

A view from the bridge

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All Trussed up

On the day that Prime Minister Truss made her announcement about dealing with the energy crisis here, *The Times* (8 September) briefly mentioned (on p. 39) that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was off to the City to discuss 'Big Bang 2' – further deregulation of the financial services sector.¹ Centrally, I would guess, will be a change to the rules introduced after the financial crisis of 2007-9 which increased the amount of capital the banks had to keep in reserve. In other words, financial gambling is going to be encouraged again.

The central question with this new government² is this: do they really believe that this warmed-over Thatcherism will work? My guess is that they do; that they have spent too long in a free marketeer intellectual ghetto to understand even the Thatcher years. They have failed to grasp that Thatcherism didn't work on its own terms: it did not 'cure' inflation³ and did not produce more economic growth than its predecessors.⁴ Mrs Thatcher's 'reforms' were possible because her government had North Sea oil revenues to pay for mass unemployment; could sell off chunks of the public sector; and,

¹ Some sense of what this amounts to is visible in the equivalent piece in the *Financial Times* at <<https://www.ft.com/content/dfd43b25-cafb-4049-8a72-d386c8ea4fdf>>.

² Newish might be better as just over half of the Truss Cabinet – 16 of 31 positions – served in Johnson's Cabinet. See <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-62796077>>. Nick Must pointed this out to me.

³ Inflation was 8% in 1982 and 8% in 1990. See <<https://www.worlddata.info/europe/united-kingdom/inflation-rates.php>>.

⁴ Look at the graph at <<https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/GBR/united-kingdom/gdp-growth-rate>>.

despite her best efforts to kill it, had a manufacturing base three times as big as it is now. The new government has little oil revenue; a much diminished manufacturing base; and not much of the public sector left to be sold. It will be interesting to see how long it takes them to grasp that the horse they are enthusiastically flogging is dead.

Russiagate

Ah, Russiagate. Did the Russians try to help elect Donald Trump, or not? The literature on this is now enormous. I have only dipped my toes into this extremely muddy puddle;⁵ but Will Banyan has dived in and has a serious go at untangling it all in a series of carefully argued, thoroughly documented essays.⁶ I got interested in this subject again about a year ago reading a 2019 essay by Terry Burke, “Russiagate”, Syria and the left,⁷ which included these rather pointed paragraphs:

When well-known left writers like Glen Greenwald, Matt Taibbi, Katrina vanden Heuvel, Norman Solomon and Max Blumenthal immediately ridiculed the evidence of Russian interference [in the US presidential election] back in 2016, it had a silencing effect. After that, few well-known left writers pursued the serious possibility of effective Russian involvement. In the two and a half years since Trump’s election, there have continued to be new articles and research on Russian bots, trolls, twitter campaigns, fake accounts, and continued Russian interference in the European Union. *Dark Money* author Jane Mayer has also written on how Russia helped elect Trump. But the “Russiagate” commentators of the left have ignored this information.

After Attorney General William Barr released his highly biased summary of the Robert Mueller investigation, which seemed to vindicate them, Chris Hedges, Glen Greenwald, Stephen Cohen, Matt Taibbi, Aaron Mate, Paul Street in Counterpunch, and Katie Halper from

⁵ For example in this column in *Lobster* 74 at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/74/the-view-from-the-bridge-37/>> under subhead **Russiagate**; and in *Lobster* 81 at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/81/the-view-from-the-bridge-44/>> under subhead **Russiagate and comrade Trumpski**.

⁶ At time of writing the series is not finished. The trio extant as I write begins at <<https://tinyurl.com/28m6mm7>> or <<https://www.conspiracyarchive.com/2020/02/24/the-truther-temptation-the-russiagate-skeptics-the-mueller-report-part-1/>>.

⁷ At <<https://countervortex.org/russiagate-syria-and-the-left/>>.

Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) castigated the US press for its extensive coverage of the Russia/Trump allegations.

However, they wrote nothing revising their Russiagate-is-a-hoax position after the subsequent release of the redacted Mueller report in April and Mueller's public statement in May. The Mueller report explicitly documents extensive Russian interference in the 2016 elections, but they have refused to acknowledge this.

Will Banyan's essays cover this ground – and a great deal more besides – in enormous detail.

Why are so many on the Anglo-American left unwilling or unable to face the reality of today's Russia? It seems to be nothing more than this: since American imperialism and militarism has been the major source of the world's troubles and death since WW2, and the US state has told so many lies, nothing the US state says can be believed and no country aided by the US can be supported by the left. It really does seem to be this banal. A discussion of the issue at 'The Conversation' includes this:

At the moment, western socialists are struggling to articulate a position on the Ukraine war that opposes both fascism and liberalism. This is genuinely difficult. Opposing imperialism, in this instance, requires military and economic support for Ukraine, even if it comes from the U.S. But this is also the liberal position.⁸

So there you have it: since it is apparently impossible to support the liberal position, asking 'Who invaded whom? Who is destroying whose cities and killing whose civilians?' does not also answer the question of which side the left should support.

The 'pirate' radio stations

Simon Matthews wrote about the 'pirate' radio ships of the 1960s in his essays in *Lobster* 58 and *Lobster* 79.⁹ In the first of these he mentioned that Simon Dee's TV career came to an abrupt end shortly after he had as a guest

⁸ There is from the 'The war in Ukraine: A no-win situation for the left' at <<https://theconversation.com/the-war-in-ukraine-a-no-win-situation-for-the-left-185564>>.

⁹ 'The devil has all the best songs: reflections on the life and times of Simon Dee' at <<https://tinyurl.com/2p9jnwzr>> or <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/58/the-devil-has-all-the-best-songs-reflections-on-the-life-and-times-of-simon-dee/>> 'The CIA and Radio Nord' at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/79/the-cia-and-radio-nord-simon/>>.

on his show the actor George Lazenby (who played James Bond in just one film, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*). Lazenby offered his theory of who assassinated JFK. I was reminded of all this when scrolling through a discussion of Lazenby and the assassination on John Simkin's *Education Forum* site.¹⁰ Said discussion is interesting but inconclusive. Dee is dead and the programme in question was not recorded. It is recounted that Lazenby was high on something that night but what he said about the assassination is not known.

In that discussion a contributor cited Simon Matthew's essay on Simon Dee, was followed by one Mervyn Hagger who wrote this: 'As for Lobster, well it both cited my work, stole stuff from me and garbled my work.' Well, there is one citation of Hagger in Matthews' first essay, in a footnote. As for stealing and garbling it That Hagger knows a lot about the pirate radio stations can seen on his blog.¹¹ There is a scattering of references to the CIA's involvement in them there, supporting Matthews' view of this.

Flailing and failing

A friend described Britain as a failing state. And by the standards of France, Germany, Denmark etc, it is one. But uniquely, among European states as far as I know, there is a minority of the ruling Conservative Party which *wants* the state to fail; which *welcomes* a failing state; which regards the state as essentially a necessary evil to be kept as small and ineffectual as possible. These are people who would rather be in Brooklyn than Bologna. Alas this faction is running the government.

In his weekly column in August, Dan Atkinson wrote this on the theme of Britain in decline.¹²

TEN years ago, my co-author [Larry Elliot] and I published our fourth book. It was called *Going South* (Palgrave Macmillan), and predicted that Britain was on course to becoming Third World in economic and social terms.

Not everyone was a fan, and a rival school of thought suggested everything was going swimmingly. After all, had we not successfully hosted the Olympic Games of that year? Who were these two nobodies to

¹⁰ <<https://tinyurl.com/4avnanwp>> or <<https://educationforum.ipbhost.com/topic/14731-simon-dee-george-lazenby-and-the-assassination-of-jfk/#comment-171697>>

¹¹ <<https://www.yesternoir.org>>

¹² <<https://blogs.thisismoney.co.uk/2022/08/saturday-ps-southbound.html>>

cast doubt on our wonderful, vibrant, diverse, outward-facing etc country?

A decade on, let's go through the Third World check list.

- We are running out of energy and water, facing a summer drought and a winter of either sky-high fuel prices, or rolling power cuts – or both.
- Britain exhibits the two classic symptoms of what is known as national fragility, political instability and a chronic reliance on foreign capital. We shall shortly be on our fifth Prime Minister in a dozen years and the current account has been in deficit since 1984.
- Public order is breaking down, with a small fraction of crimes resulting in a court appearance and confidence in the police heading for zero, unsurprising given the apparent priority given by law enforcement to probing non-crimes over real ones.
- The “Rolls-Royce” civil service is becoming a joke, as officials defy their elected Ministers and pursue their own agendas. Administration of everything from passport issuance to defence procurement is falling apart.
- Our health system is in a permanent state of crisis, and appears to take a strange pride in being forever on the brink of collapse. It gobbles up ever-increasing slices of the national cake for little discernible return.
- The outgoing Prime Minister faces a kangaroo court of (mainly) political opponents convened to decide if he misled Parliament. We all know what the verdict will be.
- Proposals to censor on-line communications are justified on the grounds of “protecting children”, a classic tactic of Third World governments.
- Transport – road, rail and air – is a permanent nightmare. Often the best course of action is simply to stay at home.
- Taxes and inflation are soaring off the blackboard and public debt is ballooning. No-one in high places offers any answers.

Pea dough

One of the central threads of the original QAnon nonsense was that senior figures in the US Democratic Party in Washington (including then presidential candidate Hilary Clinton, obviously) were part of a paedophile network in the

US and that it was this network which really ran America. The idea of a paedophile network in the UK among the rich and powerful has also been a recurring theme in the past decade. There is an almost book-length series of articles on the Irish *Village* magazine website, centred on a putative Anglo-Irish paedophile network of the 60s and 70s involving some of the great and good, notably Lord Mountbatten.¹³ Although fascinating, this does not have enough reliable sourcing for many of its claims.

A more recent version of the British paedo-ring thesis is Dr Roger Cottrell's 'The squalid role of deep state paedophile networks'.¹⁴ His article has no documentation at all: Cottrell informed me that this is what the site's managers wanted. It is thus a long series of striking claims – for example: 'Giles Raddice was a CIA agent inside the British Labour Movement' – with no sources. The site managers have also put copy block on the content; so copying it, or part of it, involves complicated work arounds. This article, Cottrell told me, is essentially advertising for his new novel, *Jaded Jerusalem*.¹⁵

You know American liberals . . .

Let me recommend a two part essay by Russ Baker about the reception given to his 2009 book about the Bush family, *Family of Secrets*.¹⁶ Baker reports how after five years work, enormous documentation and much initial interest from the US media, he was almost completely blanked. Even the so-called liberal media, from the *New York Times* out to *Democracy Now*, seemed uninterested. In the second essay, Baker describes in great detail the reaction – and non-reaction – to his book.

Beyond groupthink, one thing I have learned is just how dependent successful careers in journalism are on "access." This necessitates cultivating "inside sources" — and the compromises that might require

¹³ <<https://villagemagazine.ie/https-villagemagazine-ie-anglo-irish-vice-ring-online-book/>>

¹⁴ <<https://tinyurl.com/2p8ac6xy>> or <<https://intelligenceuk.com/index.php/2022/06/19/the-squalid-role-of-deep-state-paedophile-networks/>>

Roger Cottrell wrote a couple of reviews for *Lobster* many years ago.

¹⁵ <<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1915330262>>

¹⁶ Baker runs <WhoWhatWhy.org>. For the book, see <<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Family-Secrets-Americas-Invisible-Government/dp/1608190064>> The essays are <<https://tinyurl.com/5n8anutr>> or <<https://whowhatwhy.org/culture/journalism-media/only-lone-nuts-need-apply-the-medias-antipathy-to-deeper-digs/>> and <<https://tinyurl.com/ntd9vx3x>> or <<https://russbaker.substack.com/p/notes-from-the-memory-hole-when-the>>.

— and winning approval and requisite awards from the media establishment, most of it owned by wealthy individuals or interests, latter-day Henry Luces.

If what you publish defies, contradicts, or embarrasses the “inside sources,” or their friends, or the establishment *writ large*, then you risk ridicule and ostracization.

In addition, a great many people subscribe to the fairy tale of “American exceptionalism.” They adore the idea that America basically works well, except for the occasional bad apple or lone nut, and that the people have the ultimate say.

I recall one book event at a home in the hills above Los Angeles, where a well-meaning Hollywood crowd had gathered to hear me. One man grew increasingly angry as I spoke. He almost looked like he would have a heart attack. He began yelling at me that what I was saying was deeply disturbing to him and simply unacceptable. And these were *liberals*.

None of which is exactly a revelation, but Baker has provided detail and named names.

Listen to what the man says

One of the more depressing (if minor) aspects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, has been the inability of some of the American spook-wise media to see what is right under their noses. Take the *Covert Action* website: it is giving room to reports by one Sonja Van den Ende who is ‘embedded’ with the Russian army. I have already commented on these¹⁷ but on 8 June she topped her previous efforts. Allowed into the Mariupol steelworks site, she visited a section that had been used as the Azov Battalion’s headquarters. She writes:

As from the material which was left behind, you could clearly see the Nazi ideology, Hitler paintings, SS stickers, books and booklets with swastikas and brochures and manuals from NATO, filled with instructions—along with the business cards of the NATO advisers and western government officials.

This made clear the western complicity in the crimes of the Ukrainians and injustice of the war more broadly.¹⁸

¹⁷ See below under subhead **Ukraine disinfo**.

¹⁸ <<https://tinyurl.com/34u6fhb4>> or <<https://covertactionmagazine.com/2022/06/08/business-cards-of-german-and-canadian-government-officials-found-in-abandoned-azov-battalion-headquarters-in-mariupol/>>

It does not occur to Ms Ende (or, apparently, to *Covert Action*) that she was seeing something that had been created for her to photograph and report on, enabling her to promote the Russian line that the invasion is about denazification.

This denazification nonsense is repeated in a piece by Patrick Lawrence on *Consortium News*, in which he quotes one David Thompson:

Putin's reiteration of the de-Nazification and demilitarization principles established from the Potsdam Conference is not just some quaint tip of the hat to history. He was laying down a marker to the United States and the United Kingdom that the agreement reached at Potsdam in 1945 is still relevant and valid¹⁹

Mr Laurence and the editorial staff at both *Covert Action* and *Consortium News* should read the long speech Mr Putin gave in February 2022 in which he made it quite clear that his aim was to reincorporate Ukraine into what he described as 'the historical Russia known as the USSR'.²⁰ (The words denazification, de-Nazification and Nazi do not occur in the speech.) Were I living in the Baltic states, which were in said 'historical Russia' until the fall of the Berlin Wall, I would be very nervous indeed.

In that speech Mr Putin also managed to utter this sentence about Ukraine with a straight face:

There are more and more acts enabling the Ukrainian military and law enforcement agencies to crack down on the freedom of speech, dissent, and going after the opposition.

*

I looked up what I had written about Ukraine after the events of 2014. The piece below was in this column in *Lobster* 68.

Ukraine and the major media

Recent events in Ukraine illustrate the gap between the mainstream media's version of events and what we can find out for ourselves. The American-EU attempt to detach the Ukraine from the Russia orbit is stupid and dangerous. A comparison might be the Russians seeking to sign Mexico or Canada into an economic and military alliance. But the standard moves were made: the IMF offered a big loan to Ukraine with the usual conditions, 'restructuring' – i.e. unemployment and economic devastation. Unless the IMF analysts are incredibly stupid and

¹⁹ <<https://consortiumnews.com/2022/07/13/patrick-lawrence-the-imaginary-war/>>

²⁰ <<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/67828>>

completely misread the economic data on Ukraine, the real plan was that Ukraine would be unable to repay the loan and thus would have to repay in kind. This would entail giving large chunks of Ukraine to the American agri-chemical giant Monsanto, to seed the Ukrainian plains with its GM wheat; and so, when Ukraine eventually joined the EU, an end run would have been made around the widespread objection to GM crops within the union: GM wheat would already be growing there.²¹

That was the plan but the Russians initially topped it with a better offer than the IMF/EU deal. So the Americans overthrew the Ukrainian government and installed one of their people.

That's about it, isn't it?

And how much of this has made it into the British mainstream media?

The IMF loan has since been made but Ukrainian politics is so corrupt the loan is probably long gone into off-shore accounts, it won't be repaid and Monsanto will duly get their hands on what used to be known as 'the breadbasket of Europe'.

The American-EU attempt to detach the Ukraine from the Russian orbit was indeed stupid and dangerous. But even if all the above is true, the fact remains that the Russians have invaded Ukraine, are destroying some of its cities, and have displaced 12 million people, 5 million of whom are now refugees in other countries. And there was no need to do this if they merely wanted to keep Ukraine out of NATO and the EU: all they had to do was turn off the gas taps to Western Europe. The invasion *is* about reincorporating Ukraine into what Mr Putin calls 'historical Russia'.

Freeports

There is an interesting essay by Cormack Lawson, 'Charter Cities: The Real Reason for Brexit and the Bigger Picture'.²² Ignore the claim that this is the 'real reason for Brexit': with such nation-changing decisions there are a matrix of complex issues and campaign groups involved: ergo there was no single 'real reason' for Brexit. Nonetheless Lawson – who is new to me – has provided a very interesting account of the politics and the money behind the

²¹ In the original piece I didn't document the Monsanto claim but see 'Ukraine Agrees To Monsanto Land Grab For \$17 Billion IMF Loan' at <<https://lefteast.org/ukraine-agrees-to-monsanto-land-grab-for-17-billion-imf-loan/>>.

²² <<https://tinyurl.com/ky62tcb8>> or <<https://medium.com/@cormack.lawson/charter-cities-the-real-reason-for-brexit-and-the-bigger-picture-4de80dbb69fb>>

Conservative Party's interest in freeports. He shows that the freeports idea is a limited version of the concept of charter cities which has been propagated in the US by the anti-state Right – funded by some of the usual suspects, notably the Koch brothers.

I sent the link to Simon Matthews, who reminded me that he had written about freeports in an earlier essay of his in these columns.²³ I had to confess I had forgotten about it.

The appeal of the freeports idea – an area in which taxation and state controls are reduced if not scrapped – is obvious to free market mainstream politicians. (Which is almost everybody these days, is it not, Mr Starmer?) How do we get investment into the UK, when we are competing with the less regulated or non-regulated areas of the world? By copying them of course. This is the beginning of the enactment of the notion of Singapore-on-Thames which was kicking around as a summary of some Brexiteers' aspirations: a low tax, authoritarian society – Singapore with better golf courses and easier access to the drugs of choice – fit for the rich to live and be serviced in.

Lawson provides a link to maps of the proposed freeports in the UK.²⁴ They are much bigger than I had grasped. The one for the north and south banks of the Humber, for example, is almost 1000 square kilometres.

Blighty is going down the pan

This quotation is from Aaron Bastani, co-founder of Novara Media.

When asked about her greatest achievement Margaret Thatcher replied: "Tony Blair and New Labour". The real legacy of Blair is that he not only cemented much of the Thatcherite settlement but, worse, made many believe that doing so was somehow progressive. Until that's recognised for the mistake it was, Britain's broken economic model, not to mention its housing crisis, will only get worse.²⁵

I agree but would state it differently: all major economic policy decisions in

²³ 'And in 5th Place? The long march to Freeport UK', in *Lobster* 80 at <<https://tinyurl.com/2xcwukn4>> or <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/80/and-in-5th-place-the-long-march-to-freeport-uk/>>.

²⁴ <<https://tinyurl.com/28kcu8un>> or <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/990321/Freeport_Location_Maps.pdf>

²⁵ 'How Blair broke Britain' at <<https://unherd.com/2022/04/how-blair-broke-britain/>>. Hat tip to Robert Henderson for spotting this.

this country since 1980 have been a mistake. Or rather, as I have been saying in these pages for over 20 years, they have benefitted the City of London at the expense of the rest of us.²⁶ This is still very much a minority view, of course. For most of the commentariat and politicians, the City is a good thing – even a critically important thing. Former Conservative MP, Matthew Parris, wrote in his *Times* column (30 July 2022) that Britain is ‘keeping afloat substantially through the effort of wide-boys in the City of London’. But is this true? I wrote this in *Lobster* 67:

Quantifying the banksters

How important the financial services sector is to the British economy is something returned to frequently in these columns. Nobody really knows for sure, but some guesses are more educated than others. Andrew Haldane, Executive Director, Financial Stability, of the Bank of England,²⁷ had a go recently in an essay ‘The contribution of the financial sector – miracle or mirage?’.²⁸ In that he says the ‘official statistics’ show that ‘the direct contribution of the UK financial sector rose to 9% in the last quarter of 2008’ – i.e. at the last bubble’s absolute peak. Haldane doesn’t discuss the domestic/overseas distinction but most commentators think that the split is roughly 50-50; which means that at its peak ‘the City’ as we think of it, the global financial centre, was somewhere between 4% and 5% of the economy. Which is slightly smaller than tourism on some calculations.

The City is very important *to London* – all that shopping, catering, lawyering, lunching, house buying and flat letting. But to the rest of the UK, deprived of government spending which goes on London? Without 40 years of City-oriented economic policies, the UK would be just another middling social democratic society. As it is, compared to – say – the members of the EEC when the UK joined in 1973, we have the worst housing, transport system and roads; the worst health and old age care; the worst education system; and we are slowly sliding down the table of richest nations. Currently we are somewhere between 16th and 25th, depending on which figures you believe. Blighty would be in deep doody even without global warming.

²⁶ See <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/60/well-how-did-we-get-here/>>.

²⁷ More recently Chief Economist at the Bank of England and a member of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee until 30 June 2021.

²⁸ <<https://www.bis.org/review/r100716g.pdf>>

Bilderbergers

Tony Gosling sent out the list of those attending this year's Bilderberg meeting. The British participants were:

Jeremy Fleming, Director, Government Communications Headquarters

Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Cabinet Office

Demis Hassabis, CEO and Founder, DeepMind

Shashank Joshi, Defence Editor, *The Economist*

David Lammy, Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

Bernard Looney, CEO, BP plc

Zanny Minton Beddoes, Editor-in-Chief, *The Economist*

Gideon Rachman, Chief Foreign Affairs Commentator, *The Financial Times*

John Sawers, Executive Chairman, Newbridge Advisory Ltd.

Mark Sedwill, Chairman, Atlantic Futures Forum

Mustafa Suleyman, CEO, Inflection AI

Tom Tugendhat, MP, Chair Foreign Affairs Committee

Emma Walmsley, CEO, GlaxoSmithKline plc²⁹

Bilderberg's own site listed the 'key topics for discussion this year' as:

1. Geopolitical Realignments
2. NATO Challenges
3. China
4. Indo-Pacific Realignment
5. Sino-US Tech Competition
6. Russia
7. Continuity of Government and the Economy
8. Disruption of the Global Financial System
9. Disinformation
10. Energy Security and Sustainability
11. Post Pandemic Health
12. Fragmentation of Democratic Societies
13. Trade and Deglobalisation
14. Ukraine

Which might keep them busy for a long weekend!

Tony Gosling has done as much as anyone to break Bilderberg's secrecy

²⁹ The official list is at

<https://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/meetings/meeting-2022/participants-2022>.

over the last 20 years but he headed all this 'Anglo Zionist Empire's Deep state'. Mmmmmm I would like to see 'Anglo Zionist Empire' stood up.

See for yourself

An American called Robert Aldridge sent me an essay, 'Did the CIA Subvert the 1968 U.S. Presidential Election?'. Aldridge argues that the murders of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy in 1968 – and a number of other events that year – were organised by the CIA in support of the war in Vietnam. I didn't think he had enough evidence and declined to publish it. Nonetheless it is an interesting thesis and you can see it yourself: *Covert Action* has run it.³⁰

NewsGuard

I hadn't come across NewsGuard before Consortium News announced that the organisation was looking at them.³¹ From NewsGuard's Wikipedia entry:

NewsGuard Technologies was founded in 2018 by Steven Brill ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Brill_\(journalist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Brill_(journalist))) and L. Gordon Crovitz (former publisher of the *Wall Street Journal*), who serve as co-CEOs . . . The NewsGuard extension is installed in browsers and warns users when they view content from what it considers fake news websites . . .

In other words, this is a private sector attempt to combat what its creators see as disinformation on the Net. It employs researchers to look at websites and assess them for disinformation. Those perceived to be good, reliable sources get green flags from the app; unreliable sources get red flags. Most months they also publish what they call a 'periodic newsletter', detailing noteworthy facts and data uncovered by their app. The one for June 2022 included this

The top five Canadian Green-rated websites in terms of their engagement during the first third of 2022 included CTVNews.ca, CBC.ca, GlobalNews.ca, ThePostMillennial.com, and Narcity.com. The top five Red-rated websites in Canada included RebelNews.com, JCCF.ca, TheNationalTelegraph.com, ThePulse.one, and

³⁰ <<https://tinyurl.com/5n6s98yb>> or <<https://covertactionmagazine.com/2022/06/02/did-the-cia-subvert-the-1968-u-s-presidential-election/>>

³¹ <<https://tinyurl.com/4vywt2p9>> or <<https://consortiumnews.com/2022/06/02/us-state-affiliated-newsguard-targets-consortium-news/>>

GlobalResearch.ca.

In the U.S., unreliable websites constituted a much larger share of the national news diet. The top five Red-rated U.S. sites accounted for 27.6 percent of the social media engagement of the top five Green-rated U.S. sites during the same time frame — more than four times the proportion in Canada.

The top five Green-rated websites in the U.S. included DailyWire.com, FoxNews.com, CNN.com, NBCNews.com, and NYTimes.com, while the top five Red-rated U.S. websites included Breitbart.com, TMZ.com, Newsmax.com, LouderWithCrowder.com, and TheFederalistPapers.org.³²

It is rather interesting to have it confirmed that a large chunk of right-wing U.S. media sites are churning out rubbish. But there are obvious dangers with this kind of operation: it is difficult to eliminate individual and corporate prejudices in the assessment of sites. And the composition of the NewsGuard board, being full of former spooks and military big-wigs, does not inspire confidence.³³ Thus in the NewsGuard approach to Consortium News:

NewsGuard alleges that **Consortium News** has published “false content” by reporting that there was a U.S.-backed coup in Ukraine in 2014 and that neo-Nazis have significant influence in the country.

[NewsGuard analyst Zachary] Fishman took issue with a: “February 2022 article ‘Ukraine: Guides to Reflection,’ [which] asserted, ‘Hence, the inflation of Russian behavior in Ukraine (**where Washington organized a coup against a democratically elected government** because we disliked its political complexion)’” (emphases in the original)

In what follows this, *Consortium News*’s editor presents a very interesting and detailed account of US operations in the Ukraine prior to 2014. However, to my eye, the evidence he presents does not show that the US ‘*organised a coup*’. Encouraged one, and certainly supported it once it had happened, yes. But *organised* it? Not that I can see in the material presented. Also, the paragraph quoted above first uses ‘U.S.-backed coup’ then switches to ‘organised a coup’ – and those two expressions are not coterminous.

This . . . bias? . . . position? was expressed again by Consortium News in its subheading of an essay by Scott Ritter, ‘Turkey Rains on NATO’s

³² <<https://www.newsguardtech.com/misinformation-monitor/june-2022/>>

³³ Consortium News reposted an analysis of NewsGuard that (ex-CIA officer) John Kiriakou had originally written for ScheerPost.com. See <<https://consortiumnews.com/2022/06/02/guarding-democracy-from-news/>>.

Parade'.³⁴ This asserted that 'In opposing the application of Finland and Sweden, Erdogan has disrupted the military alliance's effort to *further provoke Russia* with even more expansion'. (emphasis added) Really? Silly me: there I was thinking Norway and Finland suddenly decided to join NATO because they had seen Russia invade Ukraine and feared they might be somewhere on Putin's list (presumably after the Baltic states). This is 'provoking' Russia?

Why is it so hard for some on the left to be opposed to the American empire *and* opposed to Russia's expansion by invasion?

Watergate at 50

A 'two-day online conference' marking the 50th anniversary of the Watergate break-in took place over 9 and 10 June.³⁵ One of the keynote speakers was the writer and journalist James Rosen, author of a biography of John Mitchell – Nixon's Attorney General at the time of Watergate.³⁶ Rosen gave a presentation which essentially said: the most important book about Watergate is Jim Hougan's 1984 *Secret Agenda*.³⁷ I have read only a small fraction of the many books on Watergate and thus I can only thank Rosen for this remarkable endorsement of Hougan's book. A transcription of Rosen's talk, with the title 'Watergate at 50: Revelations From Newly Declassified Evidence', is on RealClearPolitics.³⁸

Who shot John?

Jefferson Morley has an essay – 'Nixon's Plan to Threaten the CIA on JFK's Assassination' – at *Politico* magazine.³⁹ In it, he quotes from one of the tapes recorded in the White House of Richard Nixon's conversations with CIA Director

³⁴ <<https://consortiumnews.com/2022/06/13/scott-ritter-turkey-rains-on-natos-parade/>>

³⁵ See <<https://www.watergateat50.com/>>.

³⁶ *The Strong Man: John Mitchell and the Secrets of Watergate* (New York: Doubleday, 2008)

³⁷ Rosen's presentation is from 18.24 to 39.33 at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucIpCl09FXw>>. *Secret Agenda* is still in print. See <<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Secret-Agenda-Watergate-Deep-Throat/dp/0394514289>>.

³⁸ <<https://tinyurl.com/2p9du9ac>>https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2022/06/20/watergate_at_50_revelations_from_newly_declassified_evidence_147766.html

³⁹ <<https://tinyurl.com/mpznmvr3>> or <<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2022/06/05/nixon-helms-cia-jfk-assassination-00037232>>

of the time, Richard Helms. N.B. that this recording was made eight months before the Watergate break-ins.

“What I want, what I want, Dick,” he rasped, “regarding any understanding, regarding any information, I do not want any information that comes in from you on these delicate and sensitive subjects to go to anybody outside . . .”

Nixon was finally ready to tip his hand.

“The ‘Who shot John?’ angle,” he said quietly, 17 minutes into the conversation. Nixon did not dwell on the phrase. He didn’t need to. In the context of his long-standing demand for the CIA’s records, the invocation of “the ‘Who shot John?’ angle” can only refer to one thing: Kennedy’s assassination. The ambush in Dallas was the first thing on Nixon’s mind as he pressed the director for the agency’s Bay of Pigs files. The president intuited a connection between the failed invasion in 1961 and JFK’s assassination two years later.⁴⁰

I wonder. The CIA’s James Angleton also used a version of the expression. In response to a question from Seymour Hersh about Kennedy’s assassination, he replied ‘A mansion has many rooms. I’m not privy to who struck John.’⁴¹ Yes, both comments could be interpreted as references to JFK but ‘who struck John’ or ‘who shot John’ are phrases going back a long way, in some reports back to the 19th century. For example, there is this query on the Net:

Does anyone know HOW the phrase WHO STRUCK JOHN originated and whether it originated in the Baltimore, Maryland/Washington, D.C. area? I learned it from my mother and she is from Maryland and I have heard it used by other people from that area. In particular for a while there was an alternative rock band in Baltimore called Who Struck John. There is a jazz composition by Johnny Hodges called Who Struck John⁴² but I've never been able to run down how it got named. Hodges was not from D.C. or Baltimore but he played in the band of Duke Ellington and Ellington WAS from D.C. The phrase means a mild tall tale or white lie - suppose someone tells you an obviously inflated story about a fish he

⁴⁰ Nixon’s use of ‘Who struck John’ is mentioned in Peter Usowski, ‘The White House, Richard Helms, and Watergate: A Clash between Executive Power and Organizational Responsibility’ in *Studies in Intelligence*, Vol. 66, No. 2 (Extracts, June 2022) at <<https://bit.ly/3bJxtgP>>. Usowski’s interpretation is the same as mine. Garrick Alder spotted this.

⁴¹ Quoted in David Talbot, *Brothers: The Hidden History of the Kennedy Years* (London: Simon and Schuster, 2007) p. 275.

⁴² Recorded in 1947.

caught; you might respond, "Oh, you are giving me a who struck John!" That is how I've always used it or heard it used; I read somewhere that sometimes it was used to mean "mild chaos" as in "It looks like Who struck John in here!"

I heard something similar in a movie. Two family members started arguing and the mother said, "Don't start that 'Who shot John.'"

Meaning, I guess, a recurring argument.

If you ask the Internet for the phrase's meaning you are offered all manner of things:⁴³ yes, a tall tale as above, but at the core it apparently means the details.⁴⁴ To say, as Angleton did, 'I'm not privy to who struck John', means I don't know the details, or I don't have an inside track – rather than pointing at possible CIA responsibility for his JFK's assassination. Jefferson Morley and others believe the latter but how likely is it that Angleton, of all people, would suggest that?

Dallas again

Caddy

If you have read about Watergate, the name Douglas Caddy might ring a bell; he was a young lawyer who was involved in those events.⁴⁵ Unusually for a former Washington insider, in recent years he has been writing about JFK and related areas on John Simkin's *Education Forum*.⁴⁶ In one of his recent comments he dropped this fascinating little tidbit:⁴⁷

In 1975 [E. Howard] Hunt called and invited me to dinner. He said he wanted to show appreciation for what I had done as he was about to enter prison to serve his sentence. We had not seen each other since Dorothy's funeral. We dined at Yenching Palace, a well-known Chinese restaurant in Washington where the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 was

⁴³ See for example <<http://www.word-detective.com/2012/02/who-shot-john/>>.

⁴⁴ <<https://www.yourdictionary.com/who-shot-john>>: 'A long and involved explanation; a thing of which an explanation would be long and involved.'

⁴⁵ See <<https://spartacus-educational.com/JFKcaddyD.htm>>. He also represented Billie Sol Estes at one point and is thus the only person left alive to my knowledge to have had involvement with Dallas and Watergate.

⁴⁶ <<https://educationforum.ipbhost.com/forum/126-jfk-assassination-debate/>>

⁴⁷ <<https://tinyurl.com/yc3fcdyd>> or <<https://educationforum.ipbhost.com/topic/27744-gordon-liddy-how-his-personal-ambition-led-to-watergate/#comment-459151>>

settled by an agreement reached there over dinner by the American and Russian representatives.

I asked Hunt at dinner what was the reason the burglars went into the DNC in the first place. He was evasive in answering. I persisted and finally he said slowly and reluctantly, "Well, there was such a reason. We believed there were important Cuban Government documents inside the DNC dealing with the Kennedy assassination." It took me a moment to absorb this startling revelation and then I asked, "Cuban Government documents dealing with the Kennedy assassination. What did the documents contain?" At this point Hunt raised his hands with their palms facing me and waved them from side to side. It was his way to end our conversation about Watergate.

Here Caddy begins to speculate on what that information might have been.

Wikipedia's entry on Watergate states that John H. Meier, an advisor to Howard Hughes, told Nixon's brother, Donald, in 1971 that he was sure the Democrats would win the election because they had considerable information on Richard Nixon's illicit dealings with Hughes that had never been released, and that it resided with DNC Chairman Larry O'Brien, who at one time was a Washington lobbyist for Hughes. This information may have had Nixon asking Hughes in early 1960 to arrange the assassination of Castro without the government's fingerprints on it. Hughes assigned his assistant, Robert Maheu, to handle the matter and Maheu initiated contacts with the Mafia and key Cuban Americans to carry out the assassination. Nixon wanted this to happen before the 1960 election but it was not possible. Nixon lost the election to John Kennedy. However, the assassination operation continued without the Kennedy brothers being aware. There was fear in Nixon's campaign leadership that he could be indirectly and falsely linked to the JFK assassination through Cuban Government documents. As it turned out some those involved in the Castro assassination plot were later involved in the Kennedy assassination.

Abraham Bolden

You may have noticed that President Biden has pardoned Abraham Bolden, the first African-American to be a member of the presidential security detail of the US Secret Service. Bolden was appointed to the job by JFK. Some twenty days before the assassination in Dallas, the US Secret Service received a teletype from the FBI warning them of a plot to assassinate the president in Chicago by members of the far right. Arrests were apparently made but no charges were

laid.⁴⁸ After the assassination, Bolden tried to tell this to the Warren Commission, was rebuffed, told to keep quiet – the ‘lone assassin’ line had been established – and then framed for taking a bribe and sentenced to six years.⁴⁹ The JFK assassination connection to Bolden’s story was not referred to by the Biden administration in their press release on the pardon.⁵⁰ Presumably because major media journalists are simply unaware of the JFK dimension, virtually all of the major media simply reported the press release and its implication that Bolden’s wrongful conviction was the result of racism. After the pardon was announced, JFK researcher Vince Palamara, who has been on the Bolden case for many years, produced a very good short video on the man and the case after the pardon.⁵¹

Town and country

Lobster regular contributor Simon Matthews has a new book, *House in the Country*, out in June.⁵² Its subtitle, *Where Our Suburbs and Garden Cities Came From and Why It’s Time to Leave Them Behind*, suggests his thesis. To accompany this he has made a short film which can be downloaded at <<https://we.tl/t-13uwBTteot>>. When you watch it, turn your computer’s sound on. Many of the images he uses there are illustrations in his book.

A blast from the past

I received an inquiry recently: did I know the whereabouts of Gary Murray? You may not remember Mr Murray, but he wrote a rather interesting book, the 1993 *Enemies of the State*.⁵³ In that, private security man Murray dropped a

⁴⁸ See <<http://www.thechicagoplot.com/The%20Chicago%20Plot.pdf>>.

⁴⁹ Bolden biographical details at <<https://spartacus-educational.com/JFKbolden.htm>>.

⁵⁰ See <<https://tinyurl.com/mshyv2ay>> or <<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/26/clemency-recipient-list/>>

⁵¹ <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN4Yt3WGG7k&t=355s>> Jefferson Morley has a decent take on the news at <<https://tinyurl.com/3njx27wc>> or <<https://jfkfacts.org/biden-pardons-abraham-bolden-the-only-secret-service-agent-who-sought-jfk-accountability/>>.

⁵² From Amazon

<<https://www.amazon.co.uk/House-Country-Suburbs-Garden-Cities-ebook/dp/B09BDRL97B/>> and all good bookshops.

⁵³ This was published in 1993 and reviewed in *Lobster* 26 by the late Peter Smith at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/online/issue26/lob26-12.htm>>.

shower of hints that he knew quite a lot about the covert hanky-panky of the British state. It was been at least 30 years since I had any contact with him. Is he still alive? Google told me that Murray has a website,⁵⁴ on which are details of eight books (four of them novels) he has written since *Enemies of the State*. But nothing more along the lines of his 1993 book. Come on, Gary, spill the beans!

Machinations

There's this apparent bombshell of an article, 'the most important piece of UK journalism this year', in the opinion of Craig Murray.⁵⁵ The article's subhead put it thus: 'leaked emails expose secret intelligence coup to install Boris Johnson'.⁵⁶

The emails demonstrate that a group of operatives linked to the intelligence services and wealthy, reclusive pro-Brexit financiers spied on campaign groups, infiltrated the civil service, and targeted high-profile Remainers with reputational destruction. While the majority of British voters elected to assert their independence from the EU, this clique of mostly unknown influence agents sought to subvert the process and manage it according to their own elite interests.

Well yes, sort of. From another perspective, said 2018 emails show fairly routine contemporary political machinating by a section of the Leave lobby within the Conservative Party: try to influence this or that body; place this or that person in a position to advance the cause; use social media to con people. Factional politicking, in short; although the factional politicking of people with money and high-level contacts. Had we access to internal Labour Party emails, I'm sure a similarly intricate picture could be produced – though hopefully there would be no use of fake social media accounts.

Of the main people named in the emails I know of only one, Richard Dearlove, SIS Chief of twenty years ago. I sent the article to the sole significant Leave supporter I have had contact with. He replied, 'I have to say that I have not come across a single one of those names during my own dabbling in the Brexit world'.

⁵⁴ <www.garymurray.co.uk> That site indicates that *Enemies of the State* is 'Currently out of print'. Secondhand copies can be found on AbeBooks, Thriftbooks and eBay

⁵⁵ <<https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2022/05/nato-expansion-and-turkey/>>

⁵⁶ <<https://tinyurl.com/5969k72p>> or <<https://thegrayzone.com/2022/05/15/operation-leaked-emails-intelligence-coup-boris-johnson/>>

The author of the piece was Kit Klarenberg, who used to work for Russia's *Sputnik News*. Seeing his name on it, my first thought was that this is a Russian psy-op, trying to make difficulties for the Conservative Party during the Ukraine-NATO events.⁵⁷ And indeed subsequent research by Reuters suggests the emails were, indeed, the result of a Russian hacking operation.⁵⁸

Mr Klarenberg's essay appeared on *The Grayzone*, a site I have only looked at occasionally. It is one of the websites on the left which is publishing articles that rationalise the Russian invasion of Ukraine.⁵⁹

*

There is really only one meaningful dictum in politics: my enemy's enemy is my friend. For those of us who were interested in US (and UK) imperialism post WW2, there was always the temptation to give the Soviet Union the benefit of the doubt, especially when the charges against it were coming from the Anglo-American intelligence services via the major media. Some on the British left found a way to rationalise the Soviet invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia; others, opponents of CND, spoke of a 'workers' bomb' as being in some way different from the nuclear weapons of capitalist states.⁶⁰ Delusions about the nature of Soviet society were maintained and criticism of it deflected as propaganda created by a malevolent capitalist west.

But today's Russia has little to do with the former Soviet Union. Yes, there is a complex back story to the Ukrainian events as Scott Newton and others have explained.⁶¹ One of those, Peter Hitchens, wrote recently of 'the

⁵⁷ By email Mr Klarenberg told me that the 'Burner email sent them [the emails] to us'.

I mentioned Klarenberg at <https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster81/lob81-view-from-the-bridge.pdf> under subhead **Bellingcat**. Klarenberg also wrote 'British intelligence operative's involvement in Ukraine crisis signals false flag attacks ahead' for *The Grayzone* at <https://tinyurl.com/5n6kee79> or <https://thegrayzone.com/2022/03/24/british-intelligence-ukraine-false-flag/>.

⁵⁸ <https://tinyurl.com/y95t25b4> or <https://www.reuters.com/technology/exclusive-russian-hackers-are-linked-new-brexite-leak-website-google-says-2022-05-25/>

⁵⁹ *Covert Action* is another. I discuss a CA piece below under subhead **Ukraine disinfo**.

⁶⁰ See <https://www.marxists.org/archive/hallas/works/1980/12/workersbomb.htm>.

⁶¹ Newton in the previous issue of *Lobster* at <https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster83/lob83-historical-war-ukraine.pdf>. There is concise account of the politics of East-West after the collapse of the Soviet Union by Fred Kaplan, 'A Bridge Too Far', in the *New York Review of Books*, 7 April 2022. This is at <https://tinyurl.com/yc5kdt5e> or <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2022/04/07/a-bridge-too-far-not-one-inch-m-e-sarotte/>.

American policy of stirring up trouble in Ukraine and goading Russia into combat'.⁶² Well, 'stirring up trouble in Ukraine' is defensible; but 'goading Russia into combat' as a policy aim? I doubt that very much. This takes the American view of NATO much more seriously than it deserves. For America, NATO is mainly a means of selling its weapons to NATO members. You watch: if Sweden and Finland do join, the price of admission will be buying American weapons systems.

In the end, the fact that America/NATO have been meddling in Ukrainian politics since the fall of the Berlin wall excuses nothing. Ukraine was not a military threat to Russia. Russia's atrocities in Ukraine are not propaganda by NATO. The Russia which is destroying Ukraine's cities is not a failed workers' state, for which we might have sympathy (at least they tried . . .). It is a murderous, authoritarian kleptocracy.

IRD

The existence of the British state's anti-Soviet propaganda organisation IRD could be cited in the defence of the Soviet Union. IRD manufactured disinformation about the Soviet Union and 'the communist threat'. A recent article on the organisation, based on recently declassified files, begins with this:

The British government ran a secret "black propaganda" campaign for decades, targeting Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia with leaflets and reports from fake sources aimed at destabilising cold war enemies by encouraging racial tensions, sowing chaos, inciting violence and reinforcing anti-communist ideas, newly declassified documents have revealed.⁶³

Troubled waters

Some of the UK commentariat have realised the size of the economic hole the

⁶² <<https://tinyurl.com/4uu7y263>> or <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-10840777/PETER-HITCHENS-explain-called-evacuation-not-surrender.html>>

⁶³ <<https://tinyurl.com/32v2f985>> or <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/14/secret-british-black-propaganda-campaign-targeted-cold-war-enemies-information-research-department>>

UK is in.

Britain is on a trajectory of going to the dogs. The rot started years ago – but the defining pinnacle of political and economic mismanagement was the 2008 bank-led financial crisis. It led to the dismally failed Cameron/Osborne austerity era – little more than an exercise in class war. Brexit and the government of Johnson are all linked to this failure [. . .] Everything is now in crisis – from the economy to rapidly rising rates of poverty. A ministry of incompetents reigns over us.⁶⁴

Alex Brummer in the *Daily Mail*:

We live in traumatic times with food, energy and national security under threat. Selling the nation's commercial birthright has been an unmitigated disaster⁶⁵

Will Hutton in *The Observer*:

We are so badly governed by ministers and a party living in a sealed right-wing bubble that food rationing in 2023 is a real risk. [. . .] The curtain is finally coming down on the great Thatcherite experiment.⁶⁶

Nick Timothy in the *Daily Telegraph*:

While the abandonment of manufacturing was seen as the height of modernisation, during the pandemic we found we were exposed without it. While openness to foreign investment was once our leitmotif, now we understand it is exploited by hostile states to launder dirty money and gain leverage against us.

Even now our leaders are reluctant to see the truth. They cling to long-disproved liberal assumptions – that our values are universal, that the rest of the world wants to become like us, that interconnectedness

⁶⁴ <<https://tinyurl.com/2pc3apcr>> or <<https://truepublica.org.uk/united-kingdom/crisis-ridden-britain-a-country-heading-for-ruin/>> *Truepublica* is the site of Graham Vanbergen. The same piece is on Vanbergen's other site – *The Economic Times* (<<https://economic-times.co.uk/opinion/crisis-ridden-britain-a-country-heading-for-ruin/>>) – and is described there as 'By The ET Editor'.

⁶⁵ <<https://tinyurl.com/4kuhseun>> or <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/comment/article-10722661/ALEX-BRUMMER-Pitfalls-overseas-control.html>>

Alex Brummer used to write for *The Guardian* and in 2012 published *Britain for Sale: British Companies in Foreign Hands – The Hidden Threat to Our Economy*. Brummer was interviewed by the BBC about it. See <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/business-17858593>>.

⁶⁶ <<https://tinyurl.com/2f2hc9w4>> or <<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/may/22/food-crisis-is-what-happens-when-global-chains-collapse-we-might-need-to-get-used-to-it>>

makes war impossible, that the liberalisation of trade inevitably leads to open societies and democratic politics – and hope that events might still swing their way.

[. . .] The new model, then, needs to resist and restrict our rivals and enemies. It requires recognition that economic might matters, and so the pursuit of growth is not optional. It requires us to prioritise national resilience over the notional efficiency of stretched supply chains. It requires economic nationalism, strategic planning and the maintenance of domestic production and core capabilities.⁶⁷

Food rationing? Economic nationalism? Nurses using food banks?⁶⁸ The times they are indeed a-changin’.

Truth juice

Do have a look at a publication from J D Wetherspoon – yes, the pub chain – called *Does Truth Matter?*⁶⁹ On the front cover it states:

Many untrue statements were made about Wetherspoon during the pandemic. Wetherspoon News sets the record straight. We publish apologies and/or corrections from: Daily Express, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, Daily Star, Sky News, The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, The Independent, The Times, Forbes.

This is a very striking indictment of sloppy/prejudiced reporting by the mainstream British media.

Mary Ferrell

The late Mary Ferrell was a major feature of Kennedy assassination research since the late 1960s. The foundation named after her is the best database on the event. Now Phillip Nelson⁷⁰ has written a long piece about Ferrell, basically

⁶⁷ Nick Timothy, ‘Globalisation has run its sorry course. We must find a new model’ at <<https://archive.ph/Jcj46>>. See also his more recent essay at <<https://archive.ph/iSeCg>>. Nick Timothy was joint chief of staff for Prime Minister Theresa May.

⁶⁸ Reported in *The Times* on 25 May.

⁶⁹ <<https://www.jdwetherspoon.com/news/2021/08/does-truth-matter>> John Booth spotted this.

⁷⁰ Author of *LBJ: The Mastermind of the JFK Assassination*. This was reviewed at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster61/lob61-lbj-jfk-book.pdf>>.

suggesting that she was an intelligence asset (probably working for the FBI).⁷¹ He hasn't quite got irrefutable evidence but he's close. As soon as I grasped the gist of what he was saying it seemed pretty obvious – with hindsight – that the powers-that-be *would* attempt to control/influence the direction of the citizen researchers who were looking at the events on Dealey Plaza. Since the first thing they would need to do was see what the researchers were looking at, how better to achieve this than help create an archive for them?

Lord Levy's levy

I was a member of the Labour Party for about 20 years, finally quitting when the UK joined the US assault on Iraq. Hence my interest in the 'anti-semitism-in-Labour' issue.

What is happening would be comic were its consequences not so serious. Though I'm not sure what the Labour line on anti-semitism actually *is* these days, the business of expelling Jewish members who won't toe that line continues. The latest such victim is Jonathan Rosenhead, emeritus Professor of Operational Research at the LSE.⁷² Rosenhead has written a long response to the Labour Party's attempts to expel him.⁷³ In that he recaps some of this absurd activity. He reveals, *inter alia*, that he was told by the Party that while his membership was suspended,

. . . in accordance with the Labour Party Rule Book, you shall be required to complete a specified training course following this period of suspension.

Yes indeed: despite being Jewish, and despite a lifetime of political activism, notably against apartheid, Rosenhead is going to be taught how to think correctly about anti-semitism.

All this quasi-legal activity expelling people for not toeing the line, has cost the Labour Party much of the money created by the growth of

⁷¹ <<https://tinyurl.com/3xz5adyz>> or <<https://lbjthemasterofdeceit.com/2022/02/15/mary-ferrells-enigmatic-past-and-how-her-namesake-foundation-added-even-more-enigmata-to-the-mix/>>

⁷² On whom see <<https://tinyurl.com/yeyuyymb>> or <<https://www.lse.ac.uk/management/assets/documents/people/faculty-cv/Rosenhead-J-CV.pdf>>.

⁷³ <<https://tinyurl.com/2z5d8trv>> or <<https://skwawkbox.org/2022/04/17/83yo-jewish-professor-and-anti-apartheid-campaigner-responds-to-labours-punitive-and-antisemitic-suspension/>>

membership fees under Jeremy Corbyn's leadership.⁷⁴ A *Times* article from July last year was headlined 'Huge legal bills leave Labour feeling the pinch'.⁷⁵

But not to worry. To Keir Starmer's rescue comes Lord Levy, the man who raised the 6 or 7 million pounds from the British Jewish community for then Leader of the Labour Party Tony Blair.⁷⁶ And thus the operation against Labour by the Israel lobby is complete: it now has an Israel-supporting leader, dissenting Jews are being expelled, and it will soon be dependent on Jewish money.

Or is that Israeli money? I wonder if the wealthy British Jews, who apparently donate to Labour via Lord Levy, are reimbursed by the Israeli state, enabling the Israeli state to launder its financial support for Labour.

Related to which are two other items worth your attention. The first is a rather good account of the operation to smear Jeremy Corbyn set in the context of other British state/media smear campaigns against Labour leaders, notably Harold Wilson.⁷⁷ The second is some essays by the philosopher Chris Friel on the anti-semitism campaign, focused on the treatment of Professor David Miller.⁷⁸

Ukraine disinfo

Near the beginning of the previous issue's 'View from the Bridge', under subhead **Ukraine**, I quoted from and commented on some writing by Sonja Van den Ende, published in *Covert Action*. Ms Ende is 'embedded' with the Russian army and in that essay she ran several recognisably Russian state 'lines' on the conflict. I looked for other writing of hers and quoted some propounding a version of the big conspiracy theory held by some of the anti-

⁷⁴ See, for example, <<https://tinyurl.com/yuj9kzfv>> or <<https://electronicintifada.net/content/labour-blew-13-million-pursuing-anti-semitism-leakers/34026>>.

⁷⁵ <<https://tinyurl.com/4ju6vfvr>> or <<https://archive.ph/https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/huge-legal-bills-leave-labour-feeling-the-pinch-vfx2qh97h>>

⁷⁶ <<https://tinyurl.com/ycyy32n7>> or <<https://archive.ph/2022.04.03-053235/https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lord-levy-fundraising-again-to-help-fill-labours-coffers-vs3z62rf#selection-839.0-843.16>>

My original formulation of the Blair and Israel issue appeared *twenty years ago* and was reprinted in *Lobster 73* with material added at its end, in the light of the Al Jazeera videos on 'the lobby'. This is at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster73/blair-israel.pdf>>.

⁷⁷ <<https://tinyurl.com/2h4es3v2>> or <<https://monthlyreview.org/2022/02/01/anatomy-of-a-propaganda-campaign-jeremy-corbyns-political-assassination/>>.

⁷⁸ On his pages at <<https://chrisfriel.academia.edu/research>>.

vaxxers in the USA and Europe.

Covert Action has recently published another essay by Ms Ende, 'U.S. Media Are Lying About Russian Atrocities in Mariupol, Says Embedded Reporter at Ground Zero', which has this within its opening lines:

Mariupol has been wiped out, buildings have collapsed mostly due to rocket attacks and, of course, there have been bombings as well.

The Western media, of course, blame the Russians for these bombings, but Ukraine also has planes that drop bombs, so how on earth can you say a few thousand kilometers away that it is the Russians?⁷⁹

Yes, she is proposing that the Ukrainians have destroyed one of their own cities to enable them to blame the Russians. The false flag attack to end all false flag attacks!

The article is prefaced by this comment from the *Covert Action* editors:

This article is written by a reporter embedded in Ukraine with the Russian army. We believe that if people want to understand the war in Ukraine, they need to read widely about it, from different perspectives, including the Russian one, to try and discern the truth about what is going on for themselves.—Editors

Which is a cop-out, is it not? Ms Ende should have been told to take her absurd disinformation elsewhere.

Editors needed!

I have commented before on the extraordinary material which appears on the *Global Research* site;⁸⁰ and on the fact that there appears to be no-one editing what is published there.⁸¹ Looking at it again recently – and this site matters, its content can be translated into over 50 languages – there is another rich haul of . . . nonsense, material that is almost beyond criticism. Here are two examples from the site's first two screens when I looked.

According to this CDC health fraud detection expert **the number of vaccine deaths in the U.S. is not 15,386 but somewhere between**

⁷⁹ <<https://tinyurl.com/twdb83zx>> or <<https://covertactionmagazine.com/2022/04/23/u-s-media-are-lying-about-russian-atrocities-in-mariupol-says-embedded-reporter-at-ground-zero/>>

⁸⁰ <<https://www.globalresearch.ca>> See under subhead **Covidia** at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster82/lob82-view-from-the-bridge.pdf>>

⁸¹ I am late to this particular party. See, for example, <<https://archive.md/ntuzX#selection-1001.0-1001.62>>.

80,000 and 160,000.⁸² (emphasis in the original)

One of the co-authors of that is David John Sorenson. I searched for him and found this (which was posted anonymously to the Quora website):

David Sorensen is an Evangelical preacher and young-earth Creationist who was a White House aide under Donald Trump until he was forced to resign amid reports that he beat both his wives and a girlfriend. After leaving the Trump administration, he founded "Stop World Control," a conspiracy theory organization and Web site that he advertises as, quote, "a platform for the voices of many freedom warriors who will not be led to the slaughter."

Stop World Control is a site dedicated to putting forward the idea that COVID-19 is a hoax, there is no such disease, there is no coronavirus, and the entire epidemic is being staged by members of the New World Order who are creating a fake vaccine that, again I quote, "can alter our DNA, turning us into hybrids. The plans are to connect humans to artificial intelligence and global control networks. This is the start of transhumanism, turning us into HUMANS 2.0."

According to him, "Big Tech collaborates with Big Pharma to introduce new technologies in the coming vaccines"—these are his exact words—"to use vaccines to inject nanotechnology into our bodies and connect us to the Cloud and artificial intelligence. This will enable corrupt governments and tech giants to control us, without us being aware of it."⁸³

And then there's this by Peter Koenig, on not dissimilar lines.

Covid equals Great Reset 1.0.

It was to put people in awe, to indoctrinate them with an abject lie, to spread fear, to make people submissive – and obedient to authorities – while believing that these authorities – of all 193 UN member countries at once – all want only the best for their people. The way it should be. So, you do what they say. Governments are supposed to be the protectors of their people.

We were and still are totally wrong. We the people, must get it into our heads, that these times are gone. Our governments, more often

⁸² <<https://tinyurl.com/4ks56c4u>> or <<https://www.globalresearch.ca/evidence-millions-deaths-serious-adverse-events-resulting-experimental-covid-19-injections/5763676>>

⁸³ <<https://tinyurl.com/3yz7u727>> or <<https://www.quora.com/Who-is-David-Sorensen-and-what-is-his-Stop-World-Control-organization-all-about>> The BBC reported his departure from the Trump administration at <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-43012426>>.

than not, are our enemies.

They want the worst for the people – a global vaxx-genocide, stealing assets through artificially, alias covid-induced bankruptcies, shifting the liquidated properties from the bottom and the center to the top, by inflicting economic crises, and eventually, full digitization of everything, including especially financial resources, your money (no more cash), and – yes – the human brain – so as to have total control over the surviving humans.⁸⁴

Most of the site isn't loopy nonsense but the point is: were anybody at the helm, there would be much less and perhaps none.

'A kind of victory'

There's more writing about Ukraine and Russia than we could possibly handle, even if we read nothing else. I imagine we all have pieces that struck us. My offering in that category is a piece in the *New Statesman*, an interview with Sergey Karaganov, who is a member of the top echelon of the Putin regime. Karaganov said: 'Russia cannot afford to lose, so we need a kind of a victory'.⁸⁵

The shitty City

The *Financial Times* has produced a very striking video with the title 'How London became the dirty money capital of the world'.⁸⁶ The film's script is available⁸⁷ and these are its opening lines:

⁸⁴ Peter Keonig, 'Ukraine-Russia: Towards a "Hot War"? Advancing the Agenda of the Great Reset?' at <<https://tinyurl.com/4rnmnjz6>> or <<https://www.globalresearch.ca/ukraine-russia-proxy-war-advancing-agenda-great-reset/5774987>>.

⁸⁵ <<https://tinyurl.com/4wd2yms8>> or <www.newstatesman.com/world/europe/ukraine/2022/04/russia-cannot-afford-to-lose-so-we-need-a-kind-of-a-victory-sergey-karaganov-on-what-putin-wants>

⁸⁶ <<https://www.ft.com/video/d3bafb94-9dbd-4c1e-8016-8cd8331960f1>>

⁸⁷ Script is the third entry down at <<https://tinyurl.com/ybwwanfn>> or <https://www.reddit.com/r/ukpolitics/comments/uapz7q/how_london_became_the_dirty_money_capital_of_the/>.

Nick Must added: It is also available on the FT page that hosts the video. To the right of the embedded video clip there is a panel of text that is actually two sections. If you click on the word 'Transcript' on the right hand side of the panel you will, indeed, get the transcript.

There's no question that London is the dirty money capital of the world. The UK didn't just turn a blind eye to Russian money. We welcomed it. For many decades now London has been rolling out the red carpet to corrupt and criminal individuals from around the world.

Britain is a very open financial hub. It's really important that you have really clear well enforced rules. And that's something Britain simply doesn't have.

It seems almost churlish to point out that for 'many decades' the *FT* did *not* make a video about dirty money arriving in London.