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It's Not Just Words: Russian, U.S. Militaries Act
Obama's Coverup of Benghazi, New 9/11, Unravels
House of Saud: British Programmed Killer of Muslims

**Congress Must Reassert Its
Constitutional War Powers Now!**



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EIR

From the Managing Editor

If sufficient numbers of Americans read, and take to heart, *and then decide to act on*, the passionate and patriotic views expressed by the participants in the press conference called by Congressman Walter B. Jones Sept. 21 (*Feature*), the nation may yet return to its founding principles. The speakers, Constitutional and international law specialist Bruce Fein; Lt. Col. Lawrence Wilkerson (ret.); and Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer (ret.); along with a statement read at the event from Gen. Joseph P. Hoar (ret.), and moderated by EIR's Jeffrey Steinberg, called on their fellow citizens to rally and rescue the Republic from the British-controlled Obama Administration's moves to rip up the Constitution, and plunge this nation and the world into thermonuclear hell. Fein directly put the question of impeachment on the table, noting that the Founders had included the provision in the Constitution as a means to rid ourselves of a tyrant, without resorting to the methods of Brutus and Cassius against Julius Caesar. I urge you to read the transcript, and to watch the video at larouchepac.com.

The threat of World War III is further elaborated in *International*, under the headline, "It's Not Just Words: Russian, U.S. Militaries in Action." The authors write, "The escalation of outright military moves on both the U.S. and Russian sides, since the fateful murder of Libyan head of state Muammar Qaddafi, a little more than a year ago, has put the world on a pathway to destruction which must be derailed immediately, if mankind is to survive." A report on Helga Zepp-LaRouche's webcast, titled, "There Is an Alternative to War and Hyperinflation," offers a way out of the deepening crisis.

The *Investigation* probes 9/11 "Take Two," in "Obama's Coverup of Benghazi, New 9/11, Starts To Collapse"; and "The House of Saud: British-Programmed Killer of Muslims." In *Economics*, "Glass-Steagall or Financial Bust: The End of the System," poses the stark choice between hyperinflation or Glass-Steagall.

Four articles in *National* provide further powerful ammunition for removing Barack Obama from the White House—by impeachment, or other Constitutional means, even only weeks before the election.



Cover This Week

The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Cowpens fires its Phalanx close-in weapons system during a weapons test in the Pacific Ocean, Sept. 6, 2012.



U.S. Navy/Petty Officer 3rd Class Paul Kelly

4 Walter Jones Press Conference: Legal Experts, Military Leaders, Say Restore Constitution

A press conference Sept. 21, called by Rep. Walter B. Jones to discuss his HCR 107, which calls on the President to obey the Constitution, and to seek Congressional authorization before waging war, or face impeachment, was joined by Constitutional law specialist Bruce Fein; Lt. Col. Lawrence Wilkerson; Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer; and included a statement from Gen. Joseph P. Hoar. *EIR*'s Jeffrey Steinberg moderated. Each of the speakers presented powerful evidence that the Obama Administration was in gross violation of the U.S. Constitution, and that the Republic itself is in danger, until that process can be reversed. We present a transcript of the entire event.

International

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Among those who have issued stern warnings about the imminent danger of a thermonuclear confrontation between Russia and the United States, arising from the ongoing U.S.-NATO regime-change efforts in the Middle East, are Lyndon LaRouche, Gen. Martin Dempsey, and the Russian leadership. As this report makes clear, the world is now on a course to destruction, which must be derailed immediately, if mankind is to survive.

26 Helga Zepp-LaRouche Webcast: There Is an Alternative to War and Hyperinflation

"We are holding this international webcast to generate an international debate about the situation that there *is* an alternative to the present policies," Zepp-LaRouche stated at the outset, and called on those watching, to mobilize for the realization of the alternative: a system based on international collaboration to discover the means of achieving the common aims of mankind.

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Within days of the mass circulation of Lyndon LaRouche's statement demanding Obama's immediate impeachment for his complicity in a new 9/11, and for ignoring specific warnings of a possible attack in Benghazi, Libya, the White House coverup of the truth about the attack on the U.S. consulate there, began to unravel.

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There are only two options on the table for the dying trans-Atlantic banking system: Bernanke's hyperinflation, or Glass-Steagall, as the first step toward restoring sanity to the banking system.

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44 **Obama Seeks Consolidation of Dictatorial Powers**

In the wake of the 9/11 terrorism attack on the United States, the Cheney/Bush Administration demanded and received a vast expansion of police-state powers. While those plans did not meet total success, the Obama Administration, functioning as a tool of the British financial establishment, is determined to finish the job.

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The main exception to the media/money show that is the Presidential election, is Kesha Rogers, the LaRouche candidate running for Congress in Texas. Rogers was interviewed by *EIR* Editor Nancy Spannaus.

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Two leading Republican Congressmen, Rep. Bill Young (Fla.), and Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), have changed their minds in recent days about the war in Afghanistan. Their views dovetail with those of the Out of Afghanistan Caucus, which held a press conference on Sept. 20.

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WALTER JONES PRESS CONFERENCE

Legal Experts, Military Leaders, Say Restore Constitution

Congressman Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.) held a press conference Sept. 21, on his House Concurrent Resolution 107, introduced on March 7, for which there are now 12 co-sponsors.¹ He was joined by:

Bruce Fein, specialist in constitutional and international law, Associate Deputy Attorney General under President Reagan, author, *American Empire: Before the Fall* (2010).

Lt. Col. Lawrence Wilkerson (USA-ret.), former Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell (2002-05).

Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer (USA-ret.), author of *Operation Dark Heart* (2010) exposed the Pentagon data-mining program known as Able Danger, and uncovered two terrorist cells involved in 9/11.

A statement of support was read from **Gen. Joseph P. Hoar (USMC-ret.)**, who served as the Chief of Staff, and later as Commander-in-Chief of the Central Command.

EIR Counterintelligence Director Jeffrey Steinberg moderated.

Here is an edited transcript. The video is at larouhepac.com/hcr107press.

Jeffrey Steinberg: I want to thank everybody for coming this morning on relatively short notice. I understand that the Congress is in a mad dash to the door, and that there are a whole series of votes in, so Congressman Jones will have to leave for some of those votes fairly quickly.

In March of this year, Congressman Walter Jones filed House Concur-

1. The co-sponsors, as of Sept. 22, are: Representatives Dan Benishek (Mich.); Mo Brooks (Ala-5); Dan Burton (Ind.); Mike Coffman (Colo.); John J. Duncan (Tenn.); Louis Gohmert (Tex.); Dennis Kucinich (Ohio); Tom McClintock (Calif.); Michael H. Michaud (Me.); Ron Paul (Tex.); Reid J. Ribble (Wisc.); Lynn C. Woolsey (Calif.)

rent Resolution 107, which simply states that only the U.S. Congress, under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, has the authority to declare war, and that any President who violates this cardinal principle of the Constitution may be subject to impeachment proceedings, under Article II. And of course, this is not simply a philosophical issue, as important that is, but a very real question as we see events in now, Africa, as well as the Middle East, and elsewhere, driving us in the potential direction of a war. And therefore, the role of Congress, as envisioned by the Founders, is pivotal in making sure that we don't rush headlong into a conflict that could lead out of proportion into a general war.

There is an extraordinary group of people who have come together here today, who have all been extremely outspoken in their concerns; and so what I'd like to do, is just turn the floor over to Congressman Jones, who will speak briefly, and then be followed by Colonel Wilkerson, Bruce Fein, and Colonel Shaffer, and I may say a few remarks at the end, and there will be time for some questions. So, thank you all.

Jones: Congress Needs To Come Back to the Constitution

Rep. Walter B. Jones: Jeff, thank you very much, and I will be brief, because we do have votes in about ten minutes. But, my concern has always been, since we were misled with the intelligence to go into Iraq, and all the number of young men and women who have been killed, and loss of limbs, that Congress needs to come back to what the Constitution says, and that is, if you're going to commit our young men and women to fight and die, you must declare war.

Now, there are exceptions; let's be fair about that, the exceptions being, like 9/11, the President must have the authority to make immediate decisions. Hopefully, he or she would consult with Congress at that point.

I was one of 20, back in 1999, that went to the Federal



LPAC-TV

Rep. Walter Jones: "Congress needs to come back to what the Constitution says, and that is, if you're going to commit our young men and women to fight and die, you must declare war."

courts with [former Rep.] Tom Campbell [R-Calif.], when President Clinton bypassed Congress and went in and bombed Kosovo. We went to the Federal courts; the Federal courts kicked it back out, saying, "Well, you in Congress have the authority to cut the budget, so therefore you have authority to stop war."

Then again, when President Obama decided to go in and bomb Libya, that again brought it to my mind—here we go again. Here's an administration that has bypassed Congress—meaning bypassed the Constitution, which is more important than the Congress, really; but the Constitution says that you will consult with Congress; you will ask for a declaration of war. And, to my knowledge, if he consulted with anyone at the time, it was just one, two, or three people, maybe in the leadership of the Republican and Democratic parties.

So, working with Bruce Fein, we put in H. Con. Resolution 107, that Jeff just mentioned. And it says, "a President," it does not say "*the* President"; it says "a President." I wanted that to become a vehicle for debate on war powers.

Sadly, as much as we pushed and pushed, we did not get a hearing in this Congress, on the role of Congress as it relates to the Constitution and the issue of war.

So therefore, today, I am delighted to be a small part

of this. We keep continuing to hear war drums beating in the Middle East, and also in other parts of the world. And all I think should happen is that Congress should follow the Constitution. And there are exceptions, which I've already mentioned.

Colonel Wilkerson and I became friends. After I knew I'd made a mistake on [voting for] the Iraq War, I consulted with Larry Wilkerson, also other people. He helped me understand that too many times, there are backroom decisions made by administrations that bypass Congress and the American people, and commit this country to war.

Bruce Fein is a very dear friend of mine. Again, he's helped me with many of the Constitutional issues. I'm not an attorney; I think I understand the Constitution, but I'm not an expert; he is an expert.

And Col. Tony Shaffer is the kind of person who believes in integrity, in intelligence. He believes that the truth has to guide the policy.

So you've got some wonderful people to speak to you, and I'm delighted to be here, and I will continue—if I should get reelected in November—I will continue to do my part in a very small way, to ensure, that a kid, an American boy, girl, does not have to give their life, unless we follow the Constitution.

So, with that, thank you so much for giving me a chance to be here, today. Jeff, thank you.



LPAC-TV

Lt. Col. Lawrence Wilkerson: "When President Obama decided to go in and bomb Libya... Here's an administration that has bypassed Congress—meaning bypassed the Constitution...."

Wilkerson: 'Fateful Decision-Making'

Col. Lawrence Wilkerson: Thanks for being here. I think this, even though it's not massively attended, like many events in our past that were very important, is an important event. And I think Congressman Jones' point, especially in his [letter](#) to the President of the United States, is one of the most important points we confront today, and I speak from 31 years of experi-

ence, at all levels of responsibility, in the United States Army, and a lot of joint service, with particularly the Marine Corps and the United States Navy. I was trained, for example, to think as a strategist at the U.S. Naval War College.

We've come to a point, in this empire's history, that I spend most of my time that's free, studying, so I can relate it to my students. What we focus on is what we have come to call "fateful decision-making" by the President. "Fateful decision-making" we define as decisions made to send young men and young women to die for state purposes; and also, some-

thing we often forget, particularly in this country, to kill other people for state purposes. In the last decade, by conservative Pentagon estimates, we have killed over 300,000 people. That's a sobering thought, especially when there is no existential threat to the United States of America *whatsoever*. Nor is there one in sight, other than perhaps ourselves.

Bruce Fein can speak to this a lot better than I, but James Madison, often thought of as the father of our Constitution, often said, that to turn the war power over to the Executive was tantamount to tyranny. That's *precisely* what we've done. Precisely what we've done.

And why is the Executive so eager to have the war power? I've served three of them, closely! Because they *can* use it. It is the most facile thing in this country to do. We have ways to get around Congressional instincts on the Armed Forces—we simply deploy 200,000 private military contractors, and thereby increase the strength of the land forces by that amount. We have a modern volunteer military: that takes less than 1% of America to bleed and die for the other 99%. And when I ask my students, "How many of you—I'm going to put you on the spot—how many of you, would change places with that Marine or that soldier in Afghanistan, Iraq, or wherever it might be?" And I never get a hand! They're at least candid and honest with me.

And I tell them, “Those soldiers and those sailors, *to a man and to a woman*, by and large, would rather be sitting where you’re sitting, than being where they are! And yet, the President has the power to put them there.”

The suicide rate in the Army and Marine Corps is off the charts. One of the reasons is because we lowered the requirements *so far*, that we took *100,000 troops* who failed psychological examinations, multiple times, before we put them in the Army or the Marine Corps. It’s not the only reason. Deployments, excessive deployments, frequent deployments, a really nasty battlefield, and other things have contributed to that. But we, as Americans, I think—and I am!—should be ashamed to have allowed this to happen.

And it’s all happened because of what Congressman Jones is pointing at: the facility with which the President of the United States can take this apathetic nation to war, and kill people!

Thanks.

Fein: ‘The Very Definition of Tyranny’

Bruce Fein: Thank you. I want to also pay homage to Congressman Walter Jones. He reminds me of an observation then-President Andrew Jackson made when he was asked, “What is a majority?” He said, “One man, with courage.” And with Walter Jones, we may have an ability to step back from the precipice.

And I’d like to pick up and amplify on what Colonel Wilkerson said: Those 300,000 killings are murder. Because *legal* war makes what’s customarily murder, legal. But if you’re not at war legally, those are homicides. And the reason why the Founding Fathers were so intent on having a very exacting standard to enter war, was precisely because war is the law of the jungle.

Cicero had said 2,000 years before, “In times of war, the law is silent.” Even the purported laws of war are

regularly flouted with virtual impunity. And so, the Founding Fathers drew on the history of all of mankind that showed the Executive branch was the most inclined to enter war, because it gets the spending, the appointments, the glory, the footprints in the sands of time: “I’m transforming the world.”

If you look at the history of *all* human [societies], it’s the Executive that invariably initiates the warfare.



LPAC-TV

Bruce Fein: “Recent disclosures in the New York Times . . . show that the President claims and exercises authority to surveil every individual on the planet. . . .”

Sometimes, it’s for vendettas. I’ve been told that George W. Bush wanted revenge because of Saddam’s effort to kill his father. Once Saddam was captured, he didn’t care any more. Those are exactly the reasons why *every single Founding Father*, at the Constitutional Convention, had said, “We do not want any single person, or any group of people, to enable us to enter war!” That ranged from the most liberal to the most conservative, like Alexander Hamilton, who was in favor of a muscular Presidency. They all

agreed that warfare was irreconcilable with freedom! The principles that are established to justify war, national security, migrate back into the domestic arena.

And we’ve seen it just recently, with the National Defense Authorization Act, that empowers the President to detain any American citizen, on his say-so alone, if you provide substantial assistance to an associated force of a terrorist group! And when recently, in the Southern District of New York, the United States was asked, what is “substantial assistance,” in this suit brought by [truthdig.com columnist] Chris Hedges—“Oh, we don’t know.” What’s an “associated force”? “We don’t know. We’ll know it when we see it.”

That shows you the breadth of the authority that’s authorized by the NDAA, that’s a migration from the war powers usurpation!

And, indeed, it’s very ironic, when we’re initially told, “we need to fight in Afghanistan, Iraq, 6,000-8,000 miles away, to prevent the battlefield from coming home,” and their those champions of the NDAA said,

“The battlefield’s home!” If we capture and detain anyone here, now they don’t have any rights to a lawyer. They have no rights to due process. We’re telling them that the battlefield here is the United States; this was the Lindsey Grahams, the Mr. Liebermans, John McCain, while we were fighting 6,000-8,000 miles away, to prevent that! Now you’ve taken the battlefield here!

And even expand beyond that. The most recent disclosures in the *New York Times*, not at all refuted by the Obama Administration—they take pride in it!—show that the President claims and exercises authority to surveil every individual on the planet; if he says you’re an imminent danger to the United States, you get va-

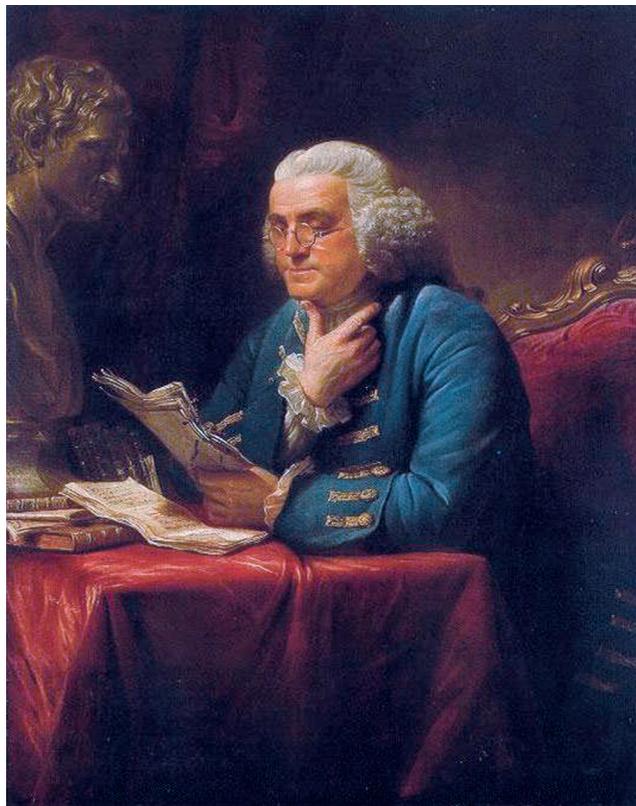
pORIZED: predator drone. Any judicial review? No! Any Congressional review? No! Any disclosure of the profile of the intelligence that justifies the finding, you’re one of the terrorists we’re going to vaporize? No!

All secret!

What we call a combination of Legislative, Executive, Judicial power, plus being executioner, all in one man! Which the Founding Fathers described in *Federalist 47*, as *the very definition of tyranny!* Now, think of that: The whole reason we had a Declaration of Independence and fought the war of the American Revolution was what? To end the tyranny of King George III. And now, we’re practicing exactly what we revolted against some 225, 230 years ago!

We Don’t Want Standing Armies

And where’s the Congress? The invertebrate branch, other than Congressman Jones? And what’s so stunning, is that you don’t need to do archeological expeditions to find the evidence of the impeachable offense: It’s on the front pages! It’s openly confessed!



Fein: “At the Constitutional Convention, Ben Franklin said . . . impeachment is a substitute for assassination, to rid yourselves of a tyrant; it is a substitute for Brutus and Cassius plotting against Julius Caesar.”

Now, many suggest, “Oh, impeachment sounds like a coup d’état, like only banana republics do impeachment.” At the Constitutional Convention, Ben Franklin said, no. Impeachment is a *substitute* for assassination, to rid yourselves of a tyrant; it is a substitute for Brutus and Cassius plotting against Julius Caesar. So, it is the civilized way, in which we don’t impose criminal punishment. It’s simply ouster from office: “We cannot trust you with the reins of power any more.” That’s why it’s my judgment, that it really is quite obtuse to suggest to think about impeachment as some kind of revolutionary idea. No! It’s the first time to civilize, to domesticate, the kinds of convulsions that typically happen,

when you’ve got to change a regime, from abuse of power.

And what’s very odd about the passivity of the Congress, the need for this particular resolution, is that virtually *half* of the Constitutional Convention, half of the ratification debates, at the state level, were devoted to the worry and anxiety about having standing armies. We don’t want standing armies. In fact, in the Constitution, there’s a limit of two years on any appropriations for the Defense Department, for the military, in order to *force* Congress, every two years, to return to the question, “Do we want a standing army?”

And there’s a companion idea, incorporated in the Second Amendment—the right to keep and bear arms—in order to have a well-regulated militia. The reason why there was an obligation for all citizens to participate in the militia, was to make a standing army superfluous! That was the idea.

And now we’ve got standing armies; trillion-dollar national security expenditures; can’t even audit the Pentagon, to even *know* whether the spending was in

the two-year limitation period. And Congress sits quiescent.

The most recent, the most extravagant usurpation, in the history of the entire United States, was the Libya War. Open, notorious, “we don’t want to talk to Congress, we don’t report to Congress...” And then, you have the astonishing testimony of the legal advisor of the State Department, Mr. Harold Koh, formerly a great critic of Executive power, when he was Dean of the Yale Law School. And then it’s kind of like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, but he didn’t need a potion. He’s there now, the legal advisor to the State Department, and he’s testifying as to why Libya, and the Tomahawk missiles, the bombings—not a conflict. “It’s not hostilities within the meaning of the War Powers Act,” he says. “Swell. Our pilots are at such high altitudes, they’re not in danger of being shot down.”

Oh. Well, that’s a nice analysis. So, if we used ICBMs with nuclear warheads, to kill and destroy *every living, breathing thing in Libya*, and we shot the missiles from the United States, no hostilities, right? No war. Our people aren’t endangered. You could blow up the whole world, kill 1.5 billion Chinese, no warfare. I mean, is that Orwellian, or not? You know, this is the Ministry of Peace, and the Ministry of War—flip! And instead of being insulted, the Congress accepts that. Congress accepts that.

And before I conclude, I want to explain as well, why these simply are not academic ideas that we need to worry about, because the rule of law generally becomes inflamed, in tatters, if it’s not complied with scrupulously everywhere.

But the consequence of endowing the President with unilateral authority to commence war, is disaster. Because the Presidents go in and fight, without even being able to define what victory is. Isn’t it truly criminal, that we have those brave men and women that Colonel Wilkerson mentioned, dying in Afghanistan, and the President, and Mr. Holbrooke, before his death, can’t even define victory? They say: “It’s like obscenity, we’ll know it when we see it”!

You’re letting people die for something that amorphous, that elusive, that intangible? You don’t even know why you’re fighting—it’s fighting for the sake of fighting. And what are the consequences? Afghanistan, a trillion dollars, \$350 million a day? Not only do you have staggering expenditures, the killing, the deaths, not only of our own men and women, but the civilians and others in Afghanistan. It’s almost regularly we read

in the newspapers—perhaps they must—maybe, I don’t know, Colonel Wilkerson might tell us, whether they’ve now got a new job, for Afghan soldiers; they report to the civilian families who have had their loved ones killed, and say, “We apologize for the 88th time, we really didn’t mean for you to be collateral damage.” Over and over and over again. And, then the sincerity seems to rub off, since the pattern repeats itself in the next day or two.

‘We Create Our Own Enemies’

But perhaps, even more ultimately dangerous from these fools’ errands, is that invariably, they have what we colloquially call “blowback.” We create our own enemies. We arm our own enemies, and I think that was explained in yesterday’s press conference, with regard to Afghanistan.² That’s one example, where we armed, gave money to the mujahideen to fight the Soviets. “Charlie Wilson’s War” celebrated how the great Haqqani faction got money; Hekmatyar got money, arms. And then what happens? They turn and use them on us—you know, the Sorcerer’s Apprentice idea.

And these things are inevitable, because we can’t control the evolution of political dispensations for warfare in other countries, unless we’re going to occupy them forever. And so, this is not anything unique to Afghanistan. Take Vietnam, all the armaments that we had given to South Vietnam, \$4 or \$5 billion; we exited. They’re all going to North Vietnam, our enemies! All the arms we sold to the Shah of Iran, what happens? They end up with Ayatollah Khomeini and the mullahs. And we started the shipment of uranium to the Shah. Now we complain, “Oh, now you’re building a nuclear bomb.”

And if you try to look at what are the great beneficial results of Presidential interventions; if you measure them against what are obvious consequences on the negative side, it’s really hard to find any. It’s been said, well, Bosnia is a great example of a success; there was all sorts of internal fighting there between the Serbs and the Croats and the Muslims. There are still troops in Bosnia! This is 17 years after Dayton—the same divisions haven’t been mitigated at all. If anything, they’re accentuated. So, we’re supposed to stay there forever?

2. On Sept. 20, the Out of Afghanistan Caucus in the House held a press conference; among the participants were Reps. Walter Jones, Ron Paul, Jim McGovern (Mass.), Lynne Woolsey, Dennis Kucinich, and Barbara Lee (Calif.).

Have we really accomplished anything?

And Kosovo, that's another one that's supposed to be a great success story. But you still have vicious infighting with a small enclave of Serbs. Some of the Kosovo groups are before the International Criminal Tribunal for war crimes. Have we really accomplished anything that is relevant to the national security of the United States?

And I want to close with the example of Libya. Now, all the headlines that we've read about, about the tragedy of our ambassador being killed in the last few days. And it's all suggested, well, al-Qaeda, or somehow misguided forces, have gone in and interrupted the perfect democratic evolution that we all were hoping would flower after Qaddafi was removed. That's not true!

I mean, the reason why he was killed, was precisely because of our intervention. We set the stage for a country that now is semi-anarchic, like Somalia. We destroyed the entire social-cultural infrastructure, that at least had some solidity under Qaddafi, and that we had no responsibility for. We go in and destroy everything, and then we can't understand why, by spontaneous combustion, a new country didn't emerge that loves the United States, and you find George Washingtons and James Madisons everywhere, I mean, that's really—it's hallucinogenic, is what it is.

It's this naïve belief that you can take cultures that are very, very primitive political cultures—they're tribal ethnic cultures. We don't have to necessarily deride or degrade them, but they are outside our ability to turn into democracy, even if our role in the world was to make everyone a carbon copy, a clone, of the United States, which it isn't.

And the result that we see has come back and harms the United States.

And again, what is so amazing is, we don't have any Congressional hearings, saying, "Well, let's make an assessment of what the intervention was about." How come, 17 years after the Dayton Accords, there are no Congressional hearings saying, "Was this really worth it? What have we accomplished? Where are we in Kosovo?" Nothing!

Even now, is the time for [Sen.] John Kerry [chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee] to hold some hearings, again, on Vietnam. Why are we pledging to defend Vietnam against China in the South China Sea? You know, we fought, we have a Vietnam War Memorial, this was our enemy, the "dominoes." Does that

suggest there was some errant thinking, and maybe we need to be more suspicious, of what the Executive tells us is the national security imperative?

And finally, to me, it almost is an obscenity, that we have Presidents suggesting that they can go to war, without consulting Congress, getting authorization, if they talk to the UN Security Council, the Arab League, Mr. Netanyahu, AIPAC. All these institutions that have *no* accountability to the American people, and *that's* who we consult?

That's who we consult? You know, Congress, in that scenario, looks like an extra in a Cecil B. DeMille extravaganza.

Thanks.

Shaffer: A 'Deficit of Leadership'

Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer: Good morning. I'd like to also add my support, gratitude, for Congressman Walter Jones' leadership on this issue. He is taking up this issue at a time super-critical to our country, and I don't think people fully understand the magnitude of the challenge, or the deficit of leadership in this issue by his colleagues here on the Hill.

Let me run through a couple points: I'm simply an intelligence officer, a retired intelligence officer, who believes their oath of office does not expire with their retirement. And as a private citizen, with an informed opinion, I'd like to add my voice to everything my colleagues have said today.

First, some history. I think we often forget the lessons of history. Emperor Trajan was one of the five good emperors of the Roman Empire. And I believe he was a great guy; he did a lot of great things for the Roman Empire, to include, extending the boundaries of the Empire to its greatest extent ever. And in extending those boundaries—even though he did great public works things—he actually died from being ill from one of his last conquests. So, if that's good, then I don't want to see bad, because that's what it took in those days.

In many ways, I think we have become similar to that: We threw off the yoke of British imperialism; we were the first colony to break ranks; and yet, we have, in many ways, become that which we threw off, and I think this is something we have to consider in the larger context of everything we do.

Speaking of King George and the British, there was something called the Star Chamber that existed in the



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Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer: "We threw off the yoke of British imperialism; we were the first colony to break ranks; and yet, we have, in many ways, become that which we threw off..."

Middle Ages. And one of the great things about the Star Chamber, it was a secret court, where facts didn't really matter; it's just whatever the sovereign felt. Geez! Wouldn't that be nice if we could just do whatever we wanted, based on our feelings? That's where we're at!

We have a system of adjudication, of assassination, at the senior level, that allows for the sovereign to do whatever the heck he wants. And oh, by the way, we've got lawyers looking at it, so don't worry about it. That should give everybody a really good feeling! "Don't worry. I've got all my best lawyers telling me why it's okay to do it." This is where we're at.

And by the generation of this capability, in this way, we're creating the next generation of our adversaries. The so-called drone program is an excuse to use military force, without an understanding of the second and third order of facts. I've talked with some Pakistani colleagues about this; I've talked to the Pakistani media; one of the reporters I spoke to the other night said, "Don't you all understand, you're creating the next generation of terrorists that are going to come after both our government and your government?"

No, apparently we don't. Because we don't have people who understand that the blind use of military force can have secondary effects, detrimental to the very objective you're trying to achieve. That's what this is ultimately, in my judgment, all about: the actual rethinking of why we do what we do, when we do it with military force.

That's why I'm a strong advocate of HCR 107.

There's no doubt that the President should maintain and retain certain powers relating to the immediate response to threats. I get that, we get that, we're all onboard with that. But what we can't have is this endless use of military force whenever we want to. There's been no debate on the authorized use of military force, in any great way, since we authorized it in 2001. Why?

I think al-Qaeda is pretty much diminished from what it was then, you know, our big adversary. Has it gone away? No, not at all! As a matter of fact, I do believe that al-Qaeda was materially responsible and involved in the assassination of our Ambassador Stevens this past week. With that said, we helped create the circumstance for his death, by the fact we destabilized Libya. As much as we may have not liked Muammar Qaddafi, he was essentially a form of Tito: He kept things in check. And as much as I think the Libyan

people want to be free, I don't think they were ready, by the fact that we've seen a reversion to tribalism, which is the chaos we now see.

Congress Must Be Involved in the Debate

We probably have some people at the State Department and Executive branch who had the best intentions, without a freakin' clue of what they were doing. And that's why Congress *must always* be involved in a debate, any time we go to war, where it is not necessary! I argue, *clearly*, the Libyan War was not *necessary* to defend the equities and interests of our nation!

That is why we must have Congress take an active role, retain an active role. They control the purse strings, as Representative Jones pointed out, and by controlling the purse strings, they must take responsibility of the actions of our *government*—not just the Executive branch—of our *government*. They fund it. So any time you have an expenditure of a dollar, it's like blood money. If you sign off on that, you pay for that. And we're paying for the deaths, as pointed out, of *300,000 people*. Think about that! That's like a quarter of the population of Dayton, Ohio! Just gone! How's it possible we've not debated this?

Today is the end of the Afghan surge. Wow, who'd-a-thought? That was an affectation meant to provide this administration the illusion of making progress. "Let's send some troops in there, and we're gonna win this! And we're gonna pull 'em out unless we..." Any

strategist will tell you, you never tell the adversary when you're going to deploy, and when you're going to withdraw. We did that, we told them what to expect.

More importantly, several of us who criticized the Administration, based on facts, were dismissed. I actually said on one of the cable news networks, back in 2009, "If you're going to do this, you got to go big, or go home." If you're going to do counterinsurgency, 500,000 troops for 10 years. That's it! That's the only way you would have success. And oh, by the way, you know, Year 11, you leave? Chances are, it's going to revert back to the way it was, because it's hard to change 2,000 years of a cultural bent.

So, we've not had the time to look at root causes, because simply, we've been trying to use a military solution to issues which, as my colleague Bruce [Fein] pointed out, some of these cultural disputes go back 2,000, 3,000 years. And you're not going to change it over two years, using military force.

So, again: Why didn't we have debate on this? Why haven't we looked at this? Does it make sense in the American interest, to do what we're doing? And frankly, why don't we actually work to try to understand the root causes of the conflicts, if we're going to do anything at all? This is where there may be some daylight between my colleagues and me—I'm not saying we should sit back and do nothing. I am actually an advocate for special operations and doing things. But, again, I would argue, we didn't have to do Iraq as an invasion; we could have done other things. We don't have to do a lot of things we do, expensively. We can do it much simpler—but, again, with oversight.

One of the things I'll close with—there's all this dispute about, "Well, we don't want to tell the Congress about what we're doing in the Executive branch." Look, there are best practices. The fact is this, I ran operations under the Clinton White House that are still secret, and they were briefed every year to Congress, by law. So, any time I hear the Executive branch say, "You know, if we talked over there, it's going to be leaked." No. Wrong answer. Some things I think are purposely briefed in such a way to have them leak, to kind of float the ball, to see how things will fly with the American people. But I can tell you, there are processes in place to keep things completely secret. So that argument does not wash. That's why the Congress *must* be involved in the debate.

So, as we move out today, as we all go back to our lives, I think it's important to understand how important

HCR 107 is. Not simply because it is something we're saying, that if it's passed, we'll have an impeachment potential for the President. It's more important that we use this to bring ourselves back to a point of *sanity*, a point of understanding the need for debate, the need to have a reconciliation of our country's actions, with our intent with what we were founded on, with our Founding Fathers, because there's a huge amount of daylight there, between what we are today, and what our Founding Fathers intended us to be.

Thank you.



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Gen. Joseph Hoar: "Under our Federal Constitution, only the Congress has the power to declare war, and that must remain a cardinal principle."

Hoar: The Wisdom of Our Founding Fathers

Steinberg: I'd just like to make two additional points before we open the floor for questions and discussion.

First of all, there was to be another speaker here this morning, but he unfortunately had to be back out on the West Coast for urgent business, and asked me instead to read a brief statement. This is Gen. Joseph P. Hoar, a retired Marine Corps four-star general, who was both Chief of Staff, and later, the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Central Command. What he said, is:

"In their great wisdom, our Founding Fathers, gathered in Philadelphia to draft the new U.S. Constitution, gave the sole authority to declare war to the U.S. Congress. Having just waged a successful revolution to free themselves from the British Monarchy, our Founders

understood that it was essential, to secure a representative form of republican self-government, that the power to declare war must be in the hands of Congress, and not in the Executive Branch. They were committed to preventing any form of monarchy or dictatorship.

“Nothing has transpired in the intervening centuries to justify any alteration in their wise decision. Under our Federal Constitution, only the Congress has the power to declare war, and that must remain a cardinal principle. In recent decades, we have seen an erosion of that Constitutional principle, and I fully concur that this erosion must be halted and reversed.”

There are copies of General Hoar’s statement over there on the table.



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Jeffrey Steinberg: “We’re on the very precipice of wars breaking out in the Middle East, where there are potentialities for this to go much further than anybody particularly desires, and we could find ourselves facing a prospect of general war.”

the direction that they’re going, we could very well find ourselves stumbling into a situation of general war, involving countries that still operate under the doctrine of MAD [mutually assured destruction], and still have arsenals of thermonuclear weapons.

In fact, in May of this year, Russian Prime Minister Medvedev was speaking at a conference in St. Petersburg, with Attorney General Holder seated on the dais right behind him, and explicitly warned that any attempts to carry out further regime change outside the framework of the UN Security Council, would be seen as an attempt to fundamentally overhaul and overturn the entire system under which the world has avoided general war since the end of World War II. And

he said, God forbid, we could find ourselves facing thermonuclear war, and thermonuclear extinction.

So, we’re on the very precipice of a danger of wars breaking out in the Middle East, where there are potentialities for this to go much further than anybody particularly desires, and we could find ourselves facing a prospect of general war.

Many of the events that are playing out right now are sorely reminiscent of the kinds of deals and back-room agreements and alliances that immediately preceded World War I. The main difference between then and now, is that in the eruption point of World War I, there were not yet nuclear weapons.

So, I just want to underscore the points that have been made by all of my colleagues here on the podium: that what we’re dealing with is a grave crisis that cannot, in any way, shape, or form, be underestimated. And again, I think it’s appropriate to thank Congressman Jones for taking the stand that he’s taken, and putting the war danger, and the issue of impeachment, on the table, so that this is once again seen as a universal principle for restoring our Constitution, and hopefully avoiding a general war that could get completely out of control.

So, if the speakers are available to continue and take

Steinberg: ‘We Could Be Facing Thermonuclear War’

Everything that has been said by Congressman Jones, and all of the other speakers, [shows] that impeachment should *not* be considered a four-letter word, but is something that was, again, a critical issue among the Founders, as a way of dealing with the problems of out-of-control Executive tyranny.

I want to point out one additional matter that I think is something else that there’s a tendency to be basically tone-deaf on, here in Washington. All of the previous speakers have cited the Libya War as an illegal action that has caused an enormous amount of blowback. The Libya War was also viewed as a strategic turning point, in both Moscow and Beijing. We’ve seen this in the fact that the Russians and the Chinese have vetoed every action at the UN Security Council that might even remotely suggest that we’re about to enter into a replay of Libya in Syria. And, in particular, the top military leadership in both Russia and China have warned that we’re not simply facing the danger of constitutional erosion, or regional wars, but that if these situations continue in

some questions, the floor's open for questions or comments.

A Craving To Dominate the World

Fein: I could just make a couple of observations. One with regard to the secrecy issue: Congress was alerted to the Manhattan Project and it didn't leak out to Adolf Hitler or anyone else. And then, Director of the Central Intelligence several years ago, George Tenet, who was testifying before Richard Shelby's Senate Intelligence Committee, testified that between the leaks that come out of Congress, and the leaks that come out of the Executive branch, the Executive branch wins about a million to one. So, if you're trying to simply shield the so-called national security information from those who might leak, the Executive branch is the one that needs more compartmentalization, not the Congress of the United States.

But I want to amplify further on this whole issue of the war power, although we read about it right now in connection with Iran and Syria, you're absolutely right: It's clearly a testament to all the empires, that there is an insatiable craving to dominate the entire world, if it's available. There is no stopping point. It becomes war for the sake of war. The British encountered that during the heyday of their imperialism. Why were they fighting the Boer War, the first Afghan War, the second Afghan War, the war against Burma, everywhere in the world?

And even when they [the British] were arguing against Edmund Burke in fighting the American Revolutionary War, it was said, "Oh, it's our prestige that's at stake. We can't let America go, then everything else will unravel." So, it's sort of a macho thrill that you get about being a bully, and if anybody defies you with impunity, you don't get that ecstasy of feeling that you can tell everybody else in the world what to do.

I'm not sure, Colonel Wilkerson, you can tell me, was it an offshoot of the Committee on the Present Danger, right after the 1990s, after Clinton was elected, Paul Wolfowitz and Rumsfeld, or whoever, stated that the objective of the United States should be, in foreign policy, to prevent any country from doing *anything* that we couldn't crush instantly. For whatever reasons we wanted. That's the mindset of this empire mentality. That's the mindset of all power being within the Executive branch. And it's not a question of personalities; whether you have Trajans or Hadrians, or if you've got Caligulas or Claudiuses—it's the institution itself that

thrusts the executive forward to all these foreign domains, because there is this idea, "Hey! What else can I do in the Presidency? I don't deal with minimum wage; I have to do something as a legacy," that's the equivalent of their face on Mt. Rushmore. And how to do that other than fighting wars?

And it's really quite a gruesome result: 300,000 dead. You can't even think of it. It reminds you of Stalin, where one death is a tragedy; a million is a statistic. And that's sort of where we are as a people, and it's not very complimentary.

Question: Sorry, I missed the beginning. How many members of Congress have signed on to the HCR 107?

Fein: I believe there's 10 or 11. And most of them are Republican, not Democrat. And I think the reason, again, is the partisanship. We can't do anything under President Obama, just like there was under Bush, the other side.

Question: And the second is, if you believe that it's such a clearcut case that, entering war without consulting Congress is an impeachable offense, how come no one has introduced an impeachment resolution against the President?

Fein: Well, I don't know. I've drafted one relating to Libya. It's been printed in *Politico*, but not in the *Congressional Record*, yet. Again, these are political maneuvers, but maybe it would make sense to do that in the lame-duck session, because at least you would set a standard to compare what might happen in Iran or Syria—those are the most imminent possibilities for Presidential wars.

But the larger question is an insightful one: Why shouldn't an impeachment resolution be introduced? Part of it, I think, there's still the backlash around Clinton, which people thought was an instance where impeaching a President over sex, and we had all the people like [former Speaker of the House Newt] Gingrich and others who were indiscreet—minor indiscretions, or youthful indiscretions—who were sitting on the impeachment committee, so the outlook wasn't very favorable.

And so, for that reason, the idea of impeachment, wrongly, fell into disrepute. And therefore, people don't want to touch it. They think that they'll immediately be branded as fringe, and how could you be so revolutionary—this is a coup d'état, and all these mindless, wit-

less statements made to try to avoid the accountability that impeachment ought to bring to the Executive branch.

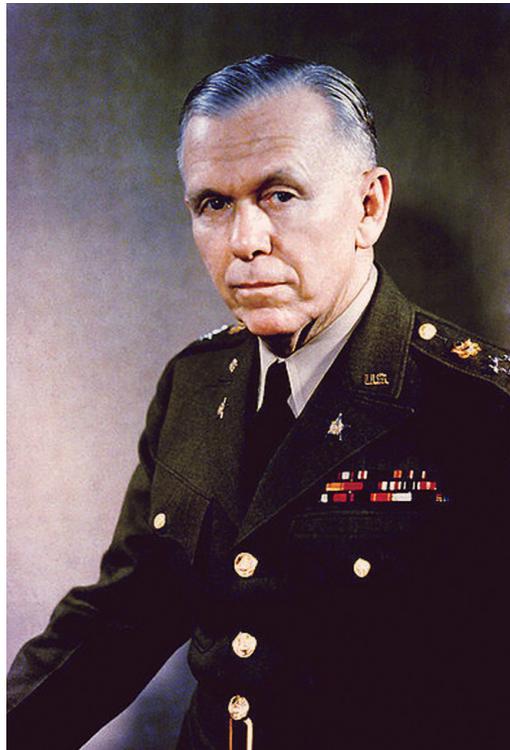
The Founders Would Be Stunned

Wilkerson: Just a couple of points.

First, I think the Founders—and there's plentiful evidence for this, in their letters, in the *Federalist* papers, even in the anti-federalists, the Founders would be stunned that we haven't thrown a scurrilous bastard out every generation. They'd be absolutely stunned. And they'd be equally stunned at how feckless our use of Article II impeachment powers has been. Because it has been feckless, whether we're looking at Andrew Johnson, or Bill Clinton, or whatever.

The second point is more important. This is not about President Obama. He just happens to be the occupant at the moment. Look from 1947 to 2012: This is a natural evolution of power. This is what was going to happen as soon as Harry Truman, on the 26th of July, put his signature to the 1947 National Security Act. [Gen.] George Marshall, perhaps the most iconic military figure other than George Washington in American history, and certainly the master of our victory in World War II, looked at the President and said, "Mr. President, I fear we have militarized the decision-making process."

Precisely the case. We have! Our foreign policy today is our military policy. Unified command, commanders around the world, make our foreign policy. The four-star in Hawaii, the admiral sitting in Hawaii, is more important in Tokyo and Beijing than *any* diplomat. In some cases, even more so than anyone from the White House, other than the President himself. Because he carries with him, when he goes in to see the prime minister of Japan, carrier battle groups, aircraft wings, marine amphibious groups, army divisions. The Assistant Secretary of State for regional affairs, in this case



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Wilkerson: George Marshall, "perhaps the most iconic military figure, other than George Washington, in American history," told Truman when he signed the National Security Act: "Mr. President, I fear we have militarized the decision-making process."

for East Asia and the Pacific, if he can even get in, carries a briefcase, empty.

That's *your country*, today. A representative from New York said recently at West Point, "America should give the world soldiers who...." Is that what America should give the world? Soldiers? That's what we're giving them.

And let me tell you: if you read the international news, you read the papers in Tehran, in Damascus, in Beirut, in Cairo, in Tripoli—the rest of the world, which is about 6 billion people, realizes it. And anybody who knows any theory of international relations at all, and any theory of power at all, knows that the rest of the world will eventually *marshal its forces and bring us down*.

It's that simple! That's the way the world works. Every empire in human history is gone, whether it's the empire of the

Khans, or the Thousand-Year Reich of Adolf Hitler. They're gone! Nowhere in the world is it written in stone that the American empire is an exception, different, and going to last forever. It isn't!

What I'm saying is, we need to last a little longer than next week. Because we *are* a total force for good in the world, not because of the military we thrust upon the world, *and the bayonets we arm for democracy*, but because our values, when they are exemplified, and adhered to, really do impact change in the world: whether it's human rights, human dignity, women's rights, or any of the things that we *say* we stand for, but often by our actions, *bastardize* completely.

That's why it's important we stay around for a while. Chaos and anarchy are the alternative. And we're doing our level best to create that chaos and anarchy right now.

The American People Don't Want War

Question: I have two questions for Colonel Wilkerson. [Russian] President Putin has said recently that one could open Guantanamo, and let everybody out to fight

in Syria, because these are the same people, the same people who the United States and NATO are fighting in Afghanistan. And if these are the people involved in the assassination of the ambassador in Benghazi, isn't that a little bit inconsistent? Which raises the question, that the United States in one country fights the same people who it's allied with in another country?

The second question is, that everybody in Europe thinks that a military strike by Israel against Iran, or any other country against Iran, inevitably leads to World War III. And I think that we are looking in the short term, at that danger. And this time, it's not going to be a war, just regional, but the concern is, will it be a thermonuclear war which will lead to the extinction of civilization?

Wilkerson: I agree with your first point. And I can just say, yes.

Your second point: We just—I say we, Ambassador Pickering, former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, Brent Scowcroft, former Central Command commanders Adm. Fox Fallon, Gen. Anthony Zinni, and others, just did a report. I recommend it to you all, if you haven't read it. It's been reviewed in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*, and a number of other places.³ And Frank Wisner, former ambassador to India, and Bill Luers, and I think Tom Pickering, are headed to the West Coast right now to do some press conferences out there.

This report is bipartisan, if you will, and a very careful analysis of what military force against Iran would do. It's very disquieting and very disconcerting, in the sense that, if you ask the basic question, to what purpose would we use military force, the answers aren't good. And when I say "we," I mean Israel alone, the United States alone, or somehow together—seriatim, or together. The answers aren't good.

The ultimate answer from me, as a military man who's studied Iran for almost eight years, for the purpose of stopping the Soviets from coming out of Afghanistan, and going to Chabahar and Bandar Abbas to get essentially warm-water ports, which is sort of the myth we had in the military in the '80s, while Iraq and Iran were fighting a war. I know the Zagros Mountains. I know where Alexander and his companions almost lost their lives in Iran. For someone's who's studied that territory, someone who understands what it would be

3. See "Retired Diplomats, Military Warn Against Strike on Iran," *EIR*, Sept. 21, 2012.

like to fight 70-plus million Iranians, 51% of whom are Persians, and what it would be like to occupy that country. Because that's the only way—invasion and occupation—that going to ensure yourself of what [Senators] Lindsey Graham and John McCain and Joe Lieberman and others want: regime change. And thus, no nuclear weapon.

It's 10 years, 500,000 troops, and \$3 trillion. That's the analysis.

The American people, by margins that are overwhelming—70%, 76%, 67% of my own party, the Republican Party—don't want war, don't want war with Iran. And yet, we're walking down a road where the President has said all options are on the table, and we know diplomacy is going to fail. Or at least 99% chance it's going to fail, because frankly, no one wants it to work. And I'm not so sure even the President does.

So, what do you do when you've said all this, and all the other options have failed? You back up and say, "Well, no, we won't have a war." I'm very concerned about that.

Does it have the potential to spread? You bet. Turkey, the most powerful army in NATO [after the United States]—Turkey has a *vested interest* in what happens. Iran has a vested interest in what happens.

I just met with the UN Ambassador from Iran, Mohammad Khazaei, in New York, and we talked about this, and I was encouraged to understand, that actually, under the table, things are happening that are positive, not the least of which is, perhaps, working out a channel, even without an incidents-at-sea agreement—which we should have—working out a channel between our two navies to talk to each other. So that we don't have an incident in the Gulf. It's the most crowded sea in the world right now, with U.S. warships, and Iranians, and so forth. An incident could happen at any moment.

That doesn't take into account the IRGC [Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps], which is the most volatile military element in Iran; they could still start an incident tomorrow morning, and Tehran might not have ordered it, in the sense of the Guardian Council, the Ayatollah, the President, or whatever—it might be just an errant IRGC commander. Particularly if they're afraid that some negotiations are going on that might succeed.

This is a very volatile situation.

Would China and Russia get involved? You bet. If we started a NATO no-fly zone over Syria, I wouldn't be surprised to see the Russians, either covertly (prob-

ably) or overtly (possibly), begin to sell their most sophisticated air defense missiles to Syria. Then they're going to start shooting down NATO airplanes; not one or two, but lots of them. Uh, that's a problem, isn't it?

Now as a military officer, I could paint you a scenario where we start a NATO no-fly zone over Syria, and wind up, in a year or two, with a general regional war, and then, within a year or two of that, possibly lots of big players fighting each other, first through surrogates, and then their own troops. That's not a very good scenario to contemplate. Certainly not where we should be headed.



DoD

Fein: "You know, at Nuremberg, that quaint, quaint precedent at Nuremberg, where the Nazi leadership was convicted of conducting aggressive war: It was made a war crime. And aggressive war is conducting war without the justification of self-defense." Shown: a U.S. nuclear bomb test.

The Glory of the United States Is Liberty

Fein: I'd like to make one observation about the idea of attacking Iran over having a nuclear capability, or acquiring a nuclear weapon. It underscores the total ruination of international law, to whatever the United States says it is at any time, and creates *huge* double standards that creates the resentment that I think Colonel Wilkerson is talking about, and all the rest of the world sees the incredible hypocrisy of the United States.

Now, I was struck the other day; on the front page of, I believe it was the *Washington Post*: On the one hand, you had a huge story on modernizing 5,100 nuclear warheads of the United States. No one was saying, in that story, if we possess these nuclear weapons, that's an act of war, and any country can attack us. Because we might use them like we did at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It just said, well, actually we need these for defensive purposes, mutual assured destruction.

Then you get, on the other hand, the stories about Netanyahu: Where's the red line we're drawing? Romney forgetting whether it's a capability or an actual weapon [in Iran]; but it is assumed in these discussions, both in Israel and in the United States, the mere act of acquiring a nuclear capability, by Iran alone, *is* an act of belligerency that triggers the right of self-defense, for us to attack.

Well, what's wrong with that picture? How can that

be? If that's the standard, any country in the world could attack Israel, right now? The United States, or all these others? I mean, it's amazing, it really is. Everyone says, of course, if they actually acquire a weapon, then militarily we're entitled to go in! I thought, well, you know, at Nuremberg, that quaint, quaint precedent at Nuremberg, where the Nazi leadership was convicted of conducting aggressive war. It was made a war crime. And aggressive war is conducting war without the justification of self-defense.

And remember: The theory of attacking Iran isn't that they've actually threatened to use the weapons. It isn't that there's an imminent danger that they're about to launch. Just the acquisition, *alone*, is an act of war.

How can that be international law? That's "might makes right" at its zenith.

Now, I want to also amplify a little bit upon what Colonel Wilkerson said about the Iranian situation expanding into a more global conflict. Because I think, even if Iran was off the table, you can see our own mindset is already contemplating a global conflict. You can go back as far as the last campaign. And remember, Senator McCain was saying, we are all Georgians now, when there was a fight over South Ossetia, and a few rocks there—like this was the Berlin Wall. And he said, we should all be ready to go to war, against Russia over South Ossetia!

And we already see our support, maybe not as vocal

as it might be, for Japan and the fighting over a few uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. Japan itself, for the first time in its history, is seriously contemplating altering Article 9 of its Constitution, which is the no-war clause which General MacArthur inserted, after World War II. And we are fully allied to Japan, committed to fighting for their sovereignty, in conflicts that they're involved in.

And you see the pivot from the Middle East to Asia. We've got Marines now in Australia, because we want to defend Vietnam against China in the South China Sea. You can see this inevitable, insatiable expansion, everywhere, to control everything that moves.

Cyber security: I'm sure we'll have the Mars rover—we'll be worried about whether that can be utilized in some way or another for national security, because, if you want anything funded, stick it in the Defense Department budget, right? I think they've even got a biofuels program the Navy uses, buying \$28 a gallon gasoline—you know, to spur the biofuels industry.

And I agree with everything that Colonel Wilkerson said about you've totally transformed who we are as a country, what our soul is. And this is what John Quincy Adams was asked: He was writing, as Secretary of State, his 1821 July Fourth address. Well, because the United States, at that time, wasn't a global power, and the United States was ridiculed: What have you done for the world, huh? Where are your pyramids? Where is your Great Chinese Wall? How come you don't have some kind of monument that you can give to mankind?

He said, no. The United States, the republic, the glory of the republic, is liberty. The glory of an empire is domination and control. He said, we could be dictators of the world, but we don't want to. Because our



Fein: John Quincy Adams said, "the glory of the republic is liberty. The glory of an empire is domination and control. We could be dictators of the world, but we don't want to. Because our policy would change from one of freedom, to one of coercion and power."

policy would change from one of freedom, to one of coercion and power.

And he was applauded! No one stood up and said, oh, you're so weak. How come you don't want to control the world? That's wrong-headed. And he said the march of the United States was the march of wisdom. The march of empires is the march of the foot soldier. And he rejected, the United States rejected, that idea.

And it found expression very early on, when all of Latin and Central America were in upheaval against the Portuguese and Spanish empires. Nobody claimed, "We have to intervene. We need to spread democracy everywhere, we're the military." We stood neutral, which is where we should, with regard to the use of force. It

doesn't mean, as Colonel Wilkerson said, that we're neutral with regard to values. Obviously, our own exercise of freedom has the influence of imitation, the influence of example.

And it can be powerful. Remember when the Democracy Wall was up in Beijing, in Tiananmen Square, and people were carrying around copies of the Declaration of Independence, and we encouraged that. We are human beings; we have values that we believe in. But we know they would be destroyed if we start to export them at the end of a bayonet.

Steinberg: If there are no further questions, I'd just like to thank Congressman Jones once again; thank Colonel Wilkerson, Bruce Fein, Colonel Shaffer, and urge people to really take to heart everything that's been said here today, because the survival of the country, and perhaps the survival of humankind, depends very much on these ideas being fought for, and that battle being won successfully.

So, thank you all for coming.

It's Not Just Words: Russian, U.S. Militaries in Action

by Rachel Douglas and Nancy Spannaus

Sept. 24—Those who choose to ignore the grim warnings of Lyndon LaRouche, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey, and the Russian leadership, about the imminent danger of a thermonuclear confrontation between Russia and the United States coming from the current U.S.-NATO regime-change efforts in the Middle East, need only look at the actual military deployments over the past month to see that danger. The escalation of outright military moves on both the U.S. and Russian sides, since the fateful murder of Libyan head of state Muammar Qaddafi, a little more than a year ago, has put the world on a pathway to destruction which must be derailed immediately, if mankind is to survive.

The Sept. 23 Sunday evening prime-time [review](#) of the week's news on Channel One, Russia's biggest TV network, provides a useful glimpse of this reality, from the Russian angle, and reveals its global implications. The show featured a seven-minute segment on the looming threat of war, focused on a threatened Israeli or U.S. attack on Iran, and included footage and maps of the Persian Gulf.

Here are excerpts:

“This week preparations were under way in the Persian Gulf for the possible use of force. *Judging by the concentration of military equipment, we may turn out to be just one step away from war.* These exercises are taking place in the Strait of Hormuz, off the coast of Iran. A record number of warships, in the region's entire

history, has assembled there—from over 30 countries, including the USA, Britain, and Saudi Arabia. Battleships, submarines, aircraft carriers, including Nimitz-class vessels with up to 70 fighter aircraft on board. The participants in these maneuvers do not conceal the fact that this show of force is addressed to Iran. . . . Maneuvers on such a scale have never before been conducted here. . . . Muscle-flexing is in full swing, heated up by bellicose rhetoric” (emphasis added).

At this point, Channel One showed the video clip of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, saying that the United States “must stop Iran” from getting nuclear weapons, by drawing a “red line.” “True, Washington replied that it will decide for itself whether to draw any red lines. But Israel is insisting, and hurrying them up,” the commentator said.

After discussing various contingencies, such as Israel not wanting to start a war without the United States while Obama has electoral considerations, Channel One interviewed Alexei Arbatov of the IMEMO Center for International Security, a Russian establishment thinktank run by the Academy of Sciences, who said: “The situation is extremely explosive. I would say that it is the most acute that it has been in the past 20 years.”

While noting that leading U.S. military officers are arguing against getting into a new war, nonetheless, Russian TV said correctly, “Wars can begin through a provocation.”



navaltoday.com

Russian media coverage described large-scale naval exercises in the Strait of Hormuz (shown here), aimed at Iran, as on a scale never before conducted there: “Muscle-flexing is in full swing, heated up by bellicose rhetoric,” noted Channel One.

U.S.-NATO on the Move

The Russian TV description of the Strait of Hormuz maneuvers, the International Mine Countermeasures Exercise which began Sept. 16 and run through Sept. 27, is accurate. U.S. thinktank spokesmen, as well, have noted the extraordinary firepower being deployed in this maneuver.

While the minesweeping maneuver deliberately is not entering the Strait, an extremely crowded body of water where accidental encounter with the Iranians could well occur, that is no guarantee against such a conflict. An opinion piece by *Washington Post* senior columnist David [Ignatius](#), “Lessons from an Iranian war game,” underscored that point. Ignatius was permitted to observe the game, held in Washington, and including former top U.S. officials and prominent Iranian-American experts, and his conclusion, undoubtedly shared by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was stark: “The game showed how easy it was for each side to misread the other’s signals.”

For one thing, Ignatius puts President Obama, whom he assumes has been re-elected, directly on the side of war. But he leaves it to the reader to fill in the next step: that a U.S. strike on Iran’s nuclear facility, be it conventional or nuclear, will inevitably bring in Iran’s

ally and northern neighbor, Russia.

U.S. and allied military deployments are not simply occurring around Iran, obviously. The move for regime change in Syria also represents a flash-point for the Southwest Asia region, as Russia has repeatedly pointed out, and Col. Lawrence Wilkerson (ret.) elaborated in his answer to a question on the danger of World War III, in Rep. Walter Jones’ press conference on Sept. 21 (see *Feature*). Israel itself, which *cannot* afford to take military action against Iran without American guarantees and backup, held surprise maneuvers on the border with Syria just last week.

The Asia-Pacific Region

And then there’s the Asia-Pacific region, where the recent trip by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta resulted in an escalation of tensions with China and Russia, over his announcement of an agreement with Japan on stationing another missile defense station in that nation. Allegedly, such “defense” stations are aimed at “rogue states,” in this case North Korea, but, as Russian and Chinese commentaries have pointed out, Japan is in no danger from North Korea’s capability. The only conceivable reason for such a deployment is to further the encirclement of China, and, as in the case of the encirclement of Russia, render that nation’s defenses against a first strike impotent. It is for that reason that, in an unsigned *Global Times* editorial March 29, Beijing warned that “an overarching missile defense system would force China to change its long-held nuclear policy” of no first use of nuclear weapons.

There are also moves “on the ground” in Asia that, while they seem to be merely local skirmishes, could prove to be provocations for larger confrontations in the current superheated international climate, specifically, the conflict between Japan and China over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands.

Now, let’s look at the Russian military preparations to deal with U.S./NATO moves.

staff and operational groups in directing the military command agencies, units, and troops subordinate to them, including through the use of modern automated command-and-control systems.”

Long-Range Planning

The Russian decision to upgrade the particulars of these two, related sets of exercises—Kavkaz-2012 and the Strategic Missile Forces training—evidently followed close on the heels on two events in late 2011: the murder of Libyan leader Qaddafi in October; and then-President Dmitri Medvedev’s public announcement in December, that diplomatic efforts to halt the U.S./NATO unilateral European Ballistic Missile Defense (Euro BMD) system from going ahead had been unsuccessful, that the Euro BMD was a strategic threat to Russia, and that it would be countered militarily.

By January 2012, Russian military sources were making it known that the September 2012 schedule of military exercises would feature complete, combined-arms integration. In particular, *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*’s well-informed military analyst reported Jan. 17 that the Russian General Staff was mapping out “large-scale staff exercises based on a possible U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran”; this would happen in September, and would involve the Strategic Missile Forces. Furthermore, it was reported then, the script for Kavkaz-2012 would “differ from last year’s exercises in this series, by being larger-scale and more closely approximating actual current military and political conditions,” including a scenario of “a possible war by the U.S.A. and several other countries against Iran, as well as other possible conflicts in the Caspian and Southern Caucasus region.”

Throughout preparations for Kavkaz-2012, Russian defense sources described these exercises as “strategic.” Russian and Georgian press reported that Russia had shifted the physical location of the training out of the Chechen Republic, in order to avoid giving Georgia’s President Michael Saakashvili a pretext for any wild actions. On Sept. 5, RIA Novosti reported the announcement by another Russian Ministry of Defense spokesman, Alexander Kucherenko, that Russian airborne forces would be involved in 10 different exercises during the month, including Kavkaz-2012, and international maneuvers with Belarus and with the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Countering Euro BMD

In an interview with Russia Today television, broadcast Sept. 6, Putin addressed an array of strategic matters, including the situation in Syria and in Southwest Asia as a whole. A recurring polemic in the interview was that people pushing various scenarios in crisis areas are hell-bent on their short-term schemes, “and hardly ever think of the consequences that will follow.”

On strategic military relations, Putin said that the U.S. missile defense system now being deployed, particularly in Europe, “is surely one of the key issues on today’s agenda, because it involves Russia’s vital interests.” He forcefully presented the Russian understanding that the Euro BMD system’s “ambition is to upset the strategic balance, which is a very dangerous thing to do, as any party involved will always strive to maintain its defensive capabilities, and the entire thing could simply trigger an arms race.” As for negotiations on alternatives to the unilateral U.S./NATO Euro BMD system, Putin said: “We did what we could,” citing the Russian offers of a joint missile defense program. “Our partners are so far refusing to go along. What else can we do?”

Russia unquestionably is doing a number of things in response, militarily. Strategic Missile Forces chief Gen. Sergey Karakayev, who commanded the early-September command-staff exercises, told RIA Novosti on Sept. 3 that Russia will have a new intercontinental ballistic missile deployed by 2018, which is capable of penetrating the Euro BMD system. “It is necessary to note the new missiles’ ability to be invulnerable before launch, thanks to their mobility, as well as their ability to tackle the task of defeating any possible missile defense system within the next 15-20 years, should such a need arise,” General Karakayev stated. An article on the Russia Today website noted that Karakayev’s comments show that Russia “is preparing an asymmetrical response by developing weapons capable of breaching the system.”

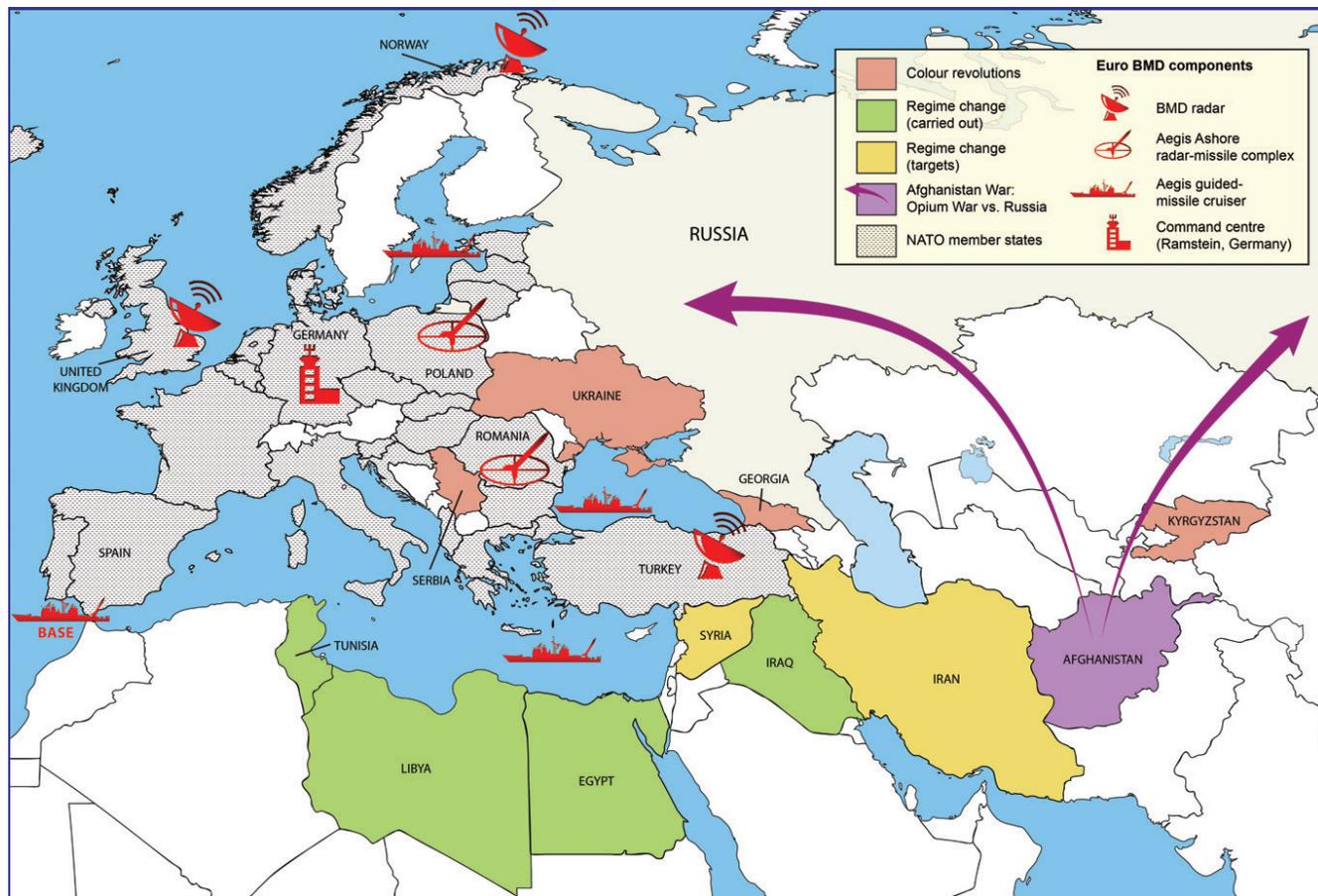
There are also official and unofficial indications of Russian attention to the global scope of U.S. BMD planning, as being aimed against both Russia and China (while it is claimed that this is geared to Iran and North Korea).

Now, the Arctic

The issue of Asian, and even possible Arctic BMD deployments, came up in the Russian media, too, in

FIGURE 2

Ring Around Russia: Threats to a Great Power That Won't Back Down



The New Citizen

President Putin told a conference on Strategic Nuclear that, “nuclear arms . . . remain a truly important guarantee of Russia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and play a key role in supporting global and regional equilibrium and stability.”

connection with a naval deployment that jumped into the news Sept. 20, when a helicopter based on the nuclear-powered cruiser *Pyotr Veliky*, the flagship of the Northern Fleet, was totalled in a hard landing. What put the accident in the headlines was where it happened: in the Kara Sea along Russia’s Arctic Coast, near Kotelny Island in the Novosibirsk Archipelago. The incident touched off intense public discussion, during which one retired military officer drew out the world-war implications of U.S. ship-based anti-missile deployments to Russia’s north.

In the past, large surface ships have ventured into this region only if accompanied by an icebreaker, but lower Arctic ice levels have allowed the Northern Sea Route to be used more freely. For decades, surface ships

of the Northern Fleet have left Murmansk only to the west, into the Atlantic, never sailing eastward along the Arctic coast. According to an article by Victor Savonkov for Svpressa.ru, the last time a large battleship was in the Kara Sea region was August 1942, when a German heavy cruiser sank the Soviet icebreaker *Alexander Sibiryakov*.

Svpressa.ru interviewed Russian naval experts on what the *Pyotr Veliky*’s mission might be in the Kara Sea, given that it is not an antisubmarine warfare platform, and the type of surface ships it would potentially engage do not frequent the Arctic coast. Adm. Valentin Selivanov (ret.), former commander of Russia’s Mediterranean Squadron, said that, besides taking advantage of the weather to reach relatively nearby training areas

that were not previously so accessible, a major factor was “to demonstrate that we are prepared to defend our interests in the Arctic militarily.”

Col. Anatoli Tsyganok, director of the Center for Military Forecasting, told Svpressa.ru that another reason might be the deployment of U.S. Aegis-equipped ships in the Arctic, which would position them within striking distance of “the shortest trajectories of our ICBMs to the USA.” The Aegis radar/anti-missile system is the main component of the U.S. Euro BMD program, which Moscow identifies as a threat to its strategic nuclear deterrent. “It is not to be excluded,” said Tsyganok, that the *Pyotr Veliky*’s cruise is related to such concerns. “The Americans are developing their BMD system in the north, just as in the south. Aegis-equipped ships regularly enter the Bering Strait,” he asserted. “This is a threat to our security. Because it’s one thing if BMD-equipped vessels appear along our southern borders and in the Mediterranean, but in the event of war, Russian missiles will fly to the USA across the North Pole. So it’s another matter altogether, when such ships show up to the north of our country, and seek the ability to shoot down our missiles in the most vulnerable, boost phrase.”

Prioritizing Military Industry

In July, Putin held meetings at his Summer residence in Sochi, and took tours to key military areas, for discussions on putting the Russian military-industrial complex into shape. On July 26, he met with officers and officials in charge of Russia’s Strategic Nuclear Forces and Aerospace Defense Troops. Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin, Minister of Industry Denis Manturov, Roscosmos head Gen. Vladimir Popovkin (ret.), and the director of the nuclear agency Rosatom, Sergei Kiriyyenko, were in attendance, along with Ministry of Defense representatives. The Kremlin’s announcement called it a “Meeting on Implementation of the State Armaments Program for Nuclear Deterrence,” a reference to the thermonuclear weapons that would be



Presidential Press and Information Office

Russian President Putin, addressing troops Sept. 17, on the occasion of the Kazkav-2012 military exercises, noted somberly, “You see what is going on in the world and how, unfortunately, the use of force in international affairs is increasing. . . . We must increase Russia’s defense capabilities.” Putin is shown here (center), observing the exercises.

fired at the United States and its allies in the event of an attack on Russia.

Earlier, Putin held conferences on implementing the government’s Ground Forces and Air Force programs. The session on the Strategic Nuclear Forces was highlighted on national TV, including Putin’s statement that “nuclear arms . . . remain a truly important guarantee of Russia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and play a key role in supporting global and regional equilibrium and stability.” Citing the need for the aerospace defense system to be “in a constant state of combat readiness, taking into account potential enemies’ plans for developing offensive measures,” Putin noted that “nearly all the nations that possess nuclear weapons and aerospace assault weapons are working to improve and develop them.

Russia, he said, has no plans to engage in an arms race, “but there should be no doubt as to the reliability and efficacy of our nuclear potential, as well as our aerospace defence system.” He said that “a significant part of financial resources within the state armament program” will be allocated to upgrading the Strategic Nuclear and Aerospace Defense Forces. “By 2020 the share of modern weapons in our Strategic Nuclear Forces should be at 75-80%, and for Aerospace Defence Troops this figure should be no less than 70%.”

On July 30, Putin traveled to the northern city of Severodvinsk in the Arkhangelsk Region, to speak at a ceremony marking the beginning of construction of Russia's fourth Borey-class nuclear ballistic-missile submarine, and to preside over a meeting on the future Navy construction program. In his remarks, Putin mentioned both the naval component of Russia's strategic nuclear forces, and the rebuilding of other components of the Navy to defend areas such as the Arctic. The program calls for investing about 4.5 trillion rubles (nearly \$150 billion) over the next several years, for the construction of 51 modern surface warships, 16 nuclear attack submarines, and 8 nuclear ballistic missile submarines by 2020 (2 of which are now undergoing trials). This will allow the share of modern vessels and equipment in the Navy to be brought to 70% by 2020, Putin said. "Resuming the serial construction of new-generation ships," he added, "should go hand-in-hand with modernizing shipbuilding enterprises and other defense industry companies."

After these sessions devoted to each of the branches of the Russian Armed Forces, Putin on Aug. 31 held a pair of conferences on the strategic dimensions of economic policy. With Russian government and State Duma deliberations set to resume in September on the 2013 budget, under enormous monetarist pressures for budget-cutting because of the world economic crisis, Putin focused on the absolute priority of restoring Russia's military-industrial sector. Thus, these sessions on military-economic policy also served to underscore the tense international military-strategic situation.

Addressing an expanded session of the Russian Security Council, Putin presented the military modernization plans as "ambitious," and cited the "record amounts of money" to be invested in defense procurement and modernization: 23 trillion rubles (\$750 billion) over ten years. He acknowledged that "many of our companies are still in the past century, technologically speaking," and that in the course of more than three decades, the defense production plants "have missed out on several modernization cycles." Later in the day, Putin met with Deputy Prime Minister Rogozin and Roscosmos head Popovkin to discuss personnel changes to address the recent rocket-launch failures.

At the Security Council meeting, Putin also emphasized the idea, often stated by Rogozin, that the military-industrial sector should function as a locomotive to pull the whole economy along—or, at the very least,

serve as a safe haven, where engineering and other skilled personnel might be preserved, even as domestic industry as a whole comes under new pressures such as competition from foreign imports, now that Russia has joined the WTO, and budget cuts in the so-called "state order" (government contracts).

Regarding this potential interface between the defense industry and the economy as a whole, the problem that bedeviled Soviet planners throughout the Cold War, Putin said:

"Our position is that by creating a modernized and effective defense industry we can ensure a big growth potential for the entire national economy. The bulk of our advanced technology is in the defense industry, and civilian goods account for more than 30% of the sector's total output. There is steady demand for these goods in the energy, metals, machine-building, communications, and other industries. This is not some discovery we have made in this country, but is the way things work all around the world. The defense industry has always been an engine pulling the other manufacturing sectors along behind it. Of course, a stable and effective defense industry is also crucial for the prosperity and prospects in life for thousands of skilled workers, engineers, and designers. The defense industry brings together 1,353 organizations and companies in 64 regions of the country, and employs more than 2 million people. Just think how many that makes if you add their families and the people working in related sectors and so on."

Summarizing, Putin made a startling comparison with the period of the Soviet Union's first Five-Year Plans: "In short, we will have to modernize the entire defense industry and the way it works, and carry out the same kind of comprehensive and powerful modernization drive that was achieved in the 1930s." The implications were not drawn out in this presentation, but such a "mobilization economy" is very different from the nostrums about privatization and "improving the investment climate," which are otherwise being repeated constantly by Russian officials, including Putin.

Putin said Russia should not hesitate to imitate foreign defense technologies, but having only assembly plants using imported components would be a "dead end," so Russia "should develop complete production cycles, from development through to mass production and spare parts supply, here in Russia. This is the guarantee of our national, technological, and defense security."

There Is an Alternative to War and Hyperinflation

Sept. 25—“We are holding this international webcast to generate an international debate about the situation that there *is* an alternative to the present policies, and I want to call on all of you, on this occasion, to mobilize for the realization of this alternative, which I’m going to present to you today.” Thus Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairwoman of the German political party Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo), and founder of the Schiller Institute, began her [webcast](#) on Sept. 22, which was entitled “An Alternative to Hyperinflation and Thermo-nuclear War.”

The event drew listeners from at least 38 countries, and questions came in from activists all around the world, including Russia, Austria, Italy, Ireland, and Greece, all of whom were seeking answers to the increasingly desperate situations in their countries. Zepp-LaRouche, often drawing on the great German Classical poet Friedrich Schiller, sought in each case to inspire the questioners to have the courage to inspire others to come forward and force a debate on reversing the current paradigm of monetarism and war-mongering. Instead, she said, there should be a system based on international collaboration to discover the means of achieving the common aims of mankind.

Evil Reproduces Itself

Zepp-LaRouche devoted the first part of her presentation to a thorough review of both the danger of a thermonuclear confrontation, primarily from trigger points in the Middle East, and the policy of hyperinflation *cum* murderous austerity now killing the world economy and its people. But what is the generating principle behind these developments? She put it this way:

“What comes to mind at this point, is a quote by Friedrich Schiller from his *Wallenstein Trilogy*, the *Piccolomini* part, Act 5, Scene 1: that it is the curse of the

evil deed that it permanently must regenerate new evil deeds.

“Where this applies, in my view, is what happened at the Trilateral Commission meeting in 1975 in Tokyo, where not only was it decided to have a policy of the so-called controlled disintegration of the world economy, a conscious de-industrialization, post-industrial utopian scheme, which was part of the paradigm which is responsible for the present collapse of the trans-Atlantic region; but, what was also decided at that point was the policy of the Islamic card against the Soviet Union, in the war against Afghanistan. And this led to creation and support of the mujahideen, in the 10 years from the ’80s, contributing to the end of the Soviet Union.”

Of course, as she elaborated, this policy by the leading Anglo-American institutions, under the influence of the genocidal British monarchy, did not stop with the elimination of the Soviet Union. It continued with the 9/11 terrorism in the United States, in which the Saudi role was covered up; with the endless wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan which ensued; and now with a 9/11 Take Two, demonstrated with the murder of the U.S. Ambassador in Benghazi, Libya, and the spread of Islamic fundamentalist uprisings all around the world.

The same is true in terms of the economic policy. As Zepp-LaRouche put it:

“Now, we are today in Europe at a point which reminds you of Friedrich Schiller’s remarks in *Don Carlos*, where the Marquis of Posa accuses King Philip that his policy for Spain is only bringing the peace of a graveyard. Now that is the danger confronting all of Europe. All these proposals which are on the table right now—the European Stability Mechanism as a permanent bailout fund, the mutualization of the debt, Eurobonds, a “United States of Europe”—all of this will not function, because simply there is no “European people.” We have a minimum of 27 nations, 27 histories, languages, and nobody in Europe,



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Zepp-LaRouche at the webcast: Defeat those who want to return to feudalism and malthusianism!

except for a minor bureaucracy and some people who profit from the present system, regard themselves as a “European nation.” We are not.

“This, again, is the curse of the evil deed which permanently gives rebirth to more evil. Namely, when the euro was enforced on Europe, especially on Germany, as the price for German unification. It was the geopolitical aim to turn Europe into the junior partner in the Anglo-American empire at the time. And remember that [Giuliano] Amato—who was one of the architects of the reformulation of the European Constitution to become only a treaty, because it had been flatly voted “no” by the French and the Dutch populations—had actually said, why not go back to the [Middle Ages](#), because feudalism was such a beautiful thing! And that is exactly what the present policy of the EU represents.”

Of course, feudalism was *not* such a beautiful thing—unless you want to rapidly reduce the population of the planet. That should be a marker for the major force in favor of depopulation globally, the British monarchy.

The Alternative

Zepp-LaRouche concluded her remarks by outlining the global development program of the LaRouche political movement, starting with Glass-Steagall banking separation, which she urged listeners to fight for in their countries.

Second, she called for cancellation of all the EU treaties, from Maastricht to Lisbon, a return to national sovereignty which functioned quite well.

Third, she elaborated the necessity for a credit system, which is concretely focused around a global development plan, especially the [Program for an Economic Miracle in Southern Europe, the Mediterranean Region, and Africa](#), which began to be circulated by the Schiller Institute and *EIR* several months ago. She illustrated how this plan was linked into the World Land-Bridge, and blasted the obstructions to that plan which come from the Green anti-human paradigm.

The other paradigm that has to be changed, she said, is that of geopolitics, which calls for an escalating conflict between the trans-Atlantic region, and Russia and China. The alternative to this approach requires not just “war avoidance” per se, but collaboration between the two regions on the common threats to their existence, specifically the threats from space that are represented by potential asteroid strikes on Earth. Zepp-LaRouche specifically noted two proposals already on the table, the Euro-Atlantic Security Initiative, and the Strategic Defense of Earth proposal by the former Russian ambassador to NATO, Dmitri Rogozin.

She ended on a note of optimism: “Now, the reason why, despite all the existing dangers, I’m so optimistic that it is possible, has to do with the thinking of such people as Nicolaus of Cusa and Johannes Kepler, who, by studying the stars, came to the conclusion that the universe is so full of beauty, that it clearly reflects, in its lawfulness, a loving Creator. And that if we do our job right now, and act in the image of that Creator, I think that we have reached a *punctum saliens* in mankind’s history, where we can make the jump, so that mankind finally can become adult.”

Obama's Coverup of Benghazi, New 9/11, Starts To Collapse

by Edward Spannaus

Sept. 24—Within days of the mass circulation of Lyndon LaRouche's statement, demanding Obama's immediate impeachment for his complicity in a new 9/11, and for ignoring specific warnings of a possible attack in Benghazi, Libya (see last issue), the White House coverup of the truth about the attack on the U.S. consulate there, began to unravel. The most noticeable shift was when, on Sept. 20, White House press spokesman Jay Carney was forced to admit that the Sept. 11 killing of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other U.S. employees was an act of terrorism. Just days earlier, he and U.S. Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice had been desperately claiming that the attack was a spontaneous act of mob violence in response to a pathetic anti-Islam movie trailer posed on YouTube, and not a premeditated attack on the anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001.

Moreover, as more details about the period leading up to the attack, and concerning the attack itself, have come out, it becomes more and more clear that not only did President Obama and the White House ignore warnings that an attack was likely, but they more or less ignored the attack itself, taking no action when notified of it, and not letting it interrupt Obama's campaign schedule.

Leading the coverup are Ambassador Rice and Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, who has tried desperately to stall

any Senate probe of the killings or any independent investigation.

The consequences of letting this process continue are deadly. Just as was done under the Bush Administration, the Obama Administration is colluding with forces from the British and Saudi monarchies, to perpetrate a 9/11 Take Two, one that threatens a rapid march toward World War III. The coverup must be broken, and Obama removed from power immediately, for collusion with enemies of the United States.

The 'Spontaneous' Myth

Numerous eye-witnesses have come forward to contradict the White House cover story that the attack was a spontaneous outgrowth of a protest demonstration that could not have been foreseen. In fact, it is now clear that there was no protest at the consulate, such as took place in other countries at U.S. embassies, before the attack began in Benghazi. New evidence about advance warnings of an attack—too numerous to recount here—is also coming out daily.

For example, within two days of the attack, McClatchy newspapers interviewed a Libyan security guard who was at the U.S. consulate when it was attacked, who said that the area around the consulate was quiet—"there wasn't a single ant outside"—until about 9:35 p.m., when as many as 125 heavily armed men descended on the compound from all directions.



The attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, Sept. 11, 2012. Where were the Marines? The Obama Administration's coverup is beginning to unravel, as more and more of the facts come to light.

He said the attackers lobbed grenades into the compound, wounding the guard and knocking him to the ground, then stormed through the facility's main gate.

A widely circulated CBS News clip from Sept. 20 emphasized that witnesses are saying that "there was never an anti-American protest outside of the consulate," adding: "Instead, they say, it came under planned attack. That is in direct contradiction to the Administration's account of the incident."

Even a detailed chronology published in the Sept. 21 edition of the *New York Times*—hardly an anti-Obama publication—pointed out that what it called the "most significant inconsistency" between U.S. and Libyan accounts is over the question of whether the attacks began with a protest over the anti-Muslim film. While U.S. officials insist that there was a small protest which was "hijacked by armed militants," the *Times* reports, "Libyan witnesses, including two guards at the building, say the area around the compound was quiet until the attackers arrived, firing their weapons and attacking the compound from three sides."

Who Was 'Protecting' the Consulate?

There were no Marines outside or inside the consulate, in contrast to most other embassies and missions. The *New York Times* account, as do many others,

identified the guards outside the compound as consisting of two groups: 1) three guards from the Libyan 17th of February Brigade, and 2) five Libyans contracted by the British security firm Blue Mountain. Let's look more closely at each of these, to shed more light on how the operation was run.

The 17th of February Brigade, formed in 2011 at the beginning of the uprising against Muammar Qaddafi, is part of Libya's security forces. The *Newsweek*-owned Daily Beast website reported on Sept. 21, that two U.S. intelligence officials had said that the intelligence community is analyzing an intercept between a Libyan politician, whose sympathies are known to be with al-Qaeda, and the 17th of February Bri-

gade, which was providing security to the consulate. "In the intercept," says reporter Eli Lake, "the Libyan politician apparently asks an officer in the brigade to have his men stand down for a pending attack—another piece of evidence implying the violence was planned in advance."

So much for the security provided by this half of the outside-the-compound force. The other part was provided by the British Blue Mountain Group—joined at the hip with the British SAS (Special Air Services, the leading British special operations force).

On Sept. 19, after forcefully denying it the previous week, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland admitted that the Blue Mountain Group had indeed been contracted by the State Department to provide security for the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. This had been first reported by Wired.com's "Danger Room," which learned that State had signed a contract with Blue Mountain on May 3 to provide security for the consulate, even though Blue Mountain is not on the State Department's list of approved contractors for diplomatic security. As *EIR* has determined, the Federal government's contract database shows two contracts for security guards—one dated Feb. 17, and one May 3—funded by the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security.

But, as first pointed out by Breitbart News, Blue Mountain was not identified as the vendor in that sum-

mary of the contract, but instead, the vendor was listed as “Miscellaneous Foreign Awardee.” The vendor contact address and phone number are not for the office of Blue Mountain Group, but for a General Services Administration office in Washington, D.C. However, the State Department has confirmed that the vendor for these contracts is Blue Mountain.

One can see why the State Department might not want to brag about its contacting with Blue Mountain. Its personnel overlap with other British intelligence/security groups that *EIR* has profiled for many years for their dirty operations in Africa, including Control Risks and Executive Outcomes. Its website boasts: “Our core expertise derives from our heritage, gained from many

Hillary Knows Saudis Fund Global Jihadi Terror

Sept. 24—A senior U.S. intelligence official told *EIR* recently that, since 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been fully aware that Saudi Arabia is the number one source of funds for global jihadi terrorism, and that she attempted to do something about it—in stark contrast to President Obama.

We present two statements by Clinton from 2009.

On April 23, 2009, in testimony before a House Appropriations Subcommittee, Clinton acknowledged the Saudi role in creating what became al-Qaeda. In discussing the situation with Pakistan and Afghanistan, she stated:

“Let’s remember here, the people we are fighting today, we funded 20 years ago, and we did it because we were locked in a struggle with the Soviet Union. . . . And it was President Reagan in partnership with Congress, led by Democrats, who said: ‘You know what—it sounds like a pretty good idea. Let’s deal with the ISI and the Pakistan military, and let’s go recruit these mujahideen. That’s great, let’s get some from Saudi Arabia and other places, importing their Wahhabi brand of Islam so that we can go beat the Soviet Union.’

“And guess what: [The Soviets] retreated; they lost billions of dollars, and it led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. So there is a very strong argument which is, it wasn’t a bad investment to end the Soviet Union, but let’s be careful with what we sow, because we will harvest.”

Second, the same intelligence source pointed to a Dec. 30, 2009 State Department cable from the Sec-

retary to State Department and Treasury Department officials, which he described as “the real smoking gun” on Saudi terror funding. The 11-page secret cable, referred to as an “action request,” was published by Wikileaks and the London *Guardian* on Dec. 5, 2010:

“In August 2009,” the cable began, “Special Representative to the President for Afghanistan and Pakistan (S/SRAP) Ambassador Richard Holbrooke in coordination with the Department of Treasury established the interagency Illicit Finance Task Force (IFTF). The IFTF is chaired by Treasury A/S David Cohen. It focuses on disrupting illicit finance activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the external financial/logistical support networks of terrorist groups that operate there, such as al-Qa’ida, the Taliban, and Lashkar e-Tayyiba (LeT). The IFTF’s activities are a vital component of the USG’s Afghanistan and Pakistan (Af/Pak) strategy dedicated to disrupting illicit finance flows between the Gulf countries and Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

In the next section of the memo, Clinton singled out Saudi Arabia: “While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) takes seriously the threat of terrorism within Saudi Arabia, it has been an ongoing challenge to persuade Saudi officials to treat terrorist financing emanating from Saudi Arabia as a strategic priority. . . . [D]onors in Saudi Arabia constitute the most significant source of funding to Sunni terrorist groups worldwide.

“More needs to be done since Saudi Arabia remains a critical financial support base for al-Qa’ida, the Taliban, LeT and other terrorist groups, including Hamas, which probably raises millions of dollars annually from Saudi sources, often during Hajj and Ramadan.”

—Jeffrey Steinberg and Edward Spannaus

years service in UK Special Forces, with operational skills and expertise acquired from both the SBS and SAS, together with specialist police and intelligence units.” (SBS refers to Special Boat Services, a long-standing component of the British special operations forces.)

The State Department’s reasons for hiring Blue Mountain are suspect on another count. Breitbart.com says that an intelligence source told it that the Administration’s policy following Qaddafi’s death was to keep a low profile, and this is why U.S. Marines were not stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli or the consulate in Benghazi, as would typically have been the case. Further, in the spirit of keeping a low profile, the Obama Administration didn’t even want an American company in charge of private security, so it hired the British firm, Blue Mountain, which was willing to abide by the “no bullets” Rules of Engagement. “In essence,” Breitbart says, “the Obama Administration tasked an unarmed British firm with security responsibilities that should have been handled by armed American servicemen.”

To sum it up: Of the two groups of security guards responsible for protecting the U.S. consulate on the outside, one was apparently infiltrated by al-Qaeda, and the other was a direct arm of British Intelligence. Is it any wonder that the consulate was overrun with little or no resistance?

The Cover Story Falls Apart

After over of a week of claiming that the Benghazi attacks were a “spontaneous” outgrowth of protest demonstrations, the cover story began to crumble when, on Sept. 19, an Obama Administration official called the assault on the consulate a “terrorist attack.” At a hearing of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Matthew Olsen, when asked about the deaths of Ambassador Stevens and the three other Americans, stated that “they were killed in the course of a terrorist attack on our embassy.” When asked if his agency has any idea who was responsible, Olsen said that “a number of different elements” appear to have been involved, and that there are indications that some of those involved may have been connected to al-Qaeda, and particularly to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

Otherwise, Olsen, a career intelligence official who served in the DOJ and NSA during the Bush Adminis-

tration, stuck fairly closely to the Administration line, in saying that U.S. officials don’t have “specific intelligence that there was significant advanced planning or coordination” for the attack. He still called it an “opportunistic” attack which evolved and escalated over several hours.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Me.), a leading member of the Homeland Security Committee, sharply disputed Olsen’s assessment about the lack of premeditation. “I will tell you based on the briefings I have had,” Collins stated, “I’ve come to the opposite conclusion, and agree with the President of Libya that this was a premeditated planned attack that was associated with the anniversary of 9/11. I just don’t think that people come to protest equipped with RPGs and other heavy weapons, and the reports of complicity, and they are many, with the Libyan guards who were assigned to guard the consulate, also suggests to me that this was premeditated.”

Earlier, in her opening statement, Collins had declared: “In my judgment, which is informed by numerous briefings and discussions with experts, this was not a ‘black swan’ [completely unexpected] event, but rather an attack which should have been anticipated.” Collins also charged that there was an “inexplicable lack of security” at the consulate in Benghazi.

When asked by Collins if there were any indications of communications between extremist elements and the Libyan guards at the consulate, Olsen didn’t deny it, but said that it would be better addressed in the closed-door briefings scheduled for the next day.

Olsen’s testimony was picked up by the news media and widely characterized as a break from the White House line that the attacks were a spontaneous protest against an amateurish anti-Islam video. Senator Collins was also widely quoted as saying that she agrees with the President of Libya that “this was a premeditated planned attack” timed for the anniversary of 9/11, and that “I just don’t think people come to protest equipped with RPGs and other heavy weapons.”

As a consequence, on the next day after the Senate hearing, White House spokesman Carney finally admitted that it was a “terrorist attack.” After over a week of evasion and obfuscation, Carney acknowledged: “It is, I think, self-evident that what happened in Benghazi was a terrorist attack. Our embassy was attacked violently, and the result was four deaths of American offi-

cials. So, again, that's self-evident." Why this was "self-evident" on Sept. 20, but had been denied for the past week, was left unexplained by Carney.

The day after Carney's about-face, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton herself characterized the killings as terrorism.

Advance Warnings

Evidence of advance warnings that an attack was possible or likely, continues to be widely circulated.

The *Wall Street Journal* noted in a detailed Sept. 21 account that there had been "a string of attacks" in Benghazi in the period leading up to Sept. 11, including an IED explosion outside the compound on June 6, in which a perimeter wall was damaged. On June 11, an RPG hit a convoy in Benghazi carrying the British Ambassador, and two guards were injured, causing the British to close their consulate. On Aug. 27, the State Department issued a travel warning for Libya, citing a threat of assassinations and car bombings in both Tripoli and Benghazi. And, as is usual, in the days before Sept. 11, U.S. intelligence agencies issued warnings of increased security risks around the anniversary of the attacks in 2001.

It has now been learned that Ambassador Stevens was concerned about terrorist threats. His personal, handwritten journal, obtained by CNN, shows that he was worried about the security threats in Benghazi, and that he believed he was on al-Qaeda "hit list."

On Sept. 20, in response to an inquiry from the *Huffington Post*, CNN's Anderson Cooper declared: "On Wednesday of this week, we reported that a source familiar with Ambassador Stevens's thinking said in the months before his death, Ambassador Stevens talked about being worried about what he called the 'the never-ending security threats in Benghazi.' We also reported that the Ambassador specifically mentioned 'the rise in Islamic extremism,' 'the growing al-Qaeda presence in Libya,' and said he was 'on an al-Qaeda hit list'.... Some of that information was found in a personal journal of Ambassador Stevens in his handwriting."

The State Department went berserk, charging that CNN's reporting on Stevens' journal was "indefensible." CNN defended its actions, saying that they had notified Stevens' family about the journal, and explained: "We think the public had a right to know what CNN had learned from multiple sources about the fears and warnings of a terror threat before the Benghazi

attack, which are now raising questions about why the State Department didn't do more to protect Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. personnel. Perhaps the real question here is, why is the State Department now attacking the messenger?"

One thing that the State Department ought to disclose, is whether Ambassador Stevens had expressed his concerns in cables or e-mails to State Department headquarters or others; it seems likely that he would have.

Kerry Protects Obama

Senator Kerry, ever Obama's water-boy, who facilitated Obama's illegal and unconstitutional war on Libya, has now been greasing the way for a coverup of the Benghazi attacks. At a Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting on Sept. 19, Kerry killed a bill introduced by Sens. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) and Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), which would have required the State Department to report to Congress on last week's attacks in Libya, Egypt, and Yemen, within 30 days. Kerry has also fought to prevent any investigation by the Senate itself.

Kerry stated that the Corker-DeMint bill was not needed, because the State Department is setting up a panel (supposedly "independent and bipartisan") to investigate the Benghazi attack. Kerry said that Deputy Secretary of State Tom Nides had told him the Department had already begun setting up the panel, which, Kerry said, would be independently appointed and accountable to Congress.

However, this panel, known as an Accountability Review Board, is only required to be convened within 60 days of the attack. According to Josh Rogin, writing in "The Cable" blog on the *Foreign Policy* website, these boards typically take an average of 65 days to complete their work, and then, after completion, the results must be submitted to Congress within 90 days after the Secretary of State receives the findings. Rogin notes: "According to that timeline, the board would issue its report in January and Congress could receive it as late as next April"—by which time the elections will be but a distant memory.

Senator DeMint was not mollified. "The attacks on American embassies and diplomats are outrageous," DeMint stated. "The Administration owes the American people detailed answers on how this happened and how it can be prevented in the future. It now appears these violent acts may have been coordinated terrorist

attacks against America around the anniversary of 9/11. There may have even been warnings beforehand. Americans need to know if we were properly prepared and what steps must be taken to protect our diplomats in these dangerous environments.”

The next day, Kerry and the White House arranged for Secretary Clinton and other Administration officials to present a close-door briefing on the Benghazi attacks to members of the House and the Senate. Like everything else the White House has tried to do to cover up Obama’s complicity in the killings, this also blew up in their faces.

Josh Rogin reported on Sept. 21:

“Several high-level GOP senators emerged from Thursday afternoon’s classified briefing with top administration officials incensed that the Obama team had offered them no new information and answered none of their questions about the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi that resulted in the death of four Americans.

“That was the most useless, worthless briefing that I have attended in a long time. Believe me, there is more written in every major and minor publication in America about what happened,’ said Senate Foreign Relations Committee member Bob Corker (R-Tenn.)... ‘It was like a one-hour filibuster with absolutely not one single bit of new information being brought forth ... very disappointing.’

“Corker said that the briefing was so poorly received by Senators that it would spur Congress to push for more independent investigations about the causes of the attack, the perpetrators, the security at the consulate, and the personal security of Ambassador Chris Stevens, who died in the attack.”

House members were equally displeased with the briefing they got. “You hate to think that the President would purposely mislead the American people, but it sure looks like it to me,” said House Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon (R-Calif.). McKeon told Fox News that it’s time for Obama to address the American people about what’s happening. “Rather than traveling around ... to raise money and campaign for four more years of what—yeah, I think it would be good if he did a little bit of what he’s being paid to do,” McKeon said.

The House Oversight Committee sent a letter to the State Department on Sept. 20, demanding the results of this probe by Oct. 4.

Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Mich.), chairman of the

House Intelligence Committee, said in a CNN interview on Sept. 23 that not much new came out in the briefing, and that the Administration had just “doubled down.” And Rogers reiterated his view that the attack was a “pre-planned event.”

“I have seen no information that shows that there was a protest going on,” as was the case with other embassies, Rogers said. “It was clearly designed to be an attack. And what’s so egregious about this—and that’s why every American should be offended—this isn’t about George Bush or Barack Obama, it’s not about Republicans, it’s not about Democrats, they targeted and killed the face of the United States of America, a U.S. Ambassador, and three Embassy employees...”

“This is as serious an event as I have ever seen,” Rogers continued. “And it’s confusing to try to follow where the Administration has been. I’m disappointed the President didn’t say, ‘I’m not going to the fundraiser, I am going to go on national TV and put this right.’ Americans deserve the truth. They deserve the facts.”

10 Years Later

An LPAC-TV Feature Film

Eight months before the September 11, 2001 attacks, Lyndon LaRouche forecast that the United States was at high risk for a Reichstag Fire event, an event that would allow those in power to manage, through dictatorial means, an economic and social crisis that they were otherwise incompetent to handle. We are presently living in the wake of that history.

<http://larouchepac.com/10yearslater>



The House of Saud: British-Programmed Killer of Muslims

by Ramtanu Maitra

Editor's Note: *As the wave of what is purported to be spontaneous Islamic rage erupts around the world, it is crucial for all policymakers and citizens to face the ugly truth about the crucial actor in this program of planned chaos and mayhem: Saudi Arabia. It is Saudi Arabia, as a kept subsidiary of the British monarchy, which is spending billions and trillions of dollars internationally, in furtherance of the monarchy's agenda of religious warfare and terrorism. The hate propaganda, the weapons, the bombs are bought and paid for by Saudi front groups and that nation's own emissaries, just as was the Sept. 11, 2001 assault on the United States.*

As Lyndon LaRouche has emphasized, the Saudi monarchy has got to be held accountable.

In the piece that follows, Ramtanu Maitra provides a solid profile, with some shocking particulars, of the British-Saudi terror operations of the last decades.

Sept. 21—A recent article, “‘Al-Qaeda’ American Spring,” in the Syrian news daily *Tahwra al Wehda*, pointed out that al-Qaeda, always having been financed by the Wahhabi regime of the House of Saud, is now being transported from Yemen and the Pakistan-Afghanistan borders to Syria, to fight against Bashar al-Assad's regime. What the Syrian daily did not include is that the transportation of these terrorists to Syria has the blessings of the Obama and Cameron administrations.

The article identified the role of the Saudi intelligence chief, **Prince Bandar bin Sultan**, in this new move: “The House of Saud has, exclusively, provided the financial, political, religious and media support for al-Qaeda. This support is emboldened specifically with the

new political role of Bandar bin Sultan after becoming the head of Saudi intelligence.”

Over many decades, particularly since 9/11, the Saudi role on behalf of the British, the Zionists, and a degenerated U.S. leadership, has been to kill Muslims—both Sunnis and Shias. This is the only way the House of Saud, highly unstable within Saudi Arabia, could continue its decrepit leadership in that country. In other words, by serving the interests of the colonial and neo-colonial forces, the House of Saud survives.

Britain + House of Saud = al-Qaeda

There is no dearth of evidence that al-Qaeda, the mighty Sunni terrorist group, whose prime target is the Shias, was and is financed by the House of Saud at the



President George W. Bush and Saudi King Abdullah, 2006. Abdullah has appointed Bandar to head Saudi intelligence; support for al-Qaeda has reportedly increased under his leadership.

behest of Britain, if not the United States and Israel. The propaganda machine, Western in particular, has tried in vain to perpetuate the myth that the recently eliminated creator of al-Qaeda, **Osama bin Laden**, was an enemy of the House of Saud, since he was banned from entering Saudi Arabia after he had attacked U.S. installations.

But the real story is altogether different. Osama's al-Qaeda had always been financed by the House of Saud and its lackeys within Saudi Arabia. It was for this reason that, following the 9/11 attacks that killed more than 3,000 individuals, Washington finally moved in to close down some of the bank accounts that the Saudis used to finance Osama's terrorist outfit. But those closures were more show than substance. The House of Saud has many other ways to get money to the terrorists and they are using them today, whether Washington's security people admit it or not.

Osama had long been a British asset, to say the least. In 1999, the French Parliament commissioned a thorough investigation of global money-laundering. After publishing reports on Liechtenstein, Monaco, and Switzerland, it produced a report titled *The City of London, Gibraltar and the Crown Dependencies: Off-shore Centers and Havens for Dirty Money*, with an addendum titled "The Economic Environment of Osama bin Laden." The report concluded that up to 40 British banks, companies, and individuals were associated with bin Laden's network, including organizations in London, Oxford, Cheltenham, Cambridge, and Leeds.

In introducing the report, Arnaud Montebourg, a French Member of Parliament, concluded: "Tony Blair, and his government, preaches around the world against terrorism. He would be well advised to preach to his own bankers and oblige them to go after dirty



EU Photo

"Tony Blair, and his government," said a French parliamentarian, preaches around the world against terrorism. He would be well advised to preach to his own bankers and oblige them to go after dirty money."

money... Even the Swiss cooperate more than the English."¹

The British protection of Osama began long before 1999, however. Late in 2001, Saudi-based journalist Adam Robinson, in his book *Bin Laden: Behind the Mask of the Terrorist*, drew from interviews with Osama's immediate family, and gave a detailed account of bin Laden's three months in England at the beginning of 1994.

Bin Laden's London Base

Upon arriving, bin Laden bought a house on, or near, Harrow Road in the Wembley area of London, Robinson wrote. He paid cash, and used an intermediary as the named owner. Bin Laden's most important task was setting up his organization, the **Advice and Reformation Committee (ARC)**, to disperse his press

releases and to receive donations. After bin Laden left, a fellow Saudi "dissident," **Khaled al-Fawwaz**, ran the ARC from London, keeping in touch with bin Laden by phone, and distributing his statements to the many Arabic newspapers based in London.

Bin Laden also established relations with two London residents who were crucial to crafting his image as an international spokesman for, and mastermind of, the militant Islamist movement over the years. The first was **Abdel Bari Atwan**, the editor of the Arabic newspaper *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*, and the other was radical cleric and Muslim Brother **Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad**, who called himself "the voice of Osama bin Laden" and directed the extremist **Islamic Liberation Party** and the **al-Muhajiroun** organization out of his London mosque.²

1. "UK is money launderers' paradise," Oct. 10, 2001, <http://www.american-buddha.com/911.ukmoneylaundererparadise.htm>

2. "The Muslim Brotherhood: The Globalists and the Islamists," [Veil of Politics](#), Jan. 31, 2011.



It is a myth that Osama bin Laden was ever an enemy of the House of Saud. In fact, al-Qaeda was always financed by Saudi Arabia.

Omar Bakri Mohammad was also instrumental in developing another Blair-protected terrorist group, **Hizb ut-Tahrir (HuT)**, in Britain. HuT later worked hand-in-glove with al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorists to establish a strong presence in the “stan” countries of Central Asia (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan), and in northern Lebanon. The HuT, like the House of Saud, preaches Wahhabism and trains Wahhabi-indoctrinated terrorist killers. A number of “stan” countries have banned the HuT, but it still lurks in the shadows and is growing, posing an increasing threat to Russia’s southern flank and fulfilling the British, if not American, geopolitical objective.

What tasks did Osama have to carry out for the British to secure the privilege of Britain’s empire crowd? In order to understand that, one has to look at the British policies toward oil-rich Libya, which were put in motion soon after the defeated Soviet military left Afghanistan in 1989. The British empire crowd had been looking longingly to gain control of Libya, and its oil, for years. But, Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi was stable and was keeping most of his countrymen content.

The Attempt To Assassinate Qaddafi

In 1996, British saw an opening, when a Libyan military intelligence officer approached Britain’s foreign intelligence service, MI6, with a plan to overthrow Qaddafi, according to former MI5 officer and whistle-

blower David Shayler.³ The Libyan, code-named “Tunworth,” proposed establishing links with the **Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG)**, an organization formed in Afghanistan in 1990 from around 500 Libyan jihadists then fighting the Soviet-backed government.

One former senior member of the LIFG, **Norman Benotman**, who first went to Afghanistan as a 22-year-old in 1989, later said in an interview that during the Afghan War, his mujahideen commander was Jalaludin Haqqani, and that he and fellow militants had benefitted from British training programs: “We trained in all types of guerrilla warfare. We trained on weapons, tactics, enemy engagement techniques and survival in hostile environments. All weapons training was with live ammunition, which was available everywhere. Indeed, there were a

number of casualties during these training sessions. There were ex-military people amongst the Mujahideen, but no formal state forces participated. We were also trained by the elite units of the Mujahideen who had themselves been trained by Pakistani Special Forces, the CIA and the SAS.... We had our own specially designed manuals, but we also made extensive use of manuals from the American and British military.”

Nota bene: Benotman is an associate of Tony Blair. When the British people clamored to get the Hizb ut-Tahrir banned, Blair, using taxpayers’ money, created the **Quillam Foundation**, whose supposed “job” was to identify terrorist groups functioning within Britain. The foundation was stocked with “former” terrorists, who were deployed to work for the MI6. As a result, HuT continues to grow within, and beyond, Britain.

In addition, Benotman’s mujahideen commander, **Jalaluddin Haqqani**, is none but the founder of the Haqqani group which is killing American soldiers in Afghanistan, while allegedly sheltering itself within Pakistan’s Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Haqqani has had a long history with Saudi, American, and Pakistani intelligence agencies. During the Af-

3. “Britain, Qaddafi and the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group,” Aug. 17, 2011, an extract from Mark Curtis, *Secret Affairs: Britain’s Collusion with Radical Islam* (London: Serpent’s Tale, 2010), <http://markcurtis.wordpress.com/2011/08/17/britain-qaddafi-and-the-libyan-islamic-fighting-group/>.

ghanistan jihad against the Soviets, he was one of the favored commanders and received millions of dollars from the West and the Saudis, as well as Stinger missiles, rocket-propelled grenades, mortars, explosives, and tanks. He became close with Osama bin Laden during the jihad, and after the Taliban took control, he served as minister of tribal affairs in its government. According to some, it is Jalaluddin Haqqani who introduced suicide bombing in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

The attempt to assassinate Qaddafi by the British, using Osama's people, failed. Annie Machon, Shayler's partner and a former MI5 officer, writes that, by the time MI6 paid the money to Tunworth, bin Laden's organization was already known to be responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and MI5 had set up G9C, "a section dedicated to the task of defeating bin Laden and his affiliates." This is significant in light of Britain's toleration of bin Laden's London base—the Advice and Reformation Committee—which would not be closed down for another two and a half years.

U.S. intelligence sources later told the *Mail on Sunday* newspaper that MI6 had indeed been behind the assassination plot and had turned to the LIFG's leader, **Abu Abdullah Sadiq**, who was living in London. The head of the assassination team was reported as being the Libya-based **Abdal Muhaymeen**, a veteran of the Afghan resistance, and thus possibly trained by MI6 or the CIA. A smattering of other media investigations confirmed the plot, while a BBC film documentary broadcast in August 1998 reported that the Conservative government ministers then in charge of MI6 gave no authorization for the operation, and that it was solely the work of MI6 officers.⁴

One other fact that needs to be stated here is Washington's implicit involvement, by looking the other way while their "best allies" across the Atlantic were using



Jalaluddin Haqqani was favored by Saudi, American, and Pakistani intelligence agencies during the war in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union. Now his group is killing Americans there.

the "most wanted" terrorists. The Libyan al-Qaeda cell that the MI6 and Blair were using included **Anas al-Liby**, who remains on the U.S. government's most wanted list, with a reward of \$25 million for his capture.

But this despicable and morbid episode does not end here. Two French intelligence experts, Guillaume Dasquié and Jean-Charles Brisard, the latter an advisor to French President Jacques Chirac, revealed in their book *Forbidden Truth: U.S.-Taliban Secret Oil Diplomacy and the Failed Hunt for bin Laden* (2002), that the first Interpol arrest warrant for bin Laden was issued by Libya in March 1998. British and U.S. intelligence agencies buried the

fact that the arrest warrant had come from Libya and played down the threat. Five months after the warrant was issued, al-Qaeda killed more than 200 people in the truck bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.⁵

The House of Saud, Zionism, and the British

The importance of the House of Saud to the British cannot be understood fully without looking back at the historical role that **King Abdulaziz bin Saud (Ibn Saud)** played in helping Britain and France to divide up the Ottoman Empire by means of the 1916 Sykes-Picot agreement, and also in bringing the Zionists into Palestine. When the British Empire picked up Ibn Saud, leader of the Wahhabi sect, to become the "Keeper of Two Holy Mosques," it was in a way the fulfillment of Empire's plan. The Hashemite dynasty, which claims the bloodline of the Prophet Muhammad, was the strongest traditional Arab force, but its back was broken when Ibn Saud threw them out of Mecca and Medina. In their "pity," the British then put the Hashemites **Abdallah bin al-Hussein** and **Faisal bin Hussein** in place as rulers in Jordan (1921) and Iraq, respectively. Faisal was briefly pro-

4. Ibid.

5. Martin Bright, "MI6 'halted bid to arrest bin Laden,'" *The Observer*, Nov. 10, 2002, http://www.infowars.com/articles/terror/mi6_halted_bid_arrest_bin_laden.htm

claimed King of Syria (1920), and ended up becoming King of Iraq (1921).

In the subsequent period, both Iraq and Syria chucked out these religious leaders and, to the chagrin of the British Empire, were taken over by sectarian political parties. It is no surprise then that, with the help of the Americans, the British were deeply involved in efforts to overthrow both these leaders and bring them under indirect control—such as now exists in Bahrain—of the House of Saud. It should be noted that when Ibn Saud was just a desert-based Bedouin, with no wealth to boast of, it was the British Empire that funded his conquest of all of Arabia.

On the other hand, by picking up a desert-roaming Bedouin and putting him in charge of “the Two Holy Mosques,” Britain bought itself a horde of serfs. And Ibn Saud delivered quickly, by welcoming the Zionists to the Arab world! The British groundwork for determining the destiny of Ibn Saud, and the House—or rather the Tent—of Saud, was done by the intrepid British intelligence officer Gertrude Bell. In 1919, at the Paris Conference ending World War I, Bell argued for the establishment of independent Arab emirates for the area previously covered by the Ottoman Empire. The Arab delegation, which was actually under Bell’s control, was led by **Faisal Saeed al-Ismaïly**, a Bedouin Sunni steeped in the orthodox version of the religion, born in Taif (now, Saudi Arabia), the third son of the Grand Sharif of Mecca.

On Jan. 3, 1919, Faisal and Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, signed the **Faisal-Weizmann Agreement** for Arab-Jewish cooperation, in which Faisal conditionally accepted the Balfour Declaration, based on the fulfillment of British wartime promises of development of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, on which subject he made the following statement: “*We Arabs . . . look with the deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement. Our deputation here in*



King Ibn Saud (1876-1953) was picked up by the British and used as their man in Arabia.

Paris is fully acquainted with the proposals submitted yesterday by the Zionist Organization to the Peace Conference, and we regard them as moderate and proper. We will do our best, in so far as we are concerned, to help them through; we will wish the Jews a most hearty welcome home. . . . I look forward, and my people with me look forward, to a future in which we will help you and you will help us, so that the countries in which we are mutually interested may once again take their places in the community of the civilized people of the world.”

Even today, the House of Saud’s allegiance to the Zionists who have massively displaced the Palestinian population, remains intact. That is why the House of Saud deploys its Wahhabi-indoctrinated

terrorists against the Shia Muslims as their prime target. While it is true that the orthodox Sunnis, and only the orthodox Sunnis of extreme variety, do not accept the Shias as Muslims (and hence they ostensibly do not violate killing of Muslims which Prophet Muhammad had strongly warned against), there could be another reason why the Shias are targeted. To begin with, Britain has had its problems with Iran, a civilization that would not kowtow to the British Empire the way the Bedouins did. Secondly, after Iraq was virtually decimated by the Bush-Cheney-Obama crowd following 9/11, Iran has remained the only active backer of the Palestinians.

New Role for the House of Saud

In recent years, the House of Saud has been assigned a new “job” by Britain, and the so-called 1% in the United States who have trashed the American republic and adopted the Empire’s method of making money. These Americans have greatly benefitted by becoming Britain’s partner in reaping the proceeds of drug money that is laundered by offshore banks, most of which are

located in former British colonies. Since such “benefits” cannot be accrued without yielding to what the Empire-promoters demand, Washington, under Bush and Obama, has become as much a partner of the despotic colonial practices as Thatcher, Blair, and Cameron.

The **Taliban** project goes back a few decades. After the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in December 1979, the “free world” got together to push the Red Army back and smack the Russian bear. Money flowed into Afghanistan from the West and the Persian Gulf, with the intent of protecting the sovereignty of Afghanistan, preserving Islam, and crippling the Communists.

During the 1980s, Saudi-funded radical Pakistani madrassas (seminaries) had pumped out thousands of Afghan foot soldiers for the U.S.- and Saudi-funded jihad against the Soviets. They also helped bind the independent-minded Pushtun tribesmen closely to the Pakistani government for the first time in history, easing the acute insecurity that Pakistan had felt with respect to Afghanistan and the disputed border.

It is hardly a secret that rich Saudis, including those running the government, have used their considerable oil wealth to spread political and ideological influence throughout the world. One need look no further than the close-knit relationship between the House of Saud and the Bush family to understand the Saudis’ powerful reach across the globe. In Muslim countries, though, its presence is more explicitly ideological. Indeed, since 9/11, it has become increasingly clear that Saudi money frequently makes its way into the hands of Islamic extremists.

As Afghanistan plunged into civil war in the 1990s, the Saudis began funding new madrassas in Pakistan’s Pushtun-majority areas, near the Afghan border, as well as in the port city of Karachi and in rural Punjab. The

FIGURE 1



Pakistani Army saw the large number of madrassa-trained jihadis as an asset for its covert support of the Taliban in Afghanistan, as well as its proxy war with India in Kashmir.

While in Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province (NWFP), bordering Afghanistan, and the gateway to the famed Khyber Pass, madrassas supplied both Afghan refugees and Pakistanis as cannon fodder for the Taliban, the **Binori madrassa** and others associated with it formed the base for **Deobandi** groups (not too distant from the Wahhabi), such as **Harkat-ul-Mujahideen** and **Jaish-e-Mohammed**, which sought to do the Pakistan Army’s bidding in Kashmir. The many **Ahle-**

Hadith seminaries supplied Salafi (Wahhabi) groups, such as the **Lashkar-e-Taiba**. Arab sheikhs funded madrasas in the Rahimyar Khan area of rural Punjab, which formed the backbone of hard-core anti-Shi'ite jihadi groups like the **Sipah-e-Sahaba**, and its even

more militant offshoot, the **Lashkar-e-Jhangvi**.

All these groups shared training camps and other facilities, under the aegis of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

The Saudi and Gulf petrodollars encouraged a

What Is Wahhabism?

One of the most rigid and reactionary sects in all of Islam today is Wahhabism. It is the official and dominant Sunni sect in Saudi Arabia, whose sole constitution is the Holy Qur'an. Wahhabism was born in the middle of the 18th Century in the Arabian Peninsula's central region of Najd. The Wahhabi sect derives its name from the name of its founder Mohammad Ibn Abdul-Wahhab (1703-92). Like most Sunni Islamic fundamentalist movements, the Wahhabis have advocated the fusion of state power and religion through the reestablishment of the Islamic Caliphate, the form of government adopted by the Prophet Muhammad's successors during the age of Muslim expansion. What sets Wahhabism apart from other Sunni Islamist movements is its historical obsession with purging Sufis, Shiites, and other Muslims who do not conform to its twisted interpretation of Islamic scripture.

Wahhabism and Saudi Arabia's ruling House of Saud have been intimately intertwined since their births. Wahhabism created the Saudi monarchy, and the House of Saud spread Wahhabism. One could not have existed without the other. Wahhabism gives the House of Saud legitimacy, and the House of Saud protects and promotes Wahhabism. In 1744, Ibn Abd al-Wahhab forged an historic alliance with the al-Saud clan and sanctified its drive to vanquish its rivals. In return, the House of Saud supported campaigns by Wahhabi zealots to cleanse the land of "unbelievers." In 1801, Saudi-Wahhabi warriors crossed into present-day Iraq and sacked the Shiite holy city of Karbala, killing over 4,000 people.

Various Saudi-Wahhabi terrorist acts and blasphemous crimes historically aroused the deep anger of Muslims around the world. In 1818, as the official ruler of the Arabian Peninsula and the guardian of Islam's holiest mosques, the Ottoman Caliph in Istanbul, Caliph Mahmud II, ordered an Egyptian force

to be sent to the Arabian Peninsula to punish the Saudi-Wahhabi clan. An Egyptian army destroyed the Wahhabis and razed their desert capital of Dir'iyah to the ground. The Wahhabi Imam Abdullah al-Saud and two of his followers were sent to Istanbul in chains, where they were publicly beheaded. The rest of the leadership of the Saudi-Wahhabi clan was held in captivity in Cairo.

Although Wahhabism was destroyed in 1818, it was soon revived with the help of British colonialism. After the execution of Imam Abdullah al-Saud, the remnants of the Saudi-Wahhabi clan looked at their Arab and Muslim brothers as their real enemies, and to Britain and the West in general as their true friends. Accordingly, when Britain colonized Bahrain in 1820, and began to look for ways to expand its colonization in the area, the House of Saud found it a great opportunity to seek British protection and help.

In 1843, the Wahhabi Imam Faisal Ibn Turki al-Saud escaped from captivity in Cairo and returned to Riyadh, where he began to make contacts with the British. In 1848 he appealed to the British Political Resident in the Persian city of Bushere "to support his representative in Trucial Oman." The British sent Col. Lewis Pelly to Riyadh in 1865 to establish an official treaty with the House of Saud. To impress Pelly with his fanaticism and violence, Imam Faisal said that the major difference in the Wahhabi strategy between political and religious wars was that in the latter there would be no compromise, for "we kill everybody" (quoted in Robert Lacey, *The Kingdom: Arabia and the House of Saud* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981).

In 1866, the Wahhabi House of Saud signed a friendship treaty with Britain. The treaty was similar to the many unequal treaties imposed by Britain on other Arab puppets along the Persian Gulf. In exchange for British help, money, and weapons, the House of Saud agreed to collaborate with Britain's colonial authorities in the area.

— Ramtanu Maitra

Wahhabi jihad-centered curriculum at the madrassas. Prominent madrassas included the **Darul Uloom Haqqania** at Akora Khattak in the NWFP and the Binori madrassa in Karachi. The Haqqania boasts almost the entire Taliban leadership among its alumni, including top leader **Mullah Omar**, while the Binori madrassa, whose leader **Mufti Shamzai** was assassinated, was once talked about as a possible hiding place of Osama bin Laden; it is also reportedly the place where bin Laden met Mullah Omar to form the al-Qaeda-Taliban partnership.

The House of Saud worked hand-in-glove with al-Qaeda in setting up these madrassas. For instance, Saudi Arabia's **Prince Turki bin Faisal**, who had taken over the General Intelligence Directorate (GID), Riyadh's main intelligence service, in 1977 and headed it until 2001, had known bin Laden since 1978. Bin Laden became one of the linchpins of the GID's funding policy toward the ISI and anti-Soviet warfare in Afghanistan, and he met with Turki several times in Islamabad. Many years afterward, in 1998, when bin Laden had already become engaged in an anti-American crusade, Turki allegedly requested his extradition from Taliban leader Mullah Omar, but was not successful.

Madrassas: Poison Them Young

In 2007, former U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica Curtin Winsor, in an article for *Global Politician*,⁶ pointed out that while Saudi extremists remain the vanguard of Islamic theofascism around the world, the growth potential for this ideology lies outside the Kingdom. "The Saudis have spent at least \$87 billion propagating Wahhabism abroad during the past two decades, and the scale of financing is believed to have increased in the past two years as oil prices have skyrocketed. The bulk of this funding goes to the construction and operating expenses of mosques, madrassas, and other religious institutions that preach Wahhabism. It also supports the training of imams; domination of mass media and publishing outlets; distribution of Wahhabi textbooks and other literature; and endowments to universities (in exchange for influence over the appointment of Islamic scholars). By comparison, the Communist Party of the USSR and its Comintern spent just over \$7

billion propagating its ideology worldwide between 1921 and 1991."

From an astonishing cable published by the Pakistani newspaper *Dawn*,⁷ however, it would seem that significant sums of Saudi money are fostering religious radicalism in previously moderate regions of Pakistan. The cable, dating from late 2008, paints an unsettling picture of wealth's powerful influence in those underdeveloped areas of Central Asia in need of the most attention. Bryan Hunt, then-principal officer at the U.S. consulate in Lahore, reported a string of troubling findings from his forays into southern Punjab, where he "was repeatedly told that a sophisticated jihadi recruitment network had been developed in the Multan, Bahawalpur, and Dera Ghazi Khan Divisions."

The cable describes ways in which recruiters exploit families with multiple children, particularly those facing severe financial difficulties in light of inflation, poor crop yields, and growing unemployment in southern and western Punjab. Often these families are identified and initially approached/assisted by ostensibly "charitable" organizations including **Jamaat-ud-Dawa** (a front for the terrorist organization **Lashkar-e-Taiba**), the **Al-Khidmat Foundation** (linked to the religious political party **Jamaat-e-Islami**), or **Jaish-e-Mohammad** (a charitable front for the designated foreign terrorist organization of the same name).

Wahhabi proselytizing is not limited to the Islamic world. The Saudis have financed the growth of thousands of Wahhabi mosques, madrassas, and other religious institutions in many non-Islamic countries. Wahhabi penetration is deepest in the social welfare states of Western Europe, where chronically high unemployment has created large pools of able-bodied young Muslim men who have "become permanent wards of the state at the cost of their basic human dignity," according to the cable.

The House of Saud's madrassa project is very active in South Asia as well. According to 2004 reports, the Saudi Embassy in New Delhi was pushing India's Human Resource Development Ministry and Minorities Commission to set up new madrassas in India, and the Saudi Royal Family has cleared plans to construct 4,500 madrassas in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka at a cost of \$35 million, to promote "modern and liberal education with Islamic values."

6. Amb. Curtin Winsor, Ph.D., "Saudi Arabia, Wahhabism and the Spread of Sunni Theofascism," *Global Politician*, Oct. 22, 2007, <http://www.globalpolitician.com/print.asp?id=3661>.

7. Michael Busch, "WikiLeaks: Saudi-Financed Madrassas More Widespread in Pakistan Than Thought," *Dawn*, May 26, 2011.

Glass-Steagall or Financial Bust: The End of the System

by Susan Welsh

Sept. 24—The trans-Atlantic banking system is coming to an end, one way or another, as *EIR* has warned. There are basically two options ahead: First is Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's hyperinflationary policy, announced Sept. 13, of pouring *unlimited hundreds of billions of dollars, indefinitely*, into the banks deemed Too Big To Fail (TBTF), in what one commentator called "playing their final hand" (Examiner.com, Sept. 13). That way lies disaster. The second option is for Congress to *reinstate the Glass-Steagall law*, an essential first step toward restoring sanity to the banking system.

Authoritative analysts from outside the banks and the government are increasingly stepping forward to demand the sane option. A faction within the British financial establishment started the drumbeat in early July; it was picked up by some U.S. publications, then by former Citibank CEO Sandy Weill. But Congress did nothing, the Administration adamantly opposes Glass-Steagall, and the whole issue was once again relegated to the back pages of news publications.

Rep. Marcy Kaptur's (D-Ohio) "Return to Prudent Banking Act," HR 1489, which calls for a return to Glass-Steagall's separation of commercial banking and the securities business (speculation), still has only 81 sponsors in the House, out of a total of 435 Representatives, and has not been brought to the floor for debate.

But that may be changing. For one thing, Bernanke's Sept. 13 announcement may have made some people realize just how desperate things are. As we re-



Rep. Marcy Kaptur, sponsor of HR 1489, a bill to reinstate Glass-Steagall.

ported last week, former Fed governor Kevin Warsh pointed out that if the Fed really believed the economy were improving, even slowly, "I don't think they would have decided to be nearly as aggressive as this."

While her bill has hitherto generally been blacked out of the establishment press, Kaptur herself was given space in *US News & World Report* on Sept. 17 to describe it and urge support for it. Only as "Wall Street gained political and economic influence," she wrote, were they able to overthrow Glass-Steagall through the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act in 1999, the enactment of which became "a clear signal that Wall Street was in charge." She concluded, "Congress must act and reinstate Glass-Steagall so the public can be assured that the economy is working for them, not just for Wall Street's CEOs."

A New Crisis Is Coming

FDIC board member Fed Thomas Hoenig—a strong proponent of Glass-Steagall—briefed the Exchequer Club in Washington on Sept. 19. If big U.S. banks are not forced to sever their investment arms from traditional banking in a modern version of Glass-Steagall, he said, “the behavior and practices leading to this crisis will soon re-emerge, and these highly complex, more vulnerable firms will have an even more devastating effect on the economy.” Hoenig, former chairman of the Kansas City Fed, added that “activities leading to the crisis continue today—and continue to be subsidized—well after the lessons should have been learned.”

The nation cannot effect meaningful fiscal reforms, involving taxing and spending policies, if the public does not trust its government and financial institutions, Hoenig emphasized.

In a speech on Sept. 14, to the American Banker Regulatory Symposium, Hoenig also called for the separation of banking and brokerage.

‘Frankenstein Monsters’

Hoenig’s message was echoed in large part in an interview given by Neil Barofsky, the former Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief (TARP) bank-bailout program. “The real issue is the potential for another financial crisis, because we haven’t fixed the core problems of our financial system,” Barofsky told Hera Research (kitco.com). “We still have banks that are too big to fail... The big banks are 20-25% bigger now than they were before the crisis. The ‘too big to fail’ banks are also too big to manage effectively. They’ve become Frankenstein monsters.”

When asked what it would take for U.S. lawmakers to finally take on the TBTF banks, Barofsky said: “Some candidates have made reforms like reinstating Glass-Steagall part of their campaigns, but the size and power of the largest banks in terms of lobbying campaign con-



Thomas Hoenig: Glass-Steagall will restore trust in government.



Neil Barofsky: “It may well take another financial crisis before we deal with this.”

tributions is incredible. It may well take another financial crisis before we deal with this.”

‘Top Priority’

Scott Shay, the CEO of Signature Bank, addressed “The Absurdity of Too Big To Fail Banking” in an article for AmericanBanker.com on Sept. 20. “Once the election is decided and Congress gets back to work, fixing the banking system and reinstating Glass-Steagall should be the highest priority,” he wrote.

Shay took apart the basic arguments of the bank lobbyists who claim “that the rise of TBTF banks and the 1999 repeal of Glass-Steagall were actually good for the country.”

Addressing the common argument that the

repeal of Glass-Steagall did not cause the crisis, and that Glass-Steagall would not have stopped it, Shay argued that “the Glass-Steagall repeal was not the sole cause of the financial crisis but certainly a contributor”; long before its “technical” repeal, its provisions had been overturned, with “the permission regulators gave to the banks for the ‘cultural consolidation’ of commercial and investment banking.” It was (and is) Citibank and Bank of America’s investment banking exposure

that needed bailing out, before the mortgage crisis broke.

In challenging the fraud that big banks are better for the economy, Shay says: “Small and medium-sized banks are more effective at making loans to the small and medium-sized companies, which are the primary job creators in the U.S.... [W]hat is good for the big banks is not necessarily good for the economy and the growth of jobs.”

“If policymakers can get the structure of the banking system right, there will be less of a need for the volumes of devilishly complex regulations, which are being created almost weekly.... Once the election is decided and Congress gets back to work, fixing the banking system and reinstating Glass Steagall should be the highest priority.”

Obama Seeks Consolidation Of Dictatorial Powers

by Nancy Spannaus

Sept. 25—In the wake of the 9/11/2001 terrorist attack on the United States, the George W. Bush Administration (largely run by Vice President Dick Cheney), demanded and received a massive expansion of what can only be called police-state powers. When you realize that the terror incident itself was product of British/Saudi origin, with inside complicity, the Administration's push for dictatorship literally fulfilled the forecast of Lyndon LaRouche on Jan. 3 of that year: that the Administration would seek a Hitler-like Reichstag Fire in order to maintain control of the country in the midst of economic breakdown and chaos.

While the Bush-Cheney plans did not meet with total success, the Obama Administration, itself functioning as a tool of the British financial establishment, determined to finish the job. Obama's history of unconstitutional expansion of Executive powers—from expanded surveillance, to the extrajudicial murder of American citizens, to the launching of war without Congressional authorization—has been stunning. And it has by no means stopped.

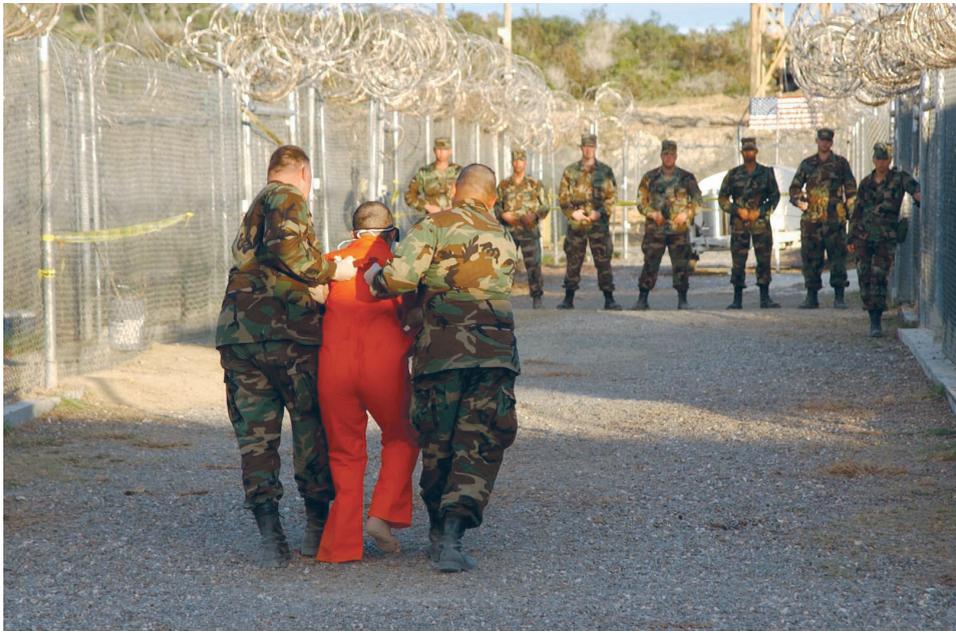
Where is the opposition? In addition to the LaRouche movement, which has demanded impeachment of the President for cause since 2010, it has come primarily from groups of civil libertarians across the political spectrum, while the putative leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties fall into line with the Administration. Over the course of the last few months,

however, a Federal judge in New York State has weighed in to try to block the consolidation of Obama's police-state powers.

The NDAA

On Sept. 12, Judge Katherine B. Forrest of the Southern District of New York State, defied the legal firepower of the Federal government, and issued a *permanant injunction* against the section of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2012 (NDAA) which permits indefinite detention of any American "who was a part of or substantially supported al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or associated forces that are engaged in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners, including any person who has committed a belligerent act or has directly supported such hostilities in aid of such enemy forces." Judge Forrest had previously issued a clarification that her ruling would apply not only to the plaintiffs in the case (a grouping of journalists and civil libertarians), but to all Americans.

This particular provision of the NDAA had been an issue long before the passage of the legislation, and its signing by President Obama on Dec. 31, 2011. Along with civil liberties groups, a large swath of intelligence and military professionals stepped forward to oppose what was obviously a dictatorial overreach by the President. Amendments were issued to remove the par-



U.S. Navy/Shane T. McCoy

Journalist Christopher Hedges wrote that Obama now “wants the right to use the armed forces to throw U.S. citizens into military prisons, where they will have no right to a trial and no defined length of detention.” Shown: Guantanamo prison camp, Cuba.

ticular section at issue [1021(b)(2)] from the legislation, and at one point, it was actually excised—only to be reintroduced, according to the statements by Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), at the explicit insistence of Obama.

In defending the provision, Administration partisans and others argued that the particular section did not *mandate* indefinite detention, and Obama himself, in a signing statement, asserted that he did not “intend” to use the power. *But he had insisted that it remain.*

On Jan. 13, journalist Christopher Hedges, who publishes regularly on the truthdig.com website, filed a lawsuit (with others) in New York Federal District Court seeking to overturn the indefinite detention provisions. Hedges’ basic argument is that, as a journalist, he has traveled in many conflict areas of the world, including the Middle East and Ibero-America and, in the course of pursuing his work, has interviewed and otherwise communicated with many individuals and groups who have been deemed to be at war with the United States or otherwise deemed terrorist groups or terrorist supporting entities, including the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the PLO, the Salvadorean FMLN, and many others. Under the language of the bill, Hedges could be deemed to have “substantially supported,” or “directly supported” these groups or “as-

sociated forces,” all terms that are undefined in the statute, and therefore could be subjected to indefinite detention without trial, put before a military commission, or even rendered into the custody of a foreign government.

In his court filing, Hedges argued that the indefinite detention provision violates the due process provision of the 5th Amendment, the judicial recourse provisions of Article III, the free-speech provisions of the First Amendment, as well as statutory requirements that those subject to arrest be given adequate notice of the crimes for which they are being held; and he asked that the court

find that provision unconstitutional and prohibit its enforcement.

In a blog entry at the time of filing, Hedges commented: “If this law is not revoked we will be no different from any sordid military dictatorship. Its implementation will be a huge leap forward for the corporate oligarchs who plan to continue to plunder the nation and use state and military security to cow the population into submission.”

De Facto Admission

On May 16, Judge Forrest preliminarily enjoined the enforcement of the section of the NDAA which allowed for indefinite military detention of U.S. citizens. She clearly did not do so lightly. The court had actually questioned all the defendants on the matter of what kinds of activities they were involved in which led them to believe that they might be targets (“covered persons”) of the Act’s provisions for indefinite detention. Those activities, they believed, fell under the terms of the Act identified as “substantially supporting,” “directly supporting,” of being “associated” with persons designated as terrorists. Then the Judge questioned the government attorney as to what the criteria were, or what some examples were, which defines these designations.

To her expressed surprise, the attorney constantly responded on behalf of the Justice Department that he had “no specific example.”

At the conclusion, Forrest declared:

“It must be said that it would have been a rather simple matter for the Government to have stated that as to these plaintiffs and the conduct as to which they would testify, that [section] 1021 did not and would not apply, if indeed it did or would not. That could have eliminated the standing of these plaintiffs and their claims of irreparable harm. Failure to be able to make such a representation given the prior notice of the activities at issue requires this Court to assume that, in fact, the Government takes the position that a wide swath of expressive and associational conduct is in fact encompassed by [section] 1021.

Indeed, one can only conclude that such vague language is intended to be a cover for the police-state intent—leaving the decision as to who is the enemy, not up to the law, but to the Führer.

Not surprisingly, the Obama Administration immediately asked for a reconsideration by Judge Forrest, which she refused to grant. Then, on Sept. 12, she turned her preliminary injunction into a permanent injunction against implementation of that section of the law.

Obama Fights Back

The Federal government immediately went into action, attempting to stay the implementation of the injunction while it appealed, and filing a notice of appeal. Its argument leaned strongly on Obama’s “war powers” as commander-in-chief. Judge Forrest denied the stay summarily.

The Obama Administration then went straight to the Second Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, which, on Sept. 17, did issue a temporary stay pending a hearing on both the appeal, and on a permanent stay, scheduled for Sept. 28.

Lead plaintiff Hedges had the following comment on the Administration’s relentless efforts to restore a section of a bill which the President claims he would not use:

“If the administration is this anxious to restore this section of the NDAA, is it because the Obama government has already used it? Or does it have plans to use the section in the immediate future?”

“The decision to vigorously fight Forrest’s ruling is a further example of the Obama White House’s steady

and relentless assault against civil liberties, an assault that is more severe than that carried out by George W. Bush,” Hedges wrote. “Obama has refused to restore habeas corpus. He supports the FISA [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act] Amendment Act, which retroactively makes legal what under our Constitution has traditionally been illegal—warrantless wire tapping, eavesdropping and monitoring directed against U.S. citizens. He has used the Espionage Act six times against whistle-blowers who have exposed government crimes, including war crimes, to the public. He interprets the 2001 Authorization to Use Military Force Act as giving him the authority to assassinate US citizens, as he did the cleric Anwar al-Awlaki. And now he wants the right to use the armed forces to throw U.S. citizens into military prisons, where they will have no right to a trial and no defined length of detention.”

No Local Matter

Just as the Obama Administration’s refusal to prosecute violations of the Geneva Convention by the Bush Administration, and its own violations of international law through drone strikes against civilians, have become an international scandal, so the NDAA matter has implications far beyond the United States. The Administration itself called Judge Forrest’s ruling an “extraordinary injunction of worldwide scope,” and it is determined to smash it.

As in the case of the torture at Abu Ghraib, patriotic military leaders have been among the most aggressive in opposing Obama’s policy. Indicative is an open letter signed by 27 flag officers in May, in support of an amendment to the NDAA which would nullify the provision for indefinite detention of Americans.

“As retired general and flag officers, we do not make this request lightly,” they wrote. “However, we strongly believe that sound national security policy depends on faithful adherence to the rule of law. Though it is lawful for the military to detain those engaged in hostilities in an armed conflict, the armed forces should not supplant our law enforcement and intelligence agencies at home. Those detained in the U.S. should not be held indefinitely without charge or trial or forced into military custody.”

Among the signers, all retired officers, are Gen. Joseph Hoar (USMC); Gen. Charles Krulack (USMC); Lt. Gen. Harry Soyster (USA); Brig. Gen. John Johns (USA); and Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba (USA).

Kesha Rogers: Put Principle Above Party

by Nancy Spannaus

Sept. 24—Contrary to the media/money show that is the Presidential election, decision time in the United States is not Nov. 6, but the immediate days ahead, when President Barack Obama could, without as much as a nod to Congress or the Constitution, lurch the United States into a military confrontation that could result in world war. But that is not the view of most political candidates or leaders in the United States, not to mention the population at large, which is dominated by a state of demoralization or denial.

The main exception to this is Kesha Rogers, the LaRouche candidate who is running for the second time, against Republican incumbent Pete Olson in the 22nd Congressional District of Texas. Rogers won her Democratic primary in May, and has been campaigning vigorously, primarily on the streets, since the beginning of the year. I caught up with her on the campaign trail over the weekend, and she answered a series of questions on the campaign.

EIR: You've stated that you stand for "principle before party," and you also identify yourself as a "LaRouche Democrat." What has been your intervention, as a LaRouche Democrat, into the present political situation?

Rogers: As a LaRouche Democrat and a part of a national slate of candidates, my campaign has made a point to reject the regular partisan loyalties, in the interests of the nation. The present political situation that we find ourselves in, affects all Americans. The worsening economic crisis, and the threat of thermonuclear war, is an existential threat to both parties, Republicans and Democrats alike.

My intervention as a member of a national Presidential slate into the current political situation has been to stand boldly to tell the truth, and to put forth the needed recovery programs which will benefit the entire nation, not just one party. My campaign's intervention has been

educating people on the three-fold platform of Glass-Steagall, national banking, and NAWAPA XXI, combined with the full funding of NASA in the interest of planetary defense.

In order to accomplish this platform, we need to restore a commitment to a national mission, which means a rejection of party politics. At this point, everything this President has done, either gutting investments into critical science-driver missions, to unconstitutional preemptive military interventions overseas, to the continued bailout of the trans-Atlantic investment banks at the expense of our nation, makes it clear that what is needed is not party unity, but a patriotic effort to force him out of office.

At present, we are facing insanity in both parties, even though Obama, who holds the levers of state power, is the greater danger. I have highlighted this fact in my mass circulation [leaflet](#), "A vote for Pete is a vote for Obama" where I point out that my Republican opponent continues to oppose removing Obama. At an Aug. 28 meeting of the Katy Area Republican Club, when challenged to support impeachment, Olson said: "I hear what you're saying about his crimes, but, we have more important things to focus on. Just vote him out."

More important things than challenge a madman who is toying with nuclear war, assassinating U.S. citizens, and destroying our food supply? Pete Olson is playing a deadly partisan game—all the while voting to sustain, or even expand, Obama's dictatorial powers.

Obama's Shutdown of Constellation

EIR: You first called for President Obama to be impeached in 2009, when he announced the cancellation of NASA's Constellation program. Can you explain why Obama's attack on NASA is impeachable?

Rogers: Obama has rejected a national scientific mission in the interest of green environmentalist population reduction. When Obama cut the Constellation program and the funding to our manned and unmanned space program, he put the nation in grave danger, and has now rendered the nation vulnerable, at the moment we ought to be addressing the defenses against known galactic and Solar threats. Obama continues to privatize the space program and reject a national mission for scientific progress.

When I called for the impeachment of Obama in



LPAC-TV

One county GOP chairman told his club: "Do not underestimate Kesha; she wasn't supposed to win her primary!" They know she can't be contained or intimidated.

2009 for his cuts to NASA, it was due to his blatant disregard of the security and well-being of the American people. His foreign policy and push for thermonuclear war has escalated that threat. There are many clear-cut impeachable offenses and violations of the Constitution that warrant Obama's removal immediately, namely his launching of war in Libya without the express consent of Congress, his complicit role in the cover-up of the murder of a U.S. ambassador and his staff, and his continued instigation of thermonuclear war. All these acts are in clear violation of the general welfare and progress of the nation, and warrant impeachment.

EIR: As a LaRouche Democrat, you've focused your platform on several very specific, yet far-reaching policies, specifically reinstating Glass-Steagall, establishing a new national banking system, and what you've described as "science-driven mega-projects," like the North American Water and Power Alliance [NAWAPA], and the planetary defense of Earth from nuclear war, asteroid impacts, and space weather. Of all the important issues on the table, why are these the most important?

Rogers: We have now been hit with the greatest

economic global collapse of our time. We are witnessing the highest unemployment, the inability to grow the food needed to feed our population; we are leaving ourselves vulnerable to severe threats such as Solar storms and asteroids, and how have we addressed these deadly threats? By continuing to bail out Wall Street and London financial speculators with taxpayer dollars, and shutting down our national defenses.

The LaRouche national slate's three-fold platform for a national economic recovery program is the only serious alternative being put forward. Its policies will give us a national scientific mission, and restore full employment with projects such as NAWAPA XXI and full funding of NASA that will guarantee upwards of 14 million productive jobs.

No Peace While Obama in White House

EIR: Leading Congressional, military, and intelligence figures, both national and international, have warned that the continued escalation of violent regime change by the U.S.A. and NATO is leading directly to a new world war, which would include the use of thermonuclear weapons. Tension among nations is near an all-time high, and the activity of terrorist groups are increasing. What do you propose be done, not only to calm the international march to war, but establish a lasting peace among nations?

Rogers: There will be no peace among nations as long as Obama remains in the White House. He must be impeached now! I have joined leading figures who have warned of this threat, namely by organizing the population and institutional leaders to demand that Congress act now to pass HCR 107 [see *Feature*] which addresses the violation of the War Powers Act as an impeachable offense. The only way to a lasting peace is through economic development for all nations, and acting in the interest of all nations.

EIR: I understand you've had some national publicity lately. What is going on with that?

Rogers: Upon finding me not in attendance at the National Democratic Party Convention, as the Dem-

ocratic nominee of the 22nd district, I was called by an editor with Huffington Post, who asked me to explain my stance against the President, and my platform.

The results of this interview created a major stir among the African-American population, by focusing on myself being African-American, and calling for the impeachment of Obama. The article attempted to portray me as loony, by dramatizing my denouncing (in 2009) of Obama's Independent Payment Advisory Board for being modeled on Hitler's Tiergarten Vier [T4], and then not mentioning that at all, but simply saying I'm calling all of Obamacare as based on the policy that led to eugenics and the Holocaust. It also portrayed my defense of Kennedy's space program as crazy.

This article came out on Sept. 11, 2012, the same day as the premeditated terrorist attacks on the U.S. Embassy in Libya, which Obama knew was planned. I smell a coverup, similar to if the press chose to freak out about Hitler's T4 board from 1939, at the very time he's invading France in 1941.

The reaction to the attack was interesting. It went viral on the web for a week or two. From all that, about 20-30 people contacted my campaign directly, to denounce or threaten me, but another 30-40 people took my warnings seriously and engaged in a more developed dialogue about my platform, the threats of Obama's looming world war, and the courage and leadership it takes to be female, black, and a Democrat, and oppose Obama in such a clear manner, while also providing concrete policy solutions.

So overall, despite this attack being designed to shame me out of the race, the American people understand what I'm saying, and of those with the guts to say something to me about it, more, rather than less are supportive.

The Shift from 2010

EIR: How is the population responding to your campaign at this point? Is there any particular shift from your last campaign in 2010?

Rogers: This 2012 Congressional race has been different from the 2010 race in several ways. People in the District now know who I am, and they know what I've been saying for the past three years. So I'm getting a far more serious response from people, because they aren't as hyperactive about Obama or Tea Party/GOP parti-

sanship.

The total failure of cheerleader-style politics to solve the economic meltdown has inspired new interest in my platform. The Olson Dossier and inane babbling of Romney have been key in breaking the axiom of voting Republican as a way to stop Obama. Just showing how Olson has voted to empower the worst of Obama's lawlessness, opens peoples' eyes to how the Republicans are trying to benefit from such policies, rather than save the Constitution.

And they are totally freaked out about my ability to mobilize people with the truth. At a club meeting in the District last month, the Fort Bend County GOP chair told people, "Do not underestimate Kesha; she wasn't supposed to win her primary!" So they know I can't be contained or intimidated.

But a lot more help is needed in the 45 days remaining until election day. I urge your readers to interact with me directly on Twitter and Facebook, with the name KeshaRogersTX22, and otherwise get in touch with the campaign at campaign@kesharogers.com.



Released on Thanksgiving 2011, the LPAC-TV documentary "NAWAPA 1964" is the true story of the fight for the North American Water and Power Alliance. Spanning the 1960s and early '70s, it is told through the words of Utah Senator Frank Moss. The 56-minute video, using extensive original film footage and documents, presents the astonishing mobilization for NAWAPA, which came near to being realized, until the assassination of President Kennedy, the Vietnam War, and the 1968 Jacobin reaction, killed it

... until now.

<http://larouchepac.com/nawapa1964>

Even Warhawks Doubt Obama's Afghan Policy

by Carl Osgood

Sept. 24—When the longest-serving Republican in the House of Representatives changes his mind about supporting the war in Afghanistan, people ought to sit up and take notice, especially when that Republican also has a long record of hawkishness on U.S. military interventions around the world. Rep. C.W. “Bill” Young (R-Fla.), formerly chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and currently chair of its Defense Subcommittee, detailed his change of heart in an interview published Sept. 18 by the *Tampa Bay Times*.

“I think we should remove ourselves from Afghanistan as quickly as we can,” he said. “I just think we’re killing kids that don’t need to die.”

Even Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) is beginning to have second thoughts about the policy. “I think all options ought to be considered, including whether we have to just withdraw early, rather than have a continued bloodletting that won’t succeed,” McCain said the next day.

Young has come to the conclusion that an accelerated withdrawal may be the only way out of the disaster we’ve made for ourselves in Afghanistan. Young said that he came to his changed view from numerous discussions with wounded veterans at the Walter Reed military hospital in Bethesda, Md., and in VA hospitals. “It’s a real mess,” he says of Afghanistan. But what pushed him over the edge was a letter he received from 26-year-old Staff Sgt. Matthew S. Sitton, an Army Ranger serving with the 82nd Airborne Division in Kandahar Province in Afghanistan, who was killed in action last month.

In his letter, which Young had read into the record during a Sept. 20 hearing, Sitton wrote of his and other platoons being forced to conduct foot patrols in areas known to be infested with IEDs (improvised explosive devices) for no particular purpose, but that these patrols were causing an average of one amputee per day for the brigade that Sitton’s platoon was part of. Sitton also wrote that soldiers were being put at greater risk of bacterial and fungal infections by being forced to live in

unhygienic conditions. Young told the *Tampa Bay Times* that Sitton predicted his own death, “and what he said would happen happened.” Sitton and another soldier were killed by an IED on Aug. 2. He left behind a wife and two young children.

Young later said, in comments reported by the *Tampa Tribune* on Sept. 20, that he had written to the Army leadership and to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, about the conditions in Afghanistan that Sitton had reported. “Frankly, nothing happened until we were notified that Matt Sitton was killed in the very same field he said that they knew there were IEDs and no reason [the troops] should even be in there,” Young said. The Congressman said that, the previous week, he received a two-page classified letter from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, but that he rejected the letter because it didn’t have “a third page saying what do we do to fix this.”

On Sept. 20, Young chaired a hearing of his Defense Subcommittee on the problem of IEDs in Afghanistan. He told Army Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero, the director of the Pentagon’s Joint IED Defeat Office, that “when I got [Sitton’s] letter, I had heard similar stories from other wounded warriors at the hospitals. . . . I hear pretty much the same story you will read in his letter. So, it’s convinced me that there is something really needed to be done about this.”

Barbero could only offer tactical solutions to address the problem. While he made clear in his opening remarks that protective measures have resulted in reducing IED deaths in Afghanistan, the IED has become the weapon-of-choice for insurgent and terrorist groups around the world. Barbero reported that there have been more than 10,000 IED events in 112 countries *outside of Afghanistan* since January of 2011. What he didn’t say is that resistance to the U.S. occupation of Iraq from 2003 to 2011 is what gave birth to the modern IED threat, in the first place.

The Out of Afghanistan Caucus

Young’s change of heart aligns him with the bipartisan Out of Afghanistan Caucus in the House, led by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.), and others who have been demanding an end to the war on Afghanistan for quite some time. Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) joined Woolsey in a press conference on Sept. 20 to make the point that, despite 11 years of effort, the Afghan security forces still can’t take responsibility for the country. “You can train a monkey to ride

a bicycle in that length of time,” Jones said sarcastically.

He added that it makes no sense to continue spending billions of dollars there, given the death toll, and a plan going forward that lacks coherence. “When our friends turn out to be our enemies, it’s time to pull the plug,” he said, referring to the so-called “insider” attacks that are taking an increasing toll on U.S. and other foreign forces, there.

The Out of Afghanistan Caucus was formed in May 2010, and has at least 30 members. It has sponsored legislation to require a U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. The “Responsible End to the War in Afghanistan Act,” introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) in February of 2011, which has garnered 72 co-sponsors, would require that funds appropriated for military operations only be used for the safe and orderly withdrawal of all U.S. military and Defense Department contractor personnel from Afghanistan. The “Afghanistan Exit and Accountability Act,” introduced on May 5, 2011 by Rep. James McGovern (D-Mass.), which has 78 co-sponsors, would require the President to submit to Congress, within 60 days, a plan with a time frame and completion date for the accelerated transition of U.S. military and security operations to the government of Afghanistan.

Harrowing Weekend in Afghanistan

Young’s turn-about also followed a harrowing weekend in Afghanistan for U.S. and other troops of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), there. Over the course of two days, from the evening of Sept. 14 through Sept. 16, six more troops, four American and two British, were killed as the result of insider attacks, and a Taliban attack on a U.S.-British base in Helmand province caused the worst single loss of U.S. aircraft in any attack since the Vietnam War. Tensions between U.S. and Afghan officials were also worsened by a U.S. air strike that killed eight women, and a lingering dispute over Afghan prisoners still held by the U.S. at the Bagram air base.

Insider attacks result when Afghan troops allied with, or thought to be allied with ISAF, instead turn their guns on the ISAF troops who are training them. Fifty-one ISAF troops, mostly American, but including at least four French, three Australian, and two British soldiers, have died in these attacks this year, causing an erosion of trust between ISAF forces and the Afghan troops they’re supposed to be training, to the point that

joint patrols by ISAF and Afghan troops are no longer allowed without the approval of an at least two-star general.

Contrary to the positive gloss that many Administration officials have put on the process, Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acknowledged, during a NATO chiefs of defense meeting in Romania on Sept. 16, the seriousness of the problem. “We have to get on top of this,” he said. “It is a very serious threat to the campaign.”

The Sept. 14-15 attack on Camp Bastion, the U.S.-British base in Helmand province, was yet another wake-up call. By some means yet to be explained, about 15 Taliban insurgents, reportedly dressed in U.S. Army uniforms, and armed with rocket-propelled grenades, suicide vests, and small arms, penetrated the base perimeter, and successfully destroyed six U.S. Marine Harrier jets (out of ten assigned), heavily damaged two others, and destroyed three refueling stations and some hangars. Two Marines were killed in the resulting firefight, including the commander of the Harrier squadron. ISAF tried to present it as some kind of victory, by bragging that all but one of the attackers were killed (the other one was captured alive), but there’s no hiding the fact that the Marine Corps’ only fixed-wing close air support capability in Afghanistan was wiped out.

In fact, the Harrier squadron had moved to Camp Bastion in July, having previously been stationed at Kandahar air field, because of the draw-down of the surge forces. At the height of the surge, there were 20,000 Marines in Kandahar and Helmand provinces, a number which has now been reduced to 7,000. Marines interviewed by the *San Diego Union Tribune* in the days after the attack, attributed the loss to that reduction of forces, which, they believe, compromised security and increased the risk of a Taliban attack.

Whatever the case, the attack could not have been merely a response to the anti-Muslim video that is being blamed for inflaming passions against the U.S. all over the Muslim world, despite the Taliban claim. “Given the sophistication of the attack, one can say with a lot of confidence that the Taliban had been training, rehearsing and preparing for weeks and even months,” Afghan analyst Wahid Mujda told the *New York Times* on Sept. 16. This is hardly the picture of a Taliban “on the run,” which Panetta is trying to sell to the world.

Obama Accused of Obstructing Inquiry

Sept. 24—The long-awaited report of the Department of Justice Inspector General, Michael Horowitz, on Operation Fast and Furious, was released on Sept. 19; the IG gave sworn testimony the following day before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

As a whole, the report did not vindicate Attorney General Eric Holder and the Obama Administration, as Holder immediately claimed. Rather it vindicated the whistleblowers who originally exposed Operation Fast and Furious,¹ and it vindicated the committee's efforts to investigate the policy and the Administration's cover-up, which led earlier this year to the Congress holding the Attorney General in contempt of Congress for failing to provide the committee with lawfully subpoenaed documents.

What is more, Horowitz testified under oath that the White House had even obstructed his investigation. Horowitz confirmed that he was not permitted to interview former National Security Council staff member Kevin O'Reilly, and that the White House refused to share internal White House communications, on the grounds that the White House is "beyond the purview of the Inspector General's Office, which has jurisdiction over the Department of Justice programs and personnel."

O'Reilly is a key witness in terms of the White House's involvement in Fast and Furious, since he had been in communication by e-mail and by phone with William Newell, special agent in charge of both Operation Fast and Furious and Operation Wide Receiver, and had passed that communication on to others on the National Security Council in the White House. When the committee stated its intent to interview him, it found that he had been reassigned to Iraq and was unavailable to be interviewed. Later he agreed to a tele-

phone interview, but the White House intervened to prevent it.

Horowitz also reported that a full-time employee of Homeland Security assigned to Operation Fast and Furious had also refused to be interviewed by the Inspector General.

During the hearing, Horowitz was asked by Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-Tex.) if the White House actions limited the scope of his investigation. Horowitz responded that "it made it impossible to pursue that aspect of the case, a lead we wanted to follow."

Thus, while the report concluded that the IG could find no evidence that Holder knew of Operation Fast and Furious, the IG, like the committee, has been prevented by the White House from determining whether or not the entire program was run by the White House itself.

Deal with the Drug Cartel?

A leading member of the Sinaloa cartel, Vicente Zambada Niebla, currently awaiting trial in Chicago, which is a major hub of the Sinaloa cartel, has claimed that there was a deal between the major Mexican drug cartel and the Obama Administration.

The Sinaloa cartel received over 2,000 assault weapons from the U.S. under the Fast and Furious gun-walking operation. These weapons, which were used in the murder of U.S. Border Patrol agent Brian Terry and the murder of over 200 Mexican citizens, helped the Sinaloa cartel defeat other competing cartels.

Another related avenue, which the committee was prevented by the DOJ from examining, was the DOJ's approval of money-laundering by the Sinaloa cartel into the U.S., first via Wachovia Bank, and then more recently via HSBC.

The head of the DOJ Criminal Division, Lanny Breuer, knew of the gunwalking policy, but claims not to have reported it to his superiors, including Holder. Breuer also presided over the drug-money-laundering operation.

Questions have been raised by Lyndon LaRouche as to whether the Obama campaign has been the beneficiary of illegal drug money laundered into the United States. The fact that the Sinaloa cartel's major drug transshipment hub is Chicago, the home base of Obama's political machine, and that weapons were walked to the cartel, strongly suggests such a deal.

The biggest failure of the report's findings, with

1. See William Wertz, "Operation Fast and Furious: Part of a Deal with the Sinaloa Cartel?" *EIR*, Sept. 23, 2011.

regard to the DOJ itself, is that it does not hold Breuer responsible. However, both Horowitz and the committee have indicated that their investigations will continue.

Some Results

As a result of the release of the IG report, Committee chairman Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) reported that on Sept. 19 the Justice Department finally gave the committee the 300 documents that Holder had released to get the committee to agree to end the investigation, prior to the vote to hold him in contempt. Horowitz also reported that the DOJ has agreed to request that 14 wiretap applications be unsealed by the courts, something that Holder had refused to do.

Upon release of the report, Jason Weinstein, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division was forced to resign, and Kenneth Melson, the former acting director of the ATF, suddenly retired.

After the hearing, the committee issued a report on what it considered the IG's key findings, excerpts of which follow:

1. On why Holder was not aware of crucial information about Operation Fast and Furious and other gunwalking: "We concluded that the Attorney General's Deputy Chief of Staff, the Acting Deputy Attorney General, and the leadership of the Criminal Division failed to alert the Attorney General to significant information about or flaws in those investigations" (p. 453).

2. On the DOJ's troubling effort to mislead Congress: "We also concluded that by the date of its May 2 letter to Sen. Grassley, senior Department officials responsible for drafting the letter knew or should have known that ATF had not made every effort to interdict weapons purchased illegally and prevent their transportation to Mexico, either in Operation Fast and Furious or other firearms trafficking investigations. Given that senior Department officials' confidence in the accuracy of the February 4 letter was decreasing rather than increasing as their internal review progressed, we found it troubling that the Department's May 2 response letter to Sen. Grassley included a substantive statement—albeit a qualified one—regarding the Fast and Furious investigation" (p. 396).

3. On the denials by Holder of significant information about reckless tactics in wiretap affidavits, denials which the report contradicts:

"(11/8/11) Attorney General Holder: 'I don't have

any information that indicates that those wiretap applications had anything in them that talked about the tactics that have made this such a bone of contention and have legitimately raised the concern of members of Congress, as well as those of us in the Justice Department.'"

"(9/19/12) DOJ IG rebuke: 'We found that the affidavits described specific incidents that would suggest to a prosecutor who was focused on the question of investigative tactics that ATF was employing a strategy of not interdicting weapons or arresting known straw purchasers' (p. 277).

4. On the conduct of Criminal Division head, Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer: "Breuer told us that upon learning this information, he told Deputy Assistant Attorney General Weinstein to talk to ATF leadership to make sure that they understood that the Criminal Division planned to move forward with the case, but that the investigation had used obviously flawed techniques. Given the significance of this issue and the fact that ATF reports to the Deputy Attorney General, we believe Breuer should have promptly informed the Deputy Attorney General or the Attorney General about the matter in April 2010. Breuer failed to do so" (p. 455).

5. Office of the Attorney General faulted in response to Agent Terry's death: "Neither the [Office of the Attorney General] or [Office of the Deputy Attorney General] took appropriate action after learning that firearms found at the scene [of the Terry murder] were connected to the Operation. We believe that an aggressive response to the information was required, including prompt notification of the Attorney General and appropriate inquiry of ATF and the US Attorneys Office. However, we found that senior officials who were aware of this information, including Grindler, took no action whatsoever" (p. 302).

6. Expresses disagreement with Holder's laissez-faire approach to the Terry murder: "When we asked Holder whether he believed that his staff should have informed him sooner about the connection between Fast and Furious and the firearms found at the scene of the Terry shooting, he said that he would not have expected to receive that information absent some indication that inappropriate tactics had been used in the investigation. However, Holder's Chief of Staff told us that he believed this information was significant and that it should have been brought to the Attorney General's attention. We agree" (p. 303).

Yes, It's Really That Bad

The first step toward developing a strategy to deal with any crisis, should obviously be to understand exactly how serious it is, and where it is leading. It's on that basic level that most American citizens, especially leading ones, are failing miserably. They would rather say to themselves, "Things are bad, but they're not *that* bad."

So, let's start from a sampling of how bad things really are.

First, we have the short-term danger of triggering a wider war, most likely in the region of Southwest Asia, which would rapidly turn into an implicitly thermonuclear confrontation between the United States and NATO, and Russia, in particular. An escalation in Syria or Iran could easily bring this about, *any day now*.

Second, we have the globally extended 9/11 Two crisis, generated by collusion between the British and Saudi monarchies, with the ongoing complicity of the Obama Administration—which threatens the eruption of global chaos also headed toward World War III.

Third, we have the combined hyperinflationary/physical economic disaster of the trans-Atlantic nations, which is leading to increasing death rates, food shortages, and potential social breakdown.

And perhaps the worst, we have no qualified candidate running for President. The incumbent President Barack Obama is a would-be Führer, who violates the Constitution at will, and prides himself on taking "personal responsibility" for mass killings, through drone strikes and other means, while his opponent professes his commitment to the very same disastrous economic and geopolitical policies which have brought the world into the crisis it's now in.

There are clearly many people who recognize this reality, most of whom decide to hope against

hope that they will survive anyway. A few are brave individuals, like those who participated in Rep. Walter Jones' press conference on his House Concurrent Resolution 107, on Sept. 21, in order to speak up about the danger which the Executive's usurpation of the power to declare war represents. Read their words carefully. These are men with decades of experience and study—and they are demanding that Congress, and you, act to protect our republic, now.

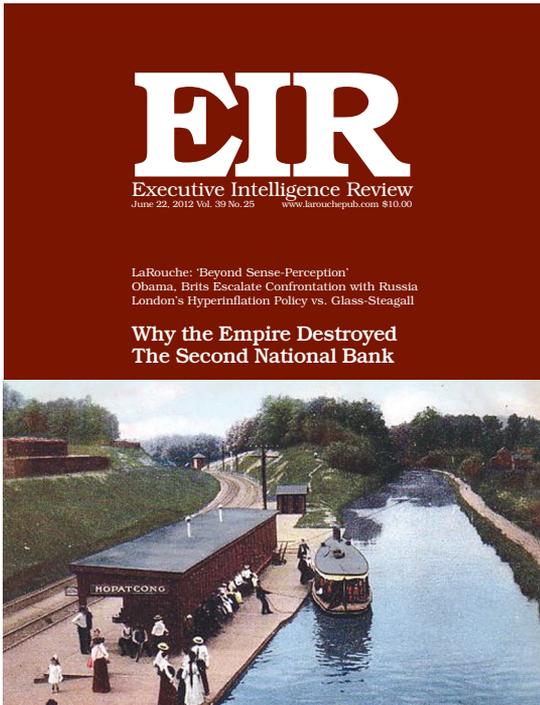
What these brave individuals left unsaid, is what Lyndon LaRouche and his political movement are providing: the immediate solution to the crisis. It starts with removing the British monarchy's hand from the thermonuclear button, by expelling Obama from the Presidency, Constitutionally and for cause. Impossible, you say? Well, it wasn't impossible to get Richard Nixon to resign. Nor was it impossible for the Berlin Wall to fall. These were not scheduled events—but the result of actions by people who understood that they had to reject the usual "practical" ways of doing things, and insist on immediate change.

For example, there's nothing but a lack of sense of reality, and political will, preventing Congressional leaders from coming back into session to deal with the crises at hand, starting with Obama, and moving directly on to the reimposition of the firewall of protection we need for our financial system—Glass-Steagall. Without such actions, frankly, the whole "election" is a deadly charade.

We live in extraordinary times, with an unprecedented level of danger to the continuation of human civilization itself. Such times demand extraordinary leadership, from all layers of the population. Once you face reality, you'll be surprised at what you can do.

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