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Russian Chief Rabbi calls circumcision opponents anti-Semites

By [SAM SOKOL](#) 03/24/2014 23:16

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"I think that they dress it up in nice clothing but sadly what they are trying to do is again take away Judaism from the Jews."

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Russia's President Vladimir Putin listens to Russia's Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar at tolerance center.

Photo: REUTERS

BUDAPEST- European attempts to ban circumcision and ritual slaughter are outright antisemitism, Russian Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar stated Monday evening. Addressing a conference organized by the Rabbinical Center of Europe, the Chabad hasid blasted efforts to legally proscribe **Jewish practices as continuing the work of the Nazis using different methods.**

Opponents of the rites, which are currently under attack in several countries, "are trying to fight Judaism," Lazar averred. "I'd even call them, sadly, anti-Semites."

"I think that they dress it up in nice clothing but sadly what they are trying to do is again take away Judaism from the Jews. **In the Holocaust it was done with force by killing, today they realize that death doesn't work, they are trying to [attack] our souls.**"

The call of the European Rabbinate should be to ensure a circumcision for every Jewish child, the Rabbi continued, calling such an effort the answer to anti-Jewish prejudice.

"I think the call of this conference, the call of our meeting, should be - **we will do all that is possible that every Jewish child is going to be circumcised whether they like it or not we are going to fight till the end that not one [Jewish] child in Europe is going to left without circumcision,**" Lazar implored the gathered Rabbis.

The end goal, he added, is to "rebuild the Jewish community in Europe even stronger than it was before the Holocaust and Communism."

Since last January both Poland and Denmark have banned ritual slaughter without prior stunning. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in a controversial resolution last October described circumcision as a "violation of the physical integrity of children." While the resolution carried no legal weight, PACE recommendations carry a great deal of moral weight in Europe and prominent figures in several countries have issued calls to restrict the practice.

Related: [UN official says circumcision protected by freedom of religion](#)

<http://www.jpost.com/Jewish-World/Jewish-News/Russian-Chief-Rabbi-calls-circumcision-opponents-anti-Semites-346372>

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'European attempts to ban circumcision and ritual slaughter are outright antisemitism . . .'

Then the inevitable corollary must be: Non-Jews are perfectly justified in being anti any other group of human beings who practice genital mutilation, of their own kind and the cruelties of ritual animal slaughter, as well as any other behaviour which they judge to be abhorrent.

For example: Calling other people "Cattle" and treating them as such.

What else can Chief Rabbis and other Jews possibly expect?

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Peter Wakefield Sault - peter.sault@odeion.org

Put simply, "appeal to tradition" is a logical fallacy and involuntary traumatic genital mutilation of babies is an obscene child sex crime no matter who is doing it. The latter trumps the former so let the rabbis whine all they like; they are child sex criminals and should be treated as such.

No one should forget the fate of the Roman Empire after Hadrian forbade genital mutilation and all should be prepared for similar problems.

US Proxy Terror War on Venezuela

James Petras – jpetras@binghamton.edu

Introduction

Protest, dissent and the destructive terror of war are obviously very distinct forms of expressing opposition and bringing about change. The Obama-Kerry regime support the opposition in Venezuela as a '*protest movement*' composed of '*peaceful democratic opponents*' expressing their discontent with economic conditions, while they denounce the democratically-elected Maduro Administration as an '*authoritarian regime*' violently repressing legitimate dissent. Washington disingenuously claims to have played no part in the actions of the Venezuelan opposition and that its pronouncements are merely directed at promoting democratic freedoms.

The overwhelming evidence show that the Venezuelan opposition has engaged in prolonged and extensive violence, including terrorist acts, assassinations, arson, and destruction of public property. Most recently this includes the murder of military officers and civilian supporters of the government. Widely circulated photographs, even in Washington-controlled media outlets, show opposition activists throwing Molotov cocktails at police and counter-demonstrators and building barricades for bloody street confrontations.

The Obama-Kerry Administration denies any involvement in the ongoing violence while unconditionally defending the opposition gangs of thugs. At the same time it demonizes every legitimate government action to defend its citizens, uphold the Constitution and enforce internationally recognized norms of law and order. The Obama-Kerry regime's political intervention and its escalating rhetoric is designed to incite the opposition to further violent activity in order to destabilize the country for 'regime change'.

US Secretary of State John Kerry's vitriolic rhetoric is timed to counter the recent ebb of opposition activity, assuring the opposition that Washington supports its campaign of 'warfare in the streets'. President Obama's propaganda, the regime's economic sanctions and the channeling of financial and military resources to the violent opposition groups is designed to reinvigorate the campaign of terror and sabotage against the Venezuelan government. The Kerry- Obama sanctions and their war of words provide external support for violent terrorists operating inside Venezuela.

Kerry-Obama Rely on the Big Lie

Secretary of State Kerry's accusation that the Venezuelan government is conducting a '*campaign of terror*' against the peaceful opposition is a naked lie: The Bolivarian government, which had been the target of two months of street violence sabotage, is itself accused of the crimes committed by the US-backed proxy opposition. This is a favorite ploy of the empire in preparing the ground for 'regime change'. Washington is intent on the violent overthrow of a democratic government and the establishment of another satellite regime in Latin America.

Washington's proxy terrorist power grab is evident everywhere. The opposition is openly authoritarian in its demands. It raises economic and social issues as pretexts to undermine of the democratic, constitutional government by force and violence. They seek to weaken the government and have no interest in negotiations or signing any agreement on specific sets of issues. Government offers to meet and establish dialog have been rejected outright. Each government concession has been exploited as a sign of weakness. When the government released dozens of thugs arrested for throwing Molotov fire-bombs, they returned to the streets to burn more property and attack the police.

The opposition has been given every chance to win over Venezuela's voters in dozens of Presidential, state and local elections. Refusing to accept the will of the majority in lawful elections, they have launched their violent assaults to undermine the people's rule. Opposition mayors have worked with street thugs who block normal commerce while assaulting individual supporters of the national government.

The opposition has accumulated vast stores of arms and munitions in preparation for an armed uprising. It has trained snipers to assassinate military and police officers upholding the rule of law and have attacked municipal workers and citizen volunteers engaged in clearing streets of debris.

In terms of means, goals and ideology the opposition fits the description of an imperial-financed terrorist minority organized to seize power, destroy majority rule and impose an autocratic dictatorship which would serve as a proxy for US imperial power.

Democratic Politics or Terrorist Putsch?

In the 8 weeks up to March 15, 2014, the terrorist opposition committed 500 violent actions throughout the country. At least 68 members of the Venezuelan National Guard have been injured, shot, or killed by Secretary Kerry's "*democratic protestors*". On May 13, government officials were attacked with high powered rifle fire and seven snipers were arrested with arms and explosives. Paramilitary terrorists have been openly trained and housed at two or more elite universities (Carabobo University and UCV in Caracas). Phony claims of "*autonomy*" have been used to shield the fact that these privileged campuses are used to stockpile weapons, set up training bases and shelter for paramilitary gangs and snipers.

The economic impact is immense: Business revenues, salaries and wage losses run in the tens of millions. Sniper fire has prevented civil servants, pro-government workers and ordinary citizens from shopping, going to work and participating in pro-government counter demonstrations. The terrorists have sown fear and insecurity, primarily in middle class neighborhoods where they mostly operate – not daring to enter the militant poor and working class barrios.

The government is seen by the masses as extraordinarily tolerant (or excessively conciliatory) in their dealings with these violent opposition gangs, considering the scope and depth of mayhem: As of March 15, only 105 street thugs out the 1,529 violent demonstrators arrested remain in jail facing charges.

Many concerned Venezuelan and international democrats and experts on terrorism believe the Maduro government's restraint has given the terrorists plenty of time and opportunity to arm, recruit and distribute US funds channeled through phony NGO's, in preparation for even bigger and more destructive acts of terror, such as bombing bridges, power stations and clinics, as well as assassinating top civilian and military officials. Their assessment of the Maduro government's security policy is that it is too narrowly focused on the '*lowest level*' of activists – those caught with Molotov cocktails or engaged in other acts of violence – rather than the political and financial networks which extend deep into the major opposition political parties and business elite who provide funding, political cover and ideological justifications for the growing war of terror against ordinary Venezuelan citizens. Moreover, the '*revolving door*' judicial system simply emboldens the thugs and saboteurs -- since a day in jail is a very small price for having blown up a community health center or engulfed a National Guardsman in flames.

The government, in its efforts to secure agreements with a section of the opposition, appears to have tied the hands of its security forces: small groups of National Guardsmen have become especially vulnerable to acts of terror from thugs protected by highly-placed opposition political leaders.

Conclusion

In the past two months over a thousand public buildings have been destroyed or damaged, mostly fire-bombed by what US Secretary of State John Kerry has called the "*democratic and peaceful opposition*". Most of the arson is directed at buildings closely associated with the government's popular and effective social welfare programs. These include neighborhood centers for adult education and training; free public medical and dental clinics; public banks providing low interest loans for micro-economic projects; primary and secondary public

schools in poor neighborhoods; publicly-owned food-stores providing subsidized food and groceries as well as the trucks carrying subsidized food and essential goods to working-class neighborhoods; public transportation, municipal sanitary workers, community radio stations, pro-government media centers and local Socialist Party headquarters.

Recently large scale caches of arms, including automatic rifles and mortars were discovered in the underground parking lot owned by an opposition-controlled municipality. Another cache of 2,000 mortars and other weapons were found in the opposition stronghold, Táchira State, which borders Colombia, across which arms, drugs and mercenaries enter freely. Many of the National Guardsmen injured were shot by opposition snipers. On March 16, a National Guard captain was assassinated by a sniper shooting from a high rise apartment. The assassin was captured and turned out to be a Chinese mercenary hired by the opposition and part of a para-military hit team

Kerry-Obama's claim that the protestors are mostly peaceful students is refuted by the fact that nearly two-thirds (971) of the total arrestees (1,529) are not students; many are self-styled *street fighters* receiving outside material support and funds.

Kerry's claim that the US is '*not involved*' and the State Department's ludicrous effort to portray Venezuela's charges of US intervention as "*paranoia*" have been refuted by official US documents showing a continuous annual flow of tens of millions of dollars to opposition organizations linked to the terror networks, including \$15 million disbursed during the first two months of this year. The even greater extent of 'covert' material aid, including weapons, is unknown.

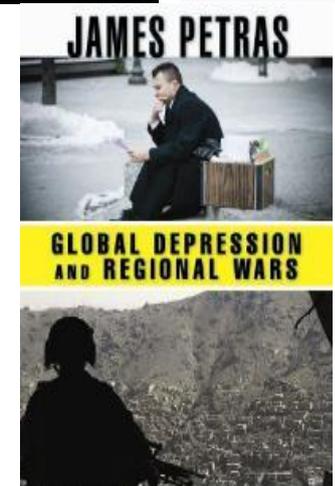
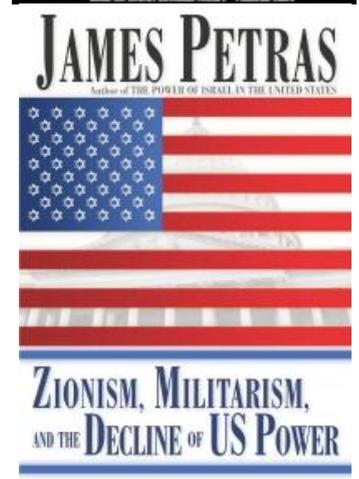
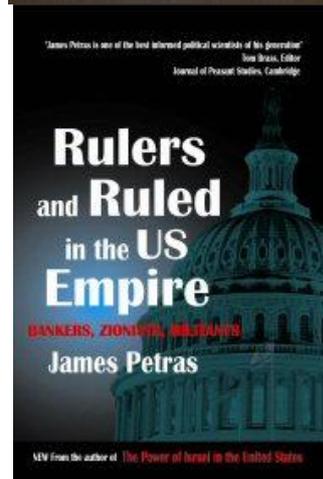
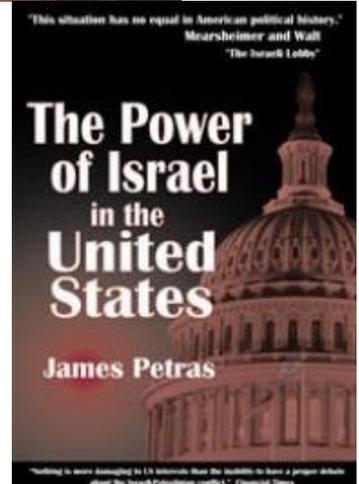
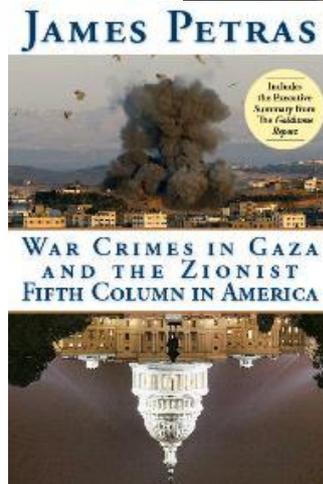
Top security experts knowledgeable about the subject of external funding for destabilization and terrorism, have reviewed the scope and depth of the ongoing damage and casualties in Venezuela. They have urged the Maduro government to allow the loyal Venezuelan armed forces to participate in quelling the violence. Their recommendations include a declaration of martial law and military sweeps into opposition strongholds to round-up and disarm the violent street thugs and terrorists; unlimited detention, pending trials, for suspected snipers and arsonists and military trials for those suspected of murdering soldiers, police and guardsmen. Opposition mayors, governors and university officials who have provided sanctuaries, training bases, funds and arms to the mercenaries should no longer be immune from prosecution. In recognition of the recent huge demonstrations by ordinary citizens and soldiers supporting a greater role for the Venezuelan Armed Forces and demanding firmer measures to end terror, President Maduro issued an ultimatum to the opposition to end their violence or face the full force of the state.

In addressing the Kerry-Obama regime, President Maduro, once again, demanded it stop aiding the violent opposition and denounced Washington's threats to further undermine the Venezuelan economy with trade sanctions. He has called on Washington to join a tri-partite commission, including top representatives from the US, Venezuela and the Union of South American states (UNASUR), to discuss peace and sovereignty. While UNASUR is willing to support Maduro's proposal for dialogue and his peace initiative, US Secretary of State Kerry is moving ahead with economic sanctions against Caracas in support of the US terror war by proxy.

The time for political conciliation is running out: the Venezuelan Armed Forces may finally be given their chance to end this imperial war by proxy.

Post-Script

Hopefully, the arm-chair revolutionaries and chattering classes in North America and Europe, who have been so quick to criticize the Venezuelan government, will set aside their '*reservations*' and organize a solidarity movement to protest the Kerry- Obama imperial war by proxy against Venezuelan democracy. To date they have spent too much time in internet chatter and not enough time in the streets.



<http://www.daritypress.com/PetrasV.html>

Arthur Topham: Majority of the Canadian Media Are Controlled by Zionists

Interview by Kourosh Ziabari, Monday March 03, 2014 9:57



Arthur Topham

TEHRAN (FNA)- The fact that the Israeli lobby has dominated the Western mainstream media and doesn't allow them to practice freedom of speech and perform professionally is no closed book to those who follow these media's coverage of the Middle East's current affairs.

A veteran Canadian author and editor says that Canada is home to one of the largest Israeli lobbies in the West, and there are numerous Jewish advocacy organizations that pursue the interests of the Israeli regime and have long launched a massive campaign against freedom of speech in the name of combating "anti-Semitism".

According to Arthur Topham, the major mission of these organizations is to advocate for any and all things Jewish and anything connected with Israel and with maintaining the status quo mindset which includes ongoing propaganda and advocacy related to the Holocaust Myth, pushing the whole "anti-Semitism" and "racism" issues in order to gain political points with whatever government is in power and also a strong focus on maintaining and strengthening Canada's "hate crime" laws which act as a major defense against the Canadians who try to expose the crimes of Israel against the Palestinian people and who criticize the Zionist ideology and all the related issues connected with Jewish financial and media and corporate power around the world."

Arthur Topham is a 67-year-old writer, gold miner and publisher of the Radical Press (www.radicalpress.com), an alternative internet news and opinion website which has been in continuous operation in British Columbia since June 1998.

Since 2007, Topham has been accused by the Canadian government of spreading anti-Semitic sentiments and promoting hatred against "people of the Jewish religion or ethnic group." He has been arrested and jailed once for publishing materials which were critical of the Israeli regime's treatment of the Palestinian people. He is currently being investigated in a court and if found guilty, he could receive a two-year jail sentence and be prohibited from publishing.

"It's important for readers to understand that all the so-called "hate crimes" which we hear constantly being spoken and written about in the Jewish-controlled mainstream media are products of the efforts of the Zionist lobby groups here in Canada and elsewhere to manufacture legal mechanisms that could be used by either "human rights" commissions and tribunals or the criminal code of the Canadian judicial system to control and censor the fundamental right to free expression or "freedom of speech", especially as it now is being applied to

the internet here in Canada," said Topham in an exclusive interview with Fars News Agency.

Arthur Topham took part in an interview with FNA and responded to some questions regarding the growth and influence of the Israeli lobby in Canada, the state of Israeli-Canadian relations, the dominance of Jewish advocacy organizations over the mass media in Canada and Stephen Harper government's discriminatory measures against Iran. What follows is the text of the interview.

Q: It's said that Canada is one of the most pro-Israel countries in the Western hemisphere and that it is home to an influential Israeli lobby. It's also noted that Canada has endeavored a great deal in 1948 to secure the recognition of the Israeli state in the United Nations. Why is the Israeli lobby so powerful and dominant in Canada? What makes Canada and Israel so robustly attached to each other?

A: Given the recent international display of abject and shameful obeisance to Israel and the Zionist agenda by the current Harper government, it's safe to say that such extreme, overt behavior is definitely indicative of a very powerful and influential Israeli lobby here in Canada. But, that said, I'm hesitant to state that the majority of the Canadian population are as openly and unabashedly pro-Israel as the Harper government itself.

One must keep in mind that the Harper Conservative government was re-elected in 2011 by only 39.62% of those who actually voted. In other words out of a total of approximately 24 million eligible voters only 14.7 million cast their ballots and of that figure only 5.8 million voted for Harper. It was the second lowest voter turnout in Canadian history, the lowest being the 2008 election when Harper was able to win a minority government. So in reality Harper only received two percent more of the votes than in 2008 but due to the election system we have here in Canada that 2% translated into an additional 24 seats in parliament which gave the Harper Conservatives a majority win. Harper called it a "decisive endorsement" of his party's campaign platform but that was hardly the case considering the far greater number of citizens who didn't vote Conservative. In fact many Canadians described his win in far less flattering terms.

As for Canada's role in the UN's decision to recognize the state of Israel, it's my understanding that Canada wasn't all that interested in involving itself in the whole Zionist issue of a "homeland for the Jews" in Palestine. The Canadian Prime Minister at the time, William Lyon Mackenzie King, had done his best to not get involved in the controversy surrounding the British White Paper of 1939 but, unfortunately, he was eventually drawn into playing a greater role by the USA when Britain transferred the Palestine question to the UN in the spring of 1947. The United States, worried about the Soviets gaining too much influence in the region, pressured Canada to join a commission the US was planning to create to counter the Soviet initiatives and that led to greater involvement on the part of Canada. When it came time for Canada to support the partition plan in November of 1947 apparently Mackenzie King only grudgingly accepted it so I would have to say that in general Canada at the time of the creation of Israel wasn't in any way as zealous about Israel as what we are seeing today with the Harper government.

To answer your question about why the Israeli lobby is so powerful and dominant in Canada I suspect that the reasons are no different than what you would find were you to ask that same question of any western nation where the Jews have settled in numbers prior to and since the turn of the 20th century. One of the primary sources for the dispensing of their disproportional power and influence has been their secretive masonic organization known as B'nai Brith, a Rothschild-funded, occult hierarchical system founded in the USA in 1843 and now having thousands upon thousands of lodges and

chapters around the world. The first Canadian B'nai Brith masonic lodge was established in Toronto back in 1875 and by the beginning of the 1900s the Jews were already well established in Eastern Canada with sizeable communities in Montreal and Toronto.

Given the "power of the purse" thanks to the usurious fractional reserve banking system which they created, their influence within Canada's legal system, academia and the media all fitted into the standard template used by the Zionists for centuries for infiltrating and influencing host nations and their governments.

In 1913 with the establishment of the Rothschild banking cartel's US Federal Reserve and B'nai Brith's branch organization the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) the Zionists became increasingly more politically involved in areas of government, the economy and media and by the end of WW2 their power and influence had risen beyond their wildest expectations by their political and media manipulation and management of the most controversial subject ever to have been raised in the 20th century, that being, the alleged "Holocaust of 6 million Jews" by Germany during the war of 1939 - 1945. It was the presumed extermination of the unbelievable number of Jews by Hitler's regime that became the determining factor in the fate of Palestine and the Middle East in general and influenced the voting results in May of 1948.

As to your question regarding the robust attachment for Israel by Canada I would have to say that it's primarily the result of the Zionist lobby's inordinate power over the present Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Previous governments have not disgraced their nation to the extent that Harper has been since 2008 and hopefully any new change of government would see this despicable practice end.

Q: How many Zionist and pro-Israeli organizations are currently operating in Canada? What are their major missions and responsibilities? What are the sources of their funding and budget?

A: The principal Zionist and pro-Israeli organizations currently operating in Canada are B'nai Brith Canada, the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC) and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), formerly the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy, but it needs to be mentioned that one of the most long-standing Jewish lobby organizations was the Canadian Jewish Congress which has operated here since 1919 and only ceased its efforts in 2011 when it basically merged with the newly formed Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

As with all of them their major missions are to advocate for any and all things Jewish and anything connected with the state of Israel and with maintaining the status quo mindset which includes ongoing propaganda and advocacy related to the Holocaust Myth, pushing the whole "anti-Semitism" and "racism" issues in order to gain political points with whatever government is in power and also a strong focus on maintaining and strengthening Canada's "hate crime" laws which act as a major defense against Canadians who try to expose the crimes of the state of Israel against the Palestinian people and who criticize the Zionist ideology and all the related issues connected with Jewish financial and media and corporate power around the world.

I haven't been able to determine the sources of their funding and budgets but one can easily extrapolate that their funding either comes from government grants or from various Zionist Jew organizations that rely upon wealthy donors from within their community.

The newest umbrella organization, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, is likely the most relevant lobby group in Canada in terms of our nation's connections with the state of Israel and the policies of Harper government when it comes to affairs related to the Middle East. They are the most vocal group pushing government and the Zionist media here in Canada with respect to issues of free speech on the internet and their "hate speech" legislation which they are directly responsible for having incorporated into Canadian

jurisprudence. As well they are active in fighting to destroy the boycott of Israel movement (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions known as BDS) and, of course, the most prominent lobby group responsible for influencing the Harper government's foreign policies with respect to Canada's sanctions against Iran.

Q: Many critics of the Canadian foreign policy have argued that the mainstream media in the North American country are overwhelmed by the Israeli lobby and publish what the pro-Israeli advocacy groups dictate to them. May you please explain for our readers the roots and reasons of the expansion and growth of the Israeli influence and dominance over the Canadian media?

A: Well to be as honest as possible, Kourosh, it's a joke to even speak of the "Canadian" media as though it actually exists. What that term "Canadian" implies is that our media is composed of a wide variety of publishing companies and independent newspapers and magazines and television stations which are owned and operated by an assortment of Canadians who are not directly affiliated with either the Zionist political agenda or the Jewish lobby organizations or the foreign state of Israel. But that, unfortunately, is not the case and hasn't been the case for well over half a century or longer. All estimates that I am aware of place the ownership and or control (direct or indirect) of "Canadian" media by Jewish interests at somewhere around 95% and possibly more. And so it's not simply that the Jewish lobby groups here in Canada overwhelm the "Canadian" mainstream media and dictate to it because of their influence but more the case of actual and willing collusion between the two entities in question. There's no doubt in my mind or in the minds of most Canadians who understand the dynamics of Jewish power and influence that Canada's so-called "independent" media is little more than an illusion manufactured by the Zionist-controlled media itself, and this also includes the supposed flagship of national, partisan, real Canadian media, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). It too is heavily burdened down with pro-Zionist Jewish staff at practically all levels from the executives who set policies to the news broadcasting staff and film editors and writers and inevitably functions as the mouthpiece of pro-Zionist, pro-Israeli propaganda supporting the Harper government and its disastrous and humiliating policies toward all things relating to Arab/Muslim relations. This of course is not any different than all the other western nations including the USA, Great Britain, France, Germany, etc. The BBC in England performs the very same functions on behalf of Israel and the Jewish lobbyists there and in some ways is even more blatant in its avowed pro-Zionist propaganda.

Q: As you earlier mentioned, it seems that certain Western states, including Canada, have inextricably tied their national interests to the interests of Israel and interpret any minor criticism of Israel as a hate crime. Several prominent academicians and authors have been imprisoned in Europe and Canada for criticizing Israel in the recent years. I also read that certain charges were leveled at you over the critical remarks you made against Israel on the Radical Press website. Would you please tell us what you think about this hate crime which is seemingly seen by the Western officials as exclusive to Israel? Is it fair and logical to ban criticism of Israel simply because it sounds ant-Semitic?

A: It's important for readers to understand that all the so-called "hate crimes" which we hear constantly being spoken and written about in the Jewish-controlled mainstream media are products of the efforts of the Zionist lobby groups here in Canada and elsewhere to manufacture legal mechanisms that could be used by either "human rights" commissions and tribunals or the criminal code of the Canadian judicial system to control and censor the fundamental right to free expression or "freedom of speech", especially as it now is being applied to the internet here in Canada.

Laws specific to these so-called "hate crimes" or more aptly "thought crimes" when viewed from an Orwellian perspective,

didn't surface until after WW2 and were connected first with the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, which themselves were in large measure based upon or directly related to what the American writer Arthur R. Butz called the "hoax of the Twentieth century" which of course was in reference to the Zionist Jew's claim that six million European Jews were exterminated by the German military forces during WW2. In other words the Holocaust legend (Lie) was what the Zionists used in order to justify all their subsequent demands for "hate crime" legislation here in Canada and elsewhere around the world.

By as early as March, 1953 the Canadian Jewish Congress was already appearing before a Special House of Commons Committee that was reviewing and studying a Criminal Code amendment bill and lobbying to have Parliament introduce special criminal offences related to "hate propaganda." By January 1965 Canada's federal Minister of Justice Guy Favreau had named a Special Committee under the Chairmanship of Dean Maxwell Cohen (Jewish) to report to him on "hate propaganda" and then after another five years of intense lobbying, in June of 1970 Parliament adopted and Royal Assent was given to amendments to the Criminal Code, based largely on Cohen Committee recommendations, designed to deal with the advocacy of genocide and "hate propaganda."

Throughout the 1970s and 80s additional efforts continued to expand upon the "hate crime" concept within Canadian jurisprudence and in 1984 the famous, landmark case of James Keegstra began. This is one that my former lawyer Mr. Douglas Christie first became involved with; a case that catapulted Mr. Christie on to the world stage as Canada's foremost fighter against these Zionist created censorship laws based on the thought crime revolving around the emotional state of mind called "hate."

In December of 1990 the Supreme Court of Canada in the Keegstra case upheld s.319(2) of the Criminal Code as a "reasonable limit on Charter-guaranteed freedom of expression" and on the same day in another "hate crime" related case Taylor the Court upheld s. 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act on the same grounds. Both decisions laid the groundwork for all the subsequent "hate crime" cases that occurred through the last 15 years and we can easily see that in every case it has been the Jewish lobby organizations here in Canada who are either responsible for having laid the charges against people or are inevitably the primary interveners in the cases.

It's also worthy of note that in June of 1998, the very month that I began publishing my monthly tabloid The Radical, B'nai Brith Canada, at its annual general meeting in Ottawa, unanimously adopted a resolution urging that "Holocaust denial" be made a criminal offence. The rest, as they say is history but to put it all into a broader perspective any analysis of the origins and development of "hate crime" legislation in Canada easily shows that without the constant push and shove of the Zionist lobbyists and the ongoing, relentless daily propaganda by the Zionist-controlled media indoctrinating the population with the "Holocaust Myth" these so-called "crimes" would likely never have entered into our statutes.

Of course in reply to your question "Is it fair and logical to ban criticism of Israel simply because it sounds anti-Semitic?" the answer is obviously a resounding no! It's illogical and unjust to use such spurious, vexatious undemocratic laws to stifle debate on issues of such vital importance to a nation's domestic and foreign policies.

Q: I read that you were charged with a hate crime because of your anti-Israeli writings on the Radical Press website. I would like to know how the local authorities treated you after they leveled those accusations against you. Were you eventually jailed for the alleged violations?

A: Unlike many Canadians who've been charged with these "hate crimes" I was not only charged with a Sec. 319(2) Criminal Code offence in May of 2012 but even prior to then I had been charged with a Sec. 13(1) "hate crime" offence by the Canadian Human Rights Commission back in November of

2007. So my ongoing battle to retain my right to free expression and publish on RadicalPress.com is now in its 7th year of continuous litigation on two fronts.

It's also of interest to note that in both cases it was the Jewish lobby organization B'nai Brith Canada who was responsible for laying the complaints against me. The first Sec. 13(1) charge was the least invasive of the two and it only resulted in my receiving written documents accusing me of the crime and then email and telephone exchanges between the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) which took over once the CHRC determined that the case should move ahead to the tribunal stage of persecution. That case was stayed back in 2009 pending the outcome of another case that preceded my own and which only this January ruled that it could continue even though the Canadian Parliament repealed the infamous Sec. 13(1) legislation in the Canadian Human Rights Act back in June of 2012.

The more recent Sec. 319(2) criminal code charge was a different matter. After the agents of Zionism laid their complaint with the British Columbia "Hate Crime Team" a long investigation took place which eventually culminated in police helicopters surveilling my home, RCMP officers stalking both my wife and myself and spying on us and finally the BC Hate Crime Team traveling up from Vancouver approximately 600 km and then arresting me on May 16, 2012 while I was on my way to work. I was handcuffed and taken to jail and my dear wife left with our vehicle on the side of the highway. While in jail the police obtained an illegal search warrant and entered my home and stole all of my computers, electronic files and firearms and when I was eventually released that same evening I was no longer permitted to access the internet or post on any of my websites including ones related to my other business which was connected to with the mining industry. Fortunately Mr. Douglas Christie had been working with me on the first Sec. 13(1) charge and I was able to contact him and retain his services in order to get released from jail rather quickly.

In all fairness I must add that throughout the period of my arrest and incarceration I was not in any way brutalized or abused by the police. In that sense I suppose I was very fortunate indeed.

Q: There's a growing trend in the West for equating the criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism and opposition to Jewry. As a result, the critics of the actions and policies of Israel, including its systematic killing of the Palestinian people and its illegal settlement constructions are easily vilified and defamed as anti-Semite. Is the criticism of Israel really equal to anti-Semitism?

A: When one digs down to actual root of the whole issue of "anti-Semitism" it becomes very obvious just how the Zionist Jews have been employing this erroneous term, as they do the "Holocaust Myth", to justify all of their "hate crime" laws throughout most of the West including European nations. Here in Canada and the USA the vast majority of so-called Jews are acknowledged to be descended from the Ashkenazim or Eastern European Jews who, according to most researchers and investigators, have very little to no direct connection to the Semitic people of the Middle East and are not Semites themselves so it's ludicrous and illogical and absolutely deceptive on their part to continually be playing this "anti-Semitic" card in their gamble to take over the world. If I and others in Canada were being severely critical of the Palestinian people or other Arabic nations then there might be just cause to call us "anti-Semitic" but in the case of the Zionist Jews it is nothing but more subterfuge and deceit designed to mask their geopolitical motives and their blatant and racist treatment of the Palestinian people.

Q: Canada regularly blasts Iran for its alleged violations of human rights. In September 2012, it unilaterally closed its embassy in Iran and also expelled the Iranian diplomats from Ottawa. Some critics and experts believe that Israel is behind these anti-Iran moves by

the Canadian government. What's your viewpoint on that? Why has Canada adopted such a hostile attitude toward Iran while the new Iranian administration has taken a conciliatory approach toward the West and is moving toward normalizing its ties with the international community?

A: Those critics and experts who say that Israel is behind the Harper government's vehement and irrational attacks upon Iran are absolutely correct in their assessment of the real reasons for this abominable and hateful behavior on the part of the Harper government toward Iran. There is no other plausible explanation for Canada's anti-Iran behavior given the degree of power and influence that the Jewish lobbyist wield over Harper and his traitorous band of sycophantic Ministers. When one adds to this negative attitude the tremendous pressure that the US government places on Canada to keep in line with AIPAC's program of vilification of Iran, it's easy to see why the mix of these two neo-con, Zionist-controlled governments would be synchronized to spread disinformation and outright hatred toward one of last remaining nations on the face of the planet not under the control of the Rothschild Banking cartel.

Q: Treating Israel with a sort of awe and fear and veneration has become a religion and a tradition in such countries as Canada. Those who behave or opine otherwise will be ostracized and accused. How is it possible to change the atmosphere and create an environment in which everybody can freely express his viewpoints regarding Israel without being fearful of prosecution or defamation?

A: It is in large measure the result of decades upon decades of ongoing propaganda concerning the "Holocaust Myth" and the "evil Nazis" and "anti-Semitism" and all of Hollywood's and the Jewish media's deception coupled very successful attempt at

brainwashing many of the Christian sects in both Canada and the USA and turning them into Christian Zionists that has led to this unnatural and indecent and false "respect and veneration" of Israel and its Zionist ideology.

From my personal experiences and perspective on the matter of Israel I believe that only peaceful and logical solution to altering the present state of affairs in Canada is to continue to make available to the general public as much alternative information on the realities of what Zionism truly is and what the crimes of Israel are and also to continue to expose the underbelly of the Jewish lobbyist groups here in Canada and point out to Canadians just how these foreign pro-Israel organizations like B'nai Brith and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs are committing treasonous acts against the nation by using their wealth and power and influence to subvert the policies of the federal government and turn the country into another clone of Israel.

I also firmly believe that Canadians who are opposed to the Zionist lobbyist and to the actions of the Harper government should work more closely with those in the Arab community in order to facilitate greater understanding of this problem and help other Canadians to realize that their support for Harper is counter-productive to a harmonious and lasting relationship with the Middle East. The degree of control of Canada's mainstream media is one of the greatest stumbling blocks standing in the way of peace between the east and the west. Anything therefore that the east can do to help those of us here in west to get the message out regarding the Zionists and their lobby groups can only have a beneficial effect for both of us in the long run.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13921211001430>

Not a tweet out of freedom czar Tim Wilson



[Richard Ackland](#), Sydney Morning Herald columnist, March 7, 2014



'The fact that every person now has the means to be a publisher doesn't mean that every person understands the responsibilities of being a publisher.' Photo: Reuters

Where's our freedom commissioner when we need him? Tim Wilson, human rights and free speech champion, surely should have something to say about the lad who has been lumbered with a \$105,000 damages verdict for speaking his mind, via Twitter and Facebook, about a music teacher at Orange High School?

The things Andrew Farley posted about Christine Mickle must have been pretty awful because judge Michael Elkaïm, in his

damages judgment, felt he couldn't repeat them. Citizens looking for someone to unlock our suppressed thoughts quite justifiably might be confused by Wilson's utterances on the topic of free speech.

When it comes to racist outbursts, people should be "open about their prejudices", the human rights commissioner told baffled *Lateline* viewers. In this way, others can then line up and "shine a bright light into dark corners and to expose people for their discrimination". The law should only apply to stop government being discriminatory but should not interfere with the right of private individuals to be vile.

By an equally interesting process of reasoning, Wilson sees a person's reputation as "a property right", which suggests it might be traded or exchanged. Naturally, to anyone who hails from the Institute of Public Affairs, property rights are sacrosanct and must be protected. Speech restricted by defamation law, therefore, is OK but racial discrimination law is not, unless it is aimed at government.

Not much help there for those at the intersection of tweeting fingers and wayward thoughts.

However, in Wilson World, if Farley had launched a racist rant against Mickle on social media, that should be beyond the law and up to citizens to rally and shine lights on the misguided youth. I think we're in for a whacko time with this freedoms tsar.

But back to social media, defamation and reputation. The fact that every person now has the means to be a publisher doesn't mean that every person understands the

responsibilities of being a publisher. There appears to be a naive belief that you can say what you like on social media platforms and that defamation laws, fairness and fact-checking are for big, rich publishers and broadcasters.

What we see is a cocoon occupied by social media addicts where they know everything but nothing.

You'd have thought the penny would have dropped well before now. After all, there have been quite a number of cases where people have sued for defamatory tweets or Facebook posts.

Farley was on Newcastle radio on Thursday warning people to be "really careful" about social media.

"Just because you think you're talking to your friends doesn't mean you're safe," he said.

But the same warning was issued in October last year by Sally Bercow, wife of the Speaker of the House of Commons, after she was successfully sued by a former Conservative Party bag man, Lord McAlpine. After a BBC *Newsnight* program that linked a "senior Conservative" to sex abuse claims, Bercow tweeted: "Why is Lord McAlpine trending? *innocent face*." After a secret damages agreement, she said through her lawyer: "Mrs Bercow wishes and hopes that, as a result of this matter, other Twitter users will behave more responsibly in how they use that platform."

There was the hard fought English case brought by former New Zealand cricket captain Chris Cairns against Lalit Modi, the ex-chairman of the Indian Premier League. Modi, in January 2010, tweeted that the New Zealander was involved in match fixing. The tweet was estimated to have been read by between 35 and 95 followers. Damages of £90,000 were awarded and Modi's appeal was dismissed in November 2012. It's not as though we've been without these sorts of cases. In Adelaide, in 2012, a magistrate awarded \$40,000 to a former principal at an outback school over a defamatory Facebook page created by two parents of students.

Pollsters and political advisers Lynton Crosby and Mark Textor still have their case grinding through the Federal Court over a tweet from former Labor MP Mike Kelly, alleging they were involved in "push-polling".

In Canberra, Immigration Department public servant Michaela Banerji made critical tweets as @LALegale about the department and the government's immigration policies. She unsuccessfully brought a case in the Federal Circuit Court to stop the department sacking her on the ground that she had an implied freedom of political communication.

As Americans are about to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *The New York Times v Sullivan*, the great free speech and free press case, and the British have just enacted sweeping

and generally liberating libel law reforms, what beckons for little old us? Not much, apparently, if we're stuck with a freedoms advocate who thinks that reputation should be protected because it is a property right.

Twitter: [@JustinianNews](#)

Comments:

Gbills- March 07, 2014, 12:23AM

Thank you Richard Ackland - a thought provoking piece, as usual.

I doubt any of us are entirely consistent on this issue - but many may eloquently argue their position.

Some recent cases to possibly challenge our consistency in these matters (hang on a moment, do I hear you say - apples and oranges) [- they are both fruit! - ed. AI]

The young man in question here - is this the kind of legal response we wish to preserve?

Chris Kenny taking 'The Hamster Decides' to court - regarding the depiction of Kenny having sex with a dog; Kenny has won the first round in that legal tussle. Do we want to stop this kind of political satire?

Andrew Bolt and the 18C decision - do we want to preserve this part of the RDA?

Of course, people will pick and chose here - I don't want this particular restriction but please keep that particular restriction on 'free speech'.

Yes, things are different in the USA - you have pointed to "The New York Times v Sullivan, the great free speech and free press case", and inform us "the British have just enacted sweeping and generally liberating libel law reforms"; then you ask, "what beckons for little old us?"

Richard, be careful what you wish for.

Tim Wilson appears to have quite a Libertarian view - he may advocate far more winding back of these things than you find comfortable; some things you cherish may go if Wilson gets his broad sweep - "oops, there goes 18C. Damn, I wanted that to stay".

*

Howe Synnott, March 07, 2014, 7:32AM

Well I don't see how reputation is a property right.

What about: Who steals my purse steals trash,

But he who steals my good name

Enriches not himself and makes me poor indeed.

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/not-a-tweet-out-offreedomczartimwilson20140306349x9.html#ixzz2vDpXMiAc>

Iran's real 'nuclear' revolution

By **Pepe Escobar** - pepeasia@yahoo.com 18 February 2014

The nuclear talks between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany) are back this Tuesday in Vienna. The stakes couldn't be higher. It will be a long and winding road. Hidden agendas on both sides badly want the talks to fail - and will spare no effort towards that goal.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei could be interpreted as a stony realist, when he said that the talks will go nowhere. It's as if the Supreme Leader had read [Manufactured Crisis: The Untold Story of the Iran Nuclear Scare](#), a crucial book by Martha Gellhorn Prize winner Gareth Porter which is being launched today in New York. In the book, Porter thoroughly debunks the whole narrative of the Iran nuclear dossier as sold to the world by the George W Bush administration, assorted neo-cons and the Israeli Likud.

And it gets much worse, in terms of prospects for a final deal to be reached this year. According to Porter, "the Obama administration has introduced the subject of 'possible military dimensions' into the nuclear negotiations. That means that the United States will be demanding an explanation for 'evidence' that the book shows was fabricated. That is a decision that could threaten the conclusion of a final agreement with Iran."

Meanwhile, on Tuesday last week, millions of people hit the streets in Tehran in a massive rally celebrating the 35 years of the Islamic revolution. How come?

For all its economic mismanagement, Iran's illiteracy rate has been reduced to near zero. Women are active, participative voters (try even raising the issue in the House of Saud's paradise). There has been remarkable scientific progress, even under harsh sanctions. Pursuing a civilian nuclear program is a matter of national consensus.

This piece - significantly, published by al-Arabiya, which is controlled by the House of Saud - at least tries not to sound entirely as cheap Arab propaganda, making a valid point about the real threat for the Islamic revolution coming from disaffected youth across Iran.

Yet this is not the key point. The Islamic republic won't disintegrate tomorrow. What's much more crucial is to revisit the key reasons why the revolution happened 35 years ago, and why, when it comes to Iranian geopolitical independence, it remains somewhat popular.

That may also shed light on why the West - and especially the United States - still refuses to normalize its relations with Iran. After all, what happened 35 years ago in Iran was never properly understood in the US in the first place. In geopolitical

terms, this was the real "nuclear" revolution - one of the most far-reaching developments of what Eric Hobsbawm defined as "the short 20th century".

And perhaps this is what the Supreme Leader meant about the talks going nowhere; certainly the case as long as Washington, especially, refuses to abandon the reductionism of Iran as a bunch of fanatics.

That Kissinger oil shock

As early as the presidency of Harry Truman, the US supported the Shah of Iran's dictatorship, no holds barred. No wonder those days are sorely missed.

In 1953, after the CIA coup against Mohammad Mossadegh, the Shah - who lived mostly in the French Riviera - was "invited" to rule as a CIA puppet (John F Kennedy had met him in wild parties in the French Riviera and found him to be a dangerous megalomaniac). In return for re-establishing British "rights" to Persian oil, Washington self-attributed 55% for the concessions and the Brits got the rest.

The CIA trained the Savak - the Shah's secret police. It was the best of times. The Shah not only excelled in his role of gendarme of political/economic US interests in the Persian Gulf; as he did not share Arab hatred of Israel, Tel Aviv had access to Persian oil (that ended after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini seized power).

The Shah ruthlessly suppressed and persecuted every political party in Iran and even massacred Kurds (Saddam Hussein was taking notes.) He started to take his own propaganda seriously, including believing in the myth of being a new King of Kings. He became the number one cheerleader of the 1973 OPEC oil shock, to which he got the green light from none other than Henry Kissinger.

In a nutshell, this was a follow-up of the 1972 "Nixon doctrine", when it became clear the US defeat in Vietnam was all but a done deal. That's when Tricky Dicky started to promote gatekeepers all over the "free world". And no region was more crucial than the Persian Gulf.

The Shah loved it. But he was always complaining that he didn't have enough dough to buy all those weapons the industrial-military complex was offering him. So Kissinger - a David Rockefeller errand boy - squared the circle, with the rise of oil prices by Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC.

With this move, Kissinger instantly inflated the profits of US Big Oil - which at the time accounted for five of the Seven Sisters, and crucially boasted three that were Rockefeller-owned (Exxon, Mobil and Socal). At the same time, since Japan and then West Germany and the rest of Western Europe depended on Persian Gulf oil much more than the US did, Kissinger devised the perfect way to torpedo the devastating Japanese and German industrial and trade competition.

You won't find any of this on Kissinger's turgidly ambitious tomes, or on any US corporate media files for that matter. But that explains much of the world born out of the "oil shock".

Like most US puppets - talk about hubris - the Shah never understood that he was just a puppet. His corporate multinational economic model as applied to Iran had the predictable effects; much like today (even in Europe and the US), a tiny minority consuming like there's no tomorrow and a huge majority increasingly miserable, as the Shah bet on cash crops instead of an agrarian reform to guarantee the subsistence of millions of peasants - many of them illiterate, pious Shi'ites - who had been booted out of the countryside by American agribusiness, which dismissed them as a superfluous workforce.

These miserable masses inflated Tehran and other Iranian big cities, turning into the mass base for Khomeini's revolution. And the rest is history.

Nothing is inaccessible

Then Jimmy Carter - that hick Hamlet - when still campaigning for the presidency against Gerald Ford in 1976, admitted in a debate that the Shah was a torturer. Two years later, as president, Carter now considered him "an island of stability" and "a friend".

During the 1970s, it was "just" for Iran to carry out a nuclear program, among other motives to intimidate revolutionary Arab nationalism. Yet now, under an Islamic republic, a civilian nuclear program is an "existential threat".

The Shah's banker was David Rockefeller, never tired of extolling the "patriotism" and "tolerance" of his client, not to mention his modernizing drive - everything duly parroted by US corporate media even as Amnesty International and the State Department itself had Himalayas of documents proving the Shah was one of the top torturers of modern history. What mattered is that he brought excellent dividends for then Chase Manhattan.

One never lost money underestimating the cluelessness of US corporate media. When the Islamic revolution started, US media as a whole told the world that the Shah was undefeatable; that Khomeini and his followers were a minority of religious fanatics; and that the real motive for the revolution was that the Shah was a Great Modernizer (the Rockefeller script), rejected by those same Muslim fanatics. It's fair to say this script is still being peddled today.

When the Shah fled Iran, the whole US media bought the fallacy of "going for a holiday". When Khomeini boarded that Air France flight from Paris and arrived in Tehran in absolute triumph, no wonder no one in the US had a clue what was going on. US media preferred to mock Khomeini's "fanaticism" - which at the time paled compared with Pope John Paul II, who considered women to be an inferior species.

The Iranian bourgeoisie - modern, social democrat, inheriting the political line of Mossadegh - managed to drive a lot of support from progressives in Europe. At a time when *Le Monde* was still a very good newspaper and not the sub-American trash it is today, one just needed to read the dispatches by ace correspondent Eric Rouleau to confirm it.

Khomeini, for his part, had the charisma (and that spectral voice on cassette tapes), supported by the only political organization tolerated by the Shah, the roughly 160,000 mullahs, who duly mobilized those wretched masses rendered useless by American agribusiness interests.

Yet, from the beginning, Khomeini negotiated with the bourgeoisie - as when he named Mehdi Bazargan as prime minister and Bani Sadr as president (a socialist and a Western-style modernizer). Only when the Shah system was totally eradicated did Khomeini go into overdrive to purge everyone but his religious followers - recreating, on a smaller scale, the Shah's inferno, but in the name of Allah. Well, as Mao said, no revolution is a dinner party.

As for Jimmy "Hamlet" Carter, he never officially recognized Khomeini as the Iranian leader. Washington didn't even try to talk to him. A whiff of geopolitical intelligence would have the Americans trying to share some tea when he was still exiled in Paris. But David Rockefeller and his parrot Kissinger would scream, so a cowed Carter retreated into his shell. After the Islamic revolution, Washington never returned the estimated US\$60 billion the Shah, family and cronies stole from Iran.

This catalogue of disinformation during the 1970s and 1980s is now mirrored by the disinformation of all these past few years about the Iranian nuclear program. No wonder most Americans - and plenty of Europeans - remain clueless.

When Khomeini died - and I vividly remember every newspaper in Europe on June 5, 1989, sharing the front page between that and Deng Xiaoping ordering the Tiananmen massacre - the great philosopher Daryush Shayegan, a former professor at the University of Tehran, published a superb article in *Liberation* explaining the Big Picture, from the Shah's "legacy" to Khomeini.

Shayegan wrote that both men, the Shah and the Imam, committed the same fatal mistakes and "incarnated, each their own way, two typically Iranian traits: cultural schizophrenia and the dream of grandeur". So the whole drama was about two juxtaposed Irans: Imperial Iran and "the suffering Iran of the blood of the Martyr". Both expressed an impossible dream and, "like the 12th century mystical poet Ruzbehan from Shiraz would say, the same 'dementia of the inaccessible'."

Today, 35 years after the Islamic revolution, what Iranians seek is hardly inaccessible: the end of Western sanctions and the end of sections of the West perennially treating the country as a bunch of religious "fanatics".

Russia, China, Turkey, Pakistan, other Asian nations, all Latin American nations, all African nations, all treat Iran as normal. Beyond the clash of "heroic flexibility" against American exceptionalism, if only the US establishment would finally get over it, and deal - realistically - with what happened in Tehran

35 years ago. Only then these talks in Vienna will go somewhere, and we may have a final nuclear deal in 2014.

Pepe Escobar is the author of [Globalistan: How the Globalized World is Dissolving into Liquid War](#) - Nimble Books, 2007, [Red Zone Blues: a snapshot of Baghdad during the surge](#) (Nimble Books, 2007), and [Obama does Globalistan](#) - Nimble Books, 2009. Copyright 2014 Asia Times Online (Holdings) Ltd.

President Assad and Ayatollah Khamenei are Keeping Their Word

By FRANKLIN LAMB, *Latakia, Syria*, March 25, 2014

Recent reports from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the accuracy of which have been conceded by the White House, but denied in Tel Aviv, have it that slightly less than half of Syria's chemical weapons have already left the country and 100% of the country's stockpiles are believed to have been neutralized. Well along the path to meet the June 30 agreed discard date. Both Iran and Russia have been credited with helping persuade the Syrian government that it is very much in the interest of Syria as well as the global community to discard its chemical weapons stockpiles which date back to the 1970s. A total of 11 consignments have been recently shipped out of Syria for decontamination and disposal, the latest from Latakia. Included is all of Syria's sulphur mustard gas, a blister agent that was first widely used in WWI.

Captain Clyde Chester Lamb, the father of this observer, was a one of hundreds of victims of the deadly gas while fighting the Germans in front-line trenches in eastern France. Capt. Lamb survived, but never fully recovered, and when he did later speak about his experiences in the war, which was not often, he once told his horrified children at story time that he and his comrades had no gas masks so they used to improvise by urinating on scraps of uniforms which he would distribute to his men with instructions to hold it tightly over their nose and mouth. Somehow their pee seemed to reduce the effects of the poisonous gas.

Despite some delays due to security and logistical issues, few besides the Zionist lobby in the US Congress doubt that Syria's work will be completed. Across Syria, according to information made available to this observer, specialists have speeded up the packing and transporting of the chemical weapons, sometimes even moving them through rebel territory to the Mediterranean port of Latakia.

In cooperation with Iran, Russia has supplied large-capacity containers and armored vehicles for the Latakia loading operation while China has sent 10 ambulances and surveillance cameras and Finland dispatched an emergency response team in case of accidents. Denmark and Norway are providing cargo ships and military escorts to take the chemicals to the container port of Gioia Tauro in Italy and the American government, among others, is also helping.

Despite Iranian cooperation with this major humanitarian project and, according to IAEA spokesmen, "solid progress has been made with the Iranian nuclear file", the White House to date is still waffling on its pledged meager lifting of sanctions which continue to target the people of Iran. US sanctions also continue to compound and increase the nearly unfathomable suffering of the Syrian people all of whom have been targeted by Barack Obama

Executive Orders ever tightening their noose of economic sanctions.

The White House has yet to explain its delay, but Congressional sources report that President Obama is still being targeted by Israel and its Congressional agents and that Obama does not yet want to lift sanctions "for now", more than cosmetically. This applies to medicine and medical equipment.

The same source claims that the White House is also signaling Tehran that it should continue to be patient while a sanctions review is getting started in Washington. Meanwhile, US

Secretary of State Kerry has just assured Iran's leadership that the White House appreciates the fatwa (religious decree) issued by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last month forbidding the production and use of nuclear weapons. Kerry agreed that Iran is entitled to a peaceful nuclear program and he also credited the earlier statement by Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokes Ramin Mehman-Parast that Ayatollah Khamenei's fatwa is binding for Iran, and that "There is nothing more important in defining the framework for our nuclear activities than the Leader's fatwa."

A recent Office of Financial Assets Control (OFAC) prosecution of an American citizen seeking to ship potentially life-saving MRI medical equipment to Iran illustrates the weak knees of the Obama White House by allowing that Zionist dominated Federal agency to ramp up its targeting of the people of Iran. There are dozens of cases like the one noted below and President Obama is presumably aware of them. The shameful case under review involves a University Medical Researcher who is being targeted with jail time for sending a medical device to Iran which his lawyers argued was completely innocent and clearly legal because medical equipment such as MRI's are exempted by the 'humanitarian exceptions' stated in Obama's relevant Executive Orders imposing US sanctions against Iran.

Mr. Cliff Burns, a lawyer and law professor in Washington DC explained the case of Mr. Mohamad Nazemzadeh, who was a Research Fellow in the Neurology Department of the University of Michigan at the time of his arrest, and who is being federally prosecuted for sending a medical device to the Netherlands.

At issue is a coil for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine. The coil is the assembly of wires that generates the necessary radio signals when electricity flows through them to permit imaging the part of the body within the coil. Mr. Nazemzadeh is currently doing research at the Henry Ford hospital in Detroit and his area of specialty is, not surprisingly, magnetic resonance imaging.

As explained by Mr. Burns, "A part for an MRI machine would, under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, be eligible for an export license notwithstanding the embargo on Iran. Nazemzadeh's failure to obtain a license would, of course, be a violation of the embargo." Even assuming that it was a technical criminal violation in his case, one has to wonder why, as Burns does, Obama Administration prosecutorial resources are being consumed to prosecute a researcher for trying to send life-saving medical equipment to Iran.

As one of the researchers lawyers noted: "Aren't there dangerous people out there with guns and bombs who might warrant the attention instead?" An affidavit in support of a search warrant for Nazemzadeh's mobile phone casts doubt on whether Nazemzadeh actually had the criminal intent necessary to support an OFAC pushed criminal prosecution in the first place for the attempted export of the MRI part.

According to the affidavit, Nazemzadeh was negotiating with the undercover federal agent sent in by OFAC to ship the MRI coil to Iran through a company in the Netherlands. It is not uncommon for people to believe, even if they study the vague wording of the Iranian sanction minutia, that if it is legal to ship an item to a particular country, no laws are broken if the

item is then re-exported, without any involvement on their part, to a prohibited destination. Here, according to the affidavit, Mr. Nazemzadeh continued to say to the undercover agent that he believed the transaction was legal and says this is true because the export from the United States is to the Netherlands, not Iran. Mr. Nazemzadeh's good faith legal mistake is not a criminal act.

Instead, this is precisely the sort of case that ought to be evaluated, if at all, as an administrative matter by OFAC, were that Muslim targeting agency anywhere near fair-minded and objective. OFAC should have at the maximum issued a fine in this case notwithstanding Mr. Nazemzadeh's mistaken belief that the transaction did not violate U.S. law.

If the White House truly wants to normalize relations with Iran and with Syria as it claims, it needs to do a lot better. A good start would be by calling off OFACs attack dogs who service other than the American people. Also it should honor its oft

touted "Humanitarian sanctions against Iran and Syria that exempts medicines and medical equipment".

This language has not been implemented and it misleads the global community about the brutal and illegal nature of the White House promulgated civilian targeting, for political purposes, sanctions.

This weekend's White House greetings to the people of the Islamic Republic for Nowruz the Iranian New Year in the Solar Hijri calendar are no doubt sincere and appreciated.

But now it's time to give substance to America's New Year's greetings that her citizens can be proud of and, that are accordant and consistent with their values.

Franklin Lamb is a visiting Professor of International Law at the Faculty of Law, Damascus University and volunteers with the Sabra-Shatila Scholarship Program ([sssp-lb.com](http://www.sssp-lb.com)).

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/03/25/president-assad-and-ayatollah-khomeini-are-keeping-their-word/>

Arnon Milchan at the Oscars

[Kevin MacDonald](#) on March 5, 2014

In my [article](#) on Abe Foxman's retirement, I discussed Foxman's letter complaining that Jonathan Pollard's continuing incarceration is "an intimidation that can only be based on an anti-Semitic stereotype about the Jewish community, one that we have seen confirmed in our public opinion polls over the years, the belief that American Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their own country, the United States. ... So Pollard stays in prison as a message to American Jews: don't even think about doing what he did."

My response was that Foxman should be happy about the long list of Jews who should have been imprisoned for spying on behalf of Israel but were not. And now we have the outrageous example of Arnon Michan not only admitting that he stole nuclear secrets on behalf of Israel, but continues his high profile life in Hollywood with no fear of prosecution ("[Admitted Spy Shows Up for Oscars — and Wins](#)"). Michan was at the Oscar ceremony because his film, *12 Years a Slave*, was nominated (and won) the Oscar for Best Picture.

Though Milchan, an Israeli citizen, admitted in November that he engaged in espionage against the U.S for many years, including helping to smuggle American nuclear bomb parts to Israel, his appearance at the Oscars was pretty much proof not all spies are treated equally.

Forbes columnist Dorothy Pomerantz, who writes about Hollywood for the magazine, noted in her morning after rundown of the Oscars, "The Billionaire Winners of the 2014

Academy Awards," that it is "unlikely the admission will affect his standing in the film industry."

Since revealing his "James Bond"-like past on Israeli television in November, Milchan has apparently not generated interest among U.S. law enforcement agencies. The FBI won't even acknowledge that it investigated him previously (it has) and would not say it has plans to interview him about his spying activities now that he's admitted to them. ...

Grant Smith, author of *Divert*, about the decades-long Israeli operation to funnel U.S. nuclear secrets, uranium and parts to Israel, was not surprised that Milchan was "unconcerned and on stage" at the Oscars. Smith said Milchan has dodged prosecution for more than 30 years, even as a colleague in the smuggling of nuclear triggers, Richard Kelley Smyth, ultimately was arrested and jailed.

What has made Milchan untouchable, according to Smith, is his connections. These include long time associations with Israeli leaders including Shimon Peres and current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who worked at Heli Trading, a Milchan front company used for smuggling, according to Smith, who cites [Justice Department documents that he acquired through the Freedom of Information Act](#).

So cheer up, Abe. It could be a lot worse.

http://www.theoccidentobserver.net/2014/03/arnon-milchan-at-the-oscars/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+theoccidentobserver%2Ffeed+%28The+Occidental+Observer%29

Kiev snipers hired by Maidan leaders - leaked EU's Ashton phone tape

March 05, 2014 12:41

The snipers who shot at protesters and police in Kiev were allegedly hired by Maidan leaders, according to a leaked phone conversation between the EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton and Estonian foreign affairs minister, which has emerged online.

[UPDATE: Estonian Foreign Ministry confirms authenticity of leaked call](#)

"There is now stronger and stronger understanding that behind the snipers, it was not Yanukovich, but it was somebody from the new coalition," Urmas Paet said during the conversation.

"I think we do want to investigate. I mean, I didn't pick that up, that's interesting. Gosh," Ashton answered.

The call took place after Estonia's Foreign Minister Urmas Paet visited Kiev on February 25, following the peak of clashes between the pro-EU protesters and security forces in the Ukrainian capital.

<http://rt.com/news/ashton-maidan-snipers-estonia-946/>

Hacked phones of Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs

Published on Mar 5, 2014

Officers of Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) loyal to the ousted President Viktor Yanukovich have hacked phones of Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Urmas Paet and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton and leaked their conversation to the web. The officials discuss their impressions of what's happening in the country after the revolution. The gist of it is that Ukrainian people have no trust in any of the leaders of Maidan.

However the most striking thing of all is the fact which concerns the use of force during the revolution, particularly the snipers who killed both protesters and officers of the riot police. Mr. Paet reveals astonishing information which confirms the rumours that the snipers were employed by the leaders of Maidan.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXIcZHqLEgw>

[The Soros-inspired Ukrainian Revolution has begun to draw its "long knives" early by dispatching a so-called right-wing leader.]

Murderous Ukrainian ultra-nationalist dead – after 2 decades of violent thuggery

Published time: March 25, 2014 17:29

Notorious ultra-nationalist leader Aleksandr Muzychko has been shot dead by Ukrainian special forces after going on the rampage amid Ukraine's current turmoil. Muzychko's death followed many years of unpunished militant activity in neo-Nazi organizations.

Born in Russia's Urals in 1962, Muzychko served his military duty in Tbilisi, Georgia, and then got his first experience of warfare in Afghanistan as he served side-by-side with fellow Soviet troops.

As the Soviet Union fell, Muzychko joined the militant wing of the radical nationalist Ukrainian UNA-UNSO organization to fight against his former fellow citizens.

Serving as combat instructor, propagandist and recruitment officer, Muzychko soon rose up the ranks of neo-Nazi groups.

Muzychko, who also went under the name of Sashko Bilyi, came to prominence for his part in the first Chechen War, in which he headed a militant group of Ukrainians fighting alongside the Chechen separatists.

Muzychko personally tricked Russian forces into a deadly ambush and bombed Russian tanks – acts he later proudly admitted in interviews on camera.

According to Russia's Investigative Committee, in 1994-95 Muzychko tortured and killed at least 20 captive servicemen, breaking officers' fingers, poking their eyes out and cutting the throats of some of his victims.

Returning to Ukraine, Muzychko started a business and engaged in criminal activities. In the local underworld he acquired the reputation of a shell-shocked psychopath, frequently indulging in aggressive and violent behavior.

Despite several criminal cases launched against him by the local authorities, Muzychko got away with most of his antics, portraying himself as an icon of Ukrainian nationalism.

However, he had to serve a three-year jail term in the early 2000s for kidnapping and torturing a businessman, from whom Muzychko and his accomplices were demanding money.



Aleksandr Muzychko (C) with members of the Right Sector group on Kiev's Independence Square.



Here we see him brandishing a Kalashnikov, shouting: "I dare you to take my gun!" to a group of horrified regional deputies... Rovno regional parliament on February 26, 2014.



'Shut the f**k up, b*tch!' Notorious far-right Ukraine leader attacks prosecutor (VIDEO) 115

And here, he's threatening to drag a local prosecutor to a lynch mob "like an animal" because the clerks' "f**king time is over"...

In yet another clip, we see Muzychko vowing to fight "communists, Jews and Russians" with a gun in his hand in a speech on Kiev's Maidan (Independence Square).

But intoxicated with the atmosphere of lawlessness in Ukraine, Muzychko failed to realize when enough was enough, even for the "allied" coup-imposed authorities in Kiev.

Promising to hang the country's interior minister "like a dog" for daring to threaten to arrest him, Muzychko proclaimed there was no higher authority in Rovno than his Right Sector thugs.

Afraid of persecution, he then claimed in YouTube videos that special operations of the Kiev government and the Russians are waged against him.

Muzychko was shot dead during a Ukrainian police raid in Rovno on March 25, with controversy immediately surrounding his death.

Russia, which earlier put Muzychko on an international wanted list for his militant activity in Chechnya, has said it will not recognize the nationalist leader is dead until an official notice arrives from Kiev.

But although the thuggish figure in military fatigues did have a history of "resurrections" to escape the rule of law, it appears this time that Muzychko/Sashko Bilyi is gone for good. His legacy may be dividing an already polarized country, even in death.

<http://rt.com/news/ukrainian-nationalist-muzychko-antics-093/>



The Looting Of Ukraine Has Begun

By [Paul Craig Roberts](#), OpEdNews

Op Eds 3/6/2014 at 20:07:12

According to a report in Kommersant-Ukraine, the finance ministry of Washington's stooges in Kiev who are pretending to be a government has [prepared an economic austerity plan](#) that will cut Ukrainian pensions from \$160 to \$80 so that Western bankers who lent money to Ukraine can be repaid at the expense of Ukraine's poor. It is Greece all over again. Before anything approaching stability and legitimacy has been obtained for the puppet government put in power by the Washington orchestrated coup against the legitimate, elected Ukraine government, the Western looters are already at work. Naive protesters who believed the propaganda that EU membership offered a better life are due to lose half of their pensions by April. But this is only the beginning.

The corrupt Western media describes loans as "aid." However, the 11 billion euros that the EU is offering Kiev is not aid. It is a loan. Moreover, it comes with many strings, including Kiev's acceptance of an IMF austerity plan.

Remember now, gullible Ukrainians participated in the protests that were used to overthrow their elected government, because they believed the lies told to them by Washington-financed NGOs that once they joined the EU they would have streets paved with gold. Instead they are getting cuts in their pensions and an IMF austerity plan.

The austerity plan will cut social services, funds for education, layoff government workers, devalue the currency, thus raising the prices of imports which include Russian gas, thus electricity, and open Ukrainian assets to takeover by Western corporations. Ukraine's agriculture lands will pass into the hands of American agribusiness.

One part of the Washington/EU plan for Ukraine, or that part of Ukraine that doesn't defect to Russia, has succeeded. What remains of the country will be thoroughly looted by the West.

The other part hasn't worked as well. Washington's Ukrainian stooges lost control of the protests to organized and armed ultra-nationalists. These groups, whose roots go back to those who fought for Hitler during World War 2, engaged in words and deeds that sent southern and eastern Ukraine clamoring to be returned to Russia where they resided prior to the 1950s when the Soviet communist party stuck them into Ukraine.

At this time of writing it looks like Crimea has seceded from Ukraine. Washington and its NATO puppets can do nothing but bluster and threaten sanctions. The White House Fool has demonstrated the impotence of the "US sole superpower" by issuing sanctions against unknown persons, whoever they are, responsible for returning Crimea to Russia, where it existed for about 200 years before, according to Solzhenitsyn, a drunk Khrushchev of Ukrainian ethnicity moved southern and eastern Russian provinces into Ukraine. Having observed the events in western Ukraine, those Russian provinces want to go back

home where they belong, just as South Ossetia wanted nothing to do with Georgia.

Washington's stooges in Kiev can do nothing about Crimea except bluster. Under the Russian-Ukraine agreement, Russia is permitted 25,000 troops in Crimea. The US/EU media's deploring of a "Russian invasion of 16,000 troops" is either total ignorance or complicity in Washington's lies. Obviously, the US/EU media is corrupt. Only a fool would rely on their reports. Any media that would believe anything Washington says after George W. Bush and Dick Cheney sent Secretary of State Colin Powell to the UN to peddle the regime's lies about "Iraqi weapons of mass destruction," which the weapons inspectors had told the White House did not exist, is clearly a collection of bought-and-paid-for whores.

In the former Russian provinces of eastern Ukraine, Putin's low-key approach to the strategic threat that Washington has brought to Russia has given Washington a chance to hold on to a major industrial complex that serves the Russian economy and military. The people themselves in eastern Ukraine are in the streets demanding separation from the unelected government that Washington's coup has imposed in Kiev. Washington, realizing that its incompetence has lost Crimea, had its Kiev stooges appoint Ukrainian oligarchs, against whom the Maiden protests were partly directed, to governing positions in eastern Ukraine cities. These oligarchs have their own private militias in addition to the police and any Ukrainian military units that are still functioning. The leaders of the protesting Russians are being arrested and disappeared. Washington and its EU puppets, who proclaim their support for self-determination, are only for self-determination when it can be orchestrated in their favor. Therefore, Washington is busy at work suppressing self-determination in eastern Ukraine.

This is a dilemma for Putin. His low-key approach has allowed Washington to seize the initiative in eastern Ukraine.

The oligarchs Taruta and Kolomoyskiy have been put in power in Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk, and are carrying out arrests of Russians and committing unspeakable crimes, but you will never hear of it from the US press. Washington's strategy is to arrest and deep-six the leaders of the secessionists so that there are no authorities to request Putin's intervention.

If Putin has drones, he has the option of taking out Taruta and Kolomoyskiy. If Putin lets Washington retain the Russian provinces of eastern Ukraine, he will have demonstrated a weakness that Washington will exploit. Washington will exploit the weakness to the point that Washington forces Putin to war. The war will be nuclear.

<http://www.opednews.com/articles/The-Looting-Of-Ukraine-Has-by-Paul-Craig-Roberts-Crimea-Euro-Putin-Russia-140306-182.html>

ERIK VOGT DELIVERS INAUGURAL LECTURE AS GWENDOLYN MILES SMITH PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Delving into an oft-debated aesthetic-political genre: the "case of Richard Wagner"

Kathy Andrews, Trinity College, Greater Hartford, USA, March 03, 2014 |

Erik Vogt, Gwendolyn Miles Smith Professor of Philosophy at Trinity College, delivered his inaugural lecture February 24 to an appreciative audience in the McCook Auditorium at Trinity. Entitled "The Philosophers and Richard Wagner," the presentation delved into three philosophers' interpretations of the problematic yet far-reaching "case of Richard Wagner," which Vogt described as an aesthetic-political genre known for a great deal of "philosophical debate about the constellation of music, theater, mythology, and community."

Richard Wagner, the 19th-century German composer, theater director, polemicist, and conductor, is primarily known for his operas, including *The Ring of the Nibelung*, a cycle of four epic operas. Vogt's lecture centered on the controversial question as to whether the notion of "*gesamtkunstwerk*" (total work of art) provides the interpretive key for an adequate understanding of the aesthetic and political effects commonly ascribed to Wagner's music dramas.

Vogt enumerated dozens of philosophers, writers, painters, and film makers—noting it was only a partial list—who have studied and debated Wagner’s work and the relationship of music drama and *gesamtkunstwerk*. Vogt focused on the writings of three specific philosophers who have addressed the subject: Theodor W. Adorno, Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe, and Alain Badiou.



L-R: President James F. Jones, Jr.; Tom Mitzel, Dean of Faculty and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Olga Timofeyeva-Vogt; Erik Vogt, Gwendolyn Miles Smith Professor of Philosophy (Photo: John Marinelli)

Looking through the prisms of the three philosophers, Vogt led the audience through the aesthetic and historical considerations. For example, he analyzed Adorno’s seminal study, “In Search of Wagner,” in which the coexistence of two seemingly opposing views of the *gesamtkunstwerk* in Wagner’s work are detailed. One view, Vogt explained, presents the *gesamtkunstwerk* as “protest against the bourgeoisification of art (in opera).” At the same time, Adorno showed evidence of Wagner’s attempt to turn the *gesamtkunstwerk* into a substitute for politics proper. Vogt spoke of the “indissoluble link between the synthesizing and totalizing programme of the *gesamtkunstwerk* and political totalitarianism” that Adorno finds rampant in Wagner’s work. Adorno pointed to the “overpowering beat and authoritarian-regressive theatrical elements” employed in a repetitive manner in Wagner’s works. Additionally, Vogt walked the audience through Adorno’s analysis of time and temporality in Wagnerian music.

One of Lacoue-Labarthe’s observations on the subject, Vogt said, was that “both Wagnerian art and National Socialism must be interpreted in terms of national-aestheticist strategies aiming for the re-birth of ancient tragedy.” Further, Lacoue-

Labarthe held that *gesamtkunstwerk* served as the political model of National Socialism.

Meanwhile, the observations of Badiou, said Vogt, included that it is only by uncoupling Wagnerian music dramas from the totality of *Gesamtkunstwerk* that it is possible to re-think Wagnerian art in such a way that it is no longer fused with totality, but actually negates totality.

In his concluding remarks, Vogt observed that “the Wagnerian search of totality generates ever more fragments that illuminate the whole and question the meaning of the whole.” He noted as well that “the truth of the Ring might be present in the very interstices between music drama and *gesamtkunstwerk*.”

In addition to Vogt’s position in the philosophy department at Trinity, he is *Universitäts-Dozent* in the department of philosophy at the University of Vienna in Austria, as well as vice president and treasurer of the Society for The Philosophic Study of Genocide and the Holocaust. His main research interests are aesthetics and political theory.

Vogt, who has been a faculty member at Trinity since 2002, is the author of four books and a forthcoming book on the aesthetic-political readings of Wagner. Vogt is the editor or co-editor of 11 volumes and the translator of more than 20 books. He earned his master’s degree, Ph.D. and Univ.-Doz. from the University of Vienna, Austria.

The Gwendolyn Miles Smith Presidential Chair was endowed in 1995 with a bequest from Gwendolyn Miles Smith in support of a professorship in an academic department or program as determined by the president and the dean of the faculty. Earlier gifts from the couple resulted in the opening of the Allan K. Smith and Gwendolyn Miles Smith Alumni-Faculty House in 1990 and 1985, the endowment of two professorial chairs in the College’s English department and the Writing Center, and additional funding for faculty support. Gwendolyn Smith received the doctor of humane letters, honoris causa, from Trinity in 1989. Her husband, Allan K. Smith, was a member of the Class of 1911. She was an active volunteer in the Hartford community, serving as president of the Hartford YWCA, president of the Women’s Board of the Hartford Seminary Foundation, and a member of the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church. She served as a trustee of the Hartford College for Women for 12 years and was a member of the Women’s Committee of the Wadsworth Atheneum and president of the Town and County Club.

View more photos from this event:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/35784190@N07/sets/72157641524321713/>

<http://www.trincoll.edu/NewsEvents/NewsArticles/pages/Erik-Vogt-Delivers-Inaugural-Lecture-as-Gwendolyn-Miles-Smith-Professor-of-Philosophy.aspx>

Hitler’s Jews: Max Von Oppenheim and the Myth of German Jewish Guilt

New biographies shed light on the cohort of Germans of Jewish descent who historians have portrayed as having served the Nazis

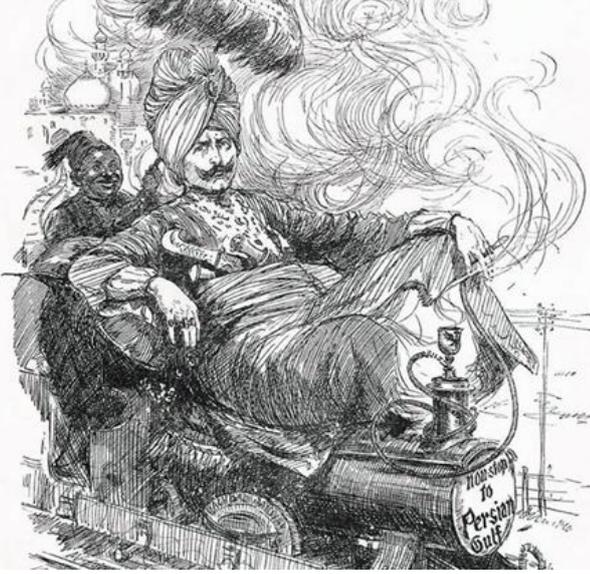
By [Walter Laqueur](#) | August 21, 2013 12:00 AM

If Max von Oppenheim is remembered today, it is as an unlikely (if also unsuccessful) proponent of jihad. The grandson and namesake of the founder of the famous German Jewish banking family, Oppenheim was [fascinated](#) by North Africa and the Arab world and eventually settled in Cairo, where he became a prominent fixture in the city’s social life in the years before and after WWI. His great ambition was to enter the diplomatic service, but his application was turned down time and again—the main reason appearing from the files was that someone of Jewish (or even part-Jewish) origin was undesirable. After many futile attempts Oppenheim became an attaché, not a permanent, regular member of the diplomatic service.

After visiting Tell Halaf, a place some 200 kilometers from Cairo, Oppenheim became a passionate archaeologist and resigned from the diplomatic service a year after the excavations at the site began in earnest in 1909. He was in touch with fellow archaeologists such as T.E. Lawrence (who thought him stupid and disliked him), published on his findings, and participated in professional conferences, despite the fact that he had not trained as an archaeologist and some of his interpretations were disputed by leading figures in the field. He also had a great interest in the customs and manners of the Bedouin tribes and published and edited widely on this subject.

Soon after the outbreak of WWI, Oppenheim submitted a now-famous jihad memorandum (*Denkschrift*) in which he argued

for enlisting pan-Islamism in the struggle against Britain (and also Russia). Pan-Islamism had been discussed (and preached) for a number of years before the outbreak of the war. In 1940, he submitted his second *Denkschrift* to the German government of the day, suggesting that use should be made of pan-Islamism and jihad as a major weapon in the war against Germany's enemies.



Cartoon depicting Max von Oppenheim by Leonard Raven-Hill, *Punch*, January 25, 1911.
Princeton University Library

Oppenheim's second memorandum—dated July 1940, after the defeat of France—complained about the lack of German support ("cautious hesitation") for the anti-British forces in the Middle East such as the grand mufti of Jerusalem, Rashid Ali in Iraq, and the Lebanese politician Shaqib Arslan, who was a personal friend of Oppenheim. In his memorandum Oppenheim mentioned his lifelong involvement in Middle Eastern affairs and his close personal relationship with (anti-British) Muslim politicians. He specifically mentioned Palestine, where the struggle against the British and the Jews was to be taken up "as energetically as possible." Oppenheim suggested that the Jews living in Palestine in 1914 should be permitted to stay, but all others should be removed. Some Nazi support was given to the Arab politicians mentioned by Oppenheim at the time. But on the whole, the German foreign ministry was far more skeptical with regard to the help expected on the part of the Muslims and particularly the Arabs. This view was also shared by Hitler; Italian interests had to be taken into account, and there was the hope that an agreement with Britain could somehow be reached. After 1941 Germany suffered military setbacks in North Africa, and Nazi planning for the future of the Middle East was considered premature to say the least. Oppenheim's memorandum was shelved.

In later years, the second Oppenheim *Denkschrift* became of interest for very different reasons: How to explain the extreme views of a person of part-Jewish extraction who had suffered discrimination in Wilhelmian Germany and *a fortiori* in the Nazi Reich where he was considered a *Mischling*, hence a person of inferior racial background. Indeed, Oppenheim's story, as told in a recent full-scale biography by Lionel Gossman, [The Passion of Max Von Oppenheim](#), and in a recent study by Sean McMeekin, [The Berlin Baghdad Express](#), sheds an odd and fascinating light not only on the recent history of the Middle East, but on the small but not insignificant cohort of Germans of Jewish descent who in one way or another are portrayed by latter-day historians as having served Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime.

By and large, Oppenheim did not greatly suffer under the Nazis. Many people of a background similar to Oppenheim were ashamed of their Jewish (or part-Jewish) origins and hid it from their offspring. Others thought it unimportant and more

or less successfully suppressed it. The 19th-century German Jewish establishment in its majority no longer felt Jewish and to a considerable extent converted to Christianity. Judaism was not intellectually or emotionally attractive and constituted a hindrance in most careers—the state service, the armed forces, academia, and elsewhere. The motives were not always ignoble and careerist. Judaism as the walls of the ghetto came down was considered by some German Jews to be an ossified religion inferior to other creeds. Jewish intellectuals in central but also often in Eastern Europe unsurprisingly preferred *Faust* and *War and Peace* to *Fishke der Chigger*.

Max Oppenheim felt not in the least Jewish. In his letters after 1945, he blamed Hitler for having caused the death of millions of German soldiers, with nary a mention of the fate of his fellow Jews. His German patriotism was intense and, since not all accepted him as a fully fledged bona fide German aristocrat, he may have felt doubly motivated to prove his patriotism. He truly believed in German conservatism and belonged to the leading right-wing clubs and political organizations of that world both before WWI and after. While radical assimilation sometimes led to anti-Semitism, for Oppenheim the whole issue was apparently so irrelevant that he did not become an outspoken anti-Semite—as some of his fellow former Jews did.

All this was by no means a specific German phenomenon. An interesting similar case is that of Daniel Halevy (1872-1962), a French historian and man of letters and close friend of Marcel Proust who became a propagandist of the Vichy regime. Another fascinating case was Bertrand de Jouvenel (1903-1987) a person of considerably greater political acumen than Oppenheim, who prior to WWII became a deputy of the fascist leader Jacques Doriot. The French historian Marc Bloch (author of [Les Rois Thaumaturges](#)) was one of the great medievalists of his time and was shot by the Germans for his resistance activities. But about the more recent Jewish arrivals in France he wrote in 1941 that their problem was not his.

Similarly, while Tsarist Russia was not propitious ground for Jewish assimilation, the cases of Boris Pasternak and Semyon Frank were by no means unique. Both writers believed that total identification with Russia and Russian culture implied embracing the Orthodox church. Pasternak's father, the painter Leonid Pasternak, had already converted (as had Anton Rubinstein [1829-1894], the famous pianist and composer). But Pasternak junior went further, recommending that all Jews should convert. A list of leading prewar Polish writers also makes interesting reading: Moshe Agatstein became Mieczyslaw Jastrun, Wiktor Zisman is better known as Bruno Jasienski, Aizik Wagman was transformed into Adam Wazyk, Boleslaw Lesman polonized his name slightly but significantly, and Wiktor Lesman ended up as Jan Brzechwa. Julian Tuwim did not convert or change his name, but what he wrote about his fellow Jews prior to WWII was not complimentary.

Oppenheim was by no means a dyed-in-the-wool Nazi, though he was not critical of the new regime either. His post-1945 denigration of the Nazi regime was quite dishonest—but this was a fairly frequent phenomenon in Germany. But why did the Nazis, with their relentless persecution of the Jews, spare him, and perhaps even make use of him? Nazi policy toward half- and quarter-Jews (*Mischlinge* of the first and second degree) was contradictory and changed over time. Half-Jews who were not brought up as Jews (*Geltungsjuden*) were not deported and killed: There were legal problems, and Hitler, who did not want to be bothered by lawyers, declared that he would take a binding decision only after the final victory. Those of military age had to serve in the army both at the beginning of the war and its end when the armed forces were depleted. But in between they were excluded from military service, and they were not permitted to serve in positions of command. It was quite common for half-Jews to try to improve their status by becoming quarter Jews and of quarter Jews to turn into full Aryans simply by claiming that their non-Aryan father or grandfather was not their biological

grandfather—in this respect Nazi authorities were quite liberal in helping to improve the records (Goering’s famous “I decide who is a Jew”).

In 1943, Goebbels had the male partners in mixed marriages arrested in order to have them deported and killed. But there were spontaneous mass protests in Berlin (the famous Rosenstrasse), and he had to beat a hasty retreat. There was a handful who escaped the net of persecution—among them the Jewish doctor who had been treating Hitler’s mother in her illness. There was also the case of Leo Blech, a world-famous conductor who, owing to the intervention of Goering, was permitted to emigrate from Riga to Sweden in the middle of the war. While there was no more rabid anti-Semite than Goebbels in his later years, when he was told that an enthusiastic racial researcher had established beyond any shadow of doubt that the great-grandfather of Johann Strauss had been a Hungarian Jew he ordered the evidence suppressed: “For if we go on like this, all we shall be left with of our racially pure cultural heritage will be Alfred Rosenberg (his pet aversion among fellow Nazi leaders) and this may not be enough.”

Those who did not live through that period and had no personal experience of life in a totalitarian state are bound to find it difficult to make sense of these currents and crosscurrents especially in a time of war. This has given rise to all kind of explanations that are sometimes very offensive but are more often rooted in ignorance rather than ill will. Why, it is frequently asked, did German (and Austrian and Czech) Jews not leave their country hurriedly at any price in view of the horrible fate awaiting them? The brief answer is of course that Auschwitz did not yet exist in 1933 or even in 1936—and that there was the false hope that Nazi policy vis-à-vis the Jews would improve or at least not become harsher. Some authors blamed Jewish leaders in Germany (especially Zionists) for having negotiated with the Nazi government to facilitate Jewish immigration—as if there would have been an alternative approach to get Jews out of Germany. Central European Jewry consisted to a large extent of elderly people who were neither mentally nor physically capable of envisaging a new life in another country. These were the years of a global economic crisis and mass unemployment—no one wanted immigrants, especially not Jewish immigrants.

All this should have been obvious, but instead a literature was forthcoming that was sometimes malevolent, more often ignorant, and breathtakingly obtuse in its conclusions. One such study about Hitler’s Jewish soldiers (Bryan Mark Rigg’s 2004 [book](#)) found not less than 150,000 of them accepted the Nazi racist definition of being a Jew and even went beyond it: no longer “once a Jew, always a Jew,” but “once a quarter-Jew—always a full Jew.” But even if one added all the male half- and quarter-Jews of military age and even those one-eighth Jewish according to the Nuremberg laws, the total figure was closer to 15,000 than 150,000, and even this was probably an exaggeration.

I should note here that I personally experienced many of these issues in my own family. Half, perhaps more, had been converted a long time ago; there were half- and quarter-Jews and not a few mixed marriages. The Jewish partner in a mixed marriage would usually survive—but during the war no one could be sure. There was my cousin Hans Bodle, a few years older, who coached me in mathematics, which was my weakest subject in school. His father, of Huguenot extraction, had been killed on the western front during the last year of WWI. Hans was in and out of the German army according to the changing Nazi policy. Toward the end of WWII, with a fanatical commander in charge of the defense of our home town, Hans had again to join the army, which of course he hated. He was killed in Breslau on the very last day of WWII.

Tracing the strange story of Baron Oppenheim we have followed so far the reliable account presented by Prof. Gossman. Unfortunately Gossman, having written an excellent biography of Max Oppenheim showing sovereign mastery of the sources and fairness in his approach, suddenly changes

gears toward the end when he deals with “Oppenheim’s relations with the National Socialist regime in context.” This section deals with several Jewish personalities and organizations that (the author believes) also showed pronounced Nazi sympathies. Somewhere the author also notes that the case of Oppenheim may well have been *sui generis*. If so, what does the author want to prove? Oppenheim was not a Jew except in accordance with Nazi doctrine. He was as much identified with Buddhism as with Judaism, probably more so. It should be noted in passing that other members of the family, Oppenheim’s cousins and second cousins, half- and quarter-Jews according to Nazi doctrine, while staunch German patriots and conservatives, behaved on the whole decently during the Third Reich. Some were arrested and persecuted. They helped their Jewish business partners to escape Germany during the war even at a certain risk to their own lives. In later years the Israeli government noted their decent behavior and included them in the list of righteous gentiles.

The politics of German Jews were centrist or left of center, some were Communists but these had usually left the community or in any case were no longer active in it. A handful belonged to the extreme right, and their writings quoted by Gossman make for very embarrassing reading—for instance those of Hans Joachim Schoeps, a student of theology. (The author should perhaps have mentioned that Schoeps was in his early twenties at the time.) He emigrated to Sweden, both his parents perished in Nazi camps. After the war he became a professor at Erlangen University. He continued to denigrate parliamentary democracy, believed in the Prussian spirit, and was a monarchist at heart.

More space is devoted to Nikolaus Pevsner, who went probably furthest expressing sympathy for Nazism. But Pevsner left Germany for England in 1933, and having been baptized at age 19 he was not a Jew—and since his father held Russian nationality he was probably not a German either. In England he became a celebrity and something of a national treasure by authoring 40 volumes listing all buildings of historical or architectural interest. His history of European architecture became a best-seller, selling more than a million copies, and eventually led to a knighthood. The history professor Hans Rothfels, a student of Meinecke also mentioned by Gossman as a witness for the prosecution, was perilously close to being a Nazi fellow traveler. Gossman again calls him a Jew even though he converted at age 19.

Number four and five in the author’s rogues gallery are the medievalist Ernst Kantorowicz (“Eka”) and Edith Landmann, a philosopher married to a well-known economist. Both Eka and Landmann belonged to the inner circle of the poet Stefan George, whose esoteric and powerful poetry attracted people of very different views and backgrounds. There were anti-Semites among them, but the brothers Stauffenberg, who almost managed to kill Hitler in July 1944, were also part of George’s circle, about a quarter of whose members were Jews. What attracted Jews to this cult (George was always “the Master” to them) is a fascinating question. It rested on the famous German-Jewish symbiosis—a fatal, one-sided misunderstanding, as Gershom Scholem later put it. But George was not a Nazi—when he wrote about *das Reich* he did not have Hitler’s Third Reich in mind. The year the Nazis came to power George moved to Switzerland, where he died. He never endorsed the Nazis and rejected the offer to become head of the German writers academy. Nor did he ever publicly condemn Nazism. He did not comment on current affairs; on WWI he had written—“this is not our war.” His (and Kantorowicz’s) cult of a hidden, secret Germany referred to something in the realm of the spirit, not of this world.

To call Kantorowicz a Nazi as the medievalist Norman Cantor has done, betrays a profound ignorance of German politics and probably politics in general—namely the difference between conservatives and Nazis. Kantorowicz’s main work prior to WWII, which made him famous, was about Emperor Friedrich II (1194-1250). But Kantorowicz admired and probably somewhat idealized Friedrich not because he was a war hero

but on the contrary, in view of his chivalry and humanism, which led his contemporaries to call him *stupor mundi*, the wonder of the world. At his court in Sicily he assembled Muslim and Jewish savants to learn from them—this at a time when rulers were not known for their intellectual interests and when religious tolerance was anything but common. Kantorowicz was a conservative and in the words of his friends a “Draufgänger,” a daredevil. Politically naïve, he would join the unsavory *Freikorps* after WWI. But after WWII as a tenured professor at Berkeley this ardent anticommunist was also one of the few who refused to sign an anticommunist loyalty oath demanded by the university. This was no one’s business, an intolerable infringement of privacy and his rights. It cost him his job, but he could not care less. He had no difficulty finding another position—at the Princeton Institute of Advanced Studies.

Like Kantorowicz, Edith Landmann was highly educated but political common sense was not her forte. She wrote George in early 1933 that some of the Nazi views were in certain respects close to the ideas she and her friends had expressed earlier on. She had also been an anti-Semite (her own words); her views about Jews who were less patriotic-German than she was were similar to those of Marc Bloch. Later, on realizing how bad her judgment had been, she became not only a Zionist (as Gossman notes) but a sympathizer of the Irgun.

Gossman also deals with some patriotic German Jewish organizations active in the 1930s. One is the association of WWI veterans (RJF), which had at one time 40,000 members. The other is a youth group named *Schwarzes Faehnlein*. A number of declarations are quoted in which the RJF expressed its loyalty to the government that came to power in 1933; no political declarations were expected from a youth group. (Under pressure from the Gestapo it was forced to dissolve in summer 1934.) Since I was a member of both organizations (albeit at the tender age of 12), I can bear witness that the quotations are correct. And yet—the general picture presented is quite misleading. Why? Because there was a world of difference between declarations made, forced or unforced, and what really went on in these organizations. In order to survive, to lead a more or less normal life in a totalitarian regime, dissimulation was the first commandment. There is a good description in Czeslaw Milosz’s *Captive Mind* about the need to practice dissimulation (*ketman* in the Shi’ite tradition, *taqi’a* among the Sunnis) in such circumstances. But this is difficult, perhaps impossible, to understand by people who have had the great good fortune to lead lives entirely free of such pressures.

Why did Jews join an organization like the RJF? For the simple reason that those who had served in the army in WWI enjoyed certain exemptions from the anti-Jewish laws. According to the Nazi version of history Jews had shirked military service; this was not true, most had served, and 12,000 had been killed. These exemptions did not last long, at most a year or two, but who could blame those who wanted to make use of the temporary benefits?

As far as my generation was concerned, the explanation was even more obvious—the reasons were not ideological but pragmatic: They joined the sports branch of the RJF. True, there was also a Zionist sports organization, but it existed only in a few places and the RJF usually had better facilities. Since Jews were excluded from German sports groups, it was only natural that most would join associations such as the RJF where such facilities existed. No ideology was involved, no patriotic speeches, not even the national anthem but soccer, swimming, track and field, and some other sports. There was a legendary boxing trainer in our town named Lachmann; under cover of darkness non-Jewish boxers came for a workout with him. I served as a sparring partner of someone five or six years older than I was at the time. They went on to the 1936 Olympic games, including athletes such as Buettner, Miner 1, and his brother Miner 2. Some came home with medals. For me, it certainly was a useful experience.

Gossman had the good fortune to attend the Pollokshields primary school in Glasgow and schools in Renfrewshire and

Ayrshire, and he handsomely thanks his teachers, to whom his book is dedicated. Had he gone to a German school after 1933 as the present writer did, he would have been given an assignment to write an essay on “Ludwig Uhland in the light of National Socialism”—a demeaning task that would have helped him to understand life in a totalitarian dictatorship. There was no way out but to comply with the assignment. The very subject was preposterous: [Ludwig Uhland](#) (1787-1862), a fine poet who wrote about castles (“and the moon about it standing and the mist rise solemnly”—translation by Longfellow), and his spiritual connection to the author of *Mein Kampf*.

The activities of the youth organization after 1933 were by no means identical with those officially stated. Anti-Nazi literature was circulated, including the Communist Manifesto. Groups had their signature songs—ours happened to be the *Warszawianka* and *Unsterbliche Opfer* (Immortal Martyrs), that is to say left-wing revolutionary statements. The head of our group (nicknamed Tom), who became a lifelong friend, suddenly disappeared in 1934. The Gestapo had made a search at his home and found literature they did not like at all, as well as a revolver. He went to South Africa, where he became one of the leaders of the Liberal party.

Not all Jews living in Germany in 1933 were clear-eyed militant anti-fascists of pure heart.

There were many similar cases, whereas the hyper-patriots were very few. One of these few was Günter Holzmann (nicknamed Akela, derived from *The Jungle Book*) at one time head of the local branch of our little movement, a young man of great personal courage and monumental political stupidity. Soon after the Nazis’ rise to power he published an advertisement in a local newspaper making it known that he had nothing in common with the Jewish community. One day in 1933 he decided to pay a visit to the head of the Hitler Youth in Berlin, trying to persuade him to recognize the little movement to which he belonged. He did not stay long in that building; in his 1997 [autobiography](#) *On Dit Que J’ai Survécu Quelque Part au-delà des Mers...*, he called this venture one of the stupidest things he ever did.

Holzmann was probably the closest approximation to the “Oppenheim context.” But his story did not end there. He went on to Cambridge to study mineralogy and geology. Later he emigrated to Peru, worked there and in Bolivia for a leading company (Hochschild or Patino, I believe), and lived and worked in places where few were willing to stay for any length of time. He made a considerable fortune, which, having become a militant left-winger, he left to *Le Monde Diplomatique*, the main organ of Castroism. On Page 1 or 2 of this weekly, readers will encounter an announcement expressing gratitude to the *Fondation Gunter Holzmann*; it would probably be too much to expect to be told that he was a latecomer to the cause.

Not all Jews living in Germany in 1933 were clear-eyed militant anti-fascists of pure heart. Many, perhaps most, lacked political understanding, hoping against hope that Nazi rule would quickly end. There were fools among them and traitors. There was a handful collaborating with the Gestapo, mostly under pressure. But were there more of them in Germany than elsewhere? I do not know of statistics that say that there were. As far as I know, there was no “Oppenheim context.” It is doubtful whether the story of the Kaiser’s spy from Cologne and Cairo teaches anything except that with a greater distance from the age of totalitarian dictatorship it is becoming more and more difficult for later generations to understand what life was really like in those far-away days. German political language has provided an expression applicable in such cases: *Die Gnade der spaeten Geburt*—the good fortune of having being born too late. But there is a price to be paid for such good fortune.

This is an abridged version of an essay to appear in [Optimism in Politics: Reflections on Contemporary History](#) by Walter Laqueur (Transaction 2014).

Victory helped make Stalin a more acceptable murderer than Hitler

By [Peter Singer](#), *The Daily Star*, January 16, 2014 12:13 AM

Hitler and Stalin were ruthless dictators who committed murder on a vast scale. But, while it is impossible to imagine a Hitler statue in Berlin, or anywhere else in Germany, statues of Stalin have been restored in towns across Georgia (his birthplace), and another is to be erected in Moscow as part of a commemoration of all Soviet leaders. The difference in attitude extends beyond the borders of the countries over which these men ruled. In the United States, there is a bust of Stalin at the National D-Day Memorial in Virginia. In New York, I recently dined at a Russian restaurant that featured Soviet paraphernalia, waitresses in Soviet uniforms, and a painting of Soviet leaders in which Stalin was prominent. New York also has its KGB Bar. To the best of my knowledge, there is no Nazi-themed restaurant in New York; nor is there a Gestapo or SS bar.

So, why is Stalin seen as relatively more acceptable than Hitler?

At a news conference last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin attempted a justification. Asked about Moscow's plans for a statue of Stalin, he pointed to Oliver Cromwell, the leader of the Parliamentary side in the 17th-century English Civil War, and asked: "What's the real difference between Cromwell and Stalin?" He then answered his own question: "None whatsoever," and went on to describe Cromwell as a "cunning fellow" who "played a very ambiguous role in Britain's history." (A statue of Cromwell stands outside the House of Commons in London.)

"Ambiguous" is a reasonable description of the morality of Cromwell's actions. While he promoted parliamentary rule in England, ended the civil war and allowed a degree of religious toleration, he also supported the trial and execution of Charles I and brutally conquered Ireland in response to a perceived threat from an alliance of Irish Catholics and English Royalists. But, unlike Cromwell, Stalin was responsible for the deaths of very large numbers of civilians, outside any war or military campaign. According to Timothy Snyder, author of "Bloodlands," 2-3 million people died in the forced labor camps of the gulag and perhaps 1 million were shot during the Great Terror of the late 1930s. Another 5 million starved in the famine of 1930-1933, of whom 3.3 million were Ukrainians who died as a result of a deliberate policy related to their nationality or status as relatively prosperous peasants known as kulaks.

Snyder's estimate of the total number of Stalin's victims does not take into account those who managed to survive forced labor or internal exile in harsh conditions. Including them might add as many as 25 million to the number of those who suffered terribly as a result of Stalin's tyranny. The total number of deaths that Snyder attributes to Stalin is lower than the commonly cited figure of 20 million, which was estimated before historians had access to the Soviet archives. It is nonetheless a horrendous total – similar in magnitude to the Nazis' killings (which took place during a shorter period).

Moreover, the Soviet archives show that one cannot say that the Nazis' killings were worse because victims were targeted

on the basis of their race or ethnicity. Stalin, too, selected some of his victims on that basis – not only Ukrainians, but also people belonging to ethnic minorities associated with countries bordering the Soviet Union. Stalin's persecutions also targeted a disproportionately large number of Jews.

There were no gas chambers, and arguably the motivation for Stalin's killings was not genocide, but rather the intimidation and suppression of real or imaginary opposition to his rule. That in no way excuses the extent of the killing and imprisonment that occurred.

If there is any "ambiguity" about Stalin's moral record, it may be because communism strikes a chord with some of our nobler impulses, seeking equality for all and an end to poverty. No such universal aspiration can be found in Nazism, which, even on its face, was not concerned about what was good for all, but about what was good for one supposed racial group, and which was clearly motivated by hatred and contempt for other ethnic groups.

But communism under Stalin was the opposite of egalitarian, for it gave absolute power to a few and denied all rights to the many. Those who defend Stalin's reputation credit him with lifting millions out of poverty; but millions could have been lifted out of poverty without murdering and incarcerating millions more.

Others defend Stalin's greatness on the basis of his role in repelling the Nazi invasion and ultimately defeating Hitler. Yet Stalin's purge of military leaders during the Great Terror critically weakened the Red Army, his signing of the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact in 1939 paved the way for the start of World War II, and his blindness to the Nazi threat in 1941 left the Soviet Union unprepared to resist Hitler's attack.

It remains true that Stalin led his country to victory in war and to a position of global power that it had not held before and from which it has since fallen. Hitler, by contrast, left his country shattered, occupied and divided.

People identify with their country and look up to those who led it when it was at its most powerful. That may explain why Muscovites are more willing to accept a Stalin statue than Berliners would be to have one of Hitler.

But that can be only part of the reason for the different treatment given to these mass murderers. It still leaves me puzzled about New York's Soviet-themed restaurant and KGB Bar.

Peter Singer is a professor of bioethics at Princeton University and laureate professor at the University of Melbourne. His books include "Animal Liberation," "Practical Ethics," "One World" and "The Life You Can Save." THE DAILY STAR publishes this commentary in collaboration with Project Syndicate © www.project-syndicate.org.

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The threat that individualism poses to individual liberties

Humphrey McQueen, 13 November 2013, Wheeler Centre, Melbourne.

Sponsored by Spirit of Eureka, Victorian Trades Hall and Liberty Victoria.

'Can you hear me?' is a question often posed by speakers. My question is different: 'Why can you understand me?' It is fair to assume that you can understand my words even if, for the moment, you might not understand why I am posing the question. Let's take a few steps back from the specifics of the previous speakers to ask what makes it possible for us to have this forum on human rights.

One part of the answer is the organising through its sponsors. The other part is so obvious that it is usually forgotten. We can debate human rights because we learnt to speak. That is, our ability to discuss this topic is not innate. We don't come

from the womb screaming: 'I want a lawyer'. Almost all human beings are born with the physiological equipment that lets us learn to speak and to understand others. If we are not socialised, those capacities wither and die. It might not be possible to pick them up after a certain age – it's certainly much harder.

This situation also applies to maths. Four hundred years ago, almost no one could divide four by two. In 1959, it was possible for me to pass calculus in year 12. Our species was not several times more intelligent than we were before Newton and Leibniz. Rather I'd been through a system of compulsory

instruction – I won't say 'education'. Again, the difference is 'social', not a proliferation of 'individual' geniuses.

Relating ourselves to what is innate in human beings opens up two interrelated matters. Instead of talking about the rights of animals, we should say other animals. Peter Singer points out that no other animal can have rights in the way we are expressing this evening. Only our species can hold a meeting like this one. Human speech, however, has stimulated acceptance of our responsibility towards other animals.

We are part of nature, but our rights are not innate. Moreover, there's nothing universal or eternal about our rights. Universal, eternal and natural are useful as rhetoric. We use those terms to suggest that rights should be universal and eternal. But to imply that they are 'innate' is to weaken our claims to them by severing our rights from the ceaseless struggle needed to preserve them.

Indeed, human rights are a recent creation. For example, until the mid- 18th century, almost no one opposed slavery as such. Except for the slave revolts - from Spartacus to the West Indies - there was no movement against chattel slavery. Christianity might have begun as the religion of slaves, but it kept a sharp line between body and soul, and found no theological grounds for declaring slavery to be sinful. No social movement arose against chattel slavery until that form of enforced labour ceased to serve the general interest of property-owners. The Masters then switched to wage-slavery and to bonded-labour. The latter gave Gandhi his start as a human-rights lawyer in South Africa.

Most of the rights we have now came with the organisation of working people. For example, a free press came after a thousand London printers went to prison in the 1820s. Such actions inspired Hobart union official Samuel Champ in 1916 to respond to wartime propaganda about the defence of British liberties:

Our liberties were not won by mining magnates and stock-exchange jobbers, but by genuine men of the working-class movement who had died on gallows and rotted in dungeons and are buried in nameless graves. These were the men to whom we owe the liberties we enjoyed today.

Sam's historical understanding informed the labour movement. When I joined the ALP in 1957, I was given a badge which read 'The unity of labour is the hope of the world'. Today, the Labor Club in the ACT has a recruitment slogan: 'It's all about you.' No longer "All about US". That is just one example of how a debased version of individualism is threatening the rights that working people struggled and died to uphold.

Other examples are 'Me Medicine', not vaccination and potable water, those two great preventatives from nineteenth century. Instead, we face a clamour for tax-deductible health insurance. What we need is our social, preventive and community-based wellness programs.

Three examples will illuminate how the social basis for individualism has been hollowed out.

Art

In relation to 'art', we encounter the notion of a golden nugget or a blood diamond of creativity which will shine forth if only other people would get out of one's light. The cry of 'I just want to be myself' is like the scream of teenagers: 'Keep out of my bedroom'. In truth, art is social labour. Take the example of a sole painter in a solitary studio. How many dig up their own pigments? How many grow the flax and weave it into linen for a canvas? How many nurture seedlings before waiting twenty years for the timber to make the frames?

Social Labour is everywhere. The Sydney Opera House was built by tradesmen and labourers - not by a lone architect. The shoes we are wearing, the seats we are sitting on, the transport that got us here - all are the products of social labour. Mass Murdoch sidelines the 'social' and erases the 'labour'.

Conspiracy theory

The *Encarta* dictionary offers this definition: 'A belief that a particular event is the result of a secret plot rather than the action of an individual or chance.' If that definition is adequate

then we have to assume that Dick Pratt chanced upon a second 'individual' corporate executive with whom to fix prices. That is a conspiracy fact.

Neo-classical economics

This key plank in corporate propaganda is constructed on the fantasy that Robinson Crusoe can serve the model for all of economic life. Accordingly, undergraduates are taught that prices are determined by individual choices at the margin of our preferences. Social labour and the wealth of nature go missing in accounting for 'value added'.

Worse follows when choice theory is applied to political and personal behaviour. In the public sphere, we are told to vote for the party that opposes a GST on book imports over the one that proposes to use that extra revenue to und libraries. In the private realm. Parents are told to behave like consumers and choose the colour of their baby's eyes to match the wall-paper.

Corporate persons

Corporations became persons thanks to the US Supreme Court in the 1880s when the judges twisted the Fourteenth Amendment which had been adopted to free chattel slaves. Now corporations in the US of A have free speech rights. In Australia, they want the right to sue for libel. It used to be said that a corporation as a legal person had 'No soul to damn and no arse to kick'. That is still true, but there is no shortage of arse-holes running them and lying on their behalf.

Examples from the topics of the other two speakers will help us to recognize how individual rights are grounded in social relations.

Trade unions

S. W. Griffith drafted the Constitution in 1891. He became first Chief Justice in 1903. Constitutional Monarchists named their society after him. But they don't like to be reminded of his 1889 article on the 'Distribution of Wealth'. That principle underpins the Common-Wealth of Australia. Griffith wrote that it is notorious that there is not any equality of contract between the employer and the employed. 'To the extent that 'a measure of freedom of contract exists, it has been obtained by combination on the part of labourers.

Griffith's insight is in contrast to the individual contracts today promoted by the Constitutional Monarchists. What a farce it is to suggest that BHP Billiton and a casual cleaner can negotiate as equals. The corporates holler for lawyers such as Freehills. As Griffith said, it is 'notorious' that no equality exists in labour contracts. Only collective action - 'combination' - ensures individual choice.

Pacific Partnership

We see the mass murderers in the tobacco corporations relying on free-trade treaties to prevent plain packaging of cigarettes. Their paid liars say that a nanny state is BAD but are silent on the nagging market. Just compare the size of their marketing budgets with government spending on wellness messages. When Transfats were banned a few weeks back, a US libertarian protested that the state should not tell him what to eat. Rather, food should be the free choice of each individual. This argument ignores marketing - which is more than the adverts. Super-market shelves are the most expensive real estate in the world. That explains why chocolates and not apples are at the checkout.

That everyday encounter in supermarkets is an instance of market totalitarianism. Here we need to distinguish totalitarian from authoritarian. Authoritarian involves physical force. Totalitarian means total penetration of the social order and the psyche. We live in a supersaturated solution of signals to BUY BUY BUY. Where there is no outside the market, we have totalitarianism. How did we get to this impoverishment? How has individualism been hollowed out? From creativity, to use, to mere possession and now to our being defined our the latest purchase. If the 'Me Generation' is a threat to our liberties, that threat is not the fault of individuals. The danger comes through the nagging market.

Fear of the state is well grounded. The state is not our friend since it operates in partnership with the marketers. At best,

the state is a site for conflict in which rights can be won and defended.

Let's contrast how leadership on two issues resulted in opposite responses among large sections of the public. During the recent long drought, all voices of authority supported water restrictions. The public welcomed the need to limit their household needs as part of a social connectedness. How different has been the situation with refugees arriving by boat. From 1993, the ALP locked them up. That decision told the casual observer that these people must be dangerous. Why else would you put them behind razor wire?

Despite the pollution of ideas by corporates and the state, most people are still more than capable of being 'social' in a responsible way. The reason is because we have been socialised since birth.

Thatcher is notorious for saying 'there is no such thing as 'society''. That much of what she claimed is right. There is no such 'thing'. There are social relationships. But she went on to claim that there are only families and individuals. Well, there are families, households, and they contribute to the creation of individualism - as we saw about learning to speak. But she was wrong to say there are 'only' families and individuals. There is also the state, as she well knew as its chief executive for Britain. And there are corporates, whose interests she was

promoting through the British state. But there is much more besides. For instance, there was the Miners' Union against which she used the state to smash, and there were the communities that defeated her Poll Tax.

Solution?

How are we to overcome the threat that corporatised individualism poses to individual liberties? In brief we have to enrich individualism. That aim is not a matter of ever more connections. The threat will not be vanquished by having 10,000 Facebook friends instead of a mere 1,100. Quality tells. Whatever is peculiar to our personalities is the outcome of our relationships with other people and with the rest of nature. From these facts of life, we can recognise that it is the quality of relationships that enriches individuality.

Our task therefore is to advance the social relationships we value, personal and political, by joining the Spirit of Eureka, Refugee Action and one's union. More importantly, once we join we have to provide our active support. Our individuality is guaranteed through engagement with others on a basis of social justice and social equality. That is why it is appropriate to conclude with the Eureka Oath:

We swear by the Southern Cross, to stand truly by each other, and fight to defend our rights and liberties.

You'll Never Guess What's Hiding Beneath A West Antarctica Ice Sheet

By [Meredith Bennett-Smith](#), *The Huffington Post*, 01/16/2014, 1:30 pm EST

Think the Grand Canyon is big? British scientists working in West Antarctica have discovered a [subglacial trench that's deeper than Arizona's famed canyon](#). Whoa.

The scientists found the colossal trough while charting the [Ellsworth Subglacial Highlands](#), an ancient subglacial mountain range in the area, and detailed the discovery in a paper published in the January issue of the [Geological Society of America Bulletin](#).

"The [discovery of this huge trough](#), and the characterization of the surrounding mountainous landscape, was incredibly serendipitous," the paper's lead author, Dr. Neil Ross, a [physical geography lecturer](#) at Newcastle University in the U.K., said in a written statement. "To me, this just goes to demonstrate how little we still know about the surface of our own planet. The discovery and exploration of hidden, previously unknown landscapes is still possible and incredibly exciting, even now."

Dubbed Ellsworth Trough, the trench was created tens of million years ago by a small, "dynamic" ice field that slowly carved out the dramatic formations now hidden beneath a layer of ice more than a mile thick.

With the help of ice-penetrating radar, the scientists found the trough to be more than 186 miles long, up to 15 miles across

and, in some places, 1.8 miles deep, [according to a written statement released by Bristol University](#). The Grand Canyon [has an average depth of about 1 mile](#) and maximum width of 17.9 miles.

The Ellsworth Trough is so large, it can be seen from space -- yes, even beneath all of that ice. As Gizmodo reported, [NASA helped researchers map the trough by sharing satellite imagery](#) that provided a big-picture view of the subglacial canyon.

"By looking at the topography beneath the ice sheet using a combination of ice-penetrating radio-echo sounding and satellite imagery, we have revealed a [region which possesses classic glacial geomorphic landforms](#), such as u-shaped valleys and cirques, that could only have been formed by a small ice cap, similar to those seen at present in the Canadian and Russian High Arctic," Dr. Martin Siegert, a member of the research team and [professor of geosciences](#) at the University of Bristol in the U.K., said in the written statement. "The region uncovered is, therefore, the site of ice sheet genesis in West Antarctica."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/16/west-antarcticasubglacialellsworthtrenchcanyon_n_4602104.html?ir=Science

The Heiner Affair

Posted by: [Gina Baker](#) | 5 December, 2013 - 12:23 PM

4BC Mornings: Kevin Lindeberg is an ex Trade Union official. Twenty three years ago he was involved in calling to account members of the former Goss Government over the illegal shredding of documents relating to child abuse.

He joins Greg Cary to discuss the case then and now. Kevin is not satisfied that justice has been done and calls for a parliamentary Commission of Inquiry.

Listen now and have your say.

<http://www.4bc.com.au/blogs/2013-4bc-mornings-audio-blog/the-heiner-affair/20131205-2yske.html#.Uth4GBCSzT9>

Heiner Inquiry Labor cover-up revisited by Alan Jones

Uploaded on Feb 18, 2012

Alan Jones interviews journalist Piers Akerman over the February 2012 release of documents delivered to all Australian senators, who now cannot say they were unaware, revealing the Queensland Labor Government cover-up of the 1992 retired magistrate Oscar Hiener inquiry into a juvenile

Aboriginal girl being gang raped while in custody at a Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.

The labor government within weeks of the inquiry receiving power to perform, shut it down. This involved not only the government, but police and right up to the Governor General, Quentin Bryce (a lawyer), now Australian Governor General.

Visit our website - <http://www.sosnews.org>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JysmF6GiO0>

Shredding the evidence before a trial - the Heiner affair

Published on Aug 14, 2012

One of Australia's leading commentators, Piers Akerman, speaks on a scandal which will not go away - the destruction of documents intended to be used in a sex abuse trial relating to an aboriginal girl.

The haunting questions remains, why did the Queensland cabinet order this? Was this also a crime?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX0_KIzn7vo