

Rupert Murdoch and The Imperial Disease

by Anton Chaitkin

Rupert Murdoch, central figure in the scandal over the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), wields a \$42 billion electronic and print media empire, a political agency as much as a commercial enterprise. He has grabbed control over world-wide access to public information, even while losing billions of dollars over the past two years.

Murdoch is indeed the diseased heart of the “new Roman Empire” faction, bringing a 24-hour circus of sports, pornography, and race-baiting to hundreds of millions of households over his titanic cable networks, movie studios, and tabloids.

His Fox News network, cable and TV outlets, *London Times*, *New York Post*, and other organs promote wars for a world English-speaking empire. And Murdoch has been the moneybags for individual leaders of the pro-war faction which has hijacked U.S. and British government policy.

Murdoch met repeatedly behind closed doors with FCC commissioners, prior to their shameful decision. His apparent immediate concern is to get monopolistic, massive new cable-TV and radio ownership inside the United States.

Lord Beaverbrook's Protégé

The son of an Australian newspaper owner, Rupert Murdoch apprenticed in 1953 under British press mogul Lord Beaverbrook. Beaverbrook and Murdoch display strikingly similar, brashly immoral or satanic personalities. The “synarchist” leader Beaverbrook had coordinated pre-World War II British newspaper support for the Hitler regime in Germany, and was deeply involved in the post-war British intelligence manipulations within the U.S. and Soviet governments. Murdoch became a U.S. citizen in 1985 to get around rules against foreign ownership of American TV stations. But his News Corp holding company is based in Australia.

He entered the American scene at the intersection of fascist politics and organized crime, becoming intimate with mob fixer and Joe McCarthy lawyer Roy Cohn. Murdoch took over the *New York Post* by arrangement of Murdoch's U.S. “bankers”—Allen & Co., the Dope, Inc.-implicated private investment group that put mob boss Meyer Lansky into his Caribbean casino headquarters.

Allen & Co.'s managing director, Stanley S. Shuman, has long been the manager of Murdoch's investments. As chairman of the audit committee of News Corp's board, Shuman could quietly help “broil” or “sautee” the books. But pressure from the recent U.S. accounting scandals forced

Murdoch, in February 2003, to put up a new audit chairman, while keeping Shuman on the board and in place managing the investments on behalf of Allen & Co.

In the mid-1990s, apparently by arrangement with the Democratic Party's then-finance chairman Terry McAuliffe, Murdoch and Shuman contributed around \$100,000 to the Democratic Party, and got President Bill Clinton to appoint Shuman to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. Murdoch and Shuman's media empire then crusaded for Clinton's impeachment! (McAuliffe is now Democratic National Chairman, and a stooge for the pro-war faction.)

London *Times* columnist Irwin Stelzer is Murdoch's leading strategic advisor and go-between to the British government. After Murdoch switched from backing the Tories to sponsoring “New Labour” leader Tony Blair, Stelzer began meeting several times a month with Blair—to tell Blair how to behave, in order to continue in the good graces of the rightist cabal running Washington. Blair knew Murdoch would treat him well. Murdoch had promoted former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, then gave her \$5.4 million for her memoirs. And Blair dutifully went to bat for Murdoch's regulatory relief. Over in Washington, Stelzer directs “regulatory studies” at the Hudson Institute, home of the Bull Moose Project, linking the right-wing Republicans to Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) and his pro-war Democratic Leadership Council. Stelzer also writes for Murdoch's *Weekly Standard*, flagship periodical for the neoconservatives.

Looking for regulatory favors from Congress in 1995, Murdoch contracted to pay Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) \$4.5 million to publish two of Gingrich's books on the Jacobin-rightist revolution. A torrent of protest forced Gingrich to relinquish advance money, but he got royalties, and Murdoch took a loss in order to mass distribute the Gingrich trash literature. Murdoch gave \$1.2 billion to televangelist/imperial war crazy Pat Robertson, in a 1997 media property transfer deal. Robertson's Regent University got \$147 million, putting it among the 25 best-endowed American colleges; Regent spawns Anglo-American intelligence front operations, religious, diplomatic, and banking activities.

Among the holdings of Murdoch's News Corp: BSkyB (Britain); Fox Sports, Fox News and other cable; The Los Angeles Dodgers; 20th Century Fox; *TV Guide*; HarperCollins Publishers; Zondervan religious publisher; the *Weekly Standard*; National Geographic Channel; *New York Post*; *London Times*, *Sunday Times*, *News of the World*, the *Sun*; the *Australian*, and many other newspapers.

Fox TV stations: New York WNYW-5, WWOR-9; Los Angeles KTTV-11, KCOP-13; Chicago WFLD-32, WPWR-50; Washington WTTG-5, WDCA-20; Dallas KDFW-4, KDFI-27; Houston KRIV-26, KTXH-20; and others in Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Boston, Detroit, Atlanta, Baltimore, Tampa Bay, Cleveland, Denver, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Salt Lake City, Birmingham, Memphis, Greensboro, Austin, and Ocala.