

The view from the bridge

Robin Ramsay

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new

A new film about that man Wallace

There is a new film about Colin Wallace, *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, made by Michael Oswald.¹ It is on YouTube at <<https://youtu.be/z8FDPU-tDBU>>. This is by some distance the best account of Wallace, and the events in which he was involved, since Paul Foot's *Who Framed Colin Wallace?*. It includes all the significant photographs of Wallace from his period in Northern Ireland, plus a good deal of Wallace and Fred Holroyd speaking recently. Highly recommended.²

new

Woke corps?

Towards the end of a double-page spread in *The Times* (18 September hard copy; 17 digital), Gerard Baker quoted this by Vivek Ramaswamy, author of the new book *Woke Inc.*:³

'After the 2008 financial crisis, corporations feared the wrath of the old "Occupy Wall Street" left, so they got in bed with the newly ascendent woke left instead. According to the new woke left, the real sources of

¹ On Oswald see <<https://tinyurl.com/4v5d4x2y>> or <<https://taxjustice.net/2018/11/30/the-spiders-web-documentary-viewed-over-one-million-times-on-youtube/>>.

² The film's Twitter handle is @Wallace_Film and its website is <<https://colinwallacefilm.com/>>

³ Full title *Woke Inc.: Inside Corporate America's Social Justice Scam* (New York: Center Street, 2021)

disempowerment weren't economic in justice or poverty. Rather, they were racial injustice, misogyny, bigotry and so forth. Corporate America agreed to lend its money and legitimacy to that new woke movement as a way of defanging Occupy Wall Street and related movements. It worked.'

I did a search for Vivek Ramaswamy and there he was, quoted in the *Daily Mail*.

'Here's how it works: pretend like you care about something other than profit and power, precisely to gain more of each,' Ramaswamy writes. 'Corporations win. Woke activists win. Celebrities win. But the losers of this game are the American people, including both sincere progressives who are used as pawns and everyday Conservatives who are silenced, our hollowed-out institutions, and American democracy itself.

The subversion of America by this new form of capitalism isn't just a bug, as they say in Silicon Valley, it's a feature.'⁴

Is there, as the book's UK publisher has it, a 'modern woke-industrial complex'? ⁵ As evidence of this, the piece written in the *Mail* reproduced a Nike ad headed 'Our black commitment' which claimed:

'In 2020, Nike, Converse, Jordan Brand and Michael Jordan committed a combined \$140 million over 10 years too invest in and support organizations focused on economic empowerment, education and social justice to address racial inequality for Black Americans'.

Elsewhere there are lists of other companies who have made similar donations. Google has committed \$12 million, Facebook and Amazon \$10 million each to various groups.⁶ But these sums are chickenfeed compared to the companies'

⁴ <<https://tinyurl.com/5dsrpajz>> or <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9905339/How-companies-profiting-woke-ism.html>>

Proof-reading this, Nick Must commented:

'Strangely, the article managed to seriously mangle at least one of the quotes it gave, even going as far as to insert several words into a sentence that are not even in Mr Ramaswamy's book. You may well agree that that is slightly weird but the *Daily Mail* has suffered a bonfire of the sub-editors in the last couple of years.

On which see <<https://tinyurl.com/8w63e43k>> or <<https://www.pressgazette.co.uk/after-39-years-fighting-boffins-toffs-and-cads-daily-mail-style-guide-writer-reveals-all-including/>>'

⁵ <<https://tinyurl.com/reckk9vd>> or <<https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/general-books/business-management/Woke-Inc-Vivek-Ramaswamy-9781800750784>> Vivek Ramaswamy refers to 'the modern woke-industrial complex' in a piece he wrote for the *New York Post* at <<https://tinyurl.com/5h994tcu>> or <<https://nypost.com/2021/06/21/woke-inc-why-im-blowing-whistle-on-how-corporate-america-is-poisoning-society/>>

⁶ <<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/companies-donating-black-lives-matter/>>

advertising budgets, let alone their profits and turnover.⁷ Mr Ramaswamy may offer more compelling evidence in his book, but to me this looks less like a 'modern woke-industrial complex' than PR, or corporate social responsibility (CSR) as it used to be known. What has not yet been demonstrated is that this funding of elements of the 'woke' by US corporations is a *witting* policy of divide and rule.

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When I first read Mr Ramaswamy a faint bell rang: hadn't Daniel Brandt written something similar about the 1970s feminists? Yes, there it was in his essay in *Lobster* 24.

'In 1975 I transferred to a Ph.D. program in Berkeley and took a part-time handyman job to support myself. I found myself carrying heavy boxes of copying paper up the stairs to the Women's Affairs Office, and being told to change their light bulbs. These feminists were all cruising comfortably on a huge Ford Foundation grant, spinning out analyses based on sex divisions while playing their neo-Marxist cards whenever it was in their interests. I was a theoretical Marxist by then (in the sixties I never needed it), and felt I knew a thing or two. I pointed out the obvious, namely that sex divisions cut the class divisions in half again.'⁸

new

The unsayable

So the University of Bristol has sacked Professor David Miller for . . . well, according to their statement, Miller 'did not meet the standards of behaviour we expect from our staff'.⁹ Miller is appealing and this may not be the end of it. He was actually sacked, of course, for not toeing the line on Israel and

⁷ See, for example, <<https://tinyurl.com/yyp87ke4>> or <<https://medium.com/seedx-digital-marketing-guru/why-apple-spends-1-8-billion-on-advertising-38d3940270bf>>.

⁸ I long since lost touch with Brandt. Searching for him I came across two extremely detailed accounts of his disputes with Wikipedia and Google nearly twenty years ago. See, for example, <https://conservapedia.com/Wikipedia:The_Daniel_Brandt_controversy> and <<https://tinyurl.com/32w64bmu>> or <<https://tomjefferson1976.wordpress.com/2018/11/12/daniel-brandts-namebase-a-one-of-a-kind-treasure-trove-of-cfr-intelligence-information-disappears-from-the-internet/>>.

In the second of those citations, I learned that Brandt's pioneering spook-watch database, Namebase, is still on-line at <<http://www.namebase.net:82>>. Though it is apparently no longer being updated, it is still a great resource.

⁹ <<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2021/october/prof-miller-statement.html>>

Zionism.

We now have not the *secret* Jewish conspiracy of anti-semitic theories but an *open* Jewish conspiracy. And despite the fact that this conspiracy has been discussed in some detail by former Conservative Cabinet Minister Alan Duncan in his recently published diaries¹⁰ and allowed itself to be filmed (*inter alia* discussing how to fuck over then Foreign Office minister Duncan),¹¹ the mass media in this country is unwilling – afraid, apparently – to acknowledge its existence.

Not a million miles from which is the news that the BBC's John Ware will not, after all, be suing Jeremy Corbyn.¹² This is a pity – it would have been good to get Ware into court to face libel lawyers – but hardly a surprise. It was always possible that Corbyn's crowd-funding of over £300,000 to fight Ware would scare him off.¹³ In the event, Ware's lawyers didn't file the papers in time and the action fell.

new

The CFR as 'deep state'?

A new two part essay has appeared from the excellent Will Banyan,¹⁴ 'Vanguard of the "Deep State"? The Council on Foreign Relations Centennial & the Future of the New World Order'.¹⁵ As well as documenting the organisation's formation and history, he includes much of the critical comment on it – by right and left but mostly right – from the 1930s onwards. For

¹⁰ *In the Thick of It* (London: William Collins, 2021). The Conservative Friends of Israel are mentioned on the first page.

¹¹ The first of the three parts of Al Jazeera's The Lobby is at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceCOhdgRBoc>>.

¹² <<https://tinyurl.com/35dp3xzy>> or <<https://skwawkbox.org/2021/10/05/breaking-panoramas-ware-drops-lawsuit-vs-corbyn-says-crowdfund-page/>>

¹³ I noted in this column in *Lobster* 80:

'My guess is that, faced with the prospect of being examined under oath, Ware will find some way of backing out and the case against Corbyn will not proceed.'

<<https://tinyurl.com/2u4xwp56>> or <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster80/lob80-view-from-the-bridge.pdf>> under subhead **Ware's comeuppance?**

¹⁴ See him at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster63/lob63-rothschild.pdf>>.

¹⁵ Part 1 at <<https://tinyurl.com/mdhdh4ek>> or <<https://www.conspiracyarchive.com/2021/09/24/vanguard-of-the-deep-state-the-council-on-foreign-relations-centennial-the-future-of-the-new-world-order-part-1/>> and part 2 at <<https://tinyurl.com/hf7dmrky>> or <<https://www.conspiracyarchive.com/2021/10/11/vanguard-of-the-deep-state-the-council-on-foreign-relations-centennial-the-future-of-the-new-world-order-part-2/>>

example, Dan Smoot called the CFR 'the invisible government' in 1962. If you needed one, this is a useful reminder that the populist, conspiracy-minded elements among Trump's constituency have a long history in American politics.

It is unfortunate that Banyan's entirely non-conspiratorial research appears so regularly on a site called conspiracyarchive.com.

new

Following the money

You might have thought that the report in Open Democracy that the Conservative Party had received about 40% of its funding – something like £11 million – from hedge funds and other financiers would be considered worthy of coverage by the media.¹⁶ But as far as I can see only one obscure website thought it worth a mention.¹⁷ The author of the report, Dr. Seth Thévoz, refers to the desire of the London-based hedge funds – and other parts of the financial sector – to see Britain become 'a Singapore-on-Thames-style model of light-touch regulation and low business taxes'. In the initial period after Brexit 'Singapore-on-Thames' was widely used by some of the Brexiteers in the Conservative Party as their vision of the way forward. (The expression is now a Wikipedia entry.¹⁸) But there is more to the Singapore model than the absence of business regulation. As a glance at any short account of its political system shows, Singapore is a democracy in name only.¹⁹ Noting that the Conservative Party seems bent on pursuing something like the Singapore model, Richard Murphy wrote recently:

' . . . in the process he [Johnson] seeks to do what all proponents of tax havens seek to achieve, which is to undermine the power of the democratically elected state in pursuit of the goals of the unelected financial elite.'²⁰

¹⁶ <<https://tinyurl.com/ecfu2amn>> or <<https://beta.opendemocracy.net/en/dark-money-investigations/tories-rake-in-11m-from-hedge-funds-and-finance-tycoons/>>

¹⁷ The World News at <<https://tinyurl.com/uku9wyzk>> or <https://twnews.co.uk/gb-news/tories-rake-in-ps11m-from-hedge-funds-and-finance-tycoons>.

¹⁸ <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singapore-on-Thames>>

¹⁹ See, for example, <<https://tinyurl.com/3rwt9vaf>> or <<https://www.newstatesman.com/world/asia/2021/10/jeevan-vasagar-why-replicating-the-singapore-model-is-impossible>>.

²⁰ <<https://tinyurl.com/2fwumsen>> or <<https://www.taxresearch.org.uk/Blog/2021/01/18/now-it-is-official-we-are-to-become-singapore-on-thames/>>

The steps that this government is preparing to convert Britain into a Singapore-style (or Turkey-style) state was recently detailed by Jonathan Freedland.²¹ Senior Labour Party figures seem oblivious to what is coming down the track.

new

Dishy Rishi

In his speech to the Conservative Party conference this year, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak told conference how inspired he had been by the years he had spent in California.

'The years I spent in California left a lasting mark on me, working with some of the most innovative and exciting people in finance and technology. Watching ideas becoming a reality. Seeing entrepreneurs build new teams. It's not just about money.

I saw a culture, a mindset, which was unafraid to challenge itself, reward hard work and was open to all those with the talent to achieve.'²²

Mr Sunak clearly hasn't been paying much attention to the sunshine state in the time since he lived there 15 years or so ago. CNN reported recently that 'On any given night in California, the governor's office estimates that there are about 170,000 homeless people on the street'.²³

new

Pandora's box

The exposé of the money laundering and sanitising schemes centred on the City of London in the so-called Pandora Papers was welcome, of course. This was the first take of consortiumnews.com on the story.

²¹ <<https://tinyurl.com/3dawb585>> or <<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/oct/01/boris-johnson-rigging-the-system-power-courts-protest-elections>> Freedland doesn't mention Singapore; Orban's Hungary is the model he uses. But both are what we might call managed democracies.

²² <<https://tinyurl.com/67f6ywn7>> or <<https://www.conservativehome.com/parliament/2021/10/sunak-declares-brexite-will-bring-a-renewed-culture-of-enterprise-conference-speech-in-full.html>>

²³ <<https://tinyurl.com/2ucxn9v5>> or <<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/09/08/politics/california-recall-homelessness-crisis/index.html>>

Pandora Papers Show True Face of Global Britain

October 5, 2021

Through its network of tax havens, the U.K. is the fulcrum of a system that benefits the rich and powerful writes Adam Ramsay. ²⁴

All true. However, the exposé also serves as a wonderful showcase for the City's services. If there are rich people out there still wondering where the money-laundering and sanitising experts are, they certainly know now. This was global advertising for the City, at no cost and with no downside. For since the City contributes about 10% of the government's tax revenue and about 40% of the Conservative Party's income there is zero chance of the present government, or a government lead by Sir Keir Starmer, doing anything about this.

Blurred

For the last few months we have had Tony Blair and Gordon Brown commenting on current events from the sidelines. Not that anyone in power is taking any notice. Someone who is, however, is the playwright-scriptwriter-director David Hare, who is a fan of Blair. In a profile of Hare in *The Times* (6 August) he was quoted as describing Blair as 'by far the most gifted politician of my lifetime . . . I mean listen to him now on the subject of Europe, listen to him not the subject of Covid – would you not to wish him to be running the country? [. . .] the first five years of the Blair government were certainly the best government I've had since my adolescence.'

Ah, the vagaries of memory! What did the first Blair government do? Chancellor Brown gave the Bank of England the right to set interest rates, assured the City of London that 'light touch regulation' would continue, and did nothing to slow the continuing decline of the British manufacturing economy. And, of course, Blair promised to support Bush Jnr. in 'whatever'. In short: the first Blair administration was a continuation of the Thatcher years in most policy areas of significance. What is in David Hare's memory of the period?

²⁴ <<https://tinyurl.com/yjkd6n2t>> or <<https://consortiumnews.com/2021/10/05/pandora-papers-show-true-face-of-global-britain/>>

9/11

So: 20 years since 9/11. 2001 was obviously pre-Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc., but there was an established online community of those who watched and analysed world events. Later that day, I went on-line and began reading and saving the torrent of comment which had immediately followed the attacks in Manhattan. Within just a few days this became so massive that was impossible to save even just the best of it. So I gave up. I still have all that material on a disk somewhere, though I no longer have a machine which could read it.

There were three main initial threads that I recall. The first was 'Don't believe it. This is just too convenient for the Bush administration.' This had force at the time – the Republicans had stolen the election at the Florida count and protests about that had continued – and was strengthened when the 1962 Pentagon proposals, Operation Northwoods, were noticed.²⁵ The second theme was 'It must be a state/deep state conspiracy because there was no air defence.' (I don't know what happened to that line of thought.²⁶) And the third was claims that it was impossible to fly a passenger jet into the Pentagon in the way had apparently had been done. (This was rebutted fairly quickly by eyewitness testimony and evidence of plane pieces inside and outside the Pentagon.)

By the second day a number of correspondents were expressing doubt about the fall of towers. Then someone saw that in the New Mexico *Albuquerque Journal* three days after the attacks an article had appeared quoting a demolition expert, Van Romero, which began thus: 'Televised images of the attacks on the World Trade Center suggest that explosive devices caused the collapse of both towers, a New Mexico Tech explosion expert said Tuesday.' Three weeks later it was noticed that not only had a piece been published

²⁵ Northwoods was a proposal to run 'false flag' operations to provide a pretext for invading Cuba. The original documents are at <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/news/20010430/northwoods.pdf>.

In a 2002 talk on 9/11 and conspiracy theories I said this:

'The idea of your own government, or state, killing thousands of its citizens seems less outrageous when you learn that 40 years before the same institutions had been considering killing a few dozen in pursuit of something as relatively piffling as retaking Cuba. Same idea; only the scale is different.'

²⁶ Nick Must commented: This petered out when it became clear that NORAD, the U.S. air defence radar system, had scrambled five fighter jets to intercept. However, because NORAD had been expecting threats from only outside the U.S., the process for air traffic control to initially alert NORAD was slow and none of the hijacked planes was intercepted. NORAD's somewhat startling admission of how they had seriously dropped a bollock is mentioned in the *Popular Mechanics* article at <https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/a5654/debunking-911-myths-planes/>.

noting that Van Romero had changed his mind, the *Albuquerque Journal* had altered their web page for 9/11, removing their original story and putting Romero's recantation in its place.

I have read little of the false flag literature on 9/11. I cannot persuade myself that elements within the US (or Israeli) military and/or intelligence would attempt such a vast false flag operation. I said this in 2002:

'I never took the US-did-it thesis seriously, even after [James] Bamford's documents [on Operation Northwoods] became available, because of the targets: Manhattan and the Pentagon. I just can't imagine them deciding to attack those. Had it been Disneyland, or some provincial city, I might have considered it. But not those towers of capital and their protector, the Pentagon. Too many friends and relatives might be involved; and why targets so big when the same effect on public opinion could have been generated by something less extravagant and less damaging to the US?'

However, none of this says anything about the way the buildings – especially WTC7 – collapsed. I remain where I was almost 20 years ago: the plane-bomb attacks and the collapsing buildings should be separated. The obvious analogy with the Kennedy assassination would be separating the killing from the cover-up. For decades some of the JFK buffs chiseled away at the Dallas cover-up, thinking that would lead to whodunit. But as we have learned, the first response of bureaucracies, especially state, police and intelligence bureaucracies, is to cover-up everything, in every situation. This behaviour *per se* tells us nothing about any role in the event.

Thus it seems to me that the official version of the event is true and what was being suppressed was the Saudi funding of the attack. But a mystery remains about the collapse of the buildings. If they were demolished, the demolition charges were there before the attacks. Why were they there? If the argument is made that they were placed there by the conspirators to be detonated when the planes struck, the question then arises: why did they install them in WTC7? As a back-up plan lest the plane-bombs miss their main targets? If they did install them in WTC7, in the absence of a plane crashing into it, why were they used? And if they were in WTC7, where else were they placed? None of the scenarios I have read along these lines makes much sense.

Nearly 20 years ago it was reported that a senior engineer in the Otis elevator company had said that American skyscrapers are wired for demolition while being built, so they can be brought down vertically if they threaten to fall

onto neighbouring buildings.²⁷ It isn't difficult to imagine why insurance companies would not want the building whose insurance they are carrying damaged by the building next door falling on it. Nor, if this is true, is it difficult to imagine why this has been kept secret: who would want to work in a building wired for demolition?

Against this appealing notion is the simple fact that there has been no support for this claim. Not a whisper. As one of the responders to the original Otis piece wrote, explosives deteriorate and they would have to be regularly checked and/or replaced. Given the number of skyscrapers in America's cities, this would entail a considerable industry. Of whose existence not a word has leaked. The mystery remains.

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Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth seems to be the leading organisation of the 9/11 sceptics. I looked at the proceedings of a 2016 conference of theirs and noticed that one of the speakers was Jeffrey Steinberg, senior editor of the late Lyndon LaRouche's *Executive Intelligence Review*. This version of the false flag thesis was in that conference report:

' . . . according to [Barbara] Honegger, Steve Pieczenik said that he knows, "and is willing to name, under oath, through the proper legal venue, the military General on then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz's military staff, who confirmed to him, Pieczenik, that September 11 was a false flag attack and a homeland Gladio operation. 'They ran the attacks,' Wolfowitz's General told Pieczenik of Wolfowitz himself, Vice President Cheney, Cheney's top national security aide Steven Hadley, Elliott Abrams, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, all named by name, and he says just get in touch with him when there is the appropriate legal forum.'"²⁸

This looks significant on first reading but amounts to little. Pieczenik is willing to swear that X said that Y said Honegger is a former Reagan era Washington insider, best known for revealing the existence of the so-called 'October Surprise', the deal between the Reagan election campaign and the Iranians to prevent the release of the American hostages being held in Tehran.²⁹ She apparently does not believe that the Pentagon was struck by a passenger jet alone and thinks there was an explosion there before it arrived;

²⁷ See <www.rense.com/general48/chargesplacedinWTC.htm>.

²⁸ <<https://tinyurl.com/4t6tra24>> or <<https://www.ae911truth.org/news/322-news-media-events-wrap-up-of-justice-in-focus-symposium-9-11-and-the-path-forward>>

²⁹ See <<https://spartacus-educational.com/JFKhonegger.htm>>.

and maybe it wasn't the Boeing 757 which struck it. (I don't know her material well enough to say which of these she currently believes.³⁰) Either way this has been thoroughly rebutted.³¹ If you read one of the critiques of her by Frank Legge – himself a 9/11 sceptic – there is the presentation of radar data on the plane's flight which shows it hit the Pentagon at the place and time the official version says it did.³² And there are nearly 100 eyewitness statements on the plane's impact.³³ A biographical sketch of Steve Pieczenik,³⁴ the man Honegger was quoting in 2016, shows someone with a distinguished career who latterly has been infected by conspiracy theories and now appears on the Alex Jones show.³⁵

Steinberg, Honegger and Pieczenik *are* conspiracy theorists and I am a little puzzled by their presence among Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth.

Penkovsky

Thanks to Roger Steer for bringing to my attention an interesting piece in the *London Review of Books*, a review of two new books about the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.³⁶ The books show in some detail that much of the received version of that event in the West – brave JFK stood up to the Soviets, defied his own military and saved the world – is incomplete at best. I had actually skimmed the LRB essay before Steer's nudge and, on reading it more carefully, I was struck by the omission from this account of the role played by Oleg Penkovsky, the GRU colonel who was providing SIS (MI6) – and thus the Americans – with detailed information on Soviet nuclear weaponry. Crucially, Penkovsky told SIS how few missiles the Soviets actually had and that they

³⁰ There is a 2013 audio-visual presentation by Honegger on-line at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fvJ8nFa5Qk>>. It is over 3 hours long and I confess I don't have the patience to sit through it.

³¹ See <<https://tinyurl.com/4mte7emr>> or <<http://scienceof911.com.au/pentagon/critique-of-barbara-honegger/comments-on-honeggers-talk/>>.

³² <<https://scienceof911.com.au/pentagon/critique-of-barbara-honegger/>>

³³ <<https://ratical.org/ratville/CAH/F77pentagon.html>>

³⁴ At <<https://tinyurl.com/km8uxkea>> or <https://innfa.org/en/Steve_Pieczenik-8440068662>.

³⁵ See <<https://stevepieczenik.com>>.

³⁶ <<https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v43/n17/andrew-cockburn/defensive-not-aggressive>>

were having problems with their guidance systems.³⁷ The US then had about 5000 nuclear warheads which could strike the Soviet Union. The Soviets had about 30 ICBMs which could reach America.³⁸

This nuclear disparity is both the reason the Soviets tried to install short-range missiles on Cuba and why they were bound to back down when push came to shove. (Could the Soviets have really believed they could mount such an enormous covert logistical operation 90 miles off the Florida coast and not be spotted by the Americans? Apparently so.)

Penkovsky's information is one of the few instances in the Cold War I can think of where what a spy did really mattered.³⁹ Most of the time the so-called 'intelligence war' was more akin to *Mad Magazine's* Spy-vs-Spy.⁴⁰

Off-line

A big 'Amen' to Dan Atkinson who, in his blog, agrees with me that the sensible response to the cyber-warfare/ransom threat is – go off-line.

'Defence Ministers, officials and think-tankers love to big up the "threat" of cyber attacks on our "critical infrastructure" from, oh, the Russians, the Chinese, little green men, you name it. Rather than assemble a costly boffin squad, would it not simply be easier to move said infrastructure off-line, which is where it was until fairly recently?'⁴¹

³⁷ A study in *Foreign Policy* states that the US had 203 ICBMs capable of reaching the Soviet Union. The Soviets had 36. But the US had shorter range missiles all over Europe.
<<https://foreignpolicy.com/2012/07/10/what-was-at-stake-in-1962/>>

³⁸ Robert S. Norris, 'The Cuban Missile Crisis: A Nuclear Order of Battle October/November 1962' at <<https://tinyurl.com/xvx4xzs>> or <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/event/2012_10_24_Norris_Cuban_Missile_Crisis_Nuclear_Order_of_Battle.pdf>.

³⁹ The best – certainly the most elegant – account I remember of the Penkovsky affair is in chapter 6 of Anthony Verrier's *Through the Looking Glass* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1983). This is the view from SIS, as Verrier makes explicit by beginning the chapter with a quote from a speech made by 'C', the head of SIS, to his staff either during or just after the Missile Crisis.

⁴⁰ See, for example, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spy_vs._Spy>.

Nick Must commented:

Coincidentally, the creator of Spy Vs. Spy, Antonio Prohías, was Cuban and the website thecubanhistory.com has an excellent example of his work at: <<https://tinyurl.com/993z7k6>> or <https://www.thecubanhistory.com/2020/03/antonio-prohias-famous-cartoonist-creator-of-spy-vs-spy-for-mad-magazine-antonio-prohias-famoso-dibujante-creador-de-los-cartones-satiricos-spy-vs-spy-de-la-revista-mad/spy-vs-spy-mad-60_583de820bbab78-98678466/>.

⁴¹ <<https://blogs.thisismoney.co.uk/author-dan-atkinson/>> Entry for 21 August.

Who's beaming who?

The so-called 'Havana syndrome' is the apparent attack on US diplomats with some kind of sonic/electronic device, causing a wide variety of symptoms from the unpleasant to life-changing.⁴² It is suspected that said diplomats are being 'assaulted' in this way as persons unknown – but presumed to be Russians – try to remotely 'read' the data their cellphones contain. Yet it is curious that so far no signs of these devices have been spotted – and they are apparently going to be rather large; certainly not hand-held – and such incidents are now appearing all over the world.

'The phenomenon that began in Havana has been reported by officials and their families stationed in Russia, Poland, Austria, Georgia, Taiwan, Colombia, China, Kyrgyzstan, the United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan. "It is global," one government official told NBC News in mid-July, "but there seems to be an awful lot going on in Europe." Vienna, a global capital of spycraft since the early days of the Cold War, has emerged as a recent epicenter: Since President Biden took office, close to two dozen American officials in the Austrian capital have had symptoms.'⁴³

We seem to have two choices here: either it's a really big operation, on the ground, in many places, which has yet to be detected; or it's something else. One alternative, not yet discussed that I have seen, is that the effects are not being caused deliberately but accidentally. There was this in an account of one such 'attack':

'The official shook his head. He was led to an examination room. Hospital staff found his White House identification card in his pocket, and three cell phones, one of which they used to call his wife.'⁴⁴

Three cell phones? Three sources of electro-magnetic (e-m) energy close to his body? Many of the symptoms being reported are those experienced by the tiny minority of us who are e-m sensitive and whose bodies simply cannot cope with the e-m soup we live in today.⁴⁵ It may be that the diplomats are indeed suffering from what one recent study identified as a 'directed, pulsed radio

⁴² <<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/05/31/are-us-officials-under-silent-attack>>

⁴³ <<https://tinyurl.com/afnk5cwn>> or <<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/what-is-havana-syndrome-symptoms-causes.html>>

⁴⁴ See note 41 above.

⁴⁵ E-m sensitivity has recently been recognised by the US government as a genuine physical rather than psychosomatic condition. See <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7139347/>>.

frequency (RF) energy'.⁴⁶ But I would like to know how many of those affected have been carrying multiple e-m devices.

Twenty years on . . .

As the 20th anniversary of 9/11 approached, the Western media produced a predictable slew of articles about the propensity of Americans to believe conspiracy theories, with the particular emphasis that 9/11 'paved the way' for QAnon and the anti-vaxxers. For example:

'9/11 trutherism *paved the way* for the massive spread of QAnon's outlandish pedophilia cabal theories, which have culminated in death and an insurrection, as well as anti-vaccine conspiracy theories that have contributed to the spread of COVID variants across the country.'⁴⁷
(emphasis added)

For example:

'To write about 9/11 is to gain some insight into how far such thinking has reached into the minds of some Americans. Long before conspiracists began insisting that children weren't really gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, or that a child sex ring with ties to Hillary Clinton was being run out of an innocuous pizza restaurant in Washington, D.C., or that the death tolls of the Covid-19 pandemic were somehow being intentionally inflated, the self-styled "9/11 Truthers" were the first major American conspiracy theory of the digital age. Their durability, nearly 20 years after the attack, suggests that we are likely to be stuck for a long time with more recent conspiracist movements such as QAnon.'

48

But does this make sense? Are the 9/11 'truthers' the same people who believe in QAnon? I have seen no evidence comparing the two sets of adherents, but it is my distinct impression that there is a left-right split here. 9/11 'truthers' are largely on the left. The initial scepticism about 9/11 was fuelled by the sense on some of the American left that this was just too convenient for the

⁴⁶ <<https://tinyurl.com/56vvut6n>> or <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-diplomats-illnesses-likely-linked-to-pulsed-energy-attack-11607278210?mod=article_inline>

⁴⁷ 'Spike Lee scrambles to reedit 9/11 documentary after backlash for featuring conspiracy theories' at <<https://tinyurl.com/3pzs7ce2>> or <<https://www.salon.com/2021/08/25/spike-lee-9-11-documentary-conspiracy-theory-reedit-hbo/>>

⁴⁸ Garrett M. Graff at <<https://tinyurl.com/frk6ytss>> or <<https://www.wsj.com/articles/9-11-and-the-rise-of-the-new-conspiracy-theorists-11599768458>>.

administration of Bush Jnr.. At the time of the plane-bombs, the Republicans were still being accused of stealing the election at the Florida count and were known to be bent on attacking the Middle East. QAnoners, on the other hand, are on the right; in its initial incarnation QAnon was aimed at Hilary Clinton and the Democratic Party establishment.

There is no comparison between the two sets of claims. The QAnon material that I have glanced at⁴⁹ contains no facts and no research. The 'movement' has produced no literature, no reading lists. It is merely assertion. On examination, the average QAnoner doesn't know much about the cluster of claims under that heading and only believes bits and pieces of them.⁵⁰ The 9/11 'truthers', on the other hand, are laden to the gunnels with research. The 9/11 literature is enormous and much of it is intimidating to a non-scientist like me. Most of the so-called 'truthers' are not 'truthers' at all but sceptics: and many are scientists, architects and engineers.

In short, the American media has got this wrong. The appropriate comparison for 9/11 'truthers' is with JFK 'truthers' not QAnon. It was the Kennedy assassination researchers who paved the way for the 9/11 sceptics. It was the early Kennedy assassination sceptics who questioned the official version of that event and showed that while official Washington tells lies, its false version of history can be challenged. If we are going to blame somebody for today's conspiracy theory-laden world, its ultimate progenitors were the *authors* of the Warren Commission whose hurriedly cobbled together fictions fell apart as soon as they were examined.

The CIA and the Labour Party

In Susan Williams' majestic *White Mischief*⁵¹ there is a little snippet about Rita Hinden, founder of the Fabian Society's Colonial Bureau in 1940 and later editor of the Gaitskellite magazine *Socialist Commentary*.

'Criticism of [George] Padmore had appeared in *Encounter* long before his death. A scathing review of his 1956 book *Pan-Africanism or Communism?* described it as "infuriating"; it classified Padmore among those "who have revolted against Communist conduct and cynicism, but

⁴⁹ It is unreadable rubbish. QAnon's initial creators must be gobsmacked at the success of their wacky fiction.

⁵⁰ See 'QAnon Supporters Aren't Quite Who You Think They Are' at <<https://www.wired.com/story/qanon-supporters-arent-quite-who-you-think-they-are/>>.

⁵¹ London: C. Hurst & Co., 2021; reviewed in this issue of *Lobster*.

can never free themselves from Communist ideology". The review was written by Rita Hinden, who was carefully selected for the task. Michael Josselson, the CIA agent who had set up the Congress for Cultural Freedom, had told Irving Kristol, the coeditor of *Encounter*, that he should run a review "by one of 'our' people"; elsewhere, Josselson described Hinden as "one of us".⁵² (Williams, p. 147)

Which looks awfully like Hinden was CIA and is another little piece of support for the thesis that the Gaitskellites were, in effect, a CIA operation within the Labour Party.

Covidia

As many others have noticed, it is striking that just before the Covid outbreak there was a Global Vaccination Summit (12 September 2019) organised by the European Commission, closely followed by a coronavirus outbreak simulation exercise (18 October 2019) organised by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the World Economic Forum, and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Neither was exactly a secret: the European Commission event was live streamed⁵² and the extracts from the Gates-sponsored event are available online.⁵³ Even so a Google search for coronavirus + Gates + conspiracy will bring up a rich stew of conspiratorial nonsense.

One strand of the coronavirus conspiracy theories concerns ID2020, which says of itself:

'Alliance partners share the belief that identity is a human right and that individuals must have "ownership" over their own identity.

In 2018, ID2020 Alliance Partners, working in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), drafted a formal articulation of our perspective on ethical approaches to digital identity. The landmark ID2020 Alliance Manifesto below lays out these shared principles and forms a starting point to guide the future of digital identity globally.'⁵⁴

Their website notes:

'The Need for Good Digital ID is Universal.

⁵² At <<https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/global-vaccination-summit-12-09-19/>>.

⁵³ <<https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/event201/videos.html>> or <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoLw-Q8X174&t=4s>>

⁵⁴ <<https://id2020.org/manifesto>>

The ability to prove who you are is a fundamental and universal human right. Because we live in a digital era, we need a trusted and reliable way to do that both in the physical world and online.'

It would make more sense to claim that 'The ability to prove who you are *should be* a fundamental and universal human right' – it surely isn't one now. The project's aim, while utopian, seems inoffensive, even positive. Not for the conspiracy nutters. ID2020 became a feature of theories claiming . . . well precisely what isn't clear to me but something along the lines of Gates-microchips-in-vaccines-population-control. For example:

'The time has come for the New World Order advocates to take advantage of a major crisis. The COVID-19 epidemic provides the perfect opportunity to execute the first large scale implementation of the digital identity platform. Big Pharma is now officially partnering up with hi-tech industries to pair "immunization" with "digital biometrics" by implementing mandatory vaccinations with implantable microchips. This means humans will soon be microchipped, tracked, and controlled, before commanded to the slaughterhouse, through the global identification matrix called ID2020.'⁵⁵

While the origins of most of this guff is frequently impossible to identify, in the case of ID2020 it has apparently been traced back to – guess who? – yes, it's Alex Jones.⁵⁶

But this particular bit of nonsense has spread far beyond the Alex Jones audience. A version of it appeared in essays written by Peter Koenig on Global Research. He wrote, for example:

'Is it just a coincidence that ID2020 is being rolled out at the onset of what WHO calls a Pandemic? – Or is a pandemic needed to "roll out" the multiple devastating programs of ID2020?'⁵⁷

I hadn't read much of Koenig before this – glanced at it occasionally on Global Research. Surprised by this particular bend in the road, I had a look at Koenig's recent writing for that site and noticed that prior to 1 August this year he described himself as 'a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization'. But on that day this changed and he is now also 'non-resident

⁵⁵ <<https://noonegetsoutalive.com/news/id2020-the-mark-of-the-beast>>

⁵⁶ <<https://tinyurl.com/emj4rujc>> or <<https://web.archive.org/web/20200416001202/https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2020/04/15/id2020-coronavirus-vaccine-misinformation>>

⁵⁷ <<https://tinyurl.com/5mkxz5xk>> or <<https://www.globalresearch.ca/coronavirus-causes-effects-real-danger-agenda-id2020/5706153>>

Sr. Fellow of the Chongyang Institute of Renmin University, Beijing'.⁵⁸ No doubt this position has nothing at all to do with Koenig's pro-China writing on Global Research⁵⁹ and in particular, his recent interpretation of the Covid pandemic – which would have us look for its origins anywhere but in that lab in Wuhan.

*

On 4 June the *Daily Mail* ran a story with the following headline:

'British doctor and his secret campaign to gag the Covid lab leak theory: He worked in Wuhan and manipulated coronaviruses – yet orchestrated a campaign to clear it of blame and tried to hide his tracks. Now we publish the evidence, writes SIAN BOYLE' ⁶⁰

The story went on to state:

And, in a further twist, **we can reveal** that EcoHealth Alliance received funding for biosecurity research, into weapons of mass destruction, from the Pentagon – which is now under investigation for inadvertently funding the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology].'⁶¹

Good to see the major media trying to keep up. I published that story in this column in the previous issue of *Lobster*.⁶²

*

Much derision in the US media about anti-vaxxers taking the animal drug Ivermectin.⁶³ But elsewhere in the world Ivermectin seems to be strikingly effective. For example, a piece in the *India Express*,⁶⁴ begins with this:

'Uttar Pradesh government says early use of Ivermectin helped to keep positivity, deaths low

Claiming that timely introduction of Ivermectin since the first wave has

⁵⁸ See <<https://tinyurl.com/ywa4xb78>> or <<https://www.globalresearch.ca/china-post-pandemic-growth-reaching-out-developing-internal-markets-wellbeing/5751653>>.

⁵⁹ See, for example, <<https://www.globalresearch.ca/hong-kong-pure-western-insanity/5696615>>.

⁶⁰ Author Siân Boyle is a Feature Writer at the *Mail*.

⁶¹ <<https://tinyurl.com/pt2s8wkj>> <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9653613/British-doctor-Peter-Daszak-worked-Wuhan-scientists-secret-plan-stop-lab-leak-theory.html>>

⁶² In this column under subhead **Follow the cover-up**.

⁶³ For example 'What the ivermectin debacle reveals about the hypocrisy of the anti-vaxxer crowd' at <<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/08/25/politics/ivermectin-covid-19-fox-news/index.html>>.

⁶⁴ <<https://tinyurl.com/8sne3s85>> or <<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/lucknow/uttar-pradesh-government-says-ivermectin-helped-to-keep-deaths-low-7311786/>>

helped the state maintain a relatively low positivity rate despite its high population density.'

This report tells us that, rather than waiting for full-scale trials and testing, as would happen in the UK or the EU, Ivermectin was given to a group of volunteers who were dealing with Covid patients and none of them caught the virus. So they rolled it out across the state. In view of the declining efficacy of the vaccinations we have had, this looks promising to my (ignorant) eye.

Down the memory hole it goes

So the 24-hour news cycle trundles on and most of its practitioners will have forgotten that only a few weeks ago the *Guardian* claimed to have access to documents leaked from a meeting at the Kremlin which discussed President Putin's plan to help elect Donald Trump.⁶⁵ The report by Luke Harding, Julian Borger and Dan Sabbagh said that 'The *Guardian* has shown the documents to independent experts who say they appear to be genuine.' Which, as endorsements go, is decidedly lukewarm. Since when, apart from a chorus of raspberries from those on the American left who regard the Trump-Putin claims as anti-Russian smears,⁶⁶ there has been nothing, no follow-up, not a word.

National security droppings

Below, under subhead **The secrets at the bus stop**, I speculated that the MoD files that were dropped at a bus stop in Kent were 'lost' deliberately, that it was a psy-op. At the time we didn't know who the klutz-who-drops-papers-at-bus-stops was. Now we do: no less a figure than Angus Lapsley, one of the real big-wigs in the UK's foreign policy establishment. As the commentator at Brexit Watch put it:

' . . . as security experts have said on social media, printing and taking secret documents out of a secure location should be the primary focus of an investigation. Why was this man travelling on public transport with the papers? Why did he bunch so many disparate and highly sensitive papers in one pile? Whether or not he then dumped them is almost irrelevant as

⁶⁵ <<https://tinyurl.com/hyjf9ptk>> or <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/15/kremlin-papers-appear-to-show-putins-plot-to-put-trump-in-white-house>>

⁶⁶ See, for example, <<https://consortiumnews.com/2021/07/17/luke-hardings-hard-sell/>>.

the key breaches had already taken place.⁶⁷

Lapsley, it has been widely reported, was about to become the UK's ambassador to NATO.⁶⁸ If it was a deliberate leak, he will get the post. If he was just being sloppy, he won't. We shall see.

Labour and anti-semitism (Or: you couldn't make this up)

I don't have a problem with political parties policing their membership. In the 1980s I was a member of the Labour Party and was entirely happy to see it trying to purge members of the Militant Tendency. After all, Militant was a classic party-within-a-party. The current Labour Party purge is weirder than that. It is a purge of people with the wrong attitude towards Israel. This may have something to do with the current leader, Keir Starmer, having a Jewish wife. It certainly has something to do with fear that the Israeli operation to remove Jeremy Corbyn as leader might be cranked up again against the current leadership. Whatever the motivation, today's purge, though formally of members accused of being anti-semites, is also of members who are not enthusiastic enough in their support of Israel – or who express support for other expellees.

One of the people so accused sent me what we might call the charge sheet from Labour's Complaints Team. (Amidst the many screens of quasi-legal guff is the contact details for the Samaritans, no less.) Eventually we get to the meat.

1. (the Respondent) has engaged in conduct prejudicial and / or grossly detrimental to the Party in breach of Chapter 2, Clause I.8 of the Labour Party Rule Book by engaging in conduct which:
 - may reasonably be seen to demonstrate hostility or prejudice based on religion or belief;
 - may reasonably be seen to involve antisemitic actions, stereotypes and sentiments;
 - Engages in stereotypical allegations of Jewish control in the media, economy, government or other societal institutions;
 - Accuses the Jews as people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or

⁶⁷ This is from a discussion of his career at <<https://tinyurl.com/6z3nw6bj>> or <<https://www.brexit-watch.org/the-angus-lapsley-scandal-will-tell-us-if-ministers-are-really-in-charge>>.

⁶⁸ <<https://tinyurl.com/yh23btbx>> or <<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/03/civil-servant-who-lost-mod-files-at-a-bus-stop-was-to-be-uks-ambassador-to-nato>>

exaggerating the Holocaust;

Repeats stereotypical and negative physical descriptions/descriptions or character traits of Jewish people, such as references to wealth or avarice and equating Jews with capitalists or the ruling class;

i.1 Shows [name removed] posted the following quotes on this blog on December 5, 2020 at 9:19 pm;

“I’m not surprised that the Blairites and ultra-Zionist fanatics wanted to purge Tony Greenstein from the Labour party, as they have done with so many other entirely decent people.”

“Or rather more narrowly, support for the current viciously racist Israeli administration”

“believe that the Palestinians should be treated decently and with dignity, have also suffered anti-Semitic vilification and abuse if they dare to protest against Netanyahu’s government.”

“Zionism was until recent decades very much a minority position among European Jews.”

“it is an internalisation of gentile anti-Semitism, with which it has collaborated, including in the mass murder of Jews, such as in the Holocaust, by real anti-Semites.”

“far from being a pro-Jewish stance, Zionism in the 19th and early 20th centuries was associated with anti-Semitism.”

“he had previously not come forward to add his support because he didn’t want people to think that he was a Jew-hater.”

“These quotes clearly show that the criticisms of Israel and the Zionist movement by people like Tony Greenstein and the others are historically justified,”

“My own preferred view is that anti-Semitism is simply hatred of Jews as Jews, and that no state or ideology should be beyond debate and criticism. This includes Israel and Zionism.”

“I’ve come across the adage, ‘Two Jews, three opinions’.

“people, who hold entirely reasonable opinions critical of Israel are being vilified, harassed and purged as the very things they are not, racists and anti-Semites.””

As you can see, the evidence does not support the charges. The key factor here appears to be that my correspondent expresses support for Tony Greenstein, a prominent critic of Israel, who is Jewish, and who was expelled from the Labour Party in 2018. Yes, the Labour Party is not only purging Jews

from its ranks in the name of opposing anti-semitism, it is purging those who support them.

I presume that the Israeli spook hired by Labour, Assaf Kaplan, is involved in this particular operation, bringing his skills from his previous work, hunting down Palestinians on social media.⁶⁹ Hunting down Labour Party members who sympathise with Palestinians is but a small sideways step.

The secrets at the bus stop

I am surely not alone in finding this whole MOD-documents-left-by-accident-at-a-bus-stop story seriously improbable. It is a very striking coincidence that the documents happened to get 'lost' the day before HMS Defender did its provocative sail close the shore of the Crimea. Then the anonymous 'member of the public' who found the documents chose to give them to the BBC rather than handing them to the police – the obvious and easiest thing to do; and the BBC chose to report on them on its website in great detail before handing them back to the MoD.⁷⁰ Given its current precarious position vis-a-vis this government, would the BBC have done this without checking with the MoD? And finally there was the total lack of outrage expressed by the government. I heard one Minister on the radio describe the BBC in publishing the documents as 'only doing its job'. Yeah, right!

I don't believe any of this. Much more likely the MoD leaked it as a way of getting the details of its operation into the public domain. All this may become clear when we learn who it was 'lost' the documents and the manner of punishment s/he receives.

I-spy

I was never terribly interested in the great retrospective mole hunt conducted by Peter Wright, Chapman Pincher *et al* in the 1980s and 90s. Was it Roger Hollis or Graham Mitchell who was the KGB spy within MI5? Was there a mole

⁶⁹ <<https://tinyurl.com/9dcaj7ws>> or <<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/labour-ex-israel-military-intelligence-officer-role-anger-grows>>

⁷⁰ At <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57624942>>. The *Daily Mail* copied the BBC story and added a few quotes of their own at <<https://tinyurl.com/4nfj57np>> or <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9732355/Top-secret-dossier-reveals-defence-chiefs-knew-sending-Navy-warship-past-Crimea-provoke-Russia.html>>.

at all? None of it mattered greatly. It was all part of the Why-did-the-British-empire-decline? thread which obsessed sections of the Home Counties British Right in the post-war years. However, if you find the subject of interest, check out the website of Tony Percy,⁷¹ where these events are discussed in extraordinary detail.

Call the lawyers

And then there was John Ware in *The Observer* on 30 May, defending the BBC against its critics over the Martin Bashir affair. 'We jump through hoops to make BBC programmes fair. Don't let critics claim otherwise' was the article's headline. We have to be careful with Mr Ware who is already suing Jeremy Corbyn and the website Press Gang⁷² for comments relating to anti-semitism. All very striking from a man who was once a leading figure with the investigative TV programme *World in Action*. Evidently Mr Ware has very deep pockets (or financial backing) for the legal actions, one of which is against a fellow journalist, Paddy French. Was a time when journalists would never have sued each other.⁷³

Netanyahu

The demise of Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's PM sent me back to old issues of *Lobster*. I remembered something that had been published about him and the Jonathan Institute he had created – Jonathan had been his brother who was killed in the Israeli raid on Entebbe Airport. And there it was in *Lobster* 13, a review of a collection of essays, *Terrorism: how the West can win*, with Netanyahu as editor, published after a 1984 conference at the Jonathan Institute.⁷⁴ My review noted:

'The major themes here are:

⁷¹ For example <<http://www.coldspur.com/who-framed-roger-hollis/>>.

⁷² <<https://press-gang.org>>

⁷³ Readers of this column may recall that Ware ran the Ministry of Defence disinformation about Colin Wallace circa 1987 and to my knowledge has never acknowledged he was conned.

On this and Simon Matthews' view of Ware's reporting on London local government, see 'Where's Ware?' in *Lobster* 39 at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/online/issue39/lob39-13.htm>>.

⁷⁴ <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/online/issue13/lob13-11.htm>>

The Soviet Union is behind world terrorism;
the PLO is a major Soviet agent in funding and encouraging world terrorism.

The minor theme is, of course, that the Soviet Union was behind the attempted assassination of the Pope.

But covertly the important theme – and presumably the point of the exercise for the Israeli state – is that the PLO is simply a terrorist organisation, the Israeli state is justified in its war against the PLO (*qua* Soviet terror front), and Israel, fighting Soviet-sponsored terror, is thus part of “the West”, despite being in the Middle East.’⁷⁵

Covidia

On June 20 BBC News included this section in a piece about the delta or Indian variant of Covid.⁷⁶

Could it have been prevented?

According to the Civil Aviation Authority, 42,406 people travelled in both directions between India and the UK in April.

Less travel would have meant fewer opportunities for the variant to enter.

Indeed.

Guccifer, Russiagate and all that

I have never attempted to cover the Russiagate story in detail. I just don’t know enough about computer hacking to do so. However I was sent the URL for the 2018 *indictment* by Robert Mueller against Russians for the hacking circa 2015/6 of the Democratic National Committee (and other Democratic Party bodies) and the use of social media to try and help the Trump campaign for the presidency.⁷⁷ To my (ignorant) eye its looks pretty substantial. Section

⁷⁵ The entry on the Jonathan Institute at Powerbase says pretty much the same. See <<https://tinyurl.com/rcjb33s>> or <https://powerbase.info/index.php/Jonathan_Institute,_extract_from_The_%22Terrorism%22_Industry>.

⁷⁶ <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-57489740>>

⁷⁷ <<https://www.justice.gov/file/1080281/downloadhhh>> Not to be confused with the Mueller *report*, which is at <<https://www.justice.gov/archives/sco/file/1373816/download>>.

41 contains this.

41. On or about June 15, 2016, the Conspirators logged into a Moscow-based server used and managed by Unit 74455 and, between 4:19 PM and 4:56 PM Moscow Standard Time, searched for certain words and phrases, including:

| Search Term(s) |
|---------------------------|
| “some hundred sheets” |
| “some hundreds of sheets” |
| dcleaks |
| illuminati |

Why would the Russian hackers be searching for ‘illuminati’?

Here we go again

Corporate Europe Observatory is a very interesting group which monitors the relationship between multinational corporations and the EU – lobbying by the corps, in short. Their site is always worth a look. This was their opening paragraph recently:

‘The European Commission is currently preparing a proposal to protect cross-border investments in the EU, to be published in autumn 2021. There are worrying signs that the new proposal could include vast new legal privileges for corporations – exactly what large banks, law firms and big business lobby groups have been pushing for. As a result, a new EU court exclusively for corporations could make European governments pay huge sums of money to big business as compensation for regulations brought in to protect workers, consumers, and the environment. The serious financial risk such a court would create, of having to pay significant damages, could ultimately put governments off regulating in the public interest.’⁷⁸

This proposal appears to be very similar to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) proposals of 2013 which were seen off.⁷⁹ I guess we all knew they would reappear somewhere.

⁷⁸ <<https://tinyurl.com/xrs64dzp>> or <<https://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Executive%20summary%20Conquering%20EU%20courts.pdf>>

⁷⁹ See <<https://tinyurl.com/e6spvjph>> or <https://www.tni.org/en/collection/ttip?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI1dzVxdXG8QIVU4BQBh0yBgXmEAAAYiAAEgIcIfD_BwE>

King's spooks

Thanks to WM for pointing me towards a very interesting essay on the links between King's College, London and the British and NATO security and intelligence establishments.⁸⁰ This is too complex and detailed to summarise here. This is a 'must read'.

I spoke at King's College's then International Centre for Security Analysis about 20 years ago. It was the only time I have been in a building – let alone a university – with an armed guard in the foyer. I had – and have – no idea why I was invited but I duly turned up and delivered my talk to about 25 people. When I finished I asked for comments and questions but no-one said anything. I was surprised and disappointed; I was looking forward to some serious argy-bargy. But as we left the room, one of the audience, John Morrison, at that time the only full-time official working for the House of Commons Intelligence and Security Committee, stopped me to correct something I had said. Morrison was later sacked for expressing inadequate enthusiasm for the Anglo-American assault on Iraq.⁸¹

Back to the future

Another big ransomware attack by REvil, this time of a managed service provider (MSP) company – i.e. a company which provides IT systems for companies who don't want or need to do it for themselves. By hacking one such MSP, the hackers spread their software through all the companies using it.

'MSPs have long been a popular target, particularly of nation-state hackers. Hitting them is a terrifically efficient way to spy, if you can manage it. As a Justice Department indictment showed in 2018, China's elite APT10 spies used MSP compromises to steal hundreds of gigabytes of data from dozens of companies. REvil has targeted MSPs before, too, using its foothold into a third-party IT company to hijack 22 Texas municipalities at once in 2019.'⁸²

⁸⁰ <<https://tinyurl.com/uyrk495r>> or <<https://www.mintpressnews.com/spy-school-kings-college-london-churning-out-journalists/277582/>>

⁸¹ See <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Morrison_\(intelligence_officer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Morrison_(intelligence_officer))>.

The talk I gave, 'Getting it right: the security agencies in modern society', is on-line at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/articles/security.htm>>. The person who invited me, Dr Kevin O'Brien, is still at King's, now 'a Visiting Senior Research Fellow in Digital Intelligence and Cyber Security at King's College London, as well as a consultant on security matters to governments and the private sector'. <<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/dr-kevin-a.-obrien>>.

⁸² <https://www.wired.com/story/kaseya-supply-chain-ransomware-attack-msps/>

And amidst all this talk of hackers and ransomware one thing is still conspicuously missing: any talk of going off-line. Let's say it again: it's time to get important activities off-line.

Put it on speaker!

Every couple of years someone in the major media notices that there is a considerable body of scientific work which shows that mobile phones are carcinogenic. It happened recently when the *Daily Mail* reported at some length on a new report which has looked at over 40 studies of the mobile phone-cancer relationship. The *Mail's* headline was 'Do smartphones increase your risk of CANCER? Spending just 17 minutes a day on your device over a ten year period increases the risk of tumours by 60%, controversial study claims'.⁸³

Basic message? Keep your phone away from your brain; put it on speaker!

⁸³ <<https://tinyurl.com/n5ey5cy6>> or <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9768315/Spending-17-minutes-day-mobile-phone-increases-cancer-risk-study-claims.html>>