

Rock Creek Free Press

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Vol. 3, No. 4 April 2009

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Concentration Camps in America

By MICHEL CHOSSUDOVSKY / GLOBAL RESEARCH

The financial meltdown has unleashed a latent and emergent social crisis across the United States.

What is at stake is the fraudulent confiscation of lifelong savings and pension funds, the appropriation of tax revenues to finance the trillion dollar "bank bailouts", which ultimately serve to line the pockets of the richest people in America.

This economic crisis is, in large part, the result of financial manipulation and outright fraud to the detriment of entire populations: a renewed wave of corporate bankruptcies; mass unemployment; and poverty.

The criminalization of the global financial system, characterized by a "Shadow Banking" network, has resulted in the centralization of bank power and an unprecedented concentration of private wealth.

Obama's "economic stimulus" package and budget proposals contribute to a further process of concentration and centralization of bank power, the cumulative effects of which will eventually

see CAMPS p. 5



Red Cross: It Was Torture

By DAVID EDWARDS AND MURIEL KANE / RAW STORY

A leaked report by the International Committee of the Red Cross on treatment of detainees held at CIA "black sites" describes a variety of interrogation techniques which the report says "constituted torture." UC-Berkeley journalism professor Mark Danner, who has published excerpts from the report in a lengthy article for the *New York Review of Books*, told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow on March 17 that he regards the detainees' accounts as completely credible.

Danner pointed out that the fourteen prisoners interviewed by the Red Cross had been "kept rigorously isolated throughout their detention" and "had no chance to compare their stories," and yet their accounts were "strikingly similar in almost every minute detail."

Maddow commented that the similarity of the stories also implies that "this was a very organized situation. This is not rogue CIA officers taking the gloves off and deciding what to do in the moment."

"What do we know about the level of coordination between officials at these black sites and officials in Washington?" she asked.

Danner replied that "the interrogators were in constant touch with their superiors at CIA headquarters" and were getting authorization for every interrogation technique. "The chain of decision-making ... is very well-established," he emphasized. "These weren't rogue officers."

"The director of Central Intelligence at the time [in 2002] ... was George Tenet, who

see RED CROSS p. 5

Cheney Directed Assassination Ring

By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

Investigative journalist Seymour Hersh revealed during a talk at the University of Minnesota, March 10, that Dick Cheney orchestrated assassination squads directly out of the office of the vice president.

Here is what Hersh said: "After 9/11, I haven't written about this yet, but the Central Intelligence Agency was very deeply involved in domestic activities against people they thought to be enemies of the state. Without any legal authority for it. They haven't been called on it yet. That does happen."

"Right now, today, there was a story in *The New York Times* that if you read it carefully

mentioned something known as the Joint Special Operations Command — JSOC it's called. It is a special wing of our special operations community that is set up independently. They do not report to anybody, except in the Bush-Cheney days, they reported directly to the Cheney office. They did not report to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff or to Mr. [Robert] Gates, the secretary of defense. They reported directly to him [Cheney].

"Congress has no oversight of it. It's an executive assassination ring essentially, and it's been going on and on and on. Just today in the *Times* there was a story that its leader, a three star admiral named [William H.] McRaven,

ordered a stop to it because there were so many collateral deaths.

"Under President Bush's authority, they've been going into countries, not talking to the ambassador or the CIA station chief, and finding people on a list and executing them and leaving. That's been going on, in the name of all of us."

Interestingly, Hersh gives us two pieces of information here. First he tells us that the CIA has been "deeply involved" in domestic operations; something that is forbidden by law. And second, he reveals that the office of vice president has been directing assassination squads abroad, also clearly illegal under

see CHENEY pg. 5

Diebold Software Designed for Election Fraud

Startling admission made during public hearing in CA to consider decertification of the company's voting and tabulation software...

By MITCH TRACHTENBERG AND BRAD FRIEDMAN / BRADBLOG.COM

Even the audit log system on current versions of Premier Election Solutions' (formerly Diebold's) electronic voting and tabulating systems — used in some 34 states across the nation — fail to record the wholesale deletion of ballots, even when ballots are deleted on the same day as an election. That's the shocking admission heard March 17 from Justin Bales, Premier's Western Region manager, at a State of California public hearing on the possible decertification of Diebold/Premier's tabulator system, GEMS v. 1.18.19.

An election system's audit logs are meant to record all activity during the system's actual counting of ballots, so that later examiners may determine, with certainty, whether any fraudulent or mistaken activity had occurred during the count. Diebold's software fails to do that, as has recently been discovered by election integrity advocates in Humboldt County, CA, and then confirmed by the CA Secretary of State. The flaws, built into the system for more than a decade, are in serious violation of federal voting system certification standards.

see DIEBOLD p. 8

Vaccines as Biological Weapons

Live Avian Flu Virus Placed in Baxter Vaccine Materials Sent to 18 Countries

By MIKE ADAMS / NATURALNEWS

There's a popular medical thriller novel in which a global pandemic is intentionally set off by an evil plot designed to reduce the human population. In the book, a nefarious drug company inserts live avian flu viruses into vaccine materials that are distributed to countries around the world to be injected into patients as "flu shots." Those patients then become carriers for these highly-virulent strains of avian flu who go on to infect the world population and cause widespread death.

There's only one problem with this story: It's not fiction. Or, at least, the part about live avian flu viruses being inserted into vaccine materials isn't fiction. It's happening right now.

Deerfield, Illinois-based pharmaceutical company Baxter International, Inc. has just been caught shipping live avian flu viruses mixed with vaccine material to medical distributors in 18 countries. The "mistake" (if you can call it that) was discovered by the National Microbiology Laboratory in Canada. The World Health Organization was alerted and panic spread throughout the vaccine community as health experts asked the obvious question: How could this have happened?

As published on LifeGen.de (<http://www.lifegen.de/newsip/showne...>), serious questions like this are being raised:

"Baxter International, Inc. in Austria 'unintentionally contaminated samples with

the bird flu virus that was used in laboratories in three neighboring countries, raising concern about the potential spread of the deadly disease'. Austria, Germany, Slovenia and the Czech Republic — these are the countries in which labs were hit with dangerous viruses. Not by bioterrorist commandos, but by Baxter. In other words; one of the major global pharmaceutical players seems to have lost control over a virus which is considered by many virologists to be one of the components leading some day to a new pandemic."

Or, put another way, Baxter is acting a whole lot like a biological terrorism organization these days, sending deadly viral samples around the

see AVIAN FLU p. 2

Eyewitnesses Contradict Pentagon 9/11 Story

By SHEILA CASEY / RCFP

Two California men who call themselves the Citizen Investigation Team (CIT) have compiled impressive video evidence that the plane seen flying towards the Pentagon on the morning of September 11, 2001 could not have caused the death and damage at the Pentagon, nor the damage to five light poles outside the Pentagon.

Frustrated with the inability of 9/11 researchers to do anything other than speculate about what really happened that day, Craig Ranke and Aldo Marquis decided to take matters into their own hands. They have repeatedly flown in from southern California, canvassed the area near the Pentagon on foot to find people who saw a plane just prior to the fireball, and

then quizzed these eyewitnesses extensively on-camera to establish exactly what they saw, when they saw it and where they saw it from.

Their research is summarized at their website: thepentagon.com, as well as in four DVDs containing interviews with 13 witnesses who attest that they saw a plane fly to the north of the Citgo gas station on Pentagon property, not south of the Citgo station as required by the official story.

CIT had each witness draw the flight path he witnessed on a map; the compilation from all the witnesses is shown below (see page 7). The curved lines clustered together toward the top of the map are from the witnesses; the single straight line angling up from the bottom edge of the map is the official flight path of the plane, as

described by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

Taken together, the 13 witnesses deliver a devastating blow to the official story about the Pentagon attack. Five 40-foot, 247-pound light poles were knocked down that day. If the plane flew north of the Citgo station, it could not have knocked down those poles. The west side of the Pentagon was damaged as if it were hit by a plane heading north, with the zone of destruction angling north. If the plane flew to the north of the Citgo station before hitting the Pentagon, it would not have caused this kind of damage.

CIT's evidence is compelling for a number of reasons. Three of their witnesses are Pentagon

see 9/11 STORY p. 7

NIST's Quiet Admission of Controlled Demolition

By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

Has the government has finally admitted, albeit indirectly, that at least one of the buildings destroyed on 9/11 was a controlled demolition?

The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), located in Gaithersburg Maryland, is the government agency responsible for investigating and reporting on the destruction of the World Trade Center Buildings. In 2005 they published a very controversial report on the destruction of the two WTC towers, but the report did not address the third skyscraper

felled that day, WTC7. The report on WTC7 was delayed into the final months of the Bush administration.

Most Americans are still not aware that a third building fell on 9/11. World Trade Center Building 7 collapsed at 5:20 in the evening, seven hours after the destruction of the other two buildings. It was a 47 story office tower that occupied an entire city block and was located across the street and over 100 yards from the two towers. It collapsed completely, in less than 7 seconds into a compact pile of

debris on its own footprint. The destruction of WTC7 was witnessed by thousands of people (not counting the live television audience) and filmed from over a dozen different angles.

Critics of the government's official story, such as physicist Steven Jones, have pointed out that the destruction of the buildings, especially WTC7, have all the hallmarks of controlled demolition including a period of freefall acceleration. This point is crucial because there is absolutely no way to explain a freefall

see FREEFALL p. 7

The Real AIG Conspiracy

By PROF. MICHAEL HUDSON / GLOBAL RESEARCH It may seem odd, but the public outrage against \$165 million in AIG bonuses is a godsend to Wall Street, AIG scoundrels included. How can the media be so preoccupied with the discovery that there is self-serving greed to be found in the financial sector? Every TV channel and every

newspaper in the country, from right to left, have made these bonuses the lead story over recent days.

What is wrong with this picture? Is there not something over-inflated about the outrage led most vociferously by Senator Charles Schumer and Rep. Barney Frank, the two leading shills for the bank giveaways over the past year? And does Pres. Obama perhaps find it convenient that finally, at long last, he has been able to criticize something that he believes Wall Street has done wrong? Even the *Wall Street Journal* has gotten into the act. The government's takeover of AIG, it pointed out, "uses the firm as a conduit to bail out other institutions." So much more greed is involved than just that of AIG employees. The firm owed much more to other players — abroad as well as on Wall Street — than the assets it had. That is what drove it to insolvency. And popular opposition has been rising to how Mr. Obama and Mr. McCain could have banded together to support the bailout that, in retrospect, amounts to trillions and trillions of dollars thrown "down the drain." Not really down the drain at all, of course — but given to financial speculators on the winning "smart" side of AIG's bad financial gambles.

"The Washington crowd wants to focus on bonuses because it aims public anger on private actors," the *Wall Street Journal* accused in a March 17 editorial. But instead of explaining that attention is being shifted away from Wall Street grabbers of a thousand times the amount

see AIG p. 8

Rock Creek Free Press
5512 Huntington Parkway
Bethesda, MD 20814

\$20/yr to subscribe. Visit our website:
RockCreekFreePress.com
or send payment to address above.

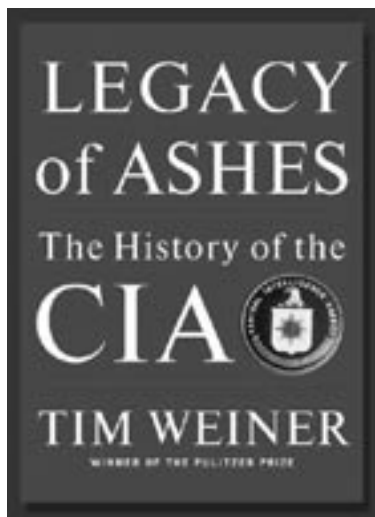
Subscribe to
The Creek

A Dozen Books for Americans That Tell It Like It Is

By SHERWOOD ROSS

If newspaper readership is plummeting, maybe it's because readers are turning elsewhere to catch a glimpse of the causes behind the official story. Recognizing this, some book publishers courageously are using their printing presses to bring interpretive reporting to the reading public. Here are a dozen books Americans need to read, as they paint a realistic picture of how our government's policies are inflicting needless suffering at home and globally.

Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA (Anchor) by *New York Times* Pulitzer Prize-winner Tim Weiner, contains some sweeping, but accurate, generalizations, such as this one: "By 1970, the CIA's influence was felt in every nation in the Western Hemisphere, from the Texas border to Tierra del Fuego." Weiner spotlights how the spy agency's operatives exerted more influence than the State Department. "In Mexico, the president dealt exclusively with the station chief, not the ambassador, and he received a personal New Year's Day briefing at his home from the director of central intelligence. In Honduras, two successive station chiefs had privately pledged the support of the United States to the military junta, in defiance of the ambassadors they served." Weiner doesn't mince words about how President Kennedy, who once said he was proud to be a liberal, "first approved a political-warfare program to subvert [Salvador Allende] more than two years before the September 1964 Chilean elections" when the CIA pumped \$3 million into the pockets of his political opponent.



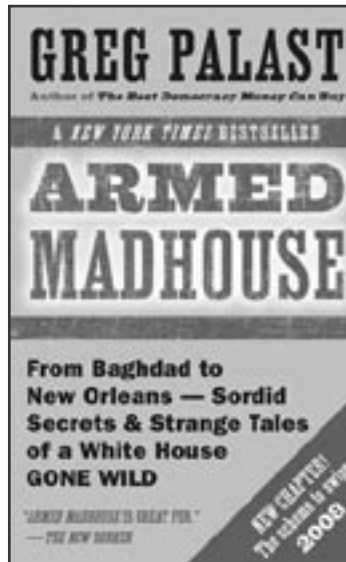
In **Free Lunch** (Penguin Books), Pulitzer Prize-winner David Cay Johnston, writes, "Over the past three decades the rules affecting who wins and who loses economically have been quietly and subtly rewritten," and "In the past quarter century or so our government has enacted new rules that have created not only free markets, but rigged ones." One outcome of these policies is that, in 2005, "the 300,000 men, women, and children who comprised the top tenth of 1 percent had nearly as much income as all 150 million Americans who make up the economic lower half of our population."



The Three Trillion Dollar War (W.W. Norton) by Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes charts the true costs of President George W. Bush's tragic aggression against Iraq, a war waged with borrowed bucks. Noting the total cost to American taxpayers "will turn out to be around \$3 trillion," the famous economist and Harvard government finance expert, respectively, write large in their preface: "Miserable though Saddam Hussein's regime was, life is actually worse for the Iraqi people now. The country's roads, schools, hospitals, homes, and museums have been destroyed and its citizens have less access to electricity and water than before the war. Sectarian violence is rife."

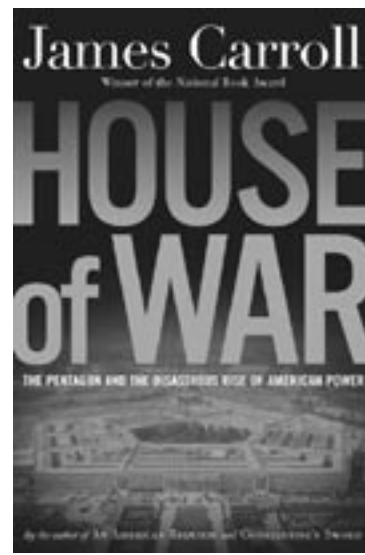


Armed Madhouse (Plume) by Greg Palast, is subtitled "From Baghdad to New Orleans — Sordid Secrets & Strange Tales of a White House GONE WILD" and contains much factual data about how the members in good standing of the military-industrial complex are profiting from the Iraq holocaust. "For the first time in its [General Dynamics] history, [profits are] exceeding a billion dollars a year. Lockheed Martin is doing even better, scoring a record \$2.5 billion. I know that with weaponry profits bouncing off the clouds, you're concerned that the firms will have a huge tax



bill. Not to worry. In 2004, just before the election, the Bush Administration slipped a special provision into tax legislation to cut the tax on war profits to an effective 7% compared to the 21% paid by most US manufacturers."

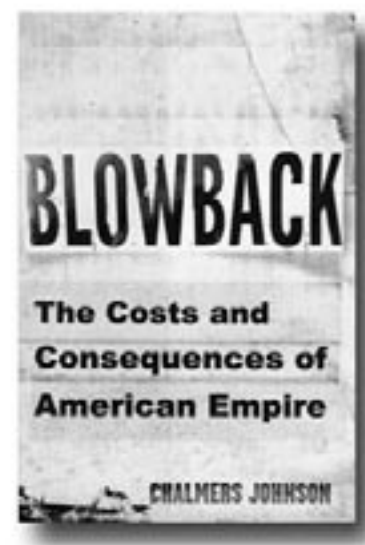
In **House of War: The Pentagon and the Disastrous Rise of American Power** (Houghton Mifflin), winner of the National Book Award, James Carroll writes, "The Pentagon is now the dead center of an open-ended martial enterprise that no longer pretends to be defense. The world itself must be reshaped. Nothing less than evil must be vanquished. Its good intentions heavily armed, its scope extending from 'prevention' to something called 'operations other than war,' the Pentagon has, more than ever, become a place to fear."



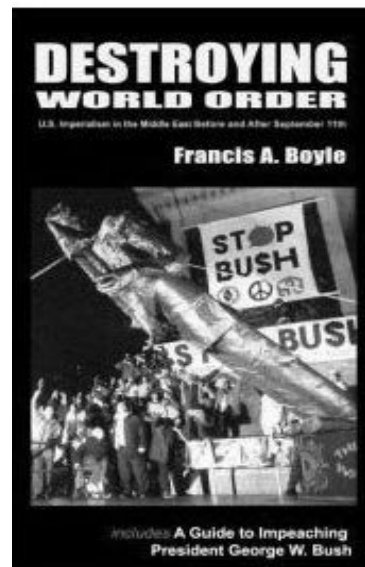
The Sorrows of Empire (Henry Holt) by Chalmers Johnson, also tackles the issue of the Pentagon's spreading hegemony: "Overseas bases, of which the Defense Department acknowledges some 725, come within the scope of the peacetime standing army and constitute a permanent claim on the nation's resources while being almost invariably inadequate for actually fighting a war. The great enclaves of bases, such as those in Okinawa or Germany, have not been involved in combat since World War II and are not really intended to contribute to war-fighting capabilities. They are the headquarters for our proconsuls, visible manifestations of our imperial reach." Johnson is also the author of the national bestseller **Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire** (Henry Holt), in which he relates how the CIA intervened in the Afghan civil war, and the ensuing cataclysm "turned Kabul, once a major center of Islamic culture, into a facsimile of Hiroshima after the bomb," words President Obama might ponder as he prepares to inject more warriors into that luckless nation.



Destroying World Order (Clarity) by international law authority Francis Boyle, includes his petition on behalf of the children of Iraq that charges the US with genocide for the economic sanctions imposed by the first President Bush that led to "death, disease, malnutrition, starvation, and extermination." Some say up to half a million kids perished. Yup, years before the second President Bush attacked Iraq: "Malnutrition has become severe and widespread...since imposition of the embargo and the war due to severe food shortages and the inflation of food prices of up to 1000%, which has effectively priced many Iraqis, especially the poor and disadvantaged, out of the food market."

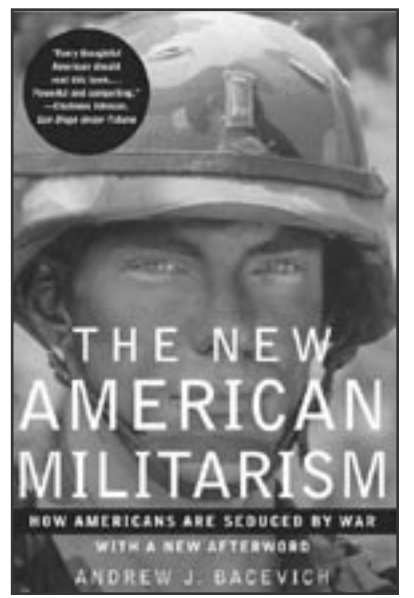


The Presidents Bush cannot be considered to have delivered a one-two punch against Iraq, because President Clinton, sandwiched between them, also attacked Iraq. So American intervention has really delivered a one-two-three punch. Andrew Bacevich, Director of the Center for International Relations at Boston University, in his **The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War** (Oxford University Press), writes: "Over the course of his eight years in office, he [Clinton] clung to the Bush policy of containing Iraq while ratcheting up the frequency with which the United States used violence to enforce that policy. Indeed, during the two concluding years of the Clinton presidency, the United States bombed Iraq on almost a daily basis, a campaign largely ignored by the media and thus aptly dubbed by one observer 'Operation Desert Yawn.'" The chapter from which that quote is extracted is titled,

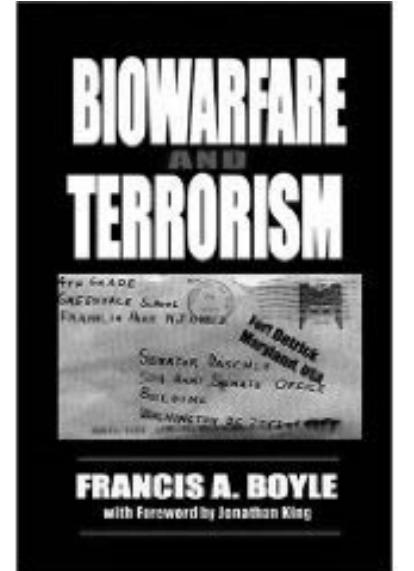


Blood For Oil. Bacevich, a West Point graduate who served in Viet Nam, also writes, "Whether considering George H.W. Bush's 1992 incursion into Somalia, Bill Clinton's 1999 war for Kosovo, or George W. Bush's 2003 crusade to overthrow Saddam Hussein, the growing US predilection for military intervention in recent years has so mangled the concept of common defense as to make it all but unrecognizable."

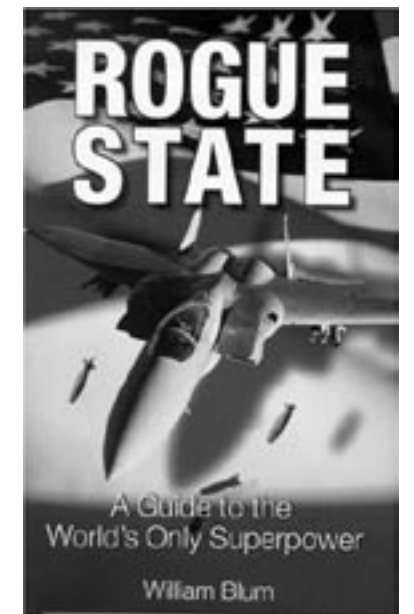
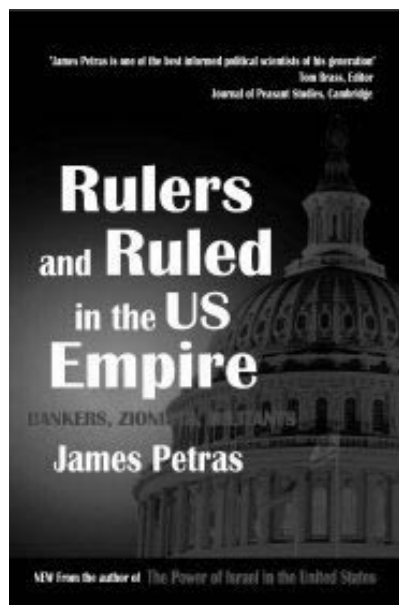
Author Boyle, cited above, is also the author of **Biowarfare and Terrorism** (Clarity), in which he terms the anthrax attacks of 2001 "the greatest political crime" in US history and asks the question: "Could it truly be coincidental that two of the primary intended victims of the terrorist anthrax attacks — Senators Daschle and Leahy — were holding up the speedy passage of the pre-planned USA Patriot Act after the terrible tragedy of 11 September 2001 -- an Act which provided the federal government with unprecedented powers in relation to US citizens and institutions?"



Rulers and Ruled in the US Empire: Bankers, Zionists, Militants (Clarity Press) by political scientist James Petras ranges over many topics from the worsening plight of American workers to the hardships inflicted on Palestinians by Israel's leaders. On the former: "Between 2000 and 2005, the US economy grew 12 percent, and productivity rose 17 percent while hourly wages rose only 3 percent. Real family income fell during the same period. According to a poll in November 2006, three quarters of Americans say they are either worse off or no better off than they were six years ago." (Need to know why the 'housing bubble' burst?) On the latter issue, Petras writes: "The Israeli-Palestinian genocide is a continuing process that is gaining momentum: daily military assaults, execution of leaders and murder of civilians, continued extension of colonies, non-recognition of elected Palestinian leaders, and above all a total blockade of finances and basic food and medicine — a Nazi style 'encirclement of ghettos' and 'starvation to surrender' strategy."



In **Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower** (Common Courage Press), investigative journalist-historian William Blum catalogues CIA interventions around the world and throws light on how the so-called National Endowment for Democracy, set up under President Reagan, "meddles in the internal affairs of numerous foreign countries" to "do somewhat overtly what the CIA had been doing covertly for decades." Blum notes NED "successfully manipulated elections in Nicaragua in 1990 and Mongolia in 1996; helped to overthrow democratically elected governments in Bulgaria in 1990 and Albania in 1991 and 1992, and worked to defeat the candidate for prime minister of Slovakia in 2002 who was out of favor in Washington." Blum's reporting is the sort readers are not getting from the mainstream outlets and proof that books such as his represent one of the last outposts of veracity in the print media.



The CIA Should Be Terminated

CIA from p. 6

century." The massive slaughter compares, at least in terms of sheer numbers, with Hitler's massacre of Romanian and Ukrainian Jews during the Holocaust. Yet, few Americans know of it.

Blum provides yet other examples of CIA criminality. In Indonesia, it attempted in 1957-58 to overthrow neutralist president Sukarno. It plotted Sukarno's assassination, tried to blackmail him with a phony sex film, and joined forces with dissident military officers to wage a full-scale war against the government, including bombing runs by American pilots, Blum reported. This particular attempt, like one in Costa Rica about the same time, failed. So did the CIA attempt in Iraq in 1960 to assassinate President Abdul Kassem. Other ventures proved more "successful" like the 1965-66 CIA bloodbath-coup in Indonesia which resulted in the deaths of one to two million people.

In Laos, the CIA was involved in coup attempts in 1958, 1959, and 1960, creating a clandestine army of 30,000 to overthrow the government. In Ecuador, the CIA ousted President Jose Velasco for recognizing the new Cuban government of Fidel Castro. The CIA also arranged the murder of elected Congo Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba in 1961 and the installation of Mobutu Seko who ruled "with a level of corruption and cruelty that shocked even his CIA handlers," Blum recalls.

In Ghana in 1966, the CIA sponsored a military coup against leader Kwame Nkrumah; in Chile, it financed the overthrow of elected

President Salvador Allende in 1973 and brought to power the murderous regime of General Augusto Pinochet who executed 3,000 political opponents and tortured thousands more. In Greece in 1967, the CIA helped subvert the elections and backed a military coup that killed 8,000 Greeks in its first month of operation. "Torture, inflicted in the most gruesome of ways, often with equipment supplied by the United States, became routine," Blum writes.

In South Africa, the CIA gave the apartheid government information that led to the arrest of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, who subsequently spent 27 years in prison. In Bolivia in 1964, the CIA overthrew President Victor Paz; in Australia from 1972-75, the CIA slipped millions of dollars to political opponents of the Labor Party; ditto, Brazil in 1962; in Laos in 1960, the CIA stuffed ballot boxes to help a strongman into power; in Portugal in the Seventies the candidates it financed triumphed over a pro-labor government; in the Philippines, the CIA backed governments in the 1970-90 period that employed torture and summary execution against its own people; in El Salvador, the CIA in the Eighties and Nineties backed the wealthy in a civil war in which 75,000 civilians were killed; and the list goes on and on.

Of course, the hatred that the CIA engenders for the American people and American business interests is enormous. Because the Agency operates largely in secret, most Americans are unaware of the uncounted crimes it perpetrates

in their names. As Chalmers Johnson writes in **Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire** (Henry Holt), former long-time CIA director Robert Gates, now Obama's defense secretary, admitted US intelligence services began to aid the mujahideen guerrillas in Afghanistan six months before the Soviet invasion in December, 1979.

As has often been the case, the CIA responded to a criminal order from one of the succession of imperial presidents that have occupied the White House, in this instance one dated July 3, 1979, from President Jimmy Carter. The Agency was ordered to aid the opponents of the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul — aid that might sucker the Kremlin into invading. "The CIA supported Osama bin Laden, like so many other extreme fundamentalists among the mujahideen in Afghanistan, from at least 1984 on," Johnson writes, helping bin Laden train many of the 35,000 Arab Afghans.

Thus Carter, like his successors in the George H.W. Bush government — Gates, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleezza Rice, Paul Wolfowitz, and Colin Powell — "all bear some responsibility for the 1.8 million Afghan casualties, 2.6 million refugees, and 10 million unexploded land mines that followed from their decisions, as well as the 'collateral damage' that befell New York City in September 2001 from an organization they helped create during the years of anti-Soviet Afghan resistance," Johnson added. Worse, the Bush-Cheney regime after 9/11 "set no limits on what the agency could do. It was the foundation for a system of secret prisons where CIA officers and contractors used techniques that included torture," Weiner has written. By some

estimates, the CIA in 2006 held 14,000 souls in 11 secret prisons, a vast crime against humanity.

That the CIA has zero interest in justice and engages in gratuitous cruelty may be seen from the indiscriminate dragnet arrests it has perpetrated: "CIA officers snatched and grabbed more than three thousand people in more than one hundred countries in the year after 9/11," Weiner writes, adding that only 14 men of all those seized "were high-ranking authority figures within al Qaeda and its affiliates. Along with them, the agency jailed hundreds of nobodies... (who) became ghost prisoners in the war on terror."

As for providing the White House with accurate intelligence, the record of the CIA has been a fiasco. The Agency was telling President Carter the Shah of Iran was beloved by his people and was firmly entrenched in power in 1979 when any reader of *Harper's* magazine, available on newsstands for a buck, could read that his overthrow was imminent — and it was. Over the years, the Agency has been wrong far more often than it has been right.

According to a February 13 *Associated Press* report, when confirmed by the Senate as the new CIA director, Leon Panetta said the Obama administration would not prosecute CIA officers that "participated in harsh interrogations even if they constituted torture as long as they did not go beyond their instructions." This will allow interrogators to evade prosecution for following the clearly criminal orders they would have been justified to disobey.

"Panetta also said that the Obama administration would continue to transfer foreign detainees to other countries for questioning but only if US officials are confident that the prisoners

will not be tortured," the AP story continued. If past is prologue, how confident can Panetta be that the CIA's fellow goons in Egypt, Morocco, and Thailand will stop torturing prisoners? Why did the CIA kidnap men off the streets of Milan and New York and fly them to those countries in the first place if not for torture? They certainly weren't treating them to a Mediterranean or Asian vacation. By its long and nearly perfect record of reckless disregard for international law, the CIA has deprived itself of the right to exist.

It would be worse than unfortunate if President Obama continues the inhumane (and illegal) CIA renditions that President Bill Clinton began and President Bush vastly expanded. If the White House thinks its operatives can roam the world and arrest and torture any person it chooses without a court order without due process and without answering for their crimes, this signifies that Americans believe themselves to be a Master Race better than others and above international law. That's not much different from the philosophy that motivated Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

It would be the supreme irony if the American electorate that repudiated racism last November has voted into its highest office a constitutional lawyer who reaffirms his predecessor's illegal views on this activity. Renditions must be stopped. The CIA must be abolished.

Sherwood Ross has worked as a reporter for the Chicago Daily News and Reuters. He has also been a media consultant to colleges, law schools, labor unions, and to the editors of more than 100 national magazines. He was formerly News Director for the National Urban League and a talk show host at WOL Radio, Washington, D.C. He now lives in Florida.



Diebold Software Designed for Election Fraud

DIEBOLD from p. 1

The problems may lead to decertification of the company's voting systems, as well as an examination of voting systems made by other companies to determine if they too may have been able to sneak such violations past both federal and state testers.

The March 17 hearing was a response to the startling discovery last December, by a volunteer group in Humboldt County that, under fairly common circumstances, the older version of GEMS used by the county, and several others in the state, dropped all votes from the ballots in the first deck of ballots run through GEMS.

The Humboldt County Election Transparency Project (HTP), using the free and open source software program Ballot Browser, found that Diebold's GEMS system had eliminated all votes from 197 vote-by-mail ballots cast in a single precinct in Eureka, CA during last November's general election. [Mitch Trachtenberg, author of this article, was one of the HTP volunteers. He developed Ballot Browser for use by the project.]

The revelations were made just after Humboldt County Registrar of Voters Carolyn Crnich had certified the election results with the state, forcing her to recertify with new numbers after the discovery. Crnich, who helped found the Transparency Project, was present at the hearing.

Following the discovery of Diebold's dropped votes and the equally disturbing revelation that Diebold had been aware of the problem for years, California's Secretary of State Debra Bowen, initiated an investigation which confirmed that, under common circumstances, the GEMS software would drop all votes from the first scanned deck of ballots, the so-called "deck zero."

The investigation also revealed that the problems went far beyond the dropping of votes. GEMS v1.18.19, the version used in Humboldt County — as well as versions 1.18.20, 1.18.21, 1.18.22 and 1.18.23 — were discovered to have defective audit logs.

In addition, the software was discovered to have a "Clear" button which, when pressed, would actually delete the contents of an audit log without even asking for confirmation from the user. That, despite repeated federal and state testing and certification of the software which failed to notice the egregious programming flaws in violation of federal voting system standards requiring indestructible logs to track all system events.

The flaws should have kept the systems from receiving certification at all.

"In terms of being able to track down the precise mechanism by which the problem had occurred in [the Humboldt] election, critical

information was simply never recorded," in the audit logs, Deputy Sec. of State Lowell Finley said at the hearing which was made available to



Diebold electronic voting machine

the public via one-way audio teleconference.

The hearing was meant to help determine whether or not GEMS v. 1.18.19, as used in Humboldt County, should now be decertified by the state. However, in response to a question, Premier representative Justin Bales admitted that even the most recent versions of GEMS, used in a number of other states, such as Florida and Texas, as well as California, still fail to record the deletion of ballots in their audit logs.

For a decade or more, e-vote system vendors have pointed to the audit logs as a way of ensuring that every operation performed by their software would be available for inspection in post-election examinations. As a result of today's hearing, it has become clear that even the most recent versions of Diebold/Premier's vote counting software do not actually record all system events.

Bales admitted that his company had "not yet" corrected the problem, which was first implemented in the company's software more than a decade ago.

Wired's Kim Zetter quotes Bales as noting "We never, again, intended for any malicious intent and not to log certain activities. ... It was just not in the initial program, but now we're taking a serious look at that."

CA Secretary of State Bowen described the Diebold audit logs as "useless".

According to the Secretary of State's report, the four year-old bug in Diebold/Premier's software triggered a problem in Humboldt's election as a result of a personnel change. Diebold had sent a memo, back in 2004, to elections managers still using GEMS 1.18.19. This memo, without going into details of the software bug, instructed elections officials to begin their elections by creating and deleting an

empty "deck zero."

However, Diebold never sent similar instructions to the federal body that had certified their software, never notified the California Secretary of State of the problem, and never modified their instruction manuals. In Humboldt County, the previous election manager left the county without alerting his successor or his superiors of Diebold's suggested "workaround", sent out as a single notice, via email, back in 2004.

Although the California Secretary of State's report indicated that the problem was Premier's responsibility, Premier's representative attempted to tell the hearing that the blame should be shared, suggesting that Crnich, the Humboldt Registrar, should have somehow known to delete "deck zero" before using GEMS to count ballots, despite her having access to no such instructions.

Humboldt Registrar Carolyn Crnich responded that she was "offended" by Diebold's attempt to shift blame, adding "if you are saying that your system needs to be checked every damn time you turn it on, then I agree with you."

Tom Pinto, a staffer at Humboldt County's District Attorney's office and a volunteer with the Transparency Project, urged that the approach used in Humboldt — independently scanning ballots with separately developed open source software and off-the-shelf hardware — be expanded statewide. Pinto stated that the project had demonstrated the need for "100% audits."

The question of whether similar problems exist in the audit logs of systems certified by other companies was also raised at the hearing by both Election Integrity advocates during the public comment period, and afterwards by Bowen herself.

"Clearly, we're going to have to look at this," she told *Wired*. "That's one of the obvious next steps."

Mitch Trachtenberg is a member of the Humboldt County Election Transparency Project, and the author of *Ballot Browser*, free and open source ballot counting software. He is also a partner in *Trachtenberg Election Verification Systems (TEVSystems)*, which provides support for *Ballot Browser*.

Brad Friedman is an investigative journalist/blogger and the creator/publisher of *The BRAD BLOG*, which has been focusing for some years on the many issues involved in election integrity. He can currently be seen in a number of documentaries on the topic, now in release around the country, including David Earnhardt's "Uncounted: The New Math of American Elections," and the just-released "Murder, Spies & Voting Lies: The Clint Curtis Story," by documentarian Patty Sharaf.

The Real AIG Conspiracy

AIG from p. 1

of bonuses being contested, it blames its usual all-purpose *bete noire*: Congress. Where the right and left differ is just whom the public should be directing its anger at!

Here's the problem with all the hoopla over the \$165 million in AIG bonuses: This sum is only less than 0.1% — one thousandth — of the \$183 BILLION that the U.S. Treasury gave to AIG as a "pass-through" to its counterparties. This sum, over a thousand times the magnitude of the bonuses on which public attention is conveniently being focused by Wall Street promoters, did not just go with AIG. For over six months, the public media and Congressmen and women have been trying to find out just where this money *did go*. *Bloomberg News* brought a lawsuit to find out, only to be met with a wall of silence.

Finally, on March 15, the government released the details. They were indeed highly embarrassing. The largest recipient turned out to be just what earlier financial reporters had said was rumored: Mr. Paulson's own firm, Goldman Sachs, headed the list. It was owed \$13 billion in counterparty claims. So here's the picture that's emerging. Last September, Treasury Secretary Paulson, from Goldman Sachs, drew up a terse 3-page memo outlining his bailout proposal. The plan specified that whatever he and other Treasury officials did (thus including his subordinates, also from Goldman Sachs), could not be challenged legally or undone, much less prosecuted. This condition enraged Congress, which rejected the bailout in its first incarnation.

It now looks as if Mr. Paulson had good reason to put in a fatal legal clause blocking any clawback of funds given by the Treasury to AIG's counterparties. This is where public outrage should be focused.

Instead, the leading Congressional shepherds of the bailout legislation — along with Mr. Obama, who came out in his final, Friday night presidential debate with Sen. McCain strongly in favor of the bailout in Mr. Paulson's awful "short" version — have been posing as conspicuously as possible for the media to cover a deflected target — the AIG executives receiving bonuses, not the company's counterparties.

There are two questions that one always must

ask when a political operation is being launched. First, *qui bono?* Who benefits? And second, why now? In my experience, timing almost always is the key to figuring out the dynamics at work.

Regarding *qui bono*, what do Sen. Schumer, Rep. Frank, Pres. Obama and other Wall Street sponsors gain from this public outcry? For starters, it depicts them as hard taskmasters of the banking and financial sector, not its lobbyists carrying water for one giveaway after another. So the AIG kaffuffle has muddied the water about where their political loyalties really lie. It enables them to strike a misleading pose — and hence to pose as "honest brokers" next time they dishonestly give away the next few trillion dollars to their major sponsors and campaign contributors.

Regarding the timing, I think I have answered that above. Talking about AIG bonuses has effectively distracted attention from the AIG counterparties who received the \$183 billion in Treasury giveaways. The "final" sum to be given to its counterparties has been rumored to be \$250 billion, do Sen. Schumer, Rep. Frank and Pres. Obama still have a lot more work to do for Wall Street in the coming year or so.

To succeed in this work — while mitigating the public outrage already rising against the bad bailouts — they need to strike precisely the pose that they're striking now. It is an exercise in deception.

The moral should be: The wetter the crocodile tears shed over giving bonuses to AIG individuals (who seem to be largely on the healthy, bona fide insurance side of AIG's business, not its hedge-fund Ponzi-scheme racket), the more they will distract public attention from the \$180 billion giveaway, and the better they can position themselves to give away yet more government money (Treasury bonds and Federal Reserve deposits) to their favorite financial charities.

Dr. Hudson is President of The Institute for the Study of Long-Term Economic Trends (ISLET), a Wall Street Financial Analyst, Distinguished Research Professor of Economics at the University of Missouri, Kansas City and author of Super-Imperialism: The Economic Strategy of American Empire (1968 and 2003) and of The Myth of Aid (1971). Michael Hudson is a frequent contributor to Global Research. Dr. Hudson was Chief Economic Policy Adviser for the Kucinich for President campaign.

ONE DOLLAR DVD PROJECT
Quality DVDs in bulk - Zietgeist, Ron Paul, Alex Jones and more - one dollar dvd project .com (817)776-5475

Washington, D.C.
has a 9/11 truth group.
dc 911 truth.org
"Your government killed you."

The Real News Radio
Bringing the truth to the people...
Saturdays 9:00 AM
streaming at libertynewsradio.com
www.therealnewsradio.com

Podcasts Weekly
corbett report.com
Open Source Intelligence News
MediaMonarchy.com

Hope
20 1/2" x 20 1/8" pigmented print ed. 50
© Elly Simmons 2006

REPRESENTING
Elly Simmons Shiri Mordechai Brian Moore Paul Gibson D Truthsayer
Manny Fabergaas Samanta Tello Ryan Trumpler T. Joseph Enos

BID ONLINE
www.pigmangallery.org
415 546 3921
FREE DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION TO THE WASHINGTON AREA

Hundreds of Architects & Engineers Demand a Real 9/11 Investigation

Join. Find these courageous architects and engineers at AE911Truth.org.

Take a stand. Sign the petition calling for a real 911 investigation.

Educate others. Get the DVD 9/11: Blueprint For Truth by architect Richard Gage, AIA.

ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS
for 9/11 TRUTH
AE911Truth.org

prison
planet

A New Film from Alex Jones
THE OBAMA DECEPTION
THE MASK COMES OFF
Available now at INFOWARS.com