

*The Henry Jackson Society and the degeneration of British
Neoconservatism:*

Liberal interventionism, Islamophobia and the 'war of terror'

Tom Griffin, Hilary Aked, David Miller and Sarah Marusek
Spinwatch Public Interest Investigations, 2015

PDF version:

[http://www.spinwatch.org/index.php/issues/more/item/5777-
new-report-on-the-henry-jackson-society](http://www.spinwatch.org/index.php/issues/more/item/5777-new-report-on-the-henry-jackson-society)

Perhaps it's some mark of the state of British politics that Michael Gove, the British Lord Chancellor and Justice Secretary, helped found a society in honour of a US politician known in his lifetime as the whore for Boeing. The fact that Gove, in an earlier job as Education Secretary, urged teachers to show a greater appreciation of history, adds a farcical element to a pre-parliamentary career distinguished by his work as a news executive for Rupert Murdoch.

In this latest Spinwatch report, the authors trace the line from the long-dead pro-Vietnam war, pro-Israel, pro-arms industry senator from Washington via a Cambridge group at Peterhouse through the 'war on terror' to Gove's 'Trojan Horse' campaign against some Birmingham schools. Along the way they tell us lots about the fractious history of Douglas Murray's Centre for Social Cohesion, the role of William Shawcross as chairman of the Charity Commission and the Henry Jackson Society's (HJS) sources of funding.

They point out that a few New Labour luminaries, including departed Scottish Labour leader Jim Murphy and convicted fraudster Denis MacShane, are part of the HJS circle that strongly backed the Iraq war and the repression of civil liberties that followed the example of the United States after 9/11.

This well-referenced report tells us that the HJS promotes a strongly pro-Israel agenda; organises anti-Islam activities, particularly against British Muslim students, and advocates a transatlantic military and security regime.

The authors conclude:

'The fact that HJS refuses to publish its list of donors also highlights its own illiberal tendencies. Far from promoting democracy both domestically and abroad, like the original founders intended, the society has joined the ranks of the transatlantic Islamophobia network by relying on the financial support of strident pro-Israel elites and their grant-making foundations.'

What it doesn't tell us that is that much of this important HJS story goes untold in the media, and not just that large part owned by Murdoch whose organs have provided many HJS figures with work and income.

Spinwatch say they intend to launch the report in Parliament after the summer recess. Don't hold your breath for mainstream coverage or Parliamentary debate.

Tom Easton