

# Congress Delivers a Deafening Blow To Obama and the Anglo-Saudis

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Oct. 2 (EIRNS)—Congress on Thursday, Sept. 29 resoundingly overrode President Barack Obama's Sept. 23 veto of S-2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA). The Senate vote tally was 97-to-1, in favor of override; and the House of Representatives tally was 348-to-77. The override required a 2/3 majority vote in both Houses of Congress, and it was achieved by a wide, bipartisan margin.

The implications are profound and far-reaching.

With JASTA now the law of the land, the loopholes that blocked the 9/11 survivors and families from suing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in U.S. Federal Court for its complicity in 9/11 have now been removed. A hearing is already scheduled in Federal Court for the Southern District of New York on Oct. 20, at which the 9/11 families will be able to finally begin to directly confront the Saudi Monarchy and pursue further evidence of the Saudi government support for the 9/11 hijackers, 15 of whom were Saudi citizens.

But beyond the profound issues surrounding the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and the growth of Saudi-sponsored Wahhabi/Salafi terrorism, the message from the Congress must now radiate out to other existential issues threatening the United States, starting with the urgent, immediate need to restore the Glass-Steagall Act, which separated commercial and investment banking, and the launching of a genuine economic recovery in the United States.

The dramatic break with the Obama policy of protecting the Saudis and covering up the true authorship of 9/11 means that, with the proper mobilization of the American people, Congress can be compelled to take



videograb from BBC Panorama show

*Saudi Prince Bandar and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.*

the other actions that mean the difference between the survival and destruction of the United States and much of the rest of the world.

## The Saudi 9/11 Case

The opportunity for discovery about the Saudi role in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks was recently further enhanced by the public release, on July 15, 2016, of the 28-page chapter from the original 2002 Joint Congressional Inquiry into 9/11, which revealed previously secret evidence about the role of former Saudi Ambassador to the United States Prince Bandar bin Sultan in supporting at least two of the 9/11 terrorists, along with evidence of ties to the hijackers by scores of other Saudi officials at all levels of government and the Royal Family.

The role of Prince Bandar in the 9/11 attacks is of special significance because of his close ties to the Bush family and even closer ties to the British. Bandar was the broker, along with former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, of the Al-Yamamah deal, a barter

arrangement of British weapons for Saudi oil. Under Al-Yamamah, hundreds of billions of dollars were squirreled into secret off-shore joint Anglo-Saudi accounts for the purpose of funding terrorism, assassinations, and political coups around the globe. A prominent Member of the British House of Commons, who is also a senior figure in the British defense establishment, candidly warned in June that, if JASTA were to become U.S. law, the British Monarchy and the British government could be sued, along with the Saudis.

### ‘An Historic Victory’

Lyndon LaRouche, whose LaRouche Political Action Committee (LPAC) had mobilized intensively for the Sept. 29 results, described the vote as “An historic victory. It is a cause for rejoicing; it has turned the pages of history. The worldwide positive potential is enormous.” However, LaRouche cautioned, “How far and where it takes us, is not yet clear. Get ready to find out.” He added, “Remember, you’ve hurt the devil hard. And the devil ain’t going to thank you for that!”

On Saturday, Oct. 1, LaRouche addressed the weekly meeting of the Manhattan LPAC activists, and made clear the strategic significance of the JASTA vote. He told the activists that “we have just won a great victory already, even in the short-term presently; because what you saw in the Congress in that one vote, which humiliated Obama, we had won the battle. We had not just won the battle for the United States, or part of the United States. What we have gained is a new view of first of all, the European area; the European area is now ready to be trained and developed. What’s happened in Asia is, Asia is now the center of the whole development of mankind at this time. This is going to lead to investment in the skies and the islands out there; this is going to reach out throughout the Solar System and beyond.”

The overwhelming defeat of President Obama and the Saudis came despite the fact that the entire Obama Administration had been mobilized to pressure Congress to support his veto, and the Saudi Monarchy had poured in a reported \$9.4 million, in a desperate lobbying effort to buy off Members of Congress. In the end, a bipartisan coalition of leading Senators and Representatives rejected the Obama Administration lies that



White House/Pete Souza

*Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), left, conferring with President Obama before a 2010 appearance in Nevada.*

JASTA posed a threat to American interests abroad, and delivered the biggest political defeat to President Obama since he first took office.

### Obama’s Personal Intervention

On the eve of the vote, President Obama sent a personal message to the leaders of both Houses of Congress, imploring them not to override his veto. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) read President Obama’s letter to all of the Senate Democrats, according to one eyewitness account—and the only vote that was swayed by the personal appeal was that of Harry Reid. Every other Democrat and every Republican voted to repudiate the President, in the most profound repudiation of Obama or any recent president in memory.

On Sept. 29, each House of Congress engaged in two hours of debate, preceding the historic vote, and the vast majority of speeches emphasized the rights of the 9/11 families to at long last obtain justice, and to confront the Saudi Monarchy and its agents for their complicity in the worst terrorist attack to ever occur on U.S. soil.

Much of the debate was taken up debunking the Obama claim that JASTA would open American servicemen, corporations and diplomats to retaliation by foreign governments. Leading JASTA proponents, including Senators Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and

Charles Schumer (D-New York), and Representatives Robert Goodlatte (R-Va.) and Jerome Nadler (D-New York) made clear, repeatedly, that JASTA merely closes a loophole in legislation that has existed since the 1970s, which had not allowed American citizens to sue foreign governments proven to have provided support for terrorist attacks that took place on U.S. soil. Under the previous version of the law, payments to terrorists that took place outside the United States were not sufficient to waive sovereign immunity. That loophole allowed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to evade American justice for the past 15 years—and that has now come to an end.

### Broader Strategic Opportunities

The successful bipartisan effort, beating President Obama's veto of JASTA, can and must now be directed, with equal intensity, at other vital issues, starting with the need for Congress to immediately pass the bills already before both Houses of Congress to reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act, to break up the too-big-to-fail banks that are on the edge of a collapse far worse than 2008. Germany's Deutsche Bank, reportedly the largest holder of derivatives of any bank in the world, is about

to collapse, and the entire trans-Atlantic banking system is set to crash, as the direct result.

Reinstating Glass-Steagall is the indispensable first step towards launching a genuine economic recovery through massive capital investment in urgently needed infrastructure projects, research and development, and particularly a revival of America's now collapsed NASA space program. Such an effort, now, can create millions of new productive jobs. In Eurasia, under the leadership of China, a tremendous program of infrastructure investment is being implemented, under the banner of President Xi Jinping's One Belt, One Road initiative. Russian President Vladimir Putin has embraced the initiative and has proposed to integrate the Eurasian Economic Union into the effort, which former U.S. Ambassador Chas Freeman recently described as the biggest infrastructure project in human history.

Rather than working to sabotage the New Silk Road project—which has been the U.S. policy under President Obama—the United States should fully embrace the One Belt, One Road program and thus expand it into a true World Land-Bridge.

The U.S. Congress, for the first time in a long time, has acted with a single voice, on behalf of the vital interests of the American people. JASTA benefits all Americans and particularly those who lost loved ones in the 9/11 attacks or were themselves severely injured.

That vote offers a larger beacon of hope, that the same spirit of national interest can now rapidly be translated into the other actions, that are vital to the survival and prosperity of the United States and the world.

### Champions Needed

The enduring lesson of the strategic victory in releasing the 28 pages and passing JASTA is that a small number of Members of Congress who step forward to take a leadership role can make a decisive difference. In the case of 9/11, and in the case of Glass Steagall, there is a large and growing public constituency for taking bold action. But they require a champion, to take up the fight regardless of the consequences. That was the all-or-nothing approach taken by Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) with respect to the 28 pages and JASTA. Such a champion is vitally needed for the fight to restore Glass-Steagall and start the process of genuine economic recovery.

Signing on as a cosponsor is not enough. What have you done to actually force it through and make it law? What will you do today?

## REVIVE GLASS-STEAGALL Now!



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—Lyndon LaRouche, Feb. 11, 2013

**LaRouchePAC is now leading a nationwide effort to push through legislation for Glass-Steagall**  
([www.larouchepac.com](http://www.larouchepac.com)).

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