

The view from the bridge

Robin Ramsay

new

In defence of paranoia

I am grateful to David Ciza for pointing me towards 'In defence of paranoia: rethinking politics after the Epstein Files' by Dr. David S. Moon.¹ The author's summary at the beginning of his essay states:

This article argues that a reflexive dismissal of 'conspiracy' has left political analysis blind to the routine operations of elite collusion, a failure exposed in stark terms by the Epstein case. It calls for a disciplined, evidence-led 'paranoia' capable of tracking power across the opaque 'parapolitical' networks that structure contemporary politics.

Moon is essentially restating the case made by the late Carl Oglesby in his 1974 essay 'In Defence of Paranoia.'² Below are some extracts from Moon's essay.

Many in the media treated any mention of Epstein's association with British power as conspiracy theory. [. . .] The whole episode ultimately revealed a cognitive failure amongst the class of people paid to understand and explain politics: an inability, or unwillingness, to recognise the role of elite networks in politics and situate events within them. In short, a deficit of healthy concern about political conspiracies.

[. . .]

Yet in the rush to repudiate fantasy and defeat hatred, serious analysis of *real* conspiracy has too often been dismissed. The result, as the Epstein affair illustrates, is an incomplete grasp of politics as it actually operates, and a vacuum readily filled by darker forces. Conspiratorial politics flourishes amid institutional decay.

¹ <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/407257676_In_defence_of_paranoia_rethinking_politics_after_the_Epstein_Files>

² Available at <<https://www.unz.com/print/Ramparts-1974nov-00015>>. Oglesby's essay was, in part, a riposte to Richard Hofstadter's 1964 'The Paranoid Style in American Politics'.

[. . .]

The task, I submit, is neither to treat the Epstein example as an aberration nor abandon oneself to online delusions. It is to recover a disciplined, democratic suspicion: a form of healthy paranoia suited to an age of opaque networks, dark money, and unaccountable elites. As I set out here, that means moving beyond certain received reference points, opening the 'difficult boxes' of politics and its academic study, and embracing a perspective that includes those elements captured under the rubric of 'parapolitics'.

[. . .]

From Operation Underworld and COINTELPRO in the United States, to the City of London's status as a global hub for illicit finance and the 'spy-cops' scandal in the United Kingdom, covert operations, corporate collusion and state-criminal entanglements have demonstrably shaped political life in ostensibly liberal democracies.

What with this and Dr Theo Kindynis,³ there are signs of life in British academic political studies.

new

Google AI and our secret history

I have been reformatting *Lobster* 11, 'Wilson, MI5 and the rise of Thatcher', and have thus read it for the first time in years. It describes the network of right-wing groups, paramilitary groups, spooks serving and retired, all bound together by the notion that the Labour Party and the trade unions were either a conscious front for the Soviets, or were unwittingly acting as one. This network faded away slowly after the election of Mrs Thatcher as Conservative leader in 1975. But this was the background to the mutation of the recreated 'stay behind' groups into the secret paramilitary force described by Peter Sanderson in 'The British Gladio' in *Lobster* 81. Re-reading *Lobster* 11 showed me why little of what Sanderson described was surprising.

³ See his 'Criminology, Conspiracy Theories and Theorizing Conspiracy' at <<https://academic.oup.com/bjc/article/65/5/1088/7991030>> which includes this:

For much of the field's history, parapolitical enquiry has been marginalized within the academy—where the fields of intelligence and security studies are closely aligned with the security state—and has instead been developed in a number of grey literature periodicals such as *The Lobster* (UK) and *CovertAction Magazine* (US).

Researching Sanderson's claims I rediscovered this from *State Research* issue 2 in 1977.

UNDERCOVER RESERVE FORCES

A paramilitary committee of former high-ranking service officers has, for the past six years, been receiving official government support to set up an undercover, anti-communist resistance movement in Britain (Daily Express 18/7/77). The Resistance and Psychological Operations Committee (RPOC) is a covert group within the government-funded Reserve Forces Association (RFA). The RFA is the representative body of British military reservists, and the British component of the NATO- supported Confederation Inter-Allies des Officers de Reserve (CIOR). The RFA was formed in 1970 and is formally an independent organisation, but its 214 individual and 90 corporate members represent all the reserve units of the armed forces and the government treats it as the spokesman of Britain's reserve forces.

Since 1971 the RPOC has been setting up the nucleus of an underground resistance organisation which could rapidly be expanded in the event of a Russian occupation of any part of NATO, including Britain. Close links have been formed with similar units in several European countries, which are actively recruiting 'anti-communist resistance fighters', according to Chapman Pincher. They are also said to have established an intelligence network which NATO chiefs regard as being of great value.

The RPOC was set up by a group of World War Two defence chiefs who thought that the need has arisen again for an organisation like the underground wartime Special Operations Executive (SOE), but this time directed against communism. Amongst the group were: General Sir Richard Gale, former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and founder of the 1st Parachute Brigade; Sir Colin Gubbins, founder of the SOE and the Commandos; Sir John Slessor; Marshal of the Royal Air Force, and former Chief of the Air Staff; and Sir Algernon Willis, Admiral of the Fleet.

Under the then Tory government RPOC was given access to Ministry of Defence Departments, including the Joint Warfare Establishment near Salisbury commanded by Maj. Gen. Patrick Ovens, a former Commando. The committee also formed close links with the Special Air Services (SAS), and secured access to the Foreign Office's Information and Research

Department, which has historically been used as a cover Department for M16 agents. The MOD gave the RFA a grant to pass on to RPOC. Now, Pincher claims, the Labour government are worried that their supporters will find out that the government has been encouraging a rightwing paramilitary group, and they have therefore been quietly trying to stifle the committee over the past months. RPOC has been deprived of its grant (and thereby its official status), access to Whitehall information has ended, and attendance at NATO meetings forbidden. The committee still exists, however, with General Gale leading the fight for its survival.

This RPOC-RFA network looks like the group which organised the Civil Contingency Caucus which Sanderson joined. So I Googled <British state + 1970s + Resistance and Psychological Operations Committee> and then followed leads offered by Google AI. Which got me much apparently striking material. This for example:

In the 1970s, the Resistance and Psychological Operations Committee (RPOC) operated as an influential, semi-covert body associated with British military planning, reserve forces, and intelligence networks. It allegedly laid the groundwork for an underground resistance organization and coordinated psychological warfare concepts during the Cold War

The Resistance and Psychological Operations Committee (RPOC) functioned as a vital, covert bridge connecting the British state to NATO's secret "stay-behind" networks and transnational anti-communist intelligence hubs.

Which I think is probably true but for which is there no evidence. Google AI's apparently sexy statements about RPOC are almost entirely based on the 1977 Chapman Pincher article in the *Daily Express* which is cited in the *State Research* piece above. Google AI finds no official or academic material on either RPOC or the Reserve Forces Association (RFA) in English.⁴

The biggest lie

Thom Hartmann may be America's most important radical voice. He is certainly its most productive. He has published a book almost every year since 1992, had a radio programme, is now on-line and does other journalism. He

⁴ Google AI tells me there is a section on RPOC in a German book. I have contacted the author.

makes me feel lazy. Somehow I managed to miss almost all of that output, noting in *Lobster* 51 only his co-authorship with Lamar Waldron of a JFK whodunnit, *Ultimate Sacrifice*.⁵

A PDF advance copy of his latest book, *Who Killed the American Dream? The Greatest Political Crime Ever Told*, (Oakland [CA]: Berrett-Koehler, 2026) arrived by email. Hartmann begins:

PROLOGUE

A Crime in Plain Sight

Every law student in America learns the same story:

"In 1886, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad Company* that corporations are persons under the Fourteenth Amendment. This single decision fundamentally transformed American democracy, business, and law. It granted corporations the same constitutional rights as human beings: free speech, due process, equal protection. Everything that followed, from unlimited corporate campaign spending to corporate control of our media, politics, and environment, traces back to that pivotal moment."

There's just one problem: it never happened. The Supreme Court debated this issue and never made that ruling. Not in 1886, not ever. What actually happened is far more disturbing: A court reporter [Bancroft Davis, the Court's official reporter], a corrupt Supreme Court justice, and the railroad oligarchs who owned America's most powerful corporations successfully conspired to rewrite the Constitution. They committed the crime in broad daylight, recorded it in official court documents, and hid it in plain sight for 140 years

Hartmann isn't claiming to be the first to discover this: it has been known about for over a century. When I googled this I came across Professor Adam Winkler's 2018 "'Corporations Are People' Is Built on an Incredible 19th-Century Lie: How a farcical series of events in the 1880s produced an enduring and controversial legal precedent".⁶

Corporations as people is a difficult concept for those raised in the UK to grasp but Hartmann gives examples:

† Every time a corporation claims First Amendment rights to spend

⁵ <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/51/ultimate-sacrifice/>>

⁶ <<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2018/03/corporations-people-adam-winkler/554852/>>

unlimited money on elections, it's Davis's fraud.

† Every time a corporation claims due process rights to block environmental regulations, it's Davis's fraud.

† Every time a corporation claims equal protection to avoid taxes that fund schools, roads, and public services, it's Davis's fraud.

† Every time a corporation claims religious freedom to deny employees healthcare coverage, it's Davis's fraud.

† Every time a corporation prevents the EPA from investigating their pollution by citing the Fourth Amendment right to privacy, it's Davis's fraud.

Hartmann hopes his new detailed examination of these events will kick the issue into public consciousness.

Definitely maybe

The excellent Peter Geoghan's 'Revealed: the Russian ties of Liz Truss's radical right conference'⁷ is subtitled:

CPAC UK was set up by a lawyer who worked with sanctioned 'notorious kleptocrat' – and speakers include politicians linked to pro-Kremlin networks and Moscow talking points.

It includes this:

Jack Posobiec, a former US navy intelligence officer turned alternative news anchor, has claimed that Boris Johnson sabotaged a potential Russia-Ukraine peace deal in 2022 and has repeated Russian disinformation about "Ukrainian biolabs". Paul du Quenoy, president of the Palm Beach Freedom Institute, has described Ukraine as a "corrupt post-Soviet kleptocracy".

Let's take these points one at a time.

Boris Johnson sabotaged a potential Russia-Ukraine peace deal in 2022

He did try to, however, flying to Kiev and very publicly telling the Ukrainians not to do the deal with the Russians which was then being discussed. How close to a deal the two sides were at the time, the best estimate is not very close.

⁷ <<https://democracyforsale.substack.com/p/revealed-the-russian-ties-of-liz-truss-cpac-nigel-farage?>>

Russian disinformation about 'Ukrainian biolabs'

The US state has indeed funded 40 biolabs in Ukraine. The office of the US Director of National Intelligence released documents showing so.⁸ What said labs are actually doing . . .

Ukraine is a 'corrupt post-Soviet kleptocracy'

Ukraine certainly was and is corrupt, as simply googling 'Ukraine and corruption' will show. 'Kleptocracy' is a more complex proposition. Clearly the Ukrainian state is not *simply* engaged in enriching its members, which is what kleptocracy means. It is fighting a war, for one thing.

All of which is to say: our political opponents don't always talk nonsense.

All together

I did smile at the first interview given by Starmer's former right-hand man, Morgan McSweeney.⁹ Said McSweeney:

We didn't prepare enough for what kind of world we were going to . . . I think we didn't have enough conversations at the top of the party about what that meant, how to prepare for it, what that meant for the state.

They didn't prepare because they thought they would lose the election, as Labour Together member Neal Lawson told us.¹⁰ McSweeney's organisation, largely funded by pro-Israel money, wanted Wes Streeting as leader. They assumed Streeting would succeed Starmer after he led Labour to election defeat.

Which illustrates once again how far ahead politicians think.

Bilderberg

The essential Carole Cadwalladr had a recent piece pointing out that Peter Thiel, a leading member of what she has christened the brologarchy, has been

⁸ <https://www.dni.gov/files/BIOLAB_Slides.pdf>

⁹ <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8j2e38zzgo>>

¹⁰ <<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/nov/13/keir-starmer-labour-prime-minister-corbyn-mps>>

funding the Bilderberg group.¹¹

This is news to me but then I haven't been interested in Bilderberg for a while. Tony Gosling has more about Bilderberg than you could ever hope to need at his site Bilderberg.org. Out of curiosity I asked *Lobster's* search engine for the first reference to Bilderberg in these pages. There's a passing reference in *Lobster* 1.

Different strokes . . .

How different perspectives see the same events. Here's the MAGA fan Roger Stone:

President Donald Trump's America First foreign policy is delivering results that were, until very recently, dismissed as impossible. NATO allies, long content to let the United States shoulder the burden of their defense, are finally stepping up. Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, is pledging to build the continent's strongest army signaling a broader shift across the alliance. This is not charity or coincidence—it is the direct outcome of relentless pressure from President Trump, who has made clear that the era of American taxpayers subsidizing European security is over.¹²

So the vast network of American military installations all over Europe (and the world) since WW2 was America generously protecting us against the Red Menace. How could I have failed to grasp this all these years?

Disinfo never really dies

I admire Dick Russell but oh dear, he has relaunched the MJ-12 (Majestic) UFO nonsense on his substack: 'UFO COVERUP: THE EARLY HISTORY: A STARTLING NEW DOCUMENT COMES TO LIGHT'. (Caps in the original.)¹³ I discussed the MJ-12 psy-op – for that's what it was – in some detail in *Lobster*

¹¹ 'You're obsessing over the wrong Peter Thiel conference. Forget Dialog. Bilderberg is where the actual masters of the universe meet. Three guesses who secretly funds it?'
<<https://broligarchy.substack.com/p/youre-obsessing-over-the-wrong-peter?>>.

¹² 'NATO Realignment Comes to Fruition as Europe Pays Their Fair Share'
<<https://www.stonecoldtruth.com/p/president-trumps-nato-realignment?>

¹³ <<https://dickrussell.substack.com/p/ufo-coverup-the-early-history?>>

40.¹⁴ The MJ-12 psy-op was 'blown' by one of those taking part in it, Bill Moore. He told the annual conference of the major American UFO organisation, MUFON, in 1989 that it had all been disinformation, cooked-up by parts of the military-intelligence agencies. It had been what Colin Wallace described years before as a double bubble operation: you lead people down a false trail and then destroy what you had persuaded them to believe.

All our yesterdays

These entertaining paragraphs appeared in an essay by Geoffrey Wheatcroft in the *New York Review of Books* on 25 June 2026.

In case anyone failed to grasp what that name [New Labour] meant, just before Blair's triumph at the 1997 election there was a very funny book review in *The Spectator* by the late Robert Taylor, a financial correspondent and man of the left . . . The book was *The State To Come* by Will Hutton, a cheerleader for Blair and New Labour, who predicted 'a strange rebirth of liberal England', with greater public spending paid for by higher taxes on the rich, strengthened unions, a closer engagement with Europe beginning with an immediate process to join the single the currency when it was created, and many beguiling things besides.

Could Hutton really believe this nonsense, Taylor asked? How the young spin doctors in Millbank Tower [Labour headquarters] must be laughing among themselves at such patent absurdity. They know from their own focus groups findings that what Middle England real, really wants is Thatcherism with a fresh young face and this is what Mr Blair provides.

It was indeed obvious that NuLab were Thatcherites and several of us wrote so in *Lobster* 33, just after Blair won his first general election. My version included this:

This is the key move by the Blairites: they have become the party of the City, the big transnational corporations and the Foreign Office – the overseas lobby. They have succeeded triumphantly in becoming the party of Europe – still desired by a majority of the overseas lobby in

¹⁴ <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/40/disinformation-from-euros-to-ufos/>>

Britain. This shift explains the enthusiasm for the Blair faction expressed by the London establishment – the Foreign Office, the higher media and the EU-oriented section of British capital – before the election. Labour, under the Blair faction, is a more reliable bet for continued EU membership than the Conservative Party with its vociferous English nationalist wing, the so-called Eurosceptics.

And with this shift to an overseas orientation, comes the concomitant position that Labour's traditional constituencies – so-called Old Labour – the domestic economy, especially manufacturing and the public sector, become merely interest groups to be taken for granted and ignored.¹⁵

I was still a member of the Labour Party then and there was no-one around me in it willing to face this. From the odd comment he has made, Andy Burnham seems to have grasped this – albeit almost 30 years too late. We shall see what – if anything – he is prepared to try and do to rectify it.

Covid conspiracy theories

The central Covid conspiracy theories are that there was no Covid pandemic; or, if there was one, it wasn't as dangerous as the authorities said it was. Looking for examples of them I came across 'Why I don't believe there ever was a Covid virus' by Dr. Mike Yeadon.¹⁶ He has an impressive CV¹⁷ but his reasons for denying the existence of Covid are still unclear to me after reading his essay and he has a pretty conspiratorial world-view to begin with. Take this paragraph:

So who do I mean by 'they' and 'the perpetrators'? There are a number of candidates competing for this position, with their drug company accomplices, several of whom are named in Paula Jardine's excellent five-part series for TCW, 'Anatomy of the Sinister Covid

¹⁵ <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/33/contamination-the-labour-party-nationalism-and-the-blairites/>>

¹⁶ <<https://off-guardian.org/2023/04/06/why-i-dont-believe-there-ever-was-a-covid-virus/>>

¹⁷ It includes this:

Dr Mike Yeadon has a degree in biochemistry and toxicology and a research-based PhD in respiratory pharmacology. He has spent over 30 years leading new medicines research in some of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, leaving Pfizer in 2011 as Vice President & Chief Scientist for Allergy & Respiratory.

project'.¹⁸. High on the list is the 'enabling' World Economic Forum and their many political acolytes including Justin Trudeau and Jacinda Ardern.

This is absurd. The World Economic Forum is a talking shop of no consequence. As for Trudeau and Adern (then Prime Minister of New Zealand) as cosmic villains – *really*?

What the cited Paula Jardine's essays do show is that the American military and biochemical industry, using a possible threat of biological weapons, worked for twenty years to obtain a lot of US taxpayer money to deal with the threat of biological warfare. (Bogus 'threat' generation is a standard feature of the US military-industrial-congressional-complex.) When Covid arrived much of the groundwork for a large-scale organisational response to it had been laid. It is thus not that big a step for the conspiratorially-minded to interpret those preparations as sinister.

Yeadon writes:

To this point, an ex-pharmaceutical industry executive Sasha Latypova, [. . .] describes the extensive evidence of the contracts and relationships that were in place before the Covid era. Contracts were signed for billions of dollars in February 2020.

Though it is possible that she has other documents, in her essay Latypova does *not* show 'contracts signed for billions of dollars' in February 2020.¹⁹ There is one, from July 2020, showing a deal with Pfizer Inc.. However, working her way through official documents, she shows that after the Covid outbreak the US Department of Defense did deals with other organisations, including one from China. Which is interesting but not necessarily sinister. After all, the US government was indirectly funding the lab in Wuhan in China from which the virus escaped in the first place.

Towards the end of her piece she gives us this:

The current war is the war of the global governments (plural), that only pretend to be at odds with each other, marketing themselves as "left", "right", "communists", "green", "capitalists", "socialists", "populists", "conservatives", etc. etc. in a never ending clown show of the political

¹⁸ Actually it's 6 parts. It begins at <https://www.conservativewoman.co.uk/anatomy-of-the-sinister-covid-project-part-1/>.

¹⁹ 'The role of the US DoD (and their co-investors) in "covid countermeasures" enterprise' at <https://sashalatypova.substack.com/p/the-role-of-the-us-dod-and-their>.

theater. Behind the scenes, the “official enemies” are partners and co-investors into “joint ventures” against us, people of the world.

Which is just silly.

Election theft

Did the hi-tech bros steal the election for Trump? It is beginning to look like it. Check out ‘Elon Musk’s Ex, Ashley St. Clair, Confirms He Rigged the 2024 Election Using Technology’.²⁰ It includes this:

On June 5, 2025, a year ago to the day, Musk made his own position explicit:

“Without me, Trump would have lost the election, Dems would control the House and the Republicans would be 51-49 in the Senate.”

And then go to ‘We Dug Into Data for the 2026 Kentucky 4th District Republican Primary’²¹ from the Election Truth Alliance. The Trump-stole-the-election (or it-was-stolen-for-Trump) thesis is not quite proven but it’s getting close. But then if you decide to give up bits of paper and use computers to register and count votes you are inviting fraud; and there is so much money involved in who becomes president, it will not be remotely surprising if it is irrefutably proved that election fraud has taken place.

Settlers?

‘His father had just been buried. Then West Bank *settlers* forced him to dig up the body’. (Emphasis added.) Thus BBC TV news on 11 May 2026. ‘Settlers’? Surely ‘thieves’ or ‘terrorists’ would be more appropriate. Oddly, the Qatar-based Al Jazeera uses the same term.

Palestine weekly wrap: Israeli *settlers* rampage through West Bank villages. Settlers uproot olive trees, seize land, and displace families, reflecting unchecked violence across the West Bank. (14 May)
(Emphasis added.)

²⁰ <<https://thiswillhold.substack.com/p/elon-musks-ex-ashley-st-clair-confirms>>

²¹ <<https://electiontruthalliance.substack.com/p/we-dug-into-data-for-the-2026-kentucky>>

Craig Murray on Zionism and British politics

'Unquestioning Zionism has for decades been the entry ticket to the British political and media Establishment. Anybody who was not a fully certified and compliant Zionist would find their career limited – as Jeremy Corbyn, Alan Duncan, Robin Cook and David Mellor all found. Most others, of course, were never allowed to progress that far.'²²

This is overstating it. Alan Duncan reached number 2 in the Foreign Office, Robin Cook number 1 in the same department. Duncan's chances of going much higher were nullified not by his pro-Arab views but because he was gay, the first Conservative MP to come out. David Mellor's political career was derailed by publicity generated by his former mistress going public. These days it might not be fatal to a career but then . . . Robin Cook was in the shadow of Blair and Brown and didn't live long enough to challenge them when their neo-con fantasies blew up in their faces in 2008 (he died in 2005) and we can't know if he could have risen further. As for Jeremy Corbyn, by becoming leader of the Labour Party he achieved far more than anyone (including himself) ever thought he would.

Of course there is pressure on British politicians to support Israel but this occurs mainly because supporting Israel is part of supporting the USA. If Corbyn had not been smeared as an anti-semiter, he would have been attacked in some other way because he was not a supporter of the USA and NATO; and the United States was – is – not willing to allow the government of its most loyal geo-political ally and largest off-shore tax haven and to fall into the 'wrong' hands.

Blair 1

Regular contributor to these columns, former Labour MP Colin Challen, responded to the essay by Tony Blair attacking the prospect of an Andy Burnham-led government.

The oracle's latest thoughts have been communicated in a 5,700 word long essay and yours truly has read it so you don't have to. The interesting thing going on here is that it comes amidst a rather existential battle for the future of Labour, at least as some more wistful pundits would have it. In actual fact, there is currently no real battle

²² <<https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2026/05/zionism-has-poisoned-the-uks-central-nervous-system/>>

going on. There are no 'big ideas' flying out like sparks from a welder's torch. More like the spluttering of a dying flame overwhelmed by unconsumed wax. Tony, who is almost exactly the same age as me, still feels terribly relevant but hasn't the self-awareness to perceive that he is merely presenting as new thoughts those which are essentially retreads. In fact, he comes across as a bit confused, and as a fellow septuagenarian I have sympathy with his plight. He talks still of the 'Radical Centre' that woolly and pretentious term which could only ever appeal to politicians who strut around as if they were the 'adults in the room' but have nothing original between their ears.²³

Two things struck me about Sir Tony's intervention. The first is that by making it he has probably boosted Burnham's support among Labour Party members and supporters, many of whom have not forgiven Blair for supporting the invasion of Iraq. The second is that it illustrates beautifully the problem that people engaged in politics have in changing their minds and/or being seen to change their minds. No matter that the last 40 years of neo-con economic policies have been a failure,²⁴ none of the neo-cons can (publicly) recognise this. The interesting question is: do they know they failed but are unwilling or unable to publicly acknowledge this; or are they simply unable to process the data which shows failure?

Blair 2

Within seconds of leaving No.10, he fixated on accreting personal wealth: an advisory role at JPMorgan Chase and Zurich Financial Services, exorbitantly-priced private speaking gigs, contracts with human rights abusers. That tendency led naturally to his current situation, with the Tony Blair Institute taken over wholesale by billionaire Larry Ellison so he can use Blair as a ventriloquist dummy for his views on AI. Everyone has a price. It turns out Blair's price was \$130 million for the 2021-2023 period, and \$218 million since then.

Thus Ian Dunt on his Substack.²⁵

²³ 'An Oracle Speaks' 27 May 2026 <<http://www.colinchallen.org/blog>>

²⁴ On this see the review of A. G. Hopkins' *The Land Where Nothing Works: How Britain Lost The Plot* in this issue.

²⁵ <<https://iandunt.substack.com/p/john-major-is-a-better-former-pm-bf2?>>

Wikibollocks

The death of the senior MI6 officer Margaret 'Meta' Ramsay at the end of May²⁶ sent me to Wikispooks where there is a rather detailed entry on her and the network of organisations of which she was member before and after her work with MI6.²⁷ One of them was the John Smith Trust,²⁸ named after the former leader of the Labour Party and student colleague of Ramsay at Glasgow University. That entry includes this:

It was founded in 1996 as a living memorial to the late John Smith, a prominent British politician who *possibly was assassinated* by the deep state to clear the way for Tony Blair. (Emphasis added.)

There is no evidence suggesting the death of John Smith was suspicious. He had a stressful life, drank far too much alcohol²⁹ and got little exercise. In any case, Smith had been a member of the Bilderberg steering committee, among other things, surely a key component of 'the deep state', if that over-used phrase means anything these days. Wikispooks should be better than this kind of dumb conspiracy theorising.

Operation BGFriend

is the name of the joint SIS/CIA operation against Albania at the start of the Cold War. There is new study of the op, *A Rich Harvest Of Bitter Fruit*, by Stephen Long, forthcoming from Icon Books. Long tells us in his introduction that he stumbled across 6,700 pages of CIA files on the op in the US National Archives. This isn't my field, as academics say, and doesn't really interest me greatly. However a skim of the text shows it to be massively detailed. I can think of no other post-war intelligence op which has been so minutely analysed. If there is a reader who would like to review this, please get in touch.

²⁶ <<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/meta-ramsay-death-mi6-spy-b2985761.html>>

²⁷ <https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Margaret_Ramsay>

²⁸ David Miller has a detailed account of the John Smith Trust at <https://x.com/Tracking_Power/status/2059413236395765874>.

²⁹ John Booth, while Labour Party Chief Press Officer, saw him drink an entire bottle of whiskey in an evening.

Back to print, please

'It's a dizzying set of allegations.

A trove of leaked voice notes and call recordings — published by the anonymous outlet Hondurasgate.ch and Spain's Canal RED — alleges that Israeli money helped secure US President Donald Trump's pardon of former Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernández, who was serving 45 years in a US prison for trafficking some 400 tons of cocaine.

The recordings point to an alleged plot involving Trump, Netanyahu and Argentina's President Javier Milei to return Hernández to power and destabilise the left-wing governments of Brazil, Colombia and Mexico.'³⁰

It sounds important but it's contained in a filmed conversation, not in print. So what are we supposed to do? Listen to it and transcribe the significant bits? Come on people, let's have it in a form we can copy/paste.

³⁰ 'The Scandal of the Century? Hondurasgate Explained' <<https://novaramedia.com/2026/05/25/the-scandal-of-the-century-hondurasgate-explained/>>