. Apparently al Qaeda has used a certain Casio watch circuit board in their bomb making so, hey, if a guy is wearing one of those very same watches then obviously he is a terrorist and it’s a good thing we caught him. What the Americans don’t seem to understand is that Casio also sells watches to people who are not terrorists.

Abdullah Mujahid was an Afghan police officer who was sent to Guantanamo for plotting against the USA in mid 2003. In 2004 he was taken before a military tribunal and in those proceedings he had the right to call witnesses who could support his claims of innocence. Mujahid called four witnesses who were in Afghanistan. Months later the military tribunal informed him that the witnesses could not be found so Mujahid was returned to his wire cage where he remained in July 2006. The UK Guardian newspaper followed up on his story, two years after the Americans said they could not find his witnesses. They found all of them in three days and all of them said they had never been approached by any Americans regarding this case. It is obvious from this case and many others that the Americans are not interested in justice for these prisoners. This indifference only fuels the hatred for Americans and exacerbates the inevitable conflicts America finds itself in.

Murat Kurnaz was taken off a bus in Pakistan and accused of being friends with a suicide bomber. That was enough to get him a free trip to Guantanamo. These days you have to be careful who your friends are. There was a small
problem with the American case. Kurnaz’s friend was still alive so he could not have been a suicide bomber. No problem, the US government simply decided to withhold that little detail during Kurnaz’s military tribunal. Anything is OK if the ‘war on terror’ makes it look like there are actually ‘terrorists’ out there. However the facts did emerge and a Federal judge got hold of the case in January 2005. He was not impressed with the process and cited Kurnaz’s case as one that ignored exculpatory evidence and relied on a single anonymous memo that was not credible. He also cited the lack of due process in the Guantanamo tribunals.

David Hicks, the free spirited Aussi mentioned earlier, ended up in the Middle East hanging out with the Taliban which was a perfectly legal thing to do in that part of the world. America then decided that the Taliban was bad because America is the world’s policeman. Hicks was arrested there and has been in Guantanamo for years. He has been subject to the usual lack of legal safeguards but he is unique in that his own government has been of no assistance to him because Bush Jr. and the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard both believe in the lack of justice for ‘suspected’ ‘terrorists’. David was returned to solitary confinement in a concrete cell. The same lack of sunlight and human contact he suffered during a previous 244 days. This is a violation of the third Geneva Convention but as we know America ignores rules made by others. But then what do they know, the International Red Cross has concluded that this is the “construction of a system that cannot be considered other than an international system of cruel, unusual and degrading treatment and a form of torture”.

There is a new movie out there called Prisoner 345. It is about the US imprisonment of Sami Al-Haji, a 36-year-old Al Jazeera cameraman currently imprisoned without charge or trial at Guantanamo Bay. Sami was sent by Al Jazeera to cover the invasion of Afghanistan. In 2001 he was arrested, brutally interrogated in Pakistan and at the Bagram airbase in Afghanistan, before being transported to Guantánamo in June 2002. He has been interrogated an estimated 130 times, not about his possible criminal activities but about Al Jazeera. (see the Media chapter)

Three British Muslim men are now suing the US government after their three year holiday in Guantanamo. Unfortunately for them Bush and Blair are joined at the hip so Brits who try and sue the US have a difficult time. (see the Diego Garcia chapter) These guys don’t paint a pretty picture as they describe their detention. Aside from the fact that they were never ‘terrorists’ they claim that they were beaten, stripped, shackled and deprived of sleep during their forced holiday. They say that the guards threw prisoners’ Korans into the toilets and attempted to force them to give up their religious faith as well as forcibly injecting some prisoners with unidentified drugs and threatening others with military dogs. In another example of how useless torture is they eventually gave false confessions that they appeared in a video with al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden. Unfortunately for the American military prosecutors they could
prove they were in Britain when the Osama video was made.

At one point Defense Secretary Rumsfeld referred to Guantanamo prisoners as “the worst of the worst.” In June 2005 he also said, “If you think of the people down there (Guantanamo), these are people, all of whom were captured on a battlefield. They’re terrorists, trainers, bomb makers, recruiters, financiers, (Osama bin Laden’s) bodyguards, would-be suicide bombers, probably the 20th 9/11 hijacker.” Rumsfeld’s lies went unchallenged in the mainstream American media. Most of the prisoners were not captured on the battlefield. In fact most of them were not even captured by Americans. Air Force General Richard Myers who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time also got into the act. These prisoners “were so vicious, if given the chance they would gnaw through the hydraulic lines of a C-17 while they were being flown to Cuba.” Look at these pictures of prisoners being shipped to Cuba. Do they look like they are going to do any chewing on steel hydraulic lines anytime soon? The General is also not very familiar with the C-17 where the hydraulic lines are not exposed. The American Defense Secretary and the General are liars.

America has taken, at great expense, over 800 prisoners to Guantanamo in recent years. Approximately 400 of these men who, according to Rumsfeld, were the ‘worst of the worst’ but they were released without charge. After release a few have been charged and tried in their home countries, found not guilty and released. On May 19th 2006 five former Guantanamo prisoners, who had admitted their guilt at the hands of the Americans, were found not guilty by a Kuwaiti court.
America has tried to convict many of these men during military tribunals which require less evidence and have procedures more likely to convict. In spite of that dubious conviction process America has failed to find any significant terrorists as a result of the entire Guantanamo debacle. The real problem here is that the Bush gang continues to believe that they are the righteous ones whereas a Muslim is probably a terrorist.

In Guantanamo alone, America has imprisoned men from over 40 countries thereby ensuring that many people in all those countries hate America and what it is doing. If America were to ensure that proper investigations preceded arrests and actually held public trials they would receive the assistance of many individuals and be much closer to knowing the truth. By sweeping up thousands of suspects, most of whom are innocent, throwing them in
jail without charge or trial and releasing most of them years later, once again without charge, trial or compensation is to Israelify America. Surely America has noticed that the brutal treatment of a population condemns the population of the oppressor to lives of fear and militarism.

Saifullah Paracha, who was 58, and his son were arrested in Afghanistan and charged with aiding men associated with al-Qaeda. The son was convicted and now faces 75 years in jail. The father languishes in Guantanamo. He decided to write 98 US Congressmen, in long hand, to get help. The Congressmen didn’t reply, not one. This, it turns out, is not the fault of the Congressmen, the US military is not delivering the letters because they may violate; you guessed it, ‘national security’. Apparently letters from ‘the worst of the worst’ must be read by a ‘security’ expert and released for delivery but not to the addressee. Even the lawyer for Paracha cannot get his letters. The lawyer must go to a specific room, read the letter there and leave. The letters may not be released. This is just another example of American vindictiveness which, of course, works against America.

When Major General Geoffrey Miller took over control of Abu Ghrab prison in Iraq he planned to turn it into a hub of interrogation. Lynddie England, a woman from the 372nd Military Police Company had pictures taken as she lead sexually humiliated hooded Iraqi prisoners around on a leash. She claimed she was following orders so that the pictures could be used to intimidate future prisoners. A leaked report by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the only outside agency permitted to visit the prison, also confirmed widespread ill-treatment and abuse that the authorities failed to stop. It also estimated that up to 90 per cent of the prisoners had been ‘arrested by mistake’. In April, 2006 American ‘officials’ finally admitted that almost 30% of the men who have been held in Guantanamo were never guilty of anything. No matter, they are still going to be held because the US government has been unable to arrange for their return to their home countries. Way to go USA! The Pentagon refused to identify the 141 innocent men despite having recently been forced to release its first comprehensive list of ‘terrorist’ suspects. Curt Goering, a senior Amnesty International USA

Exercise time, Guantanamo style! Note the guards outside the cage, just in case the prisoners whose arms and legs are manacled, happen to jump over the razor wire.
A m o r a l  A m e r i c a

official said, “It’s just an outrageous situation where people have gone through this system that has been established, such as it is, and the US government itself has found there’s no reason for them to be held any longer, and yet they continue to be held.”

It doesn’t take a war to make life difficult for American prisoners. The abuse of Americans in prison is legendary for the same reasons that American abuse occurs all over the world. To survive as a leader in America it helps to be selfish, tough, aggressive and protect the status quo. Good, kind, thoughtful and honest Americans need not apply. When those selfish, aggressive and tough attributes enable people rise to the top they tend to abuse others, particularly those that they regard as enemies.

Nearly three years after the United States and allied forces invaded Iraq and toppled the government of Saddam Hussein, the human rights situation in the country remains a disaster. The deployment of US-led forces in Iraq and the armed response that this invasion created has resulted in hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths and widespread abuse amid the ongoing conflict. For the past year the number of civilians, killed in Baghdad alone, were over 1,000 per month.

A m n e s t y International is concerned about the human rights abuses which continue to occur in Iraq, particularly

The UN has been refused permission to view the Guantanamo prison.

The only organization allowed to visit Guantanamo is the Red Cross and they have not been there for over a year.
those committed by the US trained Iraq security forces. The record of these forces, including US forces and their United Kingdom (UK) allies is unsatisfactory. Despite the pre-war rhetoric and post-invasion justifications of US and UK politicians, from the outset the occupying forces violated human rights. These forces have deprived detainees of their human rights that are supposed to be guaranteed under international human rights law but as we have already heard, the US is not interested in international law. In particular, the US denies detainees their right to challenge the lawfulness of their detention before a court. Many of the prisoners have been held for years without any recourse; others have been released without explanation or apology or reparation after years in detention, victims of a system that is arbitrary and abusive. Many cases of prisoner torture in facilities controlled by the Iraqi authorities have been reported since the so-called ‘handover of power’ in June 2004. Victims have been subjected to electric shocks or have been beaten with plastic cables. The picture that is emerging is one in which the Iraqi authorities are systematically violating the rights of detainees in breach of guarantees contained both in Iraqi legislation and in international law and standards, including the right not to be tortured and to be promptly brought before a judge. Although the Iraqis are running these prisons the Americans are still in charge.

Here’s a good one, BISCUITS, Behavioral Science Consultation Teams. They are made up of health care ‘professionals’ who use their knowledge of human psychological fears and phobias to extract more information from the Guantanamo prisoners. Some people are shocked that the American military would stoop so low but it is clear that no stooping is too low for the US military. If they could kill a few million innocent people in Vietnam why would anyone be surprised that they would devise a program to increase the fear and distress of prisoners?

The CIA, according to their own conservative estimates, report that there have been up to ten mistaken-identity ‘extraordinary renditions’ (kidnappings) of perfectly innocent people out of the 100-150 snatch operations the Agency has admitted.

America decided to imprison various Iraqi scientists including Gen. Amer al-Saadi, Dr. Rihab Taha and Dr. Huda Ammash along with 22 others. Twenty four of these Iraqi’s scientists were recently released from two and a half years in jail without charges, with the fallacious claim that they were “no longer a security threat,” as if they ever were. “The release was an American-Iraqi decision and in line with an Iraqi government ruling made in December 2004, but wasn’t enforced until after the elections (at the end of 2005) in an attempt to ease the political pressure in Iraq,” said lawyer Badee Izzat Aref. So America was quite happy to keep prominent people from another country in jail for an additional year because it was politically expedient.

Earl Krugel was a ‘Jewish Defense League activist’ who was convicted of plotting to bomb a Southern California mosque as well as the offices of Lebanese-American Congressman Darrell Issa. He was killed in prison but
the New York Times describes him as a “Jewish Defense League member”. No American media source could be found that described this convicted bomber as a ‘terrorist’. Jose Padilla is routinely called a “terrorist” but it appears that it is easier to deny rights to people by using that label, even when they have not been charged or convicted. America applies the ‘terrorist’ label very selectively.

At the end of December 2005 there were 84 Guantanamo Bay prisoners taking part in a hunger strike that began nearly five months ago. Forty-six prisoners joined the protest Sunday, said Army Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin, a military spokesman. I suggest that prisoners who refuse to eat and have to be force-fed with a tube pushed into their noses have some reason to take that drastic action.

Of the approximately 500 prisoners at Guantanamo only 9 have been charged and most of them have been there four years. One of those prisoners is Murat Kurnaz who is a German citizen who traveled to Pakistan in 2001. He was arrested in Pakistan soon after his arrival in the country, flown to Afghanistan and later transferred to Guantanamo Bay. His mother has traveled to the US,
Britain and Turkey in the past two years in an effort to get her son out of prison. The Bremen state prosecutors’ office has no evidence that Kurnaz was in any way linked to Al Qaeda or any other terrorist group. A New York based lawyer has visited Kurnaz in prison and calls his detention, “a blatant violation of international law”. In January 2005, a federal court in Washington ruled there was no evidence of Kurnaz having committed any crime against the US interests but the US ‘justice’ department appealed so he is still in prison.

Mamdouh Habib, an Egyptian-born Australian citizen, kidnapped by the CIA in Pakistan, sent to Egypt, tortured and after six months flown to Guantanamo. The Howard government provided this Australian no support, on the contrary, they claimed his detention was necessary to fight Islamic terrorism so he remained in Guantanamo for almost three years, before being returned to Australia, without charge in early 2005. Habib spoke at a recent film showing in Australia. When talking about the three suicides at Guantanamo he said, “There is no way to commit suicide in Guantanamo because you are being watched all the time. There are no places in the cell to hang anything, let alone sheets or blankets, so there is no way you can hang yourself. These are just more lies about what goes on there.” “Howard says that David Hicks (a 30-year-old Australian who has been incarcerated in Guantanamo since early 2002) is in good health and there are no problems. This is another lie. He said the same things about me. How can you believe these people? They lie to the media and they lied to my wife about where I was and yet they knew that I’d been sent to Egypt for torture.” “Australian representatives in Pakistan interrogated me and they knew exactly what was going on. Australian officials saw me in Guantanamo and they knew the bad state I was in, but Howard and Downer kept saying I was in good health,” “Don’t trust anything the government says about Guantanamo.”

Senior Australian ministers, who gave the White House a blank check to do whatever they liked with Habib, publicly accused the 50-year-old working-class father of four of being a dangerous Islamic terrorist and a threat to “the Australian way of life”. Attorney-General Daryl Williams told the media in 2002 that, although Habib had no access to a lawyer, he “was not being denied any of his rights”. Despite a mountain of evidence from human rights groups, the Australian government still denies that Habib, Hicks and other Guantánamo prisoners have been mistreated. Habib has also been slandered by the Murdoch press in Australia who still try to discredit him even though he was released and never charged. Habib’s passport was cancelled by the Howard government when he returned in 2005 and he remains under surveillance by the Australian ‘intelligence’ service and national police.

Mohamedou Oulad Slahi, a Mauritanian who turned himself in to the Mauritanian police after the 9/11 attacks because he heard the Americans were looking for him. A strange thing for a terrorist to do, perhaps? The CIA took him to Jordan, where he spent eight months undergoing interrogation, before being taken to Guantanamo Bay.
Saddiq Turkistani was rescued by US forces from a Taliban prison in Afghanistan in 2001. He claimed that he had been wrongly imprisoned for allegedly plotting to kill Osama bin Laden. Having been imprisoned and tortured by the Taliban Turkistani was unlikely to be on their side and in fact he offered to help the United States. Intelligence officials told Turkistani they would try to help him but instead Turkistani was taken to a US military base in Afghanistan, where he was stripped, bound and thrown behind bars. The US officials then strapped him into an airplane and sent him to Guantanamo. Four years later, Turkistani is still there, despite being cleared for release early in 2005 after a government review concluded he is “no longer an enemy combatant.” It is a mystery why Turkistani was sent to Guantanamo Bay in the first place but US officials have offered no public explanation. Turkistani is unlikely to offer the yanks any more assistance.

Five Chinese Uighurs remained imprisoned for almost five years even after the US admitted that they were arrested in error. The US refused to accept them into America even after a Uighur ethnic group in the US agreed to support them. The Uighur community in Toronto, Canada would have accepted them but the Canadian government refused. Albania was the only country, out of 100 countries approached, who agreed to accept them and that was because Albania wants to cooperate with the US and become a NATO member. The Uighurs were flown to Albania after the Americans assured Albania that they were innocent of terrorist charges but they remained handcuffed and shackled to the aircraft floor during their long journey with 20 armed US soldiers. They are stuck in their Albanian refugee camp, far from their children and families, all because of a failed US arrest and detention policy which continues to this day.

Three British prisoners, released in 2004 without charge, revealed ongoing torture, sexual degradation, forced drugging and religious persecution at Guantanamo. They presented a 115-page dossier detailing the brutal US tactics and they accused the British authorities of knowing about the torture and doing nothing. Their accusations were further confirmed by two former French prisoners, a former Swedish prisoner, and a former Australian prisoner. They are now suing the US.

Mehdi Ghezali, a Swedish Guantánamo prisoner was freed on July 2004 after two and half years. Ghezali, who was the victim of repeated torture, intends to sue the US for the treatment he received at the prison (good luck).

Moazzam Begg was born in England and arrested by the CIA in Islamabad in early 2002. No reason was ever given for his arrest however he was mistreated, sent to Kandahar, Bagram and after a year to Guantánamo. He spent three years in prison, most of it in solitary. He went through over 300 interrogations which included death threats and torture. On a number of occasions he offered to take lie detector tests but the Americans refused his offers. He witnessed the killing of two fellow detainees and at one point was actually asked if he would testify against the killers of these prisoners. After three years he was released without
charge and flown back to England. He received no apology or compensation for this wrongful imprisonment however he has written an eloquent book, ‘Enemy Combatant’. Check it out.

Thousands more remain in American run prisons in foreign countries. Many without charge or trial and the Americans who put them there actually believe that these incarcerations are helping America.

As a result of a Freedom of Information lawsuit filed by Associated Press we know that America pays ‘cash rewards’ to Afghan tribesmen in return for ‘terrorist’ suspects. These $3,000 to $25,000 bounties are quite an incentive for your average Afghan as well as being a surefire way to get the wrong guy but ultimately a great way to swell the ‘terrorist’ ranks. The American leaflets proclaim, “get wealth and power beyond your dreams” by turning in Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters. Only a few of the Guantánamo prisoners have been charged and Pentagon officials estimate that only 50 to 75 will ever be charged. Therefore only 6% of the men that America flew half way around the world and kept incarcerated for years will ever be subject to a flawed American justice process, one day.

In February 2006 lawyers for the US Department of Injustice told the US Supreme Court that inmates held at Guantánamo Bay cannot challenge their detention by relying on the US Constitution because “the Constitution does not guarantee aliens held abroad a right to habeas corpus.” In other words the US captures thousands of people, moves them to jails far from their homes, in some cases tortures or kills them in detention and then says they have no rights. It would appear that the US Department of Injustice is committed to creating as many ‘terrorists’ as the US President.

Some American military prosecutors also appear to be a little unhappy with ‘justice’ Guantánamo style. Air Force Captain Carrie Wolf chose to take a reassignment along with some other prosecutors. Captain Wolf asked to leave the Office of Military Commissions at the same time as two other colleagues, Major Robert Preston and Captain John Carr. ABC TV revealed that in March 2006 lawyers for the US Department of Injustice told the US Supreme Court that inmates held at Guantánamo Bay cannot challenge their detention by relying on the US Constitution because “the Constitution does not guarantee aliens held abroad a right to habeas corpus.” In other words the US captures thousands of people, moves them to jails far from their homes, in some cases tortures or kills them in detention and then says they have no rights. It would appear that the US Department of Injustice is committed to creating as many ‘terrorists’ as the US President.

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In the 1970s American psychologist Professor Harry Harlow unknowingly helped start the animal rights movement. He performed deprivation experiments on infant monkeys by placing them with bare-wire versus soft terry-clothed surrogates. He also attempted to scientifically study the development of depression by subjecting monkeys to what he called, “the pit or dungeon of despair and the hell of loneliness”. Monkeys were placed in isolation for up to 12 months in wire cages where they were unable to get out, were denied all sensory stimulation and had no human or animal contact. The result was extreme psychosis, depression and self-abuse. For some unknown reason the US Military feels that treating humans in the same way will serve the cause of peace.

You may recall the kidnapping of the American journalist Jill Carroll, who was released by her kidnappers after three months. It turns out that the US Army had previously seized and jailed Iraqi wives of men the Americans suspected of something. One of these women was a young mother of a nursing baby. I believe that it is reasonable to state that all of the horrors inflicted on the Americans by the insurgents were first inflicted on the Iraqis by Americans. What goes around comes around.

The American military is
committed to not making the ‘mistake’ they made in Vietnam by allowing the press to expose the American people to the actual gore in this war. To ensure that this fiction is maintained at least seven Iraqi reporters, photographers, and cameramen were jailed by US forces for prolonged periods in 2005, without charge. The Committee to Protect Journalists wrote to US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld expressing their “grave concern” about the detentions. At least three documented detentions have exceeded 100 days, and the others have spanned many weeks.

Another famous friend of America who happens to be a prisoner these days, is currently being tried but it is unlikely that he will be able to tell all, or get the legal assistance he needs. When a friend of America is determined by America to be an enemy they are not allowed to ‘tell all’. Manuel Noriega who once claimed to, “Have Bush by the balls” was not able to divulge all at his unusual trial in the US. In the case of Saddam Hussein, who is believed guilty by virtually every American, his trial is also unusual. His connection to the US and the Bush family will not be fully explored. The American ‘assistance’ that made Saddam’s crimes possible will not be covered.

The United States military now uses more force to compel prisoners to eat at Guantánamo Bay. After concluding that some of the prisoners were determined to commit suicide by vomiting after their force-feeding, guards have been strapping prisoners into ‘restraint chairs’, to feed them through tubes and then leaving them there long enough so that their deliberate vomiting is less effective. Detainees who refuse to eat have also been placed in isolation for extended periods to keep them from being pressured by other hunger strikers. Their hunger strikes are a result of their indefinite detention with no end in sight. The Pentagon has now set rules that endorse the force-feeding hunger strikers. The ethical codes endorsed by the American Medical Association, including a declaration by the World Medical Association, state that if a doctor considers a hunger striker “capable of forming an unimpaired and rational judgment concerning the consequences of such voluntary refusal of nourishment, he or she shall not be fed artificially.”

A lot of the problems at American prisons emanate from the top. The Bush administration wants to ‘update’ the US Army Field Manual. Directive 2310 deals with the treatment and questioning of prisoners. For years this has been referenced to Article 3 of the Geneva Convention. This article prohibits the use of torture and other acts of violence. The Bush administration removed this reference, which doesn’t look good. Article 3 also prohibits “outrages on personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment” which is just what happened at Abu Ghraib. Bush Jr. also wanted to get rid of this reference to Article 3 because it also provides, “all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.” Something else Bush and the boys would rather not bother with. This government can tell the world that they, “don’t do torture” and that they, “respect the rights” of prisoners but the world is wondering why they go about this is such an ass
The Council of Europe’s Human rights commissioner, Alvaro Gil Robles said he had been “shocked” by conditions at the barbed wire-rimmed interrogation centre inside the US military base Bondsteel, in Kosovo. During his visit in 2002 he planned to investigate reports of extrajudicial arrests. These investigations may continue but it is unlikely that they will ever amount to much because America is more friend than enemy to European countries and they are not going to implicate themselves or their friend if they can help it. In addition many are guilty of assisting with the CIA kidnappings by allowing the use of their airports and facilities for the CIA flights involved.

Many European countries are more involved that their citizens believe. German intelligence agents reportedly helped US forces target Saddam Hussein in an April 2003 Baghdad bombing raid that killed at least 12 people, while the German chancellor Gerhard Schröder insisted that Germany was not involved in the war in Iraq. New revelations about the activities of Germany’s intelligence service, the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), indicate that the country was not nearly so removed from the US-led war efforts as Schröder liked to claim. German intelligence agents have been active in Iraq during the entire war and helped the United States choose bombing targets.

In January 2006 a military trial was held against Chief Warrant Officer Lewis Welshofer, a US soldier with 19 years experience. The trial was a result of the death, in US custody, of Iraqi Major General Abed Hamed Mowhoush. The general was beaten for several days before his eventual death by CIA agents who had to carry the general back to his ‘cage’ after the beatings. The CIA agents also took the general to see his sons who were in the same prison and told him that if he didn’t talk his sons would be killed. Welshofer put the general in a sleeping bag, tied the bag up with wire and sat on the general who stopped breathing. At the time the general had six broken ribs and many bruises.

The CIA agents who did the beatings were never charged. Welshofer was found guilty but never went to jail. For being one of the Americans responsible for the killing of this man he was confined to his normal accommodation for 60 days and had his pay reduced by $6,000. After this reprimand was announced the soldiers in the court broke into applause and the rest of the world learned that Americans can torture people to death and never be sentenced to prison. A few days after the trial ended President Bush said, “No American will be allowed to torture another human being anywhere in the world!” However he failed to explain how a negligible sentence was going to make that happen.

Compare Welshofer’s negligent homicide conviction, with no jail time, to thirty-two human rights activists who were tried for their nonviolent resistance actions against the School of the Americas in early 2006. 31 of these 32 defendants were sentenced by Magistrate Faircloth, in Columbus, Georgia to prison terms ranging from one to six months and many were also ordered to
pay fines ranging from $500 to $1,000. If you are a convicted murderer for
the American government you spend no time in jail. If you are an American
peacefully protesting in order to uphold constitutional values you go to jail for
months.

It appears that 39 American military men have now been sentenced in
connection with the deaths of Iraqis from early 2003 until now, 2006. Twenty-
four of those men were involved in civilian deaths and received jail terms from
45 days to 25 years but those sentences are rarely served in total. Some of
the others received administrative punishments but those results are not made
public. So considering the hundreds of thousands of women, children and
innocent men killed in Iraq the number of US troops charged is very small. In
Vietnam there were 27 Marines and 95 Army soldiers convicted of murder or
manslaughter.

In a 2005 report the UN stated that the military forces in Iraq were holding
about 12,000 people in prisons (14,000 in 2006) and a further 11,000 were
held in Iraqi facilities. The report goes on to say that, “the Iraqi army and
multinational forces violated international law during military operations in
western Iraq last month by arresting doctors and occupying medical facilities.”
The five-page report, from the U.N. Assistance Mission in Iraq, said military
operations had “a negative impact on human rights” and talked about the
thousands of families who have been displaced. The document also suggested
that “US forces may be using too much force,” in their operations. Far be it for
the UN to actually offend a member and actually say they were using too much
force. The UN went on to say, “There is an urgent need to provide remedy to
lengthy internment for reasons of security without adequate judicial oversight,”
which is UN-speak for, there are far too many innocent people in crappy jails.

The US Central Command tells us that 35,000 people have been detained
for extended periods since the beginning of the war, of whom 21,000 have
been released and only 1,259 ever formally accused of illegal activities. Of
those who were accused, only 636 were convicted. Therefore, 98.6 percent of
the detainees in the US prison system in Iraq were eventually released without
charge. It seems safe to say that 98.6% are now pissed off!!

The trial of illegally toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein by another
Western organized court finally opened under a veil of secrecy on 19 October
2005. Saddam Hussein forcefully stated that he was entitled to do what he did
when he was president of Iraq. It should be clear to all by now that what Saddam
did to his own country is not as bad as what Bush has done to it. Although
Saddam's trial uses all the usual humiliating tricks used on 'foreign' leaders
such as Milosevic, Noriega and others, if they were well represented it would
be an easy matter to prove that their accusers are as guilty as they are. That is
the great difficulty that prosecutors face, being two-faced in trying to make one
despot look terrible and the despot who ordered the trial to look good.

The trial is trying to present itself as a legal process but the rule of law
has disintegrated in Iraq. Are the Americans trying to claim that they can
use American law in a foreign country when they destroy the rule of law in that same country? It is a mess and anyone who thinks about it must admit that the overpowering country cannot be judge, jury and executioner of the leaders they have overthrown. If America was really interested in doing this right they would use the International Criminal Court. Unfortunately they can’t do that as they have fought to make sure the ICC never got off the ground. The reason is simple, they don’t want American leaders tried in this court for actions every bit as evil as Saddam’s. (see the ICC chapter)

According to a study by Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, and the NYU School of Law, torture and abuse in Iraq has been more widespread than generally reported. Of the 330 documented cases of torture and abuse by US forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantánamo Bay, 220 took place in Iraq. Overall, more than 1,000 individual criminal acts of abuse have been recorded, involving 600 US military and CIA officials, and 460 detainees. The US has failed to investigate the full extent of abuse, and only a fraction of the implicated personnel have faced disciplinary action. More recently, in mid-2006, the US launched several investigations into the suspected deliberate murder of unarmed Iraqi civilian men, women and children.

The CIA ‘Rendition Group’ exists to kidnap persons, immobilize them, transport them out of their country and hand them over to the organization that America has decided will get the information America wants. Members of this Rendition Group follow a simple, standard procedure. They are dressed in black from head to toe; they wear masks, they blindfold and then cut the clothes off their prisoners, give them an enema and drug them. They put their prisoners in diapers and coveralls; inhibit them from hearing and seeing and then chain them down for a flight that can be half way around the world. They are most frequently taken to another country that America has an arrangement with, or an American base or prison that America controls or a CIA ‘black site’ which are operated as interrogation centers. These are located in the Middle East, Asia, Afghanistan and countries like the Ukraine, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Poland and Romania. The Romanian base, Mihail Kogalniceanu is
just one amongst many, most of which have never been identified.

This illegal American kidnapping, transportation and imprisonment of people, from all over the world, has been going on for years. It has been done in secret, without due process, it has obviously been supported by Bush Jr. and it has damaged America while creating more hatred of America. For a great book on these kidnappings read, ‘Torture Taxi: On the Trail of the CIA’s Rendition Flights’, by Trevor Paglen and AC Thompson

In May 2004 the American Ambassador to Germany, Daniel Coats, was instructed to visit the German Interior minister. It seems that the CIA had wrongfully imprisoned a German citizen, Khaled Masri, for five months. The American government also had a request, ‘that the German government not disclose what it had been told about Masri, even if Masri went public’. The US official’s feared exposure of their secret ‘rendition’ program designed to kidnap terrorism suspects abroad and transfer them to various countries. They also feared possible legal challenges to the CIA from Masri and others with similar kidnapping experiences. After the CIA admitted to Germany’s Interior Minister that it had made a mistake, it also has tried to keep details about the Masri case secret. While part of the German government looks into this kidnapping and torture of a German citizen the other part of German government that was informed of his ordeal has remained silent.

This Masri case offers a rare look at the pressure exerted on the CIA to apprehend al Qaeda members after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and how this pressure led to detentions based on thin or speculative evidence. The case also shows how hard it is to stop a system built and operated in secret. The CIA with the help of agencies from other countries has captured thousands of people, including al Qaeda members and others. Unfortunately it is not
possible to know how many mistakes the CIA and its foreign partners have made but they have been significant. This can be determined by the number of kidnapped persons released, after torture in another country, without charge. Also by the number of terrorist suspects, approximately 200 as of 2005, released from Guantanamo without charge. In fact the number actually charged is miniscule. Prisoners end up in Guantanamo after the CIA has finished with them and Guantanamo is therefore considered by some to be a dumping ground for CIA mistakes. Unfortunately the same bureaucracy that decides to capture and transfer a person for interrogation is also responsible for policing itself. In 2000, then-CIA Director George J. Tenet said that “renditions (kidnappings) have shattered terrorist cells and networks, thwarted terrorist plans, and in some cases even prevented attacks from occurring.” There is no evidence to substantiate that claim and the American government has never released the details which seems strange as they always want to tell us about their ‘successes’.

Despite torture, deaths threats on prisoners, intense interrogations and investigations, US authorities have yet to identify any senior Al Qaeda leaders among the nearly 600 terrorism suspects from 43 countries in US military custody at Guantanamo Bay. This failure to find high-ranking Al Qaeda officials has frustrated the CIA, the FBI, military law enforcement and other American authorities. They had hoped to capture far more valuable Al Qaeda operatives but their failure is unlikely to lead to more human treatment of prisoners or the entire flawed “war on terrorism”.

In June 2006 the Pentagon released another report about American prisoner abuse. It seems that the ‘Special Operations’ soldiers kept prisoners in ‘cells’ that were 4’ x 4’ x 20” wide. In some cases they were fed only crackers and water for over two weeks and loud music was played so that they couldn’t sleep. This report also revealed that some prisoners were stripped naked, soaked with cold water and then interrogated outside in cold weather. One prisoner died when Navy Seals used this technique. General Formica who oversaw the report recommended that none of the soldiers he investigated be disciplined, in addition the Pentagon withheld the full report.

In September 2005, the Iraq Justice Minister condemned the US military
for detaining thousands of Iraqis for long periods without charge. He wanted to change a UN resolution that gave foreign troops immunity from Iraqi law. Speaking to Reuters, Justice Minister Abdul Hussein Shandal also criticized US detentions of Iraqi journalists and said the media, contrary to US policy in Iraq, must have special legal protection to report on all sides in the conflict. “No citizen should be arrested without a court order,” he said while complaining that US suggestions that his ministry has had an equal say on detentions were misleading. Shandal, a respected Shi’ite judge said, “There is abuse of human rights due to detentions, which are overseen by the Multinational Force (the US) and are not in the control of the justice ministry.” This is a judge who stood up to Saddam Hussein on the rule of law. Killings and unjustified arrests of Iraqi civilians by US troops risked going unpunished, he said, because of U.N. Security Council resolution 1546, which granted US led forces sweeping powers following their overthrow of Saddam in 2003.

Mayer Arar, was one of those innocent people who suffered at the hands of the CIA. Kidnapped in New York, flown to Syria, tortured, confessed, was found not guilty and after a year released and flown back to his family in Canada. These facts were confirmed by a Canadian judicial review. Arar sued the US government for taking him to Syria, his torture and his year in prison. Now, in February 2006, the American Injustice system has had its say. In throwing out the case, New York judge David Trager had this to say, “One need not have much imagination to contemplate the negative effect on our relationships with Canada if discovery were to proceed in this case and were it to turn out that certain high Canadian officials had, despite public denials, acquiesced in Arar’s removal to Syria.” In other words American justice cannot proceed because it would be embarrassing for the criminals. In Arar’s ordeal the Canadian government sought to obscure the truth. The Canadian national police force deliberately released information designed to smear Arar as they tried to make themselves look good. Naturally no one in the RCMP, that Canadian police force was fired or reprimanded. Condoleezza Rice has consistently denied that what happened to Mayer Arar actually happened.

In early 2006 a group of retired US generals and admirals asked US Supreme Justice Antonin Scalia to recuse himself, arguing that his recent public comments on the rights of terrorists make it impossible for him to appear impartial. Scalia said it was ‘crazy’ to suggest that combatants captured fighting
the United States should receive a ‘full jury trial’, and dismissed suggestions that the Geneva Conventions might apply to detainees at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. The problem with Scalia’s ignorance is that he has made up his mind before hearing the facts. This makes him ineligible to even be a judge but he hasn’t figured that out yet.

Saturday June 10th, 2006, three prisoners died at Guantanamo when they took their own lives, so it has been said. Hunger strikes and suicide attempts have been common at Guantánamo and it seems reasonable to conclude those actions have been taken because the prisoners don’t like it there. Not so, according to Admiral Harry Harris, the current boss at Guantánamo. Those dead men are simply sneaky and will do anything to make a point. The good admiral said, “They are smart. They are creative, they are committed.” “They have no regard for life, either ours or their own. I believe this was not an act of desperation, but an act of asymmetrical warfare waged against us.” “Asymmetrical warfare” eh? The Admiral sounds like an ass!

What the hell is going on HERE?? Officials in Afghanistan have just, June 15th, 2006, announced that ALL 96 Afghani prisoners in Guantánamo will be released and returned home. The “worst of the worst” are to be released without charge and flown back where they can once again threaten the ‘free world’. God help us!

In another example of American ‘freedom’ in Iraq we have Bilal Hussein, an Associated Press (AP) photographer who the US military has imprisoned for over 6 months without charge. It appears that Bilal took pictures that they didn’t like. AP has reviewed Bilal’s work and found nothing inappropriate. Tom Curley, the CEO of AP has said, “We’ve come to the conclusion that this is unacceptable under Iraqi law, or Geneva Conventions, or any military procedure.” Bilal is not the only one, it is estimated that the US imprisons over 13,000 people in Iraq. The vast majority never get a trial, let alone a fair trial.

The case of Salim Ahmed Hamdan is interesting because it illustrates how manipulated justice has become under the Bush Jr. government. Hamdan was captured during the American invasion of Afghanistan and sent to Guantánamo. He admits that he was Osam’s driver but said he had nothing to do with 9/11. His attempts to get out of prison have cost the Americans millions and have revolved around the Bush Jr. Government’s right to send him to jail and throw away the key, the approach this government prefers. On June 29, 2006, the American Supreme Court ruled that President Bush
Torture and Prisoners

did not have the authority to set up military commissions at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba and that those commissions violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice as well as the Geneva Convention. This ruling should change many things but the government will probably stall, manipulate or coerce the rule of law as they did to create this mess in the first place. The problem is that the Cheneys, Rumsfelds and Bushs in this American government don’t believe that they make mistakes so they must find ways around ‘inconvenient’ laws that inhibit their ability to do things as they ‘should’ be done. It is all about their power, not yours.

The supreme Court ruling in favor of Hamdan was handled by Navy lawyer Lt. Cmdr. Charles Swift. He has been working on the Hamdan case for two years and clearly believes that justice applies to everyone. “If they are calling the commissions (tribunals) military justice, it’s got to live up to what military justice is. It’s about the law, not what the leaders want.”

Although the Supreme Court ruled against the way Bush Jr. tried to treat prisoners not much has changed. In fact the US military announced that a new $30 million high security prison at Guantanamo will open for business in September 2006. Built by a Halliburton company it seems to make a mockery of the claim by Bush Jr. that Guantánamo should close. On July 28th, 2006 the Bush administration also proposed draft legislation that seeks to recreate the deeply flawed military commissions that the Supreme Court said were illegal. Bush and the boys are also asking Congress to approve the holding of prisoners without charge, including Americans. The proposed law also seeks to change the Geneva Conventions that have sought to protect prisoners since 1949. All this is pretty remarkable considering what the Supreme Court said just a few weeks ago.

Murat Kurnaz was arrested back in October 2001 without a shred of evidence and no evidence emerged during his years at Guantánamo. He was recently, August 2006, released but the Yanks treated him deplorably right to the very end. America arrested him with insufficient evidence, never charged him for years, abused him during incarceration, never allowed him the normal legal rights every human should have and then kept him blindfolded and in

Lt. Cmdr. Smith was passed over for promotion last year and figures and thinks that may happen again which means he will leave the military soon.
chains until he reached Germany. And some Americans wonder why some people want to blow them up? His lawyer said, “The Americans are incorrigible; they have not learned a thing. He was returned home in chains, humiliated and dishonored to the very end by the Americans.” Naturally the media that did mention his release neglected to mention that he was never charged or the deplorable treatment he received until he stepped on to German soil.

Two Afghani journalists were arrested in error and subsequently spent three years in Guantánamo. They recently (July 2006) released a 453-page book in the Pashto language about their ordeal. This is the second book to be written and published in Afghanistan by former Guantánamo inmates. Both books detail the horrific treatment and abuse. It doesn’t really matter if the books are truthful or not, the damage is done on both sides. The American damaged the lives of people they jailed in error and the authors have damaged and will continue to damage the reputation of America every time one of these books is read. By imprisoning men with impunity America only harmed itself while spending millions for no useful purpose. There must be something wrong with the Americans who work against their own country in such a way?

Are these men, who have inflicted so much pain on others who did nothing to them, unusual? The answer is no. Stanley Milgram, a Yale University psychologist conducted a study (1974) on whether people would follow their conscience or an authority figure. In spite of saying that they would not harm people in grievous ways all of the subjects in Milgram’s experiments did just that. A majority of the subjects ‘harmed’ others in ways that could only be described as torture. So it appears that finding torturers and getting them to willingly torture and kill others is not difficult. This should come as no surprise as we know that many young men have been trained to kill people who have done nothing to them or their country.

President Bush along with his Secretary of State, one of his CIA directors and numerous administration spokespersons have stated, categorically, that “We do not do torture.” These statements only serve to further erode America’s credibility and most people in the rest of the world are familiar with the fact that America routinely tortures and has for decades. In Vietnam with Operation Phoenix, in Central and South America, in recently acknowledged ‘black sites’ and Afghanistan and Iraq. Only Vice President Cheney has come close to the truth with statements such as, “It’s going to be vital for us to us any means at our disposal.” “A lot of what needs to be done here will have to be done quietly without any discussion.” America has held almost 100,000 prisoners since the ‘war on terror’ began, almost 20,000 remain in prison, thousands have been held for over a year and hundreds for several years. Over 100 have died in custody and over 25 of those deaths have been categorized as “homicides”. Although a few lower ranking soldiers have been charged and a few soldiers have refused to torture the attitude that condones this treatment of prisoners has not been addressed. Ironically research and experience have shown this torture has done little except damage America’s reputation and recruit thousands of
Office of the Armed Forces Regional Medical Examiner  
Landstuhl Regional Medical Center  
Landstuhl, GE - APO AE 09180  
DSN (314) 486-6781/7492  
Comm 001 49 (0) 6371 86 6781/7492  

FINAL AUTOPSY REPORT  
(Addendum)

Name:  
SSAN:  
Date of Birth: UNK  
Date of Death: 6 JUN 03  
Date of Autopsy: 10 JUN 03  
Date of Report: 22 OCT 03  

Autopsy No.: A03-51  
Rank/SVC: CIV Detainee  
Org: EPW  
Place of Death: Nasiriyah, Iraq  
Place of Autopsy: Talil, Iraq  
Investigative Agency: NCIS

Circumstances of Death: Decedent is a reported 52 y/o Iraqi Male, Civilian Detainee, who was found unresponsive outside in isolation at Whitehorse detainment facility; Nasiriyah, Iraq. He was pronounced at 1230 hours.

Authorization for Autopsy: Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, IAW 10 USC 1471

Identification: Visual recognition; fingerprints and specimens for DNA obtained

Cause of Death: Strangulation

Manner of Death: Homicide

Autopsy Diagnoses:

Head, neck and torso injuries:
1. Right hyoid bone fracture with associated recent hemorrhage
2. Rib fractures; right anterior 4-7, left anterior 4-5
3. Contusions; mid abdomen, back and buttocks extending to the left flank
4. Abrasions, lateral buttocks

Extremity injuries:
1. Contusions, back of legs and knees
2. Abrasions; knees, left fingers and encircling left wrist
3. Lacerations and superficial cuts, right 4th and 5th fingers

Toxicology: Negative
FINAL AUTOPSY REPORT

Name: [Redacted]  
SSAN: [Redacted]  
Autopsy No.: ME04-14  
AFIP No.: 2909185  
Rank: [Redacted] Iraqi Army  
Place of Death: Al Asad, Iraq  
Place of Autopsy: BIP Mortuary, Baghdad, Iraq  

Date of Birth: 7 JAN 1957  
Date of Death: 9 JAN 2004  
Date of Autopsy: 11 JAN 2004  
Date of Report: 30 APR 2004  

Circumstances of Death: Iraqi detainee died while in U.S. custody.  

Authorization for Autopsy: Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, IAW 10 USC 1471  

Identification: Identification by accompanying paperwork and wristband, both of which include his name and a detainee number, 3ACR.1582  

CAUSE OF DEATH: Blunt Force Injuries and Asphyxia  

MANNER OF DEATH: Homicide  

OPINION  

This 47-year-old White male, [Redacted], died of blunt force injuries and asphyxia. The autopsy disclosed multiple blunt force injuries, including deep contusions of the chest wall, numerous displaced rib fractures, lung contusions, and hemorrhage into the mesentry of the small and large intestine. An examination of the neck structures revealed hemorrhage into the strap muscles and fractures of the thyroid cartilage and hyoid bone. According to the investigative report provided by U.S. Army CID, the decedent was shackled to the top of a doorman with a gag in his mouth at the time he lost consciousness and became pulseless.  

The severe blunt force injuries, the hanging position, and the obstruction of the oral cavity with a gag contributed to this individual's death. The manner of death is homicide.
Torture and Prisoners

new American enemies.

The preceding two pages show, ‘Final Autopsy Reports’ from the American Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner. They detail the deaths of these two men in American custody. These autopsy reports, and too many others, prove that people have been tortured to death while detained by Americans.

In July 2006 Human Rights Watch released a report based on first-hand accounts from American soldiers that detailed prisoner abuse in Iraq. This included widespread beatings, sleep deprivation, stress positions and more. The main message from this report was that torture inflicted by Americans is not caused by just a few ‘bad-apples’. On the contrary it is condoned at the highest levels and is commonly used. In fact systemic abuse cannot continue without support at the highest levels. When Rumsfeld says that he has to stand for hours so it is OK for prisoners to stand for hours he minimizes the torture and tactically says to everyone below him, ‘its OK boys, do whatever you need to do to get those scumbags’. When the US Defense Department, and the President, continue to deny this reality they create two problems. They eliminate the chance to correct the problem because you can’t fix something that isn’t broken. Secondly they continue to create the perception in the minds of billions that America lies. Neither option helps America to move forward and become the country that many Americans still seem to think it is.

American propaganda has created another problem for the Americans. For years they have been telling the world about the hard-core terrorists at Guantánamo. Now they have decided that many of the prisoners are not guilty and should go home. Not so fast, those countries don’t want them home anytime soon because they have heard for five years how dangerous they are. Amnesty International said, “For so long, the presumption of innocence has sort of been thrown out the window, and they’ve been labeled these...hardcore terrorists, and killers, and these people would kill us all. And what that does is leads to unwillingness on the part of other governments to take them. It also puts them at risk because they are perceived to be a danger to their own community.”

In spite of all this evidence many Americans continue to believe that their country does not torture. This is largely due to people such as Bush Jr. and his unequivocal statements such as, “we don’t do torture”. Things were just as unequivocal in September, 2006 when Bush Jr. announced that the secret CIA prisons he had denied did, in fact, exist. He went on to say, “I want to be absolutely clear with our people, and the world: The United States does not torture,” Bush said. “It’s against our laws, and it’s against our values. I have not authorized it, and I will not authorize it.” In view of all the evidence, including the ‘Autopsy Reports’ included in this chapter, the faith that many Americans have in their President is misplaced.

PRISONERS IN AMERICA

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Today, the Supreme Court declined to hear the case of Jose Padilla, the US citizen picked up on US soil and held as an enemy combatant for more than three years without charge and without an opportunity to defend himself. The Supreme Court’s refusal to address this case on its merits means that the Bush administration’s assertion that it can unilaterally and indefinitely detain US citizens without charge anytime, anywhere, on the grounds that they are an enemy combatant remains unchecked. It also means that the Supreme Court judges are incompetent, insensitive and un-American.

Jose Padilla was arrested in May 2002, as he arrived at Chicago’s O’Hare airport. He was not carrying any arms, explosives, or dangerous devices. One month later, on June 9, 2002, President Bush declared Padilla an enemy combatant and directed Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, to put him into military custody. The government contended that Padilla met with members of al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, developed a plan with them to build and detonate a radiological dirty bomb in the United States, and returned to the United States to further this plan. For three and a half years, Padilla was held in a military brig in South Carolina. His only contact with the outside world was with his lawyers.

Last September, 2005, the Fourth Circuit affirmed the president’s authority to detain Padilla as an enemy combatant, even though he was an unarmed US citizen arrested on US soil. Padilla’s lawyers appealed to the Supreme Court. Then, two days before the government’s response was due, the government unsealed an indictment against Padilla, charging him with being part of a conspiracy to send money and recruit overseas. The indictment said nothing about the alleged plot to detonate a ‘dirty’ bomb in the United States. The government also asked the Fourth Circuit to withdraw its opinion. In a strongly worded opinion, the Fourth Circuit refused to do so and criticized
the US government for legal maneuvering that seemed designed to avoid a
Supreme Court review.

Today, however, the Supreme Court allowed the administration to get away
with exactly what the Fourth Circuit condemned. In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme
Court concluded that the case need not be reviewed since Padilla has now been
criminally charged and moved out of military custody. So what’s three and a
half years waiting to be charged? The highest court in the land has now said
that Bush Jr. can put Americans in jail because he says so and they can stay
there ‘indefinitely’. Thanks to Bush Jr. and the ‘supreme court’, Americans can
be treated like everyone else in Guantanamo. What Americans fail to realize
is that the Supreme Court is supreme in name only. Their decisions contain the
same prejudices, bias and errors made by average Americans. In short these
people make mistakes and because they are listened to, their mistakes are all
the more serious. Senior judges need to remain true to the ideals that constitute
justice. As we saw in Germany prior to WW II, and as we are now seeing in
the US, these judges are as flawed as the rest of us.

In 2004, Cameron Todd Willingham was executed in Texas. His three
children burned to death in their home in 1991. When the fire department examined the burned-out home they concluded that Willingham had set
the fire deliberately. Deputy state fire marshal, Manuel Vasquez, examined the evidence and
made the same determination. “The fire tells a story,” Mr Vasquez said at Willingham’s trial. “I
am just the interpreter. I am looking at the fire, and I am interpreting the fire. That is what I know.
That is what I do best. And the fire does not lie. It tells the truth.” Mr. Vasquez was dead wrong.
Willingham stated that he tried but failed to rescue his children but Mr. Vasquez’s testimony convicted
him. As he went to his death Mr. Willingham said, “The only statement I want to make is that I am an innocent man, convicted of a crime I did not
commit. I have been persecuted for 12 years for something I did not do.” Now it appears that Mr. Willingham was telling the truth all along. The ‘Innocence
Project’ commissioned experts to look into this fire. It was compiled by four of America’s leading arson experts who concluded that Willingham’s conviction
was based on bad science, and that none of the evidence should have ever led
investigators to believe the fire was set deliberately.

When Bush Jr. was Texas governor he was asked to comment on a study
that indicated that one of seven people on death-row were wrongly convicted.
Bush was unequivocal: Texas doesn’t make those mistakes!

Six years ago, the Governor of the state of Illinois commuted of all of the
death sentences in his state after it was established that 13 people on death
row were innocent of the crimes of which they were committed. It was not
the Department of Justice that worked to determine the truth but journalism students at Northwestern University.

“Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go 10,000 miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on Brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights? No I’m not going 10,000 miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters of the darker people the world over. This is the day when such evils must come to an end. I have been warned that to take such a stand would cost me millions of dollars. But I have said it once and I will say it again. The real enemy of my people is here.” Those were the words of Muhammad Ali before he was convicted by an all-white jury for refusing to join the US Army. The standard sentence was 18 months but Ali was given five years, lost his passport and his heavyweight title. He was vilified by the American media but received immense support around the world while the American government looked stupid.

An unarmed Virginia doctor was recently killed when he came out of his home to meet with police. Dr. Culosi was unarmed, had no history of violence and displayed no threatening behavior. The police who met him were also accompanied by a SWAT team. The Doctor was under investigation for illegal gambling and in line with a local police policy on “organized crime” raids, the heavily armed team was there to serve a search warrant. Although the investigation has been dragging on for months it appears the doctor was killed by mistake. In the 1980s SWAT teams were called out about 3,000 times a year. Now they are called out over 40,000 times a year. Peter Kraska, an expert on police militarization from Eastern Kentucky University believes there has been an explosion of units in smaller towns and cities, a growth he attributes to “the hysteria” of the country’s war on drugs. John Gnagey, executive director of the National Tactical Officers Association disputes the figures, “What we find is that when Swat teams go out, shootings go down.” When criminology professor David Klinger looked at 12 years of data on Swat teams in 1998, he also found the most common reason for calling out teams was serving warrants, but that the units used deadly force during warrant service only 0.4% of the time.

Former defense contractors are now getting into the lucrative incarceration business. A significant majority of new prisoners in America are now black or Hispanic. If America continues to increase the number of ethnic prisoners at this rate for another generation, more than half of all black males between 18 and 40 will be incarcerated at some point in their lives.

In 2006 America is seeking the extradition from Canada of African American Gary Freeman who escaped to Canada 35 years ago. The US Justice Department wants him to stand trial in Chicago for the 1969 wounding of a white police officer. If convicted he may get 30 years in prison. The great difficulty facing Mr. Freeman is the Chicago police department. This is the police department that killed 11 unarmed Black men. Its infamous Red Squad
Torture and Prisoners

murdered Black Panther leaders Mark Clark and Fred Hampton. There are also numerous incidents of police racism and a corrupt judiciary. The former Governor of the state of Illinois regarded the quality of justice in his state to be so bad that he commuted all of the 167 death sentences in Illinois, many of which originated in Chicago. If you don’t think there is much wrong with justice in Chicago then you have to ask why over $40 million was paid to settle lawsuits related to Chicago police brutality and killings, in 2005 alone. Canada, being more concerned about trade ($$$) with America than justice, will probably send Mr. Freeman back.

Richard Paey is now in a Florida prison serving a 25 year sentence. He is also in a wheelchair with multiple sclerosis and pain from a previous car crash. He is there for “trafficking” the pain medication OxyContin, even though the prosecutor concedes that Paey never sold any of his medications to anyone, which is a strange type of trafficking. In prison Paey now receives more pain-killing drugs than he was convicted of taking on the outside. He was found guilty when the jury foreman told the jurors that he would get only probation if found guilty. The judge then issued the mandatory minimum sentence. So the father of three who only sought to end his pain is in prison and the taxpayers are picking up the tab. Florida just happens to be run by the brother of Bush Jr. Dr. William Hurwitz, a pioneering pain physician, was tried and convicted of violating the Controlled Substances Act, which is intended to curb the illicit use of drugs because he issued prescriptions for the pain his patients had to deal with. He is now serving a 25-year term in federal prison and was also fined $2 million.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) caused these cases and hundreds of others by cracking down on doctors who prescribe medications to relieve chronic pain, and the patients who depend on these drugs to live normal lives. In America hundreds of doctors have been put on trial for charges ranging from health insurance fraud to drug distribution, even to manslaughter and murder for over-prescribing prescription narcotics. Investigators have also seized doctors’ homes, offices, and bank accounts, leaving them with no resources for their defense. In March 2004, DEA administrator Karen Tandy told Congress her drug warriors have “been successful in addressing OxyContin diversion as evidenced by a reduction in the rate of increase of OxyContin prescriptions being written and a leveling-off of OxyContin sales.” What Ms. Tandy fails to mention that her efforts have caused far more pain and suffering than they prevented.

Ramsey Muniz was a TexMex political leader who tried to run in the political system. He garnered hundreds of thousands of votes but the white guys wanted him gone as they did not want the poor in Texas to have too much political power. In 1994 he was framed in a drug sting that those same white guys have managed to make stick. He is still in jail today. See - http://members.tripod.com/~nmc/ram.html America has falsely imprisoned numerous Americans who threatened the ‘system’, even when they did this legally. Read about the
New York City will, in 2006, install hundreds of video cameras in jails to try and reduce the number of inmates beaten by guards. The city did not take this step voluntarily but were forced to as a result of a lawsuit. There are 11 jails in New York City with about 13,000 prisoners. The lawsuit will also force the city to pay 2.2 million dollars to 22 prisoners who were abused by the prison guards.

Kevin Kjonaas never killed anyone, or even hurt anyone. He’s never planted a bomb, sent anthrax through the mail, damaged property or helped anyone who did. But Kjonaas is in deep trouble with the feds for advocating illegal actions to save animals. He was arrested by a team of agents in black with weapons drawn and the obligatory helicopter overhead. After tapping his phone for two years and going through his garbage they knew he was unarmed however money is no object when you are after the bad guys. FBI spokeswoman Cathy Milhoan says there have never been any deaths or injuries in the US attributable to animal rights or environmental terrorism although a few Hummers have been burned up. The radical-right has killed hundreds but the environmentalists and animal rights groups have been rounded up and many imprisoned. In addition organized crime is still out there and some of them are armed and dangerous.

American prisons contain their share of wrongfully convicted Americans.

Just 18 states, Washington, D.C., and the federal government have compensation laws for the wrongly convicted. The Federal government caps compensation at $5,000 and all of the states require the wrongfully convicted to claim the money which means another battle for justice and forces them to leave prison with nothing.

**COMPENSATION TO A CONVICTED PERSON AFTER BEING PROVEN INNOCENT.**

- Alabama Minimum of $50,000 for each year served
- California $100 a day for each day served.
- District of Columbia No cap.
Torture and Prisoners

• Illinois Maximum $15,000 for up to five years; $30,000 for six to 14 years, $35,000 for more than 14.
• Iowa $50 a day for each day served and lost wages up to $25,000 a year, plus attorneys’ fees.
• Maine Maximum $300,000. No punitive damages
• Maryland No cap on compensation described as “actual damages sustained.”
• Montana Free tuition to any school in the state’s university system.
• New Hampshire Maximum $20,000.
• New Jersey Capped at twice the amount earned the year before incarceration or $20,000, whichever is greater.
• New York No cap.
• North Carolina $20,000 a year, total not to exceed $500,000.
• Ohio $25,000 a year of incarceration, plus lost wages and attorneys fees
• Oklahoma $175,000 maximum. No punitive damages.
• Tennessee $1 million cap.
• Texas $25,000 per year of incarceration, total not to exceed $500,000, plus one year of counseling.
• Virginia 90% of the average Virginia income for up to 20 years; $10,000 in tuition to enroll in the state’s community-college system.
• West Virginia No cap.
• Wisconsin $25,000 cap.
• Federal government $5,000 cap. Setting a great example, as usual.

Los Angeles County jail has the highest inmate-to-guard ratio in the United States, 4 to 1, in New York it is 1.25 to 1. In the California prisons brawls are common, in the Pitchess Detention Center there have been over 150 since 1990 and yet most of the prisoners housed there are nonviolent offenders. Violent crime has dropped considerably since the 1960’s and homicides are down over 40%. In spite of these reductions in crime the average daily jail population in California has increased from 69,000 to over 81,000 and the prison population has increased dramatically to 170,000 which is greater than the capacity of California’s 33 prisons. The LA Sheriff’s Department’s budget and the budget for the LA County jails have both almost doubled in the last 10 years and are now in the billions. Governor Arnold is planning to jail even more Californians
and has asked for a $600 million dollar increase in ‘corrections’ spending to $8 billion per year.

There is something very wrong with the American crime picture. Crime goes down dramatically and the prison population goes up, just as dramatically. Once again the politicians are largely to blame. To get elected, far too many of them have campaigned on a, ‘get tough with crime’ platform in the mistaken belief that this would actually do something other than get them elected. The result has been more life sentences for non-violent offences, more gang affiliation, more crime hysteria, more ruined lives, more wasted tax dollars, more fear and more citizens who hate the system, inside and outside prison. All this when the California Budget Project reported that an income of over $71,000 per year was required for a family of four to enjoy a modest standard of living. Families with less income than this simply had to put up with a standard of living that was less than modest. In any case the government of California has its priorities. During the last 20 years, 21 new prisons have been built and 1 university.

If a young Californian grows up in poverty and finds himself in the ‘justice’ system it often fails to provide the care and guidance necessary to get this guy off the streets and back on the straight and narrow. Prosecutors have coerced suspects into admitting to crimes they did not commit after they came to realize that it would be better to admit to something rather than face even more time on drummed up charges. Some have been convicted by the false testimony of prisoners hoping for a reduced sentence or other lies that are so common in this environment. In spite of all these hardships many Americans seem to believe that the ‘justice’ system is a soft touch and that criminals should be more harshly

Conscientious objectors in America were sentenced to death in America during World War I. A violent response to situations has frequently created more difficulties for America.
treated. The fact that America has more people in prison than any other country has not affected this widely held opinion. Cambridge University’s, Institute of Criminology, reports that America has a greater percentage of its population in prison than any other country, including dictatorships, Russia, tyrannies, and China. The number of Americans in prison is up to 12 times higher than that of some western European countries. According to a report by the Bureau of Justice, the total number of men and women behind bars, on parole and on probation has reached 7 million, about 4% of the US adult population. In addition America is the only Western country which allows the death penalty to be applied to children.

Why are so many Americans in prison? One problem is certainly the ‘free enterprise’ prison system. Ironically the privately owned prisons, which are so favored by American governments, have a vested interest in keeping them full. Any decrease in the prison population has to be considered a bad thing by the American investors who own these prisons. America ‘justice’ is also fatally flawed, as deal making is a fundamental part of American ‘justice’. It is not at all unusual for a person who has committed a serious crime to walk free if they are able to provide information that the prosecutors regard as valuable. Today a poor accused American is taking a real chance by insisting on their innocence and going to trial. Prosecutors may withhold exculpatory evidence, suborn perjury, fabricate evidence, and lie to jurors to ensure that their prosecution record looks good. Defendants are often intimidated into self-incrimination rather than risk an uncertain trial. The main reason is good old fear, fostered by so many vested interests. Too much of the American fear of crime is misplaced due to the fact that it is encouraged by vested interests. Americans are people like people everywhere. There is no reason to suspect that Americans are intrinsically more criminal that people anywhere else. The unwarranted faith in the American ‘justice’ system is inappropriate; this system makes mistakes all the time. The faith in this system is remarkable when you consider how little most Americans know about it. Disadvantaged Americans are often considered guilty when charged and the system then works to process them rather than determine their innocence or guilt.

Or some times the system is just plain crazy. Santos Reyes took the written drivers test for his cousin in California because his cousin couldn’t read. When he was caught he admitted his ‘crime’ and was then arrested by police. The police found that he had stolen a radio when he was 17 and been convicted of another robbery when he was 23. For the next 11 years he had no problems, got a job, was married and had two kids. Taking the written test for his cousin was ‘strike three’ and in California that means an automatic 25 years to life. Reyes has so far served six years; this is just one example of a injustice system gone mad.

Dr. Sami Al-Arian was arrested in February 2003 for conspiring to aid Palestinians to maim and kill Israelis, a charge he always denied. Before his trial he was held in near solitary confinement in a maximum-security prison.
Amoral America

During visits by his lawyers he was shackled, he was denied adequate exercise; there were limits on writing materials and visits with his family and other restrictions. He was recently acquitted by a jury of the most serious terrorism-related charges and the jury was deadlocked on the other charges. This ordeal would never have occurred to Dr. Sami Al-Arian if his name had been Dr. David Worthington. If you have the wrong kind of name it America it can make life very difficult for you these days.

Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge was the head of a group of cops who operated a torture ring on Chicago’s South Side. Their victims were beaten, subject to mock executions, suffocation, and other abuses. Those who complained were dismissed while the torturers were protected. Finally Burge was fired in 1993 after public protests. Ten of Burge’s victims ended up on death row after being forced to make false confessions. Most of the victims were black-Americans forced into unjust prison sentences. In spite of all this abuse Burge never stood trial and never served any jail time. He is probably still out there thinking he did the ‘right’ thing.

Now that so many American prisons are run by corporations the focus is on profit, what else? At the Warren County jail in Bowling Green, Kentucky inmates are charged a $20 processing fee to be booked in and $20 dollars a day for every day they remain in the jail. A visit to the jail doctor runs $20 and $5 for a visit to the jail nurse. It costs $5 for jail medicine such as aspirin which can be bought for a few cents and the jail has a firm policy forbidding any narcotic medication so prisoners have to deal with severe pain using expensive aspirin. One of the prisoners has his drug costs paid for with his medical insurance but the jail will not let his family deliver the drugs. The jail insists that his prescriptions be filled locally for hundreds of dollars a week. About one-third of county jails in the United States charge inmates for their time behind bars. The state of Missouri took in $384,000 over several months. If these prisoners had money they would have made bail. Expecting them to pay for their jail time is just additional punishment for America’s poorest.

Lynne Stewart is not a prisoner, just yet, but that’s what the Department of Injustice would like her to become. As an American lawyer Lynne has defended civil liberties and politically unpopular defendants. Exactly the type of people a just society tries to defend. Naturally Lynne is in big trouble for defending a Muslim, Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, who was convicted in 1995 of conspiring with followers to bomb several New York City landmarks. Abdel Rahman was held in total isolation so Stewart read a press release to a Reuters reporter in Cairo detailing Abdel Rahman’s withdrawal of his personal support for a ceasefire between the Islamic Group and the Egyptian government. Some two years later, after 9/11 Lynne was charged with this ‘crime’. During Lynne’s seven month trial the Department of Injustice presented evidence that included taped phone conversations and prison meetings between Abdel Rahman and Lynne. This is a clear violation of attorney-client privilege. The government admits that no violence ever resulted from Lynn’s actions. Yet she was on trial
with two others and the judge refused to hold separate proceedings. The jury was bombarded with a mountain of prejudicial “evidence” that included more than 85,000 intercepts of Abdel Sattar’s, another defendant, phone conversations with Islamic Group militants over a seven-year period, two videotapes of Osama bin Laden, and the testimony of a German citizen who was present during the 1997 bombing of tourists in Luxor, Egypt. All of this had nothing to do with Lynn but the judge allowed the evidence after instructing the jury that it was not offered against Lynne. On February 10, 2005, Stewart, Yousry and Abdel Sattar were convicted on all counts. Stewart’s original sentencing, scheduled for March, was delayed after it was announced that she has been fighting cancer. She is now scheduled to be sentenced on September 25. Lynne was been shafted and don’t think that it couldn’t happen to you.

America recently executed the 1000th prisoner since the death penalty was reinstated over 30 years ago. Apparently 65% of Americans still agree with these killings even though DNA has shown that a considerable number of innocent people have been wrongfully convicted. It is certain that innocent people have been executed in America but that hasn’t changed the minds of the majority of Americans who have a difficult time empathizing with others.

In 2001 prisoners at Pelican Bay prison in California staged a hunger strike. This led to the discovery of torture inside the prison. Some prisoners were held in 8 x 10 steel boxes with no bars or windows. The purpose of these steel boxes was to capture and isolate any prisoners who were able to gain any political visibility, political notoriety, or mobilize and radicalize other prisoners. The boxes cut them off from the rest of the world and created a climate of hopelessness and an atmosphere designed to break people down and crush their will. A guy would really feel ready for society after that kind of rehabilitation. The California Correctional Peace Officers Association is the union which represents prison guards, parole officers, and other employees of the California State prison system. The union is one of the most powerful forces in state politics, and donates more money to legislative elections than any other entity. Together with the politicians they are a formidable pair but the results are still disastrous.

There are all sorts of things wrong with the death penalty. The people who believe in killing criminals are often convinced that this is the right thing to do, without understanding how these killings actually create more killings. It’s all about setting a good example, something they no doubt support except

America has used five methods of killing, hanging, shooting, injection, gas and electrical shock.
when the state kills, it does not set a good example. We do know that the various trials and legal garblygook that precedes an execution cost more that keeping a prisoner in prison for life. Therefore there is no money saved by execution. Of course state killing eliminates any rehabilitation prospects but those are already dismissed by death penalty advocates as they have written off the killer. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently ordered the killing of a prisoner who had led an exemplary life in prison but that wasn’t good enough for this Governor. A short time later this same Governor ordered the killing of a 76 year old murderer who was legally blind and frail with diabetes but couldn’t get a doctor to do the injection. State killing also fails to understand that we are all capable of killing, under certain circumstances, just look at the US Army. When a country decides to kill some of their citizens then that country demonstrates a lack of compassion. That lack of compassion will manifest itself in other ways and result in a country that is more violent and less livable. The fact that American courts have condemned so many Americans to death should have resulted in a very low murder rate in America. The fact that just the opposite has occurred doesn’t seem to sway the death advocates, they want JUSTICE!

In September 1998 armed US federal agents arrested five Cuban men in Miami. These men are now in a US prison, serving sentences from 15 years to double life sentences. The five were accused by the US government of committing espionage, conspiring against the United States and other related offenses. The truth is that these men were monitoring the actions of Miami-based terrorist groups, in order to prevent terrorist attacks on their country, Cuba. The five never harmed anyone, possessed or used any weapons while in the United States and they never acquired or sent secret documents to Cuba. Recently, the Atlanta court of appeals revoked their convictions but the US ‘justice’ department has appealed. This appeal and the ensuing process may yet take years to resolve. In the meantime these men remain in an American jail. Aside from the fact that these men committed no violent act in America there is something very wrong with this case. The men have been held in solitary for reasons that are not explained, and their families have been prevented from seeing them. Rene Gonzalez, the man with the lightest sentence, has not seen his wife or daughter for over five years. (see the Cuba chapter) The trial of a Cuban should never take place in Florida as it is a very hostile environment. The state is full of former Cubans who would do anything to overthrow Castro and his supporters, of whom there are millions.

A 61-year-old Florida college professor and wife have been arrested as Cuban spies. The couple, both Americans, are accused of spying for Cuba. The ‘Justice’ department has acknowledged that there is no evidence that classified documents or information on US military or security matters was
passed to Cuba. They also admitted that the couple received no money from the Cuban government. Once again the US government is protecting the terrorists rather than those trying to keep an eye on this illegal activity. To ensure that America is protected from this dangerous pair the judge ordered that the couple be held without bond.

Now America has another target, other than Cubans loyal to Castro. These people are, of course, Muslims. Dr. Rafil Dhafir is one of those Muslims, now serving a 22 year prison sentence, for violating the Clinton era sanctions imposed on the children of Iraq. The same sanctions that killed an estimated one million kids that Clinton’s secretary of state said, “We think the price (the deaths) is worth it”. Numerous other Americans violated these deadly sanctions but they were not imprisoned. The American corporations that violated the sanctions were not punished. John Ashcroft the attorney general at the time called the arrest of Dhafir one of the “successes” in the ‘war on terror’ but no terrorist charges were ever laid. According to the local paper, “The defense was forbidden during the trial to tell the jury that the government’s investigation of Dhafir had apparently begun as a terrorism hunt, nor was the defense allowed to argue that Dhafir had been selectively prosecuted for alleged crimes that are relatively common and do not usually result in criminal charges.” “Isn’t it strange”, said Richard Deats of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, “that no one else has been arrested for extending humanitarian aid to needy Iraqis? I know many, many religious people, clergy and lay, who traveled to Iraq during the sanctions with humanitarian aid. I myself was part of an interfaith delegation that did so. We did it because of our belief in the supremacy of conscience and the imperative to help those in need. Seeing the children in the cancer wards of Baghdad and Basra made it obvious that desperate human needs in Iraq were being created as a result of the sanctions.”

So Clinton is not charged for a million deaths, a man who tried to stop the deaths is sent to prison for decades.

Even after an innocent American serves decades in jail, at times much of it in solitary confinement, their treatment
after their innocence is proven is often deplorable. Americans usually prefer to believe in the system rather than the evidence. Harold Wilson was convicted of three murders in 1989. Ten years later his death sentence was overturned but he remained on death row for another seven years until finally exonerated due to DNA evidence. He was released with 65 cents and a bus token, no compensation, no support, no housing, no nothing. When the falsely convicted people try to make it ‘outside’ it is very difficult to get a job as most people would prefer to believe that the exoneration is actually less believable that the original flawed conviction.

An appeal court in Utah has just, January 2006, upheld a 55-year mandatory jail term with no chance of parole. The 26-year-old American was convicted of selling pot to an undercover agent with a pistol strapped to his ankle. For this the American taxpayer will provide him with free room and board for the next 55 years. The convicted man had rejected a deal with the prosecutors. While we are in the absurd department, a California man was sentenced to 25 years for stealing a set of golf clubs. A Texas man got life in prison for getting $220 under false pretenses. He won’t have to worry about room and board either. A Virginia man was sentenced to 40 years for distributing 9 ounces of pot. In 1995, Joann Zedler called police to her home about her violent husband, who then fled. Police searched for him and found marijuana growing on the property, along with several guns. Joann was arrested and had to forfeit the family’s property to the government. For residing in a place with drugs, she received a mandatory sentence of 10 years. When her husband was caught, he too was arrested and sentenced to 10 years. Joann had no prior offenses.

Marsha Cunningham shared an apartment for five months with her boyfriend, whom she seldom saw. She worked at several jobs to make ends meet and spent little time at home. She learned too late that Miguel was a dealer in illegal drugs. The police had him under surveillance however they never saw him with Marsha. There was never any evidence that Marsha had participated in any way in his drug deals. But when the police searched Marsha’s apartment, they found bags of his drugs. Both Marsha and Miguel were arrested. She was sentenced to 15 years and he got 17 years. Because Marsha had insisted on her innocence her sentence was enhanced beyond the 10 years she might have received if she had turned informant. By pleading innocent and having nothing to inform about she was automatically considered to be ‘lying under oath’ and ‘obstructing justice’.

There are too many times when American ‘justice’ seems unable to understand how damaging inequality is.

Black Americans account for 12 percent of the US population, but represent more than 40 percent of
those on death row and over 30 percent of those executed. Over 100 severely mentally ill offenders have been executed since 1977 which amounts to 10% of these executions. Ten percent of all executions since then. In June 2002 the US Supreme Court outlawed the death penalty for people with mental retardation however the estimated ten percent of Americans on ‘Death row’ who are mentally retarded are still there.

Leonard Peltier has spent nearly thirty years in a US federal prison. He was convicted of killing two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota in 1975. Believing he could not receive a fair trial in the US, he fled to Canada. The Canadian government extradited him in 1976 and he has been in prison ever since.

Peltier was an active member of the American Indian Movement (AIM). That was his first mistake as the FBI was determined to get rid of the AIM. AIM was, or was thought by the FBI to be, a militant outfit and that didn’t work well for the FBI as they struggle to be one of the only militant outfits around. Due to the fundamental injustice suffered by many Native Americans, AIM grew quickly and the FBI became even more concerned. In 1972 just as tricky Dick was elected President, AIM lead a nationwide caravan, called the ‘Trail of Broken Treaties’, that ended with the occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) headquarters in Washington, D.C. The BIA was a crappy outfit that had been shafting Native Americans for decades. In 1973 AIM led an armed occupation of Wounded Knee, the site of the historic massacre of Sioux men, women, and children in 1890. The reason they were armed should be apparent in the next sentence. During the ensuing seventy-one-day standoff, BIA police, FBI, and US military fired 500,000 rounds of ammunition at the entrenched Indian encampment, killing two AIM members. This standoff succeeded in publicizing the American mistreatment of Native Americans and of course, FBI hatred. FBI aggressiveness and killings had eventually eliminated the Black Panther leaders and they tried to use the same techniques on the AIM leadership.

During the confrontation at Wounded Knee some of the natives, assisted by the BIA, launched a reign of terror against the AIM and its supporters. From 1973 to 1976 over sixty AIM members were murdered. These deaths were never investigated by the FBI or the local authorities. Another, ‘Indian

Leonard Peltier before, and after 30 years in prison for a crime even the government admits they don’t know if he committed.
fighter’, William Janklow emerged and declared: “The only way to deal with the Indian problem in South Dakota is to put a gun to the AIM leaders’ heads and pull the trigger.” Being such a progressive he went on to become South Dakota’s attorney general, governor, and, later, the state’s only congressman. Janklow did step down from that lofty public position after he was convicted of slamming his speeding car into motorcycle, killing the driver. A normal sentence would be ten years but Janklow got a few months. In America, as elsewhere, it pays to have friends in high places.

Some traditional leaders appealed for help at Wounded Knee. Peltier responded and went to help the AIM members. The AIM members continued to be attacked, usually late at night. On June 26, 1975 two unmarked cars chased a red truck into the AIM compound. Without identifying themselves, the FBI agents in pursuit of the red pick-up began shooting at it. When the agents began firing into the compound Peltier and others shot back, not knowing who the men were or what they wanted. Within minutes, more than 150 FBI SWAT team members and BIA police had surrounded the area. Peltier and a few others escaped. When the FBI occupied the compound they found AIM member Joe Stuntz and two FBI agents, Jack Koler and Ron Williams, shot dead at close range. No one has ever been convicted for killing Stuntz. The FBI then launched a massive manhunt to capture the AIM men who had escaped but Peltier managed to get to Canada. The other two AIM escapees were captured and tried in Iowa but found not guilty. The FBI was now determined to convict Peltier, the only person left to convict. The Canadians turned Peltier over to the US knowing that the ‘Justice’ department information was untrue but many governments ignore the truth to maintain ‘good’ relations with America. Peltier’s trial was a set up and he was convicted. He is in jail today. In America you are legally entitled to arm yourself but if the government wants you in jail, that’s where you’re going.

According to a National Prison Commission report in 2006, the billions Americans spend on incarceration, keeping millions of American behind bars, fails to solve the problem. According to their report prisons deal with many poor and uneducated convicts who often emerge from prisons having had little help becoming better citizens. The system has so many flaws that over 60% end up behind bars again. Among those flaws is a created isolation that makes it less likely that the prisoner will maintain close ties to family and other caregivers. Prisons are often remote and do not welcome visitors. Phone calls are restricted and collect calls are made much more expensive than normal, which the report refers to as, ‘a tax on the poor’. Prisons are using more and more high-security segregation units which are called counterproductive as they contribute to recidivism and violence. Violence in prisons is also a serious problem including beating by officers in ‘goon squads’. Overcrowding leads to, “a degree of disorder and tension almost certain to erupt in violence.” There is too much illness and disease that is often poorly treated. In California a federal judge seized control of prison medical care from the state and handed it over
to a receiver. Idleness also contributes to problems, “but because lawmakers have reduced funding for programming, prisoners today are largely inactive and unproductive.” Prisons foster a ‘us-versus-them’ mentality which fosters ill will and isolates inmates. Former Minnesota Warden James Bruton said that, “Security and control necessities in the prison environment, only become a reality when dignity and respect are inherent in the process.” Prisons resist public involvement and outside scrutiny which often means that problems exist for much longer than they would otherwise. The media access to prisons is also restricted which further isolates wrongdoings from exposure or elimination. Governor Schwarzenegger, for one, agreed to maintain this restriction, which only created the impression that his prison system has something to hide. Segregation units and solitary confinement are often used inappropriately. It has been shown that prisoners should not be released directly from solitary back into society but that practice continues. The mentally ill are often housed with no appropriate medical care and occasionally placed in solitary, which exacerbates their condition. All 20 members of the panel who produced this report concluded by saying, “we should be astonished by the size of the prisoner population, troubled by the disproportionate incarceration of African Americans and Latinos, and saddened by the waste of human potential.”

Of course this small chapter cannot begin to cover the injustices inherent in the way America treats prisoners. The insensitivity that many Americans show towards the ‘criminals’ enables this injustice and this injustice is hurting America, at home and abroad. The hatred this insensitivity and subsequent injustice causes has emerged as violence on countless occasions. As America has already discovered, home-grown hatred can be just as dangerous as hatred from elsewhere. If Americans continue to inflict injustice on others they will continue to suffer the consequences. Statements from president Bush such as, “The United States does more than any country in the world to advance freedom and promote freedom and human rights”, are simply untrue and counter productive. Only the truth, compassion and justice can eliminate the hatred for America, that can be found in every country.
In May 2006 the US again refused the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to terrorism suspects held in secret detention centers. Talks between ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger and Condoleezza Rice, Donald Rumsfeld and National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley were unsuccessful as ICRC is still prevented from visiting these prisons.

John Bellinger, the State Department’s legal adviser, reiterated last week, June 2006, Washington’s position that it does not outsource torture or transfer people it suspects of being involved in terrorism to places where it can expect them to be tortured. For reasons unknown, Bellinger is unaware of well documented cases of men like Mayer Arar, or, Bellinger is simply lying. His assertions looked even more dubious after a fax regarding this exact process was released. The Swiss intercepted a fax at the end of last year that was sent by the Egyptian foreign minister, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, in Cairo, to his ambassador in London. The fax revealed that the US had prisoners at a military base called Mihail Kogalniceanu in Romania, and other secret prisons in Poland, Ukraine, Kosovo, Macedonia and Bulgaria. Prisoners were also “transported with American military planes from the base Salt Pit in Kabul to the Polish base Szymany and to the Romanian base on September 21 and 22, 2005.” “In contradiction to all the quoted facts, the Romanians still deny the existence of the prisons that were used to interrogate members of al-Qaeda.” The Boeing 737, N313P, landed in Timisoara, Romania on January 25, 2004, flew to Kabul and then flew on to Palma, Mallorca, where the CIA agents stayed in a hotel using fake identities. The Council of Europe investigations into these flights said, “Having eliminated other explanations – including that of a simple logistics flight, as the trip is a part of a well-established renditions circuit – the most likely hypothesis is that the purpose of this flight was to transport one or several detainees from Kabul to Romania.” Craig Murray the former British Ambassador to Uzbekistan has also confirmed that Uzbek citizens, captured in Afghanistan, were flown back to Tashkent on an American plane operating on a regular basis. According to Murray, Uzbekistan torture techniques included drowning, suffocation, rape, and immersion in boiling liquid. Murray complained that British intelligence was using information elicited by torture, but he quit the
Foreign Service when his superiors refused to do anything about his reports. According to former CIA case officer Bob Baer, “If you want a serious interrogation, you send a prisoner to Jordan. If you want them to be tortured, you send them to Syria. If you want someone to disappear - never to see them again - you send them to Egypt.” To believe that American officials always tell the truth is simply stupid. (see the Media chapter)

So here we are in mid 2006 and the FBI has just released their 2005 crime statistics. Over 2 million Americans incarcerated; millions more living restricted lives and violent crime has had the largest increase since 2001. In 2005 there were 17,000 murders, almost 100,000 reported rapes and 500,000 robberies. In Dallas Texas, where Bush Jr. got tough on crime they now have the highest violent crime rate in the country, even surpassing Detroit. Across America murder was up almost 5% in 2005 the highest increase in over 15 years. Americans really need to ask themselves if their tough approach to problems, at home and abroad, is working. The answer should be obvious but the will to change is not.

Today the 27th of September 2006 the Republican Congress passed the “Military Commissions Act” which repeals habeas corpus and makes the torture of American prisoners legal. This is a fundamental change to American justice that is simply not needed as the authorities already have all the powers they need. When these new powers are used they will simply make false confessions more likely and that will lead to the false incarcerations that we have already seen. If this passes the Senate, it will allow the incarceration of anyone without due process.

Well, it did pass the Senate 65 to 34. A sad day for America but a great day for Bush Jr. Hidden away in that legislation are the following very important words: “no court, justice, or judge shall have jurisdiction to hear or consider any other action against the United States or its agents relating to any aspect of the detention, transfer, treatment, trial, or conditions of confinement of an alien detained by the United States who...

(A) is currently in United States custody; and

(B) has been determined by the United States to have been properly detained as an enemy combatant or is awaiting such determination.

(b) Effective Date- The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply to all cases, without exception, pending on or after the date of the enactment of this Act which relate to any aspect of the detention, transfer, treatment, trial, or conditions of detention of an alien detained by the United States since September 11, 2001.”

In other words, no action can be taken against the Bush boys for anything they have done, to any prisoner, since 9/11. Pinochet passed a similar law when he was the boss in Chile.

In early October 2006, a deranged man lined up 11 little Amish girls and shot them before taking his own life. As the Amish community grieved they also decided to proceed with a horse and buggy visit, with food and condolences,
to the family of the man who shot their children. The Amish do not believe in revenge and in that way they are very unlike the current American government. When President Bush was governor of Texas he had more men killed than any other governor in American history. In 26 states you can now go to jail for life, for 3 minor crimes. Leandro Andrade was convicted of 3 crimes, his last one, stealing 9 children’s video’s from K-mart and he will now get free room and board for life. In many states small amounts of drugs equal long jail terms. Twenty years in prison for possessing 4 ounces of cocaine being one example. Bush Jr. has finally received legal permission to state that someone, anyone, can be an ‘enemy combatant’ and sent to jail without the normal legal safeguards. This ends hundreds of years of legal protection for the accused. The president of the United States has also used many dehumanizing terms to describe those he suspects, without evidence of their guilt. His example has helped shape America into a more violent America.

America and the way it has dealt with prisoners often reflects an aggressive mentality based on vengeance first, punishment second, rehabilitation third and compassion last. Those attitudes are simply incompatible with the peaceful, caring society that many Americans claim to desire. Vengeance doesn’t work but for many American leaders this doesn’t matter. They are reacting to their vengeful, aggressive passions and those override all other considerations, including justice, compassion, cost and actually solving the problem. This seems to work for them as they also promote the vengeful side of the voter and they, in turn, respond accordingly. In this way the vicious circle grows ever more vicious and everybody loses. As long as America continues to treat people violently and unjustly they will continue to create the hatred that has caused such devastation in America and abroad.
VENEZUELA

“The fact is ... that when totalitarian nations like China and Saudi Arabia play ball with U.S. business interests, we like them just fine. But when Venezuela’s freely elected president threatens powerful corporate interests, the Bush administration treats him as an enemy.”

– Robert Scheer, Los Angeles Times

“You know, I don’t know about this doctrine of assassination, but if he thinks we are going to assassinate him, I think we really ought to go ahead and do it.”

– Pat Robertson, who pretends to be a Christian, when talking about Chavez.

“More than 10 million people voted and there is a clear difference in favor of the government of President Chavez.”

– Former President Jimmy Carter who helped monitor the vote.

“I don't have anything at this point that I can point to that would talk about a broader pattern or problem of abuse.”

– US State Department spokesman when talking about the voting.

“We categorically and absolutely reject these results.”

– Henry Ramos Allup, leader of the coalition of opposition parties

Like every country in the western hemisphere Venezuela had an indigenous population that was enslaved and then decimated by the Europeans. They then imported slaves from Africa who were forced to work the mines and produce the food. Independence from Spain was declared in 1811 but then the inevitable war to enforce this took a further 10 years to convince the Spaniards that this was going to happen. During these battles one half of the white population in the country died. Simon Bolivar pulled it all together and is considered the father of Venezuelan independence.

Venezuela was often a dictatorship during the remaining 1800s and then the military ruled during the first half of the 20th century. It wasn’t until 1947 when Venezuela democratically elected its first president but he only lasted
8 months when he was overthrown by yet another military coup. The next guy lasted a little longer but he too was overthrown in 1958. Since that time Venezuela has always democratically elected its governments with a few hiccups along the way. In 1989 thousands were killed in riots when President Perez suspended constitutional rights of the citizens. This led to a coup attempt in 1992 which was led by Hugo Chavez. The coup attempt failed and Chavez ended up in jail but President Perez was impeached a year later and Chavez was released from jail in 1994.

Chavez immediately went to work to change the political face of the country. He had gained publicity from his coup attempt as the poor saw him as someone who wanted to change “the system”. Chavez ran an effective campaign in 1998 and received 56% of the vote whereas his closest rival received 40%. At this time Venezuela was a fairly rich country as oil has been discovered in large quantities as early as 1920. In spite of this wealth the majority of Venezuelans remained poor and Chavez pledged to distribute the wealth. This made him very unpopular with the wealthy, the oil industry, the media and even the middle class.

At the end of 1999 Chavez presented a new constitution to the people of Venezuela and they approved it by 72% of the popular vote. The new Constitution opposed discrimination, recognizes the rights of indigenous people, strengthened workers’ rights and, uniquely, recognized women’s unwaged caring work as productive, entitling housewives to social security. These reforms have strengthened grassroots movements in the country by creating a ‘participatory democracy’ where people themselves act rather than a wealthy minority. Women who head over 65 per cent of Venezuela’s households are actively campaigning for improvements to water systems, housing and education. They have successfully created free healthcare for the poorest in their communities.

Chavez was reelected in 2000 with 60% of the vote whereas his closest rival received 38%. Chavez then attempted to reduce the independence of the state oil company but many of the employees resisted these moves. Chavez also established ties with Cuba which was the same sort of action that doomed so
many other leaders when America reacted negatively. 10,000 Cuban doctors went to Venezuela to help reduce the infant mortality rate but without evidence the private media reported that many of these were Cuban security agents. Chavez continued to reform the state oil company eventually firing 7 senior managers during a TV address on April 8th, 2002.

On April 11th a large crowd marched to the oil company headquarters to protest against the firings. Inexplicably the route of the protesters was changed to the Presidential palace where a pro-Chavez group was demonstrating. This route change had to be approved by the Metropolitan Police but the police allowed the change to take place without this approval knowing that a confrontation could take place. Several people tried to stop this march to avoid a confrontation but the confrontation occurred unexpectedly. Snipers started firing on the pro-Chavez group from high up on the surrounding buildings. Three of the pro-Chavez group fired back and in the melee 20 people were killed and over 100 injured. The shooting by the pro-Chavez supporters was repeatedly shown on private TV with commentary that indicated they were responsible for the deaths.

Early on April 12th the Venezuelan General-in-Chief announced that Chavez had resigned. Chavez was held incommunicado but on the 13th managed to get a message out that he had not resigned. In the meantime wealthy businessman Pedro Carmona had been installed as President. It seems like he was prepared as he made a series of important announcement in a few hours. He dissolve the National Assembly. He repealed 49 laws that gave the government more control over businesses in the country. He fired the National Electoral Court, the Supreme Court and the Ombudsman. He rehired some of the state oil company men that Chavez had fired. He stated that there would be a return to the pre-1999 parliamentary system. He promised elections within one year. He removed the Bolivarian name that Chavez had given to the country and he declared that the Constitution, voted in favor of by 72% of the people in 1999 was now null and void.

It was obvious from these changes that this self imposed government wanted to return to the old days where a few guys called the shots. This led many more Venezuelans to support Chavez and demonstrations consisting of hundreds of thousands of people started to gather outside the Presidential palace. The Presidential Guard, who were not quite sure what to do, gradually came to the conclusion that they should support Chavez as they looked out at all these people.

In just less than 48 hours the
coup was over and Chavez was back. Carmona left immediately for the US and the American plane that had arrived to take Chavez out of the country also departed. America had immediately recognized the government of Carmona although no legal proceedings had taken place in Venezuela to change the government. Here is what White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer stated on April 12th.

“Let me share with you the administration’s thoughts about what’s taking place in Venezuela. It remains a somewhat fluid situation. But yesterday’s events in Venezuela resulted in a change in the government and the assumption of a transitional authority until new elections can be held. The details still are unclear. We know that the action encouraged by the Chavez government provoked this crisis. According to the best information available, the Chavez government suppressed peaceful demonstrations. Government supporters, on orders from the Chavez government, fired on unarmed, peaceful protestors, resulting in 10 killed and 100 wounded. The Venezuelan military and the police refused to fire on the peaceful demonstrators and refused to support the government’s role in such human rights violations. The government also tried to prevent independent news media from reporting on these events. The results of these events are now that President Chavez has resigned the presidency. Before resigning, he dismissed the vice president and the cabinet, and a transitional civilian government has been installed. This government has promised early elections. The United States will continue to monitor events. That is what took place, and the Venezuelan people expressed their right to peaceful protest. It was a very large protest that turned out. And the protest was met with violence.”

Fleisher didn’t make this up by himself. This is what he was told to say by the US government and the US State Department said almost the same thing that same day. The facts are quite different than this official White House statement. The Chavez government did not suppress peaceful demonstrations. Government supporters, were not ordered to, and did not fire on peaceful demonstrators. The Venezuelan
government was not guilty of human rights violations. The government did not try to prevent independent news media from preventing these events. President Chavez did not resign; he did not dismiss his vice-president or his cabinet. A transitional government was not installed and this illegal government did not promise to hold early elections. Virtually everything in this White House press release was a lie and we know that it was a lie due to a remarkable coincidence.

At the time of this coup an Irish film crew was in Venezuela filming Chavez and his country. They captured all of the coup action over several days and were allowed to film it by Chavez, when he wasn’t in custody. This one hour and fourteen minute movie is available on the web and is entitled, ‘The Revolution Will Not Be Televised’. The DVD can also be ordered over the web. It clearly contradicts all the lies that were spread by the US government as they didn’t know that the coup would fail or that the Irish film crew would get it all on tape. Although America is now much more careful, than they used to be, to ensure that their interventions in other countries are kept secret, in this case their statements and actions clearly indicate that they were involved. This movie has been shown on European TV but not in the ‘land of the free’.

‘The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies’, which gets money from the US government, helped to finance the groups that initiated the coup in Venezuela. We would know about other US coup efforts but the CIA is not talking at the moment. Hopefully an honest agent will write a book with the details in the future. Another movie about this coup is available in Spanish, “Puente Llaguno: Claves de un Masacre” and it shows how the private media manipulated events during this coup. This video also shows that the snipers that provoked the violence had nothing to do with the Chavez government. The US government put $20 million into the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and they worked against Chavez. Don’t you love the names of these outfits, who pretend to work for ‘democracy’? Other outfits like the US Agency for International Development have an office in the US Embassy. They spent millions organizing and promoting the August 2004 recall referendum against Chavez. In spite of all their efforts and the efforts of other US supported groups, the recall effort failed. Have a look at www.venezuelafoia.info which has posted documents that implicate the US government in this ‘almost successful’ overthrow of a democratic sovereign government.

In May 2006 the US put an embargo on arms shipments to Venezuela that prevents any country from selling arms to Chavez if they contain any American made parts. The Swedish company Saab recently announced that it would no longer sell anti-tank and anti-aircraft equipment to Venezuela due to this American restriction. This American embargo will have three results. It will force countries to deal with the Soviets, it will demonstrate to others that America is a bully and it will keep hundreds of millions of dollars out of hands of American companies.

An American organization called Global Woman’s Strike is quite familiar
with Venezuela and they recently protested an award to Gustavo Cisneros, a Venezuelan billionaire who was identified by Newsweek as one of the protagonists and financiers of the April 11, 2002 coup against President Hugo Chavez. Cisneros is also credited with being a driving force behind the December 2002 nationwide lock-out and sabotage of the oil industry, which instead of ousting President Chávez from office, drove the Venezuelan economy into the ground when the GDP dropped 27% in early 2003. Cisneros is one of those people who have yet to realize that when they have billions many others have less. It is as simple as that but the billionaires, in America and Venezuela, just don’t want to share.

The US media, as always, helps the US government to demonize a guy like Chavez. The Wall Street Journal has called Chavez a “threat to world peace”, which is a not very subtle way of saying the guy has to go. It is amazing, however, that the Wall Street Journal can call Chavez a “threat to world peace” while they endorse the polices of Bush Jr. This American attitude is certainly consistent with US support for despots and dictators in the past but it is still, somehow, inexplicable. Here we have a guy like Chavez who is trying to spread some of the oil money around, has support from most of his people, has made some obviously good moves for the people in his country and yet the US tries to get rid of him. At the same time the US is happy to support oil rich despots in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Kazakhstan, etc. etc. whose leaders enrich themselves while they brutally persecute democratic activists. America is now supporting ‘anti-Chavez elements’ and yet Venezuela is a democratic country where the people take democracy very seriously. Certainly more seriously than Americans who watched their fraudulent elections and did next to nothing.

Why do American leaders feel that they have the right to manipulate elections in other countries when they can’t even run honest Presidential elections in their own country? What is it with America in that it always supports the bad guys? Whatever it is, many in Venezuela hate America for once again trying to support the rich minority when they could have made life better for millions.

**UPDATE, September, 2006:** The Associated Press made a Freedom of Information request regarding US aid in Venezuela. The 1,600 pages of grant contracts they received revealed that America is spending millions in Venezuela to ‘support democracy’. The US Agency for International Development blanked
out the names of many of the outfits that got this money. Bush Jr. has also named a “mission manager” to secretly gather information on Cuba and Venezuela. The Bush Jr. government has made no secret of their desire to change the government in Cuba and has allocated another $80 million to do the job. (see the Cuba chapter) America also allocated almost $30 million to do the job in Venezuela. Other America outfits like the International Republican Institute immediately praised the 2002 American supported coup that momentarily ejected Chavez from office. These are the same guys who have diddled around in numerous other countries, like Haiti and Cambodia to name just two.

There are a few questions regarding this American interference in another country. Why if it is so helpful, so ‘democratic’, are the recipients of this money kept secret? Why are the actions of the CIA and other American agencies a secret? Why is the American taxpayer compelled to pay billions to ensure this secrecy? If these ‘benign’ American millions are so neutral, why does America spend so much more of them in countries where they want to change the government? And how would the good old boys in Texas feel if Venezuela spent millions to manipulate elections in the lone star state?

In September, 2006, Chavez and the President of Iran both gave great speeches at the UN. Both of these speeches were not shown or fully reported on in the US. They can both be found here:


http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/

Both speeches were more eloquent and truthful than any speech ever given by Bush Jr. The International Clearing House carried both speeches. In the comments section there were almost 200 comments regarding the Chavez speech and about 100 on the speech from Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran. These comments, the vast majority from Americans, invariably supported both men. Bush Jr. has lost the informed, thinking American. Naturally mainstream American media criticized both speeches.

PS: Chavez was reelected during the December 3, 2006 elections with 63% of the vote. His nearest opponent received 37%. 75% of the registered voters voted which indicates a very healthy democracy.
POLLSTER: “How many people died in the Vietnam War?”

AMERICAN PUBLIC: “Oh, about 60,000.”

This was the most common answer from Americans who had some idea. There were actually over 2,000,000 deaths but 1,940,000 were not American.

“If we can live with a communist government in China, we ought to be able to accept it in Indochina.”

– H. Kissinger, June 22nd, 1972, to the Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai after millions of people were killed and billions wasted. A further 2,000 Americans and many more Vietnamese had been to die before the politicians actually ended the war.

“War: first, one hopes to win; then one expects the enemy to lose; then, one is satisfied that he too is suffering; in the end, one is surprised that everyone has lost.”

– Karl Kraus (1874-1936)

“Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it.”

– Mark Twain

“It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell.”

– General William Tecumseh Sherman

“You don’t win wars by dying for your country, you win wars by making some other son-of-a-bitch die for his.”

– General George Patton

The story of the Vietnam War is the story of America aggressively using deadly force to tell a much smaller country what it must do. American leaders picked the fight with Vietnam and both sides suffered terribly, Vietnam, far, far more so.
At the end of November 2005 the American National Security Agency released documents that had been kept secret from the American people for over 40 years. Those documents showed that the Vietnamese attack on Americans in July 1964, in the Gulf of Tonkin never happened. On the contrary, the American ships were there to deliberately provoke the Vietnamese. These documents are significant because they show that this ‘attack’ was President Johnson’s reason for air strikes against Vietnam and the reason Congress approved extensive military force. This gave Johnson a blank check to wage war. It is significant also, that the National Security Agency did not release these documents for over 40 years and that the eventual release was a result of a Freedom of Information Act request, not a release that they initiated. In other words the American people who pay the wages of the 30,000 people at the National Security Agency were poorly served. It is difficult to think of a more egregious example of government deceit and insensitivity. Ironically this 1964 scam was detailed in Stanley Karnow’s remarkable book back in 1983, ‘Vietnam, A History’, but his revelations as well as those from the reluctant National Security Agency will not create a fuss in America. Over two million killed, a beautiful land devastated, billions and billions wasted and Americans in 2006 will once again, sigh a collective sigh.

Eisenhower told the new President Kennedy that troops might be required in South East Asia to prevent, as Kennedy was to say, “the relentless pressure of the Chinese Communists.” Eisenhower should have known, he was involved in the Vietnam War during his entire presidency. American involvement even
went back to the early Truman years when the first American was killed there in September 1945. Truman supplied American troops and almost $200 million to the French in the early 1950s. What the French were doing on the other side of the planet in Vietnam is unknown, but whatever their reason, it was a dumb idea as tens of thousands were to die. The French were defeated on May 7th, 1954 after a final 6 week battle in which American pilots were to fly hundreds of support missions. This defeat of the French was to lead to the division of Vietnam into the Communist north and the French south.

All this was to get rid of a guy who had helped America during WW II, a guy who had written numerous letters to the American President asking for help in achieving independence for his country from France (they were ignored), a guy who favored the American Declaration of Independence, a guy who could have won a democratic election hands down, a guy who believed in enterprise and freedom, a guy called Ho Chi Minh. The problem was that any idiot in America could tell you that with a name like that, Ho Chi Minh just had to be a Commie. In fact he wasn’t a Communist, just a good man who wanted to end the unjust French war against his country and to improve the lives of the people in his country. The American reaction? Not good enough Ho, we think you are a Commie and we are going to destroy you, any way we can. The American propensity to arbitrarily label and then destroy any government regarded as communistic, had been a fundamental flaw in the White House, from 1917 to the breakup of the Soviet Union and beyond.

The Geneva agreement that resulted from the defeat of the French was a cease-fire in the French-Vietnam war, negotiated by North and South Vietnam, China, France and America in 1954. A cease-fire agreement in 1954?? What went wrong??

This cease-fire agreement was also an agreement to hold elections, which was perfectly reasonable but guess what? It was clear that Ho Chi Minh would win any election hands down, fairly and freely. To destroy this democratic government, which America disapproved of, these elections were cancelled by the Western powers. America also ignored the associated cease-fire that could have put an end to the war in Vietnam way back in 1954.

While the end of the war was being negotiated the CIA put men into Vietnam to stir up more trouble for the North Vietnamese, they also sent South Vietnamese to US bases for military training and the US sent more advisers and arms to Vietnam prior to 1957. America did all they needed to do to get the war going. The US was convinced that all of South East Asia was going to fall to the commie scourge if they did not fight. They were aggressively wrong and millions were now going to pay the ultimate price.

George Ball, a Kennedy aide, told the President in 1961 that Vietnam might one day require 300,000 troops; Kennedy laughed and told Ball he was crazy. Ball’s estimate was low by over 200,000.

As the situation worsened Kennedy sent his favorite General, Maxwell Taylor to Vietnam to assess the situation. At this time the North Vietnamese
and sympathizers throughout Vietnam were trying to unite the country and get rid of the incompetent South Vietnam government. Upon his return General Taylor reaffirmed the ‘domino theory’, which was, that if Vietnam fell to the Commies the whole of South East Asia would also fall and he urged that the President to send 8,000 US combat troops, disguised as Mekong Delta flood relief workers. The General also stated, “There is no case for fearing a mass onslaught of Communist manpower into South Vietnam.” The General may have been a Kennedy favorite but the General was wrong. Kennedy did get accurate advice, which urged him to stay out of Vietnam, but most of the advice he received was to hit the Commies and hit them hard. McNamara and the Joint Chiefs (see the Cuba chapter) recommended sending 200,000 troops. While Kennedy was debating his options the war was growing.

By the end of 1961, almost three years before the Gulf of Tonkin non-incident, that really got the ball rolling, there were almost 10,000 Americans in Vietnam. Secret bombing runs were made, aircraft carriers were deployed, aircraft and other military equipment were delivered, all in violation of the Geneva agreement cease-fire and without informing the American public. During a news conference on the 15th of January 1962, JFK was asked if the US was fighting in Vietnam. His answer was a rather unambiguous “No”.

In early 1963 South Vietnamese troops, supported by American air power engaged the North Vietnamese, who were out numbered 10 to 1. The North Vietnamese prevailed after losing 5% of the causalities suffered by the combined American and the South Vietnamese forces. In spite of decisive defeats such as this, America was firmly of the opinion that they were winning and could not possibly lose. McNamara the Secretary of Defense, as well as thousands of other American
‘experts’ only wanted to hear that “we are winning the war.” This belief came to dominate official thinking and any plausible, accurate comment to the contrary could threaten your career.

America decided in 1963 that the President of South Vietnam, Diem, who they had supported for over 10 years, had to go. The Americans came to this conclusion knowing that Diem had oppressed the Vietnamese people so badly that many of them had turned to the communists for protection from his ruthlessness. Even President Eisenhower admitted that “had elections been held, possibly 80% of the population would have voted for Ho Chi Minh, the communist leader”. Yet Diem, who had once lived in the US, had connections with influential Americans. Washington kept him on because he pretended to be an anti-communist. He founded the Can Lao Party (CLP), a secret police force overseen by his brother. The CLP was advised by the CIA and was notorious for its ineptitude and cruelty. Diem managed to get most of his people to hate him by rejecting all opposition to his regime. He angered many others by canceling their local elections and moving them into camps surrounded by barbed wire. He also angered his own military men by promoting only those he trusted. In spite of all this the US tried to keep him in power and told him how to shape up. He didn’t trust the Americans either so he continued to do things his way. America let it be known that they wouldn’t mind if Diem was replaced and they offered support to likely candidates. When he was overpowered and killed the US thought things would improve but many Vietnamese came to learn that if you were an American puppet you were expendable. Once again America had backed the wrong horse and things continued to deteriorate after the killing of Diem. By 1964 the Americans in Vietnam numbered almost 30,000.

Like all wars the guys behind this one tried to manage public opinion. JFK tried to get a reporter for the New York Times reassigned, as his stories were too truthful. It is remarkable how often critics are considered undesirable, particularly during the worst of times when they are often the only ones offering an accurate opinion. Paul Kettenburg, an experienced State Department expert suggested in the early 60s that the US should get out of Vietnam but his was a voice in the wilderness and his accurate opinion did nothing but stifle his

Mao and Ho Chi Minh, although the Vietnamese spent a fraction of what the US spent on the war, they needed support from China to carry on.
career. Unrecognized arrogance was America’s greatest enemy.

Just a few weeks after the killing of Diem, JFK was assassinated and the end of the Vietnam War that Kennedy was planning would never occur. Kennedy had come to mistrust his military advisors, including the Joint Chiefs but now the Vietnam ball was in Johnson’s court and he did not have those reservations. President Johnson really wanted to do good things for America with his, ‘Great Society’ vision but he was sucked in by his own ego, anti-communism and the ‘domino theory’, as were so many of his advisors. As a result Vietnam consumed his years as President and prevented him from running for a second term. Pride was pivotal for Johnson as he was not going to be the first American President to lose a war but the news out of Vietnam was not good. It was also not good from his advisors in the White House. They advised Johnson that the new men running things in the South Vietnam government were squabbling and that military was losing weapons to the North Vietnamese while casualties were increasing.

The Joint Chiefs, who Johnson trusted more than Kennedy, proposed more force in Vietnam. Johnson did receive sound advice from Senators Mansfield and Russell, who urged him to end the war but Johnson went with the Joint Chiefs and involved America more deeply than ever.

Six months before the Gulf of Tonkin incident in August, 1964 the US made secret attacks against North Vietnam. These included the kidnapping of North Vietnam citizens and commando raids which destroyed Vietnamese rail and highway bridges. US PT boats also bombarded Vietnamese coastal facilities. Also during those six months the Johnson government made plans to obtain a Congressional resolution that they regarded as the permission they needed to wage full-scale all-out war. On August 5th, 1964 President Johnson called American congressional leaders to the White House. In this meeting he told them that the North Vietnam navy had attacked, “flagrantly and without provocation” two US destroyers in international waters. The facts Johnson presented were lies but they were not challenged by Congressional leaders or the US media. On August 7th he had his ‘Gulf of Tonkin Resolution’, he had the
support of the American media as well as the gullible US public and he proceeded to wage all out war. America and Vietnam were to pay a high price for these deceptions. Years later a Senate Foreign Relations Committee inquiring into these events concluded that the Pentagon had misrepresented the actual events and that the US had provoked the attack. That was as far as ‘official’ Washington would go in describing the deception. In fact the US attacked a Vietnamese radar site on July 30th, 1964. This attack was organized by the CIA, NSA and the office of Naval Intelligence and it failed. On August 2nd, a larger raid using the USS Maddox also failed when Vietnamese PT boats intervened. On August 4th another raid was joined by the USS Turner Joy. This destroyer reported being attacked by Vietnamese PT boats but no attack actually occurred. These events were then manipulated by the Pentagon and Johnson. Due to this Presidential lie, the Senate, by 88 to 2 and the House, by 416 to 0 passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Johnson thereby joined a long list of American Presidents who deliberately lied to the American people to go to war. Nothing much has changed, in 2006 millions of Americans are still buying it.

Johnson wanted to do more domestically but got caught up in “winning the god damn war.” Like many American leaders, not fighting the war was never an option. Johnson was elected President in late 1964 and by then had concluded that only increased American military might would prevent him from being, “the first President to lose a war.” Actually talking to Ho Chi Minh or just getting out of the war was not considered. Hell with the hundreds of thousands who would die, Johnson didn’t want to look bad in the history books. The South Vietnam forces were not very effective so Americans took charge of the war as Johnson resorted, as he was to say, “Power. Power on the land, power in the air, power wherever it is necessary.”

The ‘first’ American combat troops arrived in Vietnam in March 1965. Soon ‘Operation Rolling Thunder’ was to commence the massive bombing of North Vietnam. That bombing would continue for almost four years. Although the Americans would drop more bombs on Vietnam that all the bombs in all the world’s previous wars this tactic actually stiffened the resolve of the North Vietnamese just as bombing had stiffened the resolve of the Germans and the Brits. (see the Bombing chapter) The guys who unleashed this bombing horror forgot to take into consideration that those they killed never complained
while their friends and family simply became more committed to defeating the Americans. This basic fact regarding bombing was, and still is, not considered by the US Air Force who are still killing thousands of innocent people with their bombs in 2006. In Vietnam, America ‘delivered’ approximately 32,000,000,000 pounds of munitions as they tried to destroy the people of Vietnam. In addition to all the killing, these munitions created misery for millions of others as they were forced to flee their towns and hamlets. The only options for many of these displaced millions were squalid refugee camps or begging in the cities.

Inexplicably the Americans gave the Vietnamese even more reasons to defeat them. The Yanks started, ‘Operation Phoenix’ or its predecessor in 1965 to interrogate; torture and kill South Vietnamese ‘civilians’ to determine if they were friend or foe. According to the CIA Director of ‘Operation Phoenix’, William Colby, 20,587 ‘enemies’ died between 1968 and 1971 as a result of this program. In a Congressional hearing he was asked if he knew if someone arrested via this program was actually an enemy. Colby replied, “No, Mr. Congressman, I am not”. Barton Osborn, who was a Phoenix agent, testified before a Congressional committee, “I never knew an individual to be detained as a Viet Cong suspect who ever lived through an interrogation in a year and a half.” Other former Phoenix advisors have said, “Operation Phoenix was a unilateral American

The B-52 has dropped millions of bombs on many countries. The vast majority have missed their intended targets. This aircraft was first designed in the late 1940s. 740 were made and over 100 have been destroyed along with over 300 crew members. See the Bombing Civilians chapter.

Typical B-52 bombing pattern which shows that 99% of the bombs simply miss their intended targets. Don’t tell that to the USAF; they are convinced they don’t kill thousands of civilians and they don’t miss their targets. That’s because the entire world is their target.
Amoral America

Just a few of the 507 women, children and old men, all unarmed, killed by US troops. The victims names and ages, from 1 to 82 years, are remembered at a memorial where the killings and rapes took place. Many Americans sided with Lt. Calley and thought that more Vietnamese should have been killed.

After the war North Vietnamese foreign minister Nguyen Co Thach said that this CIA assassination program slaughtered far more than the 21,000 officially acknowledged by the US. According to the CIA 560,000 civilians were arrested, 67,282 were “neutralized” and perhaps “5,000” innocent people were murdered. The number will never be known but the operation was a failure as it hardened the resolve of the ‘Viet Cong’ against the evil foreigners.

There were also deliberate killings of civilians, ‘My Lai’ being the most infamous. Interestingly Lt. Calley, who took the rap for the My Lai massacre, lives a comfortable life in the US as an accepted citizen after serving no jail time. As a result of this, the getting away with murder, numerous additional atrocities have been committed by US troops right up to today’s conflicts.

The American atrocities in Vietnam were documented by a Pentagon task force but the reports were kept from the American public until recently. The men of the American military who investigated these crimes were often considered traitors while many of the atrocities were never mentioned. Retired Brigadier General John H. Johns was on the task force that investigated these atrocities and he believes that the report should be made widely available in light of similar American military behavior in Afghanistan and Iraq. The report tells about 320 incidents that were confirmed by US Army investigators and is 9,000 pages long. Every US Army division that went to Vietnam was guilty of atrocities. A few of the men who committed these crimes were charged. Most were court-martialed while 14 were eventually sentenced to prison for 6 months to 20 years. The longest amount of time actually served was 7 months.

Those files became public in 1994 and are now in the National Archives but thanks to the US mainstream media they have received little attention since then. In addition to the 320 incidents that the Army confirmed there were an additional 500 reported events that the Army did not confirm. The confirmed incidents include every type of barbarity and only verify, once again, that we are
the same people the world over and that no country can claim the moral high-road. Americans taught torture to the South Vietnamese and they used it on the enemy, not even knowing if they were the enemy. Those torture programs were also used in future conflicts in countries such as the Indonesia and El Salvador to name just two.

 Millions of gallons of herbicides were sprayed over vast areas to defoliate the countryside to make it more difficult for the Vietnamese to hide. This was a violation of international law that America had agreed to. Rice and other food crops were also destroyed with these sprays, another violation. The long-term health effects of these poisons were of no consequence to the warmongers. Today both Americans and especially the Vietnamese suffer from their terrible after-effects. Ironically the Americans are now creating the same type of legacy with their use of depleted uranium in the Middle East. The American government has offered the Vietnamese $0.00 to help with the after-effects of this poisoning although some American individuals have stepped forward to help. Napalm was also used extensively along with white phosphorous, neither of which can be accurately targeted. Both however, can burn their victims alive. Cluster bombs were dropped indiscriminately killing and wounding thousands of civilians. News was manipulated or withheld, the press and the public were routinely misled and of course Vietnam was also lied to.

US veterans effected by US herbicide spraying sued the US government and in 1985 received $180 million dollars. In 2004 Vietnam sued and their case was dismissed by Judge Weinstien, the same judge that awarded the vets millions. The US sprayed an estimated 19,400,000 gallons of toxic and contaminated herbicides on Vietnam that affected millions of acres. The judge said this was not chemical warfare and therefore did not violate international law. The judge obviously failed chemistry class!
In spite of all this destruction and killing, on both sides, at the height of the war polls in America showed that a majority of Americans wanted the government to wage an even bigger war. A significant number, including top military brass wanted to use nuclear weapons. All this didn’t matter legally because this was not a declared war and the Geneva Convention, as well as other conventions, were ignored.

Nixon took over as President after Johnson decided not to run and he became President in January 1969. He continued to seek, “peace with honor” but American honor was never a part of this war. Nixon’s, peace with honor goal resulted in many more deaths. He ordered the bombing of Cambodia for, ‘a short period of time’ but it went on continuously for over a year. The bombing was kept secret for years because Nixon knew that Cambodians would be killed and he had promised Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the leader of Cambodia, that Cambodians would not be killed. America also ‘officially’ respected the neutrality of Cambodia (see the Cambodian chapter). In any case this bombing and the associated killing of thousands of innocent people had no real effect on the North Vietnamese war effort.

Part of the reason for the election of Nixon was his ‘secret plan’ to end the war. In fact there was no plan, secret or otherwise, but he was under a lot of pressure to bring some troops home. He complied by ordering 25,000 home and sending 40,000 to Vietnam a few months later. Over time he did reduce the number of American troops but this meant that the war effort was gradually sustained by the South Vietnam troops, which came to number over one million. Nixon also ordered the secret bombing of Laos, another neutral country. It is clear that Nixon had no real idea why this war was a disaster. He stated that, “The real problem is that the enemy [the North Vietnamese] is willing to sacrifice in order to win, while the South Vietnamese simply aren’t willing to pay that much of a price in order to avoid losing.” He got it all wrong; the ‘real problem’ was that the South Vietnamese were fighting Vietnamese whereas the North Vietnamese were fighting a foreign invader and the right to run their own country. Nixon’s insensitivity to the aspirations of the Vietnamese, which were similar to American aspirations in the past, as well as his warped sense of honor, caused the deaths of an additional 30,000 Americans as well as hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese. The arrogance of this American President was revealed when the Watergate tapes were released. This comment was made by Nixon to Kissinger, “The only place you and I disagree is with regard to the bombing. You’re so goddamned concerned about the civilians, and I don’t give a damn. I don’t care. I’d rather use the nuclear bomb. Does that bother you? I just want you to think big.”

Nixon’s secret war on Laos is an almost unknown American atrocity. Laos was a small, poor, land-locked country with only 5 million people who had no oil, no gold, no uranium or other resources. Laos never posed any threat to America and yet the pentagon and Nixon thought Laos was such a serious threat that they bombed the hell out of them, without telling Congress. America
dropped more bombs on the Laotians, per capita, than any other people in history. Remember the terrible bombing in Bali where the bomb was packed with ball bearing to maim the victims? The people who made that bomb did not come up with that idea themselves. Not only did America drop a massive amount of high explosives on the peasants of Laos, they also dropped 2 million tons of cluster bombs. Those bombs contained 670 bomblets, the size of a baseball, which were packed with shrapnel specifically designed to wound rather than kill. The hideous reasoning behind bomblets was that wounding was more costly to the enemy than killing. Those American bomblets did not all explode on contact but went on to kill and maim thousands of Laotian civilians in the years to come. America lost hundreds of men in Laos, from the CIA, Air America and the military. Some were abandoned by America if they were too embarrassing or difficult to locate. America abandoned two men in China for 20 years but in spite of that ordeal those men remained loyal to America. (see the China chapter) This despicable American killing in Laos resulted in the usual deadly outcome. The people, who were not killed, rose up and fought the bastards who had destroyed so much of their country and eventually the US lost in Laos as well.

The cost of this war in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia will never be known as it is simply not possible to calculate, or even imagine this amount of sorrow. Although the Vietnamese never started or wanted this war they suffered far more than the Americans. That is not to say that one needless death is not sorrow enough. Approximately 1,930,000 Vietnamese were killed, 200,000 Cambodians, 100,000 Laotians, 58,000 Americans and almost 10,000 ‘friends’ of America, including Koreans, New Zealanders, Australians and Canadians. Canada never entered the war officially but some Canadians volunteered and many Canadian companies made weapons or munitions for the war. Over 14,000,000 refugees were created in the three countries along with 3,400,000 persons wounded, which includes approximately 300,000 Americans. The war created about one half a million orphans, over a million kids who lost one or both parents, almost 100,000 amputees, hundreds of thousands of disabilities created on both sides, thousands of post war suicides, hundreds of thousands of widows, many of whom never
recovered from their loss. An unknown number of unexploded munitions continue to kill farmers, their family members and livestock today, while herbicide-caused deformities continue to make life far too difficult for far too many.

The far less important financial cost totaled close to one trillion 2004 dollars, not including all the medical costs and future veteran benefits OR the damage to Vietnam. The actual American financial cost represents hundreds of thousands of dollars for each Vietnamese soldier killed and I’m quite sure they would have taken the cash and sworn allegiance to anyone for that kind of dough. Remarkably there are still Americans who think that America won this war. It may be a long time before every American learns that nobody ever wins in any war.

On January 27th, 1973 Nixon reached a ‘peace agreement’ which ended the war with Vietnam. He stated, “We have finally achieved peace with honor.” How you could conclude that an unnecessary war that killed over two million people and was to cause untold suffering for tens of millions more was “peace with honor” is beyond comprehension. Nixon resigned on August 9th, 1974 for committing illegal acts but was soon in the clear. His replacement, President Gerald Ford pardoned him for all crimes that he, “committed, or may have committed,” less than a month later. Those guys sure stick together but in reality they can only be considered sociopaths!!

The corrupt South Vietnamese government, with American weapons and advisors, broke this new ‘peace agreement’ by launching attacks against the North. Both sides then maneuvered for complete control of South Vietnam. The North attacked and retained various cities in the north of South Vietnam. In early 1974 the North decided to take all of the country and this was accomplished by May 1975.

The President of the United States of America also made these written pledges to Vietnam:

“(1) The government of the United States of America will contribute to postwar reconstruction in North Vietnam without any political conditions.”
“(2) Preliminary United States studies indicate the appropriate programs for the United States contribution to postwar reconstruction will fall in the range of $3.25 billion of grant aid over 5 years. Other forms of aid will be agreed upon between the two parties.”

Those promises by United States of America were not kept. America did not provide this aid to the country that they had been more than willing to spend hundreds of billions to destroy. When it comes to helping out a Commie, you can forget it but, hey, the Yanks did do something. They imposed a trade embargo on Vietnam for over 20 years. The policy in Washington was revenge, a word frequently used in private but never in public. A medieval embargo was imposed on Vietnam and Cambodia; the British (Thatcher) government, ever loyal to America, cut off supplies of milk to the children of Vietnam. This assault on the very fabric of life in two of the world’s most stricken societies was rarely reported in the western media; the consequence was mass suffering.

For some good insights into why America started this war, pressed on with this foolish effort and finally lost the war, see the movie ‘Fog of War’. In this documentary Robert McNamara talks about his actions and the actions of other senior Americans and in this movie it becomes completely clear that these men had no idea why they were in Vietnam or what the Vietnamese were fighting for. This abysmal ignorance on the part of these American war leaders clearly illustrates how foolish and needless this war was. One of McNamara’s attitudes, even when the movie was made, was that sometimes you must do evil to do good. This mistaken belief has been intrinsic to war ‘leaders’ throughout history and is just plain wrong. Evil is evil and good is good. It is not possible to do one and get the other but Bush Jr. is using the same flawed ‘logic’ with the same results. The movie also makes it clear that McNamara and Johnson knew nothing about the Vietnamese or even why they were fighting them but American arrogance dismissed the unknown Vietnamese concerns. The movie also demonstrated the folly that allows just one American to decide to kill millions of others. This is the supreme fog of arrogance that America made possible but in that fog they failed to recognize the disaster until it was too late. In 2006, not much has changed except the US military now seem to realize that

Vietnam finally united. An inalienable right, that was denied them by the West.
unjust wars are bad for America.

Years prior to all this calamity a young man sought President Wilson’s support for the independence of Vietnam. The young man was rebuffed but resurfaced years later as Ho Chi Minh. In the decades since that request for help the Vietnamese people were forced to fight, and defeat, other foreign invaders before the Americans showed up, not to help them but to kill them. In 1961 the CIA prepared a National Intelligence Estimate for Vietnam that repudiated the ‘domino theory’. This report, which stated that there was no real reason to go to war, had to be eliminated or changed by the war mongers, for the war to occur. In November of 1961, Secretary of State Rusk and Secretary of Defense McNamara wrote that, if South Vietnam was lost, “We would have to face the near certainty that the remainder of Southeast Asia and Indonesia would move to a complete accommodation with Communism, if not formal incorporation within the Communist bloc.” This was the ‘domino theory’, the theory that was refuted by the CIA in their, ‘no war required’ report. Whenever that report surfaced the warmongers would discredit it and carry on. All of the American Presidents were swayed by these warmonger advisors during this stupid war. It appears that only Kennedy was going to end the war and he never lived to complete the job. In fact he may have been killed because he did not accept the military conquest of Cuba and Vietnam. In 1964 Bundy was Secretary of State for East Asia and he knew that the CIA report was accurate whereas the ‘domino theory’ was not. He told Johnson’s advisors the truth but Rusk and McNamara ordered Bundy to fall into line and then Johnson went ahead with more bombing.

The often used excuse that the American military was hung out to dry is false. The American military had hundreds of thousands of men, billions of pounds of armaments or bombs, thousands of aircraft, ships and all the supplies they needed. The fact that many Americans in high places today still do not understand the limits of American military powers is distressing. The war in Vietnam was utterly useless, worst than that, it killed millions who could have been friends. In 2005 a New York court rejected a Vietnamese lawsuit against Monsanto and Dow Chemical, who manufactured the herbicide used during the war. As recently as June 2006 America shamed itself again by meeting with Vietnam and refusing, once more, financial assistance to the ongoing victims of America’s biological warfare against Vietnam. By not accepting or

A Vietnamese memorial that honors just a fraction of those killed.
admitting the injustice and crimes they committed against Vietnam, America has simply made it easier for them to commit the same atrocities again. Which, coincidently, they have done in Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon.

After Vietnam fell to the Communists did all of Southeast Asia become Communist and threaten America according to the reason for this war, ‘the Domino Theory’? Oooops, it never happened.

Is it any wonder that billions in this part of the world hate America?

“If any question why we died, Tell them, because our fathers lied.”
– Rudyard Kipling, in 1917 after the death of his own son in World War I.

He encouraged his son to go to war and always regretted this decision, after it was too late.

UPDATE: The US air force is still at it. This picture shows a B-2 and a B-52 on Diego Garcia, see that chapter. They bombed Afghanistan and Iraq from this base for almost 5 years, more than a year longer than the Americans fought in World War II.

Johns Hopkins University in the US, recently, October 2006, released a study that showed 655,000 deaths in Iraq due to US military efforts. The US air force killings of hundreds of thousands of civilians are never mentioned by the mainstream US media or acknowledged by the USAF.
WAR ON TERROR

“Seas of blood have been shed for the sake of patriotism. One would expect the harm and irrationality of patriotism to be self-evident to everyone. But the surprising fact is that cultured and learned people not only do not notice the harm and stupidity of patriotism, they resist every unveiling of it with the greatest obstinacy and passion and continue to praise it as beneficent and elevating.”

– Leo Tolstoy

“We will bankrupt ourselves in the vain search for absolute security.”

– President Dwight D. Eisenhower

“Americans are asking, why do they hate us? They hate what we see right here in this chamber—a democratically elected government. Their leaders are self-appointed. They hate our freedoms—our freedom of religion, our freedom of speech, our freedom to vote and assemble and disagree with each other.”

– President Bush Jr.

“A terrorist is someone who has a bomb but doesn’t have an air force.”

– William Blum

“It is only when a society shares caring values that its people can feel secure.”

– Michael Lerner, philosopher, psychologist, author.

“There are many terrorist states in the world, but the United States is unusual in that it is officially committed to international terrorism.”

– Noam Chomsky

“Remember when the United States had a drug problem and then we declared a War on Drugs, and now you can’t buy drugs anymore? The War on Terrorism will be just like that.”

– David Rees
Ahhhhh, the ‘War on Terror’. I hate to break it to some of you but there is no ‘war on terror’ and there are no ‘terrorists’. The often spouted phrase ‘war on terror’ is a spurious figure of speech. America is not at war. No country attacked America and no country threatened America. Al Qaeda, as defined by President Bush, does not exist, never did exist. There is no vast and well-organized international terrorist conspiracy and no evidence has surfaced in the last five years to indicate that there is. The fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq are simply reactions to the American invasions. If Americans were not there, the fighting would be over. US media owners support the ‘war on terror’ because they are part of the plutocracy; likewise the politicians exploit the fear for re-election purposes. Thus a relatively few pissed-off Arabs, who often have more than enough reason to feel the way they do, have been used to wage a massive war. For the average American displaying a bumper sticker or collectively spending hundreds of billions of dollars on America’s war machine does not mean America is at war. It means that America has been conned!

If we are going to use the word ‘terror’ then we should at least try and be honest and call it the ‘War between the big terror and the little terror’. Truthfully this war is not about terror, it is about hatred, vengeance, wealth and power. The use of this word, ‘terror’, evokes strong emotions and that is exactly why it is used so frequently by the politicians and others who have a vested interest in using it.

Americans have been threatened before, by radiation from failed nuclear power plants, by aircraft crashing for mysterious reasons, by violent crime, by car crashes, by self inflicted cancers, by pollution, by Americans who have

The American bombing in Oklahoma was a result of American hatred. If the American government responded to this terror as they did to 9/11 the result would have been as disastrous as the ‘War on Terror’. The response should equal the threat but America needs a new enemy and more oil, votlà, Iraq, terrorists and the ‘War on Terror’.
blown up buildings and these threats have killed far, far more Americans than ‘terrorists’. Yet America never initiated an all out assault costing hundreds of thousands of lives and a thousand billion dollars to save Americans from those greater threats. If the danger comes from a few hundred angry young men from another culture then that danger can be maximized, manipulated and used to create fear. If, after 9/11 the President had said that these attacks were the actions of a few men, who would be found, tried and if guilty punished, there would have been no ‘war on terror’ and the associated deaths of over 100,000 innocent people would never have occurred. If America had been willing to deal with the real reasons for the attack, future attacks could have been prevented.

Instead a ‘war’ was started with all the associated pain, suffering, surprises and expenses that a war entails. Why would American leaders try to create fear in their own citizens and take them to war? Because fear is a powerful ‘tool’ that can be used to manipulate voters and affect the outcome of elections that might otherwise go the other way. The actions can also be used to create billions for certain favored citizens or corporations. It can be used to create support for aggressive actions that can conquer territory, acquire wealth or make reputations. Many people have trouble with these concepts because they would never act that way themselves. Patriotism also compels many into believing that their leaders would never act that way either. The fact is that many leaders do and have acted that way, including many American leaders.

Here’s what Karl Rove had to say after 9/11: “Liberals saw the savagery of the 9/11 attacks and wanted to prepare indictments and offer therapy and understanding for our attackers.” Pure Rove bullshit. In referring to conservatives Rove said that they “saw the savagery of 9/11 and the attacks and prepared for war.” It is fair to say that America has pursued the conservative approach and what a failure it has been. Unknown thousands killed, unknown hundreds of thousands wounded, over a trillion dollars will be spent and millions, many more millions now hate America. The Rove road is the road to ruin. All this tragedy to get a few guys who hated what America for what it has done. ‘Preparing indictments’ and arresting the right people would have avoided the Iraq disaster and the future attacks that are now much more likely. Karl Rove just doesn’t get it and
as a result he undoubtedly thinks the dead and wounded are worth it. He can only think that way because he is not among them.

It is true that America is threatened and the root cause of those threats is hatred, not terrorism. As long as Americans continue to believe that they are fighting a war against terrorism then the war will continue, which for some, is the objective. It is obviously foolhardy to fight a war against ‘terrorists’ without knowing why people become ‘terrorists’ in the first place. To fight a war against ‘terrorists’ without knowing why they are ‘terrorists’ is to fight cancer without knowing what causes cancer. Both battles will be expensive failures and yet this is the way America chooses to fight both.

If it can be understood that the ‘terrorists’ hate America then it can be understood that hatred is the root problem and not ‘terrorism’. Killing all the ‘terrorists’, the current American policy, must fail because it is not possible to know who all the ‘terrorists’ are. In addition dead ‘terrorists’ have friends or family who may then become ‘terrorists’ and it will then be necessary to kill them too. The only real killing solution therefore, is to kill everyone except loyal Americans and I suggest that this ‘solution’ would also be unsuccessful.

It therefore behooves Americans to understand the reasons for the intense hatred of America. That understanding is not hard to come by IF Americans can be open and honest about their history. Unfortunately there are many powerful forces working to ensure that the truths about this history remain hidden or rejected by most Americans.

Some of the specific reasons for that hatred can be found in this book. This type of book has been written before and ignored before. It’s not just that many Americans don’t read; it’s that they don’t want to face the truth, because that truth is ugly. Unfortunately for those Americans that truth is not going to go away and in this case ignorance is not bliss. The many reasons to hate America have led to terrifying situations but the ‘war on terror’ has the wrong name and is being fought in the wrong way, for the wrong reasons. If America continues to believe in the current killing rational, then this war should more accurately be called ‘the war to kill people who hate America’.

If Americans really wants a country free of threats, fear and future without occasional acts of death and destruction then America has to understand why these people hate America and eliminate the reasons for that hatred. The answers are not hard to find but first let’s have a look at A French oil tanker hit by angry young men off the coast of Yemen.
how this, ‘war on terror,’ has been fought so far.

Although ‘terrorist’ attacks in America have been ongoing since 1920 this ‘war’ against terrorism was actually started back in the 1980s by none other than good old President Reagan. A nice guy with a fatal flaw. That flaw, which seems endemic to American Presidents, is to do everything possible to protect ‘their’ people while treating others like cannon fodder. When Reagan took over as President he said he was going to deal with ‘the evil scourge of terrorism’. What most American’s don’t seem to realize is that he then proceeded to create ‘state terrorism’ against poor weak nations who had no real quarrel with America. (see any Central American chapter) Americans don’t believe that this actually happened because it flies in the face of the good people they are and the country they believe in. Yet it did happen, America shafted many other nations. Americans need to search out and read honest historical accounts rather than relying on biased media ‘patriotism’ and their comfortable ‘truths’. If Americans would take a little time to read truthful accounts, without dismissing them as ‘commie bullshit’, the world would be a better place. As they say, ‘the truth will set you free’.

The actions that Reagan and other Presidents have taken in other countries, particularly since WW II, have caused untold suffering and enduring hatred. These actions have always been presented to the American people, if they have been presented at all, as the ‘fight for freedom’ or ‘right thing to do’ or to ‘preserve democracy’. In 1998 President Clinton sent cruise missiles to kill Osama bin Laden. That was a mistake. Osama has never been convicted of 9/11, he even denied that he had anything to do with 9/11, no matter, according to Clinton he deserved to be killed, is that the American way? Osama bin Laden is just one man. If America believes in justice they must arrest bin Laden and ensure that he is given a fair trial by an impartial court, how difficult could that be? Killing him without those legalities makes bin Laden a martyr and creates thousands of additional angry young men.

Another mistake, Clinton’s missiles missed bin Laden but of course killed innocent people. Oh well, now America has to deal with thousands of angry people chanting “Death to America” as well as more people prepared to dedicate their lives to killing Americans. Is this the kind of progress a sane President would create?

Immediately after 9/11 the Bush Jr. government moved to create laws that would ‘help’ to fight terrorism and there was a rush and a willingness to pass these new laws. The USA Patriot Act was presented to congress with the request that there be no hearings. This meant that there was no public input into this far reaching legislation. A Democratic and Republic Judiciary committee met for six weeks and unanimously recommended that the USA Patriot Act be adopted. The next morning, at 3 a.m. a ‘John Ashcroft’ version of the Patriot Act was printed and presented to the members of that committee the next morning before the 11 a.m. vote. This version was very different from the version recommended by the 36 members of the Judiciary Committee but
the pressure to pass the bill was on and it was passed. How in the hell did that happen? In this way America got massive changes to Federal police powers without one of the 435 members of congress ever reading the bill. It has been all downhill ever since but the guys making these mistakes don’t see it that way.

The violations to American civil rights started without delay, without the knowledge of Congress or the public. Many people were arrested but not called prisoners, detainees sounds better somehow. They were kept in solitary confinement, at times beaten, not allowed legal rights and their families were not told where they were. They were not charged and then kept for months even though they had broken no law. They were kept under the, “hold until clear” policy which is another way of saying, guilty until proven innocent. This decision by John Ashcroft was not even part of the Patriot Act. Thousands of people were arrested, the government stopped giving out the number when they had to reveal that they had located ‘0’ terrorists. One family who had been living legally in America for 10 years were kept in jail for 10 months after having been cleared by the FBI four days after their arrest. Hundreds, including American citizens, were deported secretly, without charges or notification to their families so that the deportation process was less troublesome. This caused severe hardship for the deportees and those they left behind. One of America's great strengths is its Constitution. The actions taken by the Bush Jr. government violated the American Constitution and American security was reduced as a result.

In 2003 Bush Jr. sent 40 cruise missiles to get Saddam Hussein. Bush Jr. is obviously a bigger spender than Clinton, as cruise missiles are expensive, but his results were the same as Clinton's. The missiles missed the guy they were after but killed numerous innocent people. Oh well, more people who will now dedicate their lives to killing Americans. Americans are still killing people without trial, or at least they are claiming to have killed them. Abu Musab al Zarqawi was recently killed, June 2006, by not one but by two 500 lb. laser guided bombs. The strange thing is that Zarqawi then showed up in American photographs, apparently dead but unscratched. Most of us would not look nearly that good if 1000

Modern society has created numerous terrorist targets that could have a devastating impact on countless innocent people. This LNG tanker has the explosive energy of over 50 Hiroshima nuclear bombs. It was built this big to save the oil industry a few bucks.
pounds of high explosives were dropped on us. *(see the Prisoners chapter)*

Not to worry, the American Military Industrial Complex is quite prepared to spend additional billions to make these missiles more accurate and more deadly. In January 2006, on the sixth floor of CIA headquarters in Virginia, a man typed into a computer. The signals from those computer keystrokes whizzed through the huge CIA complex, were transmitted to several satellites, zoomed over to one of the surveillance aircraft that circle over the Middle East 24 hours a day and were finally sent to an unmanned drone aircraft flying near the Afghan-Pakistani border. Americans love these high tech killing machines.

It is amazing that the signal made this complex journey in just a few seconds. Just think what the money that went into this signal could have done if it was used to design a better sewage treatment plant. I digress, the signal did get to the intended drone aircraft and it responded as it was designed to by firing four AGM-114N Hellfire II missiles into the town of Damadola, in Pakistan, oops, wrong country.

Pakistan is not part of Iraq but the CIA and the Hellfire missiles didn’t care as they destroyed homes and lives. Oops again, the wrong lives, 20 innocent people, men, women and children, now torn apart and quite dead. So it’s the same old story, tens of thousands of people, once again chanting “Death to America” and some of these people now really, really mean it. And the bad guy? Ohh shit! Missed him but what the CIA has yet to figure out is that killing him would have also been bad for America. After killing thousands the ‘war on terror’ is tanking and the good old Central Intelligence Agency has yet to figure out why.

On February 4, 2002 a missile was fired at three men, one of whom was tall. Because Osama bin Laden is also tall it was therefore quite reasonable to conclude that the tall man must therefore be Osama bin Laden. They are not called the Central Intelligence Agency for nothin’. Guess what? The tall man was not Osama. It turns out that these three men were just desperately poor civilians gathering scrap metal from exploded munitions to sell for food. They won’t have to deal with the poverty issue any more! The US has not apologized because Mr. Rumsfeld is sure they were al-Qaeda members searching for metal scraps on the side of the road and therefore deserved to die. Hell, yeah, kill ‘em all! Mr. Rumsfeld is also quite sure they were dangerous al-Qaeda members because those US missiles can now detect and read the al-Qaeda membership
cards the bad guys undoubtedly carry. As a result it is now impossible for America missiles to kill innocent people who are just collecting junk on the side of the road. If the al-Qaeda membership cards have expired the missiles will not fire. Amazing technology eh?

The missiles that America has fired on so many ‘enemies’ have been an abysmal failure. Not just because they have missed their intended targets and killed the wrong people so frequently. They have failed because they have created so much additional hatred for America which leads directly to the creation of those people that America likes to call ‘terrorists’. The fact that they would never have become ‘terrorists’ if American actions hadn’t pissed them off so much, never seems to be considered. These extra-judicial killings break international law, kill innocent people and create more terrorists but the Pentagon loves them because they are so good for the Military Industrial Complex. Instead of a bullet for less than a buck or an arrest and trial for a few hundred thousand the missile method cost millions and no one is hurt, well no American and that’s the important thing.

The computers for this unmanned Predator drone aircraft are made in Towcester, Northamptonshire, England by Radstone Technology. The Predator aircraft are designed to fire Hellfire missiles using this computer technology. The guys at Radstone know that innocent men, women and children are killed using their products but because they want a new Jaguar then it’s all OK. Pictures taken by the Predators are beamed back to RAF base Molesworth in Cambridgeshire. The trained killers at the base look at the pictures and

Many of the world’s brightest brains are paid by the US to work on killing systems rather than systems that actually help people. This is a British computer bit from Radstone.
decide who to assassinate. The Brits are very good at this. During WW II they sent off thousands of bombers and killed hundreds of thousands of innocent Germans.

Funny thing about the Predator program is that the trained British killers don’t like to talk about it. The Americans are a little less reticent. The said they had a very good month last year when they killed ten ‘terrorist suspects’ but they still fail to understand that civilized people do not equate being a ‘suspect’ with being ‘dead’. The Yanks go on to say, “Paradoxically, as a result of our success the target has become even more decentralized, even more diffused and presents a more difficult target—no question about that.” “The US is prepared to use and deploy these weapons in a fairly wide theater,” would you believe all over planet earth? High-ranking US counter-terrorism killers said the Predator program’s expansion was geographic and has grown from targeting senior al-Qaeda suspects to scores of suspected terrorists. That’s progress. “In most cases, we need the approval of the host country to do them. However, there are a few countries where the President has decided that we can whack someone without the approval or knowledge of the host government.” More Central Intelligence Agency thinking! PS: ‘whack’ is a secret CIA code word which means ‘to kill’. What is truly remarkable about these killings is the Americans never know who they are killing. They simply think they have a pretty good idea. Being as arrogant as they are they would state that they are sure of their targets. The truth is that everyone they target is just a suspect and the innocent people who are also killed are simply treated as the hundreds of thousands of innocents were treated in Japan, as collateral damage, not worth worrying about. American arrogance and the apathy of global leaders allow these killings, without charge or trial, to continue. Ultimately this policy will result in war without end. That the American ‘leadership’ cannot or will not see how these killings simply create more vengeful enemies is one of the great tragedies of our time.

 Generally speaking the American taxpayer continues to support the American military machine which is many times larger than required. That fundamental fact is rarely even questioned in America.

The cost to the American taxpayer apparently doesn’t matter either. I’m not sure if the average farmer in Iowa supports killing a few poor innocent guys on the side of a road for a couple of million tax dollars. In any case it is difficult for a busy farmer in Iowa to stop these killings.

At the end of 2005 the US government submitted a list to the European Air Industry of ‘possible terrorists’. This list has been around for years. Prior
to 9/11 the list had 16 names on it. The year 2001 must have been good for ‘terrorists’ because the list grew to have 1,000 names on it. At the end of 2004 the list had 40,000 names and at the end of 2005 there were 80,000 names. As of February 15, 2006 the National Counterterrorism Center central repository list has grown to 325,000 names. This begs the question. If the war on ‘terror’ is going as well as President Bush Jr. tells us, then why are the number of suspected ‘terrorists’ growing by leaps and bounds? Not just ‘terrorists’ either but actual ‘terror attacks’ exceeded 11,000 in 2005 according to American officials. These officials provided three reasons for this new record total but of course not one of the reasons mentioned included the aggressive American killing of so many innocent people. In 2004 the number of attacks was 3,192 so the ‘terror’ business is booming but the ‘war on terror’ appears to be somewhat less than successful. During 2005 ‘terrorist’ violence was also up in Iraq, in every category, by almost 50%. The figures do not include attacks against American forces which I guess makes the situation look better or perhaps not as bad. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack has it all figured out. “Technically, you could say that there might be a larger number of incidents from one year to another, but its comparing apples and oranges.” Yeah Sean, that’s perfectly clear.

So hundreds of billions have been spent, over 100,000 have been killed; hundreds of thousands have been crippled or wounded. The ‘war’ has dragged on for five years and the number of suspected ‘terrorists’ has jumped by 2,030,000%. Does this seem just a little counterproductive to you?

This war, the associated deaths, wounded, destruction and billions has also resulted in the imprisonment of many thousands. Not only in the Middle East where America has placed a bounty on ‘suspects’ but in secret prisons all around the world and in the good old US of A. In New York alone 762 were arrested right after 9/11 and subsequently abused. Their cell lights were left on 24 hours a day, their relatives were told they were not there; they were hit, thrown against walls and sworn at. The number of those arrested and imprisoned that were convicted of terrorism charges is, wait for it, zero. A number have won lawsuits for being arrested for no reason other than their nationality, which in every case was Middle-Eastern. Ehab Elmaghraby was recently released without charge and awarded $300,000 for his ordeal. In the end he lost his wife, his restaurant and other assets. The Judge determined that being from Egypt was not enough of a reason to throw the guy in jail for years and mistreat him. His trial also proves that the fishing net many Middle-Eastern men fell into, after 9/11, caught almost no fish. A report by the Center on Law and Security, at the NYU School of Law, examined all 9/11 related arrests. They concluded that the “war on terror has yielded few visible results. There have been relatively few indictments, fewer trials and almost no convictions on charges reflecting dangerous crimes. For a society and government that has spent billions reorganizing the fight on terror at home, the legal record shows scant results.” This is not entirely true; there have been tremendous negative
results. Millions throughout the Muslim world now know that America will not
treat them fairly and that a Muslim at the hand of an American is considered
guilty until proven innocent. They also know that that proof of innocence
may take years and even then, America will keep some Muslims imprisoned
indefinitely.

More than three years after its invasion of Iraq the US acknowledged in
April 2006, that the war has become ‘a cause’ for Islamic extremists worldwide.
In order to keep the ‘War on Terror’ going they also mentioned that there is a
risk of Iraq becoming a safe haven for terrorists and that they may launch fresh
attacks on America. Be afraid, be very afraid. The acknowledgement did not
explain how the three year war failed to get those extremists or why they are
now more deadly than before. The CIA also confirmed in April that there were
almost 12,000 terrorist incidents last year, killing almost 15,000 people, most
of them in Iraq. Of the 60 American civilians killed by ‘terrorists’ in 2005,
50 of them were in Iraq where there are a lot of heavily armed American
civilians. Those figures do not include military casualties.

We know that that this observation is lost on the American leadership.
Ms. Rice, who is currently a big wheel in Washington, has requested that the
annual government report ‘Patterns of Global Terrorism’ be discontinued after
19 years of publication. It appears that the ‘patterns’ that have now emerged,
conflict with the winning ways of the Bush Jr. administration. The reality is that
the very policies the Bush Jr. administration has used in this ‘war on terrorism’
have resulted in far more ‘terrorism’.

Occasionally a glimmer of light will emerge from an American bureaucracy
and it is fitting that this glimmer should emerge from the department that sends
young Americans off to be killed. The Department of Defense says, “Historical
data show a strong correlation between US involvement in international
situations and an increase in terrorist attacks against the United States.” No
kidding!

Former President Carter apparently agrees with the Department of Defence.
“We sent Marines into Lebanon and you only have to go to Lebanon, to Syria
or to Jordan to witness first-hand the intense hatred among many people for the
United States because we bombed and shelled and unmercifully killed totally
innocent villagers, women and children and farmers and housewives, in those
villages around Beirut. As a result of that, we became kind of a Satan in the
minds of those who are deeply resentful. That is what precipitated the taking of
our hostages and that is what has precipitated some of the terrorist attacks.” Ex-
President Carter might have said, “precipitated ALL of the terrorist attacks.”
Unfortunately ex President Carter did not explain WHY America “bombed and
shelled and unmercifully killed totally innocent villagers, women and children
and farmers and housewives.” Why President Bush Jr. continues this American
tradition is also unexplained. That is one of the great American mysteries.

America has gone to inordinate lengths to kill their ‘enemies’ without being
killed themselves but all of that high technology will ultimately fail to deal
with the suicide terrorists. Americans have a hard time understanding how someone could deliberately kill themselves in the hope of taking out a few of the enemy. America should remember the war in the Pacific and how devastating the suicide bombers were then. When people, all people are pushed too far they will resort to any response. Do Americans really believe that the security in America can prevent dedicated suicide bombers? Do Americans realize that all suicide bombers are dedicated? The security at a luxury American hotel today will be much less effective against a suicide bomber than the airport security was on September 11, 2001.

From 1993 to the 9/11 attacks there were five major terrorist attacks worldwide, all against America. Since 9/11 and the war on ‘terror’ there has been a 400% increase, all against America or countries that helped America attack a Muslim country. Americans can rest assured that due to the American killings, torture, wrongful imprisonment, destruction of societal norms as well as the destruction of property and what many regard as theft of their resources, these attacks will continue. Are more attacks a deliberate American objective?

The ‘War on terrorism’ is considered a success by some because there have been no attacks on America since 9/11. To the Americans who think this way, just wait. al-Qaeda and their like-minded compatriots, are not a bunch of dummies with nothing to do. They know they are dealing with a formidable enemy that you attack only once in a long while. They have said exactly that.

An actual al-Qaeda planning document was found by Norwegian intelligence. It said that America’s enemies should not attack the United States in the short term but hit America’s allies in order to try to split the coalition. The document then concluded that they should hit Spain just before their March 2004 elections because Spain could not withstand two, perhaps three, blows before withdrawing from the coalition. That is just what happened. Six months later Spain was hit and Spain withdrew from the coalition. Others followed. These men have demonstrated that they can attack and in fact they have done so since 9/11. This loosely knit group who are united by a hatred of America does not appear to be weaker now, in spite of ‘war on terror’. Recently revelations have concluded that it was not al-Qaeda that hit Spain. The Madrid train bombings were carried out by Moroccan Rafa Zuher and Spaniard Jose Emilio Suarez
who had been in contact with police before the attacks, a fact that was reported by the BBC on April 29, 2004. The Spanish newspaper, El Mundo, reported that Suarez was an informant for the National Police, providing information about trafficking in weapons, drugs and explosives. Just what police informers were doing blowing up trains seems to be a mystery but it certainly won’t be the first time that the government has created a terrorist incident to expand their powers.

It is important to remember that history has shown that the security forces sometimes have a perverse ability to encourage or perpetuate illegal activities to make themselves look good when they catch the bad guys, the same bad guys they have known and encouraged. The recent, June 2006, arrest of 17 ‘terrorists’ in Canada, all Muslins, may fall into that category. Two security forces moles worked with the ‘bad guys’ and no doubt encouraged them before their arrests at the most opportune time. This perversion is quite understandable when you consider the amount of money the moles were paid and the expansion of the various security forces after a ‘threat’ is thwarted.

An American, Robert Pape from the University of Chicago has recently written a very important book, ‘Dying to Win’. This book is so important that it should have been discussed on the front page of every paper worldwide. In fact it has hardly been mentioned. Mr. Pape’s book resulted from an unprecedented study of terrorist attacks. He investigated every terrorist attack, globally, from 1980 to 2004. He talked about the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka who invented the suicide vest. The same suicide vest so ‘successfully’ copied by the Palestinians. He goes on to say that “suicide-terrorist attacks are not driven by religion as much as they are by a clear strategic objective: to compel modern democracies to withdraw military forces from the territory that the terrorists view as their homeland. From Lebanon to Sri Lanka to Chechnya to Kashmir to the West Bank, every major suicide-terrorist campaign—over 95% of all the incidents—has had as its central objective to compel a democratic state to withdraw.”

Bush Jr. has told us the terrorists are crazy religious zealots who hate our freedoms but Professor Pape’s research debunks those ignorant Bush Jr. opinions. “If Islamic fundamentalism were the pivotal factor, then we should see some of the largest Islamic fundamentalist countries in the world, like Iran, which has 70 million people—three times the population of Iraq and three times the population of Saudi Arabia—with some of the most active groups in suicide terrorism against the United States. However, there has never been an al-Qaeda suicide terrorist from Iran, and we have no evidence that there are any suicide terrorists in Iraq from Iran.” “Sudan is a country of 21 million people. Its government is extremely Islamic fundamentalist. The ideology of Sudan was so congenial to Osama bin Laden that he spent three years in Sudan in the 1990s. Yet there has never been an al-Qaeda suicide terrorist from Sudan.” Professor Pape’s studies show that the Bush policy of sending over 100,000 troops to the Arabian Peninsula will create problems. Sure enough as Professor Pape goes on to say, “Another point in this regard is Iraq itself. Before our
invasion, Iraq never had a suicide-terrorist attack in its history. Never. Since our invasion, suicide terrorism has been escalating rapidly with 20 attacks in 2003, 48 in 2004, and over 50 in just the first five months of 2005. Every year that the United States has stationed 150,000 combat troops in Iraq, suicide terrorism has doubled.” The studies also show that the ‘suicide terrorists’ are committed ordinary people who hate America for what it is doing. Professor Pape, “I have collected demographic data from around the world on the 462 suicide terrorists since 1980 who completed the mission, actually killed themselves. This information tells us that most are walk-in volunteers. Very few are criminals. Few are actually longtime members of a terrorist group. For most suicide terrorists, their first experience with violence is their very own suicide-terrorist attack. There is no evidence there were any suicide-terrorist organizations lying in wait in Iraq before our invasion. What is happening is that the suicide terrorists have been produced by the invasion.” Professor Pape’s research basically tells us all of the Presidents reasons for the ‘War on Terror’ are false. The truth is out there but it is routinely ignored by the Bushites.

The US anti-terrorism mythology in Iraq has centralized power and security, for Americans, and this has created the perfect conditions for terrorists and criminals. The American desire to be safe in their ‘green zone’ has provided an ideal breeding ground for terrorist training and activity in unsecured parts of the country. Three years after the defeat of Saddam, Iraq is now a land of death, violence, chaos and destruction. The American methods to rebuild Iraq’s security are obviously not working, in spite of what various US spokespersons are telling us. By utilizing aggressive search and destroy actions and rejecting the creation of a basic security environment, which could have been followed by a domestic peace and nation building effort, America has blown it. The American efforts will not acquire the support of the population and will therefore fail. By putting their own security first and killing civilians and destroying homes they have encouraged violence and lost support.

In spite of all this death and destruction there has been no real outrage in America. Sure there are Americans very opposed to this ‘war’ and there have been demonstrations but not enough. The number of anti-war Americans has, in some ways, been offset by the leaders of other countries who have looked at leaders in America and said, ‘Hey, cool, now I can do that too’. Russia’s Putin has dealt with the Chechen people in a ruthless and barbaric manner. Even mild mannered Canada has
thrown people in jail for years without charge or trial. Canada has now copied the American lead by undertaking offensive military actions in Afghanistan against people who have never threatened or attacked Canada. Hundreds of Afghani citizens have been killed and almost 50 Canadians.

President Bush Jr. has failed to understand that the torture America inflicts (see the Torture & Prisoners chapter) works against his country. Of course this is the same sort of American aggression that has allowed this President to create far more ‘terrorists’ rather than actually reducing their number. As evidence leaks out of the system, it becomes clear that torture has been a deliberate part of the Bush Jr. ‘war on terror’. In addition to the violent example that this sets for the rest of the world it is counterproductive. It is known that this treatment of prisoners fuels the recruitment of men who will fight against America. It makes non-combatants less likely to cooperate with the US and it means that America imprisons thousands of innocent prisoners that America is forced to spend billions dealing with.

Evidence of America’s aggressive policy includes President Bush Jr. threatening to veto a bill opposing cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Vice President Cheney attempted to exempt the Central Intelligence Agency from the law. Attorney General Gonzales said that the US can mistreat prisoners as long as they are non-Americans; CIA Director Goss stated that waterboarding, a torture method that almost drowns the victim, is actually a professional interrogation technique. It is believed that Director Goss has not actually undergone a waterboarding session himself. Millions of people throughout the world have become aware that this is what America now stands for and they hate America for it. (see the Prisoners and Torture chapter)

While the American government fights the good fight against ‘terror’ they bankroll and arm many governments that terrorize their own people. The State Department’s ‘Country Reports on Human Rights Practices’ lists 52 countries that the US supplies with military training and weapons as having ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’ human-rights records. Over the years the US has conveniently insisted that their government agents cannot be terrorists. The official US definition of terrorism is: “the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.” Because the US government always regards their agents as lawful their actions cannot therefore be considered terrorism. Unfortunately eliminating American terrorism because you say it isn’t terrorism doesn’t work. A better and broader terrorism definition, that is routinely used to imprison Palestinians, is the Israeli definition, “any organization that systematically harms civilians, irrespective of its motives.” Unfortunately the Israelis do not use that definition for themselves, as it would put the Israeli military out of business, but it is a pretty good definition.

Listening to American media you would think that al-Qaeda was the only name in town. In fact there are many groups opposed to America in Iraq and
many of them are not associated with al-Qaeda. Many of them have sprung up simply because of the way the Americans have handled themselves in Iraq. Everyone knows that electricity, water, education and security are worse in Iraq under the Americans in spite of the billions the Americans have ‘spent’ on construction, with Iraqi money. Although USAid has told us that the situation in Iraq is better and many Americans have believed this, the fact is those beneficial American actions cannot be confirmed because the country is just too dangerous. The aggressive American military, that has killed so many innocent Iraqis, has swelled the ranks of those that are now dedicated to killing Americans. A good example is Abu Ayoub, “When the occupation forces entered Baghdad, they killed my brother in front of my eyes. He was wounded and bleeding but the occupation forces didn’t allow me to save him. When I tried to save him they began shooting at me, and after a few minutes my brother died. After that I swore to fight them to the death.” When he speaks about the Iraqi security forces he knows that they exist and are controlled by the Americans. “You can see what they did in Fallujah. They were like a hand of the occupation. They killed many innocent people there, and they did that in many other cities in Iraq, like Ramadi, Tal Afar, Hit, Rawa and Haditha. Go there and see how many children, old men and women were killed by the Iraqi army’s hand.” America lost against men like Abu, he will not negotiate and he will not disappear but some American will probably die because of his determination to fight back. A determination created by America and now shared by millions.

Rumsfeld, the former US Secretary of Defense, warned that there will be more terrorist attacks against America and other countries as well. As I mentioned, this is a no-brainer however we can be really sure of these future attacks because they will be instigated by Rumsfeld himself. I’m not making this up! Rumsfeld created a new organization, ‘The Proactive, Preemptive Operations Group’, who will carry out secret missions to provoke terrorist groups so that they commit violent acts and then American forces can kill them. So what else is new, entrapment has been used by police forces in the US for years. It’s illegal but then creating terrorist should be illegal too. It would sure piss me off if one of my kids was killed during such a stupid operation. More recently (Feb., 2006) Rumsfeld told us that this ‘terrorism’ struggle might last decades as America and her
allies work to root out terrorists and battle extremists who want to rule the world. He actually said this. The war on terror is now referred to as ‘the long war’ and Osama likened to ‘Hitler and Lenin’. He went on to say that, there is a tendency to underestimate the threats that terrorists pose and that liberty is at stake. Hell, it’s hopeless; we might as well shoot ourselves.

Most of us weren’t at the National Press Club when Rumsfeld made his speech but it sounds perfect. A war that going to last for generations, led by a guy as nasty as Hitler and Lenin combined, a guy we can’t catch, who we have underestimated so far and who is threatening our freedoms. A threat this severe has got to mean more military spending! Another aircraft carrier battle group, OK, you got it. A new class of submarines, OK, you got it. A new generation of fighter aircraft, OK, you got it. Rebuilding our nuclear arsenal to make it more powerful, OK, you got it. Maintaining garrisons in Germany and South Korea and hundreds of other countries, OK, you got it. Naval and Air force bases in the Indian Ocean, OK, you got it. CIA stations in Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab world, OK, you got it. The Sixth Fleet cruising the Mediterranean, OK, you got it. Yes siree, the Military Industrial Complex is in very good hands and all of these ‘improvements are in the works. America will spend more on the military in 2007 and onwards, than the rest of the world combined. A good question remains–why is America so threatened?

It might be useful to pause here and look at some of the attacks that started terrorism in the Middle East. If you know of specific earlier attacks let me know.

The CIA and its Director cannot succeed if they continue to put the needs of the American plutocracy ahead of everyone else. The Director recently got the boot as part of a reorganization due to the unsuccessful war in Iraq. What Bush has yet to realize is that every war is unsuccessful.

The CIA and its Director cannot succeed if they continue to put the needs of the American plutocracy ahead of everyone else. The Director recently got the boot as part of a reorganization due to the unsuccessful war in Iraq. What Bush has yet to realize is that every war is unsuccessful.
In February, 2006, CIA director Goss said that the media reports that squealed on the secret CIA prisons/torture chambers in other countries inflicted “very severe” damage on the intelligence community’s ability to be intelligent. In other words the CIA can only appear to act intelligently if everything they do is done in secret. Makes sense to me, stupidity is best kept a secret.

This war on ‘terror’ will go down as the most ironic and tragic war in history. A war to get those ‘terrorists’, which by its very nature produced more ‘terrorists’. al-Qaida is now a self sufficient, even more invisible organization with millions more sympathizers than when the war started. The American ‘leadership’ seems blinded to the realities of human nature and responds only with excessive force and more aggression. As long as America continues to deal with groups or countries unfairly, ‘terrorists’ will emerge, from where, America will not know. The ‘terrorists’ of the future will get smarter and will, one day, be equipped with a weapon of mass destruction, which, due to their hatred, they will use, causing mass destruction in America. Only the arrogance of American leaders prevents them from thinking this will really happen to them. Is this what Americans really want?

It is abundantly clear that the aggressive Bush policies are working against America. Hell, all they have to do is chat with their good buddies the Israelis. They have been using the same techniques for decades with the same dismal results. The terrorism threat has not been diminished, as history has shown, it has been enhanced. In the case of the ultimate terrorist attack, the use of a WMD, Professor Pape has this to say, “I think it depends not exclusively, but heavily, on how long our combat forces remain in the Persian Gulf. The central motive for anti-American terrorism, suicide terrorism, and catastrophic terrorism is response to foreign occupation, the presence of our troops. The longer our forces stay on the ground in the Arabian Peninsula, the greater the risk of the next 9/11, whether that is a suicide attack, a nuclear attack, or a biological attack.”

In February 2006 Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt admitted that US troops were “contributing to instability in Iraq.” He also said that the US had learned from its past mistakes and would be “more sensitive to the culture” of the people who lived in the Middle

To force people off their land into miserable refugee camps and then deliberately keep them miserable for decades is a guaranteed way to create ‘terrorism’. Guaranteed!
East. This new ‘sensitivity’ must be accompanied by an end to the American killing of the people in the Middle East.

The UN now tells us that millions of refugees are fleeing persecution or civil war and are therefore the hidden victims of the West’s obsession with combating terrorism. Only a very small portion of these refugees have the means to reach the industrialized world to seek asylum. Even those who make it are increasingly treated like criminals as rich countries put up barriers to keep people out. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees states that “More and more, asylum-seekers are portrayed not as refugees fleeing persecution and entitled to sanctuary, but rather as illegal migrants, potential terrorists and criminals—or at a minimum, as bogus.” The countries that caused the devastation in Iraq, like the UK, are increasingly reluctant to solve the refugee problem they helped create. Britain, Denmark and the Netherlands introduced a new policy under which some classes of asylum-seekers would be removed to centers outside Europe while their cases were processed. This move, backed by Tony Blair, was defeated by Germany, France and Sweden.

Also in early 2006, the US Joint Chiefs of Staff produced a report on ‘the war on terror’ and this report states that this will be a ‘long war’. One the reasons that this war in Iraq is now considered a ‘long war’ is because, as the Joint Chiefs say, that Islamic extremists are now supported by 12 million Muslims. That figure could be low as it represents less than 1% of all Muslims worldwide whereas 99% of all Muslims hate what America is doing. In any case the report called ‘Fighting the Long War – Military Strategy for the War on Terrorism’, suggests that the American people be patient and keep forking out the dough for as long as it takes. The grotesque flaws in their thinking are not mentioned. The report also makes a comparison between the ‘war on terror’ and Hitler which is as grotesque as America’s most senior military men and their planning a phony war over Cuba. (see the Cuba chapter)

The number of people killed by international terrorists since the 1960s is about the same as the number of Americans who drowned in their bathtubs. The number of Americans killed by terrorists is about the same as those Americans killed by an allergic reaction to peanuts. The fact that American actions have created so much hatred while swelling the ranks of ‘terrorists’...
makes the ‘war on terror’, even more foolish. Osama bin Laden can never be the threat that America already has been, as all the excessive deaths due to American aggression have shown.

America needs to understand that ‘terrorism’ cannot be defeated as long as the reasons for ‘terrorism’ continue. In 1920 the first conventional and ‘successful’ terrorist bombing took place in New York City killing 40 innocent people. It may have been caused by the hate and vengeance felt by ‘anarchists’. Hatred has improved ‘the bomb’ and it is still used to exacerbate tensions and extract vengeance, by both sides around the world. But since WW II no one has used bombing as much as America, no one has even come close. (see the Bombing chapter)

Bombing was used extensively in 1947 by Jewish groups to ensure the establishment of Israel, killing hundreds. It has been used by other groups in Vietnam, Algeria, Italy and elsewhere. The IRA made it cheap by mixing fertilizer and diesel fuel and then proceeded to bomb the hell out of Northern Ireland. Inevitably other Irishmen responded by killing more innocent people. Numerous bombings followed in Israel and then Beirut and then Paris was hit numerous times. Bombing was getting so popular that even the mafia tried it in Italy killing a number of civilians in the process. All the while the bomb was getting bigger and better but absolutely no one was winning. Even the IRA lost against an enemy that deliberately killed innocent civilians. Beirut became a bombing heaven as many groups, including the Israel government got in on the act. In 1983 a truck bomb blew up the American embassy killing the CIA chief as well as every other CIA officer in Beirut. America responded aggressively by using the Sixth Fleet to shell a perceived ‘enemy’. As a result, a truck bomb was driven into the US military barracks killing over 240 Americans. The French, oil facilities, foreigners and others were also bombed. America then gave up and left Lebanon. Bombers have been very innovative and ‘successful’ as the ‘bombing’ of the World Trade Center proved. America responded by bombing Afghanistan and Iraq and now there are more bombings than ever. There were 140 car bombings per month at the end of 2005, as many as 15 a day on occasion, with no let up in sight. In fact, a let up is just not possible if hatred and vengeance are more important than life itself.

The Bush polices regarding terrorists are seriously flawed unless of course they are really after the oil and have disguised the whole mess as the ‘war on terror’.

*The American shelling of Lebanon resulted in the bombing of the US military barracks in that country. Now the US is back at it, using Israel to destroy Lebanon.*
Amoral America

Even if that is the case it is still seriously flawed. Controlling Iraq’s oil is not worth the fear and destruction that will strike America as a result of this ‘war on terror’. The fact is that millions more have learned to hate America because of America’s ‘war on terror’ and that is not good for America.

Americans seem to have a great deal of difficulty relating to the ‘war on terror’ and how it actually affects people in other countries. America’s 700 military bases all over this globe are all dedicated to this war and yet without America there would be no war. Simply because Americans promote this ‘terror’ doesn’t mean that everyone is buying it. Here’s what VP Cheney said to keep the terror ball rolling on March 7th, 2006. “Israel, and the United States, and all civilized nations will win the war on terror. To prevail in this fight, we must understand the nature of the enemy. As Israelis have seen so many times, and as America experienced on September 11th, 2001, the terrorist enemy is brutal and heartless. This enemy wears no uniform, has no regard for the rules of warfare, and is unconstrained by any standard of decency or morality. The terrorists want to end all American and Western influence in the Middle East. Their goal in that region is to seize control of a country, so they have a base from which to launch attacks and wage war against governments that do not meet their demands ultimately to establish a totalitarian empire that encompasses a region from Spain, across North Africa, through the Middle East and South Asia, all the way around to Indonesia.” “They have made clear, as well, their ultimate ambitions: to arm themselves with chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons; to destroy Israel; to intimidate all Western countries; and to cause mass death here in the United States.” That sounds a lot like the ‘domino theory’ that was going to turn all of South East Asia into raving commies that would then attack America if the US didn’t prevail in Vietnam.

What Cheney is really doing is telling us that he is a racist. That there are great differences between peoples. That some people are civilized and others are not. That some seek to destroy and make war while others seek peace. He has got it all wrong. People are the same everywhere. Some may have less wealth and knowledge but that is only because those with more do not share their wealth or knowledge. Some may appear more warlike but that is always because their leaders call for war and others are forced to defend themselves. There is a great deal of difference between starting a war and fighting for your homeland. VP Cheney’s speech, which was interrupted by applause 56 times, was to the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee. Not once did he shed a glimmer of light on what motivates terrorists. Not once did he indicate that America had committed any mistakes. Not once did he talk about American or Israeli terrorist actions. On the contrary, “We’ve counted on the skill and the dedication of our professionals in law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security—and, of course, on the United States military. They have been superb, and they make us proud each and every day.” More applause. Cheney is aware that hundreds of thousands of innocent Arabs have been killed by American militarism but they don’t even rate a mention.
Cheney is not interested in helping enemies become friends, he is programmed to kill enemies. Something the American military budgets have clearly demonstrated during his time as VP. Instead of working for greater equality and fairness he has called for military control over those that seek fairness via a permanent global war by the only empire on the planet. His government and other American governments have spent billions maintaining dictatorships in the Arab world but he had the gall to suggest in that recent speech that “Across the broader Middle East, we will work to replace hatred and resentment with democracy and hope.” Just where does he think that hatred and resentment is coming from? I guess we have to forgive Cheney because clearly he doesn’t know what he is talking about; but a US military global police force that enriches defense contractors while fighting those who seek true democracy and freedom will be nothing but more disaster. Tragically, the America leadership believes that this militarism is the best America can do in the face of world poverty, sickness, ignorance and pending self-inflicted environmental disasters. What has happened to American values and fairness?

According to various terrorism experts, consulted by the journal Foreign Affairs, the ‘War on Terror’ is not going well. The respondents included an ex-secretary of state and former heads of the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, along with prominent members of the US foreign-policy establishment. Some 86% of them said the world has grown more, not
Amoral America

This TRAC graph shows that the ‘terrorists’ convicted before 9/11 received jail terms averaging 41 months. ‘Terrorists’ convicted after 9/11 have received sentences that averaged less than one month. This is not because American justice has gone soft. It is because the convicted ‘terrorists’ have been guilty of only very minor crimes and were not real ‘terrorists’. In addition the US Federal Prosecutors have also rejected almost all the ‘terrorist’ cases put before them. Put 2 and 2 together and you have very few ‘terrorists’ who have committed no serious terrorist acts. This is because the number of ‘terrorist’ has been hugely overblown. Is this worth fighting a major war over?

less, dangerous. The main reasons for this increased danger has been the war in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, other prisons and the treatment of prisoners, US policy towards Iran and US energy policy and now US support for the war in Lebanon. A majority said Saudi Arabia, a country America has supported and manipulated for decades, is the number one incubator of terrorists. Leslie Gelb, President emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, said policy analysts have never been in such agreement. “The reason is that it’s clear to nearly all that Bush and his team have had a totally unrealistic view of what they can accomplish with military force and threats of force.” America’s diplomatic efforts were rated at 1.8 out of 10 which is equal to an F minus. Homeland security got 2.9, in fact almost every US government department got a failing grade. Only 13% of the experts think America is winning the war on terror, compared with 56% of the public. While 87% of the experts think the war in Iraq had a negative impact on the war on terror, only 44% of the public share
that view. For more on the manipulation of American minds see the Media chapter.

The American ‘war on terror’ has been stridently promoted by many western politicians rather than calming their populations and accurately assessing the threat. When a suspected plot to blow up US airliners over the Atlantic was revealed (Aug. 2006) the American President never told his people to relax, that the danger was contained and that the authorities would release the details as soon as possible. No, he did what he has always done. He stated that the alleged plot was a “stark reminder that this nation is at war with Islamic fascists who will use any means to destroy those of us who love freedom.” And that “it is a mistake to believe there is no threat to the United States of America.” Be afraid, folks, be very afraid!

No one has ever suggested that there is no threat to America; on the contrary, of course America is threatened. What the President doesn’t seem to understand is that his massive domestic spying, military tribunals, detentions without trial, killings of civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq and massive military support of one the most reprehensible regimes in the Middle East has created the threats that he tries to use killing to eliminate. It is a foolish, failed and impossible policy that will never, ever ‘protect the American people’.

When you stand back and have a look at this war, it is as if the American leaders can’t help themselves. Presumably they would like to reduce the threats and carnage that all this hatred creates but they just can’t seem to bring themselves to be the caring, considerate, compassionate or justified guys they need to be, to fight their ‘good’ fights. In August 2006 Bush Jr. said Iraq had, “nothing to do with 9/11” but that “resentment and the lack of hope create the breeding grounds for terrorists who are willing to use suiciders to kill.” Apparently he doesn’t see that devastating an entire country will create even more ‘resentment and lack of hope’ and therefore even more terrorists. As a result of this flawed thinking and his aggressive rush to war, America must lose the war on terrorism. Not because they don’t have the most money, the most weapons, the most technology, the most security or the most anything. This ‘war on terrorism’ will be lost because the hate created by America will compel others to become ‘terrorists’ faster than America can kill them.

“As people are not eaten, butchering them is of no use.”
– Arndt Pekurinen, a pacifist who was murdered by the Finnish army for refusing military service.

“We all have to be concerned about terrorism, but you will never end terrorism by terrorizing others.”
– Martin Luther King Jr.
Amoral America

“Five years after September 11, not a single terrorist has been brought to justice under the President’s flawed policy. There is a bipartisan process underway in the United States Senate to fix the failed Bush Administration system that was struck down by the Supreme Court. Instead of picking fights with Colin Powell, John McCain, and other military experts, President Bush should change course, do what the American people expect, and finally give them the real security they deserve.”
– Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, September 15, 2006.

In September a report was leaked to the NYTimes that was prepared by the top US intelligence agencies. Contrary to what the President has been saying the report stated that the invasion and occupation of Iraq has helped create more global terrorism throughout the world since 9/11. This report will undoubtedly be misused by both the pro and anti war sides, which is just part of the manipulated process Americans are subject to on a daily basis. What Americans need to do is think about what make more sense. Does sending thousands of troops and vast amounts of armaments into another culture sound like a good way to make friends? If tens of thousands of innocent people are then killed does anyone really think that this will result in less retaliation? What would Americans do if the tables were turned?

According to the World Bank ‘Fragile’ countries that provide a breeding ground for terrorism have grown significantly during the past few years. Five countries made it off this list but 14 countries joined the list which includes 12 countries that were on the list both years. Bush Jr. has described these ‘failed states’ as a major threat to US security and his Secretary of State, Ms. Rice backed him up by saying, “The danger they now pose is unparalleled.” She went on to say that these states add to “the proliferation of the world’s most dangerous weapons.” It is unknown how terrorist weapons can be equated with the 14 US nuclear submarines that roam the oceans of the world, carrying 2016 independently targetable nuclear warheads.

NEW ON THE LIST:
Afghanistan  Congo  Laos  Somalia
Angola  Guinea-Bissau  Liberia  Sudan
Burundi  Haiti  Burma (Myanmar)  Zimbabwe

CARRIED OVER FROM 2003:
Cambodia  Ivory Coast  Nigeria  Togo
Central African Republic  Eritrea  Congo Republic  Vanuatu
Comoros  Kosovo  East Timor  and Gaza
“The real threat to US military power is nuclear proliferation, because if every little country has nuclear weapons it becomes very tricky for the United States to engage in military action.”

– Immanuel Wallerstein

“Today, every inhabitant of this planet must contemplate the day when this planet may no longer be habitable. Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident or miscalculation or by madness. The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us.”

– JFK

“There is no defense against the weapons that can destroy civilization.”

– Albert Einstein

“The term ‘weapon of mass destruction’ means “any weapon or device that is intended, or has the capability, to cause death or serious bodily injury to a significant number of people through the release, dissemination, or impact of (A) toxic or poisonous chemicals or their precursors, (B) a disease organism, or (C) radiation or radioactivity.” Nukes qualify!

– The US Code, Title 50, Chapter 40, Section 2302

“Where is the indignation about the fact that the US and USSR have thirty thousand pounds of destructive force for every human being in the world?”

– Norman Cousins

The enthusiastic American development of nuclear weapons has been and will continue to be the most unconscionable decision America ever made. America and America alone embraced these weapons when America could have worked to prevent their development on this planet. As America continued to pour vast resources into these weapons other nations were compelled to meet this threat. This arms race became ever more frantic as America continued to arm themselves with 10 times more nuclear weapons than their nearest rivals, the Soviets. Only Americans seemed to think that their nuclear weapons were not a global threat.
A total of 2050 nuclear tests were conducted by all countries between 1945 and today. America detonated 1054 (plus the two in Japan), the USSR 715, France 210, the UK 45, China 45, India 3, Pakistan 2, Israel 1 and now North Korea 1. The total atmospheric tests were 528, the Soviet total 219 being slightly higher than the US total of 215 but that doesn’t include the American nukes set off in space, yes, in space. America and Russia have also conducted numerous ‘sub-critical’ tests since 1997 to see how plutonium reacts under explosive pressures but they have conveniently stated that these are not nuclear tests. China and the UK set off 51% and 47% of their nukes in the atmosphere.

The nuclear objective, obliterated cities and hundreds of thousands dead. Hiroshima, October 1945. How can the killing of so many innocent people be considered acceptable?
respectively but their total radiation contribution was far less than the Soviets or the Americans. Both India and Pakistan were underground tests whereas the Israeli test(s) was/were atmospheric. Most of the ‘underground’ nuclear explosions leaked radioactivity.

American got the cold-war off to a great start by nuclear testing immediately after WW II was over. No serious effort to stop this lunacy was made and after a few years the Soviets and others who felt threatened were in on the game. In fact it was virtually impossible to stop this lunacy because many powerful militaristic Americans were enthusiastic supporters of the bomb. The fact that it was not possible to use these weapons without killing many innocent people was not a consideration. The exploding bomb pictured here was the fourth nuclear bomb to be detonated in June 1946. Americans detonated one test bomb in New Mexico in 1945 and two deadly bombs on Japan later that year. In this photo notice the contrast between the tropical island paradise and the bomb. Various Pacific islands were often used for tests, particularly for the biggest bombs. These islands could only be considered the territory of the natives that actually lived there but
Amoral America

In order to improve data collection from testing some of the tests were moved to the Nevada desert, five bombs were detonated there in 1951. Four blasts that were considered too large were also detonated on the Pacific Atoll of Enewetak in 1951. The lethal consequences of this testing were not enough to stop it. This is a picture of a 1951 blast in Nevada.

America claimed them because she had the power to do so. They were used to test bombs because they were isolated, because the poisonous radioactivity was less likely to be detected and because the islanders were powerless to stop the tests. Many of the islanders lost their homes and suffered long term illnesses. The fact that the Americans were able to displace these people without concern demonstrates the impunity and insensitivity that America still exhibits when pursuing its military goals. (see the Diego Garcia chapter)

The rest of this chapter tells you a bit about the American Weapons of Mass Destruction, WMD, but in 2006 we have a world that is even more threatened by these terrible weapons. The ability to produce these WMD increases with the proliferation of nuclear energy which has always been inextricably linked to WMD. India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea are known nuclear military powers with stockpiles of nuclear bombs and they are also nuclear outlaws. They have not signed the non-proliferation treaty, and even more remarkably some of
Weapons of Mass Destruction

In 1951 this was the largest American nuclear test before the first thermonuclear, or hydrogen bomb went off 17 months later. This picture shows the bomb 30 millions of a second after detonation. Less than a month before this blast another bomb, 1/3 this size, lifted an estimated 250,000 tons of planet earth to an altitude of 30,000 feet. To test these WMD the residents of Enewetak Atoll were forcibly removed, their homeland was turned into a nuclear wasteland and it was over 30 years until it was declared safe for them to return. Unfortunately this ‘safety’ is relative; ‘their’ islands are still radioactive.

Another test in the Nevada desert in 1951. Note the thousands of American troops standing around in an area of radiation risk. They were ‘part’ of the test and many of them came to suffer from radiation related illnesses.

them have been embraced by the US, given financial support, military aid, nuclear technology and equipment. This has been a clear violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, NPT, yet the Western world has ignored these crimes. Iran has signed the NPT, has not developed nuclear weapons and yet America and more specifically Israel are now threatening Iran with attack, possibly using nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons inhabit a world of deceit, destruction, squandered energy and trillions of dollars and must kill innocent people if ever used. They are truly the most idiotic creations that mankind has ever devised and yet the nuclear bomb idiots continue to threaten all of us.
Amoral America

This Nevada test picture was taken 1 millionth of a second after detonation. During this series of tests about 15,500 kilocuries of radioiodine (I-131) was released into the atmosphere. The radiation associated with this series of tests is expected to eventually cause about 34,000 cases of thyroid cancer, leading to several thousand deaths. The spikes at the base of the fireball are energy flowing down the cables supporting the blast tower.

This is a 1952 picture of America’s first hydrogen bomb. It was detonated on the island of Elugelab which was eliminated during the test. That’s correct; the Island of Elugelab no longer exists. The blast was equivalent to over ten million tons of dynamite. When President Truman announced that the US was going to develop the ‘H’ bomb the Soviets rushed right out and did the same thing, what did he think they were going to do? Truman could have gone to the Soviet Union and talked to the Soviets into ending this nuclear madness but then he was the guy who ordered the nuclear bombing of Japan.
One of the eleven blasts detonated in Nevada during 1953. It was subsequently revealed that this series of blasts would cause thousands of additional American cancer deaths.

Before and after images of Eninman Island after a blast equal to 110,000 tons of dynamite. Imagine a blast equivalent to 30 million tons! The Yanks had hoped to set off a much more powerful bomb but it fizzled. If it had worked properly this island would have been turned into a huge crater.
A thermonuclear test in February 1954. At 30 over million tons of dynamite this bomb turned out to be 2.5 times more powerful than expected and much more radioactive. Islanders hundreds of miles from the blast, who the Americans thought would be relatively safe, received 175 Rads of radiation. The crew on a Japanese fishing boat received 300 Rads and one died. The eventual radiated area considered too dangerous to enter was equal to 1% of the earth’s surface. It is clear from this blast that the Americans did not really know what they were doing and were willing to risk almost anything in their pursuit of an ever more deadly weapon. The maximum total exposure of Americans from all the nuclear tests in the 1950’s and 1960s was about 16 Rads however the average American dose was about 2 Rads.

Another series of 14 bombs in Nevada during 1955. Eventually estimated to cause about 13,000 cases of cancer and about 1,000 premature deaths, in America alone. Lets see now… if each case of cancer is worth … better not go there.
An otherwise beautiful night on Enewetak Atoll 1956. 1.6 million tons of dynamite equivalent, wrecking the environment for years to come.

Smoky, one of 30 blasts conducted in the Nevada desert during 1957. Cute name, eh? This blast was observed by 3,324 American troops who showed a significantly higher rate of cancer in the 1980s. About 13,000 troops watched other blasts that year. Just what could have been accomplished by their watching these blasts is unknown but many of these Vets are sick now.
The American answer to nuclear war in 1956. Eliminating WMD never seemed to be an option.

The equivalent of 9 million tons of radioactive dynamite blasting the hell out of the Enewetak Lagoon in 1958.
8,000 equivalent tons of dynamite detonated 150’ below the surface of Enewetak Atoll in 1958. The ship was there to see how it was affected and the smoke trails were to measure the movement of the shock wave etc. Just one of 76 nuclear bombs exploded in that year, a very good year for the boys and their toys.

Although all nuclear testing is reprehensible America conducted nuclear tests in space during 1958. These were the most reprehensible of all. The Plutonium warheads were secretly launched into space from the south Atlantic. They exploded at 100 miles, 182 miles and 466 miles above the surface of this planet, which is well above the atmosphere. To subject all of humanity to a silly experiment like this is an obscene example of arrogance without limits.
Under Eisenhower the Americans and the Soviets agreed to halt atmospheric tests and this agreement lasted for 34 months, from August 1958 until the Russians resumed testing in September, 1961. It is tragic that the Soviets resumed testing but in that period of non-testing America went from 7,500 to 22,000 nuclear weapons. The Soviets knew about this massive built up and felt they had to catch up. They went from 900 to 2,400 in the same period. In spite of the huge American nuclear superiority the Yanks got right back into the testing game as soon as the Soviets conducted a test.

On July 9, 1962, the US detonated more nuclear tests above the atmosphere. They detonated a one kiloton bomb at a height of 60 km and a one megaton and a multi-megaton bomb several hundred kilometers into space. These secret and stupid tests seriously disturbed the lower Van Allen Belt by substantially altering its strength and shape. The Van Allen belt was not well understood at the time and the risks to this natural phenomenon were unknown. It is clear that these American scientists and politicians were willing to risk great damage to the earth and everything on it because they thought they had a neat testing idea. The arrogance is remarkable and the men now designing new bombs for the ‘improved’ American arsenal are chips off the same old block.

On September 11, 1945 after the victory over Germany, Japan and the dropping of the atomic bombs, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, proposed to President Truman that “The United States, in order to head off an armament race of a rather desperate character should share the atomic bomb with the
In 1962 President Kennedy authorized 36 additional bomb tests. Almost all of them were in the south Pacific atmosphere and a few in the ocean, such as this one. A rocket launched this bomb which exploded 650 feet below the surface. This was the fifth and last underwater test which produced a huge mass of foaming radioactive water plus a few million dead fish.

In 1962 and 1963 America conducted a further 56 nuclear tests before the Atmospheric Test Ban Treaty of August 1963. During that time a few silly explosions to move dirt, such as this one, were conducted. Between 16 July 1945 and 23 September 1992 the United States of America conducted (by official count) 1054 nuclear tests of which 215 were atmospheric. The Soviets exploded 715 nuclear devices during roughly the same period of which 219 were atmospheric, 3 in the water and 496 in shafts or underground. The yanks therefore look about 50% worse than the Soviets except that they started the whole ridiculous business.
Soviet Union and enter into an international agreement for its control.” Truman took that recommendation seriously and it was discussed at a full cabinet meeting. At that meeting a majority of the Cabinet agreed however one person was adamantly opposed. Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal was deeply suspicious of the Soviets and urged a larger military to deal with this ‘threat’. Forrestal was a seriously flawed individual who worked 7 day weeks in a zealous crusade that eventually became the American attitude towards the Soviets. He completely failed to understand that the people of the USSR wanted peace as much as most Americans. His aggressive push for a huge nuclear arsenal was not the way to get it. He jumped from, or was pushed, from the 16th floor of his hospital suite after being ‘completely burned out’ by his impossible, self-inflicted work schedule. His paranoia was to become America’s paranoia as the country rushed to build a needless nuclear arsenal far larger than America could ever use or humanity could ever withstand.

The American failure to move forward with the Stimson proposal may yet prove to be the greatest tragedy in the history of humankind.

America was the first to develop nuclear weapons, the first nation to use them in anger as well as the first nation to have effective chemical and biological weapons, see that chapter No other nation has ever used nuclear weapons during a conflict. (see the Bombing chapter) America was one of the very few countries that did not ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, America did sign and ratify the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) however America has violated this treaty and continues to do so. The very first obligation in the treaty text states, “Nuclear weapon states (NWS) are not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and not to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS) to manufacture or otherwise acquire them.”

America has exchanged
knowledge, material and equipment with Israel in violation of this treaty. (see the Israel chapter) As a result of this cooperation and the cooperation of other countries, such as France, Israel has several hundred nuclear weapons. Primarily due to American assistance Israel also has the means to deliver these weapons. This unnecessary and excessive nuclear arsenal in the Middle East has, and will continue to destabilize the region and only serves to compel other states to meet that threat with similar weapons. If they are ever used, which presumably is why they were built, the Middle East and the rest of the planet would suffer enormous negative consequences. Unfortunately the Americans and the Israelis seem incapable of comprehending how their aggressive actions actually work against them and world peace. American has also cooperated with India while that country spends billions on nuclear arms it doesn’t need. America has refused to provide both Iran and North Korea with assurances that they will not be attacked by America. That threat has been North Korea’s motivation for their nuclear bomb making efforts.

The US servicemen who worked in the South Pacific on the nuclear bomb cleanup crews in the 1960s and 1970s are now suffering from a significant number of health problems and premature deaths. Unlike the Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Defence personal, they were not issued badges
to determine the amount of radiation they were exposed to. Even the badges that were issued were subject to errors from heat or damage. The water they drank was desalinated saltwater right near the old bomb sites. They were exposed to contaminated soil and other materials that were sometimes very radioactive. The most seriously radioactive materials were dumped in the lagoons; the less radioactive material was buried on the islands. They were told that the fish and lobsters were safe to eat which was untrue. They are now fighting their own government to get compensation for their serious illnesses.

America has also placed numerous nuclear weapons in many other countries, either via some sort of mutual arrangement or via placement on American ships, submarines, aircraft and missiles. With this capacity America can threaten any country at any time with the delivery of weapons which must cause the deaths of many innocent people. No other country threatens this planet to the same extent. Remarkably American leaders do not regard their country as a nuclear threat in spite of their history and their military actions since June 1942.

A retired American General, George Butler finally saw the light after he retired. He now talks about the evil of US nuclear weapons and the associated US policy. He has said current nuclear war policy is based on “the mistaken belief that nuclear weapons retain an aura of utility.” He goes on to say, “The likely consequences of nuclear war have no politically, militarily or morally acceptable justification, and therefore the threat to use nuclear weapons is indefensible.” Admiral William Leahy also saw the light much earlier when in 1950, as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he said, “I was not taught to
make war in that fashion,” referring to Hiroshima, “and wars cannot be won by destroying women and children.” Unfortunately both these men are wrong. Some of the military and political leaders that have evolved in America and elsewhere are not moral men and wars can be won by destroying women and children. Of course many of us would prefer a world without that reality but we need look no further than Iraq to know that that world is upon us.

In April, 1986 a thermonuclear underground test failed at the Nevada Test Site. This test had the bomb in one area, with a leaded steel door 6 feet thick leading to a chamber full of expensive instruments. The door was supposed to close milliseconds after the first radioactive beam. The radiation was to be captured as a weapon beam but the door failed to close as quickly as required and millions of dollars worth of equipment was destroyed. This failed test proves that in addition to the lethality of the thermonuclear bomb the US has sought to develop X-ray and particle beam weapons. Never enough killing power for these guys! The radiation released into the atmosphere during this test was conveniently blamed on the Chernobyl disaster which happened to occur at just the same time.

In September 2005 1,500 physicists including 8 Nobel Laureates urged Congress, their professional organizations and the American media to raise public awareness regarding the American ‘Nuclear Posture Review’ and the ‘Doctrine for Joint Nuclear Operations’ dated March 15, 2005. Those new US government positions advocate first-strike, preemptive nuclear attacks against non-nuclear ‘enemies’. The physicists pointed out that this dangerous policy

Another South Pacific thermonuclear test. Thousands of men exposed to this radiation thought it was safe at the time but the scientists knew better and kept quiet.
change ignores the fact that nuclear weapons are on a completely different scale than other weapons. That using a nuclear weapon preemptively against a non-nuclear adversary crosses a line, blurring the distinction that now exists between nuclear and non-nuclear weapons, and heightens the future use of nuclear weapons. This US policy also tells other non-nuclear countries that nuclear disarmament is never going to happen and it will encourage them to abandon this goal and develop their own nuclear weapons. In spite of this plea by the physicists the American media has not made this threat clear to the American people (see the Media chapter) while the Bush Jr. government proceeds to expand Americas nuclear capacity.

Some quotes from, and comments on, the 2005 US ‘Doctrine for Joint Nuclear Operations’, “The focus of US deterrence efforts is therefore to influence potential adversaries to withhold actions intended to harm US national interests.” Nothing wrong with this except that it won’t work. A few people can do a great deal of damage and it is just not possible to keep track of all the new potential adversaries that American polices continue to create. In addition, those who seriously intend to harm US national interests don’t give a damn about dying for a great cause so you cannot influence them with the threat of nuclear annihilation.
“The principle of proportionality requires that the anticipated loss of civilian life and damage to civilian property incidental to attacks must not be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage expected to be gained.” This ‘principal’ will be of small comfort to the innocents who will be killed if America uses nuclear weapons again. As we have seen in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq over 2 million people have been killed because America choose to go to war to solve a problem that turned out to be based on lies. Of course the great problem here is that the killing of many innocent people is, and always has been, acceptable to many Americans. This American impunity which advocates violent solutions always works against America as 9/11 clearly showed.

“To maintain their deterrent effect, US nuclear forces must maintain a strong and visible state of readiness. Strategic nuclear force readiness levels are categorized as either operationally deployed or as part of the responsive capability. US Operationally Deployed Strategic Nuclear Warheads will be limited to 1,700 to 2,200 by 2012. The remaining US strategic nuclear weapons remain in storage and serve as an augmentation capability should US strategic nuclear force requirements rise above these levels.” It is remarkable that America can conceive of a situation that requires them to reserve the right to use more than 2,200 WMD. Apparently America is prepared to unleash unimaginable death and destruction to protect ‘US national interests’ and destroy the planet in the process. They also believe that 2,200 advanced nuclear weapons represents “the lowest possible number consistent with national security requirements.” These men are crazy!

“Execution procedures are flexible and allow for changes in the situation. Commanders will ensure that constraints and release guidance are clearly understood. The commander controlling the nuclear strike package must maintain communications with the delivery unit and establish a chain of succession that maintains connectivity in case of headquarters destruction.” Flexibility is good but should “the commander controlling the nuclear strike package” be “flexible”? Wouldn’t it be wise to ensure that the millions the commander is going to kill actually should be killed? This statement illustrates the American belief that their war machine will actually work well in war. They still don’t understand that in a nuclear war nothing will work well and that everybody will lose, even the good old US of A.

“The nature of the Cold War threat required the United States—with our allies and friends—to emphasize deterrence of the enemy’s use of force, producing a grim strategy of mutual assured destruction. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, our security environment has undergone profound transformation.” The National Security Strategy of the United States, September, 2002

This statement is included in the 2005 Nuclear Operations Doctrine. America is aware that the Soviet Union is no longer a threat but nothing has really changed. The American military is ever more deadly and Americans
are being told that the threat to their country is as great as ever. Do Americans ever sit back and ask, is this logical? Can a few terrorists be as dangerous as the USSR?

In the section ‘Purpose of United States Nuclear Forces’, the document states: “Deterring aggression and coercion by deploying forward the capacity to swiftly defeat attacks and imposing severe penalties for aggression.” This is how America works; they impose severe penalties for aggression, with aggression, and fail to understand why this doesn’t work. America’s toughest sheriff, Joe Arpaio is an aggressive incarcerator running half a dozen jails. During his 12 tough years his prison population has doubled but Americans overwhelming elect him because he is aggressive. That is the key to success in America, be aggressive. The actual success of this aggression is of no real concern. That American mindset may once again lead to the deaths of millions of innocent people, many of them Americans.

If this nuclear deterrence should just happen to fail America will “decisively defeat an adversary” or “US nuclear forces provide the means to apply overwhelming force to a broad range of targets in a time and manner chosen by the President.” “Decisively defeat”, “overwhelming force”, this sounds suspiciously like many innocents will die.

“Future adversaries may conclude they cannot defeat US military forces and thus, if they choose war, may reason their only chance of victory is through WMD use.” American just doesn’t get it! Their adversaries do not care about ‘winning’ or ‘victory’. Americans care about winning and victory. American adversaries are smart enough to know that they will not ‘win’, they are not even trying to ‘win’, it’s all about getting even, that’s all folks. Keep pissing them off they will keep trying to get even. Therefore the trillions that have been spent on the American nuclear arsenal is ineffective, has been a colossal waste of money and is a threat to the planet that most unelected Americans live on.

These policy changes go hand in hand with the current US efforts to improve the reliability and safety of its existing nuclear arsenal with the ‘reliable replacement warhead’ program. Not true, this program is a lie and a sham! The Yanks have an existing program called ‘stockpile stewardship’ that has sucked up $70 billion just keeping nukes in shape. This new program the ‘reliable replacement warhead’ program is not a maintenance program. It may make American warheads more reliable but it is also designed to make them more powerful, therefore more deadly and the planet will be more threatened. Of course all this is a violation of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty that America signed but these days America does what it wants and to hell with international treaties. (see the ICC chapter)

Americas are also paying big bucks for other screw-ups associated with nuclear weapons and the symbiotic nuclear power business. The Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington State is in the process of a cleanup. This was supposed to be finished in 2011 but that has been pushed back to 2017. That is not good news because 53 million gallons of toxic waste is sitting in
tanks that will continue to leak as time marches on. Sixty-seven of the 177 tanks have already leaked about a million gallons into land that eventually drains into the Colombia River. A river that not so long ago was the world’s largest salmon river but dams, to produce power to build nukes, eliminated the salmon. The good old taxpayer is on the hook for one and a half million dollars a day to clean up the site and deal with past mistakes. The cost of this project has already tripled in six years to almost $12 billion but as you and I know, that $12 billion is bound to increase again. This is just one example of the cost of nuclear weapons and nuclear power that are never shown as directly associated with either WMD or nuclear power.

In 2006 the brilliant-idiots at the Lawrence Livermore Weapons Design Laboratory as well as the brilliant-idiots at Los Alamos Nuclear Labs are designing a new generation of thermonuclear weapons. These jerks are just thrilled. Linton Brooks one of the overpaid executives said, “We are on the verge of an exciting time.” Exciting time for who Linton, the taxpayers, the victims, world peace or planet earth? This new weapons effort, which may go on indefinitely, proves that America plans to have nukes for the foreseeable future and that their stated effort to rid the world of nuclear weapons is an American farce. If America doesn’t get on the disarmament bandwagon no one will. America started this madness, leads the way, has encouraged others and it is therefore America’s responsibility to stop it. Don’t hold your breath. With Presidents like Bush Jr. America is far more likely to use nuclear weapons than get rid of them.

Another ominous development. America is building a new plutonium pit manufacturing facility northwest of Los Alamos, New Mexico. Plutonium pits are the nuclear triggers for nuclear weapons. There are two problems with this new facility. One is that current plutonium pits are stable and will last for a
long time, in spite of what the nuclear bomb-nuts would have you believe. That means that a large facility to produce new plutonium pits means new weapons. Secondly the size and capability of this facility indicates many new weapons, including small weapons which may indicate that they are more likely to be used. One thing can be said for sure, this facility is another great step backwards and could only be created by mad men who put winning, killing and destruction ahead of a peaceful prosperous world.

Naturally the Russians are working on new weapons too. Something President Truman encouraged the Soviets to do 60 years ago when he publicly announced that America was building the hydrogen bomb. The Soviets got right to work and built the H bomb, and they will continue to meet the American threat, whatever it is. Not to be outdone the Brits are spending big bucks to improve their nuclear abilities too. The British Orion program is similar to the US one, to make bigger and better bombs without testing anything or informing the public. In typical government-military fashion the people who are paying for all this lunacy do not have a say and are never even told what is going on. As all governments know their citizens are too stupid to be informed and that wise politicians must make those decisions for them. That French guy, Chirac said recently that France would use nuclear weapons first, under some circumstances. The North Korean bomb efforts are a direct result of the American threat, which America has done nothing to minimize. Israel has still not admitted to the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons they have had for decades. Iran wants some WMD to respond to that threat and why wouldn’t they? Why shouldn’t they? China feels threatened by the American military and is spending billions as a result and a billion goes a lot further in China. India and Pakistan have both spent enough on nukes to solve some significant poverty problems but by developing nukes they have shown they can be just as stupid as the US.

President Bush just sold out (March 2005) on the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty when he agreed to the Indian desires to reserve significant segments of the Indian nuclear complex for making nuclear weapons. Where is Mahatma Gandhi when you need him?

What is wrong with these men? This is, quite simply a case of follow the leader, the aggressive, fearful American leader. This evil American empire is setting the tone and has for decades. As long as America
puts the profit of its Military Industrial Complex and the wasteful American ‘way of life’ ahead of everything, these threats will continue. Think about it, ahead of everything, the betterment of the environment, an end to killing in war, an end to starvation, an end to hatred caused by aggression and inequality, and end to poverty, better schooling, the list is endless. Everything a good government should be doing takes a back seat to the American promoters of militarism, death and destruction. If we could pass a global law preventing anyone from being a politician, without being a grandmother first, we could end this insanity.

The following list shows the number of nuclear weapons built by various countries up to the year 2000. As you can see the US was the only guy in the game for almost 5 years. America continued to pursue nuclear weapons far more aggressively than any other nation for many years. They have also put vastly more money and effort into these weapons than all of their peace efforts from 1942 to the present day. In 1960 the US had almost 20,000 nuclear weapons while the rest of the world had less than 2,000. For America to think that they could keep this amount of nuclear terror to themselves, without other countries trying to meet this US threat, was simply foolish. Not until 1977, more than 30 years after America started the nuclear arms race, did the Soviets catch up.

A new Russian nuclear sub with multiple nuclear warhead missiles, that’s progress! Every weapon that America develops can and will be duplicated.

The Soviet 100 million ton bomb, when tested at half power it was the most powerful bomb ever exploded. One bomb like this could easily wipe out any city on earth, even Washington, DC.
to the US numerically. Although the Russians may appear to have a numerical superiority today the fact is that the American nuclear arsenal remains the world's most dangerous due to superior operational readiness, reliability and delivery accuracy. The Russians could not reliably launch all their weapons, if called upon to do so. They could, however, destroy the planet!

The following table shows the total number of bombs and when they were built by the five countries that followed the American example.

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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>US</th>
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To be a member of the nuclear club, France conducted 210 nuclear tests between February, 1960 and July, 1996. The first 17 test explosions were detonated in North Africa, four in the atmosphere and 13 underground. The fact that an explosion is detonated underground is no guarantee that it will not release radioactivity. The permission of the North Africans who were exposed to the associated French radioactivity was not sought or given. During the next 30 years France conducted a further 193 test explosions at the Mururoa and Fangataufa atolls in the South Pacific (46 in the atmosphere and 147 underground). After two tests within 17 days in 1966, radiation at five times the permitted annual dose was measured on the Gambier Islands. After three tests in 1974, radiation equivalent to the entire permitted annual dose was measured in Tahiti. The brief resumption of nuclear tests at Mururoa atoll in 1996, under President Chirac, was justified on the grounds that there was no possible threat to human health. France has now had to admit that some of these explosions caused dangerous levels of radiation in nearby inhabited islands. Recent (August, 2006) French studies have confirmed cancer amongst people of the South Pacific that are directly attributable to these tests. No nuclear tests were ever permitted on French soil, naturally!
Mohamed El Baradei was trained as a lawyer and in 1974 received a Doctorate in International Law from New York University. He has worked for the Egyptian government but in 1984 he started working for the International Atomic Energy Agency where he is now Director General. In 2005 he and the IAEA were both awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to control nuclear weapons. In 2003 the good Doctor proposed a verifiable ban on the production of weapons grade nuclear material. Every nation on the planet but one voted for the ban, Israel and Britain abstained. That one country, yet again, was America. One country that publicly endorsed El Baradei’s proposal was Iran. The country that the Bush Jr. government refuses to guarantee it will not use nuclear weapons against. From this it looks like there really are just a few bad guys here and that Iran is not one of them.

This proposal would have allowed monitors to check all nuclear facilities and it would also guarantee that all non-nuclear weapons countries would be able to proceed with non-military use of plutonium. The country least likely to make that huge step forward for peace is Israel. The country with nuclear weapons who refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty, the country America helped to build nukes. Once again America shafted an opportunity to create a safer world while the rest of the world’s nuclear powers did nothing to help.

Iran, the country that threatens world peace, according to Israel and the US, because it almost has nuclear weapons, signed and implemented in 2003 a see-anything, go-anywhere agreement with the IAEA. Libya made the same agreement in 2004. In El Baradei’s 2004 report to the IAEA board he said, “Following the disclosure of its undeclared nuclear activities, Libya has granted the Agency unrestricted access to all requested locations, responded promptly to the Agency’s requests for information, and assisted the Agency in gaining a full picture of its nuclear program. This active cooperation and openness is welcome, and will facilitate the Agency’s ability to complete its verification of Libya’s past nuclear activities. As in the case of Iran, the Agency also requires the full cooperation of the countries from which the nuclear technology and material originated.” ElBaradei has yet to find that Iran has nuclear weapons or an associated weapons program but Israel tries to tell the US and the rest of us that Iran is the problem when they are the ones with these deadly weapons.

A few American Presidents have understood that “the weapons of war
must be abolished, before they abolish us”– JFK. The nuclear non-proliferation treaty has been important in slowing the spread of these weapons but now Israel, Pakistan, India and North Korea have violated this treaty while the US, Russia, France, the UK and China have continued to refine their nuclear arsenals. Although building a bomb is difficult it has never been easier and numerous nations have never been closer to taking that fateful step. No government has made this more likely to happen than the Bush Jr. government. This government has spurned international agreements including the nuclear test ban treaty, the anti-ballistic missile treaty, UN inspectors who told the truth about Iraq WMD, the ban on weapons in space and an improved treaty banning biological weapons to name just a few. America, the nation that started this ball of death rolling, has pushed it to the edge of a very steep hill. Once this ball gets rolling it will never be pushed back up. By making nuclear weapons the foundation of American military might, America has set an appalling example. By telling the rest of the world they can’t have these weapons America is just whistling in the dark.

America could have worked to abolish these weapons and created a world without them, of this there is no doubt. Instead America did the exact opposite and aggressively pursued the building of these weapons of mass destruction. America knew at that time that if used these weapons would kill many innocent people and that is just what happened. They also knew that other countries would build these same weapons but America proceeded. That militarism says a lot about American leadership and aggression.

Not only would the world be a much safer place for everyone without these WMD but the money saved, the trillions and trillions of dollars, could have solved so many other difficulties. By choosing this selfish, fearful, needless and destructive path America may have condemned this miraculous planet to a deadly, lifeless future. America, with its current foreign policy, is also creating the inevitable ‘terrorist’ nuclear weapon, built in some basement by men whose hatred for America knows no bounds. Millions more simply hate America for this asinine creation and their reliance on weapons of mass destruction that have given us the future we must now face.

“If I were to characterize US, NATO and, therefore by implication, British nuclear policy, in one sentence, I would say the policies are immoral, illegal, militarily unnecessary, very, very dangerous in terms of the risk of accidental or inadvertent launch and destructive of the non-proliferation regime. It’s absurd, insane.”

“Will . . . the threat of common extermination continue? Must children receive the arms race from us as a necessary inheritance?”

– Pope John Paul II

“We must abandon the unworkable notion that it is morally reprehensible for some countries to pursue weapons of mass destruction, yet morally acceptable for others to rely on them for security—and indeed to continue to refine their capacities and postulate plans for their use.”

– Mohamed ElBaradei

UPDATE: The Bush Jr. government is at it again, this time the militarism of space. Bush recently, October 2006, approved a new policy that says the US has the right to conduct any actions it desires in space that is in the US national interest. It also goes on to say that it will “deny, if necessary, adversaries the use of space capabilities hostile” to American interests. “Freedom of action in space is as important to the United States as air power and sea power.”

In 2004 the US Air Force published a plan for establishing weapons in space. It has also been revealed that the Pentagon has sought hundreds of millions of dollars to develop and test space based weapons. Of course the ‘war on terror’ is part of this as the Bush policy mentions, “unhindered US operations in and through space to defend our interests there” and that national security is ‘critically’ dependent upon space capabilities. You never can tell when Osama might develop a space based weapon!

Many nations have called for a ban on weapons in space which simply reflects the desire that most people have for peace and they know that militarism makes peace less likely, even in space. The UN has tried to ban weapons in space and put forward a resolution to that effect on October, 2005. The US voted against this resolution and it has also tried to stop the Conference on Disarmament from negotiating a ban on weapons in space. These actions make it pretty clear that the US plans to put weapons in space. The White House National Security Council said, the policy was needed to “reflect the fact that space has become an even more important component of US economic, national and homeland security”. Why this is considered a fact by the White House was not explained.

Amoral America is a completely appropriate way to describe an America that is prepared to spend billions and weaponize space when the need to do so is fictitious. Tragically this is a planet where 30,000 children die needlessly each and every day but Bush Jr. would rather put weapons in space. Amoral is just the right word.

For a great collection of nuclear information go to:
http://www.nuclearfiles.org/
The following is a list of some of the nuclear weapons made in America. The construction of these weapons of mass destruction has continued unabated since 1942.

As you read this America is building bigger and ‘better’ thermonuclear weapons for the enemies they are confident they will have tomorrow. This weapons list is included here to give you some idea of the time, money and effort America has put into a weapon they should have tried to abolish.

This list is not comprehensive!

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<tr>
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<th>DELIVERY PLATFORM</th>
<th>YIELD</th>
<th># PRODUCED</th>
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### Amoral America

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<td>PGM-11A Redstone SRBM / SM-62A Snark ICM</td>
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<td>Mike</td>
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<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb (Deployed Prototype)</td>
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<td>T315 280mm AFAP</td>
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<td>SM-64A Navaho GLCM (Not Deployed)</td>
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<td>AGM-28A Hound Dog ALCM / MGM/CGM-13A/B Mace GLCM</td>
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<td>RIM-8D Talos SAM</td>
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## Weapons of Mass Destruction

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<td>MGR-18A Honest John SSM / MIM-14B Nike-Hercules SAM</td>
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<td>Nuclear Depth Bomb</td>
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<td>W38</td>
<td>CGM-16E Atlas E ICBM / HGM-25A Titan I ICBM</td>
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<td>B43 Mod.2 Y5</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb (Parachute-Retarded)</td>
<td>500 KT</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MK.43</td>
<td>Nuclear Depth Bomb</td>
<td>10 KT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W44</td>
<td>RUR-5A Mod.5 ASROC</td>
<td>1 KT</td>
<td>575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W45 Y1</td>
<td>RIM-2D Terrier / MGR-3A/XM51 Little John / Medium ADM</td>
<td>1 KT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W45 Y2</td>
<td>Medium ADM</td>
<td>0.5 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W45 Y3</td>
<td>AGM-12D Bullpup B</td>
<td>5 KT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>W45 Y4</td>
<td>AGM-12D Bullpup B / (Little John SSM) / Terrier / MADM</td>
<td>8 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W45 Y5</td>
<td>MGR-3A Little John / XM51 Little John</td>
<td>10 KT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>W45 Y6</td>
<td>AGM-12D Bullpup B / MGR-3A Little John / XM51 Little John</td>
<td>15 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>MK.46 Y1</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MK.46 Y2</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC-47</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>1.2 MT</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>W47 Y1</td>
<td>UGM-27A Polaris A-1 / Polaris A-X / Polaris A-1-X</td>
<td>600 KT</td>
<td>1060</td>
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<tr>
<td>W47 Y2</td>
<td>UGM-27B Polaris A-2 (Mk.1 RV) SLBM</td>
<td>1.2 MT</td>
<td>II</td>
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<tr>
<td>W48 Mod.0</td>
<td>M454 155mm AFAP</td>
<td>0.072 KT</td>
<td>925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W48 Mod.1</td>
<td>M454 155mm AFAP</td>
<td>0.072 KT</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W49 Mod.0 Y1</td>
<td>CGM-16D Atlas D ICBM / Titan / PGM-17A Thor IRBM / Jupiter</td>
<td>1 MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W49 Mod.1 Y2</td>
<td>CGM-16D Atlas D ICBM / Jupiter / PGM-17A Thor IRBM</td>
<td>1.45 MT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W49 Mod.2 Y1</td>
<td>CGM-16D Atlas D ICBM / PGM-19A Jupiter IRBM</td>
<td>1 MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W49 Mod.3 Y2</td>
<td>CGM-16D Atlas D ICBM / PGM-19A Jupiter IRBM</td>
<td>1.45 MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W49 Mod.4 Y2</td>
<td>CGM-16D Atlas D ICBM / PGM-19A Jupiter IRBM</td>
<td>1.45 MT</td>
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<td>WEAPON</td>
<td>DELIVERY PLATFORM</td>
<td>YIELD</td>
<td># PRODUCED</td>
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<td>W49 Mod.5 Y2</td>
<td>PGM-19A Jupiter IRBM</td>
<td>1.45 MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W49 Mod.6 Y2</td>
<td>1.45 MT</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W50 Mod.1 Y1</td>
<td>MGM-31A Pershing I / XMGM-31A Pershing I</td>
<td>60 KT</td>
<td>280</td>
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<tr>
<td>W50 Mod.1 Y2</td>
<td>MGM-31A Pershing I / XMGM-31A Pershing I</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W50 Mod.1 Y3</td>
<td>MGM-31A Pershing I / XMGM-31A Pershing I</td>
<td>400 KT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W50 Mod.2 Y1</td>
<td>MGM-31B Pershing I A SRBM</td>
<td>60 KT</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>W50 Mod.2 Y2</td>
<td>MGM-31B Pershing I A SRBM</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W50 Mod.2 Y3</td>
<td>MGM-31B Pershing I A SRBM</td>
<td>400 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W53</td>
<td>(became XW54)</td>
<td>0.022 KT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>W52 Mod.1 Y1</td>
<td>MGM-29A Sergeant SRBM</td>
<td>60 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W52 Mod.1 Y2</td>
<td>MGM-29A Sergeant SRBM</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W52 Mod.2 Y1</td>
<td>MGM-29A Sergeant SRBM</td>
<td>60 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W52 Mod.2 Y2</td>
<td>MGM-29A Sergeant SRBM</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W52 Mod.3 Y1</td>
<td>MGM-29A Sergeant SRBM</td>
<td>60 KT</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>W52 Mod.3 Y2</td>
<td>MGM-29A Sergeant SRBM</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>B53 Mod.1 Y1</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb (Parachute- Retarded) / Dirty</td>
<td>9 MT</td>
<td>350</td>
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<tr>
<td>B53 Mod.1 Y2</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb (Parachute- Retarded) / Clean</td>
<td>9 MT</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>B53 Mod.2 Y1</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb (Parachute- Retarded) / Dirty</td>
<td>9 MT</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>B53 Mod.2 Y2</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb (Parachute- Retarded) / Clean</td>
<td>9 MT</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>B53 Mod.3 Y1</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb (Parachute- Retarded) / Dirty</td>
<td>9 MT</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>B53 Mod.3 Y2</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb (Parachute- Retarded) / Clean</td>
<td>9 MT</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B53 Mod.4 Y2</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb (Parachute- Retarded) / Dirty</td>
<td>9 MT</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>W53</td>
<td>LGM-25C Titan II / XLMG-25C Titan II</td>
<td>9 MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>XW54 (Ex-W51)</td>
<td>0.022 KT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W54 Mod.0</td>
<td>AIM-26A Nuclear Falcon / XAIM-26A Nuclear Falcon</td>
<td>0.25 KT</td>
<td>1000-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W54 Mod.1 Y1</td>
<td>M388 Davy Crockett / SADM</td>
<td>0.01 KT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W54 Mod.1 Y2</td>
<td>M388 Davy Crockett AFAP / SADM</td>
<td>0.02 KT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W54 Mod.1 Y3</td>
<td>SADM</td>
<td>1 KT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W55</td>
<td>UUM-44A Subroc ASW</td>
<td>250 KT</td>
<td>285</td>
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<tr>
<td>W56 Mod.1</td>
<td>MGM-30B Minuteman I</td>
<td>1.2 MT</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
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<td>W56 Mod.2</td>
<td>MGM-30B Minuteman I</td>
<td>1.2 MT</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>W56 Mod.3</td>
<td>MGM-30F Minuteman II</td>
<td>1.2 MT</td>
<td>455</td>
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<tr>
<td>W56 Mod.4</td>
<td>MGM-30F Minuteman II</td>
<td>1.2 MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B57 Mod.0</td>
<td>Tactical Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>5 KT</td>
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<td>B57 Mod.1</td>
<td>Tactical Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>10 KT</td>
<td>3100</td>
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<td>B57 Mod.2</td>
<td>Tactical Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>10 KT</td>
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<td>B57 Mod.3</td>
<td>Tactical Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>15 KT</td>
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<td>B57 Mod.4</td>
<td>Tactical Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>15 KT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B57 Mod.5</td>
<td>Tactical Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>20 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>ML-7</td>
<td>Nuclear Depth Bomb</td>
<td>10 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W57</td>
<td>AGM-48A Skybolt</td>
<td>1 MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W38</td>
<td>UGM-27C Polaris A-3</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
<td>644</td>
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<tr>
<td>W39</td>
<td>AGM-48A Skybolt ALBM / LGM-30A/B Minuteman ICBM</td>
<td>1 MT</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>W60</td>
<td>RIM-50A Typhon LR Shipborne SAM</td>
<td>Very low</td>
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<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.0</td>
<td>Tactical Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>100 KT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.1</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>1.1 MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.2</td>
<td>Tactical Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.3</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>0.3 / 1.5 / 60 / 170 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.4</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>0.3 / 1.5 / 10 / 45 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.5</td>
<td>Tactical Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>300 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.6</td>
<td>Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.7</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>10 / 10 / 340 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.8</td>
<td>Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>1 / 10 / 100 / 345 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.9</td>
<td>Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>10 / 100 / 345 / 500 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.10</td>
<td>Tactical Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>0.3 / 5 / 10 / 80 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B61 Mod.11</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb</td>
<td>0.3 / 5 / 10 / 80 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W61</td>
<td>EPW (earth penetrating warhead)</td>
<td>0.3 / 5 / 10 / 80 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W62</td>
<td>LGM-30G Minuteman III ICBM</td>
<td>170 KT</td>
<td>610</td>
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<tr>
<td>W63</td>
<td>Lance [ER] [Cancelled]</td>
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<tr>
<td>W64</td>
<td>Sentinel ABM // Cancelled</td>
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<tr>
<td>W65</td>
<td>XLM-100A Sprint ABM [_Cancelled]</td>
<td>5 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W66</td>
<td>XLM-100A Sprint ABM</td>
<td>1 KT</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>W67</td>
<td>Minuteman III Mk17 / Poseidon C3 Mk17 [Cancelled]</td>
<td>2 MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W68</td>
<td>UGM-73A Poseidon C-3 SLBM</td>
<td>40 KT</td>
<td>5,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>W69</td>
<td>AGM-69A SRAM</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W70 Mod.0</td>
<td>MGM-52A/B / MGM-52C Lance SSM</td>
<td>1 KT</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W70 Mod.1</td>
<td>MGM-52A/B / MGM-52C Lance SSM</td>
<td>10 KT</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W70 Mod.2</td>
<td>MGM-52A/B / MGM-52C Lance SSM</td>
<td>100 KT</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W70 Mod.3</td>
<td>MGM-52C Lance SSM (ER)</td>
<td>0.75 KT</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W70 Mod.4</td>
<td>MGM-52C Lance SSM (ER)</td>
<td>1.25 KT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>W71</td>
<td>LIM-49A Spartan ABM</td>
<td>5 MT</td>
<td>30</td>
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</table>
## Weapons of Mass Destruction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEAPON</th>
<th>DELIVERY PLATFORM</th>
<th>YIELD</th>
<th># PRODUCED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W72</td>
<td>AGM-62A Walleye Mk.6 Mod.0 Glide-Bomb</td>
<td>0.625 KT</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>W73</td>
<td>Condor ASM --- Cancelled</td>
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<tr>
<td>W74 Y1</td>
<td>AFAP --- Cancelled</td>
<td>0.1 - KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W74 Y2</td>
<td>AFAP --- Cancelled</td>
<td>0.1 - KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W75</td>
<td>8&quot; AFAP --- Cancelled</td>
<td>2 KT // 0.1+ KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W76</td>
<td>UGM-96A Trident I C-4 (Mk.4 MIRV) SLBM</td>
<td>100 KT</td>
<td>3,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>B77</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb [Cancelled]</td>
<td>~40 kt to 1 mt</td>
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<tr>
<td>W78</td>
<td>LGM-30G Minuteman III ICBM</td>
<td>335 KT</td>
<td>1,083</td>
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<tr>
<td>W79 Mod.0 Y1</td>
<td>M753 8&quot; AFAP (ER)</td>
<td>0.1 KT</td>
<td>325</td>
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<td>W79 Mod.0 Y2</td>
<td>M753 8&quot; AFAP (ER)</td>
<td>0.7 KT</td>
<td>II</td>
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<tr>
<td>W79 Mod.0 Y3</td>
<td>M753 8&quot; AFAP (ER)</td>
<td>1.1 KT</td>
<td>II</td>
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<tr>
<td>W79 Mod.1</td>
<td>M753 8&quot; AFAP (ER)</td>
<td>0.8 KT</td>
<td>225</td>
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<td>W80 Mod.0</td>
<td>BGM-109A Tomahawk SLCM</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
<td>376</td>
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<td>W80 Mod.1</td>
<td>AGM-86A ALCM / AGM-86B ALCM / AGM-129A ACM</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
<td>1,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>W82 Mod.0</td>
<td>M785 155mm AFAP (ER)</td>
<td>0.7 KT</td>
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<td>W82 Mod.1</td>
<td>M785 155mm AFAP minus 2 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>B83</td>
<td>Strategic Free-Fall Bomb (Parachute-Retarded)</td>
<td>Up to 1.2 MT</td>
<td>650</td>
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<td>W84</td>
<td>BGM-109G Tomahawk GLCM</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
<td>560</td>
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<td>W85</td>
<td>MGM-31C Pershing II</td>
<td>40 KT</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>W86</td>
<td>MGM-31C Pershing II (EP)</td>
<td>20 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>W87</td>
<td>MGM-118A / LGM-118A Peacekeeper ICBM</td>
<td>335 KT</td>
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<td>W87-1</td>
<td>MGM-xxx Small ICBM</td>
<td>335 KT</td>
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<td>W88</td>
<td>UGM-133A Trident II D-5 (Mk.5 MIRV)</td>
<td>475 KT</td>
<td>5,992</td>
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<td>W89</td>
<td>AGM-131A SRAM II</td>
<td>200 KT</td>
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<td>W91 Y1</td>
<td>AGM-131B SRAM-T</td>
<td>10 KT</td>
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<td>W91 Y2</td>
<td>AGM-131B SRAM-T</td>
<td>100 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mk.90 “Betty”</td>
<td>Nuclear Depth Bomb</td>
<td>30 KT</td>
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<td>ML101</td>
<td>Nuclear Depth Bomb</td>
<td>5 KT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mk.105 Hotpoint</td>
<td>Nuclear Depth Bomb</td>
<td>5 KT</td>
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In volume 2 we will try to present the damaging history that America created and in some cases still perpetuates in the following countries. With any luck this will be out at the end of 2007.

CANADA               NIGERIA               NORTH & SOUTH KOREA
THE CIA               NUCLEAR POWER
COLUMBIA             PAKISTAN
EAST TIMOR           PARAGUAY
EGYPT               PERU
EL SALVADOR         POLICIES
ETHIOPIA            PORTUGAL
GERMANY             THE PRESIDENT
GUYANA              PUERTO RICA
HONDURAS            IMF, IFC & THE WORLD BANK
IMF, IFC & THE WORLD BANK    RUSSIA
INDIA               SAUDI ARABIA
INDONESIA           SOMALIA
IRAN               SOUTH AFRICA
IRAQ               SPAIN
ITALY             SUDAN – DARFUR
JAPAN              SYRIA
JORDAN            TIBET
LAND MINES          TURKEY
LEBANON            UGANDA
LIBERIA            UK
LIBYA              UN
MEXICO            URUGUAY
MOROCCO            UZBEKISTAN
NEPAL            YUGOSLAVIA
NEW ZEALAND    ZIMBABWE