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NEOCON HISTORY SERIES

By Paul Fitzgerald & Elizabeth Gould

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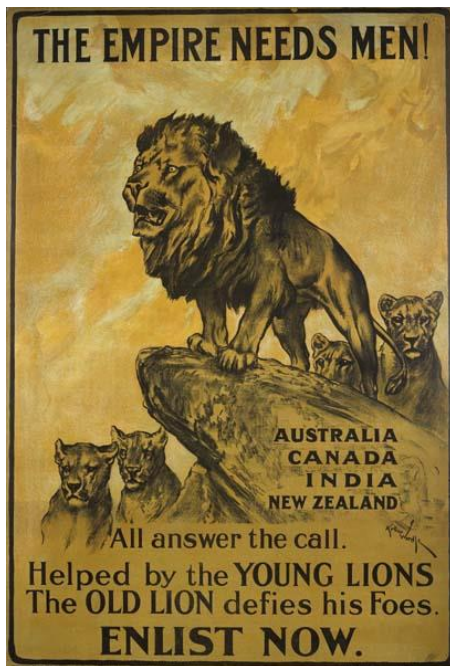
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Part 1: MI6 intelligence has always been an anti-Soviet/Russian “Rumor Factory”

The Sordid History of British Manipulation of American Democracy Series

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



The British were urging men to enlist to fight in WWI and secretly forcing President Wilson to enter the war against the will of the American people. Author: Arthur Wardle. [\[Public Domain\]](#)

“The ultimate sophistication of subversion is to take over the government, not by unlawful but by lawful means.

Brian Crozier, Free Agent 1941-1991

According to the dean of American intelligence scholars [Loch K. Johnson](#) as reported in the [New York Times](#), the real story about alleged “Russian meddling” in America’s presidential election is that the [United States meddles](#) in other nation’s elections and in a big way. But the extent of Britain’s secret services meddling in American politics - at least since - the beginning of the 20th century would shock even the most devout cheerleaders of ex-MI6 agent [Christopher Steele](#) and his “dirty dossier”.

In a case oddly reminiscent of America’s current hysteria over the Russians, British intelligence even meddled with its own government back in the mid-1970s when panicked right-wing elements of the military plotted a coup d’ etat of Labor Prime Minister Harold Wilson based on information generated by their own disinformation

campaign about the Soviet Union. As told by [Colin Wallace](#), a psychological warfare specialist for the British army [working to smear Wilson](#) and other British politicians as Soviet puppets: “One of the main byproducts of the disinformation campaign in 1973-74 was the dramatic growth of paramilitary organizations. Bearing in mind that these people were motivated for the real reasons one can only surmise that the bulk of the information that they were reacting to was the disinformation which we and other parts of the government apparatus was producing at that stage. One of the other side effects of the psychological operations is that once we actually created false information about an individual or an organization, members of the intelligence community also believed it.”

Do you get that America? In 1974 Britain’s intelligence services plotted the overthrow of their own elected government in London which they had convinced themselves with their own lies had been infiltrated and subverted by KGB agents from Moscow whom they, themselves had invented. Continuing to accuse anyone who opposes the “Russians did it narrative” [as working for the Russians](#) is what used to be called paranoid right-wing McCarthyism, and the anti-Putin bureaucracy is pouring gasoline on themselves by continuing to push it. The Democratic Party has long used falsified evidence to move the United States to war against London’s enemies and the British government has a reputation for producing [dirty dossiers](#) to help them. The “leak” of the 1917 [Zimmerman telegram](#) (conveniently intercepted by British intelligence) was “arranged” so as to make it politically impossible for Democratic President Woodrow Wilson to fulfill his promise to keep the United States out of World War I. In the spring of 1940, more than a year and half before America’s entry into World War II, Britain’s Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) created a massive covert operation in New York City known as the [British Security Coordination](#) (BSC) to conduct an illegal campaign of political subversion, propaganda and sabotage inside the United States (to frame Germany). Initiated by Winston Churchill with the private approval of Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt and the cooperation of the FBI’s J. Edgar Hoover, who insisted “that no other US government department, including the Department of State should be informed of it”, BSC’s purpose was to manipulate a neutral United States once again into war with Germany. Then once Germany was dispensed with, Winston Churchill followed up with his [Iron Curtain speech](#) in the spring of 1946 and the foundation for the Cold War with the Soviet Union was laid.

The documented history of the BSC compiled by BSC officers after the war and published in 1998 as [The Secret History of British Intelligence](#), details how deeply British intelligence penetrated American politics before during and after World War II while providing the inspiration and cultural continuity for America’s Cold War national security state that followed. Military historian Nigel West expresses his disbelief in the introduction. “Overall, the history falls into two distinct parts, pre- and post-Pearl Harbor, and reveals the lengths taken to influence US public opinion and isolationist politicians.

In particular the willingness of American radio commentators, then a very influential medium, to peddle what amounted to foreign propaganda, will shock.”

Even more shocking is how today’s influential commentators march in lockstep with their 1940s counterparts in words and deeds as they once again peddle propaganda cooked up in London to undermine an American president and prepare the United States for fighting yet another and [most likely final World War](#) against the old British Empire’s most formidable enemy; Russia.

Unconstitutional in the extreme, these kinds of covert operations were privatized in the 1970s to avoid accountability and today work in tandem with corporate/business intelligence services such as London based [Orbis Business Intelligence Ltd.](#), [Hakluyt & Co.](#) and [Fusion GPS](#), but the [overall objective remains the same](#): Manipulating public opinion through subversion, propaganda and sabotage in order to covertly make the case for war a fait accompli. The Trump dossier is a crude piece of [unsubstantiated character assassination](#) that circulated for months among journalists who knew better than to use it and that even the FBI has yet to verify. Yet in their wonton desire to delegitimize Trump and his constituency, his enemies in the Democratic Party and Federal bureaucracy, bet the farm on it. Former MI6 agent, author [Christopher Steele](#) and his business partner and co-director Christopher Burrows are highly regarded Kremlin experts who’d previously worked at Britain’s Foreign Office.

It’s not unreasonable to ask what two highly regarded Kremlin experts are doing peddling unsubstantiated salacious rumor and innuendo. But as the BSC’s history demonstrates - establishing a “Rumor Factory” - is exactly what MI6 intelligence experts are trained to do, replete with important rules to follow:

1. A good rumour should never be traceable to its source.
2. A rumour should be of the kind which is likely to gain in the telling.
3. Particular rumours should be designed to appeal to particular groups.
4. A particular rumour should have a specific purpose. The objectives of rumor spreading may be many, but a single rumour cannot be expected to serve more than one of them.
5. Rumours are most effective if they can be originated in several different places simultaneously and in such a way that they shuttle back and forth, with each new report apparently confirming previous ones.

Creating a successful rumour assumes of course that you will never get caught in the act and if ever traced back to the source you will never have to testify to it in court. The BSC excelled at devising new ways to harass Nazis. An operation known as Station M was created to fabricate letters and documents and came up with a game called Vik so even civilians could play at it. “A Nazi, they said ‘can be telephoned at all hours of the night and when awakened can be apologetically assured that it is the wrong number; the air can

disappear mysteriously out of his motor tires; shops can be telephoned on his behalf and asked to deliver large quantities of useless and cumbersome goods... his lady friend can receive anonymous letters stating that he is suffering from mysterious diseases... a rat might die in his water tank... his favorite dog might get lost.”

Prior to and all through World War II the BSC prided itself at spreading low brow fabricated rumours about the Nazi leadership in the name of the “forces of Democracy,” and continued on to new lows against the Soviets during the Cultural Cold War through the Congress for Cultural Freedom (CCF), and Britain’s CIA-supported [Information Research Department the IRD](#). According to Paul Lashmar and James Oliver, authors of [Britain’s Secret Propaganda War](#), “the vast IRD enterprise had one sole aim: To spread its ceaseless propaganda output (i.e. a mixture of outright lies and distorted facts) among top-ranking journalists who worked for major agencies and magazines, including Reuters and the BBC, as well as every other available channel. It worked abroad to discredit communist parties in Western Europe which might gain a share of power by entirely democratic means, and at home to discredit the British Left”.

London operated as propaganda central in the 1980s for [the Soviet War in Afghanistan](#) and [a recruitment hub](#) for radical Islamic groups like the Taliban afterward. But the 1970 creation of the IRD’s privatized spinoff, the [Institute for the Study of Conflict \(ISC\)](#) marked an evolution in the degree to which the techniques of infiltration and propaganda could be used to create a façade of legitimacy for right-wing causes. It also provided a platform for a right-wing element of Western intelligence services to plot against their own governments and covertly make the rise of an authoritarian neoconservative agenda a fait accompli.

As presented by Edward Herman and Gerry O’ Sullivan in their 1989 study, *The Terrorism Industry*, “The London-based Institute for the Study of Conflict (ISC) provides an especially well-documented case study of the use of a purportedly ‘independent’ institute as a front for propaganda operations of hidden intelligence agency and corporate sponsors. In 1968, and again in the mid-1970s, ISC’s principal, Brian Crozier, was revealed in the British press to have been an agent of British and U.S. intelligence, to have served secretly as a propaganda conduit for the South African police, and to have colluded with British firms and trade associations in a campaign to smear British trade Unions with the tar of subversion. This did not in any way discredit Crozier as a Western expert.”

If [Brian Crozier’s](#) exposure as a spy did anything it only enhanced his reputation as a Cold Warrior dedicated to defeating what he called Moscow’s “war called peace.”

As a devoted acolyte of the very [first neoconservative, James Burnham](#), Crozier brought to his secret world of rightwing businessmen, intelligence, police and military officials a

strategic plan to use the media to move the West's liberal democracies to the ideological right by fabricating threats of Communist subversion. In doing so, he got the CIA, Richard Mellon Scaife, The Ford Foundation, Shell Oil, British Petroleum, the Heritage Foundation and an exclusive secretive right-wing business group known as the [Pinay Cercle](#), to pay for it. Crozier shared Burnham's view that the West and the Soviet Union were in a war for civilization and had to be fought with politics, subversion, terrorism and psychological warfare. Citing Burnham's oblique defense of Joe McCarthy in his 1954 book [The Web of Subversion](#), his greatest concern was "not with open, professed, Communists," he wrote in 1976, but "with the underground—the illegal apparatus, and the hidden, secret Communist agents and collaborators."

Like Burnham, Crozier believed that trade unions, peace groups and the non-communist left had no legitimate concerns of their own but were witting and unwitting fronts for a vast Soviet plot. But his biggest concern was for what he believed to be the KGB's infiltration and subversion of Western governments which mandated a preemptive counterinsurgency or even military coups d' etat to thwart. In Britain this took the shape of a covert campaign against the Labor government of Harold Wilson, the discrediting of Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe with "black information" and the replacement of Conservative leader Edward Heath with someone willing to act on the fabricated threats and outright lies the ISC and other right-wing organizations were feeding them. As retold by [The Guardian's Jonathan Freedland](#) summarizing the BBC2 docudrama, "The Plot Against Harold Wilson". "[It sounds fantastic, almost comic](#). But [watch \[Alexander Greenwood\]](#) talk of setting up his own private army in 1974-75. Listen to the former intelligence officer [Brian Crozier admit his lobbying of the army](#), how they 'seriously considered the possibility of a military takeover'. Watch the archive footage of troop manoeuvres at Heathrow, billed as a routine exercise but about which Wilson was never informed - and which he interpreted as a show of strength, a warning, even a rehearsal for a coup."

As revealed by West German intelligence officer [Hans Langemann](#) in a 1982 *Der Spiegel* Magazine article titled "[Victory for Strauss,](#)" throughout the 1970s Crozier facilitated "a transnational security organization," that helped to successfully replace numerous labor, liberal or centrist governments with ultra-conservative ones. Working alongside right-wing elements of business, the military and police in France, Britain, Switzerland and the United States, a variety of tactics had extended to "Covert Financial Transactions for Political Purposes"... "Organizing public demonstrations..." "Carrying out international campaigns with the aim of discrediting hostile personalities..." "Recruiting writing contributions by certain, well-known journalists in Britain, the U.S. and other countries," "Ensuring a lobby in influential circles..." and the establishment of offices "with full-time coordinators and operational plans for London, Washington, Paris, Munich and Madrid."

Left unreported in the United States and thereby unknown to most Americans, Crozier and his ISC were the hidden hand of British intelligence, guiding the post-Vietnam rise of the neoconservatives and the gradual transfer of power through its Washington branch, the *Washington Institute for the Study of Conflict*, WISC - into the hands of a right-wing military industrial cabal bent on using the United States as a host for Britain's long lost imperial conquest of the Eurasian continent.

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Part 2: America's "Soviet problem" is the old "Russia problem" that European Imperialists have been facing since Napoleon's disastrous march on Moscow in 1812

The Sordid History of British Manipulation of American Democracy Series

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



The 1814 Battle of Paris was between Russia, Austria and Prussia against France. The French surrendered March 31, forcing Napoleon to abdicate and go into exile. [\[Public domain\]](#) Wikimedia Commons

"Psychological Action has nothing to do with the intellect, and everything to do with gut emotions. Having made a list, the next step is to find the right things to say to carefully select groups of voters."

Brian Crozier, *Free Agent 1941-1991*

The 1975 creation of the *Washington Institute for the Study of Conflict*, WISC was not the first time British intelligence had directly interfered in a contentious struggle for political power in the United States. London had a direct hand in bringing the U.S. into both World Wars I and II. The British had schooled American [OSS](#) agents in the "dark arts" of [trickery and deception](#) during World War II, including future Reagan CIA director William Casey who'd served as OSS station chief in London. The post war CIA would be modeled on the political and secret services of the British Empire's notorious [East India Company](#); a company that would so impress banker and former Kennedy/Johnson Under Secretary of State and [Bilderberg co-founder George Ball](#), he recommended it as a model for a world corporate government to replace the obsolete "nation state". The CIA had worked hand in hand with Britain's [Information Research Department, IRD](#) to establish the Congress for Cultural Freedom (CCF) and helped to fund Brian Crozier's [Institute for the Study of Conflict](#), ISC. But the WISC represented a new era in British involvement by marking a direct infusion of ultra-right-wing European and British politics into the highest level of Washington thinking without anyone realizing what it was or what it intended to do to American democracy.

The purpose for ISC's founding in 1970, as stated by Crozier in his autobiography *Free Agent* was "in exposing the fallacies of 'détente' and warning the west of the dangers inherent in a policy of illusion"; the illusion being that the West could ever have any peaceful relationship with the Soviet Union. The "Institute" got off to a quick start in the U.S. by forging an alliance with the [National Strategy Information Center, NSIC](#) a right-wing neoconservative think tank founded by Frank Barnett, William Casey and Joseph Coors in 1962 and with links to the defense industry's original anti-labor think tank, the [American Security Council](#). ISC's first major triumph came a short time later as a result of a collaboration with the ultra-right-wing [Pinay Cercle](#) when Crozier, his protégé [Robert Moss](#) and two ISC board members, Sovietologist Robert Conquest and [Congress for Cultural Freedom](#) editor [Leo Labedz](#), produced an ISC Special Report attacking the basis for "peaceful co-existence" (and therefore the legitimacy of détente with the Soviet Union) called *European Security and the Soviet Problem*.

The study, financed by the right-wing Pinay group made no bones about its "Soviet problem" actually being the old "Russia problem" that European Imperialists had been hoping to solve since Napoleon's disastrous march on Moscow in 1812. "The present rulers of the Soviet Union are heirs to the Tsar's dominions," it reads on page 1; concluding that "Their foreign policy is thus a hybrid of Great Russian imperialism and Marxist-Leninist ideology." In a development that would have made George Orwell grin, Crozier's team had turned the truth on its head by transforming Soviet calls for peace into a weapon to weaken western resolve thereby "making peace" a new a kind of waging war and anyone who aspired to it as part of a Soviet conspiracy.

Determined to undermine détente, the aging right-wing former French Prime Minister, [Antoine Pinay](#) was so delighted with Crozier's double-speak he presented the study in person to both President Nixon and Henry Kissinger and by 1975 the group was staged to make their move on Washington. The timing was perfect.

On March 3, 1975, less than two months before the fall of Saigon, the US Committee of the ISC (USISC) was launched which would act as the parent body of the Washington Institute for the Study of Conflict. With the humiliation of Vietnam now a millstone around the neck of the Washington bureaucracy, Crozier and Pinay's extremism no longer looked so extreme. The ISC had been created specifically with CIA backing to give discredited right-wing, anti-Communist and anti-union clichés in Britain the cover of legitimacy. Or as Edward Herman and Gerry O'Sullivan write in their book *The Terrorism Industry*, "ISC would provide anti-communist propaganda under the guise of 'independent research' and analysis... based on 'evidence' that came from the files of well-known and discredited right-wing organizations whose material only took on respectability when laundered through ISC."

The ISC's stamp of approval had provoked the British intelligence services [to act on their own disinformation](#) and black propaganda to the extent they had plotted to overthrow an elected British government in a military coup and replace it with one to their liking. Now the group that had manufactured that black propaganda for the British military to use, the ISC was establishing an American satellite organization to do the same in the U.S.

Despite the growing public scandal over the CIA's use of Crozier's [Forum World Features](#) as a London-based fake news service, Washington's elites were rolling out the red carpet to welcome them and were leaving some British journalists bewildered. Steve Weissman summed up his astonishment in an August 1976 article for London's Embassy Magazine. "Crozier, of course, isn't the only one to be acutely embarrassed by the CIA scandals. But his story touches on what might become one of the more intriguing questions of the entire affair. For even as the [U.S.] Congress was investigating some of Crozier's covert propaganda activities in Latin America, he and his colleagues were helping to set up a new Institute for the Study of Conflict right in the heart of Washington, D.C. And among the Americans involved with him in this highly suspect intervention into the American political scene are two of the most likely candidates [[George Ball](#) and [Zbigniew Brzezinski](#)] to serve as the next Secretary of State."

Under the Chairmanship of Ball, WISC appeared a veritable who's who of high-level ex-CIA, neoconservative and right-wing influencers bent on striking back at the Soviet Union for their humiliation in Vietnam. Senator John McCain's father, the Admiral John S. McCain Junior, recent Commander in Chief of US Pacific Forces (CINCPAC) and a board member of the Military/Industrial think tank [American Security Council](#) had worked closely with ISC to get the WISC off the ground. Rhodes Scholar and NSIC President Frank Barnett was another committee member with long held ties to hardline neoconservative organizations such as the [Smith Richardson Foundation](#) and American Security Council. [Kermit Roosevelt](#), high level CIA officer who'd staged the 1953 coup in Iran that overthrew the duly elected government of Mohammed Mossadegh and senior CIA officer [Robert W. Komer](#) architect of the U.S. government's notorious Phoenix Program in Vietnam. From Georgetown University came WISC's first President James Theberge, who's two books on Soviet influence in the Caribbean – helped provide the pretexts for overthrowing Chile's legitimately elected leftist president Salvador Allende. And then there was [Richard Pipes](#), the virulently anti-Soviet history professor from Harvard University, who would soon be hand-picked for his political bias to lead a radical right-wing, neoconservative attack on the CIA known as Team B. Using the ISC's methodology of fabricated threats and disinformation to win over intelligence elites at the CIA, Team B was at first seen by some inside the agency for what it was: "[A]n ideological, political foray, not an intellectual exercise. We knew the people who were pleading for it;" said one intelligence professional. Acquiesced to by then CIA director George Bush, in retrospect Team B's politicized challenge to the CIA's authority is viewed by many as the central mistake that permanently crippled the agency's effectiveness. In the words of Lawrence J. Korb, a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and assistant secretary of defense from 1981 to 1985, Pipes and the Team B were the real reason for the intelligence failures represented by 9/11 because they were "hard-liners who created the concept out of an unwillingness to accept the unbiased and balanced judgments of intelligence professionals."

But in the end the Team B gained friends and influence inside the broader intelligence and defense community and with the appointment of fellow WISC member Zbigniew Brzezinski as President Carter's national security advisor, British intelligence agent Brian

Crozier's plan to infiltrate and subvert the détente process with the Soviet Union was complete.

That is not to say Brian Crozier was at all happy with the election of Jimmy Carter. He writes in his autobiography *Free Agent*, "Although fundamentally pro-American, I was explicitly and actively anti-Carter. Not only had I attacked Jimmy Carter's policies in my *National Review* and *Now!* columns and elsewhere, but I had also provided anti-Carter material to other journalists, American as well as British."

Crozier believed the Carter election would only worsen "the self-emasculation of American intelligence". His belief "[T]hat the entire security apparatus of the United States was in a state of near collapse," provoked yet another move to interfere in American politics, but this time beyond disinformation and black propaganda and into directed action. "The question was whether something could be done in the private sector – not only in Britain, but in the United States and other countries of the Western Alliance." He writes in his autobiography. "A few of us had been exchanging views, and decided that action was indeed possible. I took the initiative by convening a very small and very secret meeting in London."

Crozier's secret meeting in "the luxurious executive suite of a leading City of London bank on the morning of Sunday 13 February 1977" would produce a secret off-the books "Private Sector Intelligence agency, beholden to no government, but at the disposal of allied or friendly governments for certain tasks which, for one reason or another, they were no longer able to tackle..." including "[S]ecret counter-subversion operations in any country in which such actions were deemed feasible."

The name of Crozier's operation was the 6I, obscure shorthand for the [6th International](#), a name that harkened back to Crozier's mentor, James Burnham, secretary to the Communist 4th International's Leon Trotsky from 1934 – 1940. But Crozier needn't have worried about the Carter administration's anti-Russian resolve. Carter and Brzezinski had rewired the command structure at the White House before they'd even entered the Oval Office and within a short time of their arrival had maneuvered the government away from détente and a bi-lateral foreign policy toward the Soviet Union and China toward the right-wing goals of the Washington Institute for the Study of Conflict.

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Part 3: How U.S. foreign policy came to be directed by a diabolical, London-backed, privately funded, neoconservative/right-wing alliance

The Sordid History of British Manipulation of American Democracy Series

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



[Satan before the Lord](#) by Corrado Giaquinto Source Web Gallery of Art
[United States public domain tag](#) Wikimedia Commons

“This decidedly mixed record [of successful and failed African coups] did not prevent the return of some of the mercenaries to the world scene, this time to Afghanistan. By the early 1970s London had become a center of the arms trade as well as of the recruiting of already trained ‘soldiers of fortune’ to serve both as trainers and in operational roles... There was a covert group of such personnel, available for hire, and known in London as ‘the Circuit’ or sometimes simply as “the lads.”

John K. Cooley, *Unholy Wars*,

1999

Even at this late date few Americans understand how the U.S. government came to be owned by the London-backed neoconservative/right-wing alliance that grew out of the post-Vietnam era and how its obsessive compulsion to forge “the one ring to rule them all” has driven the U.S. and its NATO cohorts into an apocalyptic hysteria. Neither do they understand that it was the presidency of James Earl Carter and not Ronald Reagan that opened the door to the rise of Islamic extremism, the sellout of the middle class and the disenfranchisement of America’s constitutional values.

Whether he admired Jimmy Carter or not, Brian Crozier and [Zbigniew Brzezinski](#) were of one mind when it came to disbelieving in “mutual coexistence” or power-sharing with the Soviet Union and Brzezinski’s membership in the Washington Institute for the Study of Conflict, WISC proved it. The deep bureaucratic influence of Crozier’s new institute could be measured in its choice of board members all of whom had been actively preparing the ground for an ideological rollover for decades. Thanks to WISC member Richard Pipes and the Team B, Brzezinski could now bring Britain’s radical right-wing

formula for social change right into the Oval Office and the new President from Georgia was ready and willing to sign on.

Working closely after the election with Carter and one of Henry Kissinger's former National Security staffers, David Aaron, on the Island retreat of St. Simon, Brzezinski devised a simple structure that channeled all executive decisions into two committees, the Policy Review Committee (PRC) and the Special Coordination Committee (SCC). The PRC's function was to deal with foreign policy, defense policy and international economic issues and would be chaired by a variety of cabinet secretaries. The SCC's responsibilities were covert intelligence and other sensitive operations, arms control and crisis management and would be chaired exclusively by Brzezinski. Carter then took it one step further by elevating the national security advisor to cabinet level and the palace coup was complete before Gerald Ford left the White House. In a fundamental break with the past, Brzezinski's SCC would now be at the center of American foreign policy and not the State Department.

As recalled with relish by the Neoconservative author and professor of international relations [David J. Rothkopf](#) in [Charles Gati's 2013 book ZBIG](#), "It was a bureaucratic first strike of the first order. The system essentially gave responsibility for the most important and sensitive issues to Brzezinski, and the vague definition of what constituted crisis management essentially ensured that if anything came up that was important it could be claimed by the White House."

The new structure effectively froze the incoming Secretary of State, [Cyrus Vance](#) out of the decision-making process before Carter had even entered the Oval Office. More importantly, it also delivered to Brzezinski control over covert action and a free hand to use it wherever he saw fit. Former CIA Director Robert Gates recalled how President Carter pushed for covert action over diplomacy from the very beginning of his administration in his 1997 book *From the Shadows*. "Indeed, as Carter turned to covert action within weeks after his inauguration and increasingly frequently thereafter, the most constant criticism of CIA that I heard from both Brzezinski and Aaron was its lack of enthusiasm for covert action and its lack of imagination and boldness in implementing the President's 'findings' (legal shorthand for covert actions)."

One bold, imaginative operation initiated by Brzezinski in 1977 was the Nationalities Working Group (NWG), dedicated to weakening the Soviet Union by inflaming ethnic tensions among the Islamic populations of the South Asia region. Already in Kabul to help implement the plan was [Graham Fuller](#) whose expertise as CIA operative was on politicizing Islamic radicals on behalf of American interests. As the CIA's Kabul station chief from 1975 to 1978 Fuller was perfectly placed to provide the intelligence and the contacts necessary to coordinate Brzezinski's covert pressure from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and China with the CIA's next big adventure; Afghanistan.

Brzezinski's rewiring didn't stop at covert action but continued on into nuclear policy toward the Soviet Union beginning immediately after assuming control. On February 3, 1977 Carter attended the first session of Brzezinski's SCC on the long delayed Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) at which a competing initiative to the State Department's was put into action. Limiting the growth of nuclear weapons and delivery systems available to the Pentagon under détente had been an ongoing process with the Soviets under two previous presidents with agreed to protocols and expectations. Now Carter suddenly shifted the SALT structure from limitation to deep cuts forcing an unprepared Vance to fly off to meet the unprepared Soviets with a proposal that was guaranteed to fail.

Brzezinski's aggressive approach was no surprise to some on his staff who believed the offer was intended as a trick to "show up the Soviets for what they were." But the evidence of Brzezinski's rigging the deck against Vance was even clearer. David J. Rothkopf writes, "Brzezinski shepherded the process closely and even went so far as having [William Hyland](#), working for the NSC, oversee the delivery of the negotiating instructions to ensure that they did not get into the hands of the State Department until the instant of their departure."

With Vance's hands tied by the President, a Russophobic Brzezinski expanding nuclear targeting options from 25,000 to 40,000 and covert action teams sabotaging behind Soviet lines from early 1977 onward, it doesn't take much to imagine what the Soviets were thinking. Brzezinski and Carter were letting the Soviets know they were ripping up SALT and Détente as well as the very assumptions both were based on. Rothkopf quotes Carter Defense Secretary Harold Brown. "Brzezinski had, I think, a more apocalyptic view of the world and especially a different attitude toward the Soviets... he believed that concessions to the Russians merely encouraged them to press further, and he was willing to use almost any device or any other relationship with other countries to contain them."

Brown goes on to say Brzezinski believed that the United States "should use China as a weapon against the Soviets". But it was in Afghanistan, in the run up to the Afghan crisis where the results of Brzezinski's weaponizing can best be seen not to mention the faint traces of off-the-books secret agencies helping him do it. [Selig Harrison](#), former Washington Post foreign correspondent and Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace commented on Brzezinski's role in fomenting the crisis in Afghanistan in his book, co-authored with Diego Cordovez *Out of Afghanistan*: "Brzezinski had steadily eroded Vance's power, persuading the President to transfer jurisdiction over the CIA from the Inter-Agency Policy Review Committee, headed by the Secretary of State, to the National Security Council's Special Coordinating Committee [SCC] which Brzezinski chaired as the National Security Advisor. This control over covert operations enabled Brzezinski to take the first steps toward a more aggressively anti-Soviet Afghan policy without the State Department's knowing much about it."

Brzezinski's plot to weaponize China against Russia by sacrificing Afghanistan was straight out of James Burnham's Machiavellians and the spontaneous April, 1978 Marxist

coup against the King's cousin, Mohammed Daoud played like clockwork directly into his "predictions" of Soviet infiltration and subversion. Harrison writes, "Vance recalls that the April coup was depicted by Brzezinski as the opening gambit in a Soviet master plan for achieving hegemony in Southwest Asia. It would be followed in due course, Brzezinski argued, by the incorporation of Afghanistan into the Soviet orbit and ultimately by political and military moves to subjugate the Gulf oil-producing states."

Vance rejected Brzezinski's argument out of hand. As supported at the time by the State Department's own intelligence and later revealed by post-Soviet research, the coup appeared to be a spur of the moment outburst by disorganized, [repressed political factions](#) unsure of exactly what they were doing. Vance found no evidence of Soviet complicity in the coup and even Brian Crozier would later have to admit in his autobiography that none would ever materialize. In fact, the evidence suggests that the 1978 Marxist coup in Afghanistan was the end result of CIA, Pakistani and Iranian efforts to undermine Daoud's regime, and was only supported by the Soviets after it had become a fait accompli. Brzezinski's prediction was ideological wish-fulfillment, more in line with discredited right-wing ISC reports or something conjured by the mind of Team B than with any sober professional analysis of Soviet intentions. And, had it been the first shot in a Soviet master plan to seize Southwest Asia and the Middle East, the April coup plotters Nur Mohammed Taraki and [Hafizullah Amin](#) would never have been Moscow's choice to lead it. According to David Newsom, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs who visited Kabul after the coup and met with the coup leaders, "My assessment was that we were dealing with a regime that hadn't found itself. There were divisions in it and it was still on probation in Soviet eyes."

Terror in Soviet eyes was more like it. The coup plotters were divided into two main factions that fought bitterly and the coup organizer, Hafizullah Amin had been brought to the United States by a CIA front organization on two separate occasions to be educated. According to the KGB chief Alexander Morozov, the KGB later discovered Amin's instructions to the plotters severely forbade them from informing the Russians of the plan lest they try to stop it. Amin had even admitted to the KGB that he'd taken money from the CIA. He had studied for a doctorate at Columbia University and headed up the Afghan Student Association at a time when (as exposed by Ramparts Magazine) it too was being used as [a CIA recruitment tool](#) for future Third World leaders. Hafizullah Amin was now one of those leaders and Vance was sending a new, tough and savvy American Ambassador to Kabul named [Adolph "Spike" Dubs](#) to deal with him.

A Russian-speaking Soviet specialist who'd served in Moscow and as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near East and South Asia Affairs, Dubs came with a complex plan to bring Amin closer to the U.S. but not close enough to set off alarms in Moscow. The Carnegie Endowment's Selig Harrison had flown into Kabul to meet with him after he'd taken over in the summer of 1978 and found him optimistic. We interviewed Harrison in his Washington office in 1993 about Dubs' plan. "Dubs... came out there with a very sophisticated conception of what he was going to do politically; which was to try to make Amin into a Tito – or the closest thing to a Tito/Ceausescu – detach him. He'd still be pretty close to the Russians but he'd have more freedom of action and it would be enough

to make it safe from our point of view. And Brzezinski of course thought that was all nonsense... which as you say was all part of a self-anointed prophecy. It was all very useful to the people like Brzezinski. Afghanistan was a great vindication of their point of view and so they were trying to polarize the situation.”

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Part 4: How the Safari Club became the real CIA

The Sordid History of British Manipulation of American Democracy Series

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



[The Safari Club](#); a 'supranational' intelligence agency formed in 1976 by France, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Morocco to create a 'second CIA' to operate covertly. [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike](#)

“The Safari Club set a precedent and some guidelines for the subsequent CIA operation in Afghanistan. As its name implied, the Safari Club’s main task was to carry out missions – always anti-Communist ones, for America, on the ‘good guys’ side of the Cold War...”

John K. Cooley, *Unholy Wars*, 1999

The Safari club represented the true essence of what CIA Director Allen Dulles had intended when setting up the Central Intelligence Agency following World War II; an autonomous covert action organization with global reach, beyond the jurisdiction of American democracy and responsible to no one. A spinoff of the right-wing [Pinay Cercle](#) as a secret off-the books “Private Sector Intelligence agency,” and in league with the CIA and Brian Crozier’s 6th International, the Safari Club [was only formerly acknowledged](#) in 2002 by the one-time head of Saudi Arabian Intelligence Prince Turki Al-Faisal to have come into existence in 1976. But as revealed by John K. Cooley in his groundbreaking 1999 study, *Unholy Wars: Afghanistan, America and International Terrorism*, the Safari Club members had been active informally for years secretly protecting CIA assets and covert operations from the prying eyes of Congressional investigators following Watergate and the revelations of the Church Committee hearings on 30 years of CIA coups, cover-ups and assassinations.

Cooley writes, “The Carter team adopted a method of avoiding the stigma of direct CIA involvement in covert operations which could go wrong and backfire on the United

States. It was a method which Henry Kissinger... had refined and applied with skill: get others to do what you want done... the ‘others’ in Kissinger’s era of the early 1970s, a time of rehearsal for the approaching adventure in Afghanistan, were a set of unlikely colleagues...”

Kissinger’s set of unlikely Safari Club colleagues included, France’s Count Alexandre de Marenches chief of French external intelligence, The Shah of Iran, King Hassan II of Morocco, President Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt and Kamal Adham, head of intelligence for Saudi Arabian King Faisal. More to the point, the Safari Club was more than just an off-the-books spy operation doing covert operations for the CIA whose methods the Carter team adopted. The Safari Club *was* the real CIA, covertly funded by Saudi Arabia and run out of the U.S. embassy in Tehran by the CIA’s former director Richard Helms, U.S. Ambassador to Iran from 1973-1977.

As presented by one-time CNN Special Assignment investigator [Joe Trento](#) in his 2005 exposé [Prelude To Terror](#), “Both Prince Turki and [Sheikh Kamal Adham](#) [head of Saudi intelligence] would play enormous roles in servicing a spy network to replace the official CIA while it was under Congressional scrutiny between the time of Watergate and the end of the Carter administration... Several top U.S. military and intelligence officials directed the operations from positions they held overseas, notably former CIA Director Richard Helms, at this time Ambassador to Iran.”

According to Trento, at this time, Sheikh Kamal Adham took control of intelligence financing for the United States by setting up a network of banks with the official blessing of the CIA’s George Bush; turning “a small Pakistani merchant bank, the [Bank of Commerce and Credit International \(BCCI\)](#), into a worldwide money-laundering machine, buying banks around the world in order to create the biggest clandestine money network in history.”

Working alongside the bank’s founder Sheikh Agha Hasan Abedi, Adham not only gained “a comprehensive knowledge of U.S. intelligence operations,” but expanded the very concept by using BCCI to merge the Safari Club’s objectives with “every major terrorist, rebel, and underground organization in the world.” A 2001 [Time magazine report](#) found that the bank functioned as “a vast, stateless, multinational corporation that deploys its own intelligence agency, complete with paramilitary wing and enforcement units, known collectively as the “black network:” a black network that would threaten, bribe or assassinate anyone it needed to turn Afghanistan into the place to trap the Soviet Union in their own Vietnam.

Trento writes, “Adham did not rely simply on money to carry out the plan. Adham and Abedi understood they would need muscle. They tapped into the CIA’s stockpile of misfits and malcontents to help man a 1,500-strong group of assassins and enforcers.”

1973: The Red Prince Daoud overthrows the King

To most of Washington, the bloodless 1973 palace coup of the Afghan King Zahir Shah by his cousin and former Prime Minister Mohammed Daoud along with a faction of the Afghan left was a non-event. But to the Safari Club's Shah of Iran, Daoud's coup signaled a leftward drift and provided the opportunity to demonstrate his influence as America's policeman in the Gulf. Considered to be too friendly to Moscow (which had earned him the nickname the Red Prince), Daoud was known primarily for his repeated claims to Afghan ([ethnic Pashtun](#)) provinces seized by the British during the 19th century in ([what is today](#)) [Pakistan](#). Due mainly to America's lack of interest in the country, the U.S. State Department viewed Daoud mostly as an Afghan nationalist and a nuisance. Afghanistan rated at the bottom of U.S. foreign policy priorities and had since the end of the [British Raj](#) in 1947, been cast into the Soviet's sphere of influence. But as president, Daoud planned to break the mold and needed the West's economic assistance to do it. He had come to the newly oil-rich Shah of Iran for help but found himself at the mercy of the notorious Safari Club and the Shah's secret police, SAVAK. South Asia expert [Selig Harrison](#) writes, "On the one hand, Teheran used its aid leverage to press Daoud for the removal of suspected Communists. At the same time, Savak channeled U.S. weapons, communications equipment, and other paramilitary aid to anti-Daoud groups."

The Shah's campaign against Daoud quickly drove him to unceremoniously dump the Afghan left, but not before a coalition of CIA-backed agents from Pakistan and Iran had come together to organize his enemies on the left and the right against him. Harrison continues, "Pakistani harassment of Daoud reached its climax in a series of Islamabad-orchestrated raids on police posts in the Pansjer valley. Savak, the CIA and Pakistani agents were also involved in the abortive, fundamentalist-backed coup attempts against Daoud in September and December 1973 and June 1974."

One Pakistani-trained group involved in the Pansjer raids were the [Setam-i Melli](#) (Against National Oppression), a Tajik-based Shiite/Maoist splinter group broken-away from the Marxist [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan \(PDPA\)](#). As pro-Chinese and anti-Pashtun, the Setam and a variety of other Shiite /Maoist groups would find themselves attractive to Chinese intelligence and at odds with both Prince Daoud and the Pashtun dominated PDPA and were driven underground. But as Chinese involvement in Afghanistan grew, they would return in a mysterious role that would spontaneously deliver the pivotal element [Zbigniew Brzezinski](#) would need to enact his grand plan.

Mohammed Daoud fought off the CIA's initial intrusions from Savak, the CIA's Pakistani agents and their fundamentalist (soon to be) holy warriors. But with Western influence in Southeast Asia closing out in Vietnam in 1975, a new Great Game for Central Asia was about to begin. And without the State Department knowing much about it, President Carter's national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski was busy moving the chess pieces into position.

April 1978: Daoud goes down in an unusually bloody coup

Brzezinski's plot to weaponize China against Russia by sacrificing Afghanistan was straight out of James Burnham's Machiavellians. The spontaneous April, 1978 Marxist coup against the King's cousin, Mohammed Daoud played like clockwork directly into his "predictions" of Soviet infiltration and subversion but on close inspection appeared to fit too conveniently. Nobody at the State Department had expected Daoud to be overthrown by Communist agents because it wasn't in their interests to do so, nor did it in any way satisfy a broad range of Soviet interests. The Indian expert M.S. Agwani of Jawaharlal Nehru University offered this cogent analysis at the time:

"On the eve of the fateful events of April 1978 Afghanistan seemed to be the most unlikely candidate for a Communist take-over. And there were at least two good reasons for that. First, the Communist movement in Afghanistan did not possess the necessary means—in terms either of a well-oiled party machine or of a popular base—to launch a successful revolution on its own. Secondly, there was no apparent ground for Afghanistan's Communist neighbor to encourage revolutionary action in that country. On the contrary, a Communist take-over in Afghanistan could offer no advantage to the Soviet Union, in terms either of security or of influence relationship, which it did not already possess."

Of course, Zbigniew Brzezinski ignored what to everyone else was obvious. Selig Harrison writes of the coup, "Vance recalls that the April coup was depicted by Brzezinski as the opening gambit in a Soviet master plan for achieving hegemony in Southwest Asia. It would be followed in due course, Brzezinski argued, by the incorporation of Afghanistan into the Soviet orbit (which the U.S. had already accepted) and ultimately by political and military moves to subjugate the Gulf oil-producing states."

As Secretary of State, Vance found no basis for Brzezinski's argument and rejected it out of hand. Despite Brzezinski's subterfuge, the State Department was still committed to preserving détente and moving on with the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, SALT. U.S. Ambassador Theodore Eliot expressed positive feelings toward the new Afghan regime and believed the U.S. could find a way to work with them. But in spite of the State Department's position, Brzezinski's plan had already been set in motion and by the spring of 1978 was taking on a life of its own.

Brzezinski Plays the China Card

The decision by Zbigniew Brzezinski to "play" China against Russia at the expense of détente and SALT II would set off a chain of events that would eventually bring the Vance/Brzezinski struggle into stark relief and American foreign policy into deep crisis. Brzezinski had traveled to China only weeks after the April takeover and used the coup as an opportunity for promoting a revolutionary U.S.-China military alliance against the Soviet Union based on his false claim that they were behind it. Exaggerating the coup as frightening evidence of the Soviet's grand design, Brzezinski mimicked [Brian Crozier's](#)

trumped-up predictions, offering to cooperate on Afghanistan and share high-level secrets about Soviet capabilities with the astonished Chinese. In one stroke, Brzezinski had used the coup to singlehandedly turn American foreign policy toward his anti-Soviet position - leaving Cyrus Vance twisting in the wind and making the death of détente a fait accompli.

The State Department's Soviet specialist Raymond Garthoff writes, "Whether President Carter fully realized it, in overriding Secretary of State Vance's objections and sending Brzezinski to Beijing he set in train the development of a rapprochement with China on an anti-Soviet basis. The President did not intend the China card as a counter to Soviet and Cuban activities in Africa, but his action had much broader and deeper consequences . . . it is very unlikely he realized he was giving priority to Chinese relations at a time and in a way that would contribute to American-Soviet estrangement."

Whether or not President Carter understood he was contributing to American-Soviet estrangement by befriending China on an anti-Soviet basis, we now know that within a year, Carter formerly sanctioned Brzezinski's bold plan to use Afghanistan to lure the Soviet Union into its own Vietnam and later lied to the public about it when the Soviets fell into the trap. But as [Joseph Trento writes](#), Carter's deceptive ignorance of Brzezinski's efforts didn't end there. "Carter may in fact have signed his directive in July 1979, but the Safari Club's Islamic fighter had been taunting Moscow into invading for nearly a year before that. The effort included cross-border raids into Soviet territory."

Afghanistan's April coup organizer, Hafizullah Amin was well known to the KGB having been brought to the U.S. twice under a CIA funded education program designed to turn future third world leaders into agents for American interests. The KGB did this sort of thing in the third world as well but none had played out quite so fortuitously for the U.S. side as Hafizullah Amin. After failing to receive his doctorate Amin had left New York in mid-1965, gone back to Afghanistan and taken a job at Kabul University's Institute of Education "virtually run by American aid advisors" according to former Associated Press Moscow bureau chief Henry S. Bradsher, author of 1983's [Afghanistan and the Soviet Union](#). From there he joined the Khalq faction of the leftist Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA and became its central organizer. While using his teaching position to recruit young students Amin worked his way up to a leadership position, distanced himself from the Soviets but stayed in regular contact with the Americans. According to an Afghan source close to Amin whom we interviewed, he also maintained close ties to the Islamist right, and especially to his fellow Pashtun tribesman, the notorious Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Enter Ambassador Adolph "Spike" Dubs

Replacing [Ambassador Theodore Eliot](#) three months after the Marxist coup, Adolph "Spike" Dubs arrived in Kabul in July 1978 with an urgent mission: Bring Hafizullah Amin over to the American side and keep the Russians out. As stated to us in an interview we conducted with Selig Harrison in 1993. "Dubs... came out there with a very sophisticated conception of what he was going to do politically; which was to try to make

Amin into a Tito – or the closest thing to a Tito/Ceausescu – detach him. He’d still be pretty close to the Russians but he’d have more freedom of action and it would be enough to make it safe from our point of view.”

President Carter’s national security advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski on the other hand, had already engineered a grander mission: Pressure Hafizullah Amin and the Afghan Marxists to increasingly draw on Russian support through destabilization from Iran, Pakistan and China and then keep them tied down long enough to give the Soviets their own Vietnam. Ambassador Dubs was working from the standard State Department playbook in courting Amin and met with him 14 times, according to Selig Harrison. But Brzezinski’s ongoing destabilization through the Safari Club, his budding military relationship with the Chinese and Amin’s provocative behavior toward the Russians was making life for the American ambassador increasingly dangerous.

So alarmed was Adolph Dubs by Amin’s behavior he demanded to know from his CIA station chief if he was employed by the CIA. He was told no and the CIA has always denied that Amin was their covert agent, but the facts speak louder than the denials. Denying responsibility is standard practice for an agency engaged in covert operations and Brzezinski had been running a covert operation since taking over as national security advisor to President Carter in January of 1977. According to the now legendary April 1, 1967 Ramparts Magazine Article [*“Three Tales of the CIA”*](#) the CIA recruited lots of Afghan students during Amin’s era who returned home to become key, high level officials in the Afghan government including the cabinet and state treasury. According to a Harrison interview with resident American Afghan expert Louis Dupree, Amin made no secret of his CIA connection telling him: “He took American money for his school and then, behind their backs, recruited the brightest teachers for the Communist Party. But you can imagine how it all looked to the Russians.”

Hafizullah Amin may not have been an “agent” but two specific classifications may apply to his covert role. The term [*“nonofficial cover” \(NOC\)*](#) pertains to individuals working at the deepest levels of CIA covert operations but without any official backing. The other is Controlled American Source (CAS) which the State Department describes in one of its own documents [*“is a code name for the CIA”*](#). Author Richard D. Mahoney claims in his book about American Taliban member John Walker Lindh [*Getting Away with Murder*](#) that CAS was the classification assigned to Hafizullah Amin.

But whether a CAS or an NOC, the perception that Amin was CIA was all that was needed to spook the Kremlin’s Soviet gerontocracy into taking the bait that Brzezinski had laid out for them. And as his plot moved forward into January of 1979, Ambassador Dubs found himself at the center of a Saudi-funded Safari Club operation that would not only give the right-wing the revenge for Vietnam they so longed for, but transform Afghanistan into the center for Islamic terrorism and the heroin capital of the world.

Part 5: Brzezinski's Safari Club "Friends" Did the Dirty Work Behind the Scenes

The Sordid History of British Manipulation of American Democracy Series

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



[Robert Moss](#) became a shamanic dream teacher starting in 1987 after leaving a career as an intelligence operative, specialized in creating anti-communist propaganda, with the CIA, MI6, Institute for the Study of Conflict and membership in the Pinay Cercle. [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported](#)

“IRAN WAS OF increasing concern to the 6I. The Imperial Throne was under siege from an alliance against nature between Shi'ite fundamentalists and Marxists. Apart from unsubtle repression by the Iranian secret service, the SAVAK, and by the armed forces, little was being done to break the unholy alliance. SAVAK was unversed in the arts of psychological action.”

Brian Crozier, Free Agent 1941-1991

[Brian Crozier](#) knew a lot about alliances against nature. After “spending several days closeted” with [General Augusto Pinochet](#) in Chile, helping the dictator draft (in Spanish) fifteen clauses for a new Constitution, he turned his attention in early 1978 to Iran and decided the Shah needed his advice. Warning the Shah that: “The CIA had virtually collapsed and its operational capacity had been reduced to zero,” Crozier counseled that the British alone could not save him and offered him the services of his “shadowy organization,” known as the 6I. A few months later the Shah agreed and Crozier returned with a team of advisors including the Shah's old friend Antoine Pinay of the Pinay Cercle.

Combined with Vietnam, Iran was cause for a fevered panic inside Brian Crozier's right-wing fascist circles of power. The Cold War strategy of suppressing Communism with military force had failed spectacularly in Vietnam and was now crumbling in Iran and

Crozier, his protégé [Robert Moss](#) and Zbigniew Brzezinski were pushing the idea (with no proof) that [Moscow's meddling](#) was behind it. In his book on the Iran fiasco, *All Fall Down*, former National Security Council staff member Dr. Gary Sick acknowledges Moss's undeserved influence on Washington's policy-making by citing Moss's December 2, 1978 article in the *New Republic*, "Who's meddling in Iran?"

"Brzezinski... reproduced the Moss article, circulated it to the president and other top policy makers, and cited it in policy meetings for weeks. Although Moss cited no real evidence and had no apparent qualifications as a specialist on Iran, his article attained the status of a major document in U.S. policy-making circles at a key moment."

Moss, was of course wrong. As Gary Sick further cites, "the central organizing force of the revolution... was the religious network operating out of the mosques under the strategic control of Khomeini," and not the Soviets. But the idea that it was the Soviets and not their own policy failures that were wrong, was just what Washington's bureaucracy wanted to hear.

The Shah's Persian "empire" was at its core a backward, impoverished third world country with enormous social problems and a crushing military budget. According to a 1974 *Newsweek* cover story America's vital Iranian ally had spent \$4 billion of his \$20 billion dollar oil revenues on arms purchases from the United States in the first six months of 1973 alone, acquiring 289 fighter jets, 500 attack helicopters, 700 tanks, and six destroyers. \$10 billion in foreign aid had gone to foreign governments to "expand his sphere of influence" while SAVAK had grown into one of the largest (and most feared) intelligence services in the world with somewhere between 30,000 and 60,000 full-time personnel and an estimated 3 million (12 percent of the population), informers.

Obsessed with the Soviet's "grand design" to conquer the Middle East, the Shah had even constructed an invasion force for neighboring Afghanistan just in case Prince Mohammed Daoud fell to Soviet subversion, but his plan proved useless given the absence of popular support for Daoud following the bloody April, 1978 Marxist coup.

The CIA's best laid plans for their "[policeman in the Gulf](#)" had proved an expensive farce which the U.S. had no strategy for rescuing and out of desperation, the [Shah came begging](#) to Brian Crozier for help. "In November of 1978, the Shah sent the top civilian in the SAVAK hierarchy to London to see me," Crozier writes in his autobiography *Free Agent*. "I arranged for him to be closeted with [Robert Moss](#) for a whole week... The outcome was a *Conflict Study* dated November 1978, '[The Campaign to Destabilize Iran](#)' by Robert Moss. Shortly after the study had appeared, the Iranian charge d'affaires informed me that the Shah had authorized a first annual payment of £1 million to The 6I for a psychological action operation on the lines we had suggested to him."

Crozier found a welcome audience with the Shah as he had with numerous other fascist dictators like Chile's Augusto Pinochet and [Spain's Francisco Franco](#) and would quite soon [with U.S. President Ronald Reagan](#). The Shah had been installed by the U.S. and Britain at the height of its post-World War II power. But confidence in America's

omnipotence had ended with Vietnam and Europe's old imperialists were quickly filtering back into their old colonies with their old habits to pick up where they'd left off. The British had been running covert and overt operations in the region since the 18th century. Generations of sons, grandsons and great grandsons of operatives who'd served the [British Raj](#) remained on the scene as journalists, businessmen and informal agents. One word from Crozier or Britain's MI6 intelligence service was all they needed to reactivate.

Joining Brian Crozier and his protégé Robert Moss in engaging the Shah that autumn was a senior Chinese intelligence officer and veteran supporter of Mao by the name of Qiao Shi. [John K. Cooley](#) writes, "In September of 1978, on the way home to Beijing from one of his Balkan missions, [Qiao Shi](#) stopped over in Tehran to see the Shah of Iran, who was ill with cancer... Qiao Shi proposed to the Shah a new alliance to thwart Soviet expansion, especially in neighboring Afghanistan... Agreement was reached to undertake a covert war in Afghanistan, apparently independent of CIA plans for the same country."

According to Cooley, shortly after the Maoist Qiao Shi's agreement with the Shah's SAVAK Chief, [General Nasser Moghadam](#), "Chinese agents began to move into position in Pakistan. Liaising with Pakistan's ISI was the Iranian ambassador in Islamabad, former head of SAVAK." Instigated by Brzezinski and backed by the CIA and MI6, the so called China-Iran-Pakistan axis began to flourish with Qiao Shi and other "senior Chinese military intelligence officials," adding to Brzezinski's ongoing destabilization.

The American Ambassador Adolph Dubs needn't have worried about Hafizullah Amin's well known affiliation to the CIA. He had far bigger problems. Not only were Afghan rebels openly training in Pakistan but by the late fall of 1978 Chinese intelligence risked a Sino/Soviet war by training Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Islamists over the Chinese border in Xinjiang province. In addition there was the CIA's Saudi-funded stockpile of misfits and malcontents roaming the countryside, manning the Safari Club's 1,500-strong army of assassins and enforcers. And last but not least were the Chinese supported Maoist groups like [Setam-i Melli](#), Sholah Jaweed and [SAMA](#) operating from bases on the Pakistan and Iranian borders and programmed by Beijing to bring down their Pashtun oppressor, Hafizullah Amin.

Thanks to Saudi Intelligence chief [Sheikh Kamal Adham](#) and BCCI banker, [Sheikh Agha Hasan Abedi](#), there were ample funds to finance a holy jihad against Russia in Afghanistan but the motives for undermining Russia on its southern border didn't stop there. Bringing war to Afghanistan provided the opportunity to assist the migration of the heroin trade from Southeast Asia to the Pakistani/Afghan border and to make billions of dollars for the BCCI doing it. Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Provinces had been targeted early on by international drug syndicates eager to find a new home as the Vietnam War wound down. Cited in a French Study by Catherine Lamour and Michel R. Lamberti originally published in 1972 titled [Les Grandes Manoeuvres de l'Opium](#), "Afghanistan and northern Pakistan represent a source of opium as yet virtually untapped by European traffickers... Situated at the junction of the Middle East and Southeast Asia, the two territories are not as far from Marseilles or Munich as are Burma and Laos. The political

conditions in their opium producing areas make these places an ideal refuge where racketeers from Europe could go about their business untroubled by international law enforcement agencies.”

As of the early spring of 1978 the narcotics problem in the [Golden Crescent](#), appeared to then Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near East and South Asia Affairs Adolph Dubs to be under control by the governments of the United States, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. But by January of 1979 the newly unstable region was fast becoming the launch pad for the greatest heroin empire in history and the primary financing source for a terrorist campaign that would transform the world.

The Frankenstein political monster emerging to thwart Dubs’ plan for Afghanistan could only have come from Brzezinski’s ethnic experiment called the [Nationalities Working Group](#). The potential for stirring up Muslim unrest against Soviet/Russian rule had been kicking around for decades but gained little traction within the CIA. But the rise of the neoconservatives following the Vietnam War had brought with it an ethnic strategy that put [Saudi Wahhabists](#), Iranian Shiites, Tajik Maoists, assorted Marxist-Leninists and [Afghan extremists](#) together with European and Middle Eastern racketeers - fed by a Trotskyist hatred for all things Russian.

Contrary to Brzezinski’s assertion that [Hafizullah Amin](#) was Moscow’s obedient servant, Dubs was learning that his target was not much of a Communist, convincing him to restore and expand a U.S. military training program for Afghan army officers. Russian documents reveal the Kremlin didn’t consider him to be a Communist at all but “a commonplace [petty bourgeois](#) and an extreme Pushtu nationalist” with “boundless political ambitions and a craving for power” in addition to most likely being a CIA agent. According to [Selig Harrison](#), Amin had even bragged to him that the Soviets needed him more than he needed them. The trick was to maintain a balance of American influence while not triggering Soviet countermeasures that would bring them in. But for the ambassador who’d been sent to rope Amin closer to the U.S., Jimmy Carter’s national security advisor seemed to be doing everything in his power to put the rope around Dubs’ neck. Still, Dubs continued his mission; Selig Harrison writes, “Dubs, meanwhile was arguing vigorously for keeping American options open, pleading that destabilization of the regime would provoke direct Soviet intervention... Ironically, while Brzezinski was promoting armed opposition to Amin, Dubs was continuing to nurture his dialogue with the Afghan leader.”

[A Time magazine article](#) that January suggested Brzezinski’s campaign to frame the Kabul regime as hopelessly pro-Soviet was on the verge of being exposed as a lie. “The new government in Afghanistan of President Noor Mohammed Taraki is commonly thought to be in Moscow’s pocket, especially since it recently signed a friendship treaty with the Soviets. There are signs however, that this too may be an exaggeration. During Taraki’s visit to Moscow last month President Brezhnev reportedly chided him for behaving too obsequiously before the Russians, which he felt made the Afghan leader look bad. As soon as they got back to Kabul, Afghan officials began to drop hints that

they would welcome more Western aid. Apparently, the Russians are not altogether satisfied with their new client regime in Kabul.”

But Brzezinski’s objectives were not to be undone by appearances, protests from the ambassador or reasoned political arguments. That same month, Brzezinski’s NSC director of South Asian affairs, Thomas P. Thornton, arrived in Kabul to shut Dubs down. Meeting with Amin, he provided a “negative assessment” of the regime, recommending that any additional aid be cut off.

In the interim between Dubs’ arrival in Kabul in July of 1978 and the fall of the Shah on January 16, 1979 American foreign policy in Iran, China and Afghanistan had shifted into the hands of a neoconservative/right-wing cabal with hardly anyone being the wiser. Backed by Brzezinski’s National Security Council but run by a consortium of right-wing intelligence officers including France’s intelligence chief, [Count Alexandre de Marenches](#) and his cohorts at the [Pinay Cercle](#), Safari Club and 6I, the decades-long geopolitical plan to move the United States into alignment with the old European right-wing of Antoine Pinay and Brian Crozier was nearing completion.

Regardless of Brzezinski’s public denials about supporting the Afghan rebels, the CIA’s “secret” program to lure the Soviets into their own Vietnam was becoming so well known it was making headlines in the American papers and a mockery of the Carter administration. Selig Harrison writes: “By early February 1979, this collaboration became an open secret when the *Washington Post* published an eyewitness report that at least two thousand Afghans were being trained at former Pakistani bases guarded by Pakistani patrols.” Yet President Carter and his Secretary of State never seemed to realize that increased destabilization on the Soviet Union’s southern border would eventually produce Soviet counter moves to offset it.

By mid-February the unholy alliance between Shi’ite fundamentalists and Marxists that Brian Crozier had warned the Shah about only months earlier had been turned against Kabul by remnants of the Shah’s Savak and Chinese intelligence. The Shah had fallen and the Afghan countryside was in open revolt. The Marxist regime of Nur Mohammed Taraki and Hafizullah Amin was calling on Moscow for military assistance and the only man left to hold back a Soviet military takeover in Kabul was the American Ambassador, Adolph Dubs. But on the morning of February 14, 1979 he too would fall into the hands of the covert plan to give Russia its own Vietnam and in a tragic twist of irony, become the vehicle for the very operation he had gone to Kabul to stop.

Part 6: The Death of Adolph Dubs - Cui bono? ‘To whom is it a benefit?’

The Sordid History of British Manipulation of American Democracy Series

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



[Justice, one of the four theological virtues](#) by Vitruvio Alveri, 1589-1590. [Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Generic](#) Wikimedia Commons

“On the morning of February 14, 1979, four Afghan terrorists stopped the Ambassador’s car and abducted him as he was travelling from his residence to the Embassy. By 8:50 a.m., the terrorist had taken Dubs to a second floor room in the Kabul Hotel... Despite U.S. Embassy urgings to engage in “patient negotiations,” Afghan police stormed the room just after noon, and shots were fired. When U.S. Embassy officers were able to enter the room, they found the Ambassador dead from several gunshots.”

The Kidnapping and death of Adolph Dubs: Official Summary

After nearly 40 years the February 14, 1979 [kidnapping and assassination](#) of U.S. Ambassador Adolph Dubs remains an enigma. At the time, [Cyrus Vance’s](#) State Department and [Zbigniew Brzezinski’s](#) National Security Council were deeply divided over policy toward the Soviet Union, Iran and Afghanistan. U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Adolph Dubs and Brzezinski held diametrically opposed objectives to the Marxist government of Nur Mohammed Taraki and [Hafizullah](#) Amin which, given the increasingly unstable political climate promoted by Brzezinski, undercut the ambassador and put him in great jeopardy. The Brzezinski/Vance divide came to a head at the Kabul Hotel that February 14; yet basic questions about the political maneuvering inside Washington that had caused the crisis for Dubs and who might have benefitted from his death have never been answered. Why did Adolph Dubs die at the Kabul Hotel, who

killed him and most glaring of all, who benefitted; or as the age old term the Roman's used for assigning guilt would ask, [Cui Bono?](#)

Early reports that the four kidnappers (at least one dressed in a police uniform) were members of a Chinese-trained Tajik-Maoist splinter group of the ruling Marxist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) known as the [Setam-i Melli](#) have never been confirmed but are strongly suspected. Neither are the names of the kidnappers known, nor whether it was they or the police who killed the ambassador as they stormed the room in violation (of what the US claimed) was an agreement to patiently negotiate the Ambassador's release.

No one would ever take credit for the kidnapping, the bitterly divided Afghan regime would not allow the Americans access to the evidence, the crime scene was quickly sanitized and Zbigniew Brzezinski would immediately seize upon Hafizullah Amin's refusal to accept responsibility and lack of a formal apology as proof of his pro-Soviet, anti-American bent. The kidnapping and assassination of Adolph Dubs would provide the spark to swing opinion in Washington toward Brzezinski's desire for a more aggressive destabilization of Amin's government that in turn would lead to exactly what Ambassador Adolph Dubs had died trying to prevent; a Soviet military occupation.

Two Separate events, each with different motives

The debate in Washington was over responsibility for the Ambassador's death. It focused mainly on whether it was Afghans or Soviet advisors who had ordered the assault and not on the motives of the kidnappers or the actions of the embassy and the American ambassador himself. But if Brzezinski had been correct about it affirming Amin's pro-Soviet credentials, why had the terrorists chosen an American to voice their protest and not a Soviet? Was Dubs' plan to draw Amin closer to the U.S. working? Did the kidnappers want to damage Afghanistan's relationship to the U.S. as Hafizullah Amin later claimed? Or was there another reason for leveraging the life of the American ambassador that neither the Afghans, the Soviets nor the Americans at the embassy were aware of.

As described in an interview conducted for [Washingtonian Magazine](#) in 2017 with Bruce Flatin, the political counselor dispatched by the U.S. embassy to the hotel that morning, the whole affair just didn't add up. "Why not go to some house way out in the suburbs?, he wondered. Or a safe house in the country, or a cave up in the mountains, where authorities couldn't so easily corner them? Why would Dubs' captors, whoever they were, hole up at a busy, central hotel, in a room with street-facing windows, no escape route, and not even a phone for conducting negotiations?" And most of all, "Why was Dubs the pawn in what was an Afghan problem? It didn't make sense."

And the death of the ambassador that followed made even less sense to an Afghan government struggling to find itself; unless the kidnapping of Adolph Dubs didn't start out as a kidnapping and his unfortunate death wasn't the result of a botched rescue attempt, but was a deliberate assassination intended to trap Hafizullah Amin in the role of

a Soviet puppet while at the same time removing Dubs as the last remaining obstacle to an ongoing plan.

A False assumption: The “kidnapping” of Adolph Dubs

At a [1995 Nobel Symposium](#) (pages 80-81) on the causes of the Afghan war - in the presence of former CIA director Admiral Stansfield Turner, the former Director of Soviet affairs at the National Security Council, General William Odom and dozens of former high-level U.S., Soviet and European officials - the leading Russian authority on the Soviet war in Afghanistan, the military historian [General Alexander Lyakhovsky](#) delivered testimony on the Dubs’ killing which resolved part of the mystery and turned the existing narrative on its head.

“Then there was the episode where the American ambassador was killed. What were the circumstances? My account is based on my conversations with our secret services who were in charge of monitoring the crisis. One of the officers of the secret service told me that Dubs was seen in the company of those same people who kidnapped him later in the same hotel—in the same room—the day before they kidnapped him. And then later Dubs was in his car, with a travel case. He stopped his car when those same people who he saw the day before ordered him to stop, as if they were known to him. You understand that we are talking about an ambassador with an armored car, bullet—proof windows, doors that can be opened only from the inside, it has a siren that goes off in an emergency situation. Dubs did not use any of these emergency measures. He opened the door himself, let the people who kidnapped him in the car. They came to the hotel and demanded that their extremist friends, who were in prison be released. And then Amin ordered the hotel to be stormed. Both the Americans and us pleaded with Amin not to storm the hotel.”

Even today, twenty seven years after the demise of the Soviet Union, most of the reports on the Dubs’ assassination rely on blind speculation or resurrected anti-Soviet Cold War assumptions. But Lyakhovsky’s account provides for new possibilities to explain oddities about the kidnapping that up to now couldn’t be considered.

Under pressure from Brzezinski and the NSC’s Thomas P. Thornton, Ambassador Dubs had been driven to meeting outside the normal channels. Dubs was known by the embassy to have allowed the police to stop and search his car despite his diplomatic immunity - presumably as a safety check before meeting secretly with Amin. [Selig Harrison](#) spoke to Bruce Flatin about it in 1989, “[T]he ambassador had talked with Amin fourteen times, often in unannounced meetings, before Dubs was killed in February 1979. No record of the content of these exchanges has yet surfaced.” And they never would. According to interviews conducted by Henry S. Bradsher for his 1985 book, [Afghanistan and the Soviet Union](#), U.S. officials back in Washington denied published reports that “Dubs had frequent lengthy discussions with Amin,” while insisting that his reports “did not indicate he felt that he was making any progress toward convincing Afghan officials that they should resist Soviet influence.” But as Selig Harrison makes clear in his 1995 book with Diego Cordovez, *Out of Afghanistan*, Dubs was careful NOT to inform

Washington of his progress with Amin out of fear that in the prevailing climate which Brzezinski ruled, it would have cost him his credibility.

According to Lyakhovsky's account Dubs had gone to the Kabul Hotel on the 13th of February to meet with four men most likely aligned with the U.S. but opposed to the Taraki/Amin regime. Judging by their demands on the 14th, these men would have been supported by agencies friendly to the American mission, presumably in Pakistan, Iran or China. Soviet intelligence reports from the era indicate that in January 1979, Beijing had made an attempt to unite the "scattered groups of Afghan Maoists," including "Setam i Melli and other splinter groups," whose "program task" was the overthrow of the Afghan government. Recall that prior to his overthrow in April 1978, [Prince Mohammed Daoud](#) had ordered the Americans to stop meeting with the Afghan left but the Americans had not complied. Now, in one possible scenario, Dubs could have informed these pro-Maoist leftists that he did not want Amin overthrown and was ending their support by the embassy. An agreement was reached and a final payment of some sort agreed to. The next day - suitcase in hand - he was stopped at a prearranged spot by the same four men he'd met with the day before but for some unknown reason the conditions had now changed. Whatever the deal that had been struck now involved the release of [Tajik/Shiite Maoists](#) imprisoned by the regime. The Kabul Hotel was the worst possible location for such a transaction and the room 117 was indefensible. The decision to return to that room made absolutely no sense unless one of the four "kidnappers" was leading Dubs and the other three into a trap to which the busy Kabul Hotel was a key.

Dubs had put himself in the middle of a factional fight between anti-Pashtun Tajik/Shiite Maoists and [pro-government Pashtun nationalist](#) unaware that they were all being manipulated by an [international criminal conspiracy](#) working on behalf of Brzezinski's agenda to use Hafizullah Amin and three of the "kidnappers" as patsies to lure the Soviets into their own Vietnam.

Why assault the room?

Based on published accounts it's fairly certain that four men arrived at the hotel with Dubs but agreement on every other aspect of the so called "kidnapping" and death ends there. According to the Afghan report of the events three were killed in the room with Dubs, a fourth kidnapper was wounded and a short time later died of his wounds. The Americans claimed that two kidnappers were killed in the room, a third was taken alive downstairs early on and was later seen being taken from the hotel "alive and relatively unharmed."

[A third account](#) by Soviet KGB defector [Vasiliy Mitrokhin](#) maintains that of the four terrorists "Two died in the attack, one was taken into custody, and one escaped – it isn't clear how," suggesting that the fourth kidnapper had been helped.

Echoing Brzezinski's longstanding practice of automatically claiming Soviet culpability before the facts were even known, the American report - [leaked to the Washington Post](#) by anonymous sources – openly claims a Soviet responsibility for Dubs' death.

Newsweek's Ron Moreau cited unnamed "U.S. congressional sources" stating that "the Russians had wanted Dubs to die." But Mitrokhin goes out of his way to insist that whatever influence KGB advisors might have had on the Afghan police that day, there was no "preconceived Soviet plot to kill Dubs."

The Afghans produced four dead bodies for the Americans that evening and claimed they were the kidnappers. Bruce Flatin recognized the two that had died with Dubs and a third who'd been taken alive from the hotel, but the fourth was a man he had never seen before. "In Kabul," Flatin told his *Washingtonian* interviewer, "it was easy to get a fourth body—right out of the jail. So there he was, the fill-in." The autopsy revealed that Dubs had been killed by 4 shots to the head delivered at close range from a .22 caliber weapon. Not the kind of weapon, according to Flatin, used by Afghan soldiers or police, but the favorite type of weapon used by professional assassins.

No one has ever suggested the existence of a separate non-governmental agency in the death of Adolph Dubs, nor even hinted at it. The existence of the Safari Club was only [formerly acknowledged](#) to have existed by the one-time head of Saudi Arabian Intelligence Prince Turki Al-Faisal at a Georgetown University event in 2002. But the Safari Club's no-compromise, anti-Communist agenda had been brought directly into the White House with Brzezinski's National Security Council in 1977 and it had been active in Afghanistan long before February 14, 1979. If ever there was an opportunity for their 1,500-strong "black network" of CIA misfits, malcontents, assassins and enforcers to act on Brzezinski's agenda to lure the Soviets into their own Vietnam, it was at room 117 of the Kabul Hotel on February 14.

Hafizullah Amin later took full responsibility for Dubs' death and absolved the Soviets, saying they had nothing at all to do with the decision-making. The case was supposed to be closed but it was clear that in addition to Dubs, the other target that day was Hafizullah Amin and thanks to Zbigniew Brzezinski for the next ten months he'd be left to twist in the wind as bait for a Soviet invasion.

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Part 7: The Coup d'état –

The Sordid History of British Manipulation of American Democracy Series

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



[1892 Caricature of Cecil Rhodes](#), master British imperialist, was the consummate empire builder with a philosophy of [mystical imperialism](#). As intended, the Rhodes Scholarship continues its influence on American thinking from a British perspective.[Public Domain] Wikimedia Commons

“Brzezinski however couldn’t do much until the death of Dubs. And the death of Dubs removed the last obstacle. Then came Herat... They killed a lot of Russians and the Russians were very upset. But it gave a shot in the arm to the resistance in this country [the U.S.]. That was March of ‘79. So the coincidence of Dubs’ death and the Herat uprising gave Brzezinski control of the policy from then on.”

Interview: [Selig Harrison](#) February 18, 1993

[The kidnapping and assassination](#) of Ambassador Adolph Dubs on February 14, 1979 at the Kabul Hotel ended any meaningful effort by the U.S. to prevent a Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The death *was* employed however from that day forward by President Carter’s National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski as the opportunity to increase the level of provocation for [luring the Soviets](#) into their own “Vietnam quagmire” and keeping them pinned down for as long as possible. Because of “Spike” Dubs’ death, Zbigniew Brzezinski finally got control of foreign policy; got his hard line neoconservative policy toward the Soviet Union pushed through, ended support for détente once and for all, and put Strategic Arms Limitation on hold. Hafizullah Amin

continued to seize power for himself, sew discord throughout the countryside with his education and land reform programs, fracture his political party the PDPA and game the Soviet leadership by asking them to intervene militarily fourteen times, knowing full well they were dead set against a military intervention.

Selig Harrison writes in his 1995 book with Diego Cordovez, *Out of Afghanistan*, “On the one hand, he [Amin] continued to call upon massive Soviet help in financing his regime, equipping it militarily and providing technical personnel for military operations against rebels. On the other, he resisted Soviet control, brushing aside pressure for a slowdown in reforms and for greater Soviet involvement in running the secret police and the military.”

Continuing his coup d'état in Washington, Brzezinski and his military assistant General William Odom proceeded with plans for the radical transformation of America's nuclear doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction – MAD (directed mainly at the Soviet Union) into one of [nuclear “war-fighting”](#) through a series of Presidential Directives. Most of these directives [excluded the State Department](#) in the decision-making and remain in force to this day. Based entirely on the fallacious assumption that the Soviet Union believed they could fight and win a nuclear war, President Carter, Brzezinski and General William Odom set out to win one of their own and build the weapons with which to do it.

Contrary to Jimmy Carter's glowing public image as a peace-president and future [Nobel Peace Prize winner](#), behind the scenes the former Navy man would embrace Brzezinski's vision of an inevitable conflict with the Soviet Empire and relish his role as the nuclear war-fighting Commander in Chief fighting it to his last breath.

Author Tim Weiner quotes General Odom in his 1990 exposé, *Blank Check*, “Carter became the first President to immerse himself in the details of nuclear war-fighting scenarios. The President ‘really got into the procedures, ran through numerous scenarios, and became very comfortable with it,’ Odom told a Harvard seminar in 1980.” Knowledge of Carter's dark side has gone unrecognized over the years but despite the end of the Cold War in 1991, the horrifying product of his decision-making has remained intact with each succeeding administration. [Presidential Directives \(PDs\)](#) 53, 58 and 59 didn't just lower the threshold for nuclear weapons use, they encouraged it; making it appear probable that America's elites could save themselves in a protracted nuclear war of up to six months, regardless of the consequences to the nation or its population. Based on an invented threat of nuclear annihilation carried into the Carter administration by Brzezinski, [PD 59](#) would form the groundwork of the [unnecessary Reagan buildup](#) in the 1980s which would then form the groundwork of the post-Soviet [Wolfowitz Doctrine](#) of American imperial supremacy that followed. As Tim Weiner noted with irony in 1990, “The President who vowed to rid the world of warheads wound up signing the first truly significant war-fighting plan since the heyday of Curtis LeMay.”

But the real irony of the Carter presidency wasn't in his reprise of the mad bomber role from Doctor Strangelove; the real irony was that the greatest success of his presidency - the U.S.- Egypt-Israeli peace treaty of 1979 - was not arranged by his skill at diplomacy

or his desire for a Middle East peace but by an off the books agency doing Zbigniew Brzezinski's dirty work in Afghanistan known as the [Safari Club](#). John K. Cooley writes in his 1999 exposé on U.S.-backed terrorism *Unholy Wars*, "Just before the Afghanistan war began, and because the Safari Club was keeping both Israeli and US intelligence informed of its actions, the Club was able to help bring about President Sadat's historic peacemaking visit of November 1977 to Jerusalem, leading to the US-Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty of 1979... Morocco's representative in the Safari Club hand-carried Rabin's letter to Sadat. King Hassan then sponsored the first secret meeting in Morocco..."

Egypt's Anwar Sadat would play an important role in the upcoming war in Afghanistan, supplying old Soviet weapons to Zbigniew Brzezinski's so-called Freedom Fighters in an effort to fool the American public and Congress into thinking the weapons came from Soviet and Afghan defectors surrendering to CIA-backed rebels. Sadat would [upset his handlers](#) in Washington in September 1981 when he spilled the beans on the secret operation and would die by assassination exactly two weeks later, but at that point his usefulness to the Safari Club had ended.

President Carter hadn't been assassinated as "Spike" Dubs had been and Hafizullah Amin would soon be, but he was served up as an unwitting participant in his own coup d'état before he'd even entered the Oval office. In the wake of the Church Committee hearings and Watergate and with the President's knowledge and assistance, Zbigniew Brzezinski had rewired authority for covert action from the State Department to the National Security Council in what has been described as "[a bureaucratic first strike of the first order](#)". A [Cercle](#) of old European power had then detached the administration, sealed off the CIA in Washington from further damage and run its operations out of the Middle East. The head of French external intelligence, Pinay Cercle member and Safari Club coordinator [Alexandre de Marenches](#) had stepped in to fill the breach during the crisis, aided the operation through the [Bank of Commerce and Credit International](#) and set the stage for a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that would drag on for nearly 10 years. John K. Cooley writes, "The Safari Club player who probably helped most to draw the US into the Afghan adventure was Count Alexandre de Marenches... He had cooperated actively with the United States in warfare and covert operations since World War II. He believed it to be of advantage to France, as well as to his American friends and allies, to form a group like the Safari Club to protect and advance Western interests in the Third World."

The death of Ambassador Dubs, the Iran hostage crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in late December 1979 doomed Carter's reelection to failure. Afghanistan was soon to become the self-fulfilling prophecy of Soviet iniquity that the neoconservative, right-wing alliance had been trying to create for decades; a permanent, ongoing crisis in U.S.-Soviet relations which it had precipitated and then claimed to uncover and respond to. Alexandre De Marenches had done his part to put all the pieces in place. Brian Crozier and Robert Moss had written the script and Brzezinski had sold it to the highest levels of the American government. De Marenches had even knowingly tipped off his cousin, *Newsweek's* Arnaud de Borchgrave to be in Kabul ahead of the invasion to catch the action; action that the President of the United States (Carter) would later claim he had no foreknowledge of. But without the constant propagandizing of

Brian Crozier and his protégé Robert Moss working behind the scenes with their influential colleagues, the sale of a right-wing coup d'état of the U.S. might never have taken off.

1980: THE SPIKE

If anything represented the payoff to the decade of neoconservative/right-wing subversion being worked on the American psyche by the Institute for the Study of Conflict, it was the 1980 publication of the fiction/fantasy/spy-novel *The Spike*. Whether or not the title was a perverse inside joke or a veiled reference to the death of American Ambassador “Spike” Dubs in Kabul the year before, *The Spike* would prove to be the Pinay Cercle’s final nail in the coffin of U.S./Soviet relations. Viewed in hindsight *The Spike* plays out as poorly written paranoid political propaganda masquerading as fact. But viewed from the fevered perspective of the American mass media of 1980 in the run up to the election of Ronald Reagan, the #1 bestselling novel by Arnaud de Borchgrave and Robert Moss was nothing less than proof of the KGB’s evil “plot to destroy the U.S., exposed.”

“A humdinger by two of the savviest foreign correspondents in the business.” Wrote William Safire in the *New York Times*. “A thundering rebuttal to the architects of détente, critics of the CIA and editors of the opinion-forming, powerhouse newspapers from the East.” Wrote the *Dallas Morning News*. “A thriller that is several steps ahead of the headlines.” Wrote the San Francisco Chronicle.

Praise from the mass media for *The Spike* and its two authors reads like an endorsement from Britain’s MI6 and the CIA. But to investigative [journalist Fred Landis](#), who’d served as a consultant for the Subcommittee on CIA Covert Action in Chile of the [Church Committee](#), Moss and de Borchgrave were anything but “two of the savviest foreign correspondents in the business”. To Landis they were coldblooded mercenaries, [bought and paid](#) to legitimize the right-wing’s agenda especially when the price was right. Landis writes in *Inquiry Magazine* that December, 1980 “Moss and de Borchgrave have built careers out of peddling gossip from right-wing French, Israeli, British and American intelligence agents that conforms to their one-dimensional ‘us versus them’ view of world affairs. *The Spike* is simply a logical, if paranoid extension of the propaganda they have hitherto seen fit to call fact. The book is thus an elaborate joke—the real disinformation lies between its two covers.”

But the elaborate joke of disinformation perpetrated by Moss and de Borchgrave was just what the neoconservative/right-wing had been using for decades to create their own reality. Thinly disguised fiction acting as fact would put the actor Ronald Reagan in the driver’s seat for eight years, keep the Soviets locked in a war to destabilize Central Asia for ten years and permanently destabilize the Middle East and South Asia with Islamic extremism.

As intended by the right-wing Pinay Cercle agenda, the coup of the century did turn the American government away from détente and peaceful coexistence. In befitting Brian

Crozier's "ultimate sophistication of subversion" it did get candidate Ronald Reagan elected who would complete the neoconservative/right-wing takeover of the American government while accelerating its privatization and politicization begun under Carter. And they would never give it back. The collapse of the Soviet Union did free Zbigniew Brzezinski's treasured Eastern Europe from Soviet occupation and bring to an end the Soviet Empire. But as the intervening years have shown, ending Soviet Communism [was not the end of history](#) as claimed by the neoconservative pundit Francis Fukuyama. In fact, ending the Cold War [only returned the world](#) to an earlier and far more dangerous pre-World War I version of relations known as [Great Power Competition](#) and opened a Pandora's box of old and new evils from which world stability is now reeling.

POSTSCRIPT: The lonely imperialist: Afghanistan, Brzezinski and the unintended consequences of Imperial Graveyards.

It's 2018 and we've been here before. The pattern and the profile of events parading across our screens today mirrors the pattern and profile of events set out in the late 1970s by the Carter administration which paralleled the pattern and the profile of late 1940s and the genesis of the original Cold War. Following the death of Ambassador Adolph Dubs in February, 1979 we saw the outline of that pattern emerging in which a new reality centered on Afghanistan was beginning to form.

Our observation drew us personally into the debate over the arms race when we began production of a documentary on the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) which we called [Arms Race and the Economy: A Delicate Balance](#). As production preceded numerous experts including Senator Ted Kennedy, SALT negotiator Paul Warnke and economist John Kenneth Galbraith clarified our understanding of the damage that a massive new diversion of tax dollars and capital investment into war spending would represent to the civilian economy, following Vietnam.

On the surface the mainstream media was selling a new arms race on the basis of a neoconservative-invented "Soviet threat" but the reality was very different. Galbraith insisted that accelerated defense spending and renewing the Cold War would ultimately destroy the civilian economy. He was convinced that the Cold War had already helped rigidify the capitalist system by bureaucratizing a large part of production for non-productive uses. He saw America becoming more and more like the Soviet Union, ruled by a military-industrial-academic establishment immune from reality.

That fall, in Washington, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency was one of the last holdouts in a sea of hysterical accusations about the Soviet Union. At the time we didn't realize that a slow motion coup d'état against détente and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks had been going on since 1976 and was nearly complete. The bureaucracy was in thrall to the neoconservative's [Team B experiment](#) which had discredited the CIA's professional analysis of the Soviet "threat" and replaced it with an ideological one. Were the Soviets really planning a massive first-strike nuclear attack on the United States as the

neoconservatives were predicting? Was SALT II really just a public relations scheme by Moscow to lock in American weakness while it prepared for war?

Looking back we know that these claims were based on the falsified intelligence, outright lies and fabrications of the neoconservatives. But when the Soviets crossed their southern border into Afghanistan it acted like a trance on the system, left and right. Afghanistan was of the lowest level of diplomatic interest to the United States. It was a far off South Asian country bordering the Soviet Union of absolutely no importance and had been relegated to the Soviet Sphere of influence during the Eisenhower administration. Numerous administrations had passed up Afghan requests for military assistance not wishing to disturb the balance of power in the region. Yet, when President Carter labeled the invasion, “the greatest threat to peace since the second World War” he gave the enemies of détente and SALT a new and reinvigorated Cold War and legitimized building the newest weapons with which to fight a nuclear war.

We now know that the decision to trap the Soviets in Afghanistan had already been decided long before their “surprise” invasion of December 27, 1979. The President’s reaction was political theatre. But at the time no one concerned about preserving SALT or détente inside the bureaucracy protested what they knew was really a politicized overreaction. Afghanistan had changed everything. By the time our program aired that winter, the argument was no longer whether our government should call a halt to the nuclear arms race and reinvest in the civilian economy. The U.S. had stepped through the mirror back to 1947 and the debate refocused not on whether, but on how much was to be spent to counter Soviet aggression.

[As the first Americans to gain access to Kabul](#) after the Soviet invasion for an American TV crew in 1981 we got a close-up look at the American narrative supporting President Carter’s new anti-Soviet agenda and it simply didn’t hold up. What had been presented within days of the December 1979 invasion as an open and shut case of Soviet expansion toward the Persian Gulf by Harvard Professor and [Team B](#) Project leader Richard Pipes on the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour could just as easily have been defined as a defensive action well within the Soviets’ legitimate sphere of influence. Three years earlier, Pipes’ Team B Strategic Objectives Panel on the CIA’s estimate of the Soviet threat had been accused of subverting the very process of making national security estimates by inventing threats where they didn’t exist and intentionally skewing its findings along ideological lines. Now those invented threats were being presented as facts by America’s Public Broadcasting System.

In 1983 we returned to Kabul with Harvard Negotiation Project Director Roger Fisher for ABC’s Nightline. Our aim was to establish once and for all the credibility of the American claims. We discovered first hand from high level Soviet officials that they wanted desperately to abandon the war but the Reagan administration simply refused to take their requests seriously. From the moment they entered office, the Reagan administration had taken a conflicting position, demanding on the one hand that the Soviets withdraw their forces, while at the same time keeping them pinned down through covert action with the intention of holding them there. This hypocritical campaign,

though lacking in a foundation of facts and dripping in right-wing ideology, was embraced by the entire Washington political spectrum and left willfully-unexamined by America's mainstream media.

The final blow to Roger Fisher's efforts came when he offered the New York Times a detailed article describing his belief that a negotiated settlement could be quickly achieved. The Times' editor responded that Roger could write the article but it wouldn't necessarily be published.

At a conference conducted by the [Nobel Institute in Lysebu Norway in 1995](#), a high level group of former U.S., European and Soviet officials faced off over the question: Why did the Soviets invade Afghanistan? Former National Security Council staff member [Dr. Gary Sick](#) established that the U.S. had resigned Afghanistan to the Soviet sphere of influence years before the invasion. So why had the U.S. chosen to overreact the way it did?

To Jimmy Carter's veteran [CIA Director Stansfield Turner](#), responsibility could only be located in the personality of one very specific individual who ironically wasn't present. "Brzezinski's name comes up here every five minutes; but nobody has as yet mentioned that he is a Pole." Turner said. "This is an important part of the equation, it seems to me. None of us can escape our individual backgrounds; but in this case, the fact that Brzezinski is a Pole, it seems to me was terribly important."

What Turner meant was that Zbigniew Brzezinski had punched an ethical hole into U.S. policy by infusing his old world ethnic hatred of Russia, into U.S.-Soviet relations. U.S. officials were not supposed to bring racist beliefs into the public policy-making-process. But anybody who knew Brzezinski at the time knew full well that is exactly what he was doing.

In the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Brzezinski ironically grew wary of America's global overreach, much of which he had made possible with his actions as Carter's National Security Advisor.

Although he had felt justified at using his imperial hubris to draw the Soviets into their own Vietnam and destroy Afghanistan in the process, he did not expect to see the same imperial process at work undoing the United States and in the same way he had undone the Soviet Union.

A year before he died in 2017, the architect of America's use of Imperial power to attain global dominance made a startling about face in an article titled ["Toward a Global Realignment"](#) warning that "the United States is still the world's politically, economically, and militarily most powerful entity, but given complex geopolitical shifts in regional balances, it is no longer the globally imperial power."

Brzezinski warned that the time for conflict among nations had come to an end because "During the rest of this century, humanity will also have to be increasingly preoccupied

with survival,” a survival that could only be addressed “in a setting of increased international accommodation.”

Had Zbigniew Brzezinski used his powerful influence on American policymakers to be more accommodating to the Soviet Union over Afghanistan instead of using it as the bait to lure them to their destruction during the 1970s, the world and the United States today would, no doubt be in a very different and a much better place.

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[The Grand Illusion of Imperial Power](#) (parts 1-2 combined)
by [Paul Fitzgerald - Elizabeth Gould](#) July 27, 2018



Photo by DAVID HOLT | [CC BY 2.0](#)

All men dream but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but those dreamers of the day are dangerous men for they act their dreams with open eyes, to make it possible.

– T. E. Lawrence, Seven Pillars of Wisdom

How the Neocon Dream for Everlasting Hegemony Turned America Into a Nightmare

Few Americans today understand how the United States came to be owned by a London-backed neoconservative/right-wing alliance that grew out of the institutional turmoil of the post-Vietnam era. Even fewer understand how its internal mission to maintain the remnants of the old British Empire gradually overcame American democracy and replaced it with a “national security” bureaucracy of its own design. We owe the blueprint of that plan to [James Burnham](#), Trotskyist, OSS man and architect of the neoconservative movement whose exposition of the [Formal and the Real](#) in his 1943 [The Modern Machiavellians](#) justified the rise of the oligarch and the absolute rule of their managerial elite. But Americans would be shocked to find that our current political nightmare came to power with the willing consent and cooperation of President James Earl Carter and his National Security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski; aided by intelligence agencies in Europe and the Middle East.

A straight line can be drawn between today’s political hysteria and the 1970s era of right-wing Soviet hysteria as Russia stands accused of “meddling” in American democracy. [The merits of those charges](#) have been discussed in depth elsewhere. According to the dean of American intelligence scholars [Loch K. Johnson](#) as reported in the [New York Times](#), the United States has done extensive meddling in other nation’s elections.

And then there is that hidden “meddler” behind the meddling; Britain. The extent of British meddling in American politics – at least since – the beginning of the 20th century would shock even the most devout cheerleaders of ex-MI6 agent [Christopher Steele](#) and his “dirty dossier”. In a case reminiscent of America’s current hysteria over Russia, British intelligence even meddled with its own government back in the mid-1970s when right-wing elements of the military plotted a [coup d’etat of Labor Prime Minister](#) Harold Wilson based on information generated by their own disinformation campaign about Soviet influence. The 1917 Zimmerman telegram and the creation of the British Security Coordination in 1940 directly intervened in American politics on behalf of Britain. But the 1970 Creation of the Institute for the Study of Conflict (ISC) by British secret agent Brian Crozier marked a key turning point in the transformation of officially sanctioned propaganda.

As presented by Edward Herman and Gerry O’ Sullivan in their 1989 study, [The Terrorism Industry](#), “The London-based Institute for the Study of Conflict (ISC) provides an especially well-documented case study of the use of a purportedly ‘independent’ institute as a front for propaganda operations of hidden intelligence agency and corporate sponsors.” The purpose of ISC was to give discredited right-wing, anti-Communist and anti-union clichés in Britain the cover of legitimacy. The “Institute” got off to a quick start in the U.S. by forging an alliance with the [National Strategy Information Center, NSIC](#) a right-wing neoconservative think tank founded by Frank Barnett, William Casey and Joseph Coors in 1962. ISC’s first major triumph came in collaboration with the ultra-right-wing [Pinay Cercle](#) when Crozier and his protégé [Robert Moss](#) produced an ISC Special Report attacking the legitimacy of détente with the Soviet Union called *European Security and the Soviet Problem*. The study, financed by the Pinay group made no bones about its “Soviet problem” actually being the old “Russia problem” that European Imperialists had been hoping to solve since Napoleon’s disastrous march on Moscow in 1812.

As a devoted acolyte of [James Burnham](#), Crozier brought to his secret world of rightwing businessmen, intelligence, police and military officials a strategic plan to use the media to move the West’s democracies to the ideological right by fabricating threats of Communist subversion. Determined to undermine détente, [Antoine Pinay](#) was so delighted with Crozier’s double-speak he presented the study in person to President Nixon and Henry Kissinger and by 1975 the group was staged to make their move on Washington. Less than two months before the fall of Saigon, the US Committee of the ISC (USISC) was launched which would act as the parent body of the Washington Institute for the Study of Conflict (WISC).

In the vacuum created by Vietnam Crozier and Pinay’s extremism was no longer viewed as extreme. Despite the public scandal over the CIA’s use of Crozier’s [Forum World Features](#) as a London-based fake news service, Washington elites were rolling out the red carpet to welcome them, including Zbigniew Brzezinski and [George Ball](#). Under Ball’s Chairmanship WISC appeared a veritable who’s who of high-level ex-CIA, neoconservative and right-wing influencers. From Georgetown University came WISC’s first President James Theberge whose books on Soviet influence in the Caribbean – helped

provide the pretexts for overthrowing Chile's legitimately elected leftist president Salvador Allende. And then there was [Richard Pipes](#), the anti-Soviet history professor from Harvard University, who would soon be hand-picked to lead a neoconservative attack on the CIA known as Team B.

[In the words of Lawrence J. Korb](#), a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and assistant secretary of defense from 1981 to 1985, Pipes and the Team B were the real reason for the intelligence failures represented by 9/11 because of their biases and unbalanced judgement. But in the end the Team B view gained influence. With the appointment of fellow WISC member Zbigniew Brzezinski as President Carter's national security advisor, British intelligence agent Brian Crozier's plan to subvert the détente process with the Soviet Union was complete. Crozier's belief "[T]hat the entire security apparatus of the United States was in a state of near collapse," provoked yet another move to interfere in American politics. His solution was a secret off-the books "Private Sector Intelligence agency, beholden to no government, but at the disposal of allied or friendly governments for certain tasks which, for one reason or another, they were no longer able to tackle..." including "[S]ecret counter-subversion operations in any country in which such actions were deemed feasible." [Brian Crozier](#) and [Zbigniew Brzezinski](#) were of one mind when it came to disbelieving in "mutual coexistence" or power-sharing with the Soviet Union and Brzezinski's membership in WISC proved it. Thanks to WISC member Richard Pipes and the Team B, Brzezinski could now bring Britain's radical right-wing formula for social change right into the Oval Office.

Brzezinski devised a structure that channeled all executive decisions into two committees, the Policy Review Committee (PRC) and the Special Coordination Committee (SCC) chaired by him. Carter then elevated the national security advisor to cabinet level and the palace coup was complete. As recalled by the neoconservative author [David J. Rothkopf](#) in Charles Gati's 2013 book [ZBIG](#), "It was a bureaucratic first strike of the first order. The system essentially gave responsibility for the most important and sensitive issues to Brzezinski."

Another operation initiated by Brzezinski in 1977 was the [Nationalities Working Group \(NWG\)](#), dedicated to inflaming ethnic tensions among the Islamic populations of the South Asia region. Brzezinski then continued on into nuclear policy where he altered the SALT structure and then rigged the negotiations against Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. With Brzezinski expanding nuclear targeting options from 25,000 to 40,000 and covert action teams sabotaging behind Soviet lines from early 1977 onward the message was clear; SALT and Détente were getting ripped up as well as the very assumptions both were based on.

By 1978, Brzezinski's plan to use China as a weapon against the Soviets was playing out in Afghanistan. The April, 1978 Marxist coup against the King's cousin, Mohammed Daoud played into Brzezinski's "predictions" of a Soviet plan to incorporate Persia and South Central Asia into the Soviet sphere and ultimately take-over The Middle East. Vance rejected Brzezinski's argument. The coup had caught both the Soviets and the State Department by surprise and the coup leader, Hafizullah Amin raised doubts on both

sides of the fence as an unpredictable agent provocateur. Amin had taken money from the CIA and headed up the Afghan Student Association at a time when it was being used as [a CIA recruitment tool](#) for future Third World leaders. Amin was now one of those leaders and Vance was sending a tough and savvy American Ambassador to Kabul named [Adolph “Spike” Dubs](#) to deal with him. The outcome would change the world and end in tragedy for all.

In an interview we conducted in 1993 with [Selig Harrison](#)—former Washington Post foreign correspondent and Carnegie Endowment Senior Associate—Ambassador Dubs came to Kabul in the summer of 1978 with a mission: Bring Afghan leader Hafizullah Amin over to the American side and keep the Russians out. President Carter’s national security advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski had engineered a grander mission: Pressure Amin to draw the Soviets in through destabilization and then keep them tied down and give them their own Vietnam. By the time Ambassador Dubs arrived in Kabul, Afghanistan had become ground zero for a long anticipated anti-Soviet destabilization campaign organized by Brzezinski and carried out by an off the books intelligence operation known as the [Safari Club](#). The “club” represented the true essence of the CIA ethos; an autonomous covert action organization with global reach, beyond the jurisdiction of American oversight and responsible to no one. A spinoff of the right-wing [Pinay Cercle](#), the Safari Club had been active informally in the Middle East and Africa for years. But the club found its true calling following Watergate and the Church Committee hearings on 30 years of CIA coups, cover-ups and assassinations. Managed by [France’s Count Alexandre de Marenches](#) chief of French external intelligence, the club included the Shah of Iran, King Hassan II of Morocco, President Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt, Kamal Adham, head of intelligence for Saudi Arabian King Faisal and Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein. More to the point, by 1976 the Safari Club had become *the real* CIA, covertly funded by Saudi Arabia’s chief of intelligence Kamal Adham through the [Bank of Commerce and Credit International \(BCCI\)](#) and run out of the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Brzezinski, Afghanistan and the End of Emperors

“From the sublime to the ridiculous is but a step.”— Napoleon Bonaparte during his retreat from Russia

According to one-time CNN Special Assignment investigator [Joe Trento](#) in his 2005 exposé [Prelude To Terror](#), Saudi Arabia’s chief of intelligence Kamal Adham worked alongside the [Bank of Commerce and Credit International](#), BCCI’s founder Agha Hasan Abedi to expand the very concept of covert action by using BCCI to merge the Safari Club with “every major terrorist, rebel, and underground organization in the world.” A 2001 [Time magazine report](#) found that the bank functioned as “a vast, stateless, multinational corporation that deploys its own intelligence agency, complete with paramilitary wing and enforcement units, known collectively as the ‘black network:’” that would bribe or assassinate anyone to turn Afghanistan into the place to trap the Soviet Union in their own Vietnam.

Uninformed of the Safari Club's activities, America's ambassador proceeded to meet with Amin throughout the fall of 1978 and into the winter of 1979 often in secret meetings. But Brzezinski's ongoing destabilization, his military relationship with the Chinese and Amin's antagonism toward the Russians was making life for Dubs increasingly dangerous. He grew alarmed by Amin's provocative behavior and demanded to know from his CIA station chief whether he was employed by them. He was told no, but by then Afghan rebels were openly training in Pakistan and China's Xinjiang province. In addition there was what Joe Trento called the CIA's Saudi-funded stockpile of misfits and malcontents manning the Safari Club's 1,500-strong army of assassins and enforcers. And last but not least were Chinese-backed Maoist factions [Setam-i Melli](#), Sholah Jaweed and [SAMA](#) programmed by Beijing to bring down their Afghan oppressor, Hafizullah Amin. Thanks to Saudi Intelligence chief [Kamal Adham](#) and BCCI banker, [Agha Hasan Abedi](#), there were ample incentives for a holy jihad against Russia. Afghanistan offered the opportunity for BCCI to migrate the lucrative heroin business from Southeast Asia to the Pakistani/Afghan border under the protection of Western intelligence agencies. President Carter supported Brzezinski's cross-border raids into Soviet territory. He also sanctioned Brzezinski's plan to use Afghanistan to lure the Soviet Union into its own Vietnam; which he lied to the public about when they fell into the trap on December 27, 1979. [Joseph Trento writes](#), "Carter may in fact have signed his directive in July 1979, but the Safari Club's Islamic fighters had been taunting Moscow into invading for nearly a year before that."

By January 1979 the newly unstable region was becoming the primary financing source for a terrorist campaign that would spread around the world. But while Dubs was pleading that destabilization would provoke direct Soviet intervention, Brzezinski was promoting armed opposition.

That same month, Brzezinski's NSC director of South Asian affairs, Thomas P. Thornton, arrived in Kabul to shut Dubs down, yet Dubs continued his mission. Between Dubs' arrival in July of 1978 and the fall of the Shah on January 16, 1979 American policy in Iran, China and Afghanistan had shifted into the hands of the Pinay Cercle's right-wing cabal. Run by a consortium of intelligence influencers, the decades-long geopolitical plan to move the United States into alignment with the [Pinay Cercle's](#) old European right-wing was nearing completion.

By mid-February the Shah had fallen and the Afghan countryside was in open revolt. The Marxist regime of Hafizullah Amin was demanding military assistance from Moscow and the only man left to hold back Soviet retaliation was Ambassador Dubs. But on the morning of February 14, 1979 Dubs himself would become the vehicle for the very outcome he had gone to Kabul to prevent when four men abducted him on his way to work and brought him to the Kabul Hotel. Three hours later the ambassador would die in a shootout that has been described as a botched rescue attempt.

The subsequent debate in Washington focused mainly on blaming the Soviets with unnamed "U.S. congressional sources" claiming "the Russians had wanted Dubs to die." But as described in an interview conducted for [Washingtonian Magazine](#) in 2017 with

Bruce Flatin, the political counselor dispatched by the U.S. embassy to the hotel that morning, the whole affair just didn't make sense; *unless* the kidnapping wasn't intended as a kidnapping and Dubs' unfortunate death wasn't the result of a botched rescue attempt, but was part of a Safari Club operation to remove the last obstacle to their plan. At a [1995 Nobel Symposium](#) on the causes of the Afghan war – in the presence of former CIA director Admiral Stansfield Turner, the former Director of Soviet affairs at the National Security Council, General William Odom and dozens of former high-level officials – the leading Russian authority, [General Alexander Lyakhovsky](#) suggested the existence of a cover up. “Dubs was seen in the company of those same people who kidnapped him later in the same hotel—in the same room—*the day before they kidnapped him*. And then later Dubs was in his car, with a travel case. He stopped his car when those same people who he saw the day before ordered him to stop, as if they were known to him.”

No one has ever suggested the existence of an on-governmental agency in the death of Adolph Dubs. But the Safari Club's anti-Communist agenda had been brought directly into the White House with Brzezinski in 1977 and it had been active in Afghanistan long before February 14, 1979. If ever there was an opportunity for their 1,500-strong “black network” of CIA misfits, malcontents, assassins and enforcers to act on Brzezinski's agenda to lure the Soviets into their own Vietnam, it was at room 117 of the Kabul Hotel on February 14, 1979.

[The kidnapping and assassination](#) of Ambassador Adolph Dubs ended any meaningful effort by the U.S. to prevent a Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The death *was* employed however from that day forward by Brzezinski as the opportunity to increase the level of provocation for [luring the Soviets](#) into their own “Vietnam quagmire” and keeping them pinned down for as long as possible. Because of Dubs' death, Brzezinski got control of foreign policy; got his hard line neoconservative policy toward the Soviet Union pushed through, ended support for détente once and for all and put Strategic Arms Limitation on hold.

Continuing his coup d'état, Brzezinski proceeded with plans for the radical transformation of America's nuclear doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction – MAD into one of [nuclear “war-fighting”](#) through a series of Presidential Directives. But the real irony of the Carter presidency was that his greatest success – the U.S.- Egypt-Israeli peace treaty – was also arranged by the [Safari Club](#). The death of Ambassador Dubs, the Iran hostage crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in late December 1979 doomed Carter's reelection to failure. Afghanistan was soon to become the self-fulfilling prophecy of Soviet iniquity that the right-wing had been trying to create for decades; a permanent, ongoing crisis in U.S.-Soviet relations which it had precipitated and then claimed to uncover and respond to. Brian Crozier's “ultimate sophistication of subversion” got its candidate Ronald Reagan elected in 1980 while completing the London-backed neoconservative/right-wing takeover of the American government. And they would never give it back.

The pattern and the profile of events parading across our screens today mirrors the pattern and profile of events engineered in the late 1970s by a London-backed neoconservative/right-wing alliance which paralleled the pattern and the profile of the late 1940s and the genesis of the Cold War. The United States, Britain and their post-World War II European creation, the EU continue to manufacture issues with which to demonize Russia as they once demonized the Soviet Union. But in the end, the goal set out by the Pinay Cercle and implemented during the Carter administration [can only be said to have failed.](#)

In his 1997 book [*The Grand Chessboard*](#), Zbigniew Brzezinski saw the United States “as the sole and, indeed, first truly global power” using France, Germany, Poland and Ukraine as “The Democratic Bridgehead for projecting into Eurasia the international democratic collective order.” Yet even as the United States began to flex its unchallenged global power the ethnic flaw undergirding Brzezinski’s motives began to show.

When asked the real reason why the United States had taken such a hard line toward the Soviet Union on Afghanistan at the [1995 Nobel Symposium](#), President Carter’s [CIA Director Stansfield Turner](#) replied the responsibility could only be located in one individual. “Brzezinski’s name comes up here every five minutes; but nobody has as yet mentioned that he is a Pole,” Turner said, implying that it was ethnic hatred of Russia that had propelled his policy against the Soviet Union; not just geopolitics. Yet anybody who knew Brzezinski at the time knew that is exactly what he was doing, but they had all looked the other way.

The year before he died Brzezinski delivered a profound revelation in an article titled [“Toward a Global Realignment”](#) warning that “the United States is still the world’s politically, economically, and militarily most powerful entity, but given complex geopolitical shifts in regional balances, it is no longer *the globally imperial power.*” Zbigniew Brzezinski had expected Poland to be at the center of America’s conquest of Eurasia. But after years of American missteps he realized his dream would never be. Though unapologetic at using his imperial hubris to lure the Soviets into Afghanistan, he did not expect his own beloved American Empire to fall into the same trap and ultimately lived long enough to see that in the end, his use of imperial power had won him only a Pyrrhic victory.

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The Turning on Russia Series: Parts 1 & 2

Part 1: It's been done to Russia before but this time will be the last

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould

April, 2018



Boris Yeltsin gets the last laugh when he picked Vladimir Putin to become president. [Putin taking the Presidential Oath](#), 7 May 2000 By Presidential Press and Information Office [CC BY 3.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0>)], via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

“Stanley Fischer, the 73-year-old vice chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, is familiar with the decline of the world’s rich. He spent his childhood and youth in the British protectorate of Rhodesia... before going to London in the early 1960s for his university studies. There, he experienced first-hand the unravelling of the British Empire... Now an American citizen, Fischer is currently witnessing another major power taking its leave of the world stage... the United States is losing its status as a global hegemonic power, he said recently... The U.S. political system could take the world in a very dangerous direction...”

[A Shrinking Giant, Spiegel Online](#), 9/11/2017

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the creation of the so called Wolfowitz Doctrine in 1992 during the administration of George Herbert Walker Bush, the United States claimed the mantle of the world’s first and only Unipower as well as its intention to crush any nation or system that would oppose it in the future. The New World Order foreseen just a few short years ago becomes more disorderly by the day, made worse by varying degrees of incompetence and greed emanating from Berlin, London, Paris and Washington. As a further sign of the ongoing seismic shocks rocking America’s claim to leadership, by the time Stanley Fischer’s interview appeared in the online version of the conservative German magazine Der Spiegel, he had already announced his resignation as vice chair of the Federal Reserve; eight months ahead of schedule. If anyone knows about the decline and fall of empires it is the “globalist” and former Bank of Israel president, Stanley Fischer. Not only did he experience the unravelling of the British Empire as a

young student in London, he actually assisted in the wholesale dismantling of the Soviet Empire during the 1990s.

As an admitted product of the British Empire and point man for its long term imperial aims, that makes Stanley Fischer not just empire's Angel of Death, but its rag and bone man.

Alongside a handful of Harvard economists led by Jonathan Hay, Larry Summers, Andrei Shleifer, Anatoly Chubais and Jeffry Sachs, (the Harvard Project) Fischer helped to throw 100 million Russians into poverty overnight - privatizing, or as some would say piratizing - the Russian economy. Yet, Americans never got the real story because a slanted anti-Russia narrative covered the true nature of the robbery from beginning to end. As described by public policy scholar and anthropologist Janine R. Wedel in her 2009 book *Shadow Elite*, "Presented in the West as a fight between enlightenment Reformers trying to move the economy forward through privatization, and retrograde Luddites who opposed them, this story misrepresented the facts. The idea or goal of privatization was not controversial, even among communists... the Russian Supreme Soviet, a communist body, passed two laws laying the groundwork for privatization. Opposition to privatization was rooted not in the idea itself but in the *particular* privatization program that was implemented, the opaque way in which it was put into place, and the use of executive authority to bypass the parliament."

Intentionally set up to fail for Russia and the Russian people under the cover of a false narrative, she continues "The outcome rendered privatization 'a de facto fraud,' as one economist put it, and the parliamentary committee that had judged the Chubais scheme to 'offer fertile ground for criminal activity' was proven right."

If Stanley Fischer, a man who helped bring about a de facto criminal-privatization-fraud to post-empire Russia says the U.S. is on a dangerous course, the time has arrived for post-empire Americans to ask what role Stanley Fischer played in putting the U.S. on that dangerous course. Unknown to Americans is the blunt force trauma Stanley Fischer and the "prestigious" Harvard Project delivered to Russia under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin during the 1990s. According to [The American Conservative's James Carden](#) "As the Center for Economic and Policy Research [noted](#) back in 2011... 'the IMF's intervention in Russia during Fischer's tenure led to one of the worst losses in output in history, in the absence of war or natural disaster.' Indeed, one Russian observer compared the economic and social consequences of the IMF's intervention to what one would see in the aftermath of a medium-level nuclear attack."

Neither do most Americans know that it was President Carter's national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski's 1970s grand plan for the conquest of the Eurasian heartland that boomeranged back to terrorize Europe and America in the 21st century. Zbigniew

Brzezinski spent much of his life undermining the Communist Soviet Union and then spent the rest of it worrying about its resurgence as a Czarist empire under Vladimir Putin. It might be unfair to say that hating Russia was his only obsession. But a common inside joke during his tenure as the President's top intelligence officer was that he couldn't find Nicaragua on a map. If anyone provided the blueprint for the United States to rule in a unipolar world following the Soviet Union's collapse it was Zbigniew Brzezinski and if anyone could be said to represent the debt driven financial system that fueled America's post-Vietnam Imperialism, it's Stanley Fischer. His departure should have sent a chill down every neoconservative's spine. Their dream of a New World Order has once again ground to a halt at the gates of Moscow.

Whenever the epitaph for the abbreviated American century is written it will be sure to feature the iconic role the neoconservatives played in hastening its demise. After emerging from their Marxist/Leninist cocoon after World War II their movement helped to establish the Cold War. And from the chaos created by Vietnam they set to work restructuring American politics, finance and foreign policy to their own purposes. Dominated at the beginning by Zionists and Trotskyists but directed by the Anglo/American establishment and their intelligence elites, the neoconservatives' goal was to deconstruct the nation-state through cultural cooptation and financial subversion and in that they have been overwhelmingly successful. From the end of World War II through the 1980s the focus of this pursuit was on the Soviet Union, but since the Soviet collapse in 1991, their focus has been on dismantling any and all opposition to their global dominion.

Shady finance, imperial misadventures and neoconservatism go hand in hand. The CIA's founders saw themselves as partners in this enterprise and the defense industry welcomed them with open arms. McGill University economist R.T. Naylor, author of 1987's [*Hot Money and the Politics of Debt*](#), described how "Pentagon Capitalism" had made the Vietnam War possible by selling the Pentagon's debt to the rest of the world. ["In effect, the US Marines had replaced Meyer Lansky's couriers,](#) and the European central banks arranged the 'loan-back'" Naylor writes. "When the mechanism was explained to the late [neoconservative] Herman Kahn – lifeguard of the era's chief 'think tank' and a man who popularized the notion it was possible to emerge smiling from a global conflagration - he reacted with visible delight. Kahn exclaimed excitedly, 'We've pulled off the biggest ripoff in history! We've run rings around the British Empire.'" In addition to their core of ex-Trotskyist intellectuals early neoconservatives could count among their ranks such establishment figures as James Burnham, father of the Cold War Paul Nitze, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson, Jeane Kirkpatrick and Zbigniew Brzezinski himself.

From the beginning of their entry into the American political mainstream in the 1970s it was known that their emergence could spell the end of democracy in America and yet

Washington's more moderate gatekeepers allowed them in without much of a fight. Peter Steinfels' 1979 classic [*The Neoconservatives: The men who are changing America's politics*](#) begins with these fateful words. "THE PREMISES OF THIS BOOK are simple. First, that a distinct and powerful political outlook has recently emerged in the United States. Second, that this outlook, preoccupied with certain aspects of American life and blind or complacent towards others, justifies a politics which, should it prevail, threatens to attenuate and diminish the promise of American democracy."

But long before Steinfels' 1979 account, the neoconservative's agenda of inserting their own interests ahead of America's was well underway attenuating American democracy, undermining détente and angering America's NATO partners that supported it. According to the distinguished State Department Soviet specialist Raymond Garthoff, détente had been under attack by right-wing and military-industrial forces ([led by Senator "Scoop" Jackson](#)) from its inception. But America's ownership of that policy underwent a shift following America's intervention on behalf of Israel during the 1973 October war. Garthoff writes in his detailed volume on American-Soviet relations [*Détente and Confrontation*](#), "To the allies the threat [to Israel] did not come from the Soviet Union, but from unwise actions by the United States, taken unilaterally and without consultation. The airlift [of arms] had been bad enough. The U.S. military alert of its forces in Europe was too much."

In addition to the crippling Arab oil embargo that followed, the crisis of confidence in U.S. decision-making nearly produced a mutiny within NATO. Garthoff continues, "The United States had used the alert to convert an Arab-Israeli conflict, into which the United States had plunged, into a matter of East-West confrontation. Then it had used that tension as an excuse to demand that Europe subordinate its own policies to a manipulative American diplomatic gamble over which they had no control and to which they had not even been privy, all in the name of alliance unity."

In the end the U.S. found common cause with its Cold War Soviet enemy by imposing a cease-fire accepted by both Egypt and Israel thereby confirming the usefulness of détente. But as related by Garthoff this success triggered an even greater effort by Israel's "politically significant supporters" in the U.S. to begin opposing *any* cooperation with the Soviet Union, at all. Garthoff writes, "The United States had pressed Israel into doing precisely what the Soviet Union (as well as the United States) had wanted: to halt its advance short of complete encirclement of the Egyptian Third Army east of Suez... Thus they [Israel's politically significant supporters] saw the convergence of American-Soviet interests and effective cooperation in imposing a cease-fire as a harbinger of greater future cooperation by the two superpowers in working toward a resolution of the Israeli-Arab-Palestinian problem."

Part 2: The post WWII strategy of the neocons has been shaped chiefly by Russo phobia against the Soviet Union and now Russia

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould April 2018



Common Sense: A [tormented bear](#) is far more dangerous than one you make friends with! No machine-readable author provided. [CC BY-SA 2.5 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5>)], via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

In the months and years following the Arab-Israeli war of October 1973, the issue of Israel and its security would become so enmeshed in American policy as to become one and the same. The lesson of October 1973 that détente had succeeded in securing American and Soviet interests, was anathema to the entire neoconservative agenda and revealed its true hand. At the time a majority of American Jews were not necessarily against better U.S.-Soviet relations. But with the forceful hammering of influential right-wing neoconservative pundits like Ben Wattenberg and Irving Kristol and the explosive manifestation of the [Evangelical Christian Zionist movement](#), many of Israel's liberal American supporters were persuaded to turn against détente for the first time. According to the distinguished State Department Soviet specialist [Raymond Garthoff's *Détente and Confrontation*](#); "Analytically and objectively the American-Soviet cooperation in defusing both the Israeli-Arab conflict, and their own involvement in a crisis confrontation, may be judged a successful application of crisis management under détente." But as Garthoff acknowledges, this success threatened "Israel's jealously guarded freedom of action to determine unilaterally its own security requirements," and set off alarm bells in Tel Aviv and Washington.

With Richard Nixon on the ropes with Watergate and Vietnam dragging to a conclusion, American foreign policy was open to external pressure and within a year would fall permanently into the hands of a coalition of pro-Israel neoconservative and right-wing defense industry lobbying groups. These groups such as the [American Israel Public Affairs Committee \(AIPAC\)](#), the [Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs \(JINSA\)](#), the [American Security Council](#) and [Committee on the Present Danger](#) would set about to make American interests and their own personal crusade to control the greater Middle East, interchangeable.

The issue of U.S. support for Israel, its neoconservative backers and its dedicated anti-Russian bias has a long and complicated history dating back long before [Theodor Herzl's 19th century Zionist Project](#). Zionism was not instilled in American thinking by Jews but by [16th and 17th century British Puritans](#) whose sacred mission was to reestablish an ancient Kingdom of Israel and fulfill what they believed to be biblical prophecy based on the King James Version of the bible.

[Britain's Anglo/Israel movement](#) found common cause with the British Empire's 19th and early 20th century political goals of controlling the Middle East through Jewish resettlement of Palestine which culminated in the [Balfour declaration](#) of 1917. This long term plan of the British Empire continues on today through American policy and what has been dubbed the [Zionist Project](#) or [the Yinon plan](#). Add [the 700 million](#) strong worldwide [Evangelical movement](#) and its [70 million Christian Zionists](#) in the United States and American foreign policy towards the Middle East becomes an apocalyptic confluence of covert agendas, ethnic grudges and religious feuds locked in permanent crisis.

It has been argued that the neoconservative's slavish adherence to Israel makes neoconservatism an exclusively Jewish creation. Numerous neoconservative writers like the New York Times' [David Brooks](#) tar critics of Israel as anti-Semites by accusing them of substituting the term "neoconservative" for "Jew." Others argue that "neoconservatism is indeed [a Jewish intellectual and political movement](#)" with "close ties to the most extreme nationalistic, aggressive, racist and religiously fanatic elements within Israel."

Although clearly acting as a political front for Israel's interests and an engine for permanent war, neoconservatism would never have succeeded as a political movement without the support and cooperation of powerful non-Jewish elites. New America Foundation co-founder [Michael Lind](#) writes in [The Nation in 2004](#), "Along with other traditions that have emerged from the anti-Stalinist left, neoconservatism has appealed to many Jewish intellectuals and activists but it is not, for that reason, a Jewish movement. Like other schools on the left, neoconservatism recruited from diverse "farm teams" including liberal Catholics... populists, socialists and New Deal liberals in the South and Southwest... With the exception of Middle East strategy... there is nothing particularly "Jewish" about neoconservative views on foreign policy. While the example of Israel has inspired American neocons... the global strategy of today's neocons is shaped chiefly by the heritage of cold war anti-Communism."

Add to that the abiding influence of Britain's Imperial policy-makers following World War II - the British creation of Pakistan in 1947 and Israel in 1948 - and the hidden hand of a global imperial strategy is revealed. Pakistan exists to keep the Russians out of Central Asia and Israel exists to keep the Russians out of the Middle East.

Whether American democracy could have survived the stresses put upon it by the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War and the ongoing frauds posed by neoconservatism now poses an answerable question. It couldn't. Fletcher School international law professor Michael Glennon maintains the [creation of the national security state](#) in 1947 as a second, double government effectively renders the question mute. [He writes](#) "The public believes that the constitutionally-established institutions control national security policy, but that view is mistaken. Judicial review is negligible; congressional oversight is dysfunctional; and presidential control is nominal. Absent a more informed and engaged electorate, little possibility exists for restoring accountability in the formulation and execution of national security policy."

The motion to kill détente and hobble Henry Kissinger's balance of power or "realist" foreign policy quickly followed the 1973 war in the form of the anti-Soviet amendment to the Trade Act known as Jackson-Vanik. Sponsored by Senator [Henry "Scoop" Jackson](#) of Washington and Representative Charles A. Vanik of Ohio but engineered by Albert Wohlstetter acolyte [Richard Perle](#), trade concessions and virtually anything regarding Moscow would be forever linked to the Zionist Project through Jewish emigration to Israel from the Soviet Union.

Supported by organized labor, traditional conservatives, liberals and neoconservatives, Jackson-Vanik hobbled efforts by the Nixon/Ford administration to slow the arms race and move towards a permanent easing of tensions with the Soviet Union. It removed control of American foreign policy from the President and Secretary of State while delivering it permanently into the hands of the old anti-Stalinist/Trotskyist neoconservatives.

Jackson-Vanik overcame liberal support for détente because of an intellectual dishonesty within the non-communist left that had been roiling America's intelligentsia since the 1930s. That dishonesty had transformed left wing Trotskyists into the CIA's very own anti-Soviet cultural Cold Warriors and aligned them with the goals of the West's right-wing. By the 1950s their cause was not about left or right, or even liberal anti-Communism versus Stalinism. It was about exchanging a value system of laws and checks and balances for a system alien to America. As Frances Stonor Saunders describes in her book *The Cultural Cold War*, it was simply about grabbing power and keeping it. "'It's so corrupt, it doesn't even know it,' said [legendary Random House editor] Jason Epstein, in an uncompromising mood. 'When these people talk about a "counter-intelligentsia", what they do is to set up a false and corrupt value system to support whatever ideology they're committed to at the time. The only thing they're really committed to is power, and the introduction of Tzarist-Stalinist strategies in American politics. They're so corrupt they probably don't even know it. They're little, lying apparatchiks. People who don't believe in anything, who are only against something, shouldn't go on crusades or start revolutions.'"

But neoconservatives did go on crusades and start revolutions and continued to corrupt the American political process until it was unrecognizable. In 1973 neoconservatives did not want the United States having better relations with Moscow and created Jackson-Vanik to obstruct it. But their ultimate goal as explained by Janine Wedel in her 2009 study the *Shadow Elite*, was a Trotskyist dream; the complete transfer of power from an elected government representing the American people to what she referred to as a “new nomenklatura,” or “guardians of the national interest,” free from the restraints imposed by the laws of the nation. Wedel writes, “Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the late senator from New York and onetime neoconservative, suggested that this kind of suspension of the rules and processes was what motivated him to part ways with the movement in the 1980s: ‘They wished for a military posture approaching mobilization; they would create or invent whatever crises were required to bring this about.’”

The synthesis of [James Burnham’s Cold War ethos](#) (established formally by Paul Nitze in his [1950 NSC-68](#)) together with Trotskyism (espoused by the core neoconservatives) combined with this aggressive new support for Israel empowered America’s neoconservatives with a cult-like political influence over American decision-making that would only grow stronger with time.

As envisaged by [James Burnham](#), the Cold War was a [struggle for the world](#) and would be fought with the kind of political subversion he’d learned to master as a leading member of Trotsky’s Fourth International. But joined to Israel by Burnham’s fellow Trotskyists and the underlying influence of British Israelism - it would enter an apocalyptic mythos and resist any and all efforts to bring it to an end. John B. Judis, former editor of the *New Republic* relates in a 1995 *Foreign Affairs* book review of the *Rise of Neoconservatism* by John Ehrman: “In the framework of international communism, the Trotskyists were rabid internationalists rather than realists or nationalists... The neoconservatives who went through Trotskyist and socialist movements came to see foreign policy as a crusade, the goal of which was first global socialism, then social democracy, and finally democratic capitalism. They never saw foreign policy in terms of national interest or balance of power. Neoconservatism was a kind of inverted Trotskyism, which sought to ‘export democracy’ in [\[Joshua Muravchik’s\]](#) words, in the same way that Trotsky originally envisaged exporting socialism.”

Through the eyes of the State Department’s Raymond Garthoff, the moves against détente in 1973 are viewed from the narrow perspective of a professional American diplomat. But according to Judis in his article titled [“Trotskyism to Anachronism: The Neoconservative Revolution”](#) the legacy of NSC-68 and Trotskyism contributed to a form of apocalyptic thinking that would slowly exclude the professional policy-making process from the realm of empirical observation and replace it with a politicized mechanism for creating endless conflict. “The constant reiteration and exaggeration of

the Soviet threat was meant to dramatize and win converts, but it also reflected the doomsday revolutionary mentality that characterized the old left.”

In the end, Judis argues that the neoconservative success at using self-fulfilling prophecies to kill détente actually made the Cold War far more dangerous by encouraging the Soviet Union to undertake a military buildup and expand its influence which the neoconservatives then used as proof that their theories were correct. In effect, “Neoconservatism was a self-fulfilling prophecy. It helped precipitate the crisis in U.S.-Soviet relations that it then claimed to uncover and respond to.”

Writing in the summer of 1995 with the Cold War finally ended and the storm passed, Judis considered neoconservatism as the subject of ridicule, describing key neoconservatives as merely political anachronisms and not the thriving political dynamo described by John Ehrman in his book. But in the end Ehrman turned out to be right, the neoconservative crusade had not come to a close with the end of the Cold War but had only entered a new and more dangerous phase.

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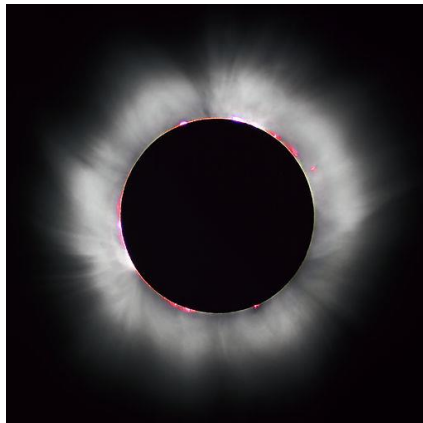
--The Neocon Takeover of America Four Part Series

Part 1: [Darkness at Noon](#)

by Paul Fitzgerald Elizabeth Gould

August 21, 2017

Democracy and freedom of expression are under attack. There is blood in the streets. How did it get that way? Where did it come from, what are its sources and what continues to drive it? In this four part series we'll look at the origin of those sources and unlock connections that when understood should open doors of perception that have been locked shut for far too long.



Eclipses affect endings while opening new beginnings. This total solar eclipse occurred in 1999 by Luc Viatour
lucnix.be/ (Image by [Luc Viatour](#)) [Permission](#) [Details](#)

As a brief darkness cuts a path across the American continent from the latest total eclipse of the sun, another more lasting darkness is now welling up from the ground of a secret history that to most Americans remains unknown. Recent events continue to demonstrate America is [not at peace with itself](#) or [the world](#). It appears the United States is in opposition to just about [everyone, everywhere](#) and there is [no relief in sight](#). A November 2008 report titled [Known Unknowns: Unconventional "Strategic Shocks" in Defense Strategy Development](#) by the U.S. Army's Nathan Freier predicted this moment as the United States grappled with [civil insurrection](#) and a multi-polar world it was not equipped to handle. "Imagine '**a new era of containment with the United States as the nation to be contained**' where the principle tools and methods of war involve everything but those associated with traditional military conflict. Imagine that the sources of this 'new era of containment' are widespread; predicated on nonmilitary forms of political, economic, and violent action; in the main, sustainable over time; and finally, largely invulnerable to effective reversal through traditional U.S. advantages."

[Our last four part series](#) dealt with the origins of the neocons, their roots in Communist Leon Trotsky's [Fourth International](#) and their emergence as a political force in the neoconservative politics for never-ending war. How many Americans would be happy to learn that the conservative new right revolution of the 1980s was really a rebranding of a Trotskyist anti-Stalinist agenda for worldwide Communist revolution made new and empowered by the CIA? Such was the outgrowth of Cold War psychological warfare that

most Americans never learned about and still don't understand. Unfortunately for most Americans in 2017, events that occurred a hundred years ago or even 50 years ago aren't just vague remembrances, they're non-existent. But the "system" of thought "[dialectical materialism](#)" employed by Marxist/Leninists is still in use by neoconservatives in both political parties and it has now reduced our democracy and everything else Americans once believed in, to a [nascent Fascism](#).

As recent events in Charlottesville Virginia made clear, class and race hatred are still [the tipping point for social upheaval](#) much the way they were in Europe just prior to World War II. Today's social dynamics are strikingly similar to that moment in history and likewise the behavior of the participants a mirror image of their 1930s counterparts. A three volume history written by newspaper columnist [Waverley Root](#) published in 1945 titled [The Secret History of The War](#) tells a tale of the internecine social chaos just before the fall of France in 1940 that could stand verbatim as a warning for what is happening today.

"Below the surface, this is a war to check the spread of democracy. This is easy to see if you examine the circumstances in which Fascist movements of various types were launched... There is no way to nullify the result of democratic elections except by eliminating the democracy, along with its machinery for following the course chosen by the majority. So that is what the Fascists did. Many highly respectable persons, genuinely horrified at what they considered unjustified attacks on the security of their property and social positions, gave support to the parties which dared oppose the result of the democratic elections. They considered that the voters had made a grievous error. They arrogated to themselves the right to correct it. They were not far-seeing enough to realize that the nullification of the result of an election meant necessarily the nullification of all elections, of the entire system which" guaranteed legal protection for acquired rights."

Waverley Root concludes: "In France, the 1936 victory of the Popular Front was not followed by open revolt, but the classes who opposed it proceeded to sabotage the attempts by the elected government to put into force the platform which the voters had approved. These groups were easy victims of the Nazis..."

Even prominent neoconservatives like the Washington Post's Charles Krauthammer, who lobbied heavily against Trump in last year's election, are aware that the Democratic Party's current [campaign to sabotage Trump's presidency](#) risks catastrophe by undermining the credibility of the American election process. During the campaign for president, both Donald Trump and [Bernie Sanders were targets for delegitimization](#) and by the same group of elites, but in the maelstrom following the election the real target for delegitimization, democracy itself, has been consistently overlooked and [the dangers are real and growing](#).

The interests of the upper classes in America today, the Wall Street hedge fund billionaires and technocratic elites are no different than those of France in the 1930s who were waiting for the moment to seize power once they had succeeded in undermining the democratic process. As it occurred in France and is now occurring in the U.S, the [elites](#)

[have manipulated the political system](#) to destroy itself from within for no one's benefit but their own. Ironically there is little difference today in the efforts to [delegitimize Donald Trump's presidency](#) from those in the late 1930s that opened the door for Fascism and World War II. But the starkest historical similarity of all between now and the run up to World War II may lie in [the overtly racist demonization](#) of Russia and the original goals of the Third Reich, played out in the Nazi invasion of Soviet Russia in 1941.

According to an unpublished article prepared by the press section of the Nazi General Staff early in the Russian campaign as cited by Waverley Root, the Nazi's sole aim had never been to wage war in Western Europe - but had always been to rid "Europe of 'the purulent Bolshevik abscess' in order to be able to 'construct the New Order...'" And "once Russia is defeated, the New European Order, the New Asiatic Order and the New World Order will finally be able to establish themselves in a pacified universe, according to the grandiose plans of the greatest man the world has ever known--Adolph Hitler!"

The horror of World War II - which Waverley Root made abundantly clear, was intended solely for Soviet Russia and not Europe - was followed by the prolonged horror of another war against Russia known as the Cold War. The 1940 novel [Darkness at Noon](#) by [Arthur Koestler](#), a Hungarian Zionist-ex-Communist propagandist who'd fled to London, would set the tone for the post-war demonization of the Soviet Union. Employed by the secret propaganda arm of the British Foreign office the (IRD), a [dangerously unstable](#) Koestler would become a major influence in the creation of the CIA-backed Congress for Cultural Freedom (CCF). And with the aid of the British/ American intellectual [James Burnham](#), a convert from Leon Trotsky's Fourth International, Koestler would embrace the rule of America's imperial hierarchy, urging his fellow anti-Soviet intellectuals to aid the West's "[power elite in its mission to rule](#)."

Today America faces its own *Darkness at Noon* moment, but much to the disappointment of the current crop of Arthur Koestlers, putting the blame on Moscow while blood is spilling in the streets of America begs questions that Washington cannot afford to ignore but yet cannot afford to answer.

Race hatred is a powerful influence on American policy today both at home and abroad. Seen in this light, the war against Russia and the current demonization of Vladimir Putin is a race war to finish the job the Nazi's failed to accomplish in 1941 with their invasion of Russia known as [Operation Barbarossa](#).

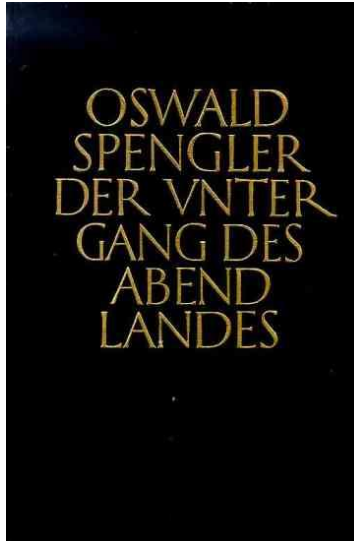
Democracy and freedom of expression are under attack. There is blood in the streets. How did it get that way? Where did it come from, what are its sources and what continues to drive it? In this four part series we'll look at the origin of those sources and unlock connections that when understood should open doors of perception that have been locked shut for far too long.

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Part 2: [The West is Disintegrating](#)

by Paul Fitzgerald Elizabeth Gould August 22, 2017

Democracy and freedom of expression are under attack. There is blood in the streets. How did it get that way? Where did it come from, what are its sources and what continues to drive it? This four-part series will look at the origin of those sources and unlock connections that when understood should open doors of perception that have been locked shut for far too long.



Cover of Oswald Spengler's *Decline of the West* published in 1918. Many denied Spengler's prediction was true.
(Image by [Cover of vol II. Published by C.H. Beck, Munich, 1922.](#)) [Permission](#) [Details](#)

"Tensions between Russia and the U.S. are again on the rise and the risk of a trans-Atlantic trade war is greater than ever, which would have devastating consequences for the global economy. The West as an entity, it would seem, is disintegrating."

[Der Spiegel Magazine -- June 30, 2017](#)

On the eve of the 2017 [G-20 summit in Hamburg](#) the view of the United States from Germany is grim. Europe is overrun with refugees from NATO's wars in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa while President Trump makes impossible demands and offers nothing in return. In a scene reminiscent of Germany in the 1930s, angry masses [riot in the streets of Hamburg](#) protesting austerity and economic inequality. Like 18th-century French Royals, the European Union's [detached and disaffected](#) ruling elites struggle to deal with events beyond their control. The lessons of the past go unlearned, the classic mistakes of the ages repeated. The EU, [a post-World War II project](#) of the CIA, is broken. [America's role as a unipower](#) has ended in bitterness and without ceremony. The post-war world order held together for better or worse by the perception of American omnipotence and the ideology of casino capitalism is disintegrating fast and with it "The West as an entity."

Decline of the West

The end did not come suddenly. As disappointing as it may be to the [fulminating anti-Trump](#) political sphere, the "culture" of Western civilization has been in a state of confusion over its decline for some time. It is only befitting a cosmic joke that an American hotel/casino owner should bring down the curtain on it.

One hundred years ago in the run-up to World War I, the visionary historian/philosopher Oswald Spengler produced a radical analysis of civilization and culture entitled [The Decline of the West, Form and Actuality](#). Written before the war, but published in 1918 in the aftermath of German defeat, the book became an immediate success and has for nearly one hundred years been challenging [successive generations of geopoliticians](#) to come to terms with it.

In *Decline of the West*, Spengler defines "cultures" as an organic whole that evolves through a life cycle of spring, summer, autumn and winter and then fades away. The final and death phase of this cultural evolution Spengler defines as "civilization" itself or the rule of the rational where only "the brain rules because the soul has abdicated." As demonstrated throughout history, civilizations come and go and by World War I, Europe had achieved the high point in this cyclical experience and had no place to go but down.

As an inspiration to the young [James Burnham](#), Spengler divided the existence of all things into a duality of the formal and the real, between the thinkers and the doers, the "sword side" and the "spindle side" which at the end of its endless cycle returns to formlessness. To Spengler and to Burnham the final phase of civilization comes as democracy gives way to what Burnham called the Oligarchy but Spengler referred to as Caesarism. It is a place in which the once-vibrant institutions of civilization have become spiritually dead, money has become valueless, and all the wars are cruel private wars waged by tyrants for the private possession of the world.

Between the Hamburg crowd's protest under the banner of [Welcome to Hell](#), and Donald Trump's challenge to the Europeans whether the [West had the "will to survive"](#) the time has come for Americans to ask themselves some important questions; what then is this entity called the West that is disintegrating? Could this miserable ending have been avoided? And who and what exactly are responsible for bringing us to these gates of hell?

To Spengler, Western civilization was always a Faustian bargain. "In the poetry of the West, Faustian Man figures, first as Parzeval or Tristan, then (modified always into harmony with the epoch) as Hamlet, Don Quixote, Don Juan and eventually Faust or Werther." Having already sold his soul to the devil, Western Man has been freed to decide his own fate. From [Spengler to James Burnham to Patrick Buchanan](#) the school of 20th-century conservative and neoconservative/fascist thought has blamed the West's decline on the betrayal of this contract by "soft" liberal values. The Third Reich promised to turn the clock back by crushing the communist heresy and returning Germany to its martial glories of the past. Hitler's invasion of Russia was named Operation Barbarossa

after Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa's 12th-century crusade. But instead of a German renewal, Hitler's scheme to thwart the end only brought it nearer.

The post-Vietnam rise of Ronald Reagan and the new right promised an ideological revival as well, a return to core conservative values and a new morning in America. [In practice Reagan's](#) anti-government policies, his massive and unnecessary defense buildup and reckless trickle-down economics hastened its decline by decades and in the end destroyed the fabric of American society.

As it was in the past and remains now, the right's use of Machiavellian tactics to turn the tide in its favor almost always works and in the end invariably winds up bringing down the house. The bitter philosophical conflict between idealism (form) and reality and what constitutes a just society goes back to the origin of Western thought and has produced profound political contradictions throughout the centuries. The [arch-neoconservative Jeanne Kirkpatrick](#) argued back in 1979 in an essay regarding the emerging new class in American politics, "The goal of the new-class reformer--whether of Left or Right--is to bring the real into conformity with the ideal (that is, with an *idea* of reality), [which] manifests a broader belief that social institutions can and should conform to and serve abstract principles. The most serious problems with this rationalist approach were recognized by Aristotle, who criticized Plato's blueprint for the ideal state... Aristotle also argued that experience and law were better guides than reason alone to the good society and that Plato's proposal would sacrifice real goods to illusory ideals."

Kirkpatrick's essay on the dangers of idealism should stand as a textbook study for James Burnham's Machiavellians. Kirkpatrick would soon become the Reagan administration's spokeswoman at the UN for the new neoconservative class with its emphasis on "illusory ideals" of a worldwide democratic revolution and service to abstract principles [over experience and the law](#). But, as laid out by James Burnham in his [Machiavellians: Defenders of Freedom](#), the new Machiavellians must delude the masses with lies and outright fraud if necessary to maintain control.

Kirkpatrick's "idea of reality" was shaped by a hybrid neoconservative/fascist ideology whose roots lay in the social chaos of the early 20th century; World War I, the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the [Trotskyist schism within Marxist/Leninism](#). Supported by the Pentagon's top brass from World War II forward and then brewed together by the CIA with Europe's leftover fascist elites, Lenin's followers metastasized from Trotskyist intellectuals into Defense Intellectuals. From the 1970s onward they would become [a self-perpetuating force for war](#) inside both Democratic and Republican parties and a fifth column for undermining any thought of normal diplomatic relations with Russia. The Reagan administration provided a platform for this new class of former Trotskyists who were willing to sacrifice anything real or imagined for their illusory ideals. But the ultimate success of their rise to power relied on more than just a Marxist dialectic of [infiltration and subversion](#).

The neoconservative political takeover of the 1970s was made possible by a network of old right-wing European and American interests dedicated to overthrowing Western

democracies and replacing them with a new class of fascist transnational elites. These elites, currently referred to as globalists but prior to World War II as [Synarchists](#), have long plotted the overthrow of the nation state and rule by [a one-world government](#). But none of it could have happened without the covert assistance of rogue right-wing factions of the West's intelligence services and a brutal but sophisticated propaganda campaign backed by the CIA, to control the West's perceptions of what that world would look like.

Join us for Part 3 as we look at the synarchy of fascist organizations vying for power and influence prior to World War II and their revival and consolidation under an exclusive Cold War circle of corporate power aimed at eliminating the nation state and democracy.

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Part 3: [Engineering Public Perception to the Right for the Right](#)

by Paul Fitzgerald Elizabeth Gould

August 23, 2017

Democracy and freedom of expression are under attack. There is blood in the streets. How did it get that way? Where did it come from, what are its sources and what continues to drive it? This four part series will look at the origin of those sources and unlock connections that when understood should open doors of perception that have been locked shut for far too long.



This U.S. Government World War II propaganda poster gives an oddly non-threatening impression of Hitler.
 (Image by [Northwestern University Library, poster database](#). U.S. Government Printing Office.) [Permission](#) [Details](#)

Speaking at The Intervention in [Afghanistan and the Fall of De'tente Conference](#) at Lysebu Norway, 1995, former Carter National Security staff council member Dr. Gary Sick, (1976-1981) described the criteria for driving American war planners into action.

"It seems to me there is a difference here between facts and perceptions, and this seems to be where the problem ultimately lies. *Of course, perception is reality*, as far as policy makers are concerned, so what you believe, in fact, drives what you do regardless of what the facts are."

It's vital to remember Dr. Gary Sick's observation at this moment in our latest deep-state-anti-Russia identity crisis. After 16 years of war accompanied by political and financial crises America finds itself in a war of perception [with the world](#) and [with itself](#). If America's policy-makers continue to think they can create reality regardless of facts, then [whatever today's policy makers choose to see as real](#) they will try to make real. It's a simple formula for delusional thinking with a history of terrible consequences.

In the 1950s some of America's more creative defense intellectuals perceived Vietnam to be the linchpin of what they called the [Domino Theory](#) of a global communist expansion all the while ignoring the nationalist motivations of the North Vietnamese. That

misperception, intentional or not led to one of the greatest military blunders in history as well as devastating consequences for the community of defense intellectuals that had thought it up.

As described by author Fred Kaplan, "Vietnam brought out the dark side of nearly everyone inside America's national security machine. And it exposed something seamy and disturbing about the very enterprise of the defense intellectuals. It revealed that the concept of force underlying all their formulations and scenarios was an abstraction, practically useless as a guide to action."

Vietnam revealed [a conceptual failure](#) in an esoteric system of analysis created by an inbred group of defense intellectuals that was supposed to determine what was real and what was imagined. By 1968 its failure had broken the eastern establishment's hold over foreign policy and created the need to open de'tente with the Soviet Union. But for those on the right who had fought to roll back the very existence of the Soviet Union since its inception in 1917, de'tente was not an option and would be fought by a sophisticated Cold War propaganda machine that would outdo Nazi Germany.

Origins of a Plot

The popular perception that the United States and the Soviet Union were allies against Fascism during World War II disguises the fact that Wall Street's financial elites were not so secretly supporting the rearmament of Germany after World War I and were especially active in backing Adolph Hitler and the growth of the Nazi Wehrmacht prior to and throughout the war years.

According to Anthony C. Sutton in his 1976 book, [Wall Street and the Rise Of Hitler](#), "The build-up for European war both before and after 1933 was in great part due to Wall Street financial assistance in the 1920s to create a German cartel system, and to technical assistance from well-known American firms--- to build the German Wehrmacht... In brief, American companies associated with the Morgan-Rockefeller international investment bankers--- were intimately related to the growth of Nazi industry--- those firms controlled through the handful of financial houses, the Federal Reserve Bank system, the Bank for International Settlements, and their continuing international cooperative arrangements and cartels which attempt to control the course of world politics and economics."

A World War II study on Nazi occupied France published in 1947 by Harvard University's [William L. Langer](#), Chief of the Research and Analysis branch of the Office of Strategic Services, OSS, from 1942 to 1945 revealed the origins of a prewar Fascist-plot that may have paved the way for France's early capitulation in the war. Langer's report detailed in his book [Our Vichy Gamble](#) makes clear that the prewar ideological and nationalist lines between fascist Germany and France were never at issue when it came to Europe's big business interests. On the contrary; if successful, the plot's French backers stood to benefit immensely from a German-ruled Europe. Langer writes:

"Germany could count on more than enough eager supporters among French industrial and banking interests--in short, among those who even before the war had turned to Nazi Germany and had looked to Hitler as the savior of Europe from Communism--- These people were as good fascists as any in Europe" Many of them had long had extensive and intimate business relations with German interests and were still dreaming of a new system of 'synarchy,' which meant government of Europe on fascist principles by an international brotherhood of financiers and industrialists."

The brotherhood of synarchists was not the only hard right wing European group dreaming of a pan-European Union along fascist lines. In London in the mid-1930s, an alliance of militant e'migre' groups from 16 Central European countries formed a secret international Catholic organization headed by a former Tsarist general. Known at the time as [*Intermarium*](#) (and again today) for that part of Europe bordered by the Adriatic, the Baltic, Black, Aegean and Ionian seas its secret mission was to form an anti-Communist cordon sanitaire against Russia. Stephen Dorril, author of [*MI6: Fifty Years of Operations*](#) writes "The dream of a postwar [World War I] Pan-Danubian [Con]Federation from the Baltic to the Aegean under Habsburg rule -- a sort of recreation of the Austro-Hungarian Empire -- was kept alive under the direction of the pretender to the throne Archduke Otto von Habsburg. The Monarchists had had the enthusiastic support of Winston Churchill, who, like many of its adherents, had been a member of the Brussels-based right-wing Pan European Union (PEU), founded in 1922 by Hapsburg and Count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi as 'the only way of guarding against an eventual world hegemony by Russia'."

Another, even more militant group was the *Promethean League of the Nations subjugated by Moscow* (soon to be shortened to the Promethean League) which focused mainly on liberating the non-Russian ethnicities in Ukraine and Georgia. The end of World War I and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire had left Poland in charge of Western Ukraine which, according to author Dorril's sources, sparked Polish ambitions to launch an anti-communist counter revolution inside Russia and capture its own empire. "The League 'played a large part in Polish aspirations for the development of a bloc of states in Eastern Europe, stretching from Finland to the Caucasus, in which Poland could become a true great power by exercising her 'natural' position of leadership.'"

Despite Poland's "'natural' position of leadership," her occupation of Western Ukraine came up against the fiercely racist Galician separatists of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). OUN viewed their own racial beliefs as more in league with Germany's National Socialists (Nazis) than anything Poland had to offer or even Europe's more doctrinaire Fascists and Nazi money soon came pouring in. The OUN rejected the Promethean League outright and struck out at Poland's leadership role. In 1934 OUN's leaders, Stefan Bandera, Yaroslav Stetsko and Mykola Lebed were arrested by Polish authorities for the murder of the Polish Interior minister and sentenced to death only to later have their sentences reduced to life in prison. But while the League of Nations branded the OUN a "terrorist syndicate" British Intelligence's head of station in Finland, MI6's Harry Carr, recruited Bandera's followers. From the mid-1930s onward MI6 joined in funding the Galician OUN's anti-Soviet terror operations together with Germany's

military intelligence unit, the Abwehr. The OUN-B (B for Bandera) would go on to establish their reputation for cruelty as Waffen SS extermination squads during operation Barbarossa.

Whether Carr was aware of the Nazi support for OUN or perhaps even coordinated with them is still an open question, but as of 1934 British and German sympathies for Eastern Europe's terrorists were clearly on the same page when it came to Russia and it didn't end with a random and isolated MI6 station chief.

As with their French associates, influential right wing networks within Britain's intelligence services found common cause with Eastern Europe's fascist anti-communist resistance movements even after the Soviets became Britain's ally in 1941. One group within the rightwing of the Conservative Party, the Imperial Policy Group (IPG) which maintained strong ties to the head of the Polish government-in-exile, General Wladyslaw Sikorski, was even known to favor a Nazi victory to that of the Soviet Union. Authoritarian but not outwardly Fascist prior to the war, *Intermarium* immediately joined up with Nazi intelligence following German occupation and remained so throughout the war. By the end of 1944, MI6 was actively recruiting known collaborators and fascists amongst all the exile organizations and as Soviet troops moved east, they would be activated to provide intelligence, propaganda and operational support for what London was certain was a coming war against Moscow.

Join us for Part 4 as we explore the post-World War II merger of anti-Soviet covert forces and the emergence of an elite intelligence operation known as the Cercle, which would secretly begin the process of shifting the West's political dialogue away from the center and toward their extreme Fascist right-wing views.

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Part 4: Ceaseless Propaganda, Outright Lies and Distorted Facts

by Paul Fitzgerald Elizabeth Gould

August 24, 2017

Democracy and freedom of expression are under attack. There is blood in the streets. How did it get that way? Where did it come from, what are its sources and what continues to drive it? This four part series will look at the origin of those sources and unlock connections that when understood should open doors of perception that have been locked shut for far too long.



Tricksters have embraced life's paradoxes by creating coherence through confusion and disorder to get to the truth. Neocons use Trickster tactics that never lead to coherence. (Image by [Procrustes4u](#)) [Permission](#) [Details](#)

In keeping with the goal of providing intelligence, propaganda and operational support for what London believed was sure to be a coming war against Moscow, in 1946 the British and Commonwealth Foreign Office revived its anti-Nazi "Black Propaganda organization" the Political Warfare Executive (PWE). Renamed the Information Research Department (IRD) and funded by the CIA, the IRD would operate from 1946 until 1977 as a covert anti-Communist propaganda unit producing, distributing and circulating unattributable propaganda. According to Paul Lashmar and James Oliver, authors of [Britain's Secret Propaganda War](#), "the vast IRD enterprise had one sole aim: To spread its ceaseless propaganda output (i.e. a mixture of outright lies and distorted facts) among top-ranking journalists who worked for major agencies and magazines, including Reuters and the BBC, as well as every other available channel. It worked abroad to discredit communist parties in Western Europe which might gain a share of power by entirely democratic means, and at home to discredit the British Left".

IRD was to become a self-fulfilling disinformation machine for the far-right-wing of the international intelligence elite and together with the CIA's [Congress for Cultural Freedom](#) (CCF) set out to [establish a new brand of Western ideology](#) that would delegitimize not just Communism but the very idea of the "Left" itself. The jumping off spot was the 1950 Berlin conference. The Congress for Cultural Freedom's fourteen-point "Freedom Manifesto" was to identify the West with freedom but the right-wing rhetoric emanating from the podium chilled even MI6's own A.J. 'Freddie' Ayer, Professor of Philosophy at University College, London, and Oxford historian [Hugh Trevor Roper](#). Stephen Dorril writes "What irritated Ayer and Trevor-Roper was the 'hysterical atmosphere' in which the Congress was held, orchestrated as it was by revengeful ex-Communists'... Supporting the idea of 'tolerance', they were repelled by the delirious applause that greeted speeches calling for war against the Soviet Union."

According to Frances Stoner Saunders, author of *The Cultural Cold War: The CIA And The World of Arts and Letters* "Hugh Trevor-Roper was appalled by the provocative tone... "There was a speech by [Franz Borkenau](#) which was very violent and indeed almost hysterical. He spoke in German and I regret to say that as I listened and I heard the baying voices of approval from the huge audiences, I felt, well, these are the same people who seven years ago were probably baying in the same way to similar German denunciations of Communism coming from Dr. Goebbels in the Sports Palast. And I felt, well, what sort of people are we identifying with? That was the greatest shock to me. There was a moment during the Congress when I felt that we were being invited to summon up Beelzebub in order to defeat Stalin."

Warnings by both Trevor-Roper and Ayer would go unheeded and the CCF would go on to co-opt generations of Europeans and Americans with a covert totalitarian cultural narrative that most would be deceived into believing was a product of the West's genuine free expression.

Working alongside Beelzebub in the late 1940s and early 1950s were a number of old familiar faces from the far right wing of European politics bent on reviving a form of Austro-Hungarian Empire including its heir apparent [Archduke Otto von Habsburg](#) and the (PEU) Pan European Union's President for life, Count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi. In 1949 Habsburg founded the hard right wing [Centre for European Documentation and Information](#) (CEDI) with the intention of breaking the political isolation of Franco's fascist Spain. In 1948 a rival group to PEU known as the European Movement, the EM was established with CIA assistance to work toward the creation and integration of a United Europe along strictly anti-communist lines.

With the help and guidance of the CIA on September 25th 1952, a high level undercover organization of powerbrokers known as the Bilderberg Group which included Netherlands Prince Bernhard, French Prime Minister Antoine Pinay, Italian Prime Minister Alcide de Gaspari, American banker and [globalist George Ball](#) and CIA Director General Walter Bedell Smith, quietly came into existence. Numerous questions have arisen about the true purpose of the Bilderberg Group, its role as the world's most influential forum, its aristocratic bent and its supposed One World Government agenda. Antoine Pinay had been part of Vichy France's collaborationist government; banker George Ball believed the nation state itself had already become obsolete and the world better off run by as an East India Company-style corporation; [Prince Bernhard profited from his various Nazi affiliations](#), before during and after the war. But none of this controversy was enough to halt its ongoing meetings and it continues to be the place where the elite's elite gather once each year to manage their ongoing takeover of the planet. But while media attention focuses on Bilderberg, little to no attention has ever been focused on an even more select group organized within it that may have played the deciding role in connecting Europe's pre-World War II fascist movements to today's drumbeat for war with Russia.

The Pinay Cercle and its Fascist Roots

That a small elite circle of European aristocrats, bankers, politicians and top military/intelligence officials should have secretly met after World War II to plot the future of the world should come as no surprise at this late date. The United States has no less than 17 intelligence agencies that operate in secret and those are just the ones we know about. The American public has no awareness of what these agencies do and the unseen power they represent as an unelected [second government](#). That an elite Bilderberger like David Rockefeller should claim he did not learn about this elite circle's existence until 1967 and then express shock by its "ultra-right wing" makeup should be a wakeup call to all Americans that things are not what they appear to be. Rockefeller writes in his memoirs:

"Bilderberg overlapped for a time with my membership in a relatively obscure but potentially even more controversial body known as the Presenti group. I had first learned about it in October 1967 when [Carlo Presenti](#), the owner of a number of important Italian corporations, took me aside at a Chase investment forum in Paris and invited me to join... It was a select group, he told me, mostly Europeans... Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman, and Konrad Adenauer were founding members" Antoine Pinay, a former French President; Giulio Andreotti, several times prime minister of Italy"Otto von Habsburg claimant to all lands of the Austro-Hungarian empire" and Jean-Paul Leon Violet, a conservative French *intellectuel*."

Rockefeller goes on to recount how Presenti's small group, actually known as the [Pinay Circle](#) or just Le Cercle, met three times a year and was occasionally joined by Henry Kissinger when meeting in Washington. "*Maître* Violet, who had close connections with Deuxième Bureau of the Service des Renseignements (the French CIA), provided lengthy background briefings. Using an overhead projector, Violet displayed transparency after transparency filled with data [supposedly] documenting Soviet infiltration of governments and supporting his belief that the threat of global Communist victory was quite real."

Rockefeller found the discussion group fascinating but also found their overtly Fascist politics and paranoid talk of a growing "Red Menace" to be highly unbelievable. After being alerted by his fellow associates at Chase that his membership in this high level group "could be construed as 'consorting with reactionaries,'" he withdrew. But with the war in Vietnam showing no sign of progress and with the January 1968 Tet offensive about to demonstrate the Pentagon's hopeless incompetence, the old Fascist network of pre-World War II anti-Soviet alliances was about to make a very big comeback.

Key to that comeback was one time Le Cercle chairman and British agent-provocateur [Brian Rossiter Crozier](#) and his prote'ge' [Robert Moss](#). At the request of the CIA and MI6, Crozier had taken over the CIA's propaganda outfit Forum World Features (FWF) in 1965 and by 1966 had privatized it to maintain its cover as a one of the CIA's most prolific and successful propaganda outlets. Despite being exposed in *Ramparts Magazine* in March 1967, FWF would continue on for 8 years during which Crozier would spawn a

second CIA/MI6 venture known as the [*Institute for the Study of Conflict*](#) (ISC) in 1970. With the power of an officially sanctioned Institute behind him, Crozier would now be able to do more than just fabricate and distort news; he would now be able to create unsubstantiated "proof" of the Cercle's right-wing claims of Soviet penetration and infiltration. And when approached by the Cercle's Carlo Presenti to "study" the problem of de'tente, Crozier would begin a decade of preparation for realizing a long sought goal of Europe's pre-World War II Fascist elite; the rollback of Soviet power and the delegitimization of socialist, nationalist and even moderate Western democratic regimes, including the United States.

The Institute for the Study of Conflict would not just issue reports to the West's elites supporting the Cercle's "Red Menace" fantasies. ISC and its Washington based sister organization WISC, would create the necessary false perceptions to justify action. Throughout the 1970s and 80s Crozier's right-wing Red Menace propaganda would completely win over the West's politicized intelligence services. Totally convinced by their own propaganda that the Soviets were a growing menace, they would completely miss the ongoing dissolution of the Soviet Union and in the end be taken by complete surprise upon its collapse in 1991.

Please join us again in September for the conclusion to our multipart series when we resume with the final installments detailing how events created by national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski during the Carter administration, opened the door for a globalist/syndicalist takeover under the cover of American Empire -- a takeover in the works since the collapse of the Habsburg Empire in 1918.

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--The Universal Empire Four Part Series April, 2017

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Part 1: American Imperialism Leads the World Into Dante's Vision of Hell

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



"The Gate of Hell" by Gustave Doré for Dante's "Inferno." ([Wikimedia](#))

Editor's note: This is the first part of a four-part series on Truthdig, an examination of the current stage of the neocon takeover of American policy that began after World War II. Read [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#) & [Part 4](#).

"Lasciate ogne speranza, voi ch'intrate. (Abandon all hope ye who enter here.)"—Dante, "The Divine Comedy," Inferno (Part 1), Canto 3, Line 9

Before the Tomahawk missiles start flying between Moscow and New York, Americans had better educate themselves fast about the forces and the people who claim that [Russia covered up](#) a Syrian government gas attack on Syrians. Proof no longer seems to matter in the rush to further transform the world into Dante's vision of Hell. Accusations made by anonymous sources, spurious sources and outright frauds have become enough. Washington's paranoia and confusion bear an uncanny resemblance to the final days of the Third Reich, when the leadership in Berlin became completely unglued.

Tensions have been building since fall with accusations that [Russian media interfered](#) with our presidential election and is a growing threat to America's national security. The [latest WikiLeaks release](#) revealed the tools the CIA uses for hacking. One theory is that the CIA's own contract hackers were behind Hillary Clinton's email leaks and not Russians. The U.S. has a long reputation of [accusing others](#) of things they didn't do and planting fake news stories to back it up in order to provide a cause for war. The work of secret counterintelligence services is to misinform the public in order to shape opinion, and that's what this is.

The current U.S. government campaign to slander Russia over anything and everything it does bears all the earmarks of a classic disinformation campaign, but this time is even crazier. Considering that Washington has put Russia, China and Iran on its anti-globalist hit list from which no one is allowed to escape, drummed-up charges against them

shouldn't come as a surprise. But accusing the Russians of undermining American democracy and interfering in an election is tantamount to an [act of war](#), and that simply is not going to wash.

This time, the United States is not demonizing an ideological enemy (USSR) or a religious one (al-Qaida, ISIS, etc.). It's making this latest venture into the blackest of propaganda a race war, the way the Nazis made their invasion of Russia a race war in 1941, and that is not a war the United States can justify or win.

The level and shrillness of the latest disinformation campaign has been growing for some time. But the American public has lived in a culture of fake news (formerly known as propaganda) for so long many have grown to [accept fake news](#) as real news. George Orwell saw this coming, and here it is. As a big supporter of U.S. military intervention in Cuba and an avowed practitioner of "[yellow journalism](#)," in 1897, William Randolph Hearst admonished the illustrator he'd sent to Cuba who'd found [no war to illustrate](#): "You furnish the pictures, and I'll furnish the war." Hearst eventually got his war, and [America's experiment in imperialism](#) was off and running.

Americans should know by now that their country's wars are fertile ground for biased, one-sided, xenophobic, fake news, and the United States has been in a permanent state of war since 1941. Although the targets have shifted over the years, the purpose of the propaganda hasn't. Most cultures are coerced, cajoled or simply threatened into accepting known falsehoods demonizing their enemies during wartime. But no matter how frequently repeated or cleverly told, no lie can hold if the war never ends. The legendary cold warrior, Time and Life magazines' Henry Luce, considered his personal fight against Communism to be "a declaration of private war." He'd even asked one of his executives whether or not the idea was probably "[unlawful and probably mad](#)." Nonetheless, despite his doubts about his own sanity, Luce allowed the CIA to use his Time/Life magazines as a [cover for the agency's operations](#) and to provide credentials to CIA personnel.

Luce was not alone in his service to the CIA's propaganda wars. Recently [declassified documents](#) reveal the CIA's propaganda extended to all the mainstream media outlets. Dozens of the most respected journalists and opinion makers during the Cold War considered it a privilege to keep American public opinion from straying away from CIA control.

Now that the new Cold War has turned hot, we are led to believe that the Russians have breached this wall of not-so-truthful journalists and rattled the foundation of everything we are supposed to hold dear about the purity of the U.S. election process and "freedom of the press" in America.

Black propaganda is all about lying. Authoritarian governments lie regularly. Totalitarian governments do it so often nobody believes them. A government based on democratic principles like the United States is supposed to speak the truth, but when the [U.S.](#)

[government's own documents](#) reveal it has been lying over and over again for decades, the jig is up.

Empires have been down this road before, and it doesn't end well. Americans are now being told they should consider all Russian opinion as fake and ignore any information that challenges the mainstream media and U.S. government on what is truth and what is the lie. But for the first time in memory, Americans have become aware that the people Secretary of State Colin Powell once called "[the crazies](#)" have taken the country over the cliff.

The [neoconservative hitmen and hit-ladies](#) of Washington have a long list of targets that pass from generation to generation. Their influence on American government has been catastrophic, yet it never seems to end. Sen. J. William Fulbright identified their irrational system for making endless war in Vietnam 45 years ago in a New Yorker article titled "[Reflections in Thrall to Fear](#)."

The truly remarkable thing about this Cold War psychology is the totally illogical transfer of the burden of proof from those who make charges to those who question them. ... The Cold Warriors, instead of having to say how they knew that Vietnam was part of a plan for the Communization of the world, so manipulated the terms of the public discussion as to be able to demand that the skeptics prove that it was not. If the skeptics could not then the war must go on—to end it would be recklessly risking the national security.

Fulbright realized that Washington's resident crazies had turned the world inside out and concluded, "We come to the ultimate illogic: war is the course of prudence and sobriety until the case for peace is proved under impossible rules of evidence [or never]—or until the enemy surrenders. Rational men cannot deal with each other on this basis." But these were not rational men, and their need to further their irrational quest only increased with the loss of the Vietnam War.

Having long forgotten the lessons of Vietnam and after a tragic repeat in Iraq that the highly respected [Gen. William Odom](#) considered "[equivalent to the Germans at Stalingrad](#)," the crazies are at it again. With no one to stop them, they have kicked off an updated version of the Cold War against Russia as if nothing had changed since the last one ended in 1992. The original Cold War was immensely expensive to the United States and was conducted at the height of America's military and financial power. The United States is no longer that country. Since the Cold War was supposedly about the ideological "threat" of Communism, Americans need to ask before it's too late exactly what kind of threat does a capitalist/Christian Russia pose to the leader of the "Free World" this time?

Muddying the waters in a way not seen since Sen. Joe McCarthy and the height of the Red Scare in the 1950s, the "[Countering Disinformation and Propaganda Act](#)" signed into law without fanfare by President Obama in December 2016 officially authorizes a government censorship bureaucracy comparable only to George Orwell's fictional Ministry of Truth in his novel "1984." Referred to as [the Global Engagement Center](#), the official purpose of the [new bureaucracy](#) will be to "recognize, understand, expose, and

counter foreign state and non-state propaganda and disinformation efforts aimed at undermining United States national security interests.”

But the real purpose of this totally Orwellian center will be to manage, eliminate or censor any dissenting views that challenge Washington’s newly manufactured version of the truth and to intimidate, harass or jail anyone who tries. Criminalizing dissent is nothing new in time of war, but after 16 years of ceaseless warfare in Afghanistan, a Stalingrad-like defeat in Iraq and with Henry Kissinger advising President Trump on foreign policy, the Global Engagement Center has already assumed the characteristics of a dangerous farce.

The brilliant American satirical songwriter of the 1950s and ’60s Tom Lehrer once attributed his early retirement to Henry Kissinger, saying, “Political satire became obsolete [in 1973] when Henry Kissinger was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.” Kissinger’s duplicitous attempts at securing an “honorable peace” in America’s war in Vietnam deserved at least ridicule. His long, drawn-out negotiations extended the war for four years at the cost of 22,000 American lives and countless Vietnamese. According to University of California researcher Larry Berman, author of 2001’s [“No Peace, No Honor: Nixon, Kissinger, and Betrayal in Vietnam,”](#) the Paris Peace Accords negotiated by Kissinger were never even expected to work, but were only to serve as a justification for a brutal and permanent air war once they were violated. Berman [writes](#), “Nixon recognized that winning the peace, like the war, would be impossible to achieve, but he planned for indefinite stalemate by using the B-52s to prop up the government of South Vietnam until the end of his presidency. ... [But] Watergate derailed the plan.”

The Vietnam War had broken the Eastern establishment’s hold over foreign policy long before Nixon and Kissinger’s entry onto the scene. Détente with the Soviet Union had come about during the Johnson administration in an effort to bring some order out of the chaos, and Kissinger had carried it through Nixon and Ford. But while dampening one crisis, détente created an even worse one by breaking open the longstanding internal-deep-state-struggle for control of U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union. Vietnam represented more than just a strategic defeat; it represented a [conceptual failure](#) in the half-century battle to contain Soviet-style Communism. The [Pentagon Papers](#) revealed the extent of the U.S. government’s deceit and incompetence, but rather than concede that defeat and chart a new course, its proponents fought back with a Machiavellian ideological campaign known as the “experiment in competitive analysis” or, for short, [Team B](#).

Writing in the Los Angeles Times in August 2004 in an article titled [“It’s Time to Bench ‘Team B,’ ”](#) Lawrence J. Korb, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and assistant secretary of defense from 1981 to 1985, came forward on what he knew to be the real tragedy represented by 9/11. “The reports of the Sept. 11 commission and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence missed the real problem facing the intelligence community, which is not organization or culture but something known as the ‘Team B’ concept. And the real villains are the hard-liners who created the concept out of an

unwillingness to accept the unbiased and balanced judgments of intelligence professionals.”

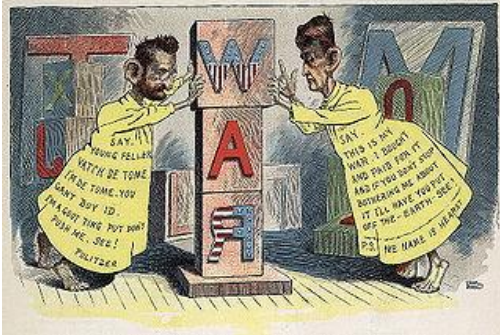
Part 2 traces Team B’s hard-liners back to their roots in the [Fourth International](#), the Trotskyist branch of the Communist International and the Machiavellian culture of American philosopher and political theorist James Burnham, whose present-day disciples threaten to ignite a third world war.

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Part 2: How Neocons Push for War by Cooking the Books

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



An 1898 cartoon by Leon Barritt features newspaper publishers Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst as Yellow Kid, a cartoon character of the day. It is a satire of their role in drumming up support to go to war with Spain. ([Wikimedia](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Yellow_Kid_building_a_monument_to_war.jpg))

Editor's note: This is the second part of a four-part series on Truthdig, an examination of the current stage of the neocon takeover of American policy that began after World War II. Read [Part 1](#), [Part 3](#) & [Part 4](#).

Most Americans outside Washington policy circles don't know about Team B, where it came from or what it did, nor are they aware of its roots in the Fourth International, the Trotskyist branch of the Communist International. Lawrence J. Korb, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and assistant secretary of defense from 1981 to 1985, attributed the intelligence failure represented by 9/11 to Team B and had this to say about it in [a 2004 article](#) for the Los Angeles Times.

The roots of the problem go back to May 6, 1976, when the director of Central Intelligence, George H.W. Bush, created the first Team B to assess a report his agency had done on Soviet strategic objectives. The report — a National Intelligence Estimate, or NIE, completed the previous year — did not endorse a worst-case scenario of Soviet capabilities and, as a result, some outsiders demanded access to the same classified intelligence used by the CIA in preparing it so that they could come to their own conclusions.

The concept of a “competitive analysis” of the data done by an alternative team had been opposed by William Colby, Bush's predecessor as CIA director and a career professional. But Bush caved in, under pressure from President Ford, who was facing a strong challenge from right-wing Republicans in that year's presidential primary, as well as from then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's Pentagon, which was trying to undermine support for Henry Kissinger's detente with the Soviet Union.

The outside experts on Team B were led by Harvard professor Richard Pipes and included such well-known Cold War hawks as Paul Nitze, William Van Cleave and Paul Wolfowitz. Not surprisingly, Team B concluded that the intelligence specialists had badly underestimated the threat by relying too heavily on hard data instead of extrapolating Soviet intentions from ideology.

The Team B report was enthusiastically received by conservative groups such as the Committee on the Present Danger. But the report turned out to be grossly inaccurate. ... Team B was right about one thing. The CIA estimate was indeed flawed. But it was flawed in the other direction.

Korb went on to explain that a 1978 Senate Select Committee on Intelligence review concluded “that the selection of Team B members had yielded a flawed composition of political views and biases. And a 1989 review concluded that the Soviet threat had been ‘substantially overestimated’ in the CIA’s annual intelligence estimates. Still, the failure of Team B in 1976 did not deter the hard-liners from challenging the CIA’s judgments for the next three decades.”

Now long forgotten, the origins of the Team B “problem” actually stretched back to the radical political views and biases of political theorist James Burnham, his association with the Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky and the creation of powerful Eastern establishment ad hoc groups: the [Committee on the Present Danger](#) and the [American Security Council](#).

From the outset of the Cold War in the late 1940s, an odd coalition of ex-Trotskyist radicals and right-wing business associations had lobbied heavily for big military budgets, advanced weapons systems and aggressive action to confront Soviet Communism. Vietnam was intended to prove the brilliance of their theories, but as described by author Fred Kaplan in “[The Wizards of Armageddon](#)” (page 336): “Vietnam brought out the dark side of nearly everyone inside America’s national security machine. And it exposed something seamy and disturbing about the very enterprise of the defense intellectuals. It revealed that the concept of force underlying all their formulations and scenarios was an abstraction, practically useless as a guide to action.”

Kaplan ended by writing: “The disillusionment for some became nearly total.” Vietnam represented more than just a strategic defeat for America’s defense intellectuals; it represented [a conceptual failure](#) in the half-century battle to contain Soviet-style Communism, but for Team B, that disillusionment represented the opportunity of a lifetime.

Trotskyist Intellectuals Become the New York Intellectuals Become Defense Intellectuals

Developed by an inbred class of former Trotskyist intellectuals, the Team B approach represented a radical transformation of America’s national security bureaucracy into a new kind of elitist cult. In the 1960s, Robert McNamara’s numbers and statistics justified bad policy decisions. Now, personal agendas and ethnic grudges would turn American foreign policy into an ideological crusade. Today, those in control of that crusade fight desperately to maintain their grip, but only by de-encrypting the evolution of this secret “[double government](#)” can anyone understand America’s unrelenting post-Vietnam drift into despotism over the last 40 years.

Rooted in what can only be described as cult thinking, the [Team B experiment](#) tore down what was left of the CIA's pre-Vietnam professional objectivity by subjecting it to politicization. Earlier in the decade, the CIA's Office of Strategic Research (OSR) had been [pressured by Nixon and Kissinger](#) to corrupt its analysis to justify increased defense spending, but the Team B's ideological focus and partisan makeup so exaggerated the threat that the process could never return to normal.

The campaign was driven by the Russophobic neoconservative cabal that included Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Pipes, Richard Perle and a handful of old anti-Soviet hardliners such as Paul Nitze and Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham. It began with a 1974 article in The Wall Street Journal by famed nuclear strategist and former Trotskyist [Albert Wohlstetter](#) decrying America's supposed nuclear vulnerability. It ended two years later with a ritualistic bloodletting at the CIA, signaling that ideology and not fact-based analysis had gained an exclusive hold on America's bureaucracy.

The ideology referred to as [neoconservatism](#) can claim many godfathers, if not godmothers. Roberta Wohlstetter's [reputation](#) as one of the pre-eminent Cold Warriors of RAND Corp. was equal to her husband's. The couple's infamous parties at their Santa Monica home acted as a kind of initiation rite for the rising class of "defense intellectual."

But the title of founding father might best be applied to [James Burnham](#). A convert from Trotsky's inner circle, Burnham championed the anti-democratic takeover then occurring in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy in his 1941 "[The Managerial Revolution](#)" and his 1943 "[The Machiavellians: Defenders of Freedom](#)," while in his 1945 "Lenin's Heir," he switched his admiration, if only tongue in cheek, from Trotsky to Stalin.

George Orwell criticized Burnham's cynical elitist vision in his 1946 essay "[Second Thoughts on James Burnham](#)," writing: "What Burnham is mainly concerned to show [in "The Machiavellians"] is that a democratic society has never existed and, so far as we can see, never will exist. Society is of its nature oligarchical, and the power of the oligarchy always rests upon force and fraud. ... Power can sometimes be won and maintained without violence, but never without fraud."

Orwell is said to have modeled his novel "1984" on Burnham's vision of the coming totalitarian state, which he described as "a new kind of society, neither capitalist nor Socialist, and probably based upon slavery."

As a Princeton- and Oxford-educated scholar (one of his professors at Balliol College was J.R.R. Tolkien), Burnham landed a position as a writer and an instructor in the philosophy department at New York University just in time for the 1929 Wall Street crash. Although initially uninterested in politics and hostile to Marxism, by 1931, Burnham was radicalized by the Great Depression and, alongside fellow NYU philosophy instructor [Sidney Hook](#), was drawn to Marxism.

Burnham found Trotsky's use of "[dialectical materialism](#)" to explain the interplay between the human and the historical forces in his "History of the Russian Revolution" to be brilliant. His subsequent review of Trotsky's book would bring the two men together and begin for Burnham a six-year odyssey through America's Communist left that would, in this strange saga, ultimately transform him into the agent of its destruction.

As founder of the Red Army and a firebrand Marxist, Trotsky had dedicated his life to the spread of a worldwide Communist revolution. Stalin opposed Trotsky's views as being too ambitious, and the power struggle that followed Lenin's death splintered the party. By their very nature, the Trotskyists were [expert at infighting, infiltration and disruption](#).

Burnham reveled in his role as a Trotskyist intellectual and in the endless debates over the fundamental principle of Communism (dialectical materialism) behind Trotsky's crusade. The "Communist Manifesto" approved the tactic of subverting larger and more populist political parties ([entryism](#)), and following Trotsky's expulsion from the Communist party in November 1927, his followers exploited it. The most well-known example of entryism was the so-called French turn, when in 1934 the French Trotskyists entered the much larger French Socialist Party (the SFIO) with the intention of winning over the more militant elements to their side.

That same year, the American followers of Trotsky in the Communist League of America (the CLA) did a French turn on the American Workers Party (the AWP) in a move that elevated the AWP's James Burnham into the role of a Trotsky lieutenant and chief adviser.

Burnham liked the toughness of the Bolsheviks and despised the weakness of the liberals. According to his [biographer, Daniel Kelly](#): "He took great pride in what he saw as its hard-headed view of the world in contrast to philosophies rooted in 'dreams and illusions.' " Burnham also delighted in the tactics of infiltrating and subverting other leftist parties and in 1935 "fought tirelessly for the French turn" of a far larger Socialist Party (the SP), some 20,000 strong. The Trotskyists intended "to capture its left wing and its youth division, the Young People's Socialist League (YPSL)," Kelly wrote, "and take the converts with them when they left."

Burnham remained a "[Trotskyist intellectual](#)" from 1934 until 1940. But although he labored six years for the party, it was said of him that he was never of the party, and as the new decade began, he renounced both Trotsky and "the 'philosophy of Marxism' dialectical materialism" altogether. He summed up his feelings in a letter of resignation on May 21, 1940: "Of the most important beliefs, which have been associated with the Marxist Movement, whether in its reformist, Leninist, Stalinist or Trotskyist variants, there is virtually none which I accept in its traditional form. I regard these beliefs as either false or obsolete or meaningless; or in a few cases, as at best true only in a form so restricted and modified as no longer properly to be called Marxist."

In 1976, Burnham wrote to a legendary secret agent, identified by biographer Kelly as the British political analyst [Brian Crozier](#), that he had never swallowed dialectical materialism or the ideology of Marxism but was merely being pragmatic given the rise of Hitler and the Depression.

But given the influential role Burnham would come to play in creating the new revolutionary class of neoconservatives, and their central role in using Trotsky's tactics to lobby against any relationship with the Soviet Union, it's hard to believe Burnham's involvement with Trotsky's Fourth International was only an intellectual exercise in pragmatism.

Part 3 will explore how James Burnham's involvement with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and the creation of the Congress for Cultural Freedom set the stage for a sophisticated doctrinal campaign that would neutralize any political opposition (Communist or not) to Anglo-American culture and make the world safe for the rise of the Machiavellian elite.

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Part 3: How the CIA Created a Fake Western Reality for 'Unconventional Warfare'

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



"The Evil Spirits of the Modern Daily Press," a cartoon from Puck magazine in 1888. ([Wikimedia](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Evil_Spirits_of_the_Modern_Daily_Press.jpg))

Editor's note: This is the third part of a four-part series on Truthdig, an examination of the current stage of the neocon takeover of American policy that began after World War II. Read [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#) & [Part 4](#).

The odd, psychologically conflicted and politically divisive ideology referred to as [neoconservatism](#) can claim many godfathers. Irving Kristol (father of William Kristol), Albert Wohlstetter, Daniel Bell, Norman Podhoretz and Sidney Hook come to mind. And there are many others. But in both theory and practice, the title of founding father for the neoconservative agenda of endless warfare that rules the thinking of America's defense and foreign policies today might best be applied to [James Burnham](#).

His writings in the 1930s provided a refined Oxford intellectual's gloss to the Socialist Workers Party, and as a close adviser to Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky and his [Fourth International](#), he learned the tactics and strategies of infiltration and political subversion firsthand. Burnham reveled in his role as a "Trotskyist intellectual," pulling dirty tricks on his political foes in competing Marxist movements by turning their loyalties and looting their best talent.

Burnham renounced his allegiance to Trotsky and Marxism in all its forms in 1940, but he would take their tactics and strategies for infiltration and subversion with him and would turn their method of dialectical materialism against them. His 1941 book, "[The Managerial Revolution](#)," would bring him fame and fortune and establish him as an astute, if not exactly accurate, political prophet chronicling the rise of a new class of technocratic elite. His next book, "The Machiavellians," confirmed his movement away from Marxist idealism to a very cynical and often cruel realism with his belief in the

inevitable failure of democracy and the rise of the oligarch. In 1943 he put it all to use in a memo for the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (the OSS) in which his Trotskyist anti-Stalinism would find its way into the agency's thinking. And in his 1947 book, "The Struggle for the World," Burnham expanded his confrontational/adversarial dialectic toward the Soviet Union into a permanent, apocalyptic policy of endless war.

By 1947 James Burnham's transformation from Communist radical to New World Order American conservative was complete. His "Struggle for the World" had done a [French Turn](#) on Trotsky's permanent Communist revolution and turned it into a permanent battle plan for a global American empire. All that was needed to complete Burnham's dialectic was a permanent enemy, and that would require a sophisticated psychological campaign to keep the hatred of Russia alive for generations.

The Rise of the Machiavellians

In 1939 Sidney Hook, Burnham's colleague at New York University and fellow Marxist philosopher, had helped to found an anti-Stalinist Committee for Cultural Freedom as part of a campaign against Moscow. During the war Hook, too, had abandoned Marxism and, like Burnham, somehow found himself in the warm embrace of the right wing of America's intelligence community during and after World War II. Hook was viewed by the Communist Party as a traitor and "counter-revolutionary reptile" for his activities and by 1942 was informing on his fellow comrades to the FBI.

Selling impoverished and dispossessed European elites on the virtues of American culture was essential to building America's empire after the war, and Burnham's early writings proved the inspiration from which a new counterculture of "freedom" would be built. As veterans of internecine Trotskyist warfare, both Burnham and Hook were practiced at the arts of infiltration and subversion, and with Burnham's "[The Machiavellians: Defenders of Freedom](#)" as their blueprint, they set out to color anything the Soviets did or said with dark intent.

As Burnham articulated clearly in "The Machiavellians," his version of freedom meant anything but intellectual freedom or those freedoms defined by America's Constitution. What it really meant was conformity and submission. Burnham's freedom only applied to those intellectuals (the Machiavellians) willing to tell people the hard truth about the unpopular political realities they faced. These were the realities that would usher in a brave new world of the managerial class, who would set about denying Americans the very democracy they thought they already owned. As Orwell observed about Burnham's Machiavellian beliefs in his 1946 "Second Thoughts": "Power can sometimes be won or maintained without violence, but never without fraud, because it is necessary to use the masses."

By 1949 the CIA was actively in the business of defrauding the masses by secretly supporting the so-called non-Communist left and behaving as if it was just a spontaneous outgrowth of a free society. By turning the left to the service of its expanding empire, the CIA was applying a French Turn of its own by picking the [best and the brightest](#), and the

creation of the National Security Act of 1947 institutionalized it. Assisted by Britain's Information Research Department (the IRD), the CIA recruited key former Soviet disinformation agents trained before the war who had managed non-Communist front groups for Moscow and put them to work. As Frances Stonor Saunders writes in her book "[The Cultural Cold War](#)," "these former propagandists for the Soviets were recycled, bleached of the stain of Communism, embraced by government strategists who saw in their conversion an irresistible opportunity to sabotage the Soviet propaganda machine which they had once oiled."

By its own admission, the CIA's strategy of promoting the non-Communist left would become the theoretical foundation of the agency's political operations against Communism for over the next two decades. But the no-holds-barred cultural war against Soviet Communism began in earnest in March 1949 when a group of 800 prominent literary and artistic figures gathered at New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel for a Soviet-sponsored "Cultural and Scientific" conference that would sue for peace. Both Sidney Hook and James Burnham were already actively involved in enlisting recruits to counter the efforts of Moscow's Communist Information Bureau (Cominform) to influence Western opinion. But the Waldorf conference gave them an opportunity for dirty tricks they could only have prayed for.

Demonstrators organized by a right-wing coalition of Catholic groups and the American Legion heckled the guests as they arrived. Catholic nuns knelt in prayer for the souls of the Communist atheists in attendance. Gathered upstairs in a 10-floor bridal suite, a gang of ex-Trotskyists and Communists led by Hook intercepted the conference's mail, doctored official press releases and published pamphlets challenging speakers to admit their Communist past.

In the end the entire conference became a twisted theater of the absurd, and Hook and Burnham would use it to sell [Frank Wisner](#) at the CIA's Office of Policy Coordination on taking the show on the road.

The Congress for Cultural Freedom: By Hook or by Crook

Drawing on the untapped power of the Fourth International, the coming-out party came on June 26, 1950, at the Titania Palace in occupied Berlin. Named for Hook's 1939 concept for a cultural committee, The [Congress for Cultural Freedom's](#) 14-point "Freedom Manifesto" was to identify the West with freedom. And since everything about the West was said to be free, free, free, then it went without saying that everything about the Soviet Union wasn't.

Organized by Burnham and Hook, the American delegation represented a who's who of America's postwar intellectuals. Tickets to Berlin were paid for by Wisner's Office of Policy Coordination through front organizations and the Department of State, which helped arrange travel, expenses and publicity. According to CIA historian Michael Warner, the conference sponsors considered it money well spent, with one Defense Department representative calling it "unconventional warfare at its best."

Burnham functioned as a critical connection between Wisner's office and the intelligentsia moving from the extreme left to the extreme right with ease. Burnham found the congress to be a place to inveigh not just against Communism but against the non-communist left as well and left many wondering whether his views weren't as dangerous to liberal democracy as Communism. According to Frances Stonor Saunders, members of the British delegation found the rhetoric coming out of the congress to be a deeply troubling sign of things to come. "[Hugh Trevor-Roper](#) was appalled by the provocative tone. ... There was a speech by [Franz Borkenau](#) which was very violent and indeed almost hysterical. He spoke in German and I regret to say that as I listened and I heard the baying voices of approval from the huge audiences, I felt, well, these are the same people who seven years ago were probably baying in the same way to similar German denunciations of Communism coming from Dr. Goebbels in the Sports Palast. And I felt, well, what sort of people are we identifying with? That was the greatest shock to me. There was a moment during the Congress when I felt that we were being invited to summon up Beelzebub in order to defeat Stalin."

The Congress for Cultural Freedom didn't need Beelzebub. It already had him in the form of Burnham, Hook and Wisner, and by 1952, the party was just getting started. Burnham worked overtime for Wisner legitimizing the congress as a platform for the Machiavellians alongside ex-Communists and even Nazis, including [SS Gen. Reinhard Gehlen](#) and his German army intelligence unit, which had been brought into the CIA after the war intact. E. Howard Hunt, [Watergate "plumber"](#) and famous CIA dirty trickster, remembered Burnham in his memoirs: "Burnham was a consultant to OPC on virtually every subject of interest to our organization. ... He had extensive contacts in Europe and, by virtue of his Trotskyite background, was something of an authority on domestic and foreign Communist parties and front organizations."

In 1953 Burnham was called upon again by Wisner to reach beyond Communism to help overthrow the democratically elected Mohammed Mossadegh in Tehran, Iran, apparently because Wisner thought the plan needed "a touch of Machiavelli." But Burnham's greatest contribution as a Machiavellian was yet to come. His book, "The Machiavellians: Defenders of Freedom," would become the CIA's manual for displacing Western culture with an alternative doctrine for endless conflict in a world of oligarchs. In the end, it opened the gates to an Inferno from which there would be no return.

Part 4 of "Universal Empire" will look beyond Soviet Communism into the creation of the sophisticated doctrinal campaign that led to the final stage of the Machiavellian elites' takeover of America.

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Part 4: The Final Stage of the Machiavellian Elites' Takeover of America

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



Cover of the 1550 edition of Machiavelli's "The Prince" and "The Life of Castruccio Castracani." ([Wikimedia](#))

Editor's note: This is the last in a four-part series on Truthdig, an examination of the current stage of the neocon takeover of American policy that began after World War II. Read [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#).

The recent [assertion by the Trump White House](#) that Damascus and Moscow released “false narratives” to mislead the world about the April 4 sarin gas attack in Khan Shaykhun, Syria, is a dangerous next step in the “fake news” propaganda war launched in the final days of the Obama administration. It is a step whose deep roots in Communist Trotsky’s Fourth International must be understood before deciding whether American democracy can be reclaimed.

Muddying the waters of accountability in a way not seen since Sen. Joe McCarthy at the height of the Red Scare in the 1950s, the “[Countering Disinformation and Propaganda Act](#)” signed into law without fanfare by Obama in December 2016 officially authorized a government censorship bureaucracy comparable only to George Orwell’s fictional Ministry of Truth in his novel “1984.” Referred to as “[the Global Engagement Center](#),” the official purpose of this new bureaucracy is to “recognize, understand, expose, and counter foreign state and non-state propaganda and disinformation efforts aimed at undermining United States national security interests.” The real purpose of [this Orwellian nightmare](#) is to cook the books on anything that challenges Washington’s neoconservative pro-war narrative and to intimidate, harass or jail anyone who tries. As has already been demonstrated by President Trump’s firing of Tomahawk missiles at a Syrian government airbase, it is a recipe for a world war, and like it or not, that war has already begun.

This latest attack on Russia’s supposed false narrative takes us right back to 1953 and the beginnings of the cultural war between East and West. Its roots are tied to the Congress for Cultural Freedom, to James Burnham’s pivot from Trotsky’s Fourth International to right-wing conservatism and to the rise of the neoconservative Machiavellians as a political force. As Burnham’s “[The Struggle for the World](#)” stressed, the Third World

War had already begun with the 1944 Communist-led Greek sailors' revolt. In Burnham's Manichean thinking, the West was under siege. George Kennan's Cold War policy of containment was no different than Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement. Détente with the Soviet Union amounted to surrender. Peace was only a disguise for war, and that war would be fought with politics, subversion, terrorism and psychological warfare. Soviet influence had to be rolled back wherever possible. That meant subverting the Soviet Union and its proxies and, when necessary, subverting Western democracies as well.

The true irony of today's late-stage efforts by Washington to monopolize "truth" and attack alternate narratives isn't just in its blatant contempt for genuine free speech. The real irony is that the entire "Freedom Manifesto" employed by the United States and Britain since World War II was never free at all, but a concoction of the CIA's [Psychological Strategy Board](#)'s (PSB) comprehensive psychological warfare program waged on friend and foe alike.

The CIA would come to view the entire program, beginning with the 1950 Berlin conference, to be a landmark in the Cold War, not just for solidifying the CIA's control over the non-Communist left and the West's "free" intellectuals, but for enabling the CIA to secretly disenfranchise Europeans and Americans from their own political culture in such a way they would never really know it.

As historian [Christopher Lasch wrote](#) in 1969 of the CIA's cooptation of the American left, "The modern state ... is an engine of propaganda, alternately manufacturing crises and claiming to be the only instrument that can effectively deal with them. This propaganda, in order to be successful, demands the cooperation of writers, teachers, and artists not as paid propagandists or state-censored time-servers but as 'free' intellectuals capable of policing their own jurisdictions and of enforcing acceptable standards of responsibility within the various intellectual professions."

Key to turning these "free" intellectuals against their own interests was the CIA's doctrinal program for Western cultural transformation contained in the document [PSB D-33/2](#). PSB D-33/2 foretells of a "long-term intellectual movement, to: break down world-wide doctrinaire thought patterns" while "creating confusion, doubt and loss of confidence" in order to "weaken objectively the intellectual appeal of neutralism and to predispose its adherents towards the spirit of the West." The goal was to "predispose local elites to the philosophy held by the planners," while employing local elites "would help to disguise the American origin of the effort so that it appears to be a native development."

While declaring itself as an antidote to Communist totalitarianism, one internal critic of the program, PSB officer Charles Burton Marshall, viewed PSB D-33/2 itself as frighteningly totalitarian, interposing "a wide doctrinal system" that "accepts uniformity as a substitute for diversity," embracing "all fields of human thought — all fields of intellectual interests, from anthropology and artistic creations to sociology and scientific methodology." He concluded: "That is just about as totalitarian as one can get."

Burnham's Machiavellian elitism lurks in every shadow of the document. As recounted in Frances Stonor Saunders's "The Cultural Cold War," "Marshall also took issue with the PSB's reliance on 'non-rational social theories' which emphasized the role of an elite 'in the manner reminiscent of Pareto, Sorel, Mussolini and so on.' Weren't these the models used by James Burnham in his book *The Machiavellians*? Perhaps there was a copy usefully to hand when PSB D-33/2 was being drafted. More likely, James Burnham himself was usefully to hand."

Burnham was more than just at hand when it came to secretly implanting a fascist philosophy of extreme elitism into America's Cold War orthodoxy. With "The Machiavellians," Burnham had composed the manual that forged the old Trotskyist left together with a right-wing Anglo/American elite. The political offspring of that volatile union would be called neoconservatism, whose overt mission would be to roll back Russian/Soviet influence everywhere. Its covert mission would be to reassert a British cultural dominance over the emerging Anglo/American Empire and maintain it through propaganda.

Hard at work on that task since 1946 was the secret Information Research Department of the British and Commonwealth Foreign Office known as the IRD.

Rarely spoken of in the context of CIA-funded secret operations, the IRD served as a covert anti-Communist propaganda unit from 1946 until 1977. According to Paul Lashmar and James Oliver, authors of "[Britain's Secret Propaganda War](#)," "the vast IRD enterprise had one sole aim: To spread its ceaseless propaganda output (i.e. a mixture of outright lies and distorted facts) among top-ranking journalists who worked for major agencies and magazines, including Reuters and the BBC, as well as every other available channel. It worked abroad to discredit communist parties in Western Europe which might gain a share of power by entirely democratic means, and at home to discredit the British Left."

IRD was to become a self-fulfilling disinformation machine for the far-right wing of the international intelligence elite, at once offering fabricated and distorted information to "independent" news outlets and then using the laundered story as "proof" of the false story's validity. One such front enterprise established with CIA money was Forum World Features, operated at one time by Burnham acolyte [Brian Rossiter Crozier](#). Described by Burnham's biographer Daniel Kelly as a "British political analyst," in reality, the legendary Brian Crozier functioned for over 50 years as one of Britain's top [propagandists and secret agents](#).

If anyone today is shocked by the biased, one-sided, xenophobic rush to judgment alleging Russian influence over the 2016 presidential election, they need look no further than to Brian Crozier's closet for the blueprints. As we were told outright by an American military officer during the first war in Afghanistan in 1982, the U.S. didn't need "proof the Soviets used poison gas" and they don't need proof against Russia now. Crozier might best be described as a daydream believer, a dangerous imperialist who [acts out his dreams](#) with open eyes. From the beginning of the Cold War until his death in 2012,

Crozier and his protégé [Robert Moss](#) propagandized on behalf of military dictators Francisco Franco and Augusto Pinochet, organized private intelligence organizations to destabilize governments in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Africa and worked to delegitimize politicians in Europe and Britain viewed as insufficiently anti-Communist.

The mandate of his Institute for the Study of Conflict (ISC) set up in 1970 was to expose the supposed KGB campaign of worldwide subversion and put out stories smearing anyone who questioned it as a dupe, a traitor or Communist spy. Crozier regarded “The Machiavellians” as a major formative influence in his own intellectual development, and wrote in 1976 “indeed it was this book above all others that first taught me *how* [emphasis Crozier] to think about politics.” The key to Crozier’s thinking was Burnham’s distinction between the “formal” meaning of political speech and the “real,” a concept which was, of course, grasped only by elites. In a 1976 article, Crozier marveled at how Burnham’s understanding of politics had spanned 600 years and how the use of “the formal” to conceal “the real” was no different today than when used by Dante Alighieri’s “presumably enlightened Medieval mind.” “The point is as valid now as it was in ancient times and in the Florentine Middle Ages, or in 1943. Overwhelmingly, political writers and speakers still use Dante’s method. Depending on the degree of obfuscation required (either by circumstances or the person’s character), the divorce between formal and real meaning is more or less absolute.”

But Crozier was more than just a strategic thinker. Crozier was a high-level [covert political agent](#) who put Burnham’s talent for obfuscation and his Fourth International experience to use to undermine détente and set the stage for rolling back the Soviet Union.

In a secret meeting at a City of London bank in February 1977, he even patented a private-sector operational intelligence organization known as the Sixth International (6I) to pick up where Burnham left off: politicizing and privatizing many of the dirty tricks the CIA and other intelligence services could no longer be caught doing. As he explained in his memoir “Free Agent,” the name 6I was chosen “because the Fourth International split. The Fourth International was the Trotskyist one, and when it split, this meant that, on paper, there were five Internationals. In the numbers game, we would constitute the Sixth International, or ‘6I.’ ”

Crozier’s cooperation with numerous “able and diligent Congressional staffers” as well as “the remarkable General Vernon (‘Dick’) Walters, recently retired as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence,” cemented the rise of the neoconservatives. When Carter caved in to the Team B and his neoconservative National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski’s plot to lure the Soviets into their own Vietnam in Afghanistan, it fulfilled Burnham’s mission and delivered the world to the Machiavellians without anyone being the wiser. As George Orwell wrote in his “Second Thoughts on James Burnham”: “What Burnham is mainly concerned to show [in *The Machiavellians*] is that a democratic society has never existed and, so far as we can see, never will exist. Society is of its nature

oligarchical, and the power of the oligarchy always rests upon force and fraud. ... Power can sometimes be won and maintained without violence, but never without fraud.”

Today, Burnham’s use of Dante’s political treatise “De Monarchia” to explain his medieval understanding of politics might best be swapped for Dante’s “Divine Comedy,” a paranoid comedy of errors in which the door to Hell swings open to one and all, including the elites regardless of their status. Or as they say in Hell, “*Lasciate ogne speranza, voi ch’intrate.*” Abandon hope all ye who enter here.

[Part 1: American Imperialism Leads the World Into Dante’s Vision of Hell](#)

[Part 2: How Neocons Push for War by Cooking the Books](#)

[Part 3: How the CIA Created a Fake Western Reality for ‘Unconventional Warfare’](#)

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--America, an Empire in Twilight Five Part Series

veteranstoday.com

Part 1: When America Became the Dark Force

by Paul Fitzgerald & Elizabeth Gould November 7, 2016



John Milton's "Paradise Lost" 1866 by Gustave Doré [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

No matter who is labeled president after the election, the crisis this process has created for most Americans will not be over. It will be like no other moment in all of America's history. Now is the time to look back into the past and connect those events that have led us to this most strange and significant moment. We'll start with the day America's leadership lost all consciousness.

“‘We’re the dark matter. We’re the force that orders the universe but can’t be seen,’ a strapping Navy SEAL, speaking on condition of anonymity, said in describing his unit.”

If anyone thought the war on terror contained an otherworldly quality, [this quote](#) on the front page of the September 11, 2011 Washington Post from Dana Priest and William M. Arkin's book *Top Secret America* confirmed it.

9/11 had taken America through the mirror and there was no coming back.

Following 9/11, the elected government of the United States willingly delivered over what remained of America's civilian control to a department of Homeland Security, dedicated to expanding the unelected government's fear of darkness into everybody's life. Added to this was a top secret military operation known as the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) that thought of *itself* as the dark.

Begun as a modest hostage rescue team, by 2011 JSOC had morphed into a veritable heart of darkness, with the power to murder at will and completely unaccountable to American or international law.

At the height of its notoriety under General Stanley McChrystal in Iraq and Afghanistan JSOC operated completely in the black as a “Stovepipe,” operation reporting to no one and employing infamous rogue ex-CIA professionals such as indicted [Iran Contra operative Dewey Clarridge](#).

The Navy Seal Team that was said to have taken out Osama bin Laden operated under JSOC. Retired military personnel refer to JSOC as “Murder, Incorporated” and the [“most dangerous people on the face of the earth.”](#)

But if JSOC’s reputation for secrecy, vengeance and death can’t be explained from within the context of traditional U.S. military operations or U.S. law, then what set of rules is it operating from? Or is it simply that the rational enlightenment traditions that most Americans take for granted have become subjected to deeper and older rules of behavior rooted in an irrational world of personal, private and holy war?

No one less than the legendary Cold Warrior, Time Magazine’s Henry Luce understood that his passion for defeating Communism constituted “a declaration of private war,” which, in citing the example of the privateer Sir Francis Drake made [it not only “unlawful,” but “probably mad.”](#) As the child of American missionaries, Luce was committed to the militant spread of Christian Capitalism while viewing its ultimate triumph over the world as an inevitable consequence of God’s will.

Described by *Tournament of Shadows* authors Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac as mystical imperialism, the term can be traced to both Britain and Russia’s 19th century efforts to establish dominion through a mix of imperialism and Christian zeal.

The competition came to a dead stop in Afghanistan with the end of the Great Game in 1907, when Imperial Russia and Great Britain chose to accept Afghanistan as a neutral buffer state between empires. But with the advent of the Cold War in 1947 and the mysterious and intoxicating god-like qualities inherent in nuclear weapons, a new and more apocalyptic iteration of mystical imperialism came into being.

The sole purpose of America’s mid 20th century defense intellectuals was to rationalize nuclear war, not mystify it. America’s cold warriors were far removed technologically from their 19th century counterparts whose Christian elite believed they were bringing enlightenment to the [“darker regions of the earth.”](#)

But whether by design or by accident within a short time an entire stratum of American scientific and political thought found itself immersed in an irrational realm that looked, smelled and tasted like medieval mysticism. A 1960s London *Times Literary Supplement* marveled at the new priesthood who moved as freely through the corridors of the Pentagon and the State Department [as the Jesuits once had through](#) the courts of Madrid and Vienna, centuries before.

Tasked with defeating Communism by any means possible they invented their own reality, accelerated the nuclear arms race, [created an imaginary domino theory](#) of Communist aggression in Southeast Asia and then escalated a real war in Vietnam to counter it.

President Kennedy’s science advisor Jerome Wiesner eventually came to realize that the so called “missile gap” and the massive buildup of America’s nuclear arsenal in response

to it was only a “mirror image” of America’s own intentions *towards* the Soviet Union and not the other way around. Yet instead of addressing the error, the U.S. slipped deeper into the Cold War mirror.

By 1978, these thermonuclear Jesuits and their CIA counterparts were using the U.S., NATO, China, Iran and Saudi Arabia to shake the Soviet Union’s domination over Central Asia through a Christian/Islamic holy war in Afghanistan.

In a rational world it might be assumed that this war would stop with the defeat of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Communism. But instead of ending, America’s full blown splurge into personal and private holy war caused the U.S. to slip into a crisis of identity.

Forced after seventy five years of anti-communism to finally define itself based on what it stood for and not what it stood against, the United States entered a house of shadows in which it continues to wander. Stricken by decades of economic and military excess, its mission has become confused, its legal, moral and philosophical foundation abandoned and its role as leader of the western world questioned as never before.

America is clearly not the country it was before 9/11 but what has it become and what do the current candidates for the 2016 presidential election tell us about the direction we’re headed?

Join us as we explore the little-analyzed facts and covert agendas that the United States must now reconsider in the 21st century and what those agendas mean to America’s role as “the dark force that orders the universe,” in our next installment of *America, an Empire in Twilight* Part II.

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Part 2: How Guilt, Innocence and Facts have been Rendered Irrelevant

by Paul Fitzgerald & Elizabeth Gould

November 11, 2016



The seduction of Mirror Imaging: Mount Hood reflected in Mirror Lake, Oregon public domain

Now that the election is over and Donald Trump has been designated the winner, the absence of a resolution to America's problems is more obvious than ever. How did we arrive at this moment?

While covering the presidential campaigns of the two most disliked candidates in American history, mainstream commentators found that facts just didn't matter. As the candidates bobbed and weaved and excoriated each other as unfit for the presidency, neither showed any genuine capacity for leadership or could explain exactly how they'd make the desperately needed course-correction Americans want. Now that those missing facts have landed Donald Trump in the White House, panic is setting in.

Donald Trump has broken the old, decrepit system, but what kind of country does America want to become; and can President Trump be convinced that he must work with all the American people to realize it? America stands at a crossroads; and there is no better time to look back and connect those long forgotten events that have led us to this most momentous opportunity.

Wolfowitz Doctrine

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1992, Paul Wolfowitz proposed a radical [new national defense policy](#) that rejected post-World War II collective internationalism in favor of a unilateral American dominance.

Known forever after as the Wolfowitz Doctrine, it would ultimately change the nature of America's relationship to the world by requiring that any and all of America's potential competitors either submit to America's will or have their countries invaded and their governments subverted and overthrown.

The events of 9/11 enabled the U.S. to go to any lengths to enforce the plan, but the last fifteen years have been hard on "[the dark force that orders the universe](#)." Judging by the rise of ISIS, strategic failures in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Ukraine, the

unravelling of the Post World War II NATO alliance and the fracturing of the European Union along nationalist lines, the rapid decline in America's Imperial power has become obvious to everyone.

Even the famed geostrategist Zbigniew Brzezinski admits, the era of [America's imperial expansion has ended](#) and the time has come for a realistic realignment of U.S. goals and objectives. Yet, despite this overwhelming evidence that times have changed, the American government and its policymakers in Washington have until now continued to steer a self-destructive course toward a nuclear confrontation with the Russians and Chinese.

In this twilight world, where the traditional weapons of American power projection no longer guarantee the expected results, guilt and innocence and even facts have become irrelevant.

By openly embracing the imperial agenda of the Wolfowitz Doctrine, the U.S. left the realm of science and empiricism and entered an imperial realm, populated by those who can neither be understood nor reasoned with outside the confines of their own internally consistent logic.

The Cult of Intel

It is a strange and shadowy world where reality is made by those in power; and those in power can no longer tell the truth from their own fictions.

From its inception during World War II, America's military/intelligence apparatus has acted more as a cult drawn from America's ruling elite than a bureaucracy dedicated to the nation's security.

It was said of America's first spy agency the OSS [that its initials stood for Oh-So-Social](#) because of its abundant staffing with New York's high society blue bloods. Victor Marchetti and John D. Marks even titled their 1974 book on their life in the CIA and Foreign Service as *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*.

But over the last forty years and especially since the events of 9/11, that "Cult" and its sister organizations in the military/intelligence community have emerged from behind the curtain to become a ubiquitous and forbidding presence.

In effect, Marchetti and Marks' cult of intelligence has grown to become the dominant American "Culture." But what that culture really is and where it's leading us remains a frightening proposition that each and every American needs to understand.

After 9/11, "national security" came to pervade all aspects of American life, from [the grocery store](#) to academia to [hotel check-ins](#) to [religion](#). This total militarization of American society helped to polarize the political process, obsolete diplomacy as a

tool of American interests overseas, and slowly and inexorably change the way Americans think about their country.

Although tapering off slightly from its early popularity, the [celebration of mass murder](#) in such games as Call of Duty, after 15 years of budget-busting real war, is a cruel reminder of the Orwellian illogic of life on the other side of the mirror. But the deeper and more disturbing problem now surfacing is that *real war* and the *imagined war* played out on the video screens of America's youths appear to have merged into one stark unreality, as [they bring the real war home](#).

Apart from the moral implications, the future of society and the very nature of [who we are as human beings](#) have been fundamentally altered by such technology.

Recent studies indicate that heavy gaming may impact the integrity of the brain's hippocampus, "which is associated with [an increased risk of neurological disorders](#) such as Alzheimer's disease."

The altered states of awareness traditionally offered by drugs and mysticism, religion and meditation have been replaced [by technology of all kinds](#) and, through technology, real war and fantasy war have exchanged places. The tyranny of illogical thinking evidenced by the U.S. in its War on Terror can be traced most recently to the Cold War, where it had become necessary to throw out the burden of proof and invert the rules of logic in order to defeat Communism.

Our personal experience with this illogic came in 1982. In response to our PBS documentary on Afghanistan, [Afghanistan Between Three Worlds](#), we were informed by Major Karen McKay, a spokesperson for the right-wing Washington-based propaganda outfit Committee for a Free Afghanistan, that getting *proof* of Soviet guilt in Afghanistan wasn't necessary simply because "*we know they're guilty*."

Such faith-based assumptions were more the realm of medieval theologians than rational analysts, and the late Senator J. William Fulbright said so in his 1972 New Yorker article titled, [Reflections: In Thrall To Fear](#).

"The truly remarkable thing about this Cold War psychology," he wrote, "is the totally illogical transfer of the burden of proof from those who make charges to those who question them... The Cold Warriors, instead of having to say how they knew that Vietnam was part of a plan for the Communization of the world, so manipulated the terms of public discussion as to be able to demand that the skeptics prove that it was not."

Fulbright realized that "Rational men could not deal with each other on this basis," and arrive at anything resembling "truth." But this understanding quickly evaporated as the Vietnam era ended and the U.S. drifted into a realm governed by irrational men, who believed their own illogic superseded the inconvenient facts and figures surrounding their failures.

Guided by old ideologues who had helped to create the Cold War — like Paul Nitze, Leo Cherne, William Casey and General Danny Graham and leading neoconservatives like Richard Perle, Harvard professor Richard Pipes and Paul Wolfowitz — their group known as [Team B guided the restructuring of American military](#) policy towards the Soviet Union, not on the basis of fact or proof, but only on what their biased minds could imagine.

Team B set about to psychologically reverse the impact the Cold War and especially Vietnam had on Washington's ruling elites by accusing the CIA's analysts of "Mirror imaging," their own intentions, as President Kennedy's science advisor Jerome Wiesner had claimed back in the 1960s. Only this time — in a fatal twist of Wiesner's logic — Team B claimed the mirror image was of American weakness and not strength reflected in the mirror of the Soviets' steely eyes.

At the time the idea that the Soviet Union could or should be judged solely based on an ideological perspective was rejected by Washington's more rational elite.

["I would say that all of it was fantasy,"](#) said Anne Hessing Cahn who worked on the staff of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency from 1982 to 1988. "They looked at radars out in Krasnoyarsk and said 'this is a laser beam weapon' when in fact it was nothing of the sort... And if you go through most of Team B's specific allegations about weapons systems and you examine them one by one, they were all wrong... I don't believe anything in Team B was really true."

So what is true about the prevailing motives of American national security policy that continue to crank out another generation of Cold War accusations against Russia?

In the summer of 1980 we got a major clue to the thinking behind the neoconservative's aggressive plotting to overturn the U.S. government's rational policy regarding nuclear weapons (Mutual Assured Destruction) by replacing it with a faith-based policy that would justify fighting nuclear wars.

Join us next as we unravel the de-evolution of rational defense policy and its immersion into the mystical, as we explore the radical 1980 re-interpretation of the 4th century [Just War Doctrine of the Catholic Church](#) and its perennial advocates.

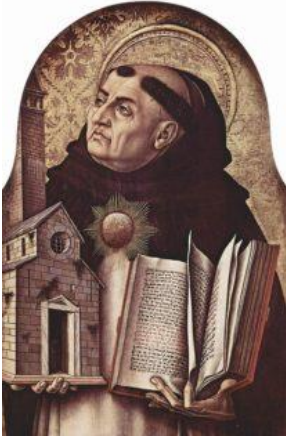
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Part 3: Neoconizing the Just War Doctrine in the service of American empire

by Paul Fitzgerald & Elizabeth Gould

November 14, 2016



St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) laid out the conditions when war could be justified long before nuclear weapons were imagined – Carlo Crivelli (1435–1495) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Over the years, only a small handful of policy pundits have bothered to find a core principle that might explain the American government's irrational desire to expand its Cold War military alliance (NATO). With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the demobilization of Warsaw Pact forces, the organization no longer had a reason to live and should have been disbanded.

Instead, under the Bill Clinton regime, NATO found new life and new members; and after 9/11, it was assigned a new purpose in the Bush administration's war on terror. Flash forward to November 2010 when one of America's few truly astute commentators, the now deceased [William Pfaff, resorted to the term](#) "medieval mysticism" to describe what had become of NATO's mission in Afghanistan.

"American policy seems to these allies to be lost in fantasies as Alice was lost in a mathematician's logical joke, in which all was reversed from what existed in real life, on the other side of the looking glass" Pfaff wrote.

Today, NATO remains more than ever lost on the other side of the mirror, with the only exception being that the location has changed from Afghanistan to Russia's Border States; while the fantasy has transformed from making an Afghan democracy out of terrorists, warlords and drug kingpins into a World War II-style, Nazi blitzkrieg on Moscow.

As odd as it may seem to American audiences of 2016, William Pfaff's use of medieval mysticism to describe American thinking is not as far beneath the surface of present day American policy as one might think. In fact following the crisis brought about by the failure of advanced technology to defeat Communism in Vietnam, America's premier defense intellectuals were quick to fall back on the Middle Ages for a moral justification of their fantasies.

One vivid example came from future Reagan administration officials [Colin S. Gray](#) and [Keith Payne](#) in the summer 1980 edition of *Foreign Policy* magazine who declared in an article titled “Victory is Possible” that:

“[Nuclear War is possible](#). But unlike Armageddon, the apocalyptic war prophesied to end history, nuclear war can have a wide range of options... If American nuclear power is to support U.S. foreign policy objectives, the United States must possess the ability to wage nuclear war rationally.”

Having the American Empire come of age at a time when it enjoyed an overwhelming nuclear advantage and unquestioned technological superiority, its plunge into military defeat in Vietnam simultaneous with the Soviet Union achieving a rough nuclear parity was cause for a deep philosophical crisis.

The old right and the “new right” embodied in pro-war advocacy groups like Team B, the [Committee on the Present Danger](#) and the [American Security Council](#) needed to undo the debilitating effects caused by their own failure in Vietnam. Discrediting the strategic doctrine implemented by [Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara](#) known as Mutual Assured Destruction or (MAD) topped a long list.

These former government insiders and harsh critics of détente believed that the constraints on nuclear war fighting posed by the 1972 [Anti-Ballistic-Missile Treaty](#) (ABM) and the [Strategic Arms Limitations Talks](#) I and II (SALT), were predicated on a false assumption that nuclear weapons were too horrible to ever be used again.

Neoconservative defense intellectuals viewed this restraint as a form of suicide and vowed to break free of it utilizing some pre-enlightenment thinking that challenged the very nature of modern reality.

The Cold War buildup for a nuclear war against the Soviet Union was never based on the rational. No one on the left or right could predict with any certainty where or when a nuclear war would stop if one ever broke out. Regardless of the kind or size of nuclear weapons used, with the enemy’s leadership decapitated and communications destroyed, there’d be no one left to stop it.

Non-communist solutions to social problems were a matter of faith in which the political right and the political left shared similar goals but differed in tactics. But the political right’s accommodation of the political left was never more than an elaborate game of deception. In fact, according to the CIA’s own documents, “[the theoretical foundation of the Agency’s political operations against Communism](#)” for the first twenty years of the Cold War relied completely on the manipulation and control of the so called progressive, liberal, non-Communist left.

Blamed by the neoconservative right for the failure in Vietnam and the relative decline in America’s nuclear posture, the non-communist left’s legitimacy as a valid political factor in American politics began to crumble. With the left’s policy of

nuclear restraint now dismissed as irrational, what possible justification could be found to wage a nuclear war in which tens of millions of innocent Russians and Americans, as well as millions of others, would be killed?

By the late 1970s, those obscure strategic nuclear analysts who'd helped to formulate America's nuclear policies had attained the stature of religious figures. With their supposed wisdom raised to an almost mystical level and accepted as dogma, the neoconservative high priests of the new right stood ready to displace not only the non-communist left but traditional conservatives as well.

By the summer of 1980 (6 months after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan) two of those high priests were willing to take the dogma one step further by reinterpreting the Just War Doctrine of the Catholic Church to justify what reality, reason and common sense had forbid the U.S. from doing since the final days of World War II.

"Ironically, it is commonplace to assert that war-survival theories affront the crucial test of political and moral acceptability", wrote Colin S. Gray and Keith Payne that summer.

"Surely no one can be comfortable with the claim that a strategy that would kill tens of millions of U.S. citizens would be politically and morally acceptable. However it is worth recalling the six guidelines for the use of force [provided by the "just war" doctrine](#) of the Catholic Church..."

Carefully sidestepping the fundamental principle that war can only be "just" when used as a last resort and that targeting innocents is strictly forbidden, Gray and Payne would go on to claim that based on the most ancient rules of the game, not only did U.S. policy of nuclear deterrence toward the Soviet Union (MAD) fail to qualify for "just war," but that in failing to plan to actually fight a nuclear war, "[U.S. nuclear strategy is immoral.](#)"

In other words, since Gray and Payne could not use a rational scientific process to achieve victory through nuclear weapons or to find hard evidence to support their claims that the Soviets assumed they could achieve victory through theirs, they turned to a premodern religious system (developed centuries before the first atomic bomb) that dismissed empirical evidence and replaced it with whatever they could imagine as truth, based on precepts evolved by medieval monks.

From the dawn of Christianity, the justification for killing fellow Christians presented scholars with a moral dilemma. St Augustine of Hippo (354–430 CE) originated [Just War theory](#) which was later refined and expanded by St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274). But murdering in the name of Christ was tricky business and often subject to conflicting interpretations.

Far from the romantic notions of chivalry presented by today's popular mythology, the knightly class was viewed by the medieval Catholic Church as lawless thugs whose behavior was clearly "unjust." The idea that a monk would engage in the plunder and murder of innocents, much less warfare was anathema to church teaching.

The influential Cistercian abbot, Bernard of Clairvaux weighed in with a different opinion in his famous twelfth-century treatise [De Laude Novae Militiae](#) (*In Praise of the new Knighthood*) by redefining the very nature of murder itself in support of his friend Hugues de Payens, Grand Master of the warrior monks known as the [Knights Templar](#).

“The soldier of Christ kills safely and dies the more safely... He is the instrument of God for the punishment of malefactors and for the defense of the just. Indeed, when he kills a malefactor this is not homicide but malicide, and he is accounted Christ’s legal executioner against evildoers.”

Like Colin S. Gray and Keith Payne’s “Victory is Possible,” Clairvaux’s treatise bent the rules for the uses of acceptable violence on behalf of an elite group of European nobles who wanted to go to war in the holy land. It opened the floodgates of recruits for the Crusades, established the spiritual and legal authority of powerful, wealthy Catholic military orders and put the power of the feudal machine under Church control, at least temporarily.

After working for three years as the host of a public affairs program (under the terms of the [Fairness Doctrine](#)) for an affiliate of Pat Robertson’s Christian Broadcasting Network in Boston, we were aware that an aggressive rightwing/Christian political movement was merging into the American mainstream.

But following the publication of Gray and Payne’s 1980 treatise, we realized that the underlying philosophy of America’s defense policy was also being challenged on the basis of faith, not facts.

Just war was a contentious subject with a long history, including a surprising connection to president JFK’s Fitzgerald family. The Just War Doctrine of the Catholic Church had been invoked by the Papal Nuncio on behalf of the Fitzgerald family in Ireland during the 1570s in their war against the Elizabethans.

The Catholic Fitzgeralds had lost; and some notable Elizabethan victors had gone on to establish a corporate empire that would redefine and dominate the world’s economy from North America to Asia for the next four centuries.

Join us as we explain how medieval feuds between rival families evolved into today’s “deep state” and continue to drive today’s increasingly desperate actions in Europe and the Middle East to control of the world’s trade routes and resources, in our final chapter of *America, an Empire in Twilight*.

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Part 4: The End of Illusion

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould November 30, 2016

Neoconservative pundits howled when Yale historian Paul Kennedy suggested in his 1987 study *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers* that America and its global Empire, like all empires before it, [was in a process of decline](#).



The Conjurer by Hieronymus Bosch, circa 1450–1516 (Photo: Public domain via Wikimedia Commons)

The disintegration of the Soviet Union just a few years later in 1991 seemed to undermine Kennedy's thesis, as the United States expanded its influence into the U.S.S.R.'s former territories and moved on Moscow to [bury the former communist economy](#).

However, following the financial crash of 2008 and the chaos caused by Washington's military adventurism in Iraq and Afghanistan, the illusion of American inevitability quickly vanished.

Now, [30 years later](#), the idea that any empire facing unprecedented debt, political gridlock and military failure could somehow sustain itself purely on willpower and social media can only be described as delusional.

Yet, despite rising opposition to the costs and consequences at home and abroad, [Washington's demented imperialists](#) remain committed to Unipower dominance and are desperate to force the incoming Trump administration to obey its ghost.

Understanding the forces that drive Washington's quest for empire may appear on the surface to be limited to money and power. But when it comes to the ultimate objectives of the so called Anglo/American "deep state", the foundations of today's realities may be better explained by looking into the deep past.

The term Anglo/American itself bears within it a complex matrix of races, heterodox religious beliefs, families and family grudges that date back before the Norman Conquest of 1066. The army of Normans and mercenaries that gathered under William the Conqueror to invade England was drawn from across Europe, but differed little from the

population of Celts, Anglo-Saxons, Danes and Normans that had already migrated there in previous centuries. The battle of Hastings established the nation of Britain as we know it today, but what remains unappreciated is the degree to which those original Anglo/Norman warrior families [continue to control decision-making](#) and remain at the epicenter of financial and political power nearly 1000 years later.

In its current expanded iteration consisting of the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand; known as [the “Five Eyes”](#), the Anglo/American “deep state” came to gain political hegemony over the world following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. However, although popularly known as the “Anglo/Saxon” nations, a more accurate description of the genetic legacy should read Anglo/Norman.

In 2005, when a historian in Wexford, Ireland, discovered that President George W. Bush was a descendant of the 12th century Anglo/Norman [Earl Richard de Clare, “Strongbow”](#) it caused something of a [commotion in the British press](#), not to mention our own personal shock.

I’d first heard the name Strongbow at the age of ten, when my family-historian-aunt told me that our branch of the Fitzgerald family had come to Ireland with him. During the 1990s, I had written a novel about his influence on the family, and here he was again staring out from the imperial White House of George W. Bush.

As Strongbow’s vassals and veterans of the conquest of Wales, the Fitzgeralds had done their share of the dirty work of empire building. After taking part in the Norman conquest of England in 1066, the family and their extended clans had become deeply entwined in Angevin family politics as part of King William I’s invasion force of South Wales.

The marriage (arranged by Henry I) of the patriarch of the Fitzgerald family, [Gerald FitzWalter of Windsor](#) to Princess Nest, daughter of Rhys Ap Tewdwr (Tudor) the last king of the Britons, cemented the Fitzgeralds to [an ancient British dynasty of kings](#) and the Arthurian legends surrounding them. But our discovery of an old book, entitled [Strongbow’s Conquest of Ireland](#), forced us to realize that the standard historical accounts we were accustomed to have never included the deeper inside forces at work that make possible a true understanding of the past.

The first Crusade to Jerusalem in 1099 came at a time of deep social unrest in Europe. Muslims occupied Portugal, Spain, Sicily and Southern Italy. Pagans warred with Christian Crusaders throughout Eastern Europe. Pope Urban II’s call for a Crusade to the holy land began a movement that would last until the failed Crusade of the Spanish Armada against Elizabeth I’s English heretics in 1588. Unlike most dry, bowdlerized accounts of the origins of British history, Strongbow’s Conquest offered a personal account by a family prelate, named Gerald de Barry (Gerald of Wales).

Gerald was also the personal tutor to the future Angevin King John and offered plenty of insight into dealing with Henry II’s internecine warfare with and among his three sons. For us, the family feuds surrounding the conquest of Ireland detailed by Gerald of Wales

personalized our understanding of an historical event and the beginnings of British history. Now with the Bush connection to Strongbow came a chance to take those family feuds and track them a thousand years into the future.

Ever since John Fitzgerald Kennedy, tracing a presidential candidate's lineage to Ireland is a common pastime. But the Guardian's description of Strongbow as "a desperate land-grabbing warlord whose calamitous foreign adventure led to the suffering of generations" was a sadly deficient twist on what had really happened.

Strongbow was an Anglo-Norman Earl with a long Viking lineage from one of the most powerful Norman/French families in 12th century England. His grandfather Gilbert and great uncle Roger were [closely affiliated with William the conqueror's son](#), King William Rufus, and were among the few intimates present at his mysterious murder by Walter Tyrell in the New Forest in 1100. The de Clare brothers were never implicated in Rufus's death, but along with a select handful of Norman barons, they gained great wealth and prominence from backing the rise of his successor, Henry I.

Evidence of heretical cult practices swirls around the 11th century court of William Rufus and his ruling nobles. William Rufus regarded himself as divine, was an avowed pagan, openly homosexual and fiercely anti-Christian. He surrounded himself with long-haired, clean shaven "effeminati", compared himself to Alexander the Great, and acted as a patron to the Troubadours. The conquest of Wales brought him into contact with a Prince of Dyfed named Bledri, author of the original Grail romances, who remained friendly to William Rufus throughout the wars against the Welsh. Norman mercenaries who had fought Muslims in southern Italy were no strangers to [dualist life-denying heresies](#), and neither were the courts of France from where the new English royalty drew its political base.

The threat to the Roman Church by these heresies was not a simple challenge. As described by Reverend V.A. Demant, Canon of London's St. Paul's Cathedral in a preface to a 1947 book on the subject titled [The Arrow and the Sword](#), "It was in fact a rival religion, and almost succeeded in being a counter-Church with its own rival and ritual system."

By 1170 the struggle for power within that system extended to Strongbow's challenge to the authority of King Henry II's House of Anjou and his threat to set himself up as a rival Norman King of Ireland. Upon his death in 1176, the challenge extended to the Fitzgerald antecedents of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

At the behest of Strongbow, a number of Fitzgerald vassals [married directly into the de Clare family line](#) shortly after coming to Ireland and to the horror of the Angevin royal court, proceeded to establish themselves as a competing dynasty.

With political and military independence and with religious connections to Rome, the Fitzgerald's ambitions were viewed from London as dangerous from the very beginning, and as the medieval Catholic Church evolved, that danger would grow in bitter hatred.

Strongbow had been a Crusader, served in the Holy Land and was known to be [a generous supporter](#) of both the Knights Hospitaller and the infamous Knights Templar, the warrior monks for whom the Cistercian Abbot Bernard of Clairvaux penned [De Laude Novae Militiae](#) (*In Praise of the new Knighthood*) thereby redefining the very nature of murder when done in the name of Christ.

The early Catholic Church was riven with multiple dualist heresies left over from the conversion of the Roman Empire from pagan to Christian. Much has been romanticized in the past decades about the Knights Templar and their supposed dedication to the divine feminine as represented by the Holy Grail. Credited with magical powers of prophecy and divination, popular mythology such as Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code* has them guarding the secrets of the Messianic Grail lineage, i.e. the royal descendants of the House of David from the marriage of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene.

Other supposed Templar secrets link them to life-denying Gnostic cults like the [Paulicians](#), [Manicheans](#) and [Cathars](#). But less has been said about the Templar's central role as bankers to Europe's royalty and their practice of financing wars between Europe's rival kings and princes.

The Templar Knighthood walked a fine line between two worlds in their role as bankers and "warrior monks", and often failed to maintain a balance between them.

The Knights Templar's circular "Temple" in the very center of the city of London still echoes their primary military and financial role as a prototype multinational bank opening trade routes between Europe and the Middle East.

But their internecine political rivalries with the other Christian knightly orders, the Knights Hospitaller and the Teutonic Knights and their long string of military defeats causing them to lose Jerusalem, precipitated their downfall.

On Friday October 13, 1307 the French King Philip IV, who was deeply indebted to the Templars, ordered them arrested and charged with heretical practices, and on November 22 of that year under pressure from Philip, Pope Clement V issued the papal bull [Pastoralis Praeeminentiae](#) instructing all the monarchs of Europe to seize their assets.

Instead of capping a feud between the rival knightly orders and their benefactors, the dissolution of the Templars and the subsequent transfer of their vast assets to the Hospitallers by Pope Clement in 1312 would create an anti-Catholic firestorm.

The repercussions from November 22, 1307, would set the stage for the Protestant Reformation, the rise of Britain's empire and the destruction of the competing dynasties, especially the Fitzgeralds.

Join us for the finale of this saga as we explain how this hatred for Catholic Rome would establish a life and death struggle within the European deep state. This conflict would in

turn lead to the rise of a crypto-Cathar counter church, whose apocalyptic world-ending goals would finally come to fruition in the Anglo/Norman America of the present day.

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FINALE: The Trump Card is played! Never Underestimate THE FOOL

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould

December 12, 2016



The Fool is a powerful Tarot card because its possibilities all start in nothingness and reach into infinity

On Friday October 13, 1307 the French King Philip IV, who was deeply indebted to the Knights Templar, ordered them arrested and charged with heretical practices and on November 22 of that year under pressure from Philip, Pope Clement V issued the papal bull [*Pastoralis Praeeminentiae*](#) instructing all the monarchs of Europe to seize their assets.

Whether or not the Knights Templar practiced heretical beliefs as charged, the immolation of Templar Grand Master Jacques de Molay at the hands of the Pope's Inquisitors in 1314 would serve as an inspiration to generations of people who did.

[Pope Innocent III's brutal Albigensian Crusade](#) of 1209-29 against the powerful dualist [Cathar movement](#) pitted Northern France's Catholic nobility against the lesser nobility of the south who were tolerant and supportive of it.

As a pre-Christian faith deeply rooted in the ancient world and spread by Rome's legions through [Mithraism](#) to the four corners of the pagan Roman Empire, Catharism represented an old and powerful belief system which refused to be suppressed by the sterile and often contradictory doctrines of Rome's Christian Empire.

As described by Reverend V.A. Demant, Canon of London's St. Paul's Cathedral in a preface to a 1947 book on the subject titled [The Arrow and the Sword](#):

"To mention only its roots in Mithraism, its links with the Gnostics, its theological dualism, its asceticism, the ritual of life and death as cosmic mysteries, the appeal of the troubadours, Arthurian legends and the cult of the Holy Grail, the passions aroused for and against witchcraft, the intimate connection between sex and religion — all these things are sufficient testimony to the deep rooted vitality of a stream of religious consciousness which cannot be superciliously dismissed by rationalists and moralists."

Writing on the heels of World War II, and with Europe still in ruins from the rise of an irrational and immoral pagan faith called Nazism, Demant feared that such a vital apocalyptic belief system with its “robust religiousness” and commitment to a struggle against an evil material world was bound to rise again, as it had so many times in the past.

Yet, he might not have been surprised to know that his own “Protestant” faith, of which he was a senior officer as the Canon of St. Paul’s, had its own roots in the same heresy.

Now lost in the cross weaves of history, Britain’s version of the heresy represented a new and far more dangerous version of life-denying Catharism than was ever imagined by the Templars, Bernard of Clairvaux or Jacques DeMolay.

A Grudge that lasted through the Centuries

Much has been speculated about the survival of the Templars following their dissolution in 1312. Today’s popular fiction about their life as a secret society rests not on any particular historical accounting but mainly on 18th century Masonic myth-making and Sir Walter Scott’s [early 19th century stories](#) that romanticized the Templar Knighthood.

The 18th century men of the Enlightenment found great interest in mystical illumination through Masonic rituals. To these men, the newly industrializing West needed a new prophetic tradition to anchor it in history. Rediscovery of the ancient world, as a result of imperial interventions in the Near East and Egypt, spawned a renewed interest in Renaissance Neo-Platonism and Cabbalism and their roots in a life-denying Gnostic creed. In fact, the very act of returning in victory to the origin of these Gnostic beliefs was in itself proof that they had been chosen to fulfill a cosmic cycle, as prophesied by the ancients.

Bestowing the Templars with occult mystical powers fit neatly into the early Romantic Movement and helped to promote Enlightenment thinking as part of God’s plan for mankind.

But the ravages of the Inquisition and the growing anger over a corrupt Roman Catholic Church were anything but myth to those living in the thirteenth and fourteenth century.

As a military order of religious warriors responsible only to the Pope, the Templars and their Cathar backers in France and England represented a powerful autonomous deep-state within medieval society. In many ways orthodox Christianity was no match for the life-denying, dualist doctrine of the Cathars. Catharism’s simple focus on the cosmic battle between a spiritual good and a material evil, and its promise of a time-ending apocalypse in which the material world would be consumed in fire, was an extreme seduction.

Driven to ground by a corrupted Roman Catholic Church and greedy French King, “the heresy” appeared to have been trampled out by the middle of the 14th century. But with

the onset of the Reformation in the early 16th century, Rome's authority faced a new challenge and as it spread to Ireland, the old Anglo/Norman warlords like the Fitzgeralds,

The Protestant Reformation represented a heresy that was at once secular and religious. Martin Luther and John Calvin confronted a Papacy that claimed a material domain, as well as a spiritual one. In 1534, the English Parliament's Act of Supremacy solved that problem by declaring Henry VIII "Supreme Head on earth of the Church of England", and in 1559, his daughter Queen Elizabeth I became the Church's "Supreme Governor."

Cathar territory remained fertile ground for insurrection against the church and that insurrection came with the Protestant Reformation. The French Calvinist Huguenot movement of the late 16th century grew from exactly the same ground in France, where 200 years earlier, the Cathars had been brutally suppressed by the Papal Crusade.

In England, [Queen Elizabeth I's deep-state](#), comprised of the Earl of Leicester Sir Francis Walsingham and Sir Philip Sydney, found common cause with the Huguenots and supported them with soldiers, guns and money. Their armies waged holy war against the Papacy across Europe and in Catholic Ireland where they targeted the last visible threat to Elizabeth's supremacy at home, the Fitzgeralds.

16th Century deep-state competition

The Fitzgerald family had drawn their original power from France and Italy in the 11th century as the muscle for the Cathar-friendly Anglo/Norman royals. They had clearly performed their duties well enough to be rewarded by their feudal lords with lands and titles, but when they came to Ireland, their paths diverged. [Gerald of Wales](#) makes clear in his book that, by 1170, this family of Anglo/Norman Samurai was fed up with royal excess and wanted to strike out on their own under their own banner.

But three centuries of the Fitzgerald family's immersion in Irish culture transformed them. Forsaking the English language, English customs and English law, the Anglo/Normans married the land and became ["more Irish than the Irish themselves"](#). Known as the "Old English" (Seanghaill), their ongoing intermarriage with Irish clans produced furious resentment from London, while the coming of the Protestant Reformation produced outright hatred.

Known for their love of Ireland and their willingness to renounce their loyalty to England, the Fitzgerald family were feared and hated as representatives of a Roman Catholic deep-state bent on reversing the Reformation. On the other hand, the Sidney Circle represented a very old deep-state of its own; that "stream of religious consciousness," that had been suppressed for centuries, had risen in rebellion and was committed to ridding the world of evil.

The Sidney Circle and its primary operatives, Francis Walsingham, Edmund Spencer, Sir Walter Raleigh and John Dee, represented the militarized edge of Renaissance Neoplatonism, bent on establishing England not just as a global empire to rival Catholic

Spain, but as a spiritual empire headed by Queen Elizabeth I that would cleanse the material world and restore its spiritual destiny.

The first step to that destiny was the conquest of Ireland. Inspired by the Hermetic-Cabbalist Neoplatonism of John Dee, the Sydney Circle would take on the Fitzgerald Earl of Desmond in a genocidal war of extermination. Viewed from the 21st century, the idea of an all-or-nothing Manichean holy war between white Europeans seems bizarre.

But the feud between the European deep-state factions of the Counter-Reformation was a no-holds-barred fight to the death that embodied no less than the core principles of a cosmic war between light and dark.

In 1580, the prospect of this apocalyptic war of genocide coming to Ireland prompted the Holy See in Rome to send an army of Italians and Spaniards [to help the Fitzgeralds](#) under the authority drafted by the “Just War Doctrine.”

Dubbed by Richard Berleth, author of [The Twilight Lords: Elizabeth I and the First Irish Holocaust](#) as the [“Twilight Lords”](#), the Fitzgeralds’ struggle against the Elizabethans and their [Renaissance Neoplatonism](#) offers a window into a thousand year old factional struggle of a European “deep-state” rooted in a Gnostic belief system. As allegorized in Edmund Spenser’s [Faerie Queene](#), the Fitzgeralds satisfied the Manichean requirement for evil in the English propaganda of the day, while Elizabeth and her Red Cross Templar knights represented Christian purity in the tradition of King Arthur and the Round Table.

It is of no small importance that the death of Gerald *Fitzgerald*, the last Earl of Desmond in 1583, marks the beginning of the British Empire. The eternal struggle of good against evil, the ancient Iranian war of light against dark by design required a victory over the darkness, and the Earl of Desmond filled that sacred role. As was the custom at the time, his decapitated head was sent to London where, legend has it, Queen Elizabeth sat with it for the morning before having it impaled on London Bridge.

With the incorporation of the British East India Company in 1600, Elizabeth’s victory would be spread around the world through imperial expansion. Elizabeth’s favorite courtier Walter Raleigh would sail to America and establish the colony that came to be named Virginia for the “Virgin Queen.”

The East India Company would establish trading posts from India to America and play a key role in the economic causes leading to the American Revolution.

It would make its founding families rich beyond dreams of avarice and make the English language universal and English culture the standard by which all other cultures would be judged. But the competition with Rome and the suspicion over its motives would never stop.

In the 400 plus years since Elizabeth I’s time, much of what was once deemed heretical by Church authorities has become commonplace. The Irish feudal society the Fitzgeralds

died to preserve was already obsolete by Elizabethan times, and would have vanished with or without them.

The sexual practices of the “heretics”, forbidden by law as recently as a generation ago, have become accepted and even openly embraced. The perfection of the human race through magic and alchemy sought by John Dee and the Sidney Circle has been replaced by computer science, physics and biotechnology, but the final product of such perfection is far from clear or even desirable.

Unknown and often unseen, the bitter struggle for power within the Anglo/Norman deep-state has raged beneath the surface down through the centuries.

On November 22, 1963, Americans were shocked by the public execution of their President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. In the years since every manner of conspiracy theory has been advanced to explain what happened.

But killing the only Roman Catholic President of the United States on the site of the first Masonic Temple in Dallas on the Masonic day of revenge for the destruction of the Knights Templar (November 22) bespeaks a ritual; and the ritual to which it bespeaks belongs to the Cathars and the [De Clare family](#).

The discovery that George Bush was descended from [Earl Richard de Clare, “Strongbow,”](#) the same man who drew the Fitzgerald family en masse into Ireland in 1169 was one of those moments few may understand without access to the deep-state script.

If the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy could have been an act of retribution for an eight hundred year old vendetta, then we all must begin to view history from a much more complex perspective. In order to understand a “deep-state”, we must all begin to ask “deep-questions” and be willing to accept “deep-answers”, no matter where they lead.

But with some clues to our own past, with an understanding of the ancient cycles of revenge and retribution and a rudimentary knowledge of the ancient rituals of death and rebirth, we can move forward to enthusiastically greet whatever is about to come next in much better shape than we might have thought possible.

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--Psychological Warfare and the American Mind Four Part Series

Part I: A Campaign Where the Lie Became the Truth and the Truth Became the Enemy of the State by Paul Fitzgerald Elizabeth Gould September 9, 2016

Looking back on the carnage of the last 15 years it's easy to see the psychological changes in America. What's not easy to see is how a longstanding campaign of covert psychological warfare built up since the early days of World War II had made the slow destruction of American democracy and the ascension of rule by secrecy inevitable, long before the planes ever left the runway on 9/11.



NYC firefighter looks up at remnant of the World Trade Tower
(Image by [Jim Watson](#)) [Permission](#) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

The moment Truth became the Enemy of the State

9/11/2001. The date still echoes in the mind with outrage, anger, and utter disbelief. Through the clarity of hindsight it now seems more than ever like a Madison Avenue commercial intended to sell the American population on another war they didn't need or want. But that's what we got. Fifteen years of it so far and no end in sight. Believing in the official narrative of 9/11 requires what's referred to in drama as a willful [suspension of disbelief](#). How could this happen? How did a band of ragged terrorists plotting from a cave in faraway Afghanistan accomplish such a feat given the pervasiveness of the most expensive military/intelligence apparatus in the history of the world? How did three skyscrapers defy the laws of physics and manage to collapse as if brought down by a controlled demolition? And even more curiously, why would Islamic radicals provide the neoconservative administration of George W. Bush with exactly the pretext they needed to launch a bloody invasion of Afghanistan and further occupation of the Middle East?

Who among America's national-security mandarins at the CIA or FBI or Department of Defense would be held accountable? No one would. Instead America's national-security apparatchiks would be rewarded with expanded powers to eavesdrop and torture; powers that were supposed to be anathema to the American way of doing things. Like

Kafkaesque characters who'd suddenly found themselves on the other side of the Cold War mirror, Americans would now have to ["watch what they say"](#) and watch what they do" as a preexisting "Patriot Act" would be signed into law to clamp down on dissent and real or imagined domestic terrorism.

Some careful observers like Anthony Lewis of the New York Times had already noticed the bizarre [coup-like changes](#) coming over Washington in the months leading up to the attack as the George W. Bush administration inaugurated radical shifts in domestic and foreign policy that seemed un-American and alien to anything that had gone before. But those concerns would soon be forgotten in the race for revenge.

9/11 would ultimately give President George W. Bush and his neoconservative advisors all the public approval they needed to transform America and invade Afghanistan and Iraq to cleanse the world of evil. In the end it would turn the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and America's reputation on its head.

Looking back on the carnage of the last 15 years it's easy to see the psychological changes in America. What's not easy to see is how a longstanding campaign of covert psychological warfare built up since the early days of World War II had made the slow destruction of American democracy and the ascension of rule by secrecy inevitable, long before the planes ever left the runway on 9/11:

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State." -Dr. Joseph Goebbels

As chief propagandist for the Nazi Party, Joseph Goebbels' system of [black propaganda](#) not only helped Hitler's rise to power but kept him there by utilizing near-hypnotic powers over the German people even after the consequences of his disastrous failures had become obvious.

To counter [Goebbels' propaganda theatre](#) emanating from Nazi party headquarters at Munich's Braunhaus (Brown House), an organization named [Freedom House](#) was founded in New York City in 1941. Fronted by American celebrities and public luminaries such as Eleanor Roosevelt, the wizard behind the outfit was [Leo Cherne](#), psychological warfare specialist/co-founder of the Research Institute of America (RIA), which would later be labeled the "CIA for businessmen."

If anyone could match Goebbels' black arts of psychological warfare it was Cherne. In 1939 Cherne published a guide to industrial mobilization in [Adjusting Your Business to War](#), prophetically forecasting the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 and on September 1st of that year completed a 3000-page report titled, *Industrial Mobilization Plans for World War II*, the very day that German troops crossed into Poland.

That same year Cherne asked an ambitious young prote'ge' named [William J. Casey](#), the future director of the CIA, *"How do you take a country like ours, stuck in depression, and convert it into an arsenal?"* The answer was a highly profitable loose-leaf book called *The War Coordinator*. Operating through Freedom House and a second entity known as the [International Rescue Committee](#), (IRC) Cherne and Casey's psychological-warfare campaign would ultimately transform universally held concepts like Freedom, Justice and Truth into exclusive American brands, which over decades of repetition and reinforcement would grow into the now sacred axioms of American exceptionalism.

Over the decades following World War II Cherne would attract the most powerful and influential figures in American business and politics to his causes. A listing of Freedom House trustees on its 50th anniversary in 1991 includes people as diverse as Andrew Young, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, Albert Shanker, Donald Rumsfeld and James Woolsey. It has since become an exclusive clearinghouse for the neoconservative's international agenda.

Freedom House's narrative is no less than the narrative of the American century where, *"It has fought on the side of freedom and against aggressors in struggles that can be evoked by simple words and phrases: the Marshall Plan, the Truman Doctrine, NATO, Hungarian Freedom Fighters, the Berlin Wall, the Prague Spring..."* and of course Afghanistan.

We experienced Freedom House's profound influence on the major media in the spring of 1983 in a televised Nightline program following a trip to Afghanistan with Harvard Negotiation Project Director [Roger Fisher](#). We had brought Fisher to Afghanistan to explore the possibilities of a Soviet withdrawal of forces and discovered the Soviets were desperate to get out. But instead of expanding on Fisher's expert opinions about Soviet intentions, host Ted Koppel steered the discussion toward the CIA-backed Mujahideen by introducing a political officer of the Jamaat-i Islami, which Koppel described as *"an anti-communist resistance group based in Pakistan... here in the United States under the auspices of two American organizations, concerned with democracy in Afghanistan, the Afghan Relief Committee and Freedom House."*

Had Koppel and Freedom House really been concerned about democracy in Afghanistan, they would never have chosen the Jamaat-i Islami. Originally founded by the Pakistani theologian Abul Ala Maudidi in 1941, the Jamaat-i Islami's primary concern was not about democracy but *replacing* western-style democracy with an extremist Islamic Society.

According to testimony of Freedom House's Rosanne Klass at a [congressional hearing in February 1988](#), Freedom House's real concern wasn't about ending the conflict in Afghanistan at all but about keeping the Soviet Union tied down indefinitely. So, Nightline's challenge to Roger Fisher's evidence of a Soviet willingness to leave Afghanistan in 1983 and its choice of the Jamaat-i Islami could only have been intended to discredit Soviet intentions and the potential for peace in Afghanistan.

In 1939 Leo Cherne and William Casey set out to wage a war of disinformation on Germany and Japan. When that war was over they turned their campaign onto the Soviet Union. Then in 1981 - after they'd helped to stoke up a disinformation campaign surrounding events in Afghanistan - CIA Director William Casey told the President of the United States, "We'll know our disinformation program is complete when [everything the American public believes](#) is false."

Fifteen years ago on 9/11, the product of Leo Cherne and William Casey's disinformation war came home to America. *Americans couldn't know* what had just happened and still can't know because everything they'd been hearing for decades about the Soviet Union, about Afghanistan and Ronald Reagan's fiercely religious freedom fighters was admittedly false. By September of 2001 both men had passed on, but the false narrative where the lie became the truth and the truth became the enemy of the state lives on today. It comes as a steady flow of false information about America's latest enemies floods American minds as never before.

How did the American political system and foreign-policy apparatus become enslaved by a demented political class whose only recourse is to prepare for a third World War that can never be won? How can the American people defend themselves against a lie they would rather accept than face the stark truth that lives within our society like a cancer? Join us, as we explain how this dilemma came to be, who the players are and what they really want in the next installment of **Psychological Warfare and the American Mind**.

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Part 2: Building the Afghan Narrative with Black Propaganda; the People, the Process & the Product by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould September 11, 2016

America's coordinated use of psychological warfare began in earnest during World War II and has grown and expanded into public relations, advertising, cinema, radio and television, electronic video games and now social media. Its pro-war boosterism extends over sports, religion, education, news and entertainment to form a seamless electronic cocoon-like web.



Nazi official Hermann Göring in jail cell Nuremberg Trials 1945

(Image by [US Army Signal Corps photographer](#) ([Harvard Law School Library, Harvard University](#)) [Permission](#) [Details](#))

By definition, [America's use of Psychological Warfare](#) is described as the "*The planned use of propaganda and other psychological actions having the primary purpose of influencing the opinions, emotions, attitudes, and behavior of hostile foreign groups in such a way as to support the achievement of national objectives.*" Of course this very definition is itself propaganda, a black lie which omits the fact that America's domestic population is just as often the target of psychological warfare as any "*hostile foreign groups.*"

The state's use of psychological warfare to bend the population to war is as old, if not older than the existence of states themselves. But it was perhaps Nazi Reichsmarschall [Hermann Goering](#) whose statement while on trial at Nuremberg best summed up the cynical simplicity of the logic.

"Of course people don't want war. But after all, it's the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it's always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it's a democracy, a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders, that is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to greater danger."

Psychological warfare in the form of propaganda comes in all shapes and sizes as well as shades of [black, grey or white](#). America's coordinated use of psychological warfare began in earnest during World War II and ever since has grown and expanded into public relations, advertising, cinema, radio and television, electronic video games and now [social media](#). Its pro-war boosterism extends over [sports](#), religion, education, [news](#) and entertainment to form a seamless electronic cocoon-like web. It is employed on an ever growing list of those deemed as enemies of America as well as on a confused and agitated American public -- whose corporate news networks frame and manage an

increasingly false narrative while engaging in a kind of Orwellian Kabuki Theatre of [fairness and balance](#).

Americans were heavily propagandized to support a U.S. entry into World War II and again to accept the morality of deploying the atomic bomb to end it. [Even Mickey Mouse](#) was conscripted for America's total war effort along with the minds of America's youth. Following the war [Americans were heavily propagandized](#) to accept the Cold War, the need for maintaining a permanent army, navy and air force as well as the buildup of a nuclear weapons arsenal.

Since 9/11 Americans have been bathed in [psychological warfare on Islamic terrorism](#), but so much evidence has emerged [linking that terrorism](#) to covert U.S. policy goals, that the propaganda value has backfired.

The Bush administration can take credit for breaking the system in the run-up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, by using fraudulent claims as a pretext for the invasion. But for reasons that defy logic, the U.S. government continues to employ these methods despite them having been shown time and again to be fraudulent.

One has only to look to the U.S. role in Afghanistan in the 1970s to understand the background of the current crisis in American thinking; but without reexamining the real purpose behind America's long term involvement, today's disinformation wars will remain imponderable.

The origins of Washington's war in Afghanistan have always been strategic, long term and particularly black, obscured throughout the Cold War by a narrative adapted from Britain's 19th century colonial expansion in India.

After a fruitless effort in Vietnam in the 1950s and 1960s, America's psychological warfare campaign shifted its attention to Central Asia in 1973, when Afghanistan's king was overthrown by his brother in law and cousin, Mohammed Daoud. Aided by the Parcham faction of the Marxist/Leninist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), Daoud's takeover fit neatly into Washington's anti-communist manifesto, despite his overwhelmingly nationalist credentials. The role of the Communist party meant so little to the U.S. media at the time that it remained invisible in both [Time](#) and *Newsweek's* published reports of the coup. But to U.S. ambassador Robert G. Neumann, the presence of the PDPA meant that a "limited Great Game" with the Soviet Union was now back in play.

A coordinated campaign of pressure from U.S.-backed Pakistan and Iran soon ousted Daoud's Marxist partner, while the Shah's dreaded spy agency SAVAK moved in to help Daoud clean house of leftists. The Shah even readied a military force to invade, should Daoud waver in his newfound anti-Communist zeal. But by 1978 a new day for Iran and Afghanistan was about to dawn.

Enter Hafizullah Amin. Before, during and after World War II, the U.S. had created a number of psychological warfare organizations designed to compete with the political propaganda of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. Integrated closely into the CIA's intelligence and psychological warfare units after the war, organizations like Leo Cherne's [International Rescue Committee](#) (IRC) and according to the CIA's own website, the [Congress for Cultural Freedom](#), helped to solidify CIA's emerging strategy of promoting the non-Communist left--the strategy that would soon become the theoretical foundation of the agency's political operations against Communism over the next two decades."

In constant competition with the Soviet KGB, the CIA was also known to target foreign students destined to hold high rank in their home countries. Handpicked by U.S. administrators to participate in a UNESCO/Columbia University program, Amin was sent to New York in 1957. He later completed a master's degree at Columbia--coincidentally, at a time when future National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski was gaining prominence there as a professor.

Amin claimed to have become radicalized at the University of Wisconsin in 1958. He also claimed to have become a Marxist that summer, but would conceal his emergence as a leader in the Kalq faction of the PDPA until much later. Despite being a Marxist, Amin was again chosen in 1962 by the Americans to attend Columbia, this time as a doctoral candidate, rising quickly to become the president of the Afghan Student Association. A [disclosure in Ramparts magazine](#) in April 1967 would reveal the CIA's sponsorship of that same Afghan Student Association during that time. Following his return, Amin rose rapidly in Afghan politics and by 1978 was positioned to play a pivotal role in [another Palace coup](#), this time of Prince Mohammed Daoud himself.

1978 was a pivotal year in the foreign policy of the United States as President Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski made steady inroads into Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's power. By that year, he had persuaded Carter to transfer jurisdiction over the CIA from the Inter-Agency Policy Review Committee, (headed by the Secretary of State), to the National Security Council's Special Coordinating Committee, which he chaired. This shift gave Brzezinski control over covert operations in Afghanistan. It also gave him control of the psychological warfare campaign necessary to make those operations work both at home and abroad.

Hafizullah Amin played the perfect foil to Brzezinski's propaganda war which, regardless of the lack of evidence, painted the PDPA takeover in Kabul as a clear example of the growing dangers of Soviet expansionism and their pursuit of dominance in the Persian Gulf. Throughout 1978 and into 1979, Amin's actions dovetailed perfectly into the expanding psychological warfare campaign against detente and the Soviet Union, with Brzezinski blaming Amin's February 1979 assassination of American Ambassador Adolph Dubs on the Soviets.

[Transcripts from Politburo meetings](#) in Moscow from March 1979 show a Soviet leadership confounded as the events unfolded, referring to a conversation with Amin as

seeming "like a detective novel." Had the operation been scripted in advance by the CIA to confuse Moscow, it could not have worked more brilliantly.

The subsequent, December 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan ended detente, renewed the Cold War and opened a U.S. military relationship with Communist China that could not have been imagined up to that time. It established a new narrative of an expanding Soviet Evil Empire threatening America's vital interests in the Persian Gulf, while shifting U.S. foreign policy permanently into the neoconservative's hands. This policy shift was laid out within days of the Soviet invasion by former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan [Theodore Eliot](#) and Harvard Professor [Richard Pipes](#) in a MacNeil Lehrer broadcast on January 2, 1980.

But it wasn't until we probed this new narrative by going to Afghanistan ourselves in 1981 and were challenged personally in a public forum for doing so by Ambassador Eliot, that we realized there was much more to Ambassador Eliot and his narrative than met the eye. Join us for Part III as we explain how President Jimmy Carter's reelection, as well as American diplomacy, suffered a stealth attack from his own national security advisor in the next installment of **Psychological Warfare and the American Mind**.

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Part 3: A Clockwork Afghanistan

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould September 13, 2016

The MSM was setting the public up prior to the 1979 Soviet invasion citing Brzezinski predicting they would move towards the Persian Gulf for the oil based on the CIA memo, "The Impending Soviet Oil Crisis," that was propaganda. Brzezinski wanted the Soviets in Afghanistan as part of his plan for the conquest of Eurasia and used psychological warfare to convince Americans that the Soviets wanted world domination with no facts.



U.S. Navy Secretary of the Navy, Paul Nitze, and Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral David McDonald, 1964.
([Image](#) by U.S. Department of Defense [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons) [Permission](#) [Details](#)

The forces vying to determine the direction of the American Empire in the 21st century began their struggle long before 9/11. It might be said that the December 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was the signature event that made 9/11 inevitable. The Soviet reaction to infiltration and destabilization on their southern border ended de'tente and renewed the Cold War but also kicked off a U.S. backed Islamist expansion into Central Asia that has now spread like a plague into Europe and the Middle East and today threatens to ignite World War III. At the time the Soviet invasion was presented as an open act of aggression and declared by President Jimmy Carter to be the most serious threat to peace since World War II. It would establish a new narrative of uncompromising hostility toward the Soviet Union and erase decades of efforts by moderates inside both Soviet and American systems to end the Cold War. It would increase defense spending to World War II size levels thereby changing the United States from a creditor to a debtor nation and would also embed the so called New Right and their neoconservative allies with their aggressive, militarist agenda into the American political establishment.

The engine that drives today's ideological and economic warfare against Russia and the crisis the United States suffers from in both its domestic and foreign agendas, both politically and economically stems from an extended psychological warfare campaign cooked up against the Soviets during the Cold War but prolonged and intensified during their long war in Afghanistan.

Following the events of December 27, 1979 Americans responded dutifully to a prepared script as it poured from a hoard of foreign policy "experts" bemoaning America's military weakness while claiming Afghanistan was payback for Vietnam. Zbigniew [Brzezinski himself claimed in his memoirs](#) that the Soviet's move into Afghanistan was a vindication of his concern "that the Soviets would be emboldened by our lack of response over Ethiopia." The shaken president, Jimmy Carter announced a U.S. boycott of the 1980

Moscow Olympics, the creation of a rapid deployment force to the Middle East and a new get tough posture toward the Soviet Union.

On January 2, 1980 the MacNeil Lehrer News Hour brought in former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan [Theodore Eliot](#) and Harvard Professor [Richard Pipes](#) to speculate on the implications of the invasion. As an unabashed neoconservative ideologue, Pipes *should* have been considered a controversial choice sitting alongside the thoroughly mainstream Eastern establishment Eliot. But on this evening Pipes had been chosen to play the very special role of delegitimizing de'tente with the Soviet Union while moving the discussion permanently and irretrievably to the neoconservative right wing. Paired with Eliot, the dean of American diplomacy and soon to be Secretary General for the United States of the [Bilderberg group](#), the message was made clear that the ideology of neoconservatism, globalism and the institutions of the American government were now one and the same.

It was a moment that would change the United States in ways that few Americans would immediately understand and many continue to find baffling. Years earlier, Pipes had been chosen to chair a biased, highly partisan study of the CIA known as the [Team B experiment](#) in competitive analysis.

The decade of the 1970s presented a series of strategic shocks to the United States. The Watergate scandal and the Arab oil embargo, campus protests, combined with the American military failure in Vietnam opened the door for de'tente with the Soviet Union. Vietnam removed the veil from America's Cold War defense-intellectual elite, revealing their complex mathematical formulas for war to be useless as a guide to action. But even before the end of that war in 1975, pressure had been building from an influential collection of neoconservative hawks assembled by [Albert Wohlstetter](#) to ignore the facts on the ground, blame détente for American weakness and wind back the clock to an openly militarized Cold War approach to the Soviet Union.

Backed by Gerald Ford's CIA director George H.W. Bush, the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) vice chairman, Leo Cherne, and the [father of Cold War thinking, Paul Nitze](#), Team B's goal was to turn the CIA's thinking about the Soviet Union on its head.

"The intensity and scope of the current Soviet military effort in peacetime is without parallel in twentieth century history," they claimed in their top secret 1976 report. The Soviets were preparing for a "third world war" and were comparable only to "Nazi remilitarization of the 1930s." Given military superiority and the will to use it, they reasoned, at some point in the near future the Soviets would make a strategic move that the United States would be militarily unable to stop.

But it was in their claim that the Soviets would first "intimidate smaller powers . . . adjacent to the USSR . . . where pro-Soviet forces have an opportunity to seize power but are unable to do so without military help," that the Team B assessment attained a level of prophecy.

If anything could be described as a psychological warfare operation come unhinged, it was the Team B experiment. Team B effectively exposed the CIA's own process of rational analysis to an exercise of personalized, politicized, ethnic and faith-based psychological warfare. And it succeeded.

By 1979, the Team B and its acolytes Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz and the Afghan [Zalmay Khalilzad](#) had so managed to overlay their alternate reality onto the mind of American government that when the invasion of Afghanistan took place that December their imaginary, foreordained crisis had become as real as it was intended to be.

But it was in the reliance of World War II-style imagery where the hyperbole strove to achieve the glow of Hollywood's golden era. Richard Pipes made it clear in that January 2, 1980 broadcast that Afghanistan was "a superb springboard from which to launch offensives both into the Indian subcontinent and into Iran and the Iranian Gulf". And then invoked the magic of World War II by stating that never before had the Soviets "felt bold enough" to engage in a direct blitzkrieg. So if they get away with it in Afghanistan, there'll not only be great danger for our whole Middle eastern position but we will have encouraged them to engage in actions of this sort in other parts of the world, including, for example, Southeastern Europe or possibly even Western Europe."

This had been Team B's siren call from the start. America had weakened itself through de'tente and negotiation while the Soviets had been secretly preparing a "direct blitzkrieg" aimed at the Middle East, India, Southeastern and even Western Europe, and now here it was. Just like the phantom threat posed by Saddam Hussein in 2003 and [brought forward by the very same group of ideologues](#), the idea that the Soviets might cut off a vital oil supply was all that was needed to capture public opinion. That spring CBS News anchor Dan Rather followed up with a coast to coast broadcast reinforcing that sentimental Rick's Cafe 1940s Hollywood line: the American people were asleep to Soviet designs and had better start supporting the Mujahideen "freedom fighters" before it was too late.

The major media had been setting the public up for months prior to the invasion citing Brzezinski and the importance of the ["arc of crisis,"](#) and predicting that the Soviet Union would be driven toward the Persian Gulf within the decade due to intelligence reports that it was ["running short of the oil](#) it needs to fuel an expanding economy." Never mind that the Soviet economy was actually contracting at that point and the CIA's secret 14-page memo titled ["The Impending Soviet Oil Crisis,"](#) was pure hokum.

Brzezinski and his Team B allies wanted the Soviets in Afghanistan as part of a long standing plan for [the conquest of Eurasia](#) and the psychological warfare campaign to convince Americans of the Soviets' malevolent desires for world domination was already gearing up to make it reality.

The International Rescue Committee's Chairman Leo Cherne was well practiced in the methods necessary to provoke the desired reaction from the public. According to its

annual reports for 1978, the year of the Marxist coup in Afghanistan, the IRC was already actively engaged in bringing Afghan refugees to Europe and the United States following "The takeover of Afghanistan by dictatorial forces sympathetic to the Soviet Union" The report that year featured a photograph of Cherne's old prote'ge' at the Research Institute of America, board member William J. Casey while conducting a tour of Southeast Asia. Casey would serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee the next year before running Ronald Reagan's 1980 election campaign and shortly thereafter becoming his CIA director.

The IRC in cooperation with the CIA had virtually created the elaborate psychological warfare mechanism that sold the U.S. military involvement in Vietnam to the American public. In 1975 their campaign ended in failure but in faraway Afghanistan, those mistakes would be forgotten. We got a personal look at the inside agenda and what would be done to keep it a secret in December of 1981 when Theodore Eliot, former U.S. Ambassador and Bilderberg General Secretary showed up at [a private preview](#) of our documentary [Afghanistan Between Three Worlds](#) and demanded our silence.

How did they get away with it? How could the American public be so caught up in the media theatrics to support the funding of Islamic fanaticism in Afghanistan they'd completely miss out on the largest CIA operation in American history?

Join us next time when we explain how Americans of all stripes had been lulled into accepting a British Imperial agenda as their own long before the Soviets crossed the border in our next installment of **Psychological Warfare and the American Mind**.

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Part 4: Willie Wonka & the National-Security State

by Paul Fitzgerald Elizabeth Gould September 15, 2016

Since World War II, Americans have been lulled into accepting a messianic 19th-century British Imperial agenda. One key British agent in the psychological war for American public opinion was RAF pilot Roald Dahl who, along with James Bond creator Ian Fleming, playwright Noel Coward and Gallup pollster David Ogilvy, were given free rein to propagandize "the natives" (Americans) through whatever means possible.



President Truman and Winston Churchill heading to Missouri for Churchill's 1946 'Iron Curtain' speech that inaugurated the U.S. Cold War against the Soviet Union ([Image](#) by Abbie Rowe, 1905-1967 (NARA record: 8451352)) [Permission](#) [Details](#)

The world watched in horror as New York's twin trade towers exploded and vaporized in a hypnotic Old Testament moment. It was as if some invisible dark force had reached out and in one swift stroke signaled that the Apocalypse had begun. The destruction seemed to defy gravity as 200,000 tons of steel and 425,000 cubic yards of concrete fell so freely to the street below, it resembled a controlled demolition. This was not a Pearl Harbor-style attack on a faraway American military base. This was a poisonous wound to the American psyche, an act of psychological warfare more devastating than any military strike could ever have accomplished. Fifteen years on, everything about 9/11 still feels otherworldly and irrational, the reasons for it, the apparent helplessness in the face of it, the curious identities of the people involved and the American government's response to it. It defied logic then and it still does today. The World Trade Towers were proud symbols of who Americans were, at least who they thought they were. The spiritual motto of the original 1939 Flushing, NY, World's Fair "World Trade Center" pavilion was dedicated to ["world peace through trade."](#)

There would be no peace after 9/11. The destruction loosed a demon that had been struggling for America's soul since the creation of the Cold War in 1947. The U.S. would now be freed to pursue "evil" wherever it could be found and there would be no turning back. The creation of the World Trade Towers by Rockefeller brothers Nelson and David had been steeped in psychological symbolism from their start in the early 1960s. As the most well-known scions of American business, the Rockefeller family brought more than just money to their endeavors; they brought a vision for the future of the planet and a philosophy to guide it.

Begun as a massive undertaking to revitalize lower Manhattan, Chase Manhattan Bank Chairman David and New York Governor Nelson pushed hard for the project and each

tower stood as a symbol of their respective power. As metaphor, the towers were more than just two of the tallest buildings in the world. It might be said they were as important as the [two pillars Joachim and Boaz](#), which stood at the entrance to Solomon's Temple; mystical gates to a Cathedral of wisdom in which all could worship under one religion; the religion of business, Capitalism.

The Rockefellers were no strangers to the power of psychological warfare and its impact on American opinion. During World War II Nelson headed the U.S. government's intelligence agency for Latin America, the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs (CIAA). CIAA's film division guided the 1942 production of Walt Disney's [Saludos Amigos](#) to promote pro-American sentiment in South America. In 1954 Nelson was appointed as President Eisenhower's White House special assistant on Cold War tactics and psychological warfare. Nelson Rockefeller played a central role in formulating domestic-propaganda programs throughout the 1950s as chairman of the Planning Coordination Group that, in addition to its propaganda work, oversaw all CIA covert operations. His 1956 [Special Studies Project](#) directed by Rockefeller prote'ge' Henry Kissinger produced many of the domestic-policy recommendations that came to be known as President Kennedy's *New Frontier*. His family's philanthropic support of the arts had been carefully coordinated with the CIA and was both overtly and covertly propagandistic.

As a committed Anglophile, Rockefeller had aided British intelligence during World War II when he rented space in New York's Rockefeller Center at a steep discount to a number of British propaganda agencies including their secret intelligence service for the Americas, the [British Security Coordination](#) (BSC). The BSC's chief, Sir William Stephenson (Intrepid), set up shop in New York City with the help of some of New York's wealthiest families with one main objective in mind: Get the United States into the war in Europe on Britain's behalf.

One key agent in the psychological war for American public opinion was young RAF pilot [Roald Dahl](#) who, along with James Bond creator [Ian Fleming](#), playwright [Noel Coward](#) and Gallup pollster [David Ogilvy](#), were given free rein to commit sabotage, political subversion and propagandize "the natives" (Americans) through whatever means possible.

Dahl's creative fiction earned him praise from the *New York Times* and publishing contracts from *Random House* as well as entre'e to Hollywood where he would collaborate with Walt and Roy Disney in their studio's transformation into an arsenal of animation while inspiring [numerous imitators](#). Dahl would go on to marry a movie star and become a Hollywood icon with perennial successes, most notably "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." The cult of intelligence would ultimately become so seamlessly blended into every aspect of publishing, television and film, the CIA would jokingly be referred to as "the Chocolate Factory." Along with Fleming, Ogilvy and Coward, Dahl would help to get the United States into the war with Germany and craft an enduring Anglo-centric cultural narrative in the public's mind whose main objective was the promotion of a British agenda for the United States. That agenda would quickly shift

from anti-fascist to aggressive Cold War anti-communist (read anti-Russian) as World War II ended, with Britain playing a seminal role in the creation of America's national-security state.

President Harry [Truman's March 12, 1947, proclamation](#) laying out the rationale for the Cold War (Truman Doctrine) fundamentally altered America's identity by embedding a permanent psychology of fear. But a hidden aspect of this conflict was the slow, grinding corruption that its unreality fostered in America's leadership. That unreality was finally revealed in the catastrophe of Vietnam.

In a remarkably self-effacing (especially by today's standards) January 8, 1972, *New Yorker* article tracing the origins of the devastation caused by Vietnam titled "[Reflections: In Thrall To Fear](#)," Senator J. William Fulbright bemoaned the mental corruption caused by the Truman Doctrine during the 1940s, '50s and '60s, whereby "Our leaders became liberated from the normal rules of evidence and inference when it came to dealing with Communism. The effect of the anti-Communist ideology was to spare us the task of taking cognizance of the specific facts of specific situations. Our 'faith' liberated us, like the believers of old, from the requirements of empirical thinking. Like medieval theologians, we had a philosophy that explained everything to us in advance, and everything that did not fit could be readily identified as a fraud or a lie or an illusion."

What Fulbright's brilliant but tragic reflections fail to include is that America's assumptions about the Cold War were never empirical. In fact the assumptions weren't even necessarily American but had been crafted by America's Anglo-centric intelligence bureaucracy and rooted in [messianic 19th century British](#) designs for control of the Eurasian landmass. A release of classified documents in 2009 revealed that Britain's wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill was so obsessed with Eurasian conquest he'd envisioned rearming Germany and attacking the Soviet Union right up to the end of World War II in a plan named [Operation Unthinkable](#). Faced with the absurdity of confronting an overwhelmingly superior Soviet ground force and starting World War III, Churchill's operation was shelved, but his famous [Iron Curtain speech](#) of 1946 would kick off the Cold War and establish the ideological narrative by which all future U.S./Soviet relations would be defined.

Join us in next series when we explain how Americans of all stripes had been brainwashed into accepting the cultural narrative of an [Anglo-Saxon American Empire](#) long before the Soviets crossed the border into Afghanistan.

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INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES

[A Declaration of Human Rights for the 21st century, World Peace](#)

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould June 10, 2022

Violence begets violence, war begets more wars. These facts have been known to generations before our time and we should not have to learn this horrible truth again. Events have been forgotten by history and covered up by administrations. Angers and hatreds have been instilled in generations. We cannot continue in this manner and survive as a people. We must calm down, face the facts of where we have come from, and put our minds to diffusing the crises and not making it worse. Is there a solution? YES, there is; knowledge, understanding and the courage to face our past and vow to resolve it without violence or prejudice. Americans are in a unique position to help through JFK's peace legacy enshrined in his [American University Speech](#). Activating his plan will be a new Declaration of Human Rights for the 21st century that will lay the foundation for a peaceful world to emerge out of the final chaotic stage of empire.



[Eternal flame](#) at the Grave of John F. Kennedy in Arlington National Cemetery [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported](#)

Overview

John Fitzgerald Kennedy is regularly rated as one of our greatest presidents, a testament to his continuing ability to inspire hope, faith and courage in Americans. He asked us to take on the most important challenge of our times in 1963; helping him to create world peace. His American University Speech laid out that plan with words that are powerful – so powerful he could have lost his life five months later just because of them.

Resurrecting JFK's plan for world peace is long overdue! *We the People* must do it. *We the People* can do it! *We the people* will do it! And the first step is for, *We the People* to imagine the peaceful future we want, starting today.

Research into how positive ideas move from one person to the next suggests that just sharing ideas is not sufficient to change the world. We need to translate consciously the power of positive ideas into action. The first step is to unblock our feelings of fear and

despair about the threats to our planet from the endless war agendas we face. If we don't unlock our creative power to imagine the peace we want now it will not be able to materialize as our future. Once we do unlock the full potential for peace everyone will eventually join with us to make it happen.



JFK 1963 Commencement Address, American University Washington, D. C., [Cecil Stoughton](#) Public domain.

The next step is transforming JFK's June 10, 1963 American University speech into the blueprint for world peace intertwined with historical and mythical stories from his Fitzgerald family's Irish roots. The finished plan would be delivered at a musical concert set in Ireland. It will be modeled after the 1985 *Live Aid* concert for famine relief in Africa. The sponsors of Live Aid took an issue nobody cared about, put it in front of 2 billion people through music and raised \$127 million. Unfortunately, not only are millions of lives still at risk today from famine in the third world, the first world is facing an unprecedented food crisis of its own. This exposes the truth that focusing on famine relief was never going to be a remedy for famine itself. Our concert will promote the real solution; establishing the peace as the only underlying foundation that will address all human made problems.



[Live Aid](#) Concert at JFK Stadium, Philadelphia, PA 1985 Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0

Our musical “peace” focus will be modeled after the wildly popular American Tribal Love-Rock Musical HAIR. In its time HAIR was the center of the Anti-Vietnam War Movement; delivering a riveting political and social awakening that we experienced in 1970 as participants in the Boston production for a year. Its finale song *Flesh Failures Let the Sunshine In* still stirs the soul to know that, in their heart, all people want peace and not war. It will become the anthem for the world wide peace movement we are building.



Paul Fitzgerald as Claude singing at the Wilbur Theater in 1970, Boston Globe

Our effort towards peace through dialogue and music will break us free from the dialectic's narrative of defeating the “other,” opening us to a self-aware perspective that can function as a spiritual and moral gauge by testing our own values instead of others. The concert will also be a re-awakening to bring back the peace robbed from our generation by dark forces manipulating from behind the scenes. Those forces did destroy our generation's cohesion but our vision for activating world peace is even more inspired towards action by what we connected to back then.

Finally a new and shocking departure from the toxic war narrative is needed to totally change the tone and reorient people's thinking away from war to peace as the only solution. This can be accomplished by connecting to our shared past in Ireland, the land that gave birth to the prophecy of the Fitzgerald family's most beloved ancestor, Gearóid Iarla. It has been believed for close to 700 years that he will rise from the dead at the end of time to free the Irish people from the tyranny of empire. The time is now for the fulfillment of that prophecy and we believe that can be accomplished by resurrecting JFK's plan for world plan.



A front view of [Newgrange](#), County Meath Ireland [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#)

The perfect setting for a concert that will promote world peace through music is at Newgrange, a fifty five hundred year old UNESCO World Heritage Site north of Dublin. Originally known as Bru na Boinne, (mansion on the river Boyne), the structure is central to pre-Christian Irish mythology having been built by the Dagda, the father of the Tuatha de Danaan, (people of the light) who was known as the Good Father as a benefactor to all the people. Described as a "passage grave" by scholars, it was considered a "house" where the dead could live and pass in and out of supernatural reality into this world at will. It was also a place where the living could commune with the spirits of the Otherworld and see, hear and feel the bountiful Grail that awaited them in the spirit-world beyond.



Entrance to Newgrange, County Meath Ireland Paul Fitzgerald owner

According to Joseph Campbell in his book *Occidental Mythology, The Masks of God*; "By various schools of modern scholarship, the Grail has been identified with the Dagda's caldron of plenty. According to Masonic lore, Newgrange's history and mythology is also central to the biblical Enoch, grandfather of Noah, who is found in all three Abrahamic religions. This ancient mythology can provide a new narrative outside the fracturing framework of today's violent struggles. But most of all Newgrange stimulates something in the imagination; a deeper connection to the past and the evolution of human thought that has been lost and forgotten to both the East and the West.

Key Passages from JFK's June 10, 1963 [American University Speech](#)

"Some say that it is useless to speak of peace until the leaders of the Soviet Union adopt a more enlightened attitude. I hope they do. I believe we can help them do it. But I also believe that we must reexamine our own attitude — for our attitude is as essential as theirs. And every citizen who despairs of war and wishes to bring peace, should begin by looking inward — by examining his own attitude toward the possibilities of peace, toward the Soviet Union and toward freedom and peace here at home.

First, examine our attitude toward peace itself. *Too many think* it is impossible. But that is a defeatist belief. It leads to the conclusion that war is inevitable, that mankind is doomed, that we are gripped by forces we cannot control. Our problems are manmade. Therefore, they can be solved by man. Man's reason and spirit have often solved the seemingly unsolvable and we can do it again.

Let us focus on an attainable peace based on a gradual evolution in human institutions, on a series of actions and effective agreements which are in the interest of all concerned. With such a peace, there will still be conflicting interests, as there are within families and nations. World peace, like community peace, does not require that each man love his neighbor, it requires only that they live together in mutual tolerance, submitting their disputes to a just settlement.

So let us persevere. Peace need not be impracticable, and war need not be inevitable. By defining our goal more clearly, by making it seem more manageable and less remote, we can help people to see it, to draw hope from it, and to move irresistibly toward it.

And second, let us reexamine our attitude toward the Soviet Union. It is discouraging to read a Soviet text and find claims, such as the allegation that *“there is a very real threat of a preventive war being unleashed by American imperialists against the Soviet Union, and that the political aims of the American imperialists are to enslave economically and politically the European and other capitalist countries and to achieve world domination by means of aggressive wars.”* It is sad to realize the extent of the gulf between us. But it is also a warning to the American people not to fall into the same trap as the Soviets, not to see only a distorted view of the other side, not to see conflict as inevitable, accommodation as impossible, and communication as nothing more than an exchange of threats.

No government or social system is so evil that its people must be considered as lacking in virtue. No nation in the history of battle ever suffered more than the Soviet Union in the Second World War. *At least* 20 million lost their lives. A third of the nation’s territory, including nearly two-thirds of its industrial base, was turned into a wasteland.

Today, should total war break out our two countries will be the primary targets. It is a fact that the two strongest powers are in the most danger of devastation. All we have built, all we have worked for, would be destroyed in the first 24 hours. And even in the cold war our two countries bear the heaviest burdens. We are both devoting massive sums of money to weapons that could be devoted to combat poverty and disease. We are caught up in a dangerous cycle with suspicion on one side breeding suspicion on the other, and new weapons begetting counter weapons.

In short, both the United States and its allies, and the Soviet Union and its allies, have a mutually deep interest in a genuine peace and in halting the arms race. Agreements to this end are in the interests of the Soviet Union as well as ours. So, let us not be blind to our differences, but let us also direct attention to our common interests and the means by which those differences can be resolved. For our most common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s future. And we are all mortal.” Read the full speech [here](#)

The Fitzgerald History and Mythology embodied in JFK’s life, death and resurrection

[Myths](#) have been created by every culture world-wide for millennia. They are the stories of our encounters with the mystical handed down from one generation to the next. When myths are merged with the historical record the interaction aids in deciphering a more complex meaning of history. In our [research](#) into the Fitzgerald family's rise and fall from power—*starting with the 12th century Norman invasion of Ireland and ending four hundred years later with the beheading of the last earl of Desmond by Elizabeth I*—we were faced with the limits of the historical record. Fortunately the [age of myth](#) lived on in Ireland into the mid—20th century allowing us the ability to access a rich layer of meaning beyond history.



Elizabeth I of England (1533-1603) (Image by [Blackwork Guild](#)) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

Starting with the [Fitzgeralds'](#) arrival in Ireland in 1169 an outpouring of prophecies believed to be connected to the family were already in existence. Over time these prophecies became entwined with the prophetic legacies of Merlin, the Grail legends from Wales, the Irish prophets Moling, Brechan, Patrick and Colmcille and the ancient [Irish legends](#) of Finn and the [Dagda](#).



Maurice FitzGerald as shown in the *Expugnatio Hibernica*, written in 1189 by his nephew, Gerald of Wales

(Image by [National Library of Ireland](#)) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

The myths about the Earls of Desmond began to form in the early 14th century. Maurice FitzGerald's son Gerald, known as Gearoid Iarla in Gaelic, inspired the origin myth of the family. Born in 1338, Gearoid succeeded to the Earldom in 1358 making him the 3rd Earl

of Desmond and the leader of the Munster branch of the Fitzgeralds—the most powerful Norman family in late medieval Ireland. Gearoid’s castle at [Lough Gur](#), Co. Limerick became the center of the earldom and a home for his love of Gaelic culture. As a highly respected composer of Gaelic love poetry, Gearoid became a leading example of the Norman lords’ willingness to embrace their own [Gaelicization](#). “More Irish than Irish themselves” was a phrase used by later historians to describe this phenomenon of total cultural assimilation.



Lough Gur, County Limerick Mythical Birthplace of the first Fitzgerald Earl of Desmond Paul Fitzgerald owner

The Fitzgeralds, as the new Norman overlords of Munster, adopted the mythic symbolism of the Gaelic tradition and embraced Aine as their goddess of Munster sovereignty. A poet in their employ in the 14th century referred to Gearoid's father, Maurice as “Aine's king” and Gearoid as “the son of Aine's knight.” According to the folklore, Maurice was walking by the shore of Lough Gur when he saw [Aine](#) bathing, seized her cloak, which magically put her under his power, and then lay with her. Aine told Maurice that she would bear him a son Gearoid Iarla whom he was to bring up with the best of care. One caution she gave to Maurice; he was not to show surprise at anything however strange his son should do.

The boy grew into a handsome young man and one night there was a gathering at the castle with dancing. None of the ladies none could compete with Gearoid’s dancing. When the dance ended one young woman engaged him in another contest as she rose and leaped over the guests, tables and dishes and then leaped back again. The old Earl turned to his son and said “Can you do anything like that?” Gearoid rose and leaped into a bottle, and out again. There was great applause for his feat. Then the Old Earl looked with shock at his son’s performance. “Were you not warned, said the young Earl, never to show surprise at anything I might do? The Old Earl’s display forced his son to leave his father’s world. Once Gearoid’s feats were recognized as magical he would have to go with his mother into the otherworld. “You have forced me to leave you” were his last words to his father. When Gearoid left the castle he entered the water of the river, and swam away in the form of a goose.

The folklore concerning Gearoid continued to spread. During the 15th century, London grew nervous about the growing power of the Desmond earls. Despite continued challenges to their rule the Fitzgeralds maintained control as their prestige throughout Europe grew. The Gherardini, a leading Florentine family claimed they were related. But tension continued to mount in the early 16th century as rumors spread that the Fitzgeralds were plotting to invade and seize London’s power.

For over four hundred years the Fitzgeralds were absorbed into the local mythology. Then in 1558, the 14th Earl of Desmond succeeded to the title. His name was Gerald, the first to have that name since Gearoid Iarla. The English had deprived Gerald of his family estates by locking him up in London Tower for long periods of time. Rather than breaking his will, when Gerald returned home in 1573, he took on a stronger pro-Irish stance by joining the rebellion against the English. Hopes ran high for the Fitzgerald campaign as the prophecies were circulated. In later folklore it was claimed that the new Gearoid embodied the great Fitzgerald spirit of his 14th century ancestor. Gearoid Iarla had not died but returned at the hour of the family's greatest need.

It is said that a man passing by Lough Gur saw a light and found the entrance to a cavern, where he saw an army of knights and horses asleep. There was a sword on the floor, and as the man drew it out the army awakened. Then its leader, Gearoid Iarla, asked if the time had come yet, but the man ran away. The army fell back to sleep, and the entrance could not be found later.

Although Gerald was an inspiration by [1583](#) his cause was lost and he was beheaded. The great affection for the family lived on, as did the hope that one of them would someday free Ireland. There are repeated references to this mystical belief in documents from the 17th to the 19th centuries as well as London's concern for the Fitzgerald's embrace of Gaelic ways in clear defiance of English law.



Paul Fitzgerald's Ancestral Home in Abbeyfeale, Ireland Paul Fitzgerald owner

Despite London's fierce opposition, Gearoid Iarla and the myths surrounding him would continue to inspire future Fitzgeralds while winning the admiration of the Irish people. But as the power of these myths became entwined with Ireland's political history London found itself justifying a genocide to eliminate an existential threat to London's rule far beyond mere competition. To the royals, siding with the "people" over loyalty to the Crown was the highest treason of all. That revelation made clear why the marriage of first Fitzgerald, Gerald of Winsor to Princess Nest in 1097 would inevitably lead to the killing of JFK in 1963 for his attempt to bring peace to the world.

Our HAIR experience and why its music still matters

We had done research for an article on mind control that included the role of MK-ULTRA; a CIA project which operated from the early 1950s through the 1960s. MK ULTRA had used Americans without consent to alter their mental states. The project remained secret until 1975 when the Church Committee Hearings revealed the CIA's

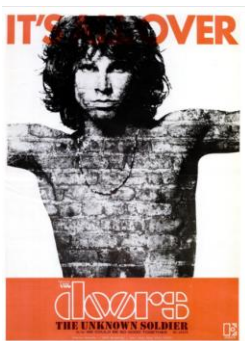
illegal activities. But what really got our attention back then was confirming that MK-ULTRA had infiltrated the Anti-Vietnam War Movement to undermine its legitimacy with the distribution of psychedelic drugs.

As teenagers growing up in the 1960s the music scene and the antiwar movement were synonymous. A new age was dawning and our generation wanted to keep war from becoming part of it. What we didn't know until recently was how much influence military intelligence and the CIA had in forming what we believed was an organic outgrowth of popular sentiment against the Vietnam War.

Before bands such as *The Doors* and *The Byrds* became famous; the songwriters, musicians and singers who would form those bands flocked to Laurel Canyon. What was strange about this migration was the absence of a music industry in the area. What it did have was Vito Paulekas and the Freaks; a regular feature of the Sunset Boulevard Club scene starting in 1964. Paulekas was known for supplying wildly frenzied dancers to stir interest in the bands and is credited with their early success. Having materialized a musical revolution out of thin air, he has also been credited as the inspiration for the Hippie movement's fashion and free love communal lifestyle.

Another oddity was that many of the artists who arrived were descended from influential families, had military or intelligence backgrounds or connections to high ranking military personnel. Frank Zappa, creator of *The Mothers of Invention* spent his youth at the Edgewood Arsenal Chemical Biological Center where his father was a chemical warfare specialist. Edgewood Arsenal was connected to MK-Ultra's mind control program. Major Floyd Crosby, father of David Crosby of Crosby, Stills and Nash was an Annapolis graduate and WWII military intelligence officer descended from the Van Rensselaers, a prominent American family.

Doors Keyboardist Ray Manzarek served in the highly selective Army Security Agency as an intelligence analyst in Laos in the run up to the Vietnam War. *Doors* producer Paul Rothchild also served in the same Military Intelligence Corps in 1959. Jim Morrison was the son of U.S. Navy Admiral George Morrison.



[The Doors'](#) single :[The Unknown Soldier \(song\)](#), 1968 [public domain](#)

In August of 1964, U.S. warships, under Morrison's command, claimed to have been attacked while patrolling Vietnam's Tonkin Gulf. Although the claim was false, it resulted in the U.S. Congress passing the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, which provided the pretext for an escalation of American involvement in Vietnam. Morrison never spoke

publicly of his father's role in creating the "false flag" that was used to deceive the American people into accepting a war against Vietnam.

More intriguing was Morrison's lack of interest in music until he transformed into one of the most glorified rock stars of all time. As the Door's lead singer, Morrison played a major role in forming the band's identity. He chose its name from Aldous Huxley's *The Doors of Perception*. Huxley's "doors" opened through the use of psychedelic drugs. He was also a key player behind the use of MK-Ultra's research into mind control. In a 1949 letter to George Orwell, Huxley described psychedelic drugs as far more efficient than prisons.

As an acolyte of the Greek god Dionysus and the [Dionysian Mysteries](#) Morrison reveled in the use of drugs, drink and frenzied dancing. [MKUltra's objectives](#) had much in common with the Dionysian Mysteries [and Morrison's philosophy of life who said "I believe in a long, prolonged, derangement of the senses in order to obtain the unknown."](#) Morrison was also described as a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Doors manager Paul Rothchild explained, "You never knew whether Jim would show up as the poetic scholar or the kamikaze drunk."



[Project MKULTRA](#) Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike

Americans need to look back and reconsider the turning points that brought our country to this crossroad of endless war. How did we come from being so much against war in Vietnam into preparing for a war against everyone on the planet today? Was the Laurel Canyon scene the only operation sabotaging the legitimacy of the anti-war movement by co-opting its message? Was the CIA responsible for permanently wrapping the anti-war movement and public dissent in a cloak of freaked out hippies, communal sex and acid trips on LSD?

The 1950s and 1960s saw America in direct competition with the Soviet Union, not only for military superiority but also for the world's hearts and minds. The Cultural Cold War waged by Washington embraced activities that were intended to outshine anything done by its communist rival in literature, music and the arts. A psychological warfare campaign to break down traditional patterns of behavior had already been laid out in 1953 by the CIA's Psychological Strategy Board's doctrine for social control known as

PSB D-33/2. With an emphasis on the strange and avant-garde, the CIA began bringing artists, writers and musicians into what was known as its “Freedom Manifesto”. The CIA came to view the program as a landmark in the Cold War, not just for solidifying its control over the non-communist left and the West’s intellectuals, but for enabling the CIA to secretly disenfranchise Europeans and Americans from their own political culture in such a way they would never know it.

As the historian of the CIA’s secret co-optation of America’s non-communist left Christopher Lasch wrote in 1969 “The modern state is an engine of propaganda, alternately manufacturing crises and claiming to be the only instrument that can effectively deal with them. This propaganda, in order to be successful, demands the cooperation of writers, teachers, and artists not as paid propagandists or state-censored time-servers but as ‘free’ intellectuals capable of policing their own jurisdictions and of enforcing acceptable standards of responsibility within the various intellectual professions.”

While declaring itself as the antidote to communist totalitarianism, one CIA officer viewed [PSB D-33/2](#) as interposing “a wide doctrinal system that accepts uniformity as a substitute for diversity,” embracing “all fields of human thought-all fields of intellectual interests, from anthropology and artistic creations to sociology and scientific methodology.” He concluded “That is just about as totalitarian as one can get.”

The evidence that the birth of the psychedelic 1960s New Age music scene was guided by the invisible hand of military and intelligence operatives is well documented. But what about the American Tribal Love-Rock Musical HAIR that swept the world in 1968 after opening to rave reviews on Broadway?

We lived our experience with HAIR when we became a part of the Boston production in 1970 while college students. HAIR was on the front lines of the anti-war movement and we waved the banner every night before sold-out audiences. To us, the Vietnam War was nothing more than what Daniel Ellsberg described as a neocolonial enterprise. America’s Winter Soldiers joined us on stage to celebrate our right to dramatize the undoing of American society by the terror being inflicted on Southeast Asia.

HAIR was a worldwide phenomenon with casts in every major U.S. city and nineteen productions outside North America. Its anti-war theme was shared by millions of Americans who watched and participated in it. Every HAIR cast was local to the city it performed in and established new standards for racial diversity unheard of at the time. HAIR made the war and its impact on human beings personal in ways that nothing else could.



HAIR 2011, Moss, Norway [GisleHaa Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported](#)

But that impact and the anti-war momentum it had accrued was lost and channeled away from the universal peace we believed was possible. Was HAIR's popularity part of a cultural cold war experiment to influence public opinion and then made to go away? A 1977 revival of HAIR at the Biltmore Theatre, where it ran for 1750 performances from 1968 to 1972, was surprisingly attacked by the [NYT](#) as too far gone to be timely; too recently gone to be even nostalgia.

With its antiwar message dismissed and President Carter's Russo phobic National Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski taking over security policy at the White House, the message was clear. The antiwar movement would not be coming to power in Washington in 1977 and never would be. When the film version of HAIR was released in 1979 – it was rewritten and detached from the show's anti-war theme. With Vietnam disposed of; the West's endless war against the Soviet Union could be put back on the track. By the time Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980, the anti-Vietnam War movement had been reduced to a "Syndrome" and cured with a World War II size defense budget that transformed the U.S. from a creditor to a debtor nation.

The celebrity arm of the non-communist left was well represented at our 1970 HAIR opening night with the presence of Peter, Paul and Mary's Peter Yarrow and the show's executive producer Bertrand Castelli; a member of Europe's cultural cold war elite. Yarrow's Ukrainian born father, Bernard was a member of the CIA's European cultural front organization the National Committee for a Free Europe. Having served during World War II in the OSS and then joining the Dulles brothers' law firm, Bernard helped found Radio Free Europe and became its senior vice president. Following Vietnam, Yarrow transferred his activism to Soviet Jewry and their emigration to Israel, a major component of the neoconservative agenda.

By the 1980s the issue became a key platform of the Reagan administration's ability to stop détente with the Soviet Union. As for HAIR, stripped of its antiwar message, it was reduced to being the poster child of a 1960s debauched hedonism. Or as Castelli labelled a revival in 2008, "Everything that was joyful and harmless became dangerous and ugly." Dangerous and ugly is not the way we remember our experience with HAIR. Nuclear war

and Vietnam were dangerous and ugly and in the intervening years that danger and ugliness has returned to haunt us.

If HAIR was part of a psychological campaign to energize the youth of America to action in the pursuit of peace, freedom and happiness it succeeded. But if the ultimate objective was to then crush that freedom and numb us to the danger of permanent war it too succeeded. At the time, HAIR's success helped us believe that we had changed our future for the better. The war ended and the troops came home, but we now accept that the new age we sought was nothing more than an illusion.

President Eisenhower warned us what would happen if our country dedicated itself to war. Endless war puts you in a hell of madness from which there is no escape. The madness of war on the world has come full circle and is now in our schools, parks, bars and homes. It was always there as part of our nature. We have given in to a part of our nature that should have matured and been processed but instead has remained aloof from our humanity. That part of our nature is still unlearned and untamed. We are the victims of our own design and therefore we can change it.

The CIA did succeed in redirecting Americans anti-war sentiment towards accepting permanent war. To paraphrase, Hermann Goering's statement at his Nuremberg trial: People don't want war, but people can be brought to the bidding of their leaders by instilling fear or denouncing the pacifists for exposing the country to danger and it works the same way in any country.

Our only course is to step outside today's endless war narrative and see where we are in the paradigm. The false narratives that control our thinking will fall away as we replace them with the deep knowledge and acceptance of what we have actually lived through. As the past finally becomes prologue; we can imagine the genuine future we truly want and start to make it happen.

We'll end with a video of Paul Fitzgerald singing [Flesh Failures Let the Sunshine In](#) with the Boston Cast of HAIR at the 1970 Performance in front of the Boston City Hospital. It was a cloudy afternoon when the cast started singing the words, *Let the Sunshine Shine In* and the sun literally burst through the clouds as if on cue. Unknown to us at the time, the concert was filmed by the hospital's mortician and magically found its way to us a decade later. Although the video is of rough quality, the healing tone generated while delivering HAIR's finale song of peace to audiences for a year still shines through. Click [here](#) to view the 3:30 minute Flesh Failures song.

Lyrics to *Flesh Failures/Let the Sunshine In*, the Anthem for the World Peace Concert

We starve-look at one another Short of breath
Walking proudly in our winter coats
Wearing smells from laboratories
Facing a dying nation
Of moving paper fantasy

Listening for the new told lies
 With supreme visions of lonely tunes

Somewhere Inside something there is a rush of
 Greatness who knows what stands in front of
 Our lives I fashion my future on films in space
 Silence Tells me secretly
 Everything Everything

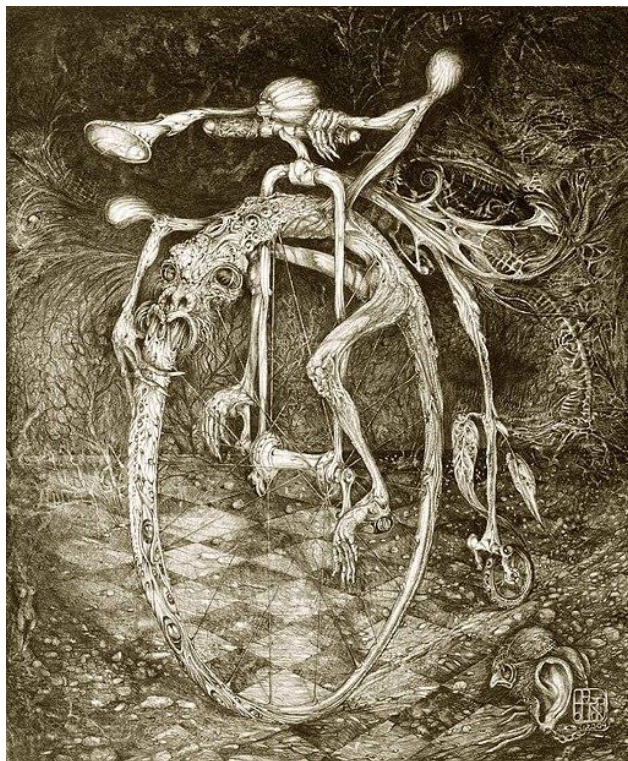
We starve-look At one another Short of breath
 Walking proudly in our winter coats
 Wearing smells from laboratories
 Facing a dying nation Of moving paper fantasy
 Listening for the new told lies
 With supreme visions of lonely tunes Singing
 Our space songs on a spider web sitar
 Life is around you and in you
 Answer for Timothy Leary, dearie

Let the sunshine	Let the sunshine in	The sun shine in
Let the sunshine	Let the sunshine in	The sun shine in
Let the sunshine	Let the sunshine in	The sun shine in...

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[The Hegelian Dialectic is a Mental Trap that only leads to Self-annihilation](#)

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould May 6, 2022



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“William Roper: *“So, now you give the Devil the benefit of law!”*”

Sir Thomas More: *“Yes! What would you do? Cut a great road through the law to get after the Devil?”*”

William Roper: *“Yes, I’d cut down every law in England to do that!”*”

Sir Thomas More: *“Oh? And when the last law was down, and the Devil turned ‘round on you, where would you hide, Roper, the laws all being flat? This country is planted thick with laws, from coast to coast, Man’s laws, not God’s! And if you cut them down, and you’re just the man to do it, do you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then? Yes, I’d give the Devil benefit of law, for my own safety’s sake!”*”

— [A Man for All Seasons](#)

To Turn from War to Peace the Hegelian Dialectic must be dismantled

Today’s American empire was established in the post-WWII era with the U.S. acting as “receiver” for British mercantile interests. Along with its corporate elites and imperial mandate, the U.S. inherited a 19th century European worldview referred to as the

[Hegelian Dialectic](#), which is based on the belief that [conflict creates history](#). The dialectic derived from German philosopher Georg Hegel's critique of natural law, written in 1825, in which he posited a theory of social and historical evolution. Hegel's new manner of thinking with its Thesis – Antithesis – Synthesis revolutionized thought and served as a tool for a new breed of social engineer eager to overthrow the old world order. Hegel's dialectics acted as the foundation for the communist economic theories of [Karl Marx](#) and [Frederick Engels](#). In essence, Hegel disputed the theory of [universal natural rights](#) espoused by other philosophers such as [Immanuel Kant](#), thereby laying the foundations for [totalitarianism](#). According to Hegel, human society could only achieve its highest state and mankind its highest spiritual consciousness through endless self-perpetuating ideological struggles and conflicts between bipolar extremes. This conflict of opposites when applied to social, political and economic systems would result in the synthesizing of opposites which would inevitably lead mankind to final perfection.

Evidence of the [invisible dialectic](#) controlling the daily narrative can be found everywhere: Environmentalists against private property owners, democrats against republicans, communists against capitalists, pro-choice versus pro-life, Christians against Muslims. No matter what the issue, the invisible dialectic controls both the conflict and the resolution yet it now seems that Hegel's progress toward perfection has led only to new and more deadly cycles of conflict. The Hegelian dialectic works as a powerful tool for legitimizing whatever dialogue advances the global elite's interest and looking back over the past 100 years, it is almost impossible not to see how its deliberate use has created a corrupted synthesis of state power. At a micro-level, this phenomenon can be observed now taking over America's politics.

Today's Hegelians claim that their objective is to create a more egalitarian society. But in practice they merely manipulate and subvert the existing order with the ultimate goal of a utopian world government i.e. "New World Order" which they themselves will rule. The system of designed social conflict to break down individual rights was spelled out by Hegel himself when he said: "...the State' has the supreme right against the individual, whose supreme duty is to be a member of the State... for the right of the world spirit is above all special privileges."

By this definition, state power requires the rule of law, minimal corruption, judicial independence and state monopoly over the means of coercion; as well as a political culture of some trust and compromise rather than distrust and conflict. But when the state's monopoly on coercion ultimately leads to distrust and conflict, then Hegel's method has reached a contradiction which it cannot escape. When democracies cling to legitimacy based solely on the use of coercion on its own citizens, they are no longer democracies but a fascist/totalitarian state.

Economist and historian [Antony Sutton](#) belittled the Hegelian method by writing that at its best, “the Hegelian doctrine simply replaces the divine right of kings with the divine right of states.” So, based on America’s failures in Afghanistan and Iraq, the tumult in the Greater Middle East and now in Eastern Europe, has the Hegelian dialectic run its course? The American empire is at a turning point politically, economically and socially. The Hegelian dialectic of endless conflict and competition has proved ruinous to the health of Western civilization. Will its course lead to a synthesis of its best elements or into a further disintegration of what has traditionally been known of as society?

The only way to defeat the downward progression of Hegel’s hypothesis is to step outside the dialectic and free ourselves from the limitations of controlled and guided thought. By moving away from a reliance on the monopoly of coercion and reaffirming our belief in the natural rights of all humans, we will return the foundations of legitimacy to the American government. Sutton frames the Hegelian dialectic as against the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the United States by stating how “We the people” grant the state some powers and reserve all others to the people and not self-appointed elites running the State.

If Americans truly believe the rights of the state are always subordinate and subject to the will of the people and consent of the governed, and truly believe that all people are endowed with inalienable rights and are created equal, then the time has come to reevaluate the dialectic and return to our time-worn natural rights.



A 2011 production of HAIR; the 1968 Anti-Vietnam War American Tribal Love-Rock Musical ([Image by GisleHaa](#)) [Permission](#)

The West can be restored, but only if Westerners rediscover their individual human right to those principles and traditions they claim to uphold. It is time for Western leaders to understand that the dialectic, which demands perpetual conflict, is a losing cause that has

become self-defeating wherever applied. Ultimately it can only lead to self-annihilation. It is critical to establish a new and positive narrative for the American people. This is a key point in our effort to resurrect President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's [dream of world peace](#) based on his American University [speech](#), a blueprint for the creation of an action plan. That effort will culminate in a revival of something like the American Tribal Love-Rock Musical [HAIR](#). In its time HAIR was the center of the Anti-Vietnam War Movement delivering a riveting political and social awakening that we experienced personally back in [1970](#). Its impact still reverberates around the world today. We are putting the power of that experience to work transforming today's toxic international scene into a movement to bring about positive change that all people around the world desperately need and want. Our effort towards peace through dialogue and music will help us all break free from the dialectic's narrative of defeating the "other" and opening to a more complex self-aware perspective where Americans can function as the spiritual and moral gauge in which one's own values will be tested.

As difficult as it may be for Westerners to grasp, the West's future lies in a process of re-humanization so it can address its own identity crisis. To quote from world renowned philosopher [Marshall McLuhan](#): "... we're standing on the threshold of a liberating and exhilarating world in which the human tribe can become truly one family and man's consciousness can be freed from the shackles of mechanical culture and enabled to roam the cosmos. I have a deep and abiding belief in man's potential to grow and learn, to plumb the depths of his own being and to learn the secret songs that orchestrate the universe. We live in a transitional era of profound pain and tragic identity quest, but the agony of our age is the labor pain of rebirth."

We believe our future can be built based on JFK's Dream of World Peace. Doing so will promote the rights of all people around the world to move away from War to the genuine Peace following its phenomenally long absence as a new standard for the West.

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The Dark Answers to Imperialism, JFK and Afghanistan are hidden in the Mystical--Two Author's Journey of Discovery

By Paul Fitzgerald Elizabeth Gould OpEdNews 1/13/2022



The Rhodes Colossus: Caricature of Cecil Rhodes 1892

(Image by [Rachel C. Gibbons](#)) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

The first thing an academic tells you when you mention the mystical side of the Afghanistan story is that you shouldn't talk about that. The study of foreign policy cannot be seen as having been motivated by anything other than rational and objective reasons and measured by the metrics of quantitative analysis.



President John F. Kennedy motorcade, Dallas, Texas, Friday, November 22, 1963
 (Image by [United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division](#)) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

How then to explain ['Wild Bill' Donovan](#), the first director of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and the father of today's CIA calling his agents [Knights Templars](#)? How then to explain the American military's fascination with medieval knighthoods? How then to explain the use of New Testament biblical passages engraved on the gunsights of American and British troops in Afghanistan? How then to explain American exceptionalism whereby the United States gets to do anything it pleases because America is right no matter what it does or how it does it?



Afghanistan's most famous 'Holy Warrior' Gulbuddin Hekmatyar
 (Image by [youtube.com/watch?v=EjYNYbOGnMQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjYNYbOGnMQ)) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

People have heard about the holy warriors of the Muslim world, but what most Americans are unaware of is the mystical component of the warriors who fight for America and how that component has been setting the agenda for American politics from behind the scenes with no public scrutiny.

In Maine they use the expression "You can't get there from here," to explain this sort of disconnect. It's being used to make the point that you can't get exoteric Afghanistan unless you understand the esoteric and you can't understand the esoteric without accepting your own personal motivations.

In researching for our books, we discovered a trove of esoteric history surrounding the West's attraction to Afghanistan starting with the British. It revolves around [Mystical Imperialism](#), a term first used to describe 19th century British imperial efforts to colonize the non-Christian world by applying Judeo Christian ethics and philosophies.

Simply put, Mystical imperialism rationalizes the expansion of a nation's authority by conquest over other nations by infusing a sense of the divine into the raw politics of empire building. Today's practitioners of American mystical imperialism are a hardened core of ideological defense intellectuals and military officers who combine their own esoteric and religious beliefs with Washington policy making.

These individuals can trace their philosophical DNA back to 19th century European secret esoteric societies who were known to be heavily involved in espionage on both British and Russian sides. Reflected in the fictional quasi-Masonic exploits of Rudyard Kipling's two soldiers in [The Man Who Would be King](#), the "hidden" or occult game for control of Afghanistan and Central Asia was a factor in the foreign policy of the 19th century for the British and the Russians, and continues to this day through the United States.

As the ancient home of [Zoroaster and the Avesta](#), the foundation document for the Judeo/Christian war of light against dark, of good versus evil, 19th century Afghanistan and its surroundings provided a mystical underpinning to what today is dryly regarded as geopolitics.

Described as the "World-Island" by early 20th century British geo-strategist [Halford Mackinder](#), Russia's geographic position at the center of the Eurasian land mass rivaled Britain's as an island fortress. Mackinder foresaw Russia expanding with ferocity beyond its borders. From the outset - a Russian dominance of Central Asia spawned nightmares for the British of an apocalyptic horde sweeping from the Russian steppe across Europe which had to be stopped at any cost.

Henry Wallace, Franklin Roosevelt's vice president, supported an expedition in 1934 with the intention of establishing a spiritual settlement in the Himalayas. Wallace expressed his enthusiasm for the plan known as the [Shambhala Project](#), stating that, "the political situation in this part of the world is always rendered especially intriguing by the effect on it, of ancient prophecies, traditions and the like." Wallace anticipated that those prophecies were at last coming due.

Hidden to human eyes, Shambhala was said, by Tibetan Buddhists, to lie somewhere near Tibet and would finally be revealed at the end of time. Others believed it was hidden in the valleys of the Pamir mountain range in Northeastern Afghanistan. This was the Shambhala that concealed the lost wisdom, the secrets of immortality and the beginnings

of the human race. Adolph Hitler sent an expedition to Tibet and Afghanistan in 1939 in the hopes of uncovering proof of Aryan links to modern German society in the soil of Central Asia.

From Halford Mackinder at the beginning of the 20th century to the American Cold Warrior [James Burnham](#), the godfather of Neo-conservatism to Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Grand Master of Geostrategic American foreign policy, Eurasia represented the central basis for American global primacy, in a world defined by Manichean opposites.

In a 1945 *Partisan Review* article titled "[Lenin's Heir](#)" Burnham, while still at the OSS, infused his apocalyptic political views with mystical allusions to the Eurasian heartland as "the magnetic core" of Soviet power, comparing it to the mystical "reality of the One-of-Neo-Platonism," whose inexorable and unstoppable "progression" descends through the stages of Mind, Soul, and Matter" towards its ultimate destination beyond the Eurasian boundaries and through "Appeasement and Infiltration England and the United States."

As an "anti-Communist ideology" Burnham's apocalyptic warnings about the inevitability of Soviet expansion from Eurasia's magnetic core ring like a medieval theologian's incantation throughout Winston Churchill's 1946 "[Iron Curtain](#)" [speech](#) which set the terms of the Cold War.

Twenty six years later, Senator William Fulbright would realize that only because of the disastrous outcome of Vietnam was there any willingness to reexamine the basic assumptions of the Cold War. The [1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Talks](#) know as SALT, would spring from this rational re-assessment, as would the [Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty](#) and eventually [SALT II](#).



President Jimmy Carter and Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev sign the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II) treaty, June 18, 1979, in Vienna.

([Image](#) by [Original Uploaded by Thames to EN](#)) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

But because of National Security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski's unyielding hostility toward any compromise with the Soviet Union over Afghanistan, President Carter would ask the Senate to delay consideration of the Treaty on the Senate floor. That treaty would never be passed and the United States would begin a long slow march into what Burnham described as the magnetic core of the World Island.

Our initiation into the realm of Mystical Imperialism began six months before the December 27, 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan while we were producing [*Arms Race and the Economy: A Delicate Balance*](#), a documentary for televangelist [Pat Robertson's](#) Christian Broadcast Network (CBN).

The station had been airing the [American Security Council's](#) *The Salt Syndrome*, a propaganda film railing against the passage of SALT II ([*Strategic Arms Limitation Talks*](#)) that would limit defense spending. As host of CBN's public affairs show, our documentary was to be the rebuttal to *The Salt Syndrome* as required by the [Fairness Doctrine](#). We were aware that Robertson's proselytizing on his flagship 700 Club program was already engaged in a religious Crusade to change America.

While working on the documentary our eyes were opened to a merging of powerful pro war political, business, and religious interests that were using their combined influence to push America into a Holy War against the Soviet Union.

As we continued to work on the production, experts from the opposite side of the political spectrum such as economist John Kenneth Galbraith, informed us about the damage that a massive diversion of tax dollars would represent to the civilian economy. Galbraith insisted that accelerated defense spending following the end of the Vietnam War-as the military industrial complex was demanding-would destroy the civilian economy.

He was convinced that the Cold War had already made America more like the Soviet Union, ideologically rigid, increasingly orthodox and ruled by a military-industrial-academic establishment suspended from reality.

By the time our program aired, the argument was no longer whether our government should call a halt to the nuclear arms race and reinvest in the civilian economy. According to President Carter the December 27, 1979, Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was the greatest threat to peace since the Second World War.

That statement instantly rolled back the narrative to 1947, the [Truman Doctrine](#) and the psychological warfare campaign necessary to bring it back to life. We realized that the powerful pro war political, business, and religious interests calling for Holy War in *The SALT Syndrome* had just won the brass ring.

The point man for that campaign was Zbigniew Brzezinski. As an acolyte of geo-strategist [Halford Mackinder](#), Brzezinski believed the Soviet takeover of Afghanistan and its pursuit of global dominance was foreordained and not subject to rational empirical observations.

Beginning in 1978, Brzezinski had been dialoguing with the Chinese and the Pakistanis over Soviet influence in Afghanistan and how to respond to it. In the summer of 1979, six months before the Soviet invasion, Brzezinski had President Carter sign a finding enabling propaganda support to the insurgency that would help draw the Soviets into what Brzezinski referred to as "the Afghan trap."

When the Kabul government expelled the Western media one month after the Soviet invasion, we jumped at the chance to get behind the propaganda and break the news blackout. Once we had secured the visas in the spring of 1981, a friend in local TV news connected us to CBS Foreign News Editor Peter Larkin. Larkin was an intense man-Saigon bureau chief during the Vietnam War-and wanted the story immediately.

What we saw in Kabul was indeed in stark contrast to the picture playing on evening news. After struggling with our footage for a month CBS finally aired a segment about the [Soviet troops that we didn't see](#). Our involvement with CBS News was the beginning of an education in the MSM's fact free restructuring of the Afghan narrative that continues to hold sway today.

Following the distribution of [Afghanistan Between Three Worlds](#), a PBS documentary we produced in 1982, we got a call from Major Karen McKay of the [Committee for a Free Afghanistan](#). She complained that we didn't mention anything about the Soviets use of chemical weapons in the documentary.

We explained those charges hadn't been proved. But the Major countered that since the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* had accepted her evidence why wouldn't we.

Because, we explained, the claims we'd reviewed came from second or third hand sources or were based on hearsay evidence. Then we politely suggested what seemed like common sense, that the Major could make a better case if she had some *hard* evidence. Major McKay's answer was revelatory as she snapped, "When it comes to the Russians we don't need proof. We know they're guilty."

Once again, it was made very clear to us that when it came to the MSM narrative, *facts REALLY didn't matter*.

When the third opportunity to challenge the MSM's narrative arrived, we still had hope and again jumped at the chance. In the spring of 1983 we returned to Kabul with Harvard Negotiation Project Director Roger Fisher [for ABC's Nightline](#).

Our aim was to establish the credibility of the American claims that the Soviets had no intention of withdrawing from Afghanistan. We had a number of credible sources stating that the Kremlin wanted desperately to abandon the war, but the Reagan administration was dragging its feet.

From the moment they entered the White House the new administration had demanded that the Soviets withdraw their forces, while at the same time keeping them pinned down

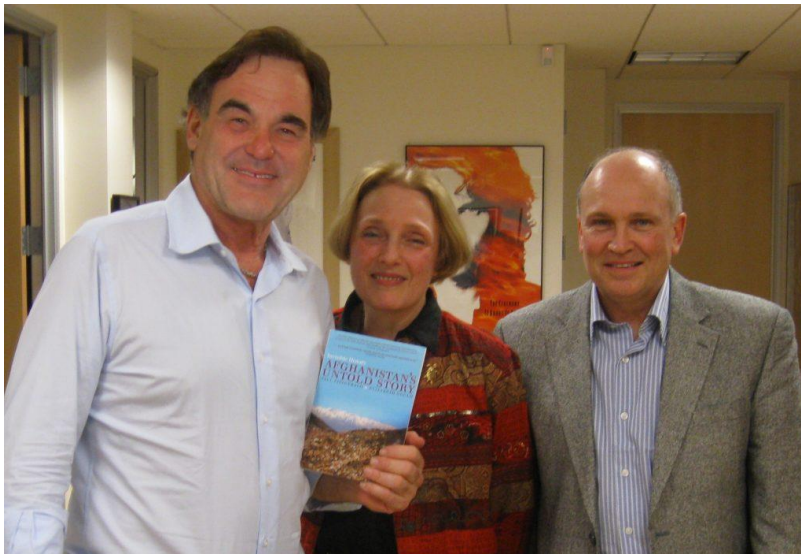
through covert action so they couldn't leave. Though lacking in factual backup, this hypocritical campaign was embraced by the entire American political spectrum and our effort with Roger Fisher to further the negotiation process remained willfully unexamined by America's mainstream media.

By 1987 we were so frustrated with getting nowhere at changing the official narrative with the facts on the ground we had to question all our assumptions about journalism. If facts did not matter, what did?

That's when we looked at our story from a personal perspective and wondered what had called us to the Afghan story in the first place. We started writing screenplays out of our accumulated materials and research and by the end of the 1980's had completed four. But we had yet to find the right path to tell our story.

Then in September of 1991, our ten-year-old daughter Alissa told us about a dream she had with Paul's deceased father whom she had never met. He was accompanied by a man wearing a Scottish plaid suit with bell-bottom trousers and a matching hat. The man told Alissa he was 800 years old. We already knew the Fitzgerald family had come to Ireland as mercenaries for King Henry II 800 years before and decided to consider Alissa's dream as a mystical encouragement to dig deeper into the past for answers.

Three months later we saw Oliver Stone's film, *JFK* and found the inspiration we had been looking for. Stone's decision to include the involvement of an esoteric secret society with deeper motives resonated with us.



Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould with Oliver Stone [Source](#) Image owned by Paul Fitzgerald

In our research into the Norman invasion of Ireland in 1170, an enterprise largely run by the Fitzgerald family, we had discovered historical reasons why members of some secret societies might have been motivated to eliminate JFK in the modern era as retribution for past "crimes." We then developed [The Voice research paper](#) with the hope that Stone would become interested in this esoteric perspective too, but he wanted our Afghanistan story instead.



Maurice FitzGerald as shown in the Expugnatio Hibernica, written in 1189 by his nephew, Gerald of Wales
(Image by [National Library of Ireland](#)) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

Once we began to work on the script, the mythic implications of the Afghan story began to emerge when many of the documents preceding the crisis were declassified. As we trailed the clues, we found pseudo-religious references in Washington's official policy to the Manichean war of the light against the dark-whose origins began in the region now known as Afghanistan.

We then discovered a synchronistic connection that we could not have imagined. One of the books we had purchased was written by an ex-CIA agent about British efforts in the 19th century. In the book were many photos of prominent Brits and Afghans and of the battles they fought. But also included were photos of two Americans. One of these men was dressed wearing a [Scottish plaid suit](#) with bell-bottomed trousers and a matching turban. The photo was of [Alexander Gardner](#), a mercenary who'd found his way to Afghanistan in the 1820's. He'd discovered the religion of Zoroaster settled in the mountains and married an Afghan Princess. He not only lived the real life of Rudyard

Kipling's *Man Who Would Be King*, it has been said [Gardner provided Kipling](#) with essential information for his novel.

Alissa confirmed that day when she came home from school that the soldier in the photo wearing a clan uniform of his own design, was the man from her dream. Alissa had somehow tapped a synchronicity about our Afghan adventure that gave it a deeper meaning.



Colonel Alexander Gardner
([Image by Sotheby's](#)) [Details](#) [DMCA](#)

As we continued to develop *The Voice* as a novel, over time Stone became intrigued and asked us to connect its esoteric background with the fact-based Afghanistan script. Now titled *Three Nights of Desmond*, we found ourselves merging the past, present, and future into a very different kind of story.

In writing the script, the antagonist (modeled after CBS Foreign News Editor Peter Larkin) emerged as a tragic archetype: an angry, wounded veteran who was determined to twist the Afghanistan story to get back at the Soviets for what he believed they had done to him in Vietnam. In [The Voice](#), published in 2001, the character had matured as a victim of his own propaganda. Through that narrative the character of Alissa, as Paul's daughter, resolved the conflict between the "Larkin" character and Paul.

Even though Alissa had no involvement in our work, over the decades many of our Afghan contacts, that she had never met, continued to cross into her life as if by magic. The most powerful synchronicity occurred when she came to meet the real Peter Larkin

through her friendship with his daughter Brett. We had known nothing about this friendship until December 23, 2011, when Peter and Brett arrived at our home for a holiday party at 7:00 pm as guests of Alissa.

Having the man who launched us into our Afghan saga join with us for our holiday party was beyond surreal. It was as if a dream had materialized before our eyes. The novelized encounter between Paul and Peter through Alissa (which had been foreshadowed in *The Voice*) had been delivered to us through our front door. The reality of the script we struggled to write for Stone had finally written itself. It was a revelatory moment produced by our daughters that completed a journey begun 30 years before between two competing storytellers.

CONCLUSION

Back in 1979 when we first encountered the MSM's propaganda Afghan narrative we could not have imagined that narrative would still be presented as fact in 2021. The science is very clear; a narrative built with no facts is still more powerful at changing minds than facts alone. This [MSNBC](#) report is a stark reminder of that *fact*. From the ancient oral to the modern written tradition humans have always been drawn to stories. The power of narratives to transform people's views is well documented. Like a recipe being offered as food, presenting even solid facts without framing it in a narrative is not enough to motivate most people to action. Our big breakthrough came when we realized that the power to win hearts and minds was not by trying to change the MSM's empty narrative; it was in creating a new narrative with our own facts. When you create a good story out of solid facts that is truly *food for thought*!

We've often wondered what would have changed in the American dialogue on the JFK assassination if Oliver Stone had created a film based on the concept we gave him in 1992; going back to the origin of the Fitzgerald family and their dicey relationship with London. What Stone did do for us was put us back on the Afghan course we had walked away from; and in that process crossed us over into [the mystical telling of our own story](#). We came to see that the weaving back and forth of the screenplay and the novel had become a way of understanding the multi-dimensional nature of narrative creation. Although our three years of work with Stone did produce the *Three Nights of Desmond* script concept, it was never fulfilled. Thirty years in the making; we finally brought the script concept created for Stone to fruition as the heart and soul of, [The Valediction Three Nights of Desmond](#) and *The Valediction Resurrection* that will be available next spring.

'Magical Thinking' has always ruled the US role in Afghanistan 8/14/20

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould



“Why, sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.” The Queen of Hearts from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* Attribution: John Tenniel / [Public domain](#)

The best way for us to understand Afghanistan is to look at the record of American involvement going back four decades and to look at the record requires a reexamination of President Jimmy Carter’s national security advisor, [Zbigniew Brzezinski](#). From the start, U.S. policy formation surrounding Afghanistan has lived in a realm of magical thinking that has produced nothing but a catastrophe of nightmarish proportions. Brzezinski impacted the future of American foreign policy by monopolizing the Carter administration in ways that few outside the White House understand. In his role as national security advisor he put himself in a position to control information into and out of the White House and when it came to Afghanistan – to use it for whatever purposes he saw fit.

According to numerous studies Brzezinski transformed the role of national security advisor far beyond its intended function. In a planning session with President Carter on St. Simon Island before even entering the White House he took control of policy creation by narrowing access to the president down to two committees (the policy review committee PRC, and the Special coordinating committee SCC). He then had Carter transfer power over the CIA to the SCC which he chaired. At the first cabinet meeting after taking office Carter announced that he was elevating the national security advisor to cabinet level and Brzezinski’s lock on covert action was complete. According to political scientist and author David J. Rothkopf, [“It was a bureaucratic first strike of the first order.”](#) The system essentially gave responsibility for the most important and sensitive issues to Brzezinski.”

Over the course of four years Brzezinski often took actions without the knowledge or approval of the president; intercepted communications sent to the White House from around the world and carefully selected only those communications for the president to see that conformed to his ideology. His Special Coordinating Committee, the SCC was a stovepipe operation which acted solely in his interest and denied information and access to those who might oppose him, including Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and even CIA

Director Stansfield Turner. As a cabinet member he occupied a White House office diagonally across the lobby from the Oval Office and met so often with the President, the in-house record keepers stopped keeping track of the meetings. He used this unique authority to single himself out as the primary spokesman for the administration and a barrier between the White House and the president's other advisors and went so far as to create a press secretary to convey his policy decisions directly to the Mainstream Media. He was also on the record as singlehandedly establishing a rapprochement with China in May of 1978 on an anti-Soviet basis which ran counter to U.S. policy at the time while renowned for misleading the president on critical issues to falsely justify his positions.

So how did this work in Afghanistan?

Central to that issue is the claim that Brzezinski intentionally lured the Soviet Union into invading in order to trap them in their own Vietnam. And central to that claim is the now infamous January [1998 Nouvel Observateur interview](#) with Brzezinski in which he admits to luring the Soviets into an Afghan trap with a secret program.

From the moment Brzezinski's interview appeared in 1998 there has been a fanatical effort by observers on both the left and the right to deny its validity as an idle boast, a misinterpretation of what he meant, or a bad translation from English to French and back to English. Brzezinski's admission is so sensitive, the CIA's former chief of the directorate of Operations for the Near East and South Asia from 1979 to 1984, Charles Cogan felt it necessary to come out for a Cambridge Forum discussion of our book on Afghanistan (*Invisible History*) in 2009 to claim that even though our view of the Soviet invasion was authentic, the Nouvel Observateur interview could not be right.

But of all the articles that have been published by "experts" and academics refuting Brzezinski's claims, none comes close to a recent article by University College Dublin scholar Conor Tobin, titled ["The Myth of the Afghan Trap."](#)

In his article Tobin argues that based "almost solely" on the Nouvel Observateur interview the Brzezinski "trap" thesis doesn't hold up and complains that it has filtered uncritically into the works of several reputable historians. [He even cites our work](#) as an example of this uncritical acceptance while failing to note that our use of the interview is but one piece of a wealth of evidence of Brzezinski's involvement in the Afghan issue.

Tobin discounts Brzezinski's life-long "reputation," for ideological bias against all things Russian then moves on to base his debunking mandate solely on the veracity of the interview, declaring: "That if this one unreliable interview is discounted there is very little legitimate evidence to back up the trap thesis..." and then concludes that "This article will demonstrate that the 'trap' thesis has little basis in fact."

Based solely on his wish fulfillment rather than the facts, Tobin rejects the very idea that Brzezinski would ever advise Carter to actively endorse a policy that would risk SALT and détente, jeopardize his election campaign and threaten Iran, Pakistan and the Persian Gulf to future Soviet infiltration—because to Tobin "it is largely inconceivable."

As proof of Brzezinski's belief in the Soviet's long term ambitions to invade the Middle East through Afghanistan, Tobin cites how Brzezinski "reminded Carter of 'Russia's traditional push to the south, and briefed him specifically on Molotov's [supposed] proposal to Hitler in late 1940 that the Nazis recognize the Soviet claims of pre-eminence in the region south of Batum and Baku.'" But what Tobin fails to mention is that what Brzezinski presented to the president [was a well-known misinterpretation](#) of *what the Nazis had proposed*—not Molotov—and which Molotov rejected. In other words, the very opposite of what Brzezinski had presented.

To others who had a personal experience in the events surrounding the Soviet invasion, there is little doubt that Brzezinski wanted to draw the Soviets into an Afghan trap and had been doing it since April of 1978 through a program of destabilization. The record indicates that U.S. Afghan ambassador Adolph Dubs and Brzezinski came to blows over Brzezinski's destabilization program at least a year before the Soviet invasion if not sooner. Afghan expert Selig Harrison, who'd gone to Kabul and interviewed Dubs in the summer of 1978 writes in his book with Diego Cordovez *Out of Afghanistan*, "Brzezinski emphasized in an interview after he left the White House that he had remained strictly within the confines of the President's policy at that stage not to provide direct aid to the Afghan insurgency. [Since there was no taboo on indirect support](#), however, the CIA had encouraged the newly entrenched Zia Ul-Haq to launch its own program of military support for the insurgents. The CIA and the Pakistani Interservices Intelligence Directorate (ISI) *he said*, worked together closely on planning training programs for the insurgents and on coordinating the Chinese, Saudi Arabian, Egyptian and Kuwaiti aid that was beginning to trickle in. By early February 1979, this collaboration became an open secret when the Washington Post published an eyewitness report that at least two thousand Afghans were being trained at former Pakistani Army bases guarded by Pakistani patrols."

David Newsom, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs who'd met the new Afghan government in the summer of 1978 told Harrison, "They struck me as very ideological but they were still Afghan nationalists... From the beginning, Zbig had a much more confrontational view of the situation than Vance. He thought we should be doing something covertly to frustrate Soviet ambitions in that part of the world. On some occasions I was not alone in raising questions about the wisdom and feasibility of what he wanted to do." CIA Director Stansfield Turner for example "was more cautious than Zbig. Zbig wasn't worried about provoking the Russians, as some of us were."

To some members of the Carter White House who interacted with Brzezinski during his four years at the wheel from 1977 to 1980 his intention to provoke the Russians into doing something was clear. By early 1979 events had grown so unstable in Afghanistan, the ambassador had to confront his own CIA station chief and demand answers about CIA interference. [According to John Helmer](#) an NSC staffer who was tasked with investigating two of Brzezinski's policy recommendations to Carter, Brzezinski would risk anything to undermine the Soviets and his operations in Afghanistan were well known.

“Brzezinski was an obsessive Russia-hater to the end. That led to the monumental failures of Carter’s term in office; the hatreds Brzezinski released had an impact which continues to be catastrophic for the rest of the world.” Helmer wrote in 2017, “To Brzezinski goes the credit for starting most of the ills – the organization, financing, and armament of the mujahideen the Islamic fundamentalists who have metastasized – with US money and arms still – into Islamic terrorist armies operating far from Afghanistan and Pakistan, where Brzezinski started them off.”

Helmer insists that Brzezinski exercised an almost hypnotic power over Carter that bent him towards Brzezinski’s ideological agenda while blinding him to the consequences from the outset of his presidency. “From the start... in the first six months of 1977, Carter was also warned explicitly by his own staff, inside the White House... not to allow Brzezinski to dominate his policy-making to the exclusion of all other advice, and the erasure of the evidence on which the advice was based.” Yet the warning fell on deaf ears.

In 2015 we began work on a documentary to finally clear the air on such sophistic arguments as Conor Tobin’s and reconnected with Dr. Charles Cogan for an interview. Soon after the camera rolled, Cogan interrupted the interview to tell us he had talked to Brzezinski in the spring of 2009 about the 1998 *Nouvel Observateur* interview and been shocked to learn that the “Afghan trap thesis” as stated by Brzezinski in the *Nouvel Observateur* interview was legitimate. Brzezinski had done it with intent and wanted Cogan to know it. As one of the highest level CIA officials to participate in the largest American intelligence operations since WWII it was a devastating blow to learn that the CIA hadn’t won the Cold War against the Soviet Union fair and square. Brzezinski had tricked them and they had fallen for the bait.

Yet Cogan’s willingness to recount his conversation with Brzezinski on camera has given us a vital piece of evidence that will change history and we are all fortunate that he chose to leave his testimony with us that you can now view for the first time.



WATCH IT [HERE](#):

Charles Cogan Interview 2015 3.37.mp4

For Brzezinski, getting the Soviets to invade Afghanistan was an opportunity to shift the Washington consensus toward an unrelenting hard line against the Soviet Union. Without any oversight for his use of covert action, he created the conditions needed to provoke a Soviet defensive response which he’d then used as evidence of unrelenting Soviet expansion and used the media, which he controlled, to affirm it. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was Brzezinski’s self-fulfilling prophecy. However, once his Russophobic system of exaggerations and lies about his covert operation became accepted, they found a home in America’s institutions and we live with them today. US policy since that time has operated in a delusion of racist triumphalism that both provokes international incidents and then capitalizes on the chaos.

From its origins in 1977 as Brzezinski's covert program to destabilize the Soviet Union through ethnic violence and radical Islam, a straight line can be drawn to the current American quagmire in Afghanistan today. The time has come to see it for the lie it always was. And end it.

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[We're all CIA assets! What can be done, a personal story](#)

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould

December 7th, 2018

veteranstoday.com opednews.com nexusnewsfeed.com



A 2011 production of HAIR; the wildly popular 1968 anti-war American Tribal Love-Rock Musical. Was the CIA behind HAIR too? (Image by [GisleHaa](#)) [Permission Details](#) [DMCA](#)

“Of course the people don’t want war. But after all, it’s the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it’s always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it’s a democracy, a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism, and exposing the country to greater danger. It works the same way in any country.”

– Hermann Goering, Nazi Reichsmarschall, Luftwaffe-Chief and founder of the Gestapo, at the Nuremberg trials

The CIA and the 1960s West Coast Music Scene We had written an [article](#) about mind control that included the role of a top-secret CIA research project known as [Project MK-ULTRA](#). MK-ULTRA operated from the early 1950s through the 1960s by using Americans, (without their consent) as guinea pigs in an illicit research project to alter mental states and brain function. The project remained secret for two decades until 1975 when the [Church Committee Hearings](#) revealed the CIA’s illegal activities. We knew that MK-ULTRA was involved in experiments in sensory deprivation and sexual abuse. But what really got our attention back then was the confirmation that [MK-ULTRA had infiltrated](#) the New Age anti-Vietnam War Movement to [undermine its legitimacy](#) which included the widespread distribution of psychedelic drugs.

As teenagers growing up in the 1960s the [San Francisco](#) and [Laurel Canyon](#) music scenes and the antiwar movement were synonymous. A new age was dawning and our generation wanted to believe that we could keep war from becoming part of it. What we didn't know until recently was how much influence military intelligence and the CIA had in forming what we believed was an organic outgrowth of popular sentiment.

The Laurel Canyon Connection Before bands such as *The Mothers of Invention*, *The Byrds*, *The Mamas and The Papas* and *The Doors* became famous; the songwriters, musicians and singers who would form those bands flocked from all over North America to Laurel Canyon. What was strange about this sudden migration of musical talent to Laurel Canyon was the absence of a music industry in the area at the time. What it did have though was [Vito Paulekas and the Freaks](#); a regular feature of the Sunset Boulevard Club scene starting in 1964. Paulekas became well known for supplying a corps of wildly frenzied dancers to stir up interest in the new Laurel Canyon bands and is credited with their early success. Having materialized a musical revolution out of thin air, he has also been credited as the inspiration for the Hippie movement, its fashion and its free love communal lifestyle.

Another oddity of the Laurel Canyon phenomenon was that a large percentage of the artists who arrived descended from America's most influential ruling families, came with military or intelligence backgrounds or were somehow connected to high ranking military personnel or intelligence operatives. One example of this unusual confluence of talent is [Frank Zappa](#), (*Mothers of Invention*) who spent his youth at the [Edgewood Arsenal](#) Chemical Biological Center where his father worked as a chemical warfare specialist. It also happens that the Edgewood Arsenal was connected to [MK-Ultra](#)'s chemical mind control program.

Major Floyd Crosby, father of David Crosby (Crosby, Stills and Nash) was an Annapolis graduate and WWII military intelligence officer descended from a prominent New York elite founding family, the [Van Rensselaers](#). Crosby's mother's family the [Van Cortlandts](#) started their American adventure in 1637.

And then there were *The Doors*. According to Wikipedia, keyboardist Ray Manzarek served in "the highly selective [Army Security Agency](#) as a prospective intelligence analyst in Okinawa and then Laos" in the run up to the Vietnam War. *The Doors* producer for their first five albums, Paul Rothchild also served a stint in the same elite [Military Intelligence Corps](#) in 1959.

When the Music's Over Turn out the Lights The most enigmatic of all, Jim Morrison, was the son of U.S. Navy Admiral [George Morrison](#). In August of 1964, U.S. warships, under Morrison's command, claimed to have been attacked while patrolling Vietnam's Tonkin Gulf. Although the claim was false, it resulted in the U.S. Congress passing the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, which provided the pretext for an immediate escalation of American involvement in the emerging Vietnam quagmire. Morrison never spoke publicly of his father's role in creating the "false flag" that was used to deceive the American people into accepting a war against Vietnam.

More intriguing still was Morrison's apparent lack of interest in music until he suddenly transformed himself into one of the most glorified rock stars of all time! Along with becoming the Door's lead singer, Morrison also played a major role in forming the band's identity. He chose the band's name from one of his favorite books, [Aldous Huxley's *The Doors of Perception*](#). It turns out that Huxley's "doors" opened through the use of psychedelic drugs. Not so coincidentally it also happens that [Huxley](#) was a key player behind MK-Ultra as one of the original promoters of the use of [psychedelic drugs for social control](#). In a letter to George Orwell in 1949 Huxley described their use as "more efficient" than prisons."

As an avowed acolyte of the Greek god Dionysus and the [Dionysian Mysteries](#) – the most famous religious rites of ancient Greece – Morrison reveled in the use of drugs, drink and frenzied dancing. Morrison was so enamored of this Greek god he almost named the band after him, until settling on *The Doors*.

[MKUltra's objectives](#) had much in common with the [Dionysian Mysteries](#) and with Jim Morrison's philosophy of life who once said of his own behavior "I believe in a long, prolonged, derangement of the senses in order to obtain the unknown." Morrison was also described by those who knew him as a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. *The Doors* Manager Paul Rothchild explained it this way, "You never knew whether Jim would show up as the erudite, poetic scholar or the kamikaze drunk." Given his lineage, the question remains; was Jim Morrison in control of his own mind?

In view of current New Cold War plans to mount a full scale [global war](#) against China and Russia, Americans need to look back and reconsider the turning points that brought our country to this crossroads. How did we as Americans come from being so much against war in Vietnam in the 1960s into preparing for a world war against just about everyone on the planet today? Was the Laurel Canyon scene the only operation subtly sabotaging the legitimacy of the anti-war movement by co-opting its message? Or was the CIA responsible for another popular piece of counter-culture showmanship intended to permanently wrap the anti-war movement and public dissent in a beaded cloak of freaked out hippies, communal sex and acid trips on LSD?

The 1950s and 60s saw the United States in direct competition with the Soviet Union not only for military superiority but also for the world's hearts and minds. With an emphasis on "freedom of expression", the [Cultural Cold War waged by Washington](#) embraced a broad swath of cultural activities that were intended to outshine anything done by its communist rival. Given the nature of this cultural competition in literature, music and the arts, is it so surprising that the American intelligence community should have had a hand in the creation of uninhibited performance, free from the rules and strictures of the past? A successful psychological warfare campaign to break down traditional patterns of behavior would require a willingness to participate and the blueprint had already been laid out in 1953 by the CIA's [Psychological Strategy Board's](#) comprehensive doctrine for social control known as [PSB D-33/2](#). With an emphasis on the strange and the avant-garde, the CIA began bringing artists, writers and musicians into what was known as its "Freedom Manifesto".

The CIA would come to view the entire program, beginning with the [1950 Berlin conference](#), to be a landmark in the Cold War, not just for solidifying the CIA's control over the non-communist left and the West's "free" intellectuals, but for enabling the CIA to secretly disenfranchise Europeans and Americans from their own political culture in such a way they would never really know it.

As historian [Christopher Lasch wrote](#) in 1969 of the CIA's secret co-optation of America's non-communist left, "The modern state" is an engine of propaganda, alternately manufacturing crises and claiming to be the only instrument that can effectively deal with them. This propaganda, in order to be successful, demands the cooperation of writers, teachers, and artists not as paid propagandists or state-censored time-servers but as 'free' intellectuals capable of policing their own jurisdictions and of enforcing acceptable standards of responsibility within the various intellectual professions."

While declaring itself as an antidote to communist totalitarianism, one internal CIA critic of the program, PSB officer Charles Burton Marshall, [viewed PSB D-33/2](#) itself as frighteningly totalitarian, interposing "a wide doctrinal system" that "accepts uniformity as a substitute for diversity," embracing "all fields of human thought — all fields of intellectual interests, from anthropology and artistic creations to sociology and scientific methodology." He concluded: "That is just about as totalitarian as one can get."

The evidence that the birth of the psychedelic 1960s West Coast New Age music scene was guided by the invisible hand of [military and intelligence](#) operatives is well documented. But what about the American Tribal Love-Rock Musical HAIR that swept the world from its debut in 1968 after opening to rave [reviews on Broadway](#)?

We lived our personal experience with HAIR when we became a [part of the Boston production](#) in 1970 while college students. HAIR was on the front lines of the anti-war movement and we waved the banner every night for a year before sold-out audiences. To us, the Vietnam War was nothing more than what [Daniel Ellsberg](#) described as a neocolonial enterprise repeating France's mistakes. America's [Winter Soldiers](#) applauded our efforts and joined us on stage to celebrate our right to dramatize the undoing of American society by the terror being inflicted on Southeast Asia. Boston's old guard wanted the production [shut down](#). The challenge went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. [Their effort failed](#) but in the end our victory was not what it appeared.

HAIR was a worldwide phenomenon with original casts in every major U.S. city and nineteen productions outside North America. Its main theme was strongly anti-war and was shared by the millions of Americans who watched and participated in it. Every HAIR cast was local to the city it performed in and established new standards for racial diversity unheard of at the time. Almost 50 years on we still receive letters from people whose lives were profoundly changed by the performance. HAIR made the war and its impact on human beings personal in ways that nothing else could. But that impact and the anti-war momentum it had accrued was soon lost and within a short time channeled away from the universal peace we believed was possible. Was HAIR's popularity just a fluke;

the beneficiary of some temporary anti-war fad? Or was it part of a cultural cold war experiment to influence public opinion that succeeded beyond expectations and was then made to go away. A post-Vietnam 1977 revival at the Biltmore Theatre where it had run for 1750 consecutive performances from 1968 to 1972 was attacked by the [New York Times](#) as “too far gone to be timely; too recently gone to be history or even nostalgia.”

With its antiwar message derided and dismissed as reminiscent of “something of the old battles refought quality of an American Legion reunion,” and with President Carter’s Russophobic National Security Advisor, [Zbigniew Brzezinski](#) taking over foreign and national security policy at the Carter White House, the new message was clear. The antiwar movement would not be coming to power in Washington in 1977 and never would be.

When the film version of HAIR by [Czechoslovakian New Wave](#) director Milos Forman was released in March of 1979 – completely rewritten and fundamentally detached from the original Broadway version – the show’s passionate and prominent anti-war theme was gone. With LBJ, Richard Nixon and Vietnam disposed of; the West’s endless war against Russia could be put back on the fast track.

By the time Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980, the anti-Vietnam War movement had been reduced to a “Syndrome” and cured with an unprecedented World War II size defense budget that transformed the U.S. from a [creditor to a debtor nation](#).

The earmarks of a PSB D-33/2 cultural operation are hidden in plain sight. HAIR may even have been used as a prototype for the so called [color revolutions](#) and Arab Springs that followed in the breakdown of the old Soviet bloc. Alongside authors [Jim Rado](#) and [Jerry Ragni](#) the celebrity arm of the [non-communist left](#) was well represented at our February 22, 1970 HAIR opening night in the presence of Peter, Paul and Mary’s [Peter Yarrow](#) and the Broadway show’s executive producer Bertrand Castelli; a member of Europe’s cultural cold war elite that hobnobbed with the likes of [Jean Cocteau](#) and Pablo Picasso. Yarrow’s famous song, “Puff, the Magic Dragon” became the anthem of the pot smoking 60s hippie movement and whether by design or coincidence his Ukrainian born father Bernard was a charter member of the CIA’s European cultural front organization known as the [National Committee for a Free Europe](#). Having served during World War II in the OSS (with distinction) and after joining no less than [Sullivan and Cromwell](#), the [Dullesbrothers](#)’ law firm, Bernard helped to found the CIA-funded Radio Free Europe and became its senior vice president.

Along with numerous members of the early 1960s music scene who wound up in Laurel Canyon, Peter Yarrow played an early and active role in the civil rights and peace movements. He even acted as referee between the Old Left’s Pete Seeger and the New Left at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival when Bob Dylan decided to move from “folk” music to rock and roll. In a famous confrontation over what many considered Dylan’s sellout, Seeger threatened sound engineer and future *Doors*’ Manager Paul Rothchild that he would cut the cable with an axe if he didn’t turn off “that” distortion; but the distortion stayed.

Following Vietnam, Yarrow transferred his antiwar activism to the issue of [Soviet Jewry](#) and their [emigration to Israel](#)— a major component of the rising neoconservative agenda. Through Yarrow's leadership, by the 1980s the issue had become a key platform of the Reagan administration to use against any de'tente with the Soviet Union. As for HAIR, stripped of its antiwar message, it was reduced to being the poster child of a 1960s debauched hedonism. Or as Bertrand Castelli, the executive producer of the original Broadway production labelled a revival in 2008, [“It's though everything in ‘Hair’ turned into a nightmare,”](#) “Everything that was joyful and harmless became dangerous and ugly.”

Everything must be rethought Dangerous and ugly is not the way we remember our year-long experience with HAIR. Nuclear war and Vietnam were dangerous and ugly and in the intervening 50 years that danger and ugliness has returned to haunt us.

If HAIR was part of a top secret psychological warfare campaign to energize the youth of America and the world to political action in the pursuit of peace, flowers, freedom and happiness it succeeded. But if the ultimate objective of this Hobbesian campaign was to then crush that freedom and numb us to the growing danger of permanent war in a haze of disease, opioid addiction and suicide, it too has succeeded.

At the time, HAIR's success helped us believe that *we had* changed our future for the better. The war ended, the troops came home and life resumed. But we now accept that as of 2018 that new age we sought was nothing more than an illusion.

War is Insane, Endless War is Suicide President [Eisenhower warned us](#) what would happen if our country dedicated itself to war. War makes you mad. Endless war puts you in a hell of madness from which there is no escape. The madness of that war on the world has come full circle and is now in our schools, parks, bars and homes. It was of course always there as part of our nature but we have given in to it. We have given in to that part of our nature that should have matured and been processed but instead has remained aloof and separate from our humanity. That part of our nature has remained unlearned and untamed. We are the victims of our own design and therefore we can change it.

Through various means the CIA did succeed in redirecting the American peoples' anti-war sentiment towards accepting permanent war (clearly illustrated by the longest war ever in American history in Afghanistan). To paraphrase Hermann Goering's 1946 observation: People don't want war, nobody does, but people can easily be brought to the bidding of their leaders by instilling fear or denouncing the pacifists for exposing the country to danger, no matter where or when and works the same way in any country.

Our only course is to step outside today's war narrative and see where we are in the paradigm. The false narratives that control our thinking will fall away as we replace them with the deep knowledge and acceptance of what we have actually lived through. As the past finally becomes prologue; we can imagine the genuine future we truly want and start to make it happen!

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counterpunch.org November 2, 2018

[The Khashoggi Gambit](#) By [Paul Fitzgerald - Elizabeth Gould](#)



The Khashoggi Gambit: Another move on the Global Chess Board [PD](#)

Now that we know *Washington Post* “journalist” Jamal Khashoggi has indeed been assassinated, and may now sleep with the fishes alongside his old family friend and confident Osama bin Laden, what are the odds that his gruesome death at the hands of a 15 man Saudi “hit-team” at approximately 1:17 P.M. on October 2, not only provides the pivot away from the post-World War II American world order – but advances the transition to a multipolar world? Khashoggi’s assassination puts Saudi Arabia’s “de facto ruler” and “reformer” Prince Mohammed bin Salmon (MbS) in the glare of a harsh spotlight when he can least afford it. MbS’s war in Yemen is a source of growing world outrage. His leadership is viewed as “toxic” by senior members of the royal family and his loyalties have been under suspicion by Western intelligence elites since his rise to deputy crown prince in 2015. His [abrupt arrest and imprisonment](#) of eleven billionaire princes and dozens of officials connected to the Saudi ruling elite last year went down badly with the Western chattering class who’d been well served over the years by Saudi largesse. Enslaving females, chopping heads or bombing school busses filled with children could be overlooked or even forgiven but cutting off those expensive nights at the London Ritz was another order of magnitude and they’ve been lying in wait for him ever since. What are the chances he’ll survive? Call it the Khashoggi Gambit. Odds are the [CIA/MI6](#) will either organize a coup or push him into a deal with long-time Eurasian sleeping giants China and Russia. After all, a similar unresolved assassination in nearby Afghanistan nearly forty years ago in room 117 of the Kabul Hotel put U.S. forces directly into the Middle East, cemented an anti-Soviet U.S. – China military alliance ushered in the neoliberal world order and eventually the end of the first Cold War. How coincidental could it be that another political sacrifice – with many of the same characteristics and much the same balance of power at stake – would parallel events of 40 years ago and set the stage for an era that now sees a new cold war and the roles of East and West permanently reversed?

The myth of the “moderate jihadist” that Khashoggi embodied as a member of the [Muslim Brotherhood](#), brought the United States into Afghanistan in the 1970s and keeps American troops there today fulfilling America’s longest war. That mythology rests on the still cherished assumption that Western-hating radical Islamists will eventually evolve into “freedom loving” democratic/neoliberal free market capitalists if given the time,

money and military muscle. That self-serving mythology plays into the very heart of the neoliberal agenda that at once keeps the U.S. fighting a vague, endless war on multiple terrorist organizations like the Taliban or barely disguised al Qaeda-surrogates [while simultaneously supporting them](#). That this idiocy has already destroyed numerous secular Middle East states [that were well on their way](#) to modernity, and [has since failed miserably](#) in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria should by now be self-evident, yet the empire's need to rule everywhere at any cost rolls on. Don't be fooled by the [gushing "free world" democracy PR campaign](#). Jamal Khashoggi, nephew of [billionaire arms-dealer](#) Adnan Khashoggi was not evolving toward liberal democracy, conservative democracy or anything remotely having to do with a "free world". In the words of [Alastair Crooke](#), "Khashoggi symbolized too, in a personal way, that ambiguous tentacle stretching between [Osama] bin Laden's Al-Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood". Despite his [friendly, smiling face](#) wearing an – oh so American – baseball cap on the opinion pages of the Washington Post, Jamal Khashoggi was a loyal propagandist for a brutal Saudi regime and an unreformed jihadist. Prince Turki al-Faisal, former Saudi intelligence chief and ambassador to Washington even broke off a close relationship with Khashoggi, [admonishing him for his blind adherence](#) to the Brotherhood and its "cult" status "that has used terrorist actions to promote its views". That he found a home at the Washington Post speaks to his pedigree as a dedicated neoconservative. As Alastair Crooke points out, "Khashoggi is hailed in the West as a liberal, favoring democratic reform, but in fact he was a staunch supporter of the monarchical system (of which MbS is the effective head). He contended however, that all these monarchies were 'reformable'. Only the secular republics, he suggested (such as Iraq, Syria, and Libya) were unreformable, and required to be overthrown."

Overthrowing secular regimes and replacing them with Muslim fanatics put Khashoggi squarely in the vanguard of Neoconservative foreign policy and his death at the hands of a Saudi death squad [is a blow to their entire agenda](#). But it should be remembered that their agenda gained prominence in the first place as a result of a not so dissimilar atrocity leveled against an American Ambassador in 1979. As the cracks in the foundation of that agenda rapidly spread and power shifts from West to East, the similarities between the Khashoggi killing and the run up to the anti-Soviet Afghan war of the 1970s may make the current fiasco seem more than just coincidence, but a roadmap to something much bigger.

Lots of parallels can be drawn between the Middle East crisis of late 1970s Washington and today's crisis over Saudi Arabia. The *Boston Globe's* [Stephen Kinzer](#) believes the U.S. is acting out the same mistakes today vis a vis MbS as the Carter administration did with the Shah during the Iran crisis: "It's always dangerous just to believe what the leader of a country tells you... We're doing the same thing in Saudi Arabia now that we did in Iran during the Shah period, which is just to ask the leader of the country to tell us what's going on and then believe it. So I think we're more out of touch now with what's going on inside Saudi Arabia than we've ever been in modern history."

But the circumstances surrounding what the *Financial Times* (FT) referred to as the "reckless" Mohammed bin Salman may even more closely resemble the role played in

Afghanistan by the equally reckless Afghan reformer, Hafizullah Amin at the kickoff to neoliberal rule back in 1979. Thanks largely to the machinations of President Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski; Amin's Marxist government had come under attack from the U.S., China and Saudi Arabia almost immediately after assuming power in a bloody coup in 1978. Brzezinski's plan to infiltrate and undermine Soviet control of its southern Muslim provinces dovetailed with the Saudi Kingdom's ongoing operations to spread its version of radical [Wahhabist Islam](#) into Central Asia. Brzezinski and the Saudis shared a special off the books intelligence operation known as the [Safari Club](#) to spread disruption, subterfuge and assassinations in Afghanistan. The Safari club represented the true essence of the CIA ethos; an autonomous covert action organization with global reach, beyond the jurisdiction of American oversight. But Amin was also a thorn in Moscow's side and murderous opportunist in his own right. Moscow considered Amin to be a petite bourgeois and not a Marxist, not to mention a CIA asset. Much to Moscow's displeasure, his radical social reforms antagonized the rural population and played directly into the hands of the Saudi-backed Jihadists. The Soviets wanted him to go slow, but Brzezinski and the Saudis didn't want him at all. As he struggled to establish control a new U.S. Ambassador – [Adolph "Spike" Dubs – was sent to neutralize](#) Soviet anxiety and establish a rapport. Seven months later Dubs was kidnapped and killed in what has been described as a "botched rescue attempt" but was in fact an assassination. Amin accepted responsibility for the death but made secret overtures to Washington which went unanswered. Nine months later the Soviet Union invaded, executed Amin and "Russia's Vietnam" was off and running. [The kidnapping and assassination](#) of Ambassador Adolph Dubs ended any meaningful diplomatic effort by the U.S. to prevent a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The death *was* employed however from that day forward by President Carter's National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski as the opportunity to increase the level of provocation for [luring the Soviets](#) into their own "Vietnam quagmire". Now the shoe is on the other foot. Will the Khashoggi death prove to be the inevitable turning point for a final U.S. mistake in the Middle East, the way the Dubs death made inevitable the Soviet blunder in Afghanistan? Will the United States repeat the Soviets' history and fall into the trap? The Khashoggi Gambit is rapidly playing out and heads have already rolled. The world won't have long to wait, but will suffer the consequences of America's lack of leadership no matter what the outcome.

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counterpunch.org September 21, 2018

[Weaponized Dreams? The Curious Case of Robert Moss](#)

by [Paul Fitzgerald - Elizabeth Gould](#)

After recently finishing a [multi-part series](#) on the long history of “fake” news propaganda behind America’s current anti-Russia hysteria, a friend sent an [email she’d received](#) from “Bestselling author & Dream Shaman Robert Moss.” [Robert Moss](#) currently leads seminars and workshops at some of the best known New Age institutions, such as [Omega](#) and [Esalen](#). He had played an important part in our just completed series, but not as a dream coach offering workshops in “advanced shamanic dreaming practices to journey into other realms and receive wisdom and gifts for your life.” The Robert Moss we knew once played a vital role in delivering tailored propaganda, exaggerated threats and outright fabrications to intentionally heighten Cold War tensions with the Soviet Union. The Robert Moss we knew had been a key agent in steering Western Democracies toward extreme rightwing political candidates and policies. The Robert Moss we knew helped lay the groundwork for the rise of the [new right-wing neoliberalism](#), the trickledown economics of Milton Friedman and the presidency of Ronald Reagan. Moss has been described as one of the CIA’s main disinformation assets; having contributed to the military overthrow of Chile’s elected president Salvador Allende in 1973 and the subsequent atomization of Chilean democracy. In his work for British intelligence it was Moss who wrote the famous speech that transformed Margaret Thatcher from a racist anti-immigrant campaigner into Britain’s “Iron Lady” in January 1976. It was Moss who tutored Iran’s top [SAVAK](#) agent in a last minute attempt to save the Shah and it was Moss who propagandized on behalf of South Africa’s Apartheid regime.

For reasons that are not explained, there is no mention on Moss’s [website](#) that before he turned to dream work he was a protégé of notorious CIA and MI6 operative [Brian Crozier](#). Along with the CIA and MI6, Moss left a high level and successful career as a master propagandist working for the Institute for the Study of Conflict ([ISC](#)) and [Forum World Features](#), a London-based CIA-backed propaganda news service which operated from 1965 to 1974. Nor is there mention of his relationship to the [Pinay Cercle](#), a secretive international policy group which continues to this day to bring together financiers, intelligence officers and politicians with links to fascist organizations and political factions from around the world. Apparently unknown to his New Age audience, Moss was once infamously well known to the intelligence world. His [roman à clef](#) novel [The Spike](#) with co-author [Arnaud de Borchgrave](#) aimed at undermining the credibility of [Vietnam era war](#) correspondents like Seymour Hersh by portraying them as agents of the KGB. And his work on an anti-Palestinian narrative with Crozier, helped to establish the blueprint for the endless war on (Islamic) terror kicked off after 9/11. This comment from Edward Herman and Gerry O’Sullivan’s 1989 [The “Terrorism” Industry](#), makes it clear,

“Robert Moss has been a major figure in the organization of terrorism think tanks and in the dissemination of the right-wing version of the Western model of terrorism. In fact, as Fred Landis has pointed out, “For a price, Moss would go to Rhodesia, South Africa, Iran, and Nicaragua and tailor his standard KGB plot to local circumstances, thereby justifying repression of the political opposition and denial of human rights.”

Moss withdrew from the world of make-believe threat-conjuring in 1987 to write books and run workshops on the power of dreaming. But with his cutting edge expertise in seeding the collective unconscious with lies and fabrications for political and financial purposes, can it really be assumed that Robert Moss's dream work is only about helping people to receive wisdom and gifts for your life?

Robert Moss's Students should be asking these questions

In the interest of what some might call, "full disclosure" one would think Robert Moss would want to come clean about his past, rather than cast doubt on his motives. Trust is a vital commodity for those engaged in the intimate work of dreaming but Moss's lack of candor raises questions. Both the CIA and Britain's MI6 were known for their research into the military uses of psychic phenomena. The techniques for joint dreaming (entering the dream of another person) that Moss offers in his workshops, were explored long ago by the CIA's [Project MKULTRA](#) and Britain's [Tavistock Institute](#).

Far from being fictional, the theme of the 2010 Leonardo DiCaprio film [Inception](#) is the corporate expression of weaponized dream research done by the CIA and MI6. The film deals with the commercial uses of dreaming in order to plant ideas in others for profit. Many viewers may have assumed the film was just fantasy, but if a man with Moss's capabilities in the collective unconscious has moved with *his* talents into the dream world, one might ask whether weaponizing the dream world isn't part of the plan?

MKUltra Anyone?

The objectives of [Project MKULTRA](#) "involved the use of many methodologies to manipulate individual mental states and alter brain function." The project was kept secret from its unwitting victims for two decades before being exposed, but there is no reason to assume research into the methodologies to manipulate mental states, ended there. The purpose of propaganda is to seed the unconscious with misinformation and what better way to reach the unconscious than dreams. An even better vehicle would be to seed a willing dreamer and it's here that Robert Moss's nondisclosure begs the question. Is the New Age movement being secretly penetrated and are the willing victims aware that they may at some future date be used as weapons?

Even more troubling, it makes one wonder how much of the New Age movement itself may have been secretly weaponized without disclosure by other "retired" agents. Could Moss be the only highly trained agent offering spiritual workshops to New Agers without proper acknowledgement regarding their past affiliations? Did Moss get any training or support from the CIA for his dream research? Is Moss really helping New Agers achieve higher consciousness or is he engaging in mind control? These are critical questions that must be asked before attending a Moss workshop or even reading one of his books.

Here are quotes from an internet [post from 2007](#) by a woman who attended a number of Moss's workshops that raised concerns about his background, sincerity and the purpose of his techniques. Whatever authentic shamanic power Moss might bring to his dream

workshops, his lack of transparency left her uneasy and suspicious that the real Robert Moss was someone other than a helpful dream coach.

“He made a point... that a symbol from my dream which held particular significance for me in fact meant nothing at all (how could it mean nothing at all? – it was everywhere in my dream!). This is in direct conflict with his repeated statements that the dreamer is the final authority on their own dream, and that nobody can tell the dreamer what their dream means. I also witnessed him imposing what struck me as an inordinate amount of will when another woman in the circle was...using one of her own experiences. This was a person who had already been doing her own dream work quite well for the last 20 years.

I was beginning to get the confirmation of what I had begun to suspect, that this guy is really just in it for the ego gratification, the illusion of power, and the money, and anyone who won't allow them to be manipulated by him to meet those ends is undesirable.

At the break ... his new trainee... tell[s] me to leave. The excuse she gave was that I was “too advanced” for this workshop, that this was “for beginners” and that I was “scaring people”. One thing she didn't understand is that ...Robert's “advanced” workshops are “by invitation only”, and that I had never been extended an invitation to any of these. ... It was clear they just wanted to be rid of me.”

CONCLUSION

When Moss left the field of intelligence in 1987 to begin writing his books and offering dream workshops, both American and British intelligence had already spent decades developing military uses for psychic phenomena. It is necessary to ask the question before attending one of his workshops; is it possible for Moss to put his previous experience at deceiving the public (through propaganda) behind him. The fact that Moss fails to put his [very scary background](#) as an intelligence operative upfront on his website cannot be ignored by anyone, especially his students.

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New York Times Strikes Out Again on Afghanistan

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould November 6, 2017



The New York Times building. ([Dan DeLuca / Wikimedia](#))

In the final days of the Soviet Union, an old witticism about truth (*pravda*) went something like this: *In the United States, they tell you everything, but you know nothing. In the USSR, they tell you nothing, but you know everything.*

Who would ever be nostalgic for the old Soviet Union, where truth was what the official government mouthpiece told you it was and everything else was a lie meant to undermine the state? Whoever that might be, he or she would feel at home in the [now totally neocon-ized U.S.](#), where the old mainstream media marches in lockstep with a dysfunctional federal bureaucracy to aggressively limit freedom of speech and label anything that contradicts its ideological view of reality as enemy propaganda.

From 1918 until its demise in 1991, [Pravda](#) was the official newspaper of the Soviet Union's Communist Party. But most Americans would be surprised to learn that [The New York Times](#) has been operating for decades as the U.S. government's Pravda without anyone being the wiser.

Now [the truth-war rages](#) between such old mainstream media outlets as The New York Times and any news operation or website that challenges its version of the truth.

We were drawn into this battle by a recent [New York Times obituary](#) for our dearest Afghan friend, Sima Wali, who fled the violent Marxist coup in 1978 that kicked off the U.S.-backed rise of Islamic extremism and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Considering that the [Times maintains](#) that the alternative media is filled with false news and Russian propaganda, we were shocked to find many claims in Sima's obituary that contained American Cold War propaganda about Afghanistan that has long since been debunked. One particularly outrageous example was the claim that in 1978, "gender apartheid" was "imposed by the Communists and then by the Taliban."

Apparently, The New York Times believes it can turn day to night by blaming communists for introducing gender apartheid, a term adapted (from the South African apartheid regime) in 1996 to draw the public's attention to the cruelty and human rights abuses imposed by the Taliban on the women of Afghanistan. The communists did not impose it after their takeover in 1978. In fact, the opposite was true. As Sima stated in the introduction to our book, "[Invisible History: Afghanistan's Untold Story](#)," "The

draconian Taliban rule stripped women of their basic human rights. Their edicts against women in Afghanistan led to an *introduction of a new form* of violence termed ‘gender apartheid.’ ” In reality, a major cause for the growth of the resistance to the communists in the more tradition-bound countryside was the forced education of women and girls and the forced removal of the veil. Nor is it understood in the West that many Afghan rulers in the past attempted these reforms with some level of success.

As David B. Edwards writes in his book, “[Before Taliban](#),” there is a direct line between these and other reforms to the reforms mandated by [King Amanullah](#) after 1919. He writes, “The transformations that he [Amanullah] sought to bring about before his overthrow in 1929 were in many respects forerunners of those of the Marxists and were particularly revealing of the problems they later encountered.”

An accurate picture of what was done by the communists during their rule in the early 1980s can be read in Jonathan Steele’s 2003 Guardian article, titled “[Red Kabul revisited](#),” in which he compares the U.S. occupation of Kabul in 2003 with Soviet-occupied Kabul of the 1980s:

In 1981, Kabul’s two campuses thronged with women students, as well as men. Most went around without even a headscarf. Hundreds went off to Soviet universities to study engineering, agronomy and medicine. The banqueting hall of the Kabul hotel pulsed most nights to the excitement of wedding parties. The markets thrived. Caravans of painted lorries rolled up from Pakistan, bringing Japanese TV sets, video recorders, cameras and music centres. The Russians did nothing to stop this vibrant private enterprise.

Prior to 9/11, [Laili Helms](#), a spokeswoman for and defender of the Taliban and niece to former CIA Director Richard Helms, went so far as to suggest that educating women was a communist plot, claiming that any Afghan woman who could read had to be a communist, because only the communists had educated women. After the American invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, Wali was outraged by this Taliban mentality, which she saw creeping into the American-installed Afghan leadership with the blessing of the American government. In an [address to the Global Citizens Circle](#) in Boston in 2003, she stated her objections: “[A]s an Afghan and an American, I will testify to you that the argument against women’s rights is neither Afghan nor Islamic!”

Thirty-four years ago in May, I stood before the irate Afghan press officer for the communist government in Kabul as he threw a copy of The New York Times onto his desk. “Have you read this?” he demanded, pointing to an article by Leslie Gelb, titled “[U.S. Said to Increase Arms Aid For Afghan Rebels](#).” What Gelb, the former Jimmy Carter administration’s assistant secretary of state, had disclosed had angered the Foreign Ministry’s press secretary, Roshan Rowan, and he was holding me, an American, responsible. “Why are you doing this to us?” he shouted. “What is it we have done to you, to deserve this invasion?”

I didn't need to rely on The New York Times to tell me what was going on in Afghanistan. As the first American journalist to risk the wrath of the Ronald Reagan administration, with its newly installed neoconservative foreign policy, by bringing a [news crew to Kabul](#) in 1981, I was one of only a handful of Americans who knew the score. The United States was backing Muslim guerrillas who were burning down schools specifically for girls and killing local officials, whether they were communist or not. The Gelb article made clear that in collaboration with the Saudis, Egyptians, Chinese, Iranians and Pakistanis, [the "bleeders"](#) inside the Reagan administration were upping the ante in order to "draw more and more Soviet troops into Afghanistan," while at the same time claiming to pursue "a negotiated settlement to the war." It was not obvious from the Gelb article how the United States could be escalating a conflict while negotiating a settlement at the same time in Afghanistan in 1983. Also missing from the article was any indication that the administration's policy was a fundamental contradiction.

In the spring of 1983, we had invited Roger Fisher, director of the Harvard Negotiation Project, to return with us to Kabul to unwrap the riddle of why the United Nations negotiations were getting nowhere. Contracted to ABC's "Nightline," Fisher met with the Kremlin's chief Afghan specialist, who had flown down from Moscow and told him point blank, "We want to get out. Give us six months to save face, and we'll leave the Afghans to solve their own problems." Upon his return, [Fisher expected his discovery](#) would be greeted with relief. Instead he found that "negotiated settlement" was only a fig leaf for escalating the war. The mainstream media were just beginning to ramp up a propaganda campaign, which would become known as [Charlie Wilson's War](#), to drive support for keeping the Soviets pinned down in their own Vietnam while bleeding Wali's Afghanistan to death.

The American people expect the full story from their "free press," and the Constitution demands that the press serve the people and not the bureaucracy. The New York Times needs to get its mission straight, lest it sacrifice its credibility to the very thing it claims to stand against. Left-wing Afghan communists cannot be magically transformed into right-wing Pakistani Taliban. The United States is not the Soviet Union, and The New York Times should stop behaving as if it is Pravda.

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What Have They Done to Our Fair Sister?

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould October 6, 2017



Afghan human rights expert Sima Wali delivers her acceptance speech for Amnesty International's Ginetta Sagan Fund Award in 1999. (Image by Wikisi117) [Permission Details](#)

Sima Wali, the first Afghan refugee to come to this country in 1978, has died at her home in Falls Church, Virginia. To the many Afghans and Americans who knew her, Sima Wali was the soul of Afghanistan, a woman who dedicated her life to helping not just her country of birth, but refugee women and the men who support them, from around an increasingly desperate and dangerous world. You probably never heard of [Sima Wali](#) because she was not the kind of Afghan woman the mainstream media and their establishment backers wanted you to know about. As a member of Afghanistan's ruling family, Sima represented many generations of Afghan leadership dedicated to bringing their country into the modern world after centuries of crushing colonialism from both the east and the west.

Sima was uniquely adept at that task, a cultured woman whose intelligence, grace and beauty charmed all who met her [including the world's leaders](#). From the time she arrived in the United States until illness consumed her, she worked tirelessly for human rights and the rights of women through her organization Refugee Women in Development (RefWid). Her work impacted the U.S. Congress, the State Department, and the United Nations. It led to numerous awards and to her selection as one of only three women to be chosen as delegates to the U.N.-organized Bonn Agreement, which created a new Afghan government after the fall of the Taliban in 2001. Because of Sima, that government mandated the creation of a Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Sima's death constitutes an immense tragedy not just for her friends and family but for Afghanistan and especially for her adopted country, the United States. The fate of America and Afghanistan has been intimately linked since the 1970s when the Carter administration's Zbigniew Brzezinski began a covert mission to undermine Afghanistan's government long before the Soviet invasion. Sima was one of the earliest victims of that destabilization when Marxists claimed power in a bloody April 1978 coup and she was forced to flee. As a refugee woman and naturalized American, no one embodied the commitment, the dedication and the determination to overcome the catastrophic consequences of that relationship more than her.

In 1998 when we first met in New York City she was nearly despondent. Despite her over two decades of work, the Clinton administration saw little problem with the draconian military advances made by the Taliban from their bases in Pakistan. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in fact, was said to believe that the Taliban represented a

cleansing antidote to the corrupted and feuding warlords empowered by the U.S. in their 1980s war against the Soviets.

That same year, 1998, Jimmy Carter's national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski boasted to an [interviewer from the French *Nouvel Observateur*](#) that the consequences of the CIA's secret operation that destroyed Sima's country were far from bad. In fact the destruction of Afghanistan was never a concern at all. "That secret operation was an excellent idea." He said. "It had the effect of drawing the Russians into the Afghan trap and you want me to regret it? The day that the Soviets officially crossed the border, I wrote to President Carter. We now have the opportunity of giving to the USSR its Vietnam War."

Brzezinski dismissed concern about the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, or having armed future terrorists by saying: "What is most important to the history of the world? The Taliban or the collapse of the Soviet empire? Some stirred-up Moslems or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the cold war?" And Brzezinski even went so far as to admit that the U.S. had not only lied about its support for the rebels before the Soviet invasion but that he'd told Carter the action would probably guarantee that the Soviets would invade.

We were fortunate enough to return with Sima to Afghanistan in 2002 in a remarkable journey where we witnessed first-hand her commitment to the Afghan people. Filming [Sima's work](#) with the women and men who had risked their lives to secretly educate and train women during the Taliban era—with no budget other than their meager earnings—was beyond humbling. That October trip held a moment of promise and hope even amidst the ruins. One of the Cold War's ugliest chapters had finally come to an end. The Taliban had been sent back to Pakistan where they came from and a ravaged Afghanistan could be set back on a course to peace and prosperity.

But the future of Afghanistan was clouded by the expansion of American empire into Central Asia and the not-so-secret agendas of America's supposed allies, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. From her many years on the public stage, Sima knew that she represented an obstacle to powerful forces that wanted to rewrite Afghanistan's history and deny its long progress toward democracy. Her very existence threatened the warlords, drug dealers and human traffickers that thrived in an economy destroyed by 25 years of constant war. But most of all she threatened those who wanted the past forgotten; those that believed Afghanistan should never resume its drive for independence as a secular state, and that equal rights for women and the country's ethnic minorities were a dangerous dream. And for that she will be remembered by us, the most.

Since America's most recent war in Afghanistan began in 2001, Americans have been fed a steady diet of misinformation and outright falsehoods. These falsehoods range from claims that the Afghan nation was never really a nation at all; to proclamations that Afghanistan was always ruled by warlords and that it is dangerously naïve to think otherwise. Those who knew Afghanistan prior to America's longest war, understand that these assumptions are wrong and are at best self-serving delusions. It was the United

States who backed Afghanistan's corrupt warlords against the country's ruling dynasty as early as 1973 and it was the United States that put them back into power following its invasion in 2001. Yet these falsehoods form the basis of a Hollywood fiction that continues to hobble America's failing effort there.

Over the years there have been glimmers of hope that a new awareness of Afghanistan's true history was finally emerging from the darkness. An October 2009 article in The New York Times by Elisabeth Bumiller, titled "[Remembering Afghanistan's Golden Age](#)," stated: "American and Afghan scholars and diplomats say it is worth recalling four decades in the country's recent history, from the 1930s to the 1970s, when there was a semblance of a national government and Kabul was known as 'the Paris of Central Asia.'" Bumiller goes on to write that "Afghans and Americans alike describe the country in those days as a poor nation, but one that built national roads, stood up an army and defended its borders."

In a separate 2009 article in Foreign Policy Magazine titled "[A Case for Humility in Afghanistan](#)," author Steve Coll writes: "In my view, most current American commentary underestimates the potential for transformational change in South Asia over the next decade or two, spurred by economic progress and integration" Between the late 18th century and World War I, Afghanistan was a troubled but coherent and often independent state. Although very poor, after the 1920s it enjoyed a long period of continuous peace with its neighbors, secured by a multi-ethnic Afghan National Army and unified by a national culture."

In addition, prior to 1978, when Sima first became a refugee, Afghanistan was self-sufficient in food production and had no refugee problem. An even closer look reveals the origins of the modern Afghan state dating back to the 16th century and the rise of the Roshaniya movement. Led by [Sufi poet Bayazid Ansari](#), the movement is indicative of the broadly progressive nature of Afghan Islam. Ansari's goal was said to be the achievement of equality between men and women. In his landmark 1969 book "[The Emergence of Modern Afghanistan](#)"—the Carnegie Corporation's Vartan Gregorian states: "Ansari's aim, among other things was to establish a national religion, the movement encouraged the Afghans in the tribal belt to struggle against Moghul rule. The Roshaniya movement thus promoted the first political formulation of the concept of Afghan nationality."

Prior to British military invasions of the mid-19th century, Afghans were not even hostile to [European Imperialists](#). East India Company political officer Alexander Burnes wrote home in May of 1832, "The people of this country are kind hearted and hospitable. They have no prejudice against a Christian and none against our nation." Concerned over Russian competition, Burnes argued that a strong Afghan leader could hold the country together and resist foreign encroachment, but a country split into feudal principalities and tribes would invite intrigue and cause chaos. Yet the goodwill of the Afghan people was lost in 1839 when the British government willfully acquiesced to sending an army into Kabul and suffered what was at the time, the greatest military defeat in British history.

Afghanistan's late 19th century Amir Abdur Rahman Khan began his rule determined to establish a modern nation-state. By 1901 he had created a national army and a government bureaucracy that paved the way for a small but well-educated middle class. In 1919, Abdur Rahman's grandson Amanullah brought on a period of rapid modernization and democratic change that would be the envy of any nation-builder today. Amanullah declared Afghanistan's independence from Britain, drew up its first constitution in 1923, guaranteed universal suffrage and civil rights to all of Afghanistan's minorities, prohibited revenge killings and abolished subsidies for tribal chieftains as well as the royal family.

Overthrown in 1929 with the help of the British, Amanullah's embrace of modernism, equality and democracy is often viewed as the cause of his political downfall. Yet, as Vartan Gregorian and others have observed, Amanullah's political undoing stemmed mostly from his inability to support his social reforms with solid economic measures, not from any underlying rejection of his educational and political programs. The same could be said of King Zahir Shah's "experiment in democracy," from 1963 to 1973, where failure stemmed from a weak economy and the emerging storm of external Cold War political forces that were already tearing at the fabric of Afghanistan's political structure.

Sima Wali believed that of any force on earth the United States would understand and help to restore the hard-fought victories over feudalism and backwardness that had been won for Afghanistan following British colonial rule. But as time went on, she came to learn that those beliefs would never be fulfilled. She would laugh off the dangers of working in Afghanistan's distant provinces. She would say she was the canary in the Afghan mineshaft and that as long as she was still breathing, the voiceless Afghan people would have a voice in the struggle to restore what had been lost. But without the support she had been promised, she stood alone. During her last trip to Afghanistan in 2005, she was targeted by the Taliban and narrowly escaped a violent militant attack. She returned home with unusual symptoms, and a new enemy slowly gained ground.

The parallel struggles that Sima waged to restore her homeland for her people and her personal struggle to regain her health are now over. Her open rejection of "misplaced charity"; and anguished cries for "sensible long-term strategies to rebuild the Afghan nation" have gone unheard. As far back as 2003, she stated clearly at a [Global Citizens Circle presentation](#) in Boston that she had deep concerns for events that were developing in Afghanistan. "Although some gains have been achieved in removing a repressive regime, women remain at risk, and I remain highly concerned about the Taliban mentality in ruling circles. And as an Afghan and an American, I will testify to you that the argument against women's rights is neither Afghan nor Islamic!"

In a stroke of irony, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the man who'd sacrificed Sima's Afghanistan to give the hated Soviet Union its own Vietnam, had also passed on just four months earlier and in Falls Church, Virginia, the same city where Sima had lived until her death.

A year before, the architect of America's use of Imperial power to attain global dominance had made a startling about face in an article titled ["Toward a Global](#)

[Realignment](#)” warning that “the United States is still the world’s politically, economically, and militarily most powerful entity, but given complex geopolitical shifts in regional balances, it is no longer the globally imperial power.”

As Sima Wali discovered many years before, had Zbigniew Brzezinski used his powerful influence on American policymakers to aid Afghanistan in its struggles for democracy back in the 1970s, instead of using it as the bait to lure the Soviets into invading, the world would be in a very different place.

For over a decade, Sima fought with all her strength, but though her voice has now been silenced, her deeds and her words will live on to inspire new generations of Afghans and Americans to create the genuine democracy they have been denied for so long.

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An Urgent Message to Bernie Sanders’ Supporters

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould Huffpost Feb 17, 2017



Prince Williams via Getty Images

The struggle between “socialist” Bernie Sanders and “New Democrat” Hillary Clinton points out an old conflict underlying the nature of Democratic Party politics which could be regarded as “the love that dare not speak its name.”

That “love” is the Democratic Party’s relationship with the “real” left of yesteryear, and what it represents to today’s politically-fragmented Democratic Party. The real left, as in the “Communist” left and the Democratic Party, at one time had a lot in common. The American Communist Party’s influence on programs [such as Social Security](#), civil rights and taxing the rich worked its way so far into Franklin Roosevelt’s White House that, by 1944, an angry [Joseph P. Kennedy warned Roosevelt](#) that, “They will write you down in history, if you don’t get rid of them, as incompetent, and they will open the way for the Communist line.”

That fearful threat, of course, never happened. Liberal intellectuals ([with a lot of help from the CIA](#)) circumvented the Communist line by inventing an artificial “left” of their own that, over time, successfully marginalized the real left and delegitimized it.

Democratic Party liberals fought the Communists to the bitter end in Vietnam and elsewhere, but by 1980 had so lost track of their own identity that they easily fell to Ronald Reagan’s New Right.

The mass movement of the American people away from left-leaning democratic populism came as a profound shock to Democratic Party regulars exhausted from their struggles with the left. Vice President Walter Mondale’s devastating 49 state defeat to Reagan in 1984 sealed the left’s fate and, in 1985, the party was lobotomized of any left-sided ideology at all, merging with its intellectual other.

The transformation came in the form of the [Democratic Leadership Council, DLC](#) a non-profit corporation whose goal was to recast the old Democratic Party into a go-go pro-business conservative mold. From the start the DLC maintained a strong neo-conservative agenda, especially in foreign policy. Its selection of Bill Clinton as chairman in 1990 helped cement its acceptance with the general public but the split within the party grew even deeper. These “New Democrats” sold themselves as centrist reformers but behaved more like merchant bankers and, within a few years, ushered in a raft of privatizations, Wall Street giveaways, tough-on-crime laws, and deregulated trade rules that would rob the middle class and set a course toward financial ruin.

The New Democrats were quickly swapping tried and true Democratic Party values for tried and true Republican virtues, and within no time had banished the real “left” in anything but name from the political process.

Prior to the 1990s, old Democrats were careful to reconcile their rank and file with the “limousine liberals” who financed candidates and funded campaigns, but according to the author of [Reinventing Democrats](#), [Kenneth Baer](#), the DLC was now brazenly selling itself as an “elite organization [within the party] funded by elite-corporate and private-donors.”

As a self-described socialist, Sanders’ candidacy has clearly moved the New Democrat Hillary Clinton further to the real left than her Wall Street-friendly establishment supporters feel comfortable. Their discomfort with single-payer health care and the breaking up of Wall Street’s big banks was thinly disguised in a recent [New York Times endorsement](#) of Clinton’s nomination, which sought to dismiss Sanders’ “socialist” policy ideas as simply unrealistic, while New Democrat Hillary Clinton’s proposals are “very good, and achievable.” Yet here, instead of assuring her bonafides as a genuine leader, the Times’ endorsement only leaves readers wondering whether Hillary Clinton’s “achievable proposals” aren’t simply more of the same old hyped-up New Democrat chimeras that will disappear into thin air once the doors to the White House close behind her.

It is beyond doubt that Hillary Clinton will not change her expansionist internationalist views, no matter what she promises or delivers in terms of domestic social programs. Like all New Democrats, she demands a tough military response to virtually all of America’s foreign policy problems, even after it has consistently proven to worsen America’s security. But without demanding profound and permanent changes in America’s neoconservative interventionist foreign policy, Bernie Sanders as President won’t make any difference either.

America’s next president will have to deal with neocon-inspired crises in foreign policy that grow more dangerous by the day. Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Ukraine, Russia, China, Iran and NATO expansion sit atop a long list of hot-button issues that could quickly turn into violent conflicts far more deadly than World Wars I and II. But unless Sanders is willing to face down the fact that these crises are the product of [a neoconservative philosophy of unending war](#), he will fare no better than his predecessors.

One might assume from Republican campaign rhetoric that Democrats are a soft touch when it comes to interventionist policies, but the rhetoric and the reality say very different things. Jimmy Carter promised in his inaugural address [to rid the world of nuclear weapons](#), then proceeded to lay the groundwork for direct military intervention in the Middle East and the largest military buildup since World War II. Everyone credits Reagan for putting the US back into the deep freeze of the Cold War, but if it hadn’t been for Carter’s national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski’s provocative covert actions inside the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and Eastern Europe — intended to poison US/Soviet relations — Reagan’s unnecessary buildup would never have gotten off the ground. It’s a longstanding joke that presidents rarely keep campaign promises. Over a

hundred years ago Woodrow Wilson promised to keep America neutral and out of World War I. In the run up to the 1940 presidential elections, Franklin Roosevelt said [“I shall say it again and again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.”](#) And so it is with President Obama, a man honored with a Nobel Peace Prize presumably for his commitment to abolishing nuclear weapons, who may well go down in history as [the man who made the Apocalypse](#) because of his proposed trillion dollar nuclear weapons upgrade.

America’s political freedom relies on safe and rational foreign policy decisions. The Patriot Act, NSA spying and a perpetual War on Terror are but three consequences of a foreign policy that is neither safe nor rational. Supporters of Bernie Sanders assume that he will make foreign policy decisions free from the inbred neoconservative biases of his chief opponent, but what will the Vermont Senator’s supporters do should their candidate fall in line with the status quo after the election, as Obama did, and fail to deliver on his promises?

Americans, both left and right, are ill informed when it comes to their leaders. Most Americans would be horrified to learn that many of the neoconservatives behind America’s permanent war culture learned their trade under the tutelage of RAND military analyst [Albert Wohlstetter](#), a follower of Leon Trotsky, the leader of the Red Army and a close compatriot to Vladimir Lenin during the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

Wohlstetter was one of the many godfathers of the neoconservative political movement. Over the course of 30 years he moved seamlessly from Communism to Capitalism and between Republicans and Democrats, even [secretly misadvising John F. Kennedy’s Presidential campaign about a “bomber gap” that didn’t exist.](#) In the process he helped to shift American political and military thinking toward permanent war by applying the political philosophy of none other than Leon Trotsky.

Americans would have to reexamine every assumption they have about their political system when they realize the core, flag-waving architects of Ronald Reagan’s New Right were Trotskyites. Had it not been for Joseph Stalin, they might have been running the Soviet Union but, instead, they are now running the United States.

So where does Bernie Sanders hang his hat in this maelstrom of a century-old struggle to control of the world? With all the insane and somewhat fascist rhetoric issuing from Donald Trump’s campaign, one idea worth stealing is the one that riles the neoconservatives of both parties: Sanders’ desire to overthrow the neocon ideological agenda of endless war, a political belief system that still rules Washington foreign policy circles.

Bernie Sanders’ supporters must come to understand that the only way he can make good on his promise of single payer healthcare, more social security and repairing America’s broken infrastructure is to adopt this pragmatic foreign policy position as his own. To not only beat Hillary Clinton, but a Republican contender as well, he must offer a viable and

doable alternative to a continued foreign policy of endless war and he must articulate it now, before it is too late.

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America's Late Stage Imperial Dementia

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould November 3, 2016



The 12th cc. Marriage of Aoife and Strongbow by Daniel Maclise (1811--1870)
 ([Image](#) by Daniel Maclise [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons) [Permission](#) [Details](#)

The 12th cc. Norman Invasion of Ireland, led by Strongbow, brought with it the Fitzgeralds' genetic connection to the Camelot mythology (via the marriage of Gerald of Winsor to [Princess Nest](#)). JFK brought this connection to the White House thereby challenging the Anglo/American political establishment to its roots. It has continued to haunt the establishment to this day.

America, an Empire in Twilight Series

In 2005 when a historian in Wexford Ireland discovered that President George W. Bush was a descendent of the 12th century Earl Richard de Clare, "Strongbow" it caused something of a [commotion in the British press](#). Ever since John Fitzgerald Kennedy, tracing a presidential candidate's lineage to Ireland has become a common theme. But according to the Guardian having Strongbow as an ancestor, "a desperate land-grabbing warlord whose calamitous foreign adventure led to the suffering of generations" was something of an embarrassment.

As an Anglo-Norman Earl with Viking lineage from one of the most powerful Norman/French families in 12th century England, NOT being a land-grabbing warlord was probably a death sentence. In a world where might meant right Strongbow's real crime was his challenge to the authority of the Anglo/French King Henry II's House of Anjou and his threat to set himself up as a rival Norman King of Ireland. Also unmentioned in this Guardian article titled, "Scion of traitors and warlords: why Bush is coy about his Irish links" is Strongbow's even stronger genetic links to the Fitzgerald antecedents to JFK, who as a family of mercenary soldiers in service to numerous European royal houses, made Strongbow's English and Irish conquests possible and [married directly into the de Clare family line](#) shortly after coming to Ireland.

Chafing under the rule of the Angevin King Henry II of England, the ambitious Strongbow pictured himself on a par with the English King. His marriage to the daughter of Irish King Dermot MacMurrough was intended to seal the deal but Henry soon scuttled the plan.

Strongbow was a Crusader, served in the Holy Land and was known to be [a generous supporter](#) of the infamous Knights Templar, the warrior monks for whom the Cistercian Abbot Bernard of Clairvaux penned [De Laude Novae Militiae](#) (*In Praise of the new Knighthood*) thereby redefining the very nature of murder when done in the name of Christ.

Strongbow's daughter Isabel was married off by King Richard I to William Marshall in 1189. Considered the greatest knight in Christendom, he was installed as a Knight Templar on his deathbed in 1219. Marshall stayed loyal to the Angevin king John during the baron's rebellion and was present at the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215. The Magna Carta defused a rebellion by England's powerful barons by setting limits on royal power and placing all future sovereigns under the rule of law. Alongside Habeas Corpus, it stood as an abiding principle of Western and international law until being [subsumed by the events of 911](#).

Upon Strongbow's death in April of 1176, the equally ambitious Fitzgerald family assumed Strongbow's original mission in Ireland but their challenge to Britain's royalty had already begun a century before.

After taking part in the Norman conquest of England in 1066, the family and their extended clans had become deeply entwined in Angevin family politics as part of the Norman invasion force of South Wales. The marriage (arranged by Henry I) of the patriarch of the Fitzgerald family, [Gerald FitzWalter of Windsor](#) to Nest, daughter of Rhys Ap Tewdwr (Tudor) who is considered the last king of the Britons, cemented the Fitzgeralds to an [ancient British dynasty of kings](#) and the Arthurian legends surrounding them.

Known for their loyalty to a Catholic Rome, their embrace of Ireland's Celtic culture and their fierce desire to establish their control over Ireland, the next four hundred years found the Fitzgerald family drawn deeply into English as well as European politics with numerous Fitzgerald kin interned in the Tower of London. The coming of the Reformation to England in the 16th century turned four hundred years of border disputes and jurisdictional feuding into holy war. In 1580, the Holy See in Rome sent an army of Italians and Spaniards [to help the Fitzgeralds](#) fight Queen Elizabeth's Protestant forces under the authority drafted by the "Just War Doctrine."

Dubbed by author Richard Berleth as the ["Twilight Lords"](#) for their role as the last doomed, feudal barons of Ireland, the Fitzgeralds' struggle against the Elizabethans and the [Renaissance Neoplatonism](#) of men such as Edmund Spencer and Walter Raleigh presents a dark moment in British history. But it also offers a window into a thousand year old factional struggle of a European "deep state" that exploded openly in Ireland in the 16th century before spreading to the four corners of the earth through imperial expansion.

Allegorized as the embodiment of evil in Edmund Spencer's [Faerie Queene](#), the Fitzgeralds were transformed into the "Other" in the English propaganda of the day,

while Elizabeth and her Red Cross Templar knights followed in the tradition of King Arthur and the Round Table.

Far from being only a war over ecclesiastical principles, this "holy war" fought between the Catholic Fitzgerald clans and their Calvinist opposites was also a war against economic domination and colonization from London. From London's perspective, the war was a just war because it was a struggle to the death against the Papal forces of the Counter Reformation, which were encircling it militarily and economically and rolling back Protestant reforms. In the end, the war devastated Ireland, depopulated the Irish countryside, shifted power from local landowners to mercantilists in London and instilled a lasting fear and anger between Protestants and Catholics. Ireland set the standards of behavior that marked the beginnings of Britain's empire that live on as much today in the neighborhoods of Kabul, Kandahar and Peshawar as they do in Derry and Belfast. But it also marked a turning point in Rome's ability to manage world events through military force and a shift from the ecclesiastically sanctioned violence of "just war" to the secular/state sanctioned violence of "just war."

We have illustrated in our multi-part series *An Empire in Twilight* that whatever America once appeared to be, at least since World War II, it never was the country we thought.

Although once assumed to be governed by rules, democratic laws and financial regulations, today's America operates not unlike Strongbow's feudal state ruled by the private and personal agendas of a handful of individuals and the vast majority of [the American public disapproves of it](#). Over the years, organizations such as the [Trilateral Commission](#) and the Council on Foreign Relations, the Bilderberg group and the [Club of Rome](#) are known to have exerted a decisive role over government policies and mass media. We have known for a century or more of the secret financial power groups that work behind the scenes. Such family lines as Rockefeller, Carnegie and Rothschild and their desire to control the world through financial manipulation are the stuff of legend. Yet, despite their monopolistic and anti-democratic efforts their power and [their money continue to fuel popular allure](#). We have written of secret intelligence organizations such as [Le Cercle](#), the Safari Club and [the 6I](#) which at the behest of international business cartels both legal and illegal have secretly undermined democratic elections, overthrown governments and redirected the world's economy for the benefit of a chosen few.

But what are their plans now that they have transformed the world into a financial and geopolitical shipwreck? Our personal understanding of the present dilemma starts with another shipwreck, this one off the coast of Ireland in the year 1577. That was the year a notorious English pirate and slave trader named Martin Frobisher ran aground with a cargo of "gold" off the isolated, rocky, western coast of Ireland at a place known as Smerwick. According to one account, Frobisher's mission was intended to find the fabled Northwest Passage to China as part of a ["Protestant adventure that would rival the Catholic"](#) quest as well as enrich the queen's [Elizabeth I] treasury." Unfortunately for Frobisher and the queen, the gold was soon revealed to be nothing more than iron pyrites (fool's gold).

An Irish rebel-captain by the name of James Fitzmaurice raised a fort at the summit of the cliffs and named it Fort Del Oro, (Fort of Gold) to mock Queen Elizabeth for her vain challenge to Rome for wealth and power. At the time Britain was not yet an Empire but with the capture and beheading of the last Fitzgerald Earl of Desmond in 1583 that would quickly change. The next four centuries saw Britain expand both east and west, to India and America and dominate the world.

In America, Strongbow's descendants established dynasties of their own and continued on through the political process; in the modern era through the Bush family and the Fitzgerald branch of the Kennedy clan.

As a Fitzgerald it came as a shock when I learned that my ancestors had once invoked the "Just War Doctrine" to justify their role in a suicidal conflict with Queen Elizabeth I. When in 1980 [Colin Gray and Keith Payne](#) attempted to stretch the concept to justify nuclear war-fighting, it came as a cruel awakening that despite the gulf of four hundred years little had changed in the need to bend reality to justify war.

Thirty six years later the medieval nature of America's political system is more obvious than ever. The ambitions of the Fitzgerald/Kennedy dynasty were thwarted by World War II, assassinations and then by the death of John Fitzgerald Kennedy's son John Junior. George W. Bush's legacy still smolders in the ashes of Iraq and the collapse of the world economy while brother Jeb has been lost in the stampede for Donald Trump. The newcomer-Clintons have been dubbed heirs to the throne in the hope of extending the legacy to at least one more generation. But despite the saber rattling and the constant demonizations, the nuclear upgrades and the media disinformation, it's becoming clear they cannot avoid the bloody handwriting on the wall.

The United States crossed through the mirror with the creation of the national security state in 1947 and never came back. By embracing the [Wolfowitz doctrine](#) and defining everyone as the enemy after 9/11 it proudly completed its long journey into the darkness and has since become lost in it. Whatever justification Strongbow and his fellow knights had when crusading to Jerusalem in the 12th century the true meaning of "Just War" has now finally disappeared into ["the dark matter" that can't be seen"](#).

No one less than the ancient founders of civilization, the Sumerians experienced a similar fall from the heights as their obsession with victory, superiority and prestige consumed everything they stood for. "Sumer became a 'sick society' with deplorable failings and distressing shortcomings," writes Samuel Noah Kramer, in [Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth](#). "It yearned for peace but was constantly at war; it professed such ideals as justice, equity and compassion but abounded in injustice, inequality and oppression; materialistic and short sighted, it unbalanced the ecology essential to its economy" And so Sumer came to a cruel, tragic end."

When the smoke clears following the presidential election of 2016, Americans will at last see through the cover of darkness and realize that we have been witnessing an empire in the midst of its death throes.

Regardless of what the election brings we must now rid ourselves of the delusions of empire that have been driving our leadership toward self-annihilation for millennia and build, from the ground up, a democracy we can be proud of.

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Brzezinski Vision to Lure Soviets into 'Afghan Trap' Is Orlando's Nightmare

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould

January 16, 2016

In 1977 Afghanistan had no refugees.

Omar Mateen, the man believed to be solely responsible for the June 14 Orlando shooting massacre, was born in the United States 29 years ago, to Afghan parents who fled to the US as refugees, following the fulfillment of a scheme by President Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski to inveigle the Soviets into Afghanistan to saddle Moscow with its own Vietnam. In 1977 Afghanistan had no refugees and Brzezinski, at the time, set in motion events that have come full circle, to this tragedy, leaving Afghanistan today with the second-largest refugee population in the world.

In 1977 Afghanistan was transforming itself into an enlightened, modern and democratic society. Eyewitness accounts from the 1960s and 1970s document rapid changes embraced by Afghan men and women, across a broad spectrum of society. Despite its poverty, Afghanistan had been independent in its foreign policy and self-sufficient in many areas, including food production, in a vivid illustration of what life is like when Afghans control their own state. It was also the year that Zbigniew Brzezinski stepped into the role as National Security Advisor to US President Jimmy Carter. Brzezinski quickly inaugurated a plan to lure the Soviet Union into an invasion of Afghanistan, a plan that was fulfilled on December 27, 1979. The blowback from Brzezinski's scheme, even after almost 40 years, has delivered another dagger into the heart of America's soul as well as the LGBT and Muslim global community.

How Zbigniew Brzezinski did it.

Upon entering the White House in 1977, Brzezinski formed the Nationalities Working Group (NWG), dedicated to weakening the Soviet Union by inflaming ethnic tensions, especially among the Islamic populations of the region. While Brzezinski activated his scheme, former CIA operative Graham Fuller was station chief (1975-1978) in Kabul. Conveniently for Brzezinski, Fuller's focus was on how to politicize the Islamic world on behalf of American interests. As Fuller explained his [thesis](#): "In the West the words Islamic fundamentalism conjure up images of bearded men with turbans and women covered in black shrouds. And some Islamist movements do indeed contain reactionary and violent elements. But we should not let stereotypes blind us to the fact that there are also powerful modernising forces at work within these movements. Political Islam is about change. In this sense, modern Islamist movements may be the main vehicle for bringing about change in the Muslim world and the break-up of the old "dinosaur" regimes."

In 1977 Fuller was in a position to activate Brzezinski's scheme. As CIA station chief in Kabul he was perfectly positioned to provide Brzezinski with the intelligence necessary to build a case for President Carter to sign a directive allowing him to lure the Soviets into invading Afghanistan.

[As the first American](#) TV crew, in 1981, [to gain access to Kabul](#) after the Soviet invasion, we got a close-up look at the narrative supporting President Carter's "greatest threat to peace since the second world war" and it didn't hold up. What had been

presented to the public as an open-and-shut case of Soviet expansion by Harvard Professor Richard Pipes on the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour could just as easily be defined as a defensive action within the Soviets' legitimate sphere of influence. Three years earlier, Pipes' [Team B Strategic Objectives Panel](#) had been accused of subverting the process of estimating national security threats by inventing threats where none existed, and intentionally skewing findings along ideological lines. In the early 1980's that ideology was being presented as fact by America's Public Broadcasting System.

In 1983 our press team returned to Kabul with Harvard Negotiation Project Director [Roger Fisher](#), for ABC's Nightline. Our aim was to establish the credibility of American claims. We discovered, from high-level Soviet officials, that the Kremlin wanted desperately to abandon the war, but the Reagan administration was dragging its feet. From the moment he entered office, Reagan and his administration demanded that the Soviets withdraw their forces, at the same time keeping them pinned down through covert actions that prevented them from leaving. Though lacking in facts and dripping in right wing ideology, this hypocritical foreign-policy campaign was embraced by the entire American political spectrum and continues to be willfully-unexamined by America's mainstream media.

At a conference conducted by the [Nobel Institute in 1995](#), a high-level group of former US and Soviet officials faced off over the question: Why did the Soviets invade Afghanistan? Former National Security Council staff member Dr. Gary Sick established that the US had assigned Afghanistan to the Soviet sphere of influence years before the invasion. So why did the US choose an ideologically-biased position when there were any number of verifiable fact-based explanations for why the Soviets invaded? To former CIA Director Stansfield Turner, responsibility could only be located in the personality of one specific individual. "Brzezinski's name comes up here every five minutes; but nobody has as yet mentioned that he is a Pole." Turner said. "[T]he fact that Brzezinski is a Pole, it seems to me was terribly important."

What Turner was suggesting in 1995 was that Brzezinski's well-known Russophobia led him to take advantage of a Soviet miscalculation. But it wasn't until the 1998 [Nouvel Observateur interview](#) that Brzezinski boasted that he had provoked the invasion, by getting Carter to authorize a presidential finding to intentionally suck the Soviets in, six months before Moscow considered invading. Yet, despite Brzezinski's admission, Washington's entire political spectrum continued to embrace his original false narrative, that the Soviets were embarked on world conquest.

For Brzezinski, getting the Soviets to invade Afghanistan was an opportunity to shift Washington toward an unrelenting hard line against the Soviet Union. By using covert action, he created the conditions needed to provoke a Soviet defensive response, which he then used as evidence of Soviet expansion. However, after Brzezinski's simple exaggerations and outright lies about Soviet intentions became accepted, they found a home in America's imagination and never left. US foreign policy, since that time, has operated in a delusion of triumphalism, provoking international incidents and then capitalizing on the chaos.

From its origins in 1977 as a covert program to destabilize the Soviet Union, through ethnic violence and radical Islam in Afghanistan, Soviet Georgia, Azerbaijan and Chechnya, a line can be drawn to the Orlando massacre shooter. The theories, practices and policies implemented by Brzezinski, prior to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, have found their logical evolutionary step, and the violence continues.

If it hadn't been for Brzezinski's scheme, Omar Mateen, the man believed to be solely responsible for the June 14 massacre, most likely would have been born in Afghanistan 29 years ago, instead of the United States. We will never know what kind of man Mateen might have become had he been born and raised in the home of his ancestors. One thing is sure; the time has come for Americans to question whether the legacy of [Brzezinski's obsession](#) with conquering the world at any cost should continue to be an American dream as well.

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America Pivots to Brzezinski's Delusion of Eurasian Conquest

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould

June 2, 2015

"We are, and I don't want to sound alarmist but I am alarmed, closer to the actual possibility of war with Russia than we have ever been since the Cuban missile crisis. That's how bad it's been." (Stephen Cohen)

Paul Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Gould — Russia historian Stephen Cohen points to the neoconservative establishment for America's latest outbreak of what can only be referred to as late-stage imperial dementia. Neocons Robert Kagan and wife Victoria Nuland have certainly done the heavy lifting to make Ukraine the staging ground for what appears to be a NATO blitzkrieg on Moscow. But whatever the determination of the neocon plot, they are only the barking dogs of [master imperialist Zbigniew Brzezinski](#), whose grand design has been creeping over the globe since he stepped into the Oval office as National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter in 1977.

Brzezinski stands apart as the inspiration for the Ukraine crisis. His 1997 book *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and its Geostrategic Imperatives* lays out the blueprint for how American primacists should feel towards drawing Ukraine away from Russia because, "Without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be a Eurasian empire."

Brzezinski's obsession derives from British geographer [Sir Halford Mackinder's 1904 definition](#) of the Central-Eastern nations of Europe as the "Pivot Area", whose geographic position made them "the vital springboards for the attainment of continental domination." Whether anyone realizes it, the Obama administration's current campaign against Russia in Ukraine is of Mackinder's design brought forward by Brzezinski.

To an expert like Stephen Cohen, the [Obama administration's indictment](#) of Russia over Ukraine "doesn't correspond to the facts and above all it has no logic." But a look back forty years reveals that a lot of Cold War thinking wasn't fact-based either and it may now be instructive to look for answers to Washington's current dose of illogic in the covert origins of the U.S. supported 1970s war for Afghanistan.

[As the first Americans to gain access to Kabul](#) after the Soviet invasion for an American TV crew in 1981 we got a close-up look at the narrative supporting President Carter's "greatest threat to peace since the second world war" and it didn't hold up. What had been presented as an open and shut case of Soviet expansion by Harvard Professor Richard Pipes on the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour could just as easily have been defined as a defensive action within the Soviets' legitimate sphere of influence. Three years earlier, Pipes' [Team B Strategic Objectives Panel](#) had been accused of subverting the process of making national security estimates by inventing threats where they didn't exist and intentionally skewing its findings along ideological lines. Now that ideology was being presented as fact by America's Public Broadcasting System.

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withdraw their forces, while at the same time keeping them pinned down through covert action so they couldn't leave. Though lacking in facts and dripping in right wing ideology, this hypocritical campaign was embraced by the entire American political spectrum and left willfully-unexamined by America's mainstream media.

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Yet, despite Brzezinski's admission, Washington's entire political spectrum continued to embrace his original false narrative that the Soviets had embarked on a world conquest.

For Brzezinski, getting the Soviets to invade Afghanistan was an opportunity to shift Washington toward an unrelenting hard line against the Soviet Union. By using covert action, he created the conditions needed to provoke a Soviet defensive response which he'd then used as evidence of unrelenting Soviet expansion. However, once his exaggerations and lies about Soviet intentions became accepted, they found a home in America's imagination and never left.

The [Brzezinski-drafted Carter Doctrine](#) put the U.S. into the Middle East with the Rapid Deployment Force, China became engaged as a US military ally and détente with the Soviet Union was dead. The Reagan administration would soon advance on this agenda with a massive military buildup as well as expanded covert actions inside the Soviet Union by the [Nationalities Working Group](#).

The Polish born Brzezinski represented the ascendancy of a radical new breed of xenophobic Eastern and Central European intellectual bent on holding Soviet/American policy hostage to their pre-World War II world view. His early support for expanding NATO into Eastern Europe and Ukraine was opposed by 46 senior foreign policy advisors who referred to it [in a letter to President Clinton](#) as "a policy error of historic proportions."

Yet in 1999, the Clinton administration, urged on by what Time Magazine described as "Ethnic lobbying groups such as the Polish American Congress," began implementing the plan.

US policy since that time has operated in a delusion of triumphalism that both provokes international incidents and then capitalizes on the chaos. A destabilizing strategy of sanctions against Russia, the [American military's training](#) of the Ukrainian National Guard, US troops [parading armored vehicles within 300 yards of Russia's border](#) and [warlike statements by NATO leaders](#) can only mean the US is committed to Brzezinski's strategy of seizing the "Pivot Area" and holding it.

Today it's Brzezinski's son Ian who finds Moscow at the root of America's problems regardless of the facts. He recently recommended to the [Senate Armed Services Committee](#) that the authority to make war on Russia should be taken out of President Obama's hands and given to NATO's top commander, General Phillip Breedlove; a man accused by the German government of exaggerating the Russian threat in eastern Ukraine by spreading "[dangerous propaganda](#)".

The time has come for the American public to be let in on what US foreign policy has become and to decide whether the [Brzezinski family's personal obsession](#) with fulfilling Mackinder's directive for conquering the pivot of Eurasia at any cost, should be America's goal as well.

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(Full essay version: [America Pivots to Brzezinski's Delusion of Eurasian Conquest](#))

counterpunch.org

America's Financial Armageddon and Afghanistan

by Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould September 14, 2011

As the U.S. economy grinds down to a finish, it becomes increasingly difficult to measure whether Washington understands the importance of how to deal realistically with the worsening crisis in Afghanistan. Left off the front pages during the recent obsession with the debt crisis, Afghanistan has lurched back onto the scene in ways that are reminiscent of the Soviet collapse of two decades ago. After ten years of war, it seems

Washington not only continues to lack a comprehensive understanding of Afghanistan, but it lacks an understanding of its own role in creating both the economic and political catastrophe it now faces.

Even less understood is how the political decisions of the late 1970s are tied to the current simultaneous financial and foreign policy crisis. Nor is it understood how Washington and Wall Street set the stage for America's financial downfall by using Afghanistan as an investment bank throughout the 1980s to renew the Cold War instead of reinvesting in America's civilian economy.

Much like today, the America of 1979 faced a crossroads. Vietnam, two oil shocks, a disintegrating infrastructure, a beleaguered manufacturing base and the loss of strategically Iran had shown that America was a vulnerable colossus. Thirty five years of economic Cold War against the Soviet Union and China had produced a vast arsenal of nuclear weapons that were proving as useless as they were unusable. World War II had set the stage for the happy marriage of war production to business — pulling the U.S. out of the depression by doubling the Gross National Product in one year (1940). The Cold War ushered the financial benefits of the 1940s into the 1950s and 1960s. But these expenditures came at a massive expense to the civilian economy and not just in terms of tax dollars. Weapons development of the post World War II years lured America's best and brightest away from the civilian economy and even the real world of guns, tanks and armies into a world detached from time, space and money. While Germany and Japan rebuilt their civilian industries free from defense spending, the U.S. moved into ever higher levels of technology, glorifying and expanding the influence of the defense industry into every fabric of American life.

Originally termed Military Keynesianism to describe the buildup of the German defense industry prior to World War II, America's military Keynesianism of the Cold War was the unseen hand of government supporting the American economy, balancing the cyclical ups and downs of the market by providing 16 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in 1950s and 9 percent in the 1960s. By 1963 defense spending accounted for 52 percent of all the research and development done in the United States. But by the mid-1970s, a stagnant American economy combined with the Arab oil embargo and inflation brought on by the Vietnam War exposed the weakness in the system. As German and Japanese manufacturers battered their American competition in the marketplace, the defense-heavy American economy faltered.

Born of necessity, diplomatic overtures to China and détente with the Soviets offered the first chance since World War II to get off the wartime treadmill. To that end, for most of the decade the U.S. and Soviet Union pursued Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.

Endorsed by President Nixon in 1972, it was hoped that the agreement signed by President Carter and General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Leonid Brezhnev would enable the United States to back away from weapons manufacturing and reinvest those resources in the civilian economy. But the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan changed all that.

Our involvement in this story began in the summer of 1979 when we began production of a documentary we called *Arms Race and the Economy: A Delicate Balance*. During the next months numerous experts including economist John Kenneth Galbraith lent their experience to our understanding of the unseen damage that a massive new diversion of tax dollars and capital investment would represent to the civilian economy. The arms race wasn't just about defending the United States. The arms race was also about jobs and money in a dark world of business, science, and politics ruled over by a self-described "priesthood" of experts. Galbraith insisted that accelerated defense spending and renewing the Cold War, which the neoconservative right was lobbying hard for at the time, would ultimately destroy the civilian economy. He was convinced that the Cold War had already helped rigidify the capitalist system by bureaucratizing a large part of production for non-productive uses. He saw American industry becoming more and more like the Soviet Union, ruled by a military-industrial-academic establishment immune from reality, living in a planned economy designed to suit its own needs at the expense of society.

Galbraith jokingly referred to his "First Law of Executive Talent" that he had formulated to describe the thinking of America's military-industrial leadership. "It was that all great executives come to resemble intellectually the products they manufacture. Until you had done business with top officers of the steel industry, you didn't really appreciate the intellectual qualities of a billet of steel." So it was with the defense department. America's militarized economy was already in essence a Soviet-style "planned economy," to make it an even larger part of the economy would only lock the U.S. into the same dismal fate.

That fall, in Washington, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency was one of the last holdouts of sanity in a rolling sea of hysterical accusations about American security. Was the Soviet Union really planning a sneak attack on the United States with nuclear weapons as the right wing claimed? Was SALT II really just a public relations scheme by Moscow to put the U.S. off its guard?

In hindsight we know that these claims were absurd. The Soviet Union was dying, driven to SALT by its weakness, not its strength. But when the Soviets crossed their southern border into Afghanistan that December of 1979, it played out on America's TV screens like a World War II Hollywood B movie. Afghanistan was a far off South Asian country of no particular interest to the United States. A half dozen administrations had refused Afghan requests for military assistance. Eisenhower's Secretary of State John Foster Dulles's callous and careless diplomacy drove Afghanistan towards Moscow in the mid-1950s and its politics followed close behind. A low priority remnant from Britain's colonial empire, President Carter labeled the invasion, "the greatest threat to peace since the second World War." But the script had already been written long before the Soviet's crossed their southern border on December 27, 1979.

A trap had been set to give the Soviets their own Vietnam and the Soviets had taken the bait. But no one outside a handful of policy experts and Wall Street wizards were supposed to know that. Instead, a crop of neoconservative experts appeared on the scene

claiming the Soviets were running out of oil and using Afghanistan as a staging ground for Middle East conquest.

By the time our program aired that winter, the argument was no longer whether our government should call a halt to the nuclear arms race and reinvest in the civilian economy. The U.S. had stepped into the mirror with the media echoing a return to 1947 style Cold War rhetoric, and the debate refocused not on whether, but on how much was to be spent to counter Soviet aggression.

In the planning stages for most of the decade, the new right's military stimulus program regained for them a strategic hold over the economy, raising American investment in new weapons systems to a new high, while setting in motion a series of changes to the fundamental economic order endemic to the previous iteration of the Cold War.

As it had in the 1950s and 1960s, military spending once again drove the American economy, accounting for up to 6.2 percent of GDP by 1984. But where previous defense spending had been carefully balanced against America's industrial output as a percentage of GNP, the so-called Reagan agenda or Reaganomics required massive borrowing to finance the military budget while reducing regulation and oversight of where it was spent. This change would transform American thinking about the economy, sending it into a star wars unreality and more importantly from a creditor to a debtor economy.

Always detached from the real economy, the Reagan budgets lifted the arms race and its Wall Street backers into the stratosphere, focusing the nation's attention away from the depression era roads, bridges, dams, schools and industry that were in desperate need of attention. Instead, America became transfixed by the phantom of an ever present danger of Soviet troops in Afghanistan and a stock market driven by the military's expansion.

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PRESIDENT CARTER, DO YOU SWEAR TO TELL THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH?

By Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould

Conor Tobin's January 9, 2020 *Diplomatic History*¹ article titled: [The Myth of the 'Afghan Trap': Zbigniew Brzezinski and Afghanistan](#)² attempts to "dismantle the notion that President Jimmy Carter, at the urging of National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, aided the Afghan Mujahedin intentionally to lure the Soviet Union into invading Afghanistan in 1979." As Todd Greentree acknowledges in his July 17, 2020 review of Tobin's article, the stakes are high because the "the notion" calls into question not just President Carter's legacy, but the conduct, the reputation and the "strategic behavior of the United States during the Cold War and beyond."³

Central to the issue of what Tobin refers to as "the Afghan Trap thesis," is French journalist Vincent Jauvert's infamous January 1998 [Nouvel Observateur interview](#) with Brzezinski in which he brags about a secret program launched by him and President Carter six months before the Soviet invasion "that had the effect of drawing the Russians into the afghan trap..." "According to the official version of history, CIA aid to the Mujahideen began during 1980, that is to say, after the Soviet army invaded Afghanistan, 24 Dec 1979. But the reality, secretly guarded until now, is completely otherwise." Brzezinski is on record as saying. "Indeed, it was July 3, 1979 that President Carter signed the first directive for secret aid to the opponents of the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul. And that very day, I wrote a note to the president in which I explained to him that in my opinion this aid was going to induce a Soviet military intervention."⁴

Despite the fact that the secret program had already been revealed by the CIA's former chief of the directorate of Operations for the Near East and South Asia Dr. Charles Cogan and former CIA Director Robert Gates and was largely ignored, Brzezinski's admission brings attention to a glaring misconception about Soviet intentions in Afghanistan that many historians would rather leave unexplained. From the moment Brzezinski's interview appeared in 1998 there has been a fanatical effort on both the left and the right to deny its validity as an idle boast, a misinterpretation of what he meant, or a bad translation from French to English. Brzezinski's admission is so sensitive amongst the CIA's insiders, Charles Cogan felt it necessary to come out for a Cambridge Forum

¹ *Diplomatic History* is the official journal of Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). The journal appeals to readers from a wide variety of disciplines, including American studies, international economics, American history, national security studies, and Latin-American, Asian, African, European, and Middle Eastern studies.

² *Diplomatic History*, Volume 44, Issue 2, April 2020, Pages 237–264, <https://doi.org/10.1093/dh/dhz065>
Published: 09 January 2020

³ [H-Diplo Article Review 966 on Tobin.: Zbigniew Brzezinski and Afghanistan, 1978-1979.](#) Review by Todd Greentree, Oxford University Changing Character of War Centre

⁴ Vincent Jauvert, Interview with Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Le Nouvel Observateur* (France), Jan 15-21, 1998, p.76 *(There are at least two editions of this magazine; with the perhaps sole exception of the Library of Congress, the version sent to the United States is shorter than the French version, and the Brzezinski interview was not included in the shorter version).

discussion of our book on Afghanistan (*Invisible History: Afghanistan's Untold Story*)⁵ in 2009 to claim that even though our view that the Soviets were reluctant to invade was authentic, Brzezinski's *Nouvel Observateur* interview had to be wrong.

Tobin expands on this complaint by lamenting that the French interview has so corrupted the historiography as to have become the almost sole basis to prove the existence of a plot to lure Moscow into the "Afghan Trap." He then goes on to write that since Brzezinski asserts the interview was technically *not* an interview but excerpts *from* an interview and was never approved in the form it appeared *and* that since Brzezinski has subsequently repeatedly denied it on numerous occasions—"the 'trap' thesis has little basis in fact."⁶ Tobin then proceeds to cite official documents to prove "Brzezinski's actions through 1979 exhibited a meaningful effort to *dissuade* [emphasis added] Moscow from intervening... In sum, a Soviet military intervention was neither sought nor desired by the Carter administration and the covert program initiated in the summer of 1979 is insufficient to charge Carter and Brzezinski with actively attempting to ensnare Moscow in the 'Afghan trap.'"

So what does this reveal about a secret U.S. government operation taken six months prior to the Soviet invasion of December 1979 and not bragged about by Brzezinski until January of 1998?

To summarize Tobin's complaint; Brzezinski's alleged boast of luring the Soviets into an "Afghan trap" has little basis in fact. Brzezinski *did say* something *but what*—is not clear, but whatever he said, there is no historical record of it and anyway it wasn't enough to lure the Soviets into Afghanistan *because* he and Carter didn't want the Soviets to invade anyway *because* it would jeopardize détente and the SALT II negotiations. So what's all the fuss about?

Tobin's assumption that the President of the United States and his CIA would never intentionally set out to exacerbate the Cold War in the middle of such a hostile environment, may reveal more about Conor Tobin's bias than his understanding of what Brzezinski's strategy of confrontation was all about. To read his article is to step through the looking glass into an alternative universe where (to paraphrase T.E. Lawrence) facts are replaced by daydreams and the dreamers act-out with their eyes wide open. From our experience with Afghanistan and the people who made it happen, Tobin's "valuable service of traditional diplomatic history" (as quoted from Todd Greentree's review) does no service to history at all.

Looking back at what Brzezinski admitted to in 1998 doesn't require a top secret clearance to verify. The Great Game-like motivations behind the Afghan trap thesis were

⁵ Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould, *Invisible History: Afghanistan's Untold Story*, (San Francisco: City Lights Books, 2009).

⁶ Conor Tobin, The Myth of the 'Afghan Trap': Zbigniew Brzezinski and Afghanistan, 1978—1979 *Diplomatic History*, Volume 44, Issue 2, April 2020. p. 239
<https://doi.org/10.1093/dh/dhz065>

well known at the time of the invasion to anyone with an understanding of the history of the region's strategic value.

M.S. Agwani of the Jawaharlal Nehru School of International Studies stated as much in the October-December 1980 issue of the *Schools Quarterly Journal* citing a number of complicating factors that support the Afghan trap thesis: "Our own conclusion from the foregoing is twofold. First, the Soviet Union had in all probability walked into a trap laid by its adversaries. For its military action did not give it any advantage in terms of Soviet security which it did not enjoy under the previous regimes. On the contrary, it can and does affect its dealings with the Third World in general and the Muslim countries in particular. Secondly, the strong American reaction to Soviet intervention cannot be taken as proof of Washington's genuine concern about the fate of Afghanistan. It is indeed possible to argue that its vital interests in the Gulf would be better served by an extended Soviet embroilment with Afghanistan inasmuch as the latter could be taken advantage to ostracize the Soviets from that region. The happenings in Afghanistan also seem to have come in handy for the United States to increase its military presence in and around the Gulf substantially without evoking any serious protest from the littoral states."⁷

Whenever questioned over the nearly two decades after the *Nouvel Observateur* article appeared until his death in 2017, Brzezinski's responses to the accuracy of the translation often varied from acceptance to rejection to somewhere in between which should raise questions about relying too heavily on the veracity of his reflections. Yet Conor Tobin chose to cite only a 2010 interview with Paul Jay of the [Real News Network](#)⁸ in which Brzezinski denied it, to make his case. [In this 2006 interview](#) with filmmaker Samira Goetschel⁹ he states that it's a "very free translation," but fundamentally admits the secret program "probably convinced the Soviets even more to do what they were planning to do." Brzezinski defaults to his long held ideological justification (shared with neoconservatives) that *since* the Soviets were in the process of expanding into Afghanistan anyway as part of a master plan for achieving hegemony in Southwest Asia and the Gulf oil-producing states,¹⁰ (a position rejected by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance) the fact that he might have been provoking an invasion was of little significance.

Having dispensed with the implications of Brzezinski's exact words, Tobin then blames the growth and acceptance of the Afghan trap thesis largely on an over-reliance on Brzezinski's "reputation" which he then proceeds to dismiss by citing Brzezinski's "post-invasion memos [which] reveal concern, not opportunity, which belies the claim that

⁷ M.S. Agwani, Review Editor, "The Saur Revolution and After," *QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY* (New Delhi, India) Volume 19, Number 4 (October-December 1980) p. 571

⁸ Paul Jay interview with Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Brzezinski's Afghan War and the Grand Chessboard* (2/3) 2010 - <https://therealnews.com/stories/zbrzezinski1218gpt2>

⁹ Samira Goetschel interview with Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Our Own Private bin Laden* 2006 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVgZyMoycc0&feature=youtu.be&t=728>

¹⁰ Diego Cordovez, Selig S. Harrison, *Out of Afghanistan: The Inside Story of the Soviet Withdrawal* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p.34.

inducing an invasion was his objective.”¹¹ But to dismiss Brzezinski’s well known ideological motivation to undermine U.S./Soviet relations at every turn is to miss the *raison d’être* of Brzezinski’s career prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Accepting his denials at face value ignores his role in bringing the post-Vietnam neoconservative agenda ([known as Team B](#)) into the White House not to mention the opportunity to permanently shift American foreign policy into his anti-Russian ideological world view by provoking the Soviets at every step.

Anne Hessing Cahn, currently Scholar in Residence at [American University](#) who served as Chief of the Social Impact Staff at the [Arms Control and Disarmament Agency](#) from 1977–81 and Special Assistant to the [Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense](#) 1980–81, had this to say about Brzezinski’s reputation in her 1998 book, *Killing Détente*: “When President Carter named Zbigniew Brzezinski as his national security advisor, it was foreordained that détente with the Soviet Union was in for rough times. First came the March 1977 ill-fated arms control proposal, which departed from the Vladivostok Agreement¹² and was leaked to the press before it was presented to the Soviets. By April Carter was pressing NATO allies to rearm, demanding a firm commitment from all NATO members to start increasing their defense budgets by 3 percent per year. In the summer of 1977 Carter’s Presidential Review Memorandum-10¹³ called for an ‘ability to prevail’ if war should come, wording that smacked of the Team B view.”¹⁴

Within a year of taking office Carter had already signaled the Soviets multiple times that he was turning the administration away from cooperation to confrontation and the Soviets were listening. In an address drafted by Brzezinski and delivered at Wake Forest University on March 17, 1978, “Carter reaffirmed American support for SALT and arms control, [but] the tone was markedly different from a year earlier. Now he included all the qualifiers beloved by Senator Jackson and the JCS... As for détente—a word never actually mentioned in the address—cooperation with the Soviet Union was possible to meet common goals. ‘But if they fail to demonstrate restraint in missile programs and other force levels or in the projection of Soviet or proxy forces into other lands and continents then popular support in the United States for such cooperation with the Soviets will certainly erode.’”

¹¹ Tobin “The Myth of the ‘Afghan Trap’: Zbigniew Brzezinski and Afghanistan,” p. 240

¹² Vladivostok Agreement, November 23-24, 1974, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU L. I. Brezhnev and President of the USA Gerald R. Ford discussed in detail the question of further limitations of strategic offensive arms.
<https://www.atomicarchive.com/resources/treaties/vladivostok.html>

¹³ PRM 10 [Comprehensive Net Assessment and Military Force Posture Review](#)

February 18, 1977

¹⁴ Anne Hessing Cahn, *Killing Détente: The Right Attacks the CIA* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1998), p.187.

The Soviets got the message from Carter's address and immediately responded in a TAAS News Agency editorial that: "'Soviet goals abroad' had been distorted as an excuse to escalate the arms race."'¹⁵

At a Nobel conference on the Cold War in the fall of 1995, Harvard/MIT Senior Security Studies Advisor, Dr. Carol Saivetz addressed the tendency to neglect the importance of Brzezinski's ideology in the Cold War decision-making process and why that led to such a fundamental misunderstanding of each side's intentions. "What I learned over the last couple of days was that ideology—a factor which we in the West who were writing about Soviet foreign policy tended to dismiss as pure rationalization... To some extent, an ideological perspective—an ideological world view, let us call it—played an important role... Whether or not Zbig was from Poland or from someplace else, he had a world view, and he tended to interpret events as they unfolded in the light of it. To some extent, his fears became self-fulfilling prophecies. He was looking for certain kinds of behaviors, and he saw them—rightly or wrongly."¹⁶

To understand how Brzezinski's "fears" became self-fulfilling prophecies is to understand how his hard line against the Soviets in Afghanistan provoked the results he wanted and became adopted as American foreign policy in line with Team B's neoconservative objectives; "to destroy détente and to steer U.S. foreign policy back to a more militant stance viz-à-viz the Soviet Union."¹⁷

Although not generally considered a neoconservative and opposed to linking Israel's objectives in Palestine with American objectives, Brzezinski's method for creating self-fulfilling prophecies and the neoconservative movement's geopolitical aims of moving the U.S. into a hardline stance against the Soviet Union found a common objective in Afghanistan. Their shared method as Cold warriors came together to attack détente and SALT II wherever possible while destroying the foundations of any working relationship with the Soviets. In a 1993 interview we conducted with SALT II negotiator Paul Warnke, he affirmed his belief that the Soviets would never have invaded Afghanistan in the first place had President Carter not fallen victim to Brzezinski and Team B's hostile attitude toward détente and their undermining of Soviet confidence that SALT II would be ratified.¹⁸ Brzezinski saw the Soviet invasion as a great vindication of his claim that the U.S. had encouraged Soviet aggression through a foreign policy of weakness which therefore justified his hardline position inside the Carter administration. But how could he claim vindication for Soviet actions when he had played such a crucial role in provoking the circumstances to which they reacted?¹⁹

¹⁵ Raymond L. Garthoff, *Detente and Confrontation* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 1994 Revised Edition), p. 657

¹⁶ Dr. Carol Saivetz, Harvard University, "The Intervention in Afghanistan and the Fall of Détente" conference, Lysebu, Norway, September 17-20, 1995 p. 252-253.

¹⁷ Cahn, *Killing Détente: The Right Attacks the CIA*, p. 15.

¹⁸ Interview, Washington D.C., February 17, 1993.

¹⁹ See MEETING OF THE POLITBURO OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION March 17, 1979 <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/113260>

President Dwight D. Eisenhower's science advisor George B. Kistiakowsky and former deputy director of the CIA, Herbert Scoville answered that question in a Boston Globe Op-ed barely two months after the event. "In reality, it was actions by the President designed to appease his hardline political opponents at home that destroyed the fragile balance in the Soviet bureaucracy... The arguments that stilled the voices of the Kremlin moderates grew out of the approaching demise of the SALT II treaty and the sharply anti-Soviet drift of Carter's policies. His increasing propensity for accepting the views of National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski led to the anticipation of dominance in the United States by the hawks for many years to come..."²⁰

In an April 1981 article in the British journal *The Round Table*, author Dev Murarka reveals that the Soviets had refused to intervene militarily on thirteen separate occasions after being asked by the Afghan government of Nur Mohammed Taraki and Hafizullah Amin—knowing a military intervention would provide their enemies with exactly what they had been seeking. Only on the fourteenth request did the Soviets comply "when information was received in Moscow that Amin had made a deal with one of the dissident groups." Murarka observes that "A close scrutiny of the circumstances of the Soviet decision to intervene underlines two things. One, that the decision was not taken in haste without proper consideration. Two, that an intervention was not a predetermined inevitable consequence of growing Soviet involvement in Afghanistan. In different circumstances it could have been avoided."²¹

But instead of being avoided, the circumstances for a Soviet invasion were fostered by covert action taken by Carter, Brzezinski and the CIA directly and through proxies in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Egypt ensuring that Soviet intervention was not avoided but encouraged.

Additionally absent from the Tobin analysis is the fact that anybody who tried to work with Brzezinski at the Carter White House—as testified to by SALT II negotiator Paul Warnke and Carter CIA Director Stansfield Turner—knew him as a Polish nationalist and a driven ideologue.²² And even if the *Nouvel Observateur* interview did not exist it wouldn't alter the weight of evidence that without Brzezinski and Carter's covert and overt provocations, the Soviets would never have felt the need to cross the border and invade Afghanistan.

²⁰ G.B. Kistiakowsky, Herbert Scoville, "The Kremlin's lost voices," *The Boston Globe*, February 28, 1980, p. 13.

²¹ Dev Murarka, "AFGHANISTAN: THE RUSSIAN INTERVENTION: A MOSCOW ANALYSIS," *THE ROUND TABLE* (London, England), No. 282 (APRIL 1981), p. 127.

²² Interview with Paul Warnke, Washington, D.C., February 17, 1993. Admiral Stansfield Turner, Former Director of Central Intelligence, "The Intervention in Afghanistan and the Fall of Détente" conference, Lysebu, Norway September 17-20 p. 216.

In a January 8, 1972 article in the New Yorker Magazine, titled [*Reflections: In Thrall To Fear*](#),²³ Senator J. William Fulbright described the neoconservative system for creating endless war that was keeping the U.S. bogged down in Vietnam. “The truly remarkable thing about this Cold War psychology is the totally illogical transfer of the burden of proof from those who make charges to those who question them... The Cold Warriors, instead of having to say how they knew that Vietnam was part of a plan for the Communization of the world, so manipulated the terms of the public discussion as to be able to demand that the skeptics prove that it was not. If the skeptics could not then the war must go on—to end it would be recklessly risking the national security.”

Fulbright realized that Washington’s neoconservative Cold Warriors had turned the logic for making war inside out by concluding, “We come to the ultimate illogic: war is the course of prudence and sobriety until the case for peace is proved under impossible rules of evidence—or until the enemy surrenders. Rational men cannot deal with each other on this basis.”

But these “men” and their system were ideological; not rational and their drive to further their mandate to defeat Soviet Communism only intensified with the official loss of the Vietnam War in 1975. Because of Brzezinski, U.S. policy formation surrounding the Carter administration on Afghanistan, SALT, détente and the Soviet Union lived outside the realm of what had passed for traditional diplomatic policy-making in the Nixon and Ford administrations while succumbing to the toxic neoconservative influence of Team B that was gaining control at the time.

Tobin ignores this glaring historical conjunction of likeminded ideologists. He insists on relying on the official record to come to his conclusions but then ignores how that record was framed by Brzezinski and influenced by Washington’s cult of neoconservatives to deliver on their ideological self-fulfilling prophecy. He then cherry-picks facts that support his anti-Afghan trap thesis while ignoring the wealth of evidence from those who opposed Brzezinski’s efforts to control the narrative and exclude opposing points of view.

According to numerous studies Brzezinski transformed the role of national security advisor far beyond its intended function. In a planning session with President Carter on St. Simon Island before even entering the White House he took control of policy creation by narrowing access to the president down to two committees (the Policy Review Committee PRC, and the Special Coordinating Committee SCC). He then had Carter transfer power over the CIA to the SCC which he chaired. At the first cabinet meeting after taking office Carter announced that he was elevating the national security advisor to cabinet level and Brzezinski’s lock on covert action was complete. According to political scientist and author David J. Rothkopf, [*“It was a bureaucratic first strike of the first order.”*](#) The system essentially gave responsibility for the most important and sensitive issues to Brzezinski.”²⁴

²³ J. William Fulbright, “Reflections in Thrall To Fear,” *The New Yorker*, January 1, 1972 (New York, USA), January 8, 1972 Issue p. 44-45

²⁴ David J. Rothkopf - Charles Gati Editor, *ZBIG: The Strategy and Statecraft of Zbigniew Brzezinski* (Johns Hopkins University Press 2013), p. 68.

According to one academic study,²⁵ over the course of four years Brzezinski often took actions without the knowledge or approval of the president; intercepted communications sent to the White House from around the world and carefully selected only those communications for the president to see that conformed to his ideology. His Special Coordinating Committee, the SCC was a stovepipe operation which acted solely in his interest and denied information and access to those who might oppose him, including Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and CIA Director Stansfield Turner. As a cabinet member he occupied a White House office diagonally across the lobby from the Oval Office and met so often with the President, the in-house record-keepers stopped keeping track of the meetings.²⁶ By agreement with President Carter, he would then type up three page memos of these and any meetings and deliver them to the president in person.²⁷ He used this unique authority to single himself out as the primary spokesman for the administration and a barrier between the White House and the president's other advisors and went so far as to create a press secretary to convey his policy decisions directly to the Mainstream Media.

He was also on the record as singlehandedly establishing a rapprochement with China in May of 1978 on an anti-Soviet basis which ran counter to U.S. policy at the time while renowned for misleading the president on critical issues to falsely justify his positions.²⁸

So how did this work in Afghanistan?

Tobin rejects the very idea that Brzezinski would ever advise Carter to actively endorse a policy that would risk SALT and détente, jeopardize his election campaign and threaten Iran, Pakistan and the Persian Gulf to future Soviet infiltration—because to Tobin “it is largely inconceivable.”²⁹

As proof of his support for Brzezinski's belief in the Soviet's long term ambitions to invade the Middle East through Afghanistan, Tobin cites how Brzezinski “reminded Carter of ‘Russia's traditional push to the south, and briefed him specifically on Molotov's proposal to Hitler in late 1940 that the Nazis recognize the Soviet claims of pre-eminence in the region south of Batum and Baku.’” But Tobin fails to mention that what Brzezinski presented to the president as proof of Soviet aims in Afghanistan [was a well-known misinterpretation](#)³⁰ of what Hitler and Foreign Minister Joachim von

²⁵ Erika McLean, *Beyond the Cabinet: Zbigniew Brzezinski's Expansion of the National Security Advisor Position*, Thesis Prepared for the Degree of Master of the Arts, University of North Texas, August 2011. <https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc84249/>

²⁶ Ibid p. 73

²⁷ Betty Glad, *An Outsider in the White House: Jimmy Carter, His Advisors, and the Making of American Foreign Policy* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University, 2009), p. 84.

²⁸ Raymond L. Garthoff, *Detente and Confrontation* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 1994 Revised Edition), p 770.

²⁹ Tobin “The Myth of the ‘Afghan Trap’: Zbigniew Brzezinski and Afghanistan,” p. 253

³⁰ Raymond L. Garthoff, *Detente and Confrontation*, (Revised Edition), p. 1050. Note 202. Garthoff later describes the incident as Brzezinski's “misbegotten history lesson on the Molotov-Hitler talks in 1940.” (Which Carter made the mistake of accepting at face value) p. 1057.

Ribbentropp *had proposed* to Molotov—and which Molotov rejected. In other words, the very opposite of what Brzezinski presented to Carter—yet Tobin ignores this fact.

From the moment Afghanistan declared its independence from Britain in 1919 until the “Marxist coup” of 1978 the main goal of Soviet foreign policy had been to maintain friendly but cautious relations with Afghanistan, while preserving Soviet interests.³¹ U.S. involvement was always minimal with the U.S. represented by allies Pakistan and Iran in the region. By the 1970s the U.S. considered the country to already be within the Soviet sphere of influence having defacto signed on to that arrangement at the start of the Cold War.³² As two long term American experts on Afghanistan explained quite simply in 1981, “The Soviet influence was predominant but not intimidating until 1978.”³³ Contrary to Brzezinski’s claim of a Soviet grand design, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance saw no evidence of Moscow’s hand in the 78’ overthrow of the previous government but much evidence to prove the coup had caught them by surprise.³⁴ In fact it appears the coup leader Hafizullah Amin feared the Soviets would have stopped him had they discovered the plot. Selig Harrison writes, “The overall impression left by the available evidence is one of an improvised ad hoc Soviet response to an unexpected situation... Later, the KGB ‘learned that the Amin’s instructions about the uprising included a severe ban on letting the Russians know about the planned actions.’”³⁵

Moscow considered Hafizullah Amin to be aligned with the CIA and labelled him “‘a commonplace petty bourgeois and extreme Pashtu nationalist... with boundless political ambitions and a craving for power,’ which he would ‘stoop to anything and commit any crimes to fulfill.’”³⁶ As early as May 1978 the Soviets were engineering a plan to remove and replace him and by the summer of 1979 contacting former non-communist members of the King and Mohammed Daoud’s government to build a “non-communist, or coalition, government to succeed the Taraki-Amin regime,” all the while keeping U.S. embassy charge d’affaires Bruce Amstutz fully informed.³⁷

To others who had a personal experience in the events surrounding the Soviet invasion, there is little doubt that Brzezinski wanted to raise the stakes for the Soviets in Afghanistan and had been doing it at least since April of 1978 with the help of the Chinese. During Brzezinski’s historic mission to China only weeks after the Marxist

³¹ Rodric Braithwaite, *Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-89*, (Oxford University Press, New York 2011), p. 29-36.

³² Dr. Gary Sick, Former NSC staff member, Iran and Middle East expert, “The Intervention in Afghanistan and the Fall of Détente” conference, Lysebu, p. 38.

³³ Nancy Peabody Newell and Richard S. Newell, *The Struggle for Afghanistan*, (Cornell University Press 1981), p. 110-111

³⁴ Rodric Braithwaite, *Afgantsy*, p. 41

³⁵ Diego Cordovez, Selig S. Harrison, *Out of Afghanistan*, p. 27 Citing Alexander Morozov, “Our Man in Kabul,” *New Times* (Moscow), September 24, 1991, p. 38.

³⁶ John K. Cooley, *Unholy Wars: Afghanistan, America and International Terrorism*, (Pluto Press, London 1999) p. 12 citing Kremlin senior diplomat Vasily Safronchuk, *Afghanistan in the Taraki Period*, International Affairs, Moscow January 1991, pp. 86-87.

³⁷ Raymond L. Garthoff, *Detente and Confrontation*, (1994 Revised Edition), p 1003.

takeover in Afghanistan, he raised the issue of Chinese support for countering the recent Marxist coup.³⁸

In support of his theory that Brzezinski was not provoking a Soviet invasion, Tobin cites a memo from NSC director for South Asian Affairs, Thomas Thornton on May 3, 1978 reporting that “the CIA was unwilling to consider covert action”³⁹ at the time and warned on July 14, that “no official encouragement” be given to “coup plotters.”⁴⁰ The actual incident to which Thornton refers regards a contact by the second highest Afghan military official who probed the U.S. embassy chargé d’Affaires Bruce Amstutz on whether the U.S. would support overthrowing the newly installed “Marxist regime” of Nur Mohammed Taraki and Hafizullah Amin.

Tobin then cites Thornton’s warning to Brzezinski that the result of “giving a helping hand... would likely be an invitation for massive Soviet involvement,” and adds that Brzezinski wrote “yes” in the margins.

Tobin assumes the warning from Thornton is further evidence that Brzezinski was discouraging provocative action by signaling a “yes” to his warning. But what Brzezinski meant by writing in the margin is anybody’s guess, especially given his bitter policy conflict over the issue of destabilizing the regime with the incoming U.S. ambassador Adolph Dubs who arrived that July as well.

“I can only tell you that Brzezinski really had a struggle for American policy toward Afghanistan in 1978 and 79 between Brzezinski and Dubs” journalist and scholar [Selig Harrison](#) told us in an interview we conducted in 1993. “Dubs was a Soviet specialist... with a very sophisticated conception of what he was going to do politically; which was to try to make Amin into a Tito – or the closest thing to a Tito – detach him. And Brzezinski of course thought that was all nonsense... Dubs represented a policy of not wanting the U.S. to get involved with aiding antagonistic groups because he was trying to deal with the Afghan Communist leadership and give it off-setting and economic help and other things that would enable it to be less dependent on the Soviet Union... Now Brzezinski represented a different approach, which is to say was all part of a self-anointed prophecy. It was all very useful to the people who, like Brzezinski had a certain conception of the overall relationship with the Soviet Union.”⁴¹

In his book with Diego Cordovez *Out of Afghanistan*, Harrison recalls his visit with Dubs in August of 1978 and how over the next six months his conflict with Brzezinski made life extremely difficult and dangerous for him to implement the State Department’s policy. “Brzezinski and Dubs were working at cross purposes during late 1978 and early 1979.” Harrison writes. “This control over covert operations enabled Brzezinski to take

³⁸ Raymond L. Garthoff, *Detente and Confrontation*, p. 773.

³⁹ Tobin “The Myth of the ‘Afghan Trap’: Zbigniew Brzezinski and Afghanistan,” p. 240.

⁴⁰ Ibid p. 241.

⁴¹ Interview with Selig Harrison, Washington, D.C., February 18, 1993.

the first steps toward a more aggressive anti-Soviet Afghan policy without the State Department's knowing much about it."⁴²

According to the State Department's 1978 "Post Profile" for the ambassador's job, Afghanistan was considered a difficult assignment subject "to unpredictable – possibly violent – political developments affecting the stability of the region... As Chief of mission, with eight different agencies, almost 150 official Americans, in a remote and unhealthful environment," the ambassador's job was dangerous enough. But with Ambassador Dubs directly opposed to Brzezinski's secret internal policy of destabilization it was becoming deadly. Dubs was clearly aware from the outset that the ongoing program of destabilization might cause the Soviets to invade and explained his strategy to Selig Harrison. "The trick for the United States, he [Dubs] explained would be to sustain cautious increases in aid and other links without provoking Soviet counter pressures on Amin and possibly military intervention."⁴³

According to former CIA analyst Henry Bradsher, Dubs attempted to warn the State Department that destabilization would result in a Soviet invasion. Before leaving for Kabul he recommended that the Carter administration do contingency planning for a Soviet military response and within a few months of arriving repeated the recommendation. But the State Department was so out of Brzezinski's loop, Dubs' request was never taken seriously.⁴⁴

By early 1979 the fear and confusion over whether Hafizullah Amin was secretly working for the CIA, had so destabilized the U.S. embassy, Ambassador Dubs confronted his own station chief and demanded answers, only to be told Amin had never worked for the CIA.⁴⁵ But rumors that Amin had contacts with Pakistan's Intelligence Directorate the ISI and the Afghan Islamists backed by them, especially Gulbuddin Hekmatyar are most likely true.⁴⁶ Despite the obstacles Dubs persisted in advancing his plans with Hafizullah Amin against the obvious pressure coming from Brzezinski and his NSC. Harrison writes. "Dubs meanwhile was arguing vigorously for keeping American options open, pleading that destabilization of the regime could provoke direct Soviet intervention."⁴⁷

Harrison goes on to say; "Brzezinski emphasized in an interview after he left the White House that he had remained strictly within the confines of the President's policy at that stage not to provide direct aid to the Afghan insurgency [which has since been revealed as not true]. [Since there was no taboo on indirect support](#), however, the CIA had encouraged the newly entrenched Zia Ul-Haq to launch its own program of military

⁴² Diego Cordovez – Selig Harrison, *Out of Afghanistan: The Inside Story of the Soviet Withdrawal* (New York, Oxford: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1995), p. 33.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Henry S. Bradsher, *Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, New and Expanded Edition*, (Durham: Duke University Press, 1985), p. 85-86.

⁴⁵ Steve Coll, *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001* (Penguin Books, 2005) p. 47-48.

⁴⁶ Authors' conversation with Malawi Abdulaziz Sadiq, (a close friend and ally to Hafizullah Amin) June 25, 2006.

⁴⁷ Diego Cordovez – Selig Harrison, *Out of Afghanistan: The Inside Story of the Soviet Withdrawal*, p. 34.

support for the insurgents. The CIA and the Pakistani Interservices Intelligence Directorate (ISI) he said, worked together closely on planning training programs for the insurgents and on coordinating the Chinese, Saudi Arabian, Egyptian and Kuwaiti aid that was beginning to trickle in. By early February 1979, this collaboration became an open secret when the Washington Post published [February 2] an eyewitness report that at least two thousand Afghans were being trained at former Pakistani Army bases guarded by Pakistani patrols.”⁴⁸

David Newsom, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs who’d met the new Afghan government in the summer of 1978 told Harrison, “From the beginning, Zbig had a much more confrontational view of the situation than Vance and most of us at State. He thought we should be doing something covertly to frustrate Soviet ambitions in that part of the world. On some occasions I was not alone in raising questions about the wisdom and feasibility of what he wanted to do.” ‘CIA Director Stansfield Turner, for example,’ “was more cautious than Zbig, often arguing that something wouldn’t work. Zbig wasn’t worried about provoking the Russians, as some of us were...”⁴⁹

Although noting Ambassador Dubs’ subsequent murder on February 14 at the hands of the Afghan police as a major turning point for Brzezinski to shift Afghan policy further against the Soviets, Tobin entirely avoids the drama that led up to the Dubs’ assassination, his conflict with Brzezinski and his overtly expressed fear that provoking the Soviets through destabilization would result in an invasion.⁵⁰

By the early spring of 1979 the “Russia’s Vietnam” meme was circulating widely in the international press as evidence of Chinese support for the Afghan insurgency began to filter out. An April article in the Canadian MacLean’s Magazine reported the presence of Chinese army officers and instructors in Pakistan training and equipping “right-wing Afghan Moslem guerillas for their ‘holy war’ against the Moscow-back Kabul regime of Noor Mohammed Taraki.”⁵¹ A May 5 article in the Washington Post titled “Afghanistan: Moscow’s Vietnam?” went right to the point saying, “the Soviets’ option to pull out entirely is no longer available. They are stuck.”⁵²

But despite his claim of responsibility in the *Nouvelle Observateur* article, the decision to keep the Russians stuck in Afghanistan may already have become a fait accompli that Brzezinski simply took advantage of. In his 1996 *From the Shadows*, former CIA director Robert Gates and Brzezinski aid at the NSC confirms that the CIA was on the case long before the Soviets felt any need to invade. “The Carter administration began looking at the possibility of covert assistance to the insurgents opposing the pro-Soviet, Marxist government of President Taraki at the beginning of 1979. On March 9, 1979, CIA sent several covert action options relating to Afghanistan to the SCC... The DO

⁴⁸ Cordovez – Harrison, *Out of Afghanistan* p. 34 Citing Peter Nieswand, “Guerillas Train in Pakistan to oust Afghan Government,” Washington Post, February 2, 1979, p. A 23.

⁴⁹ Ibid. p. 33.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Peter Nieswand, “Peking’s finest fuel a holy war,” *MacLean’s*, (Toronto, Canada) April 30, 1979 p. 24

⁵² Jonathan C. Randal, *Washington Post*, May 5, 1979 p. A – 33.

informed DDCI Carlucci late in March that the government of Pakistan might be more forthcoming in terms of helping the insurgents than previously believed, citing an approach by a senior Pakistani official to an Agency officer.”⁵³

Aside from the purely geopolitical objectives associated with Brzezinski’s ideology, Gates’ statement reveals an additional motive behind the Afghan trap thesis: The long term objectives of drug kingpins in the opium trade and the personal ambitions of the Pakistani General credited with making the Afghan trap a reality.

In 1989 Pakistan’s Lieutenant General Fazle Haq identified himself as the senior Pakistani official who’d influenced Brzezinski into backing the ISI’s clients and to get the operation to fund the insurgents underway. “I told Brzezinski you screwed up in Vietnam and Korea; you’d better get it right this time” he told British journalist Christina Lamb in an interview for her book, *Waiting for Allah*.⁵⁴

Far from absolving Brzezinski of any responsibility for luring the Soviets into an Afghan trap, Haq’s 1989 admission combined with the Gates 1996 revelation confirm a premeditated willingness to use destabilization to provoke the Soviets into a military response and then use that response to trigger the massive military upgrade that was referred to in the Soviet reaction to Carter’s Wake Forest address in March of 1978. It also links Fazle Haq’s motives to President Carter and Brzezinski and in so doing, makes both witting accessories to the spread of illicit drugs at the expense of Carter’s own “Federal strategy for prevention of drug abuse and drug trafficking.”

In late 1977 Dr. David Musto, a Yale psychiatrist had accepted Carter’s appointment to the White House Strategy Council on Drug Abuse. “Over the next two years, Musto found that the CIA and other intelligence agencies denied the council—whose members included the secretary of state and the attorney general—access to all classified information on drugs, even when it was necessary for framing new policy.” When Musto informed the White House about the CIA’s lying about their involvement he got no response. But when Carter began openly funding the mujahideen guerrillas following the Soviet invasion Musto told the council. “[T]hat we were going into Afghanistan to support opium growers in their rebellion against the Soviets. Shouldn’t we try to avoid what we had done in Laos? Shouldn’t we try to pay the growers if they eradicate their opium production? There was silence.’ As heroin from Afghanistan and Pakistan poured into America throughout 1979, Musto noted that the number of drug-related deaths in New York City rose by 77 percent.”⁵⁵

Golden Triangle heroin had provided a secret source of funding for the CIA’s anti-communist operations during the Vietnam War. “By 1971, 34 percent of all US soldiers in South Vietnam were heroin addicts – all supplied from laboratories operated by CIA

⁵³ Robert M. Gates, *From the Shadows: The Ultimate Insider’s Story of five Presidents And How They Won the Cold War* (New York, TOUCHSTONE, 1996), p.144

⁵⁴ Christina Lamb, *Waiting for Allah: Pakistan’s Struggle for Democracy* (Viking, 1991), p. 222

⁵⁵ Alfred W. McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin, CIA Complicity in the Global Drug Trade*, (Harper & Row, New York - Revised and Expanded Edition, 1991), pp. 436-437 Citing *New York Times*, May 22, 1980.

assets.”⁵⁶ Thanks to Dr. David Musto, Haq’s use of the Tribal heroin trade to secretly fund Gulbuddin Hekmatyar’s rebel forces was already exposed, but because of Fazle Haq, Zbigniew Brzezinski and a man named Agha Hassan Abedi and his [Bank of Commerce and Credit International](#), the rules of the game would be turned inside out.⁵⁷

By 1981, Haq had made the Afghan/Pakistan border the world’s top heroin supplier with 60 percent of U.S. heroin coming through his program⁵⁸ and by 1982 Interpol was listing Brzezinski’s strategic ally Fazle Haq as an international narcotics trafficker.⁵⁹

In the aftermath of Vietnam, Haq was positioned to take advantage of an historic shift in the illicit drug trade from Southeast Asia and the Golden Triangle to South Central Asia and the Golden Crescent, where it came to be protected by Pakistani intelligence and the CIA and where it thrives today.⁶⁰

Haq and Abedi together [revolutionized the drug trade](#) under the cover of President Carter’s anti-Soviet Afghan war making it safe for all the world’s intelligence agencies to privatize what had up to then been secret government-run programs. And it is Abedi who then brought in a retired [President Carter as his front man](#) to legitimize the face of his bank’s illicit activities as it continued to finance Islamic terrorism’s spread around the world.

There are many who prefer to believe that President Carter’s involvement with Agha Hassan Abedi was the result of ignorance or naiveté and that in his heart President Carter was just trying to be a good man. But even a cursory examination of BCCI reveals deep connections to Carter’s Democratic Party circle that cannot be explained away by ignorance.⁶¹ It can however be explained by a calculated pattern of deception and to a president that [to this day refuses to answer any questions](#) about it.

To some members of the Carter White House who interacted with Brzezinski during his four years at the wheel from 1977 to 1981 his intention to provoke the Russians into doing something in Afghanistan was always clear. [According to John Helmer](#) a White House staffer who was tasked with investigating two of Brzezinski’s policy

⁵⁶ Alfred W. McCoy, “Casualties of the CIA’s war against communism,” *Boston Globe*, November 14, 1996, p. A-27

⁵⁷ Alfred W. McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin, CIA Complicity in the Global Drug Trade*, (Expanded Edition), pp. 452-454

⁵⁸ Alfred W. McCoy, “Casualties of the CIA’s war against communism,” *Boston Globe*, November 14, 1996, p. A-27
https://www.academia.edu/31097157/Casualties_of_the_CIAs_war_against_communism_Op_ed_in_The_Boston_Globe_Nov_14_1996_p_A_27

⁵⁹ Alfred W. McCoy and Alan A. Block (ed.) *War on Drugs: Studies in the Failure of U.S. Narcotics Policy*, (Boulder, Colo.: Westview, 1992), p. 342

⁶⁰ Catherine Lamour and Michel R. Lamberti, *The International Connection: Opium from Growers to Pushers*, (Penguin Books, 1974, English Translation) pp. 177-198.

⁶¹ William Safire, “Clifford’s Part In Bank Scandal Is Only Tip Of Iceberg,” *Chicago Tribune*, July 12, 1991
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1991-07-12-9103180856-story.html>

recommendations to Carter, Brzezinski would risk anything to undermine the Soviets and his operations in Afghanistan were well known.

“Brzezinski was an obsessive Russia-hater to the end. That led to the monumental failures of Carter’s term in office; the hatreds Brzezinski released had an impact which continues to be catastrophic for the rest of the world.” Helmer wrote in 2017, “To Brzezinski goes the credit for starting most of the ills – the organization, financing, and armament of the mujahideen the Islamic fundamentalists who have metastasized – with US money and arms still – into Islamic terrorist armies operating far from Afghanistan and Pakistan, where Brzezinski started them off.”⁶²

Helmer insists that Brzezinski exercised an almost hypnotic power over Carter that bent him towards Brzezinski’s ideological agenda while blinding him to the consequences from the outset of his presidency. “From the start... in the first six months of 1977, Carter was also warned explicitly by his own staff, inside the White House... not to allow Brzezinski to dominate his policy-making to the exclusion of all other advice, and the erasure of the evidence on which the advice was based.” Yet the warning fell on Carter’s deaf ears while the responsibility for Brzezinski’s actions falls on his shoulders. According to Carter’s CIA Director Stansfield Turner; “The ultimate responsibility is totally Jimmy Carter’s. [It’s got to be the President](#) who sifts out these different strains of advice.”⁶³ But to this day [Carter refuses to address his role](#) in creating the disaster that Afghanistan has become.

In 2015 we began work on a documentary to finally clear the air on some of the unresolved questions surrounding America’s role in Afghanistan and reconnected with Dr. Charles Cogan for an interview. Soon after the camera rolled, [Cogan interrupted to tell us](#) he had talked to Brzezinski in the spring of 2009 about the 1998 *Nouvel Observateur* interview and been disturbed to learn that the “Afghan trap thesis” as stated by Brzezinski was indeed legitimate.⁶⁴

“I had an exchange with him. This was a ceremony for Samuel Huntington. Brzezinski was there. I’d never met him before and I went up to him and introduced myself and I said I agree with everything you’re doing and saying except for one thing. You gave an interview with the Nouvel Observateur some years back saying that we sucked the Soviets into Afghanistan. I said I’ve never heard or accepted that idea and he said to me, ‘You may have had your perspective from the Agency but we had our different perspective from the White House,’ and he insisted that this was correct. And I still... that was obviously the way he felt about it. But I didn’t get any whiff of that when I was Chief Near East South Asia at the time of the Afghan war against the Soviets.

⁶² John Helmer, “Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Svengali of Jimmy Carter’s Presidency is Dead, But the Evil Lives On.” <http://johnhelmer.net/zbigniew-brzezinski-the-svengali-of-jimmy-carters-presidency-is-dead-but-the-evil-lives-on/>

⁶³ Samira Goetschel – Our own Private bin Laden, 2006. At 8:59

⁶⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNJsxSkWiI0>

In the end it seems that Brzezinski had lured the Soviets into their own Vietnam with intent and wanted his colleague—as one of the highest level CIA officials to participate in the largest American intelligence operations since WWII—to know it. Brzezinski had worked the system to serve his ideological objectives and managed to keep it secret and out of the official record. He had lured the Soviets into the Afghan trap and they had fallen for the bait.

For Brzezinski, getting the Soviets to invade Afghanistan was an opportunity to shift the Washington consensus toward an unrelenting hard line against the Soviet Union. Without any oversight for his use of covert action as chair of the SCC, he'd created the conditions needed to provoke a Soviet defensive response which he'd then used as evidence of unrelenting Soviet expansion and used the media, which he controlled, to affirm it, thereby creating a self-fulfilling prophecy. However, once his Russophobic system of exaggerations and lies about his covert operation became accepted, they found a home in America's institutions and continue to haunt those institutions to this day. US policy since that time has operated in a Russophobic haze of triumphalism that both provokes international incidents and then capitalizes on the chaos. And to Brzezinski's dismay he discovered he couldn't turn the process off.

In 2016, the year before his death Brzezinski delivered a profound revelation in an article titled [“Toward a Global Realignment”](#) warning that “the United States is still the world's politically, economically, and militarily most powerful entity, but given complex geopolitical shifts in regional balances, it is no longer *the globally imperial power*.” But after years of witnessing American missteps regarding its use of imperial power, he realized his dream of an American-led transformation to a new world order would never be. Though unapologetic at using his imperial hubris to lure the Soviets into Afghanistan, he did not expect his beloved American Empire to fall into the same trap and ultimately lived long enough to understand that he had won only a Pyrrhic victory.

Why would Conor Tobin eradicate critical evidence regarding the US role in the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan NOW?

In light of what's been done to the historical record through Conor Tobin's effort to debunk “the Afghan Trap thesis” and clear Zbigniew Brzezinski and President Carter's reputations the facts of the matter remain clear. Discrediting Brzezinski's *Nouvel Observateur* interview is insufficient to his task in view of our 2015 interview with former CIA chief Charles Cogan and the overwhelming body of evidence that totally disproves his anti “Afghan Trap” thesis.

Were Tobin a “lone scholar” with an obsession to clean up Brzezinski's reputation for posterity on a school project his effort would be one thing. But to position his narrow thesis in a mainstream authoritative journal of international studies as a definitive rethinking of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan beggars the imagination. But then, the circumstances surrounding the Soviet invasion, President Carter's premeditated actions beforehand, his overtly duplicitous response to it and his post-presidency participation with the CIA's covert funder Agha Hassan Abedi, leave little to the imagination.

Of all the evidence disproving Tobin's anti-Afghan Trap thesis, the most accessible and problematic for the managers of the 'official narrative' regarding the U.S. role in the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan remains journalist Vincent Jauvert's 1998 *Nouvel Observateur* interview. Whether this effort to wipe the record clean is the motive behind Conor Tobin's essay remains to be determined. It is likely that the distance between now and Brzezinski's death signaled that the time was right for redefining his public statements for the official record.

It was fortunate that we were able to discover Conor Tobin's effort and correct it as best we could. But Afghanistan is only one instance of where Americans have been misled. We all must become far more aware of how our narrative-creation process has been coopted by the powers-that-be from the start. It is critical that we learn how to take it back.

Bertolt Brecht, The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui

"If we could learn to look instead of gawking,
We'd see the horror in the heart of farce,
If only we could act instead of talking,
We wouldn't always end up on our arse.
This was the thing that nearly had us mastered;
Don't yet rejoice in his defeat, you men!
Although the world stood up and stopped the bastard,
The bitch that bore him is in heat again."

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About the authors–

Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould, a husband and wife team, began working together in 1979 co-producing a documentary for Paul's television show, *Watchworks*. Called, [*The Arms Race and the Economy, A Delicate Balance*](#), they found themselves in the midst of a swirling controversy that was to boil over a few months later with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Their acquisition of the first visas to enter Afghanistan granted to an American TV crew in 1981 brought them into the middle of the most heated Cold War controversy since Vietnam. But the pictures and the people inside Soviet occupied Afghanistan told a very different story from the one being broadcast to Americans.

Following their exclusive news story for the CBS Evening News, they produced a documentary ([*Afghanistan Between Three Worlds*](#)) for PBS and in 1983 they returned to Kabul for ABC Nightline with Harvard Negotiation Project director, Roger Fisher. They were told that the Soviets wanted to go home and negotiate their way out. Peace in Afghanistan was more than a possibility, it was a desired option. But the story that President Carter called, "the greatest threat to peace since the second World War" had already been written by America's policy makers and America's pundits were not about to change the script.

As the first American journalists to get deeply inside the story they not only got a view of an unseen Afghan life, but a revelatory look at how the U.S. defined itself against the rest of the world under the veil of superpower confrontation. Once the Soviets had crossed the border into Afghanistan, the fate of both nations was sealed. But as Paul and Liz pursued the reasons behind the wall of propaganda that shielded the truth, they found themselves drawn into a story that was growing into mythic dimensions. Big things were brewing in Afghanistan. Old empires were being undone and new ones, hatched. America had launched a Crusade and the ten year war against the Soviet Union was only the first chapter.

It was at the time of the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993 when Paul and Liz were working on the film version of their experience under contract to Oliver Stone, that they began to piece together the mythic implications of the story. During the research for the screenplay many of the documents preceding the Afghan crisis were declassified. Over the next decade they trailed a labyrinth of clues only to find a profound likeness in Washington's official policy towards Afghanistan - in the ancient Zoroastrian war of the light against the dark - whose origins began in the region now known as Afghanistan. It is a likeness that has grown visible as America's entanglement in Afghanistan threatens to backfire once again.

Afghanistan's civil war followed America's Cold War while Washington walked away. A new strain of religious holy warrior called the Taliban arose but at the time few in America cared to look. As the horrors of the Taliban regime began to grab headlines in 1998 Paul and Liz started collaborating with Afghan human rights expert Sima Wali. Along with Wali, they contributed to the [*Women for Afghan Women: Shattering Myths and Claiming the Future*](#) book project published by Palgrave Macmillan (2002). In 2002

they filmed Wali's first return to Kabul since her exile in 1978. The film they produced about Wali's journey home, [*The Woman in Exile Returns*](#), gives audiences the chance to discover the message of one of Afghanistan's most articulate voices and her hopes for her people.

In the years since, much has happened to bring Paul and Liz's story into sharp focus. Their efforts at combining personal diplomacy with activist journalism are a model for restoring a necessary dialogue to American democracy. Their book, [*Invisible History: Afghanistan's Untold Story*](#), published by City Lights (2009), lays bare why it was inevitable that the Soviet Union and the U.S. should end up in Afghanistan and what that means to the future of the American empire. Their book, [*Crossing Zero The AfPak War at the Turning Point of American Empire*](#), published by City Lights (2011), lays out the paralyzing contradictions of America's AfPak strategy. It clarifies the complex web of interests and individuals surrounding the war and focuses on the little understood importance of the line of demarcation between Afghanistan and Pakistan called the Durand line. Their novel [*The Voice*](#), first published in 2000, is the esoteric side of their Afghan experience

Gould and Fitzgerald's articles and blogs have been published in numerous online and print journals and newspapers such as *The Boston Globe*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *Huffington Post*, *The New York Times*, *GlobalPost World News*, *Middle East Institute's Viewpoints*, *CounterPunch*, *Sputnik News* and *OpedNews*. They have been interviewed by major media outlets such as *MSNBC*, *RealNews TV*, *Democracy Now* and numerous commercial and *PBS* radio stations from Boston to LA. They have also made presentations that have aired across the country on [*C-Span Book TV*](#) and the *Cambridge Forum (WGBH Forum Network)*. Their presentation-*Afghanistan and Mystical Imperialism: An expose of the esoteric underpinnings of American foreign policy*-was filmed by [Zev Deans](#) & [Jacqueline Castel](#) and is viewable [here](#). A review of the presentation titled *Afghanistan bedeviled by 'Mystical Imperialism'* is available [here](#). For more information visit [invisiblehistory](#), [grailwerk](#) and [valediction.net](#)

Reviews and Praise for Gould & Fitzgerald's Books

"Readers with a serious interest in U.S. foreign policy or military strategy will find it helpful... Bob Woodward's recent *Obama's War* focuses on the administration's AfPak deliberations, but this book provides a wider perspective—**Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., NY Library Journal**

"Journalists Fitzgerald and Gould do yeoman's labor in clearing the fog and laying bare American failures in Afghanistan in this deeply researched, cogently argued and enormously important book. " —***Publishers Weekly (starred review)***

"A probing history of the country and a critical evaluation of American involvement in recent decades . . . A fresh perspective on a little-understood nation." —***Kirkus***

“[*The Voice*](#) takes its audience on a quest for the *real* Holy Grail, entwining scientific mythology with geopolitical intrigue in an esoteric thrill-ride Dan Brown couldn't dream up...” — Michael Hughes [Huffpost Books](#)

"Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould have seen the importance of the 'Great Game' in Afghanistan since the early 1980s. They have been most courageous in their commitment to telling the truth—and have paid a steep price for it." —**Oliver Stone**

"Fitzgerald and Gould have consistently raised the difficult questions and inconvenient truths about western engagement in Afghanistan. While many analysts and observers have attempted to wish a reality on a grim and tragic situation in Afghanistan, Fitzgerald and Gould have systematically dug through the archives and historical record with integrity and foresight to reveal a series of misguided strategies and approaches that have contributed to what has become a tragic quagmire in Afghanistan." --**Professor Thomas Johnson, Department of National Security Affairs and Director, Program for Culture and Conflict Studies, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey California**

"A ferocious, iron-clad argument about the institutional failure of American foreign policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan." — **Daniel Ellsberg**

"*Crossing Zero* is much more than a devastating indictment of the folly of U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan. Paul Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Gould demonstrate that the U.S. debacle in Afghanistan is the predictable climax of U.S. imperial overreach on a global scale. Like their earlier work documenting the origins of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan during the Cold War, *Crossing Zero* deserves the attention of all serious students of U.S. foreign policy." —**Selig S. Harrison, Co-author with Diego Cordovez of *Out of Afghanistan: The Inside Story of the Soviet Withdrawal***

"Americans are now beginning to grasp the scope of the mess their leaders made while pursuing misguided military adventures into regions of Central Asia we once called 'remote.' How this happened--and what the US can do to extricate itself from its entanglements in Pakistan and Afghanistan--is the story of Crossing Zero. Based on decades of study and research, this book draws lines and connects dots in ways few others do."—**Stephen Kinzer, author of *All the Shah's Men* and *Reset: Iran, Turkey and America's Future***

"In this penetrating inquiry, based on careful study of an intricate web of political, cultural, and historical factors that lie in the immediate background, and enriched by unique direct observation at crucial moments, Fitzgerald and Gould tell 'the real story of how they came to be there and what we can expect next.' Invocation of Armageddon is no mere literary device." —**Noam Chomsky**

"A serious, sobering study... illuminates a critical point of view rarely discussed by our media...results of this willful ignorance have been disastrous to our national well-being." —**Oliver Stone**

