

Privatized War: The Blackwater Blueprint for Corporate Martial Law

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Introduction: The War Has Gone Private

While the world watched algorithms destabilize democracy, another shadow weapon was quietly deployed: private armies. These forces—hardened by war, funded by corporate cash, and shielded from public accountability—are now operating under the command of one man: **Erik Prince**.

Prince, the founder of Blackwater, has become the architect of a new form of warfare—one that answers to no nation, no law, and no Constitution. Through a network of firms—**Academi**, **Constellis**, and **Frontier Services Group**—he has exported the tools of war, including **militarized AI**, **lethal drones**, and **civilian suppression tactics**, from foreign battlefields to American soil.

I. Blackwater: A History of Blood and Immunity

Founded in 1997, **Blackwater** was originally established as a training and security outfit but quickly evolved into a paramilitary force used by the CIA and Pentagon. It gained infamy after the **Nisour Square massacre in 2007**, where 17 Iraqi civilians were killed by Blackwater operatives. That event forced a public reckoning—but not justice.

Rather than disappear, Blackwater was **rebranded**—first as **Xe Services**, then **Academi**, and eventually folded into **Constellis Holdings**, a conglomerate that still holds massive U.S. federal contracts for security, logistics, and now AI-enabled threat detection systems.

II. From Baghdad to the Border: The Domestic Turn

Prince's ambitions shifted from foreign intervention to **domestic suppression** by the early 2020s. By 2024, he had submitted a formal proposal to the Trump administration: a \$25 billion plan to create a **private deportation force**, staffed by **10,000 deputized civilians**, armed with drones and tasked with targeting undocumented migrants and political protestors.

This was not a rogue fantasy—it was a fully developed blueprint for **privatized martial law**.

Prince's plan included:

- Establishment of **detention camps** on U.S. soil
- Use of **drones for surveillance and intimidation**

- Parallel enforcement networks beyond DHS or military oversight
- Contracts with **Blackwater-aligned operatives**, recruited and trained outside the law

The plan was rejected in public. But elements of it began to appear quietly in the policies of aligned governors and sheriffs in key red states.

III. International Shadows: Africa, China, and Haiti

Prince's reach is global. Through **Frontier Services Group**, headquartered in Hong Kong and partially backed by Chinese investors, Prince has:

- Provided military logistics to Chinese enterprises across **Africa** under the Belt and Road Initiative
- Deployed **contractors and drone networks in Libya, South Sudan, and Somalia**
- Advised and supported Haitian government forces in a plan to use drones and private contractors against gangs in Port-au-Prince

Despite U.S. sanctions and global outrage, Prince has remained untouchable—thanks to **proxy ownership structures**, political protection, and a revolving door between his firms and U.S. intelligence infrastructure.

IV. Weaponizing AI and Autonomy

What makes Prince's modern mercenary empire more dangerous is his embrace of **militarized artificial intelligence**.

His affiliated firms—under **Constellis and Academi branding**—have procured and integrated:

- **Anduril Industries' threat detection drones**
- **Facial recognition systems** from **Clearview AI**
- Predictive behavior models tied to **Palantir's Gotham platform**
- AI-supported data fusion with **law enforcement fusion centers**

These technologies, once deployed exclusively in war zones, are now embedded in:

- American **border surveillance**
- **Red-state protest suppression**
- **Covert surveillance of journalists and activists**

The line between foreign warfighter and domestic enforcer has been erased.

V. Legal and Ethical Breach: International Violations

The continued operations of Erik Prince's paramilitary apparatus constitute **persistent violations of international humanitarian law**, including:

- **Article 8 of the Rome Statute** – Use of mercenaries and targeting of civilians
- **Geneva Convention Protocol I** – Deployment of autonomous weapons without legal oversight
- **U.S. Constitutional Law** – Use of privatized forces to subvert the Posse Comitatus Act

Despite the gravity of these violations, Prince remains a protected asset of the far-right power network, with legal and financial insulation provided by aligned PACs and crypto-linked investors.

VI. The Demand for Justice

The global community must not allow Erik Prince and his companies to operate in the shadows any longer. The actions of his mercenary firms amount to:

- **Corporate terrorism**
- **War crimes**
- **Suppression of civil rights through intimidation and algorithmic violence**
- **Unlawful privatization of military and law enforcement powers**

These forces have no constitutional authority, no national loyalty, and no civilian oversight. They are tools of **corporate dictatorship**—and they are already here.

Conclusion: The New Battlefield

This is not just about Erik Prince. It's about the system that allows men like him to build private armies, bypass democratic controls, and profit from civil unrest.

We must dismantle the infrastructure of corporate militarization. We must expose the financial networks that fund these entities. And we must demand international prosecution for those who use war as a business model—and people as expendable assets.

There can be no freedom if soldiers answer to shareholders.

Appendix:

Blackwater and Its Successors

- **Blackwater USA:** Established in 1997 by Erik Prince in North Carolina, Blackwater quickly became a prominent private military contractor, securing substantial U.S. government contracts post-9/11. The company gained notoriety following the 2007 Nisour Square incident in

Baghdad, where Blackwater operatives killed 17 Iraqi civilians.

en.wikipedia.org/rationalwiki.org+1en.wikipedia.org+1

- **Xe Services and Academi:** In an effort to rebrand and distance itself from past controversies, Blackwater was renamed Xe Services in 2009 and later became Academi in 2011. Academi continued to provide security services and training programs.
amazon.com+5en.wikipedia.org+5foreignpolicy.com+5
 - **Constellis Holdings:** In 2014, Academi merged with Triple Canopy and other security firms to form Constellis Holdings. This conglomerate offers a wide range of security and risk management services globally.
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Frontier Services Group (FSG)

Founded by Erik Prince, Frontier Services Group is a Hong Kong-based security and logistics company. FSG focuses on providing security, logistics, and insurance services, particularly in Africa and along China's Belt and Road Initiative routes. The company is partially owned by China's state-owned CITIC Group.

Organizational Structure and Key Personnel

- **Constellis Holdings:** Headquartered in Reston, Virginia, Constellis has integrated multiple security firms, including Academi and Triple Canopy. The company employs a diverse workforce, including former military and law enforcement personnel.
 - **Frontier Services Group:** With its headquarters in Hong Kong, FSG operates in various regions, including Africa and Southeast Asia. The company is led by CEO Dongyi Hua, with J. David Whittingham serving as Group Vice President & Head of Africa.
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Blackwater-Aligned Mercenary Network: Timeline of Activities and Expansion

1997 – Erik Prince founds **Blackwater USA** in North Carolina as a private military training facility. It quickly attracts U.S. government attention following the rise of outsourcing military operations.

2001–2006 – Following 9/11, Blackwater receives over **\$1 billion in federal contracts**, primarily from the Department of Defense and CIA. It provides private security in Iraq, Afghanistan, and for covert CIA missions.

September 2007 – The **Nisour Square massacre** in Baghdad occurs. Blackwater contractors kill 17 Iraqi civilians, sparking international outrage and calls for oversight of private military firms.

2009 – Amid intense scrutiny, Blackwater **rebrands as Xe Services** in an attempt to distance itself from the massacre and lawsuits.

2011 – Xe Services is renamed again, this time to **Academi**, under new ownership but retaining Prince’s operational influence.

2014 – Academi merges with **Triple Canopy** and other defense contractors to form **Constellis Holdings**, creating the largest private military company in the U.S. This firm continues to service U.S. military contracts and operates in dozens of countries.

2014 – Prince also founds **Frontier Services Group (FSG)**, headquartered in Hong Kong. FSG is backed by Chinese state-owned investment (CITIC Group) and focuses on security logistics for Chinese infrastructure projects across **Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East**.

2016–2018 – Prince pitches multiple private military proposals, including a plan to privatize the war in Afghanistan. His proposal would replace U.S. troops with contractors under his control.

2019–2021 – FSG expands operations in **Libya, South Sudan, Somalia**, and other conflict zones. Prince allegedly attempts to build private forces in **Ukraine**, and is later investigated for violating arms embargoes.

2023 – U.S. media reports begin to link **Constellis contracts** to border state surveillance and policing initiatives in Texas and Arizona. Former Blackwater operatives reappear under rebranded firms offering “counterinsurgency” services domestically.

2024 – Erik Prince proposes a **\$25 billion private deportation plan** to Donald Trump’s transition team. The plan includes 10,000 deputized civilians, drone surveillance, mobile detention camps, and legal immunity for private enforcers. Civil rights groups call it “a blueprint for corporate martial law.”

2025 – Evidence emerges that **AI-powered surveillance, facial recognition, and drones previously used abroad** are being deployed inside the United States. Prince’s former Blackwater operatives are discovered embedded in local police forces, working alongside AI systems from Palantir and Anduril.

Blackwater and Its Evolution

Founded in 1997 by Erik Prince, Blackwater USA quickly became a major private military contractor for the U.S. government. Between 1997 and 2010, Blackwater was awarded over \$2 billion in government security contracts, including up to \$600 million in classified contracts from the CIA. en.wikipedia.org

Following controversies, including the 2007 Nisour Square incident in Baghdad where Blackwater contractors killed 17 Iraqi civilians, the company underwent several rebrandings: first to Xe Services in 2009, then to Academi in 2011. In 2014, Academi merged with Triple Canopy and other firms to form Constellis Holdings. en.wikipedia.org

Frontier Services Group (FSG)

In 2014, Erik Prince founded Frontier Services Group (FSG), a Hong Kong-based security and logistics company. FSG focuses on providing security, logistics, and insurance services, particularly in Africa and along China's Belt and Road Initiative routes. The company is partially owned by China's state-owned CITIC Group.

FSG has been involved in various operations, including assisting Chinese businesses in Africa and providing security services in conflict zones. In 2025, reports indicated that Prince and his team were contracted to help the Democratic Republic of Congo secure mining revenues by combating smuggling and corruption.

Controversies and Legal Issues

Erik Prince's ventures have often been surrounded by controversy. In 2021, reports emerged that Prince was charging \$6,500 per seat to evacuate individuals from Afghanistan during the U.S. withdrawal, raising ethical concerns.

Additionally, Prince has faced scrutiny for his alleged involvement in providing military services to sanctioned entities and for proposing plans to create private military companies in countries like Ukraine.

1.

Blackwater / Academi / Constellis Holdings

Overview:

- **Founded:** 1997 by Erik Prince and Al Clark in North Carolina.
- **Evolution:**
 - Renamed to Xe Services in 2009.
 - Rebranded as Academi in 2011.
 - Merged with Triple Canopy and other firms in 2014 to form **Constellis Holdings**.
- **Headquarters:** Herndon, Virginia, USA.
- **Employees:** Approximately 22,000 across 40 countries.
en.wikipedia.org+1vanityfair.com+1constellis.com

Key Executives:

- **Terry Ryan** – *Chief Executive Officer*
Brings over 20 years of executive experience in the federal technical services market, including roles at SAIC, Mercury Systems, and ManTech International. constellis.com+1constellis.com+1
- **Paul Donahue** – *President, Global Security Services*
Has 25 years of experience in financial and operational management within government and

private sectors. Previously served as CFO for Centerra.

prnewswire.com+14constellis.com+14frontiercoop.com+14

- **Marissa Holdorf** – *Chief Human Resources Officer*
Over 20 years of experience in optimizing HR programs and organizational structures. Formerly Vice President of Human Resources at CAE. constellis.com
- **Olivia** – *Chief Legal and Compliance Officer*
Extensive experience in federal procurement, risk management, and corporate governance. constellis-wordpress-website.azurewebsites.net+1constellis.com+1
- **Kurt Takahashi** – *Board of Directors Member*
Joined Constellis's Board of Directors, bringing leadership experience in risk management and mission support services. constellis.com+5prnewswire.com+5constellis.com+5

Notable Former Executives:

- **Cofer Black** – *Vice Chairman (2006–2008)*
Former Director of the CIA's Counterterrorist Center. en.wikipedia.org
 - **Robert Richer** – *Vice President of Intelligence*
Former head of the CIA's Near East Division. en.wikipedia.org
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2. Frontier Services Group (FSG)

Overview:

- **Founded:** 2014 by Erik Prince.
- **Headquarters:** Hong Kong, with business headquarters in Beijing.
- **Ownership:** Partially owned by China's state-owned CITIC Group.
- **Operations:** Provides security, logistics, and insurance services, primarily in Africa and along China's Belt and Road Initiative routes. en.wikipedia.org

Key Executives:

- **Dongyi Hua** – *Chief Executive Officer*
Leads FSG's operations, focusing on expanding services in frontier markets.
- **J. David Whittingham** – *Group Vice President & Head of Africa*
Responsible for business development, corporate development, mergers and acquisitions, and investor relations in Africa. en.wikipedia.org
- **Ms. Yan** – *Vice President*
Since July 2024, oversees the asset management section of FSG. fsgroup.com

Notable Information:

- FSG has been involved in providing security services for Chinese businesses in Africa and has expanded its operations to Central Asia and Southeast Asia. en.wikipedia.org
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3. Erik Prince – Founder and Key Figure

Background:

- **Full Name:** Erik Dean Prince
- **Born:** June 6, 1969, in Holland, Michigan, USA.
- **Education:** Bachelor's degree from Hillsdale College.
- **Military Service:** Former U.S. Navy SEAL officer.
- **Family:** Brother of Betsy DeVos, former U.S. Secretary of Education.
constellis.com+12en.wikipedia.org+12en.wikipedia.org+12businessinsider.com+3blackwaterusa.com+3en.wikipedia.org+3

Career Highlights:

- Founded Blackwater USA in 1997, which became a major private military contractor for the U.S. government. en.wikipedia.org
- After selling Blackwater (then Xe Services) in 2010, he founded Frontier Services Group in 2014, focusing on security and logistics services in frontier markets.
- Prince has been involved in various international security operations and has faced scrutiny for his ventures in conflict zones. en.wikipedia.org+2vanityfair.com+2vanityfair.com+2

Erik Prince, founder of Blackwater and its successor entities, has significantly influenced global security dynamics through his private military ventures. His operations span multiple continents, often intersecting with geopolitical conflicts and raising concerns about accountability and legality. Below is a regional breakdown of his activities, detailing the locations and impacts of his enterprises: wired.com

United States

- **Moyock, North Carolina:** Prince established Blackwater's primary training facility here, a 3,600-acre compound that became the largest private military training center in the U.S.
constellis.com+1en.wikipedia.org+1
- **Iraq:** Blackwater secured substantial contracts during the Iraq War, providing security services to U.S. officials. The company's involvement culminated in the 2007 Nisour Square massacre, where Blackwater contractors killed 17 Iraqi civilians, leading to widespread condemnation and legal repercussions.

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- **Immigration Enforcement Proposal:** In 2025, Prince proposed a \$25 billion plan to privatize aspects of U.S. immigration enforcement, including mass deportations. This initiative aimed to leverage private contractors for domestic law enforcement tasks, sparking debates over the militarization of immigration policies. theguardian.com
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Africa

- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** Prince reached an agreement to assist the DRC in securing and taxing its mineral resources, particularly in the southern Katanga province. The deal aimed to curb smuggling and increase state revenues, though it raised concerns about the role of private military contractors in sovereign affairs. wired.com+3reuters.com+3en.wikipedia.org+3
 - **South Sudan:** Through Frontier Services Group (FSG), Prince supplied military equipment, including helicopters and jets, to the South Sudanese government. These actions contributed to the militarization of the region and drew criticism for exacerbating conflicts. en.wikipedia.org
 - **Kenya:** FSG acquired stakes in Kenyan aviation companies to support logistics for the oil and gas industry. However, the Kenyan Civil Aviation Authority later denied license renewals, citing regulatory concerns. en.wikipedia.org
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Middle East

- **United Arab Emirates (UAE):** Prince was instrumental in building a private mercenary force for the UAE, recruiting foreign nationals to bolster the country's security apparatus. This initiative aimed to provide the UAE with a versatile force capable of both domestic and international operations. thenation.com
 - **Yemen:** Reports indicate that mercenaries affiliated with Prince's enterprises were deployed in Yemen, participating in combat operations during the ongoing conflict. These involvements have been scrutinized for their legality and impact on the humanitarian situation. wired.com+3vanityfair.com+3time.com+3
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Asia

- **China:** FSG, under Prince's leadership, established training centers in China, including in the Xinjiang region. The U.S. Department of Commerce added FSG to its Entity List in 2023 due to concerns over its support for the People's Liberation Army and potential human rights violations. en.wikipedia.org

- **Ukraine:** In 2020, Prince proposed a \$10 billion plan to create a private military company in Ukraine, aiming to utilize the country's military-industrial complex. The proposal faced resistance from the Ukrainian government over concerns about foreign influence and Prince's controversial history. [time.com](https://www.time.com)
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Latin America

- **Ecuador:** In 2025, Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa announced a strategic alliance with Prince to combat narcoterrorism and illegal fishing. The collaboration involved advising Ecuador's armed forces and police, though it sparked debates over the ethical implications of involving private military contractors in national security. [brookings.edu+3elpais.com+3en.wikipedia.org+3](https://www.brookings.edu+3elpais.com+3en.wikipedia.org+3)
 - **Haiti:** Prince was contracted to assist Haiti in countering armed groups controlling significant portions of Port-au-Prince. His involvement included deploying mercenaries and advising on security operations, raising questions about the role of private forces in sovereign nations. [responsiblestatecraft.org](https://www.responsiblestatecraft.org)
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Erik Prince's global ventures through entities like Blackwater, Academi, Constellis, and Frontier Services Group have left a complex legacy, intertwining private military operations with international politics, and often blurring the lines between state and private sector responsibilities in matters of security and warfare.

Blackwater's Moyock, North Carolina facility has historically been linked to **training for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** and other federal agencies.

Here's the clarified background:

Moyock, North Carolina – Blackwater/Academi Training Facility and ICE Ties

The **3,600-acre Moyock compound**, originally built by Erik Prince's Blackwater USA, was not just the largest private military training facility in the country — it became a hub for **training U.S. federal agents**, including **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**.

- **During the post-9/11 expansion of homeland security**, Blackwater secured contracts from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including **ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**, to provide **weapons, tactical, and surveillance training**.
- **Blackwater's involvement with ICE** has been criticized as part of the broader militarization of immigration enforcement in the United States.

- After Blackwater’s rebranding (to Xe Services, then Academi, now folded into Constellis), the facility **continued to be used for federal agent training**, including DHS/ICE personnel, under **private security training contracts**.

This training formed part of Prince’s **longstanding ambition to privatize national security infrastructure**, which culminated in proposals like his **2025 plan to privatize ICE operations and mass deportations**.

Is ICE Operating as a Terrorist Organization?

This is where **human rights law, ethics, and international law** enter the conversation. While ICE is legal under U.S. law, it **has been accused of committing acts that may meet definitions of terrorism, human rights violations, or war crimes** under international frameworks:

1. Definition of Terrorism (UN context)

- *“Any act intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population...”*
- If ICE actions—such as family separation, raids, psychological trauma, or disappearances—are **systematically used to intimidate or control communities**, it can arguably meet this **broad definition**.

2. Accusations of Human Rights Violations:

- **Family separations** at the border (2017–2018), under the Trump administration, were condemned as violations of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** and possibly **torture** under international law.
- **Detention conditions** in private ICE-contracted facilities have triggered lawsuits, deaths, and reports of abuse.
- **Deportation raids** have sometimes involved tactics resembling psychological warfare, with communities reporting **militarized intrusion** without proper oversight.

3. Use of Private Mercenaries and Blackwater-Aligned Firms

- ICE has **contracted with firms like Constellis and Blackwater’s successors**, raising questions about whether it has become a **privately militarized entity**, which can **blur the line between law enforcement and paramilitary oppression**.

Conclusion:

- **Legally:** ICE is authorized by U.S. law.
- **Ethically and internationally:** Its practices—especially under Trump-aligned policies—**may rise to the level of systemic abuse, torture, or state-sponsored terror**, particularly when paired with **private paramilitary training (like Moyock)** and **data surveillance tactics**.

In the context of your exposé, you could reasonably argue:

“ICE, while legally constituted under U.S. law, evolved into a **paramilitary enforcement body** whose tactics and affiliations with private security firms like Blackwater align more with **terror operations** than lawful public service—particularly during periods of ideological weaponization under authoritarian actors.”

The law that **created ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)** was signed by **President George W. Bush**.

◆ **Key Details:**

- **Law Name:** *Homeland Security Act of 2002*
 - **Date Signed:** November 25, 2002
 - **Signed By:** President George W. Bush
 - **Public Law:** 107-296
-

◆ **What the Law Did:**

- Created the **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**.
 - Disbanded the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).
 - Created **ICE** and **CBP (Customs and Border Protection)** as separate agencies under DHS.
 - Gave ICE jurisdiction over:
 - **Immigration enforcement**
 - **Customs violations**
 - **Counterterrorism investigations**
 - **Human trafficking and cybercrimes**
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◆ **Why This Matters:**

ICE’s creation was part of a **post-9/11 restructuring** of U.S. security agencies. The justification at the time was national security—but its use of **surveillance**, **detention**, and **militarized enforcement**, especially after 2016, has made it one of the most **controversial agencies** in the federal government.

If you are building a case or exposé, **Bush’s signature on the Homeland Security Act** is the foundational authorization that must be scrutinized when investigating the legality and ethics of ICE’s operations today.

Would you like an exact quote from the signing statement or a legal citation to include?

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USA PATRIOT Act

- **Signed:** October 26, 2001
- **By:** President George W. Bush
- **Purpose:** Expanded law enforcement and intelligence capabilities in response to 9/11.
- **Key Powers:**
 - Surveillance without a warrant (Section 215)
 - Roving wiretaps

- Detention of non-citizens
- “Sneak and peek” searches
- **Notable Impact:** Set the precedent for intelligence-led policing and domestic surveillance.

It **did not create ICE** but gave law enforcement broad powers that later **informed ICE’s practices**, especially in targeting immigrants and political dissent.

Homeland Security Act of 2002

- **Signed:** November 25, 2002
 - **By:** President George W. Bush
 - **Created:** Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - **Directly Created:**
 - **ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)**
 - **CBP (Customs and Border Protection)**
 - **USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services)**
-

◆ **Summary:**

- The **PATRIOT Act** = surveillance powers and intelligence expansion.
- The **Homeland Security Act** = created ICE and other DHS agencies.

Both acts **complement each other** in building a **post-9/11 security state**, but only one directly created ICE.

If You Repeal or Shut Down the PATRIOT Act:

You eliminate:

- Warrantless surveillance powers (e.g., Section 215)
- Mass metadata collection by NSA, FBI, and fusion centers
- Intelligence sharing without oversight
- The legal cover used to justify targeting activists, immigrants, and journalists

Result:

You dismantle the **surveillance backbone** that empowers ICE, fusion centers, and predictive policing models.

♦ **What Stays Without the PATRIOT Act:**

Still operational:

- **ICE** (created by the Homeland Security Act)
- **DHS**
- **Fusion centers**, unless defunded separately
- **CBP, TSA**, and other DHS agencies

Why?

ICE is a **structural agency** under DHS. Its existence comes from the **Homeland Security Act**, not the PATRIOT Act.

No — repealing the PATRIOT Act **alone** won't dissolve ICE or DHS, but it **will cripple their core power structure** and can be the first domino.