

The Red Thread

THE
RED
THREAD

*A Search for Ideological Drivers
Inside the Anti-Trump Conspiracy*

DIANA WEST

Center for Security Policy Press

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Praise for *The Red Thread*

Diana West's *The Red Thread* stands as a sterling example of penetrating counterintelligence analysis, the kind one seldom sees issuing from intelligence circles, let alone from a private researcher. Diana's previous books mark her as one who goes far beyond the usual academic policy analysis, to penetrate to the heart of hidden history that seldom makes it to the light of day. Reading *The Red Thread* prompted me to recall Honoré de Balzac's observation that there are two histories: the official one, mendacious; and the secret history, shameless, but the real cause of events. Diana West plumbs the depths of Balzac's secret history in a way that surfaces the realities of an ideological underworld that too many deny and would rather not see exposed. Diana West is a one-person intelligence agency.

- **JOHN J. DZIAK**, Ph.D., former senior intelligence executive and author of *Chekisty: A History of the KGB*. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Institute of World Politics, Washington, D.C.

Once again, Diana West provides us with invaluable analysis, meticulously documented. She exposes the radical Leftist ideological roots of the Trump "lawfare" coup plotters masquerading as "respectable" Establishment law enforcement and intelligence professionals. Ms. West delivers facts, history, documentation and context like no other. Her work is essential reading.

- **CHRIS FARRELL**, Director of Investigations & Research for Judicial Watch and a member of the organization's Board of Directors. He is a former Military Intelligence officer and Special Agent of U.S. Army Counterintelligence.

Diana West exposes a red thread running through the campaign to unseat President Trump. It is the story of a socialist cabal painting itself in false patriotic colors, camouflaged behind a facade of national concern. West shows that the conspirators' true ideals are opposed to nation and Constitution. Yet it is more than a conspiracy she reveals. It is the latest iteration of that same old phenomenon of subversion, driven forward by something Whittaker Chambers called "man's second oldest faith."

- **JEFF NYQUIST**, author of *Origins of the Fourth World War* and *The Fool and His Enemy*, and co-author of *The New Tactics of Global War*.

In memory of Admiral James A. "Ace" Lyons (1927-2018)
and George S. Gerhard (1928-2018)

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	7
INTRODUCTION	1
1. Meet the Ohrs	3
2. Daughter of the Academic Left.....	4
3. The 'Excitement' of Stalin's Russia	6
4. The Revisionists Seize the Campuses	11
5. Back in the USSR	12
6. Nellie's Protégé?.....	16
7. If the Soviet Union Vanished, Who is Running the KGB?.....	21
8. Christopher Steele, 'Confirmed Socialist'.....	22
9. Language Like a Red Flag.....	26
10. Trump-Russia and the Fourth Estate.....	27
11. Red-Green Brennan	30
12. Brennan's Journey	33
13. Violating Liberty and Justice for All.....	35
14. Why Is James Comey Laughing?.....	39
15. An FBI Director of the Old Frankfurt School.....	44
16. The Longest War.....	49
17. Enter the Clintonistas	54
18. Could the Second Dossier Be the First?.....	60
19. 'Special, Unofficial' Strobe	61
20. Madeleine Albright, Edward Lieberman, and 'Russians for Hillary'.....	65
21. Kremlin Influence and the Experts.....	70
22. A Bouquet for Putin	71
23. What Do the Founders of the CPUSA Have to Do with It?.....	75
24. Unspooling John Kerry	80
25. Fusion Confusion	88
26. Remembering the Browder Family Communist Network	94
27. Better Dead Than ... Anti-Anti-Communist	97
AFTERWORD	103
NOTES	105
INDEX	113

That power to influence policy has always been the ultimate purpose of the Communist Party's infiltration. It was much more dangerous, and, as events have proved, much more difficult to detect, than espionage, which beside it is trivial, though the two go hand in hand.

— **WHITTAKER CHAMBERS**, *Witness*

The movers and shakers of today have little interest in digging for the truth. Who knows what one may come up with? You may start out with the communists, and end up with yourself.

— **VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY**, *Judgment in Moscow*

FOREWORD

The months and years following the November 2016 election of President Donald J. Trump have seen an unrelenting onslaught from anti-Trump cells inside federal bureaucracies, the Democratic Party as well as some Republicans, the media, and a network of organizations. What these factions have in common is a shared interest in repudiating the legitimacy of the election. They have sought to advance this goal by alleging that Donald Trump's electoral triumph was the illegitimate result of "collusion" between the Trump campaign and Russia.

A few dogged investigative journalists, Tom Fitton's *Judicial Watch*, and some heroic congressional leaders like Rep. Devin Nunes and Sen. Chuck Grassley have methodically pursued the lawless attempt by those so terrified of this American patriot president that they were willing to risk all. Thanks to their revelations, we have come inexorably to learn who is behind the most dangerous assault on our democratic republic in its history. Less fully explored, however, are the *real* reasons President Trump's opponents are so desperate to destroy Donald Trump.

Arguably, no one has done more to examine the actual motivations of the individuals behind what amounts to an anti-Trump coup d'état than Diana West, a brilliant author, blogger, columnist and researcher. Starting in late 2017, she issued a series of essays on her blog under the rubric of what she called *The Red Thread*. These essays connected the myriad, insidious players – both those who are part of the Deep State inside the U.S. government (many of them holdovers from the Barack Obama administration) and others outside it, notably, those centered in Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

Ms. West's best-selling book, *American Betrayal: The Secret Assault on Our Nation's Character*, provides a compelling expose of the massive, Moscow-directed penetration and subversion of America's highest echelons of government, and the desperate attempts to conceal it all. Its findings inform and underpin her analysis of the current-day conspiracy to destroy our Republic.

Specifically, Diana West draws on her deep understanding of the chasm between, on the one hand, the globalists of the Left and, on the other, those who – like President Trump – are dedicated to the rule of law, the sovereignty of the nation state and an America First agenda to explore the Marxist subversion coursing through the anti-Trump conspiracy. As her series of essays unfolded week by week, the Center for Security Policy recognized the importance of what she had uncovered and asked her to adapt her essays for publication as a monograph by the Center's Press.

The Red Thread: A Search for Ideological Drivers Inside the Anti-Trump Coup is the result of that effort.

Dedicated to the memory of two towering American patriots, Admiral James A. "Ace" Lyons (1927-2018) and George S. Gerhard (1928-2018), *The Red Thread* opens with a quote from another heroic figure, Russian-born Vladimir Bukovsky, a dissident who courageously fought the Soviet regime and emerged from the gulag unbroken to tell the rest of us about the evils of tyranny. Here Bukovsky, from his newly translated classic, *Judgment in Moscow*, neatly sums up the challenge before Diana West and the other truth-seekers: "The movers and shakers of today have little interest in digging for the truth. Who knows what one may come up with? You may start out with the communists and end up with yourself."

And with that important insight, Diana West digs indefatigably for the truth about the Ohrs, Glenn Simpson and Fusion GPS, ex-British spy Christopher Steele, CIA Director John Brennan, FBI Director James Comey, FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, FBI lovebirds Peter Strzok and Lisa Page and many others, and their roles in the *actual* conspiracy (i.e., the one aimed at overthrowing a duly-elected U.S. president).

While horrifying information about that Deep State coup d'etat is still coming to light as this book goes to print, Ms. West's meticulous research lays bare the ideological thread that seems to run through all these lives. It is indeed a *Red Thread*, a *leit motif* of communist mentorship, progressivist education, Marxist indoctrination, and ultimately, a willing abrogation of oaths of office in obedience to the *diktat* of an ideology rooted not in Philadelphia, but St. Petersburg and Moscow.

Diana West recognizes that all the loose ends of this red thread will not be tidily tied up in the present volume. Indeed, as this book goes to press, we find that each day brings fresh revelations of betrayal, lies and coverups. But, thanks to Ms. West, we can plainly see the broad outlines of that conspiracy – a concerted, sustained and desperate effort premised not, as its self-obsessed perpetrators would have us believe, on some noble attempt to "save the Republic" from Donald Trump. Rather, the conspiracy was motivated by a frantic effort to preserve and advance a leftist, globalist system, one that would relegate American liberty to the not-so-tender mercies of unaccountable bureaucrats who shared an affinity for international socialism and contempt for the rule of law.

We are indebted to Diana West for her unfailing courage in uncovering and laying out the truth about this anti-Trump conspiracy and for alerting us to the communist and socialist roots of the entire sorry saga. As she notes, this study is but an interim assessment concerning the ongoing struggle between globalists and nationalists, between revolutionaries and Constitutionalists. The two sides are lined up along the divide we may have thought relegated to an earlier century: communist and anti-communist. But for any who thought that "the end of history" had

arrived with the collapse of the Soviet Union, or that the West and liberal democratic capitalism had emerged triumphant and uncontested, *The Red Thread: A Search for Ideological Drivers Inside the Anti-Trump Coup* will dispel that notion. It is an enormously disquieting account, but a necessary one if we are to understand and effectively confront the forces of globalist tyranny still very much operating against us.

Frank J. Gaffney
Executive Chairman
Center for Security Policy
20 February 2019

INTRODUCTION

What explains the law-breaking lengths to which the highest government officials in Washington, D.C., have gone to try to stop the election of Donald Trump and then destroy his presidency? What has made them risk all? Powerful careers, big reputations, generous pensions, even personal liberty remain in jeopardy, even now, even with Justice blinded and slow-walking, a captive of ruthless bureaucrats and appointees inside a government divided and at war with itself.

The federal government runs on the ebb and flow of the two main political parties. There are “in” years and there are “out” years. Political generations come, political generations go through perpetually revolving doors.

What was different about 2016?

Was it devotion to Hillary Rodham Clinton that made so many risk all and go rogue? Impossible to reply without snickering. Was it really about “saving the republic” from Donald J. Trump? They wanted to “save” something, all right, but it was *not* the republic. The republic was fine. Sixty-three million Americans went to the polls on November 8, 2016, to win 31 states for the Queens-born billionaire and elect him the 45th president of the United States. The system was in perfect working order.

Nonetheless, from that day forward, anti-Trump cells inside federal bureaucracies, the Democratic Party *and* the Republican Party, the media, and a network of organizations attacked the legitimacy of the election by alleging that Donald Trump’s epic triumph was the twisted result of “collusion” between the Trump campaign and Russia.

Why?

Thanks to a few bold stalwarts in Congress, led by Rep. Devin Nunes and Sen. Chuck Grassley, some media, and, of course, Judicial Watch and its public interest FOIA lawsuits, we are getting to know *how*. We see the conspirators’ tracks leading to the dark side, where they launched a disinformation campaign based on Democratic Party-Clinton campaign “intelligence” (Dossiergate); threw the investigation into Hillary Clinton’s private server (Servergate); rigged the secret court system (FISAgate) to engage in domestic espionage against the GOP presidential campaign (Spygate); and then, having failed utterly to tip the election to the woeful, corrupt Democratic presidential candidate, set forth to destroy the Trump presidency by Special Counsel (Muellergate).

This is the mechanical side of insurrection, of attempted coup, as perpetrated by anti-Trump networks so powerful it is unlikely their

members ever worry about being charged with sedition.* My concern is the conspirators themselves. Who are they? What do they believe in?

They do not believe in the democratic process or the rule of law. That much is clear. They do not believe in the people of this country — certainly not the tens of millions who voted for Donald Trump, the first U.S. presidential candidate to run on the counter-revolutionary agenda of America First. Nor do they respect the “America First” agenda, which received a mandate in 2016 to restore the borders of this country, its economy, control of immigration, and its singular destiny as a nation-state beyond the control of global governance. It is also clear they do not believe in the nation-state.

Stripping away labels and traditions, what is readily apparent is a unifying drive to save not America, but the globalist system that was created in the aftermath of World War II, anchored in such institutions as the United Nations and the World Bank. Both of these globalist institutions, not at all incidentally, were shepherded into existence by two key Soviet agents covertly embedded inside the U.S. government: Alger Hiss and Harry Dexter White.

Think about that. The foundations of the “U.S.-led” global system were laid by a pair of KGB agents loyal to the Kremlin. In the three-quarters of a century since the founding, this same global system has steadily broken down and subsumed the will and interests of individual nations, including our own. That this is also the dream and strategy of international socialism (a.k.a. communism) should be as difficult to overlook as the presence of Alger Hiss, whose KGB code name was “Ales,” and Harry Dexter White, whose KGB code name was “Jurist,” at the global system’s 1945 creation. If a coup is being attempted against the Trump presidency because it represents the first serious counter-movement to re-establish the building blocks of the nation-state and thus imperil the global system, we are enduring a phase of American politics as far away from usual as a Bolshevik plot. It’s the nationalists vs. the globalists.

Is that just another way of thinking about the anti-Communists vs. the Communists? Are we again — or rather, *still* — facing our old enemy, Marxism? Is ideology the missing X-factor that we overlook in our efforts to understand recent events?

Does a red thread run through the anti-Trump conspiracy?

* 18 U.S. Code 2384. Seditious conspiracy. If two or more persons in any State or Territory, or in any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, conspire to overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the Government of the United States, or to levy war against them, or to oppose by force the authority thereof, or by force to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States, or by force to seize, take, or possess any property of the United States contrary to the authority thereof, they shall each be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

1. MEET THE OHRS

In December 2017, Fox News' James Rosen broke a pair of stories about a most intriguing married couple, Nellie and Bruce Ohr.

Nellie, we learned, worked as a Russia expert for Fusion GPS, a private research firm that was a nexus of covert pro-Hillary/anti-Trump operations. The firm's most famous product is the set of 16 memos known as the "Steele dossier," named for its purported author, retired British intelligence officer Christopher Steele, which had burst into the public domain in January 2017. Ten months went by before we finally learned, in October 2017, this Steele dossier was secretly funded by the Hillary Clinton campaign and Democratic National Committee, which had funneled payments to Fusion GPS via the law firm Perkins Coie.

Nellie Ohr's husband, Bruce Ohr, was a top official at the Justice Department, which was also, we learned, a nexus of covert pro-Hillary/anti-Trump operations. In his story, Rosen reported that Bruce had been demoted prior to the story's publication for his failure to disclose his wife's employment with Fusion GPS and his contacts with Steele both before and after the 2016 election.

Fusion GPS co-founder Glenn Simpson was just as cagey as Bruce Ohr when it came to Nellie Ohr. Simpson, too, failed to mention Nellie and her role as his firm's resident Russia expert during two separate interviews before House and Senate committees.

Why? What was driving Bruce Ohr to take the risk involved in hiding his wife's Fusion GPS connection? Why did Glenn Simpson determine that it was in his best interest to "forget" to mention to Congress in two separate interviews that Nellie Ohr was his company's top Russia expert?

The first known intersection of the Ohrs and Glenn Simpson was in 2010, when they participated in an Expert Working Group to produce a report on international organized crime.¹ Bruce was already at the Justice Department. Glenn was co-founding Fusion GPS and, as court documents show,² entering into a partnership with Christopher Steele's Orbis Business Intelligence, which is based in the UK. Nellie, meanwhile, was at this time a researcher at Open Source Works.

Open Source Works is the in-house, open-source, analysis shop of the CIA. This tells us Nellie Ohr has a professional link to the CIA. A former CIA officer tells me we should be asking: Was Nellie Ohr a staffer or a contractor? Was her association with the CIA ongoing while she was working for Fusion GPS? Does Nellie Ohr know John Brennan?

Six months after Nellie Ohr's link to the CIA first emerged, another CIA affiliate, Stefan Halper, surfaced as having been a very highly paid "informant" for the FBI tasked to penetrate the Trump presidential campaign. More questions arise. Were Nellie Ohr and Halper two visible

prongs of the “interagency working group” organized by CIA Director John Brennan at Langley in the summer of 2016 to “investigate” — create the appearance of — “Russian influence” in the Trump campaign?

Americans desperately need answers to these questions. However, there is a question that underlies all: Why? Why would (1) a high-ranking DOJ official (2) his wife with a CIA link (3) a retired MI-6 officer, and (4) a Democrat-associated research organization (with expertise in smearing people) hired by (5) Hillary Clinton and the DNC join forces in the darkness of the DC swamp? To combat the Kremlin? That’s their alibi. Believable? Hardly. So what was it really all about?

Bear in mind there is very little that is inconceivable in the sphere of deception.³

2. DAUGHTER OF THE ACADEMIC LEFT

We start with Nellie H. Ohr.

The “H” stands for Hauke, Ohr’s maiden name. An obituary of Kathleen A. Hauke, Nellie’s mother, and a guide to the papers of her parents, Kathleen A. and Richard L. Hauke, both Ph.D.s, which are archived at the University of Rhode Island, sketch in the Hauke family’s life of the mind.^{4,5}

Nellie grew up in a family on the intellectual far Left — mainstream American academia. Her mother, an English professor, focused on racial issues of the late 1960s and 1970s; these included interracial adoption and “promoting racial equality in education.” Decades later, it is the latter, a kindly-sounding idea, which, via coercive means of “promoting,” has atomized our society into a sum of non-working parts. This is the direct opposite of “a more perfect union,” the ideal of the American founding. Whoever conceived of it, there is something devilishly clever about turning college admissions offices into all-powerful enforcement centers of racial and other quotas of a state-mandated order. As we should finally admit, from Berkeley to Yale to Mizzou, it is on our campuses where generations of cadres have received their Marxian indoctrination under permanent cover of “bright college years,” football games, and cap and gown. Over the past century, these cadres became the indispensable legions of ideological victory in a “Cold War” most Americans still insist they won.

Perhaps in the pioneering spirit of “promoting,” Kathleen A. Hauke devoted herself to studying black/African American authors and writers on the same Left, also communist, wavelength, from Langston Hughes to South African writer Richard Rive. A notable biographical detail is

³ “Deception is a state of mind — and the mind of the state.” James Jesus Angleton.

Kathleen's first visit to South Africa in 1954, via freighter, when she was just 19 years old.

Her specialty, however, was a black American journalist named Ted Poston. She wrote or edited three books on Poston, including a collection of his journalism in 2000. His writing is described as having "infused" his newspaper, the New York Post, "with a black viewpoint on topics as varied as *the paranoia engendered by McCarthyism* and the light-stepping magic of Bill Bojangles Robinson." [Emphasis added.] A highlight of Poston's pre-"McCarthyism" youth came when he, along with Langston Hughes and others, journeyed to the USSR in 1932, the height of Stalin's mass-starvation of "collectivized" Ukrainians, to be wined and dined by the Soviets while working on a Comintern movie about the plight of the "American Negro." It was never completed.

Nellie's father, Richard L. Hauke, was a botany professor. His listed works are mainly scientific, but his biographical notes highlight more political interests in creationism, bioethics and, circa 1983-1985, "nuclear winter."

In these days of "global warming," it's easy to forget the hysteria over "nuclear winter" that gripped the 1980s. This was the final decade of what we call the Cold War, and the heyday of Reagan administration efforts to modernize U.S. and NATO arsenals to combat communist expansion Europe.

Many believe it was Reagan's military policies that spontaneously triggered the Western disarmament movement ("nuclear freeze") in Europe and the U.S.; however, this "peace movement" was a case study in "Russian influence." Through Soviet "active measures," the Kremlin under Brezhnev, Andropov, Chernenko and Gorbachev, set out to whip up anti-American outrage, crescendoing against the neutron bomb, "Star Wars" and that "war-monger" Reagan, who would be pre-emptively blamed for the End of Mankind, which was predicted to occur in the frigid, dark aftermath of nuclear war: "nuclear winter."⁶

A generation passed. Kremlin "master spy" Sergei Tretyakov defected to the U.S. where he confirmed that "nuclear winter" itself — the theory that dust from a nuclear attack would block out the sun and initiate a new ice age — was another example of Kremlin "active measures," another KGB disinformation scheme to undermine public support for new U.S. and NATO weaponry. As political theater it was very effective. Pop-scientist Carl Sagan, for one, was instrumental in promoting the "nuclear winter" concept.

⁶ As defined in an Interagency Intelligence Study on Soviet Active Measures, circa 1982, "active measures" is a term "used to refer to active operations intended to provoke a policy effect, as distinct from espionage and counterintelligence. ... Specifically, they are intended to influence the policies of foreign governments ... undermine confidence in foreign leaders and institutions, and discredit opponents. ..."

As Tretyakov told biographer Pete Earley in *Comrade J*, "I did have several conversations with the former KGB official responsible for scientific propaganda during this time period, and *she told me repeatedly the KGB was responsible for creating the entire nuclear winter story to stop the Pershing missiles* [from being deployed in Europe]. I don't know if Mr. Sagan ever knew the KGB was behind this effort, but inside the KGB, the nuclear winter propaganda was considered the ultimate example of how the KGB had completely alarmed the West with science that no one in Moscow ever believed was true."⁷ [Emphasis added.]

I have not read Richard L. Hauke's writings on "nuclear winter," but I don't think I'm going out on a limb to suppose that he was *not* among the earliest scientists to debunk the theory. If I am correct, this would make Prof. Hauke both a victim of KGB active measures and a dupe who himself may have helped popularize them.

Or maybe that's just more "paranoia engendered by McCarthyism."

3. THE 'EXCITEMENT' OF STALIN'S RUSSIA

To be sure, checking off the hot-liberal boxes on Nellie H. Ohr's parents tells us little about Nellie herself.

Here are a few facts. Nellie graduated from Harvard-Radcliffe with a B.A. in Russian history and literature in 1983. While at Harvard, she met Bruce Ohr, her future-husband, who would go on to graduate from Harvard Law School in 1987. While her professor-father was mulling "nuclear winter," Harvard Professor Richard Pipes, a well-known scholar of Russia and the Soviet Union, was preparing to publish his 1984 book *Survival Is Not Enough: Soviet Realities and America's Future*. In the book, Pipes thanks his assistant Nellie Hauke for her "dedicated work." Not only was Pipes a prominent anti-communist on Harvard's senior faculty, he had just completed a stint on Ronald Reagan's National Security Council as Director of East European and Soviet Affairs. Was young Nellie breaking with her family's political traditions?

Highly doubtful. Following graduation, Nellie Hauke Ohr continued her studies in Russian history at Stanford. By rare chance, a glimpse of Nellie from those years appears in *Adventures in Russian Historical Research*. Edited by Samuel H. Baron and Cathy A. Frierson, the book is composed of essays by American academics reminiscing about their "adventures and agonies" inside the Soviet Union, a regime, the editors write, determined "to keep a lock on its past."⁸ Co-editor Frierson recalls that in 1989 she personally encountered Nellie Hauke Ohr at the Lenin Library in Moscow. There, Frierson writes, Ohr enthused over the "remarkable access" to "materials related to the collectivization campaign" she had recently enjoyed in Smolensk. Frierson adds: "Nellie encouraged

me to call the Smolensk archive director, assuring me that he would welcome me."⁹

That would be Soviet-era Moscow, and Soviet-era Smolensk.

This is interesting, and I will return to it below.

In 1990, Nellie Hauke Ohr completed her Stanford Ph.D. thesis. A work of 418 pages, it is titled: "Collective farms and Russian peasant society, 1933-1937: The stabilization of the kolkhoz order."

Soon, Nellie was teaching Russian history at Vassar. According to an online profile, she also went on to work as an "independent contractor doing research and translation projects on topics in Russian science and technology," dates unknown. She pops up again in 2010 as the CIA analyst in the Expert Working Group (including her husband and future boss) on international organized crime. In December 2017, we learned, she had been working at the center of the Fusion GPS anti-Trump Russian project, bought and paid for by the DNC and Hillary Clinton.

Back to her Ph.D. thesis.

"Kolkhoz" is the Russian term for "collective farm," that spawn of agricultural Bolshevism forcibly wrought between 1929 and 1932 from the Marxist regime's abolition of private property and its war on the free-holding Ukraine peasantry. This war, ghoulishly known as "de-kulakization," included the arrest, execution and deportation to the Arctic of literally millions of "kulaks." Collectivization also included the "terror famine," as Robert Conquest named it, "inflicted on the collectivized peasants by the methods of setting for them grain quotas far above the possible, removing every handful of food, and preventing help from outside — even from other areas of the USSR — from reaching the starving."

Conquest identified the mass deception around the genocidal toll of collectivization — mass deception created by Kremlin disinformation slavishly disseminated by corrupt Western media (sound familiar?) — as being the first "Big Lie" of the modern age.*

How successful was this first Big Lie? Plenty of eye-witness accounts of the horror did reach the West. The Big Lie routine, however, ensured that they could be ignored and, if not laughed off, certainly discounted and marginalized. Witness the notorious Pulitzer Prize of New York Times famine-denier Walter Duranty, won at the height of the suffering. The capstone political atrocity occurred in 1933 when FDR threw America's moral compass into the sea to extend U.S. diplomatic recognition to the murderous Moscow regime, thus reversing the course of four presidents and six secretaries of state before him just as if nothing cataclysmic had

* These heinous events, especially as they relate to the creation of the "Big Lie" technique, are discussed at length in my book *American Betrayal: The Secret Assault on Our Nation's Character* (New York: St. Martin's Press), 2013.

happened. Some forty years later, Solzhenitsyn would lament: "They died on the very edge of Europe. And Europe didn't even notice it. The world didn't even notice it — six million persons!"¹⁰

On the hunt for a "red thread," even the subtitle of Ohr's paper on collectivization becomes a possible clue: "*the stabilization of the collective farm order*." Does this suggest that Nellie Hauke Ohr, drawing on her 1989 Soviet research, was able to put a "stabilized" face on Stalin's devastation ("order")? If so, it becomes appropriate to investigate whether this places her work within the "revisionist" movement of the 1970s and 1980s, the academic school known for minimizing the crimes and culpability of Stalin, and even disputing the totalitarian character of the USSR. As analyzed by staunch anti-communist (and, thus, anti-revisionist) Walter Laqueur in his 1994 book, *The Dream That Failed: Reflections on the Soviet Union*, this same revisionist movement included American academics who "downplayed the human cost of the forcible collectivization of agriculture."¹¹

Whether Nellie Hauke Ohr falls at the end of this revisionist wave in American academia is an intriguing question, although the answer obviously doesn't hang on a subtitle. Before considering her thesis, I will turn to six publicly accessible academic book reviews Ohr published at the humanities website H-Net between 1998 and 2004, plus excerpts from essays she published at other journals. It is in these writings where Ohr's affinity for those who came to prominence in association with this "revisionist" school becomes quite plain. These scholars include Sheila Fitzpatrick, Robert Thurston, J. Arch Getty, Stephen Wheatcroft and Chris Ward. Ohr's reviews of their works are mainly dry, written in academic code; however, some of her sentences do ring out, even after 20 years. Take this one about "the agonizing paradoxes of the Stalinist state."

[O]ne must commend this attempt to account for the agonizing paradoxes of the Stalinist state, one which was building a legal structure yet tortured and executed innocent citizens, and which offered opportunities to poor people while denying them political representation.¹²

Oh, those agonizing paradoxes. Such stark apologetics on behalf of Stalin so many years after the genocidal dictator was supposedly ejected from the Communist pantheon in 1956 by his successor Nikita Khrushchev may seem shocking, but it is a fact that Nellie Ohr wrote these lines some forty years after Stalin's death and partial unmasking by Khrushchev (for his own political purposes). She was reviewing Robert W. Thurston's 1996 book *Life and Terror in Stalin's Russia, 1939-1941*, which revolves around blood and fear (it argues there was much less of both than assumed). In clearest revisionist-speak, Ohr describes Thurston's book as "an ambitious and forceful attack on descriptions of the Soviet 1930s as totalitarian."¹³

According to *Life and Terror's* synopsis on its Amazon page, the book is also an attack on descriptions of *Stalin* as totalitarian, too: "Stalin did not

intend to terrorize the country and did not need to rule by fear. Memoirs and interviews with Soviet people indicate that many more believed in Stalin's quest to eliminate internal enemies than were frightened by it. ... Coercion was not the key factor keeping the regime in power. More important was voluntary support. ..."¹⁴

It's hard to know what to say — except to note that Ohr finds among the book's "strengths" its "frequently repeated and explicit central arguments." Thus, it seems perfectly fair to say she's okay with this kind of thing, even if she recommended the book only to "specialists." She adds: "Chris Ward's *Stalin's Russia*, a useful reference work on Stalin's time, can be helpful in putting arguments like Thurston's into perspective."

The Ward book is also helpful in putting arguments like Ohr's into perspective. Between Thurston and Ward, Ohr's ideological coordinates come into focus. We know she liked Thurston's terror-lite thesis; now we find she loved Chris Ward's *Stalin's Russia*. In her 1995 review of Ward's book in *Russian History* journal, she calls it "a serious contender for undergraduate course adoption,"¹⁵ which is academia's equivalent of two thumbs up, if not five stars.

As a point of orientation, a New York Times reviewer in 1995 places *Stalin's Russia* at the opposite end of the Sovietology field from Robert Conquest's seminal work on collectivization, *Harvest of Sorrow*. ("On the one hand, Robert Conquest compares the Ukraine during collectivization to one vast Bergen-Belsen; on the other, Chris Ward, in "Stalin's Russia," dismisses the event as just another atrocity of a bloody Western civilization.")¹⁶

In the very ordinariness of collectivization (and famine), then, *there is nothing to condemn*. Such non-judgmentalism is another shared trait of these revisionists, which also places them at loggerheads with Conquest, who believed historical atrocities are meant to be judged by historians and other sentient beings.¹⁷ Walter Laqueur mentions in passing another clarifying detail about the Ward book: "The subtitle to the conclusion is 'Tout comprendre c'est tout pardonner' " — to understand all is to forgive all.¹⁸ *Famine, purges, understanding, no worries*. Ward, by the way, an emeritus senior lecturer at Cambridge University, is also known for his "contagious enthusiasm" for the writings of Trotsky.¹⁹

The opening of Ohr's review of the Ward book, written while she was teaching Russian history at Vassar in 1995, is worth quoting, not for what it tells us about the book, but what it tells us about the reviewer. Ohr writes:

To introduce students to the Stalin era can be a frustrating task. To convey the terror and excitement of the period, one can assign a memoir of a prison camp victim or an observer such as John Scott or Maurice Hindus. Such accounts, however, fail to explain the excesses of the Stalin era, and whether, in Alec Nove's words, Stalin was necessary ...²⁰

Yes, Nellie Ohr found it “frustrating” to introduce her Vassar classes to the Stalin era; to get across to them the “the terror and excitement of the period,” which may or may not have been “necessary.” Chances are, most of these college students got the “terror” part pretty easily; I think we are safe to assume that the “excitement” part was the harder sell for Professor Ohr (at least back in those days).

Twenty years on, Americans should ask themselves how it feels to have at the center of a conspiracy against the duly elected President of the United States a person who believes and teaches that the Stalin era, conservatively estimated to have killed between 20 million and 25 million people, was a period of “terror *and excitement*,” and someone for whom considering whether Stalin was “necessary” is a legitimate debate.

There's even more here to unpack. Consider also that the “observers,” who, in Ohr's eyes, convey the “excitement” of the Stalin era, are two epic Soviet apologists — Maurice Hindus and John Scott. Scott bears special mention as a veritable bard of Soviet death and destruction. In his epic memoir of life in the Communist underground in America, *Witness*, Whittaker Chambers identifies Scott as one of the foreign correspondents at Time magazine who sought to get Chambers fired as foreign news editor (even before the Alger Hiss case) for his failure to “feed out news written from the viewpoint that the Soviet Union is a benevolent democracy of unaggressive intent, or that the Chinese Communists are ‘agrarian liberals.’”²¹ Later — to be fair, probably after Ohr wrote her book review — it came out that Scott was also an NKVD agent (codename “Ivanov”), who had taken time off from Time magazine during World War II to infiltrate the OSS for “Uncle Joe.” Meanwhile, Scott's 1942 memoir for which he is best known — *Behind the Urals: An American Worker in Russia's City of Steel* — could hardly lay on the agit prop more thickly.

Here's a sample that is still moist:

[T]hey felt that Russia was fighting a class war against the rest of the world, and at the same time laying the foundations for a new society farther along the road of human progress than anything in the West; a society which would guarantee its people not only personal freedom but absolute economic security; a society for which it was worth while to shed blood, sweat, and tears.

The millions of expropriated kulaks, the political exiles in Siberia were a lost tribe. They had been sacrificed on the altar of Revolution and Progress. They would die off in twenty or thirty years, and by that time, perhaps, Soviet society would be able to function without scrapping blocks of its population every decade...²²

Excitement? No. Just terror.

4. THE REVISIONISTS SEIZE THE CAMPUSES

About the college campus "revisionists."

A Doyenne Sheila Fitzpatrick is a professor emeritus at the University of Chicago who calls herself the "skeptical child of Australian Old Left parents." In a 2007 retrospective essay, "Revisionism in Soviet History," she describes the movement's founders: "Quite a few of the 1970s revisionists were Marxists (never, to my knowledge, of a Stalinist variety, but sometimes Trotskyist), who hoped to find that at least part of the promise of socialist revolution had been realized or could be recovered."²³

Such Marxists were set to teach American youth that the "Soviet experiment" remained viable, that Stalin's crimes were an aberration, not a product of it, and, maybe (in a hushed voice), worth it all in the end. Such crimes were even, arguably, "necessary," which harkens back to "Terror and Excitement" Ohr. Similar themes were being hammered by the "New Left," whose "political agenda," Fitzpatrick also points out, "undoubtedly influenced many American revisionists."

That's interesting, too. In his New Left polemicist days, David Horowitz was an early progenitor of "revisionist historiography," as Walter Laqueur also notes,²⁴ starting with Horowitz's blame-America-first Cold War history, *The Free World Colossus*. In his post-communist memoir, *Radical Son*, Horowitz calls his 1965 book "the first account of the Cold War written from a New Left perspective." He reveals that he revised the manuscript under the "guidance" of an unnamed editor, who, Horowitz tells the reader, "probably was part of the Party network."²⁵ That would be the Communist Party network, of course. Here we see the essential myth that there is total cleavage between "Old" and "New" Lefts explode into tiny bits. (In subsequent editions of *Radical Son*, this editor who "probably was part of the Party network" is recast as coming from the "progressive community.")

By the 1970s, the Horowitz book was regarded as "a standard in the growing body of Cold War revisionism," as historian Robert James Maddox writes in *The New Left and the Origins of the Cold War*, a slashing 1973 critique.²⁶ The formula becomes: "New Left" writer + "guidance" of "Old Left"/Communist "Party network" editor = Marxist revisionist standard.

There's still more red thread to unspool. Horowitz notes that he "relied heavily" on two books in the writing his own.²⁷ (Maddox identifies a third, Howard K. Smith's 1949 book, *The State of Europe*, from which he claims

²³ Among these revisionists is Tucker Carlson's frequent guest, Russia historian and Nation contributing editor, Stephen F. Cohen.

Horowitz copied passages without attribution.^{28*}) The first was *The Cold War and Its Origins* by D.F. Fleming, whom Horowitz describes as "a longtime Soviet sympathizer"; Horowitz also thanked Fleming in the 1965 book (along with British Marxist Ralph Miliband) for help "with the manuscript."²⁹ The second book Horowitz "relied heavily" on was a similar tract, *We Can Be Friends*, by Carl Marzani. Both books, and Horowitz's book, too, condemn Truman and excuse Stalin for "the origins" of the Cold War.

In his memoir, Horowitz describes Marzani as "a Communist," which is correct; but there is so much more. What Horowitz fails to inform readers is that Marzani was convicted in 1947 of charges related to lying about his Communist Party membership to the federal government, which Marzani, just like John Scott (Ohr's "observer"), had infiltrated via OSS during World War II and, later, via the State Department. As in Scott's case, KGB archives later revealed that Marzani was not only a Communist; he was a Soviet agent (KGB code name Nord) "extensively used by the KGB for active measures," according to Christopher Andrew and Vasili Mitrokhin.³⁰

This is a key connection — and crucial red thread — to understand. The Marzani Cold War tract, on which Horowitz relied to help create this standard "revisionist" work for campus Marxists and New Leftists in the 1970s, turns out to have been the work of a Soviet agent. To complete the picture, imagine Horowitz at work in the 1960s on *The Free World Colossus*, Marzani's 1952 tract by his side, "probably" a Party networker "guiding" his revisions (a Soviet sympathizer and British Marxist also helping), while the KGB itself was simultaneously funding Marzani's own New York publishing venture. The "revisionism" that soon hit American college campuses, then, was just another KGB influence operation.

That makes Nellie Ohr just another useful fool. At least.

5. BACK IN THE USSR

People forget what was required of foreigners wishing to travel and work inside the USSR, and what accommodations (polite word) to the Soviet police state such travel and work entailed. A declassified CIA report on Soviet travel restrictions, circa July 1988, sets the stark scene: "The Soviet government tightly controls the movement of all foreigners in the USSR in order to prevent access to areas Moscow believes would be detrimental to its interests." Recent changes announced under Gorbachev, the report continues, amount to little more than "slightly liberaliz[ed] Soviet administrative procedures."³¹

* Maddox wrote, "Except for expunging those of Smith's words which were critical of the Soviet Union, Horowitz produced [such] passages almost verbatim from *The State of Europe*."

Foreigners still had to "submit detailed itineraries for all travel outside the Moscow and Leningrad areas," and the rest of it — although presumably they did it with that "glasnost" glow.

Specifically, these itineraries must include the date and time of departure, mode of transportation (including flight or train number), exact route, location and duration of any stopovers, and final destination (including name of hotel, date, and time of arrival). Itineraries must be submitted by diplomatic personnel to the Protocol Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by defense attaches to the External Relations Directorate of the Ministry of Defense. ...³²

Et cetera.

State control over government archives -- who could enter them, what they could see inside — was total, or, rather, totalitarian, as Baron and Frierson make clear in their book. The number of Americans engaged in such research each year, they report, was always small -- under 40 per year at the height of "detente" in the mid-1970s, peaking at 50 in 1991-1992. In 1989, when Cathy bumped into Nellie at the Lenin Library, they were only among a few dozen Americans who had sought and received approval from what the authors call "the Soviet research establishment."

Such approval conferred "official status" on foreign researchers but it came with many strings. Baron and Frierson write:

The need for official status within the USSR also shaped our topics and methodologies. Both had to be approved by the Soviet research establishment.³³

In truth, that's all anyone needs to know to understand the perversion of the American mind that resulted from the search for Soviet-approved "knowledge."

Then again, what sort of American mind would agree to comply with such controls in the first place?

Consider that even as these shiny young American scholars were shaping their "topics and methodologies" for the Soviet censor during, say, the "detente"-1970s, veteran dissident Vladimir Bukovsky was undergoing a peculiarly Soviet form of torture known as "psychiatric repression," which punished Russia's un-censorable minds and never-captive souls, and removed them from Soviet society. By 1971, Bukovsky was able to help bring this form of human rights abuse to international attention. Two years later, in 1973, *The Gulag Archipelago* was published in the West; its author, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, was deported in 1974; Bukovsky himself was freed, "exchanged" for a Chilean communist, in 1976. In 1978, he published *To Build a Castle*, his memoir of a young life spent largely inside labor camps and psychiatric hospitals for the "crime" of being

constitutionally incapable of "shaping topics and methodologies" (or anything else) for the regime.

Indeed, it was this defiance of state coercion that was the basis of the Soviet government's diagnosis of mental illness in Bukovsky and others in the first place.

By comparison, then, our own American scholars were so much healthier! They came, they shaped, they saw exactly what the Soviet government wanted them to see, tying a red ribbon around the "original research" that they would then parlay into respected teaching positions in American colleges and universities. (Vassar would hire newly minted Ph.D. Nellie Hauke Ohr to teach Russian history, as noted above.)

Funny, but when I look through *Adventures in Russian Historical Research*, there is scant mention of the "adventures" of Russian dissidents, no mention of Bukovsky, and two fleeting references to Solzhenitsyn. Here's one: *"It is interesting from the perspective of the professional generations to recall who was in Moscow in 1973-1974, the year of the Yom Kippur War and Solzhenitsyn's expulsion from the Soviet Union. In the same wing of Moscow State University were Kenneth ... Lewis ... Diane ..."*³⁴

Our American scholars sure had their priorities straight.

A few more gory details from Baron and Frierson's introductory overview:

We may have designed our topics [in America] but our U.S. advisors and colleagues reminded us that Soviet arbiters would ultimately decide whether or not we could do the research we envisioned. In the euphemistic language of annual reports, IREX [the U.S. research board] noted "the tendency for our Soviet colleagues to react with a certain sensitivity to disciplines or research topics proposed by American candidates which may appear to them to be unorthodox," with rejection most likely to meet "those wishing to study post-revolutionary or contemporary topics."³⁵

So don't study them. Instead, focus oh-so-minutely-you-will-never-see-anything on something else. Say, how about something like — *Feminist thought of post-revolutionary weavers along the Trans-Siberian Railway?* Or — *Social interplay among postal workers in contemporary Novosibirsk?* It would seem that the movement to replace history with "social history," a mainstay of revisionism, has its own roots in this very same "shaping" of "topics and methodologies" for "the Soviet research establishment." How ridiculously easy it was for Moscow to use archive-control as a mechanism of thought-control and reach right into American academia.

The editors say as much:

Several contributors to this volume allude to ways this reality influenced fundamental issues in their development as historians who had to adjust their research questions to the limitations of the Soviet historical establishment [read: KGB].
...³⁶

Had to?

[Archival] requests had to relate to the topic as each scholar had defined it on his or her application to IREX. Archivists could and regularly did refuse requests on the grounds that they did not match the approved topic.

We mustn't have that, must we?

The authors even come quite close to seeing what was really going on:

This system had the potential to limit inquiry to be acceptable topics and interpretations sanctioned by the Soviet establishment.³⁷

No, this system had the *power* to place American scholars under Kremlin discipline. That goes for Nellie Hauke Ohr, circa 1989, if we think about it, but who thinks about it? Ponder the facts too long and it becomes hard to see these advanced degrees that American researchers would earn — having shaped their “topics and methodologies” to satisfy the Kremlin establishment — as anything but *Soviet* degrees.

I should mention that there is a joker in this deck. Even *post*-1991, even *after* the Soviet Union “disappeared,” little, if anything, changed when it came to preserving the most vital Soviet secrets — the intelligence archives, the Central Committee archives and other repositories of communist crimes against the world, including humanity. From earliest days, the “new” Russian government served to protect the “old” Soviet government. Which suggests there is more than a thread of continuity between the two.

This reminds me of something Bukovsky wrote. As a former prisoner of the KGB and human rights hero, Bukovsky did more than any single person I have heard of to try, in vain, to pry open the Soviet archives for the Russian people (1991-1993). Writing about this period in his book *Judgment in Moscow*, he points out something that merits deeper reflection: “When you make a serious break with the past, there is no need to conceal that past.”³⁸

6. NELLIE'S PROTÉGÉ?

Given Nellie Ohr's remarkable background, it is simply astonishing that Glenn Simpson, in both his Senate and House interviews, plumb forgot all about his top Russian-speaking expert on the anti-Trump Fusion GPS project.

Not that anyone believes that.

Horse-barn-door style, Simpson filed the following statement in federal court on December 12, 2017, confirming what had already come out about Nellie:

The bank records reflect that Fusion contracted with Nellie Ohr, a former government official expert in Russian matters, to help our company with its research and analysis of Mr. Trump.³⁹

"A former government official"? Where in the government was Nellie a former official? The CIA? This is yet another unanswered question.

There is another Fusion GPS contractor on "Russian things," someone Simpson *did* testify about. "We have a long-standing relationship" with this person, Simpson said. His name is Edward Baumgartner, and Simpson named him in both his Senate and House interviews.

Simpson said this about Baumgartner in the House interview:

Q Okay. Were there individuals besides yourself who either worked for Fusion or on behalf of Fusion worked on both the Prevezon project and the research for Perkins Coie?

A I mean there is one in particular who did some work on both cases as a subcontractor. I actually think within my staff there is not much overlap. We have a long-standing relationship with a subcontractor named Ed Baumgartner who has a degree in Russian from Vassar, I think. And I don't know if you would call him a linguist, he is not a translator, but he works for us on Russian things

UNCLASSIFIED, COMMITTEE SENSITIVE

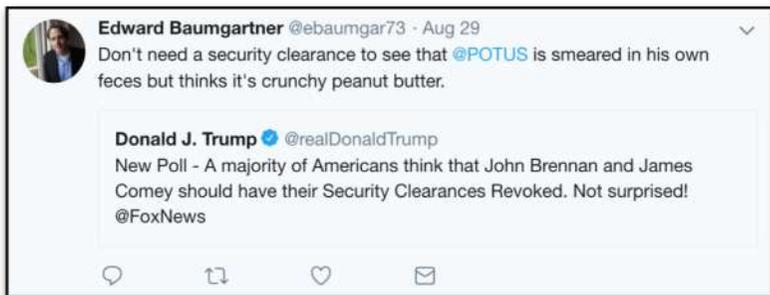
Not a linguist, not a translator, but he works for Fusion GPS on "Russian things." According to Simpson, Baumgartner was engaged in both "the Prevezon project" (discussed below) and anti-Trump dossier research — Russian Thing 1 and Russian Thing 2.

As for his having attended Vassar, could it be that Edward Baumgartner was a student of Fusion's Nellie Ohr?

Baumgartner was a student at Vassar between 1991 and 1995, which overlaps Ohr's stint in Poughkeepsie.⁴⁰ In fact, it was in the fall of 1995 when Ohr published the "terror and excitement" review, analyzed above.

Vassar is a very small school. Maybe it was Edward Baumgartner who proved to be Professor Ohr's exception to the "frustrating" rule.

What else do we know of Baumgartner? Here are samples of his vile Twitter activity:



The degradation of a mind devoured by rage.

Here's a tweet for the Red-Green (Marxism-Islam) Axis:



It has long been the case that communists routinely smear conservatives and anyone else who stands up for country and the rule of law as “Nazis” and “fascists.” Baumgartner’s reference to “a shaved head” recalls the violent aftermath of World War II in France, when, in the course of extra-judicial trials of accused Nazi collaborators, French Communists were also able to dispose of many French anti-Communists by accusing them of Nazi collaboration.

Speaking of Nazis:

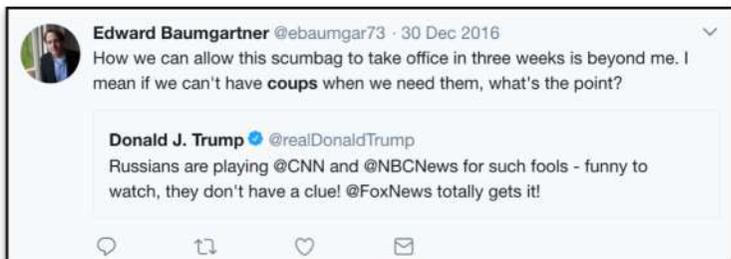


Notably for a Russia expert, Baumgartner is also quick to call for "purging" Republicans.

* On Twitter, red crosses symbolize a form of tweet-suppression known as shadow-banning.



Also eye-catching are his calls for “coups.”



How we can allow ...?

It is intense scorn for democratic elections — one man, one vote — that binds the anti-Trump conspirators together, to each other and to the broader so-called “Resistance,” which is anti-democratic by definition. Consider the “senior administration official” who admitted in an anonymous op-ed in the New York Times to subverting the Trump presidency from within. He or she described a covert cabal inside the Trump administration “choosing to put country first,” but the subversive implications were clear: This secret, anti-democratic cabal (“quiet resistance”) was resorting to sabotage (“choosing to put country first”) because it *did not accept the results of the 2016 Election*, which so decisively rejected its agenda. He or she was describing an insurrection from within. A coup.⁴¹

Here’s one final comment from Baumgartner of some tantalizing interest:



Since not even CNN has hypersonic missiles or neutron bombs, we might set Prager’s hyperbole aside. Baumgartner’s response, however, may do more than simply confirm his place on the Left.

Baumgartner writes that Russia is “wonderfully so far from” being a “white supremacist & Christian homeland” — “white supremacist and Christian homeland” being his definition of Western civilization. It almost seems Baumgartner is irritated by Prager’s supposed ignorance of the Russia that he, Baumgartner, knows well — a country that is “wonderfully so far from” anything Western and Christian, and which is thus also *dangerous* to anything Western and Christian.

This may be taking a tweet too far. If, however, through Baumgartner’s red-tinted glasses, Russia is “wonderfully so far from” being a “Christian homeland” (and I would have to agree), is Baumgartner harkening back to Russia’s past as godless and ... you know what?

Some threads are just too short.

7. IF THE SOVIET UNION VANISHED, WHO IS RUNNING THE KGB?

Marxism is a common driver of revolutions and coups, successful and failed, over the past 170 years (and before that it was called something else). Throughout the 20th century, Moscow was the main instigator and enabler of these same aggressions, and especially so within the United States. Many people still recognize this as the “boring from within” cancer of international communism and socialism, even as they assume it all vanished when the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. Enter Donald Trump, a quarter century later, single-handedly reviving the greatest weapon never deployed against international communism and its globalist descendants: America First.

Whether anyone recognizes it (including Trump himself), Donald Trump is America’s most anti-Communist president ever, bar none. Not even Ronald Reagan’s anti-communism exceeds Trump’s, tempered as it was by Reagan’s “internationalism” and commitment to “free trade,” both of which are positions that have been easily subverted by communism to undermine the national interests of the USA.

The restoration of the nation-state was the organizing basis of Trump’s successful presidential candidacy. The profundity of this “America First” principle cannot be overestimated: A strong nation-state is a bulwark against international socialism and its “One World” framework, which for generations has been pressed upon Americans in different guises, up to and including “globalism.”

Yes, the experts tell us the Soviet Union “vanished” in 1991 along with all of its aggressive strategies to destroy the United States and control the world. How marvelous it was, then, that Russia stopped running all of its Soviet-era intelligence armies and terror networks against us — except, of course, for Aldrich Ames, who was arrested in 1994, three years after the “end” of the USSR and the “end” of the KGB.

Then there was Soviet-Russian spymaster Sergei Tretyakov, orchestrating old-time subversion against us until his defection in 2000.

Oh, and don’t forget Robert Hanssen, still dead-dropping away for the Kremlin until his shock-arrest in 2001.

And what about FSB* defector Alexander Litvinenko, assassinated by Putin in London in 2006? Litvinenko claimed in 2005 that Russian intelligence trained Ayman al-Zawaheri in 1998, back before Zawaheri penetrated and eventually became the head of Al Qaeda.

* After 1991, the KGB rebranded itself as the FSB (domestic intelligence service) and the SVR (foreign intelligence service).

And what about that Illegals Network, the SVR-trained penetration agents arrested by Robert Mueller's FBI and deported by the Obama administration in 2010, ASAP, so as not to short-circuit the Obama-Clinton-Medvedev "reset"?

One of the agents the West received in exchange for the ten "illegals" returned to Mother Russia was Sergei Skripal, a former GRU agent who was serving a sentence in Russia for spying on behalf of the United Kingdom — during the MI6 career of Christopher Steele, as a matter of fact. In March 2018, Skripal and his daughter Yulia would be notoriously poisoned in Salisbury, England. Why? One theory has it that Skripal, continuing his association with Christopher Steele and his colleagues at Orbis, while serving as a regular contact of GRU agents attached to the Russian embassy in London, was the "Russian intelligence source" in the Steele dossier — and was prepared to confess to having fabricated the material therein.[†]

If our communist enemy headquartered in Moscow didn't really go away, what did disappear was our ability to perceive it. That was no accident.

"Our major secret weapon is to deprive you of an enemy," Georgi Arbatov stated boldly in 1988 at a conference at UC Irvine of Soviet and Americans scientists.[‡]

According to the LA Times report, Arbatov, a top Kremlin adviser and American expert, went on:

"It's historical, it's human, you have to have an enemy," he said. "So much was built out of this role of the enemy. Your foreign policy, quite a bit of your economy, even your feelings about your country. To have a really good empire, you have to have a really evil empire."⁴²

Thirty years later, we don't register the difference.

Maybe the act of looking for red threads will help.

8. CHRISTOPHER STEELE, 'CONFIRMED SOCIALIST'

Sometimes red threads run in plain sight. Take Christopher Steele.

In January 2017, Christopher Steele was introduced to the public as a former British MI6 officer and "author" of the Fusion GPS Trump-Russia "dossier." (We, the People, including Congress, would not learn until October 2017 that the dossier was bought and paid for by Hillary Clinton

^{*} The GRU is Soviet and Russian military intelligence. It did not disband or reorganize after 1991.

[†] Gregory R. Copley's theory is explained here: <https://spectator.org/big-dots-do-they-connect/>

[‡] Thanks to Jeff Nyquist for alerting me to this incident. Jean Davidson, "UCI Scientists Told Moscow's Aim Is to Deprive U.S. of Foe," Los Angeles Times, December 12, 1988.

and the DNC.) On one level, Steele's authorship becomes a laughable proposition after reading Joel Gilbert and Jack Cashill's analysis of the dossier, which points out, in great detail, that much of the manuscript reads "as though written by an individual not fully fluent in English, British or American."⁴³ Maybe it really was written by the poisoned former GRU agent Skripal.⁴⁴ Then again, maybe the Russian-language-fluent GPS Fusion team of Ohr, Baumgartner and Steele used their Russian linguistic skills to make the dossier *sound* Russian. ...

In any case, Steele remains the public face of the "Steele dossier." Given that Steele is a retired intelligence officer, there is not much else that is public about that face, or any other aspect of his being. The Daily Mail, however, offered telling recollections from Steele's college days at Cambridge, where, during his senior year in 1986, he served as president of the storied Cambridge Union debating society:

Contemporaries recall an 'avowedly Left-wing student with CND credentials', while a book on the Union's history says he was a 'confirmed socialist'.⁴⁵

No need to parse a thesis to ascertain where the "avowedly Left-wing" and "confirmed socialist" Steele began on the political spectrum. Bonus: "CND" stands for Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Marxist-infiltrated organization deemed subversive by MI5 for its links and efforts to disarm Britain, force U.S. cruise missiles off British bases, and decouple Europe generally from the U.S.-led NATO alliance.

Nevertheless, media continue to describe Steele generically as that "former MI6 officer" without any reference to his extreme politics in his 20s. The New Yorker went so far as to frame Steele the collegian as a "middle-of-the-road Labour Party supporter"⁴⁶ — the "middle-of-the-road" part cracking up on the magazine's subsequent revelation that Steele is "said to be the first president of the Cambridge Union to invite a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization to speak" at a time when the United States and Israel regarded the PLO as a terrorist organization. According to a 1986 news item, the motion to be debated was: "The State of Israel should be partitioned between Arab and Jew." On rejecting Steele's invitation to appear alongside a PLO official, Israeli Knesset member Geula Cohen wrote: "The sole dialogue to which I would be a partner with an official representative of the PLO, an organization I consider neo-Nazi in character in that it slaughters Jews merely for being Jews, would be one in which he stood in the dock of an Israeli courtroom. ..."⁴⁷

Finally, to take Labour's political temperature in the era, British conservative columnist Peter Hitchens, a self-described ex-Trotskyist, left the Labour Party in 1983 because, he writes, his "support for Britain's nuclear weapons and my condemnations of IRA terrorism had got me into a great deal of trouble."⁴⁸

Did Steele remain so far Left as to be at home in a Labour Party that rejected British nukes and condoned IRA and PLO terrorism? There are significant clues indicating that he did, not the least of which was the desperation, noted by Bruce Ohr to the FBI, with which Steele regarded a potential Trump victory: "Steele admitted to Ohr his feelings against then-candidate Trump when Steele said he was desperate that Donald Trump not get elected and was passionate about him not being president."⁴⁹

Why would that be? That is, why would any British citizen care so much? Yes, the Clintons and the DNC were paying him a lot of money, but that doesn't account for his "desperation" to stop Trump. His career highlights — in Moscow for MI6 (1990-1993), Russia desk chief in 2006, retirement and co-founding of his private intelligence firm, Orbis, in 2009 — tell us little.

If we return to the reported biographical fact that Steele was a proponent of the 1980s nuclear freeze movement, a movement subscribed to by CND Marxists and deeply influenced by Brezhnev-Andropov-era Moscow (where Steele would soon go to work), it is worth considering the possible effect on Steele of Candidate Trump's hawkish plan to modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal. As Trump said on April 27, 2016, echoing anti-Communists and Cold Warriors of past eras: "Our nuclear weapons arsenal, our ultimate deterrent, has been allowed to atrophy and is desperately in need of modernization and renewal. And it has to happen immediately. ... Our military dominance must be unquestioned, and I mean unquestioned, by anybody and everybody."⁵⁰

The contrast was stark between Trump and Hillary Clinton, who vowed to kill an important upgrade to the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal. "The last thing we need," she declared at a private fund-raiser in February 2016, "are sophisticated cruise missiles that are nuclear-armed."⁵⁰

Cambridge debating society aside: Take a moment and imagine the view from the Kremlin. If you are Vladimir Putin, would you really seek to stop Hillary "Last Thing We Need" Clinton from entering the Oval Office to continue the U.S. military decline accelerated by Barack Obama? Would

⁴⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/28/us/politics/transcript-trump-foreign-policy.html>
Trump's discussion of military preparedness included the following: "Secondly, we have to rebuild our military and our economy. The Russians and Chinese have rapidly expanded their military capability, but look at what's happened to us. Our nuclear weapons arsenal, our ultimate deterrent, has been allowed to atrophy and is desperately in need of modernization and renewal. And it has to happen immediately. Our active duty armed forces have shrunk from 2 million in 1991 to about 1.3 million today. The Navy has shrunk from over 500 ships to 272 ships during this same period of time. The Air Force is about one-third smaller than 1991. Pilots flying B-52s in combat missions today. These planes are older than virtually everybody in this room. And what are we doing about this? President Obama has proposed a 2017 defense budget that in real dollars, cuts nearly 25 percent from what we were spending in 2011. Our military is depleted and we're asking our generals and military leaders to worry about global warming. We will spend what we need to rebuild our military. It is the cheapest, single investment we can make. We will develop, build and purchase the best equipment known to mankind. Our military dominance must be unquestioned, and I mean unquestioned, by anybody and everybody."

you really determine it best for Russia's pre-eminence as a nuclear power to "collude" (whatever that means) to help elect Donald "Modernize U.S. Nukes" Trump instead?

As FBI Director, James Comey testified that Putin threw his support (whatever that means) to Trump because Putin "hated" Hillary.⁵¹ Comey's logic, however, seems no better than his veracity. There just wasn't much for Putin to hate about Hillary — not with all the big-ticket-goodies she and President Obama sent Moscow's way. These included an "aggressive push" with Democrats in Congress "to grant permanent, normal trade status" to Russia," which paved the way for Russia's long-sought entry into the World Trade Organization⁵²; administration approval of the sale of 20 percent of U.S. uranium stocks to Russia's state nuclear agency; and a massive, reckless and corrupt high-tech-transfer program to Russia known as Skolkovo.⁵³ Yes, Clinton called for transparency, human rights, free speech and the rhetorical like while at the podium, but what American leader has not?

Might this anti-Trump narrative — Putin "hates" Hillary — be so much fog and static? There is that familiar ring of *dezinformatsiya* about it: *Putin hates Hillary and Andropov loves jazz and we're all going to die in "nuclear winter" — I mean, "global warming" ...*

What if Donald Trump's call to nuclear arms activated not only Christopher Steele but also the Kremlin in the shared cause of *stopping* Donald Trump? If that is what happened, we are looking at a 21st-century update in the so-called Cold War by Team Communism to kneecap Team Anti-communism before it could retake the field.

Unless Steele underwent an unheralded political transformation since his twenties, we see another ideologically driven conspirator inside the anti-Trump, anti-American web. Yes, *anti-American*. It's an old British tradition for the Queen's intelligence agencies to hire from the hard Left — presumably, having had such luck with other "confirmed socialists" from Cambridge — Kim Philby, Anthony Blunt, McLean, Burgess, Cairncross and others less notorious. Meanwhile, "CND credentials," "confirmed socialism" and, today, a consuming hatred for Donald Trump, are just the ticket with the elites who run those vast and opaque organizations that rule over "free" peoples, from MI6 and the CIA, to the EU and the UN. *It's who they are*. Consider that in 1999 a treasurer of the Marxist CND in the 1980s, Cathy Ashton, was "created" a baroness by "New Labour" Prime Minister Tony Blair, himself an admitted Trotskyist in the 1970s.⁵⁴ In 2009, the CND baroness was appointed Foreign Secretary of the European Union (2009-2014). Ashton would be endowed with non-democratic powers by the unelected European Commission, seven out of whose twenty-seven members had political roots in communist parties of Europe.⁵⁵

Christopher Steele is reported to be intensely political — besides possessing the requisite maneuverability required to rise inside

organizations such as the Cambridge Union and then MI6. One college friend says Steele was "pretty amiable," but recalls, "he did try to stitch me up in a student political battle 30 years ago. Student politics could be vicious at that time."⁵⁶ Another anecdote has Steele calling another student a "racist" for visiting the South African Embassy during the era of apartheid.⁵⁷ As recently as 2009, following the death of his first wife, the Daily Mail recapped Steele's eulogy in political terms only: Steele "described his late wife as 'a liberal in every sense of the word and always on the progressive side of the argument.'" ⁵⁸

Barring new evidence, that's exactly where we can expect to find Steele today. This is why it becomes so interesting to learn from Eric Felten of the Weekly Standard that the *100-plus reports on Russia and Ukraine* Steele bestowed upon the U.S. State Department *gratis* in recent years (client unknown) had what Felten characterizes as "a Putinesque spin." A senior State Department official told Felten: "We were not aware of [Steele's] specific sources but assumed that many of them were close to Putin and were peddling information that was useful to the Kremlin." Felten writes: "The official says the Putinesque spin of the memos led them to take Steele's analysis with more than a grain of salt: "There was a huge discount factor for that reason."⁵⁹

Surely, then, there should have been "a huge discount factor" with the Steele dossier. As a giant monkey wrench inside Trump's MAGA agenda, bought and paid for by Hillary Clinton and the DNC, it is also "useful to the Kremlin."

How frightening it is that the preponderance of our Intelligence Community insist otherwise.

9. LANGUAGE LIKE A RED FLAG

As an academic, Nellie H. Ohr does not write like Christopher Steele talks; nor does she use language like a red flag, as did, say, the notorious 20th-century writer Lillian Hellman, whose name became synonymous with "Stalinism" due to a fealty that allowed her to deny or overlook or accept all of the crimes of collectivization, famine, purges, alliance with Hitler and the rest. Nonetheless, Hellman's apologetics dovetail with the revisionist school of "social historians" that Ohr follows.

Evident in this revisionist movement, which, as noted above, coalesced in the 1970s around Marxists and New Leftists, with ideological input from Communist and KGB affiliates, there is the Hellman-like urge to downplay, rationalize, dismiss, and, perhaps, worst of all, *understand* the carnage, pain, misery, dislocation, and waste propagated by communism, even while bemoaning it. Remember when Nellie Ohr writes of the "excitement" and "paradoxes" of the communist terror-state," such as "building a legal structure" while "[executing] innocents." Love is truly blind.

Ohr develops this agenda in her Ph.D. thesis. She draws inspiration from "revisionist" mentors — J. Arch Getty, Roberta Manning, Gabor Rittersporn, Sheila Fitzpatrick. She sets forth the "revisionist" (read: Marxist, New Leftist, Communist and KGB) themes, which, as Ohr claims in her introductory pages, her thesis will "corroborate." These include (1) attacking the "totalitarian model" (2) minimizing Stalin's guilt (3) dekulakization and purges as practically populist movements, and (4) purges as a response to "center-periphery conflict," if not also a part of "state-building."

From Nellie Ohr's Ph.D. thesis, p. 9:

Recently, Western historians have been using materials from the Smolensk Archive to back up their arguments that power flowed not only from the top down but also from the bottom up to some degree; that excesses sometimes represented desperate measures taken by a government that had little real control over the country; that policies such as dekulakization and the purges of the later 1930s had some social constituency among aggrieved groups of poorer peasants; and that the purges represented to some degree a center-periphery conflict in which the "state-building" central government tried to bring headstrong local satraps under control.⁶⁰

The mind that dispenses with murdered millions as "excesses" or "desperate measures" is not unfamiliar to us. We've seen it before, in the context of rationalizing purges, massacres, concentration camps, Gulags, gas chambers, labor camps, summary executions and killing fields.

It's a red thread that runs long and deep.⁶⁰

How can we overlook it running through the anti-Trump coup?

10. TRUMP-RUSSIA AND THE FOURTH ESTATE

At 8:01 pm on July 4, 2016, approximately one hour before the Independence Day fireworks began on the National Mall, a different kind of pyrotechnics began when a piece called "Putin's Puppet" by Franklin Foer went up at Slate. Within days, the media was shooting off all kinds of anti-Trump-Russia stories. From the start, there was something particularly vexing about this "Russian threat within" propaganda

campaign against the GOP's unofficial presidential nominee, his "America First" MAGA agenda, and, later, his supporters.

It wasn't just the lack of evidence. The relative position of the combatants was all wrong. The same media, the same Left, which have ever since cried "Russian influence" in the election of Donald Trump, spent the previous century denying such influence existed — specifically denying the Russian/Communist threat within — and, further, destroying those who sought to expose and remove it.

Not only did the media take up Foer's salvo, "Putin's Puppet," they launched a series of escalating attack-headlines: "The Siberian Candidate" (Paul Krugman). "Is Trump Obsessed with Putin?" (Andrew Rosenthal), "Is Trump a Russian Stooge?" (Iulia Ioffe). Pundit interviewed pundit to hash over "whether he truly is a modern-day Manchurian candidate" (Jacob Weisberg and Anne Applebaum). Applebaum would soon share her Eureka moment: "The secret to Trump: He's really a Russian oligarch."

For a quick sanity check, it's worth comparing the media's Russkie fusillade at Trump in the summer of 2016 with their silence for eight, long Obama years, when America was, in fact, led by a president mentored all of his life by agents of "Russian influence." The short version opens with young Barack growing up close to Frank Marshall Davis, a card-carrying-member of the Communist Party who was on an FBI arrest list in case of war with the USSR. Obama himself recalls attending "socialist conferences" in the 1980s at Cooper Union in New York City.⁶¹ Later, Obama was the political protégé of a lifelong pro-Moscow and pro-communist operative named Alice Palmer, who launched Obama's political career inside the home of SDS and Weather Underground terrorists Bill Ayers and Bernadine Dohrn,⁶¹ who spent the 1960s and 1970s "in treasonous cooperation with revolutionary Communist governments in China, North Vietnam, and Cuba."⁶² Obama's key political aides on the road to the White House were Valerie Jarrett and David Axelrod, both descended from and mentored by Communist and/or Soviet operatives who were also closely associated with Frank Marshall Davis in Chicago,⁶³ historically a hub of communist/Soviet activity in the USA.

Did anyone in the media tag Obama as a "Kremlin puppet"? The Siberian Candidate? Did they ask whether Obama was obsessed with Che Guevara, or whether he was a "communist agent"? Nope. The media dutifully disseminated campaign handouts promoting Barack Obama as America's "post-partisan candidate."

Not even the Obama administration's rush to "Russian reset," as executed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, gave the press pause. Most

⁶¹ Stanley Kurtz delves into these conferences and how they may have influenced Obama in *Radical-in-Chief: Barack Obama and the Untold Story of American Socialism* (New York: Simon & Schuster), 2010.

Favored Nation trade status for Putin? Canceled missile defense for Europe? Global Zero? None of President Obama's capitulations to the Kremlin prompted a single utterance of "Russian collusion." "I mean, we want very much to have a strong Russia," Hillary Clinton told longtime Kremlin mouthpiece Vladimir Posner on Russian television on March 19, 2010. I can't find one contemporaneous news story about this.

Then came the Obama administration's quick expulsion of the "Russian Illegals" in 2010.⁶⁴ One of these highly trained SVR penetration agents had gotten "too close" to "a sitting cabinet member" (Hillary Clinton). The same media that hammer "Russian influence" today (while genuflecting before the surveillance state) treated the shocking incident as if it were a summer movie blockbuster — a *Mission Impossible* sequel.⁶⁵ That same year, when the Obama administration approved the sale to Russia of Uranium One, the Canadian company that controlled 20 percent of U.S. uranium stocks, all we heard from the "watchdog" media was crickets. Ditto on the spectacle of former President Clinton accepting \$500,000 from a KGB-linked bank in Moscow, which even had a proprietary interest in the uranium company sale!

Then, in 2012, a hot mike picked up a hair-raising exchange between U.S. President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev about European missile defense. Obama explained to Medvedev that "it's important for [Putin] to give me space ... after my election I have more flexibility." Did CNN or the New York Times slam Obama as "Putin's stooge"? Hah. Meanwhile, we can forget all about the Obama-Clinton-coordinated transfer of Western technology to Russia via Skolkovo,⁶⁶ which, according to an Army study released in 2013, had, by 2011, "begun its first weapons-related project, the development of a hypersonic cruise missile engine."⁶⁷ The media did.

Instead, with political animus (but no evidence) to burn, it was *Trump-Russia* that burst into a fireball, intensifying after the election, sweating and scorching the White House, threatening the Trump presidency, along with any rational understanding of what Kremlin subversion really is and how it really works. Even as the outlines of the anti-Trump conspiracy began to emerge, even as the mystery-clients of the dossier were unmasked, the decibels and static against Team Trump rose also. The media were protecting the conspiracy.

⁶⁴ In his May 23, 2017 testimony, former DCIA/Gus-Hall-voter John Brennan refused to recognize a question from a member of Congress about the Obama-Medvedev conversation.

11. RED-GREEN BRENNAN

In the post-Labor-Day-stretch of the 2016 campaign, CIA Director John Brennan began to unravel his own red thread. It went back four decades to the Ford-Carter presidential contest in 1976, when, as a 21-year-old Fordham University political science major, John Brennan decided to vote for Communist Party USA boss Gus Hall: Lenin School graduate, U.S.-convicted revolutionary and, by 1976, a Soviet puppet for nearly five decades. Hall remained CPUSA chairman until shortly before his death, age 90, in 2000.

Americans remember 1976 for the American Bicentennial, the tall ships in Manhattan, the fireworks ... but do they also remember the mid-1970s for the U.S. defeat in Vietnam, the English-language publication of Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*, the acceptance in the Helsinki Accords of the Soviet Union's territorial seizures in Europe during World War II? When John Brennan pulled the Communist lever, Vietnamese "boat people" were taking to the seas to flee Communism in Southeast Asia even as dissidents such as Vladimir Bukovsky were suffering "psychiatric repression" in Soviet "hospitals." The doctrine of the USSR was full-on world revolution, as Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko officially explained in Communist-speak in 1975: "The Communist Party of the Soviet Union subordinates all its theoretical and practical activity in the sphere of foreign relations to the task of strengthening the positions of socialism, and the interests of further developing and deepening the world revolutionary process."⁶⁸ In 1976, Leonid I. Brezhnev made himself Generalissimo of the Soviet Union, a rank previously held only by Stalin, and told the 25th Soviet Communist Party Congress that "détente" did not "in the slightest abolish the laws of the class struggle."⁶⁹

The main enemy was the United States. Gus Hall helped explain why to Party members in 1975: America is "the arsenal for the military fascist dictatorships and the reactionary colonial rulers the world over ... the lair of the assassins, the home base of the hit men of imperialism ... the main source, the cesspool of corruption of the lifeline of the capitalist world. ..."⁷⁰

Hey, I'll vote for that, John Brennan said. Knowing this, four years later, the CIA hired him anyway.

Brennan was CIA director when he exploded this CP bombshell during a September 16, 2016, panel discussion of "diversity in the intelligence community."⁷¹ Given that the CIA was organized to help stop communist expansion abroad, what better defines "diversity" in its ranks than hiring a 1976 supporter of expanding communism in this country? Not much — except, perhaps, later elevating John Brennan to direct the flagship intelligence agency in an era of resurgent jihad. According to former FBI special agent and Islam subject-matter expert John Guandolo, and former CIA chief of station Brad Johnson, Brennan was the target of

a successful Saudi intelligence operation to convert him to Islam during Brennan's stint, circa 1996, as CIA station chief in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. As Guandolo has stated: "The facts of the matter are confirmed by U.S. government officials who were also in Saudi Arabia at the time that John Brennan was serving there and have direct knowledge. These are men who work in very trusted positions. They were direct witnesses to his growing relationship with the individuals who worked for the Saudi government and others and they witnessed his conversion to Islam."⁷²

Brennan, no surprise, has not exactly been grilled about these allegations. Regarding his support for the 1976 Communist Party ticket, however, why would he "out" himself? Maybe it was a mark of just how confident he was about the outcome of the 2016 election — and the results of the "active measures" he appears to have been engaging in against the Republican presidential challenger and his team. As far as Brennan was concerned, Donald Trump was going down, a victim of the "Russian collusion" disinformation that he helped disseminate. As president, Hillary Clinton would surely secure his continuing tenure as CIA director. Maybe his old Gus Hall story would encourage a new, super-progressive crop of recruits to sign up for the old Agency.

Brennan's Gus Hall story begins in 1980 when he was sitting for a polygraph test before entering the CIA.

The polygrapher asked Brennan the routine question about whether he had ever worked with or for a group dedicated to the overthrow of the United States.

Brennan:

"I froze, because I was getting so close to coming into CIA and said, 'OK, here's the choice, John. You can deny that, and the machine is probably going to go, you know, wacko, or I can acknowledge it and see what happens.'⁷³

He said he chose to be forthcoming about voting Communist in 1976.

"I said I was neither Democratic or Republican, but it was my way, as I was going to college, of signaling my unhappiness with the system, and the need for change."⁷⁴

This explanation seemed to satisfy news media types who are themselves perpetually signaling their own "unhappiness with the system" and "need for change." By his own telling, however, Brennan did not necessarily answer the question. He acknowledged voting Communist in one presidential election. That's it. The polygrapher failed to follow up to clarify whether Brennan, who was then around 25 years old, had any other associations with revolutionary groups. This tells us the CIA polygrapher was either asleep at the switch, or happy to help a "comrade" along.

The question remains: Why would a young John Brennan harbor within himself such deep “unhappiness with the system”? Are there clues in his upbringing? Standard Brennan bios begin with his birth in 1955 in New Jersey to Irish immigrants, and move quickly through his education (Fordham and University of Texas) to a fast-track intelligence career, which included briefing President Clinton and a close association with CIA Director George Tenet. His professional milestones are otherwise blanks.

Even when Brennan served in a more public role in the Obama administration, the MSM minimized or ignored his effusive apologies for Islam, which mark his tenure as Obama’s counterterrorism advisor, and dismissed as tinfoil-hattery reports of his conversion to Islam while CIA station chief in Saudi Arabia, noted above. As Brennan exited the CIA directorship in 2017, the media could hardly stop burbling about his LGBT “advocacy.” *Why, Director Brennan wore a rainbow lanyard in LGBT-solidarity all around Langley!*

Maybe that was one way to avoid awkward valedictories on Brennan’s record of CIA spying on the Senate Intelligence Committee (hello?), his “kill lists,” his “collateral damage” in drone wars, and an intelligence career that coincided with the mega-ton explosion in unconstitutional government eavesdropping on the American people.

There was also Brennan’s still-mysterious connection to that 2008 breach of State Department passport records belonging to the three top presidential contenders, Hillary Clinton, John McCain and, let’s see, who else? Oh, right: Barack Obama. This, too, never drew much media probing; however, one of the three contract employees called on the carpet (not much else) for “inappropriate” access of candidate passport records worked for The Analysis Corporation (TAC), a “private intelligence contractor” headed by John Brennan, then serving as an advisor to the Obama campaign.

It’s not only Brennan’s connection to this computer breach that remains unexplained. Were these hackers, as we were told, simply indulging their curiosity, or were they *changing anything* in the passport records? No answers are to be seen, literally, in the ensuing IG report, which is so heavily redacted, including 29 pages blacked-out without interruption,⁷⁵ the American people were denied their right to know the facts. It was this sort of government stonewalling that helped raise public concerns about the veracity of Barack Obama’s identity documents — that sliver of the public informed enough to be concerned, that is, despite the MSM’s derision of and refusal to cover the issue. Not even the execution-style murder of a cooperating government witness named Lieutenant

⁷⁵ See my collection of syndicated newspaper columns on the issue, “Remember When Barack Obama Wouldn’t Show I.D.?”

Quarles Harris Jr. made waves. Journalist Ken Timmerman would write at Newsmax:

Sources who tracked the investigation tell Newsmax that the main target of the breach was the Obama passport file, and that the contractor accessed the file in order to “cauterize” the records of potentially embarrassing information.

“They looked at the McCain and Clinton files as well to create confusion,” one knowledgeable source told Newsmax. “But this was basically an attempt to cauterize the Obama file.”⁷⁶

Campaign advisor Brennan would join the Obama White House as counter-terrorism advisor in 2009 before being appointed CIA director in 2013.

12. BRENNAN’S JOURNEY

If Brennan’s Communist Party vote was a sharp intrusion of anti-Americanism into his biography, it was also MSM-dismissible as so much “youthful signaling.” In June 2018, however, during a convivial conversation with the New York Times Magazine (over mussels and steak and Irish whiskey), Citizen Brennan lobbed another flashbang over his background, revealing more anti-Americanism than previously known. His father’s father, Brennan told the Times, was “a supporter, an affiliate, say,” of the Irish Republican Army.⁷⁷

Sure and begorrah, ago, but IRA “affiliate” does add a special spark to family lore. Like the CIA polygrapher, the Timesman failed to follow up and elicit further thoughts from Brennan about either his IRA grandfather or the terrorist organization itself; however, as with his admission of voting Communist, there is no evidence Brennan exerted himself to convey the sense of shame, embarrassment, or rupture with his family past that the New York Times would assuredly have expected had Brennan instead let slip that Grandpa was a homophobe.

Bearing Brennan’s 1976 Communist Party vote in mind, it’s relevant to note that by 1974, as Claire Sterling writes in her book *The Terror Network*, “the IRA was getting to be a focus for worldwide armed revolution second only to the Palestinians.”⁷⁸ The IRA and the PLO, meanwhile, would develop a “long, cozy relationship.”⁷⁹ It seems worth noting that Brennan’s early Arabist mentor in the CIA was Robert Ames, who, infamously, forged a secret backchannel to the PLO as early as 1977, when it was U.S. policy *not* to talk to terrorists.⁸⁰ Ames would be killed in a terrorist bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in 1983.

While the average American college student wasn’t up on reports of KGB contacts with IRA elements, or Soviet-supervised plans by Cuban

DGI to “train the IRA in terror and guerilla-warfare tactics,” as detailed by Sterling,⁸¹ the violent, revolutionary nature of the IRA was more widely known due to the terror group’s frequent and often spectacular bombing attacks on London, Dublin and Belfast. John Brennan, too, was not your average American college student. Even as Brennan was finishing college in New York City, he was already a globetrotter, having spent time in two Islamic countries that were also Cold War battlegrounds.

The summer after his freshman year, Brennan traveled to Indonesia. Fordham University places him at the United States Embassy in Jakarta, “researching the politics of oil”⁸²; other accounts describe a trip to visit Thomas Brennan, his cousin (and, according to the New York Times, his “mentor”) stationed in Indonesia with USAID. Brennan likes to emphasize the hippie-youth aspects of his travels: the back-packing, his long hair and earring; but Bob Keane, a classmate of Brennan’s from grammar school through Fordham, told NorthJersy.com that he “wondered if [Brennan] had even been recruited [by the CIA] that early.”⁸³

During his junior year at Fordham (1975-1976), Brennan spent four months studying at the American University in Cairo. Brennan later pursued a masters degree in Government with a concentration in Middle East Studies at the University of Texas.

One of his two thesis advisors, Carl Leiden (1922-2008), taught at the American University in Cairo (1959-1961) and was himself known to the CIA. A declassified, partly redacted document pops up in an online search of his name. It notes that in 1976, Leiden made a visit to the CIA “sponsored by the Office of Current Intelligence.” There, he met with “analysts,” and discussed Saudi Arabia, Iran and other matters. Did Leiden make other “sponsored” visits to Langley? Might Leiden have recommended Brennan for the CIA?⁸⁴ The CIA was on Brennan’s mind while in Texas in 1980. In a 2017 interview with David Axelrod, who trails a lengthy red thread of his own,⁸⁵ Brennan recalled hearing “former CIA officers” speaking at U.T., “and some of them were quite critical of the agency.”⁸⁶

One of Leiden’s books became a footnote in American revolutionary history. The book, co-written with Karl M. Schmitt, is titled *The Politics of Violence: Revolution in the Modern World*, and it includes four case studies in revolution (Mexico, Turkey, Egypt and Cuba). In a 1969 review, Howard M. Caplan observed in the periodical *Modern Age* that the book “should have a high interest for student ‘activists,’ for whether the authors intended it or not, it can serve as a handbook on how to disrupt campus life, if one is so inclined.” Caplan concluded: “The ‘new left’ of Berkeley and Columbia should find both comfort and instruction in Messrs. Leiden and Schmitt; all that is missing is the indoctrination in specific field tactics

⁸¹ DGI is the main intelligence agency of Cuba, founded in 1961 after Cuba’s Communist revolution.

and this has been largely supplied by such authorities as Guevara and Debray.”⁸⁷

Not your typical textbook. What turns Caplan’s comment into something more than unfulfilled prophesy, however, is that several years later, during the 1972 murder-kidnap-conspiracy trial of future Communist Party USA vice presidential candidate Angela Davis (she ran with Gus Hall in 1980 and 1984), testimony revealed that when Superior Court Judge Harold J. Haley and three others were slain at the courthouse by Davis’s associates in 1970, one of the killers smuggled a gun into the courtroom amid six books, two of which were inscribed “Angela Y. Davis.” One of the two books belonging to Davis was Leiden and Schmitt’s *The Politics of Violence*.⁸⁸

13. VIOLATING LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

By comparison, Brennan’s 1980 masters thesis written under Leiden’s guidance is on the dull side. Unearthed and uploaded by Charles C. Johnson of The Daily Caller in 2013,⁸⁹ the 100-plus page paper is a hodgepodge discourse revolving around “human rights,” both as an abstract concept and a measure of life in Egypt. It abounds in World-Book-style facts about Egypt and follows a blurry line of analysis. Still, there are glimmers of Brennanism to note. As Andrew Bostom has remarked,⁹⁰ the thesis includes an early iteration of the Islamic apologetics that one might expect of a future convert, and that later marked Brennan’s stint as Obama White House counterterrorism adviser three decades later. For example, Brennan was already twisting the Islamic definition of freedom, *hurriyya*, to claim that it is equivalent to the Western definition of freedom.’

Also eye-catching is to find Brennan, on the eve of entering the CIA as a Middle East analyst, writing as though Egypt were an island cut off from all Cold War tensions; as though “Arab socialist” Nasser did not have a client-relationship with Moscow; and as though his successor, Anwar Sadat, had not pulled back from this relationship and tacked toward Washington. A worm’s eye view, perhaps; but is it a Cold-War-era intelligence officer’s? Maybe that’s what they liked at Langley.

More to the “red thread” point is Brennan’s apparent preference for Nasser’s “Arab socialism” over Sadat’s “nascent form of Western capitalism.” This seems to show through in Brennan’s discussion of the state of “liberty” and “justice” in Egypt. In Brennan’s gloss, his ears still ringing perhaps with Gus Hall’s communist cant, socialism was good for “the Egyptian people,” while capitalism benefited “the wealthy” and “foreign investors.” It is that simple — and simplistic. While admitting the

* The differences are discussed further here: <http://dianawest.net/Home/tabid/36/EntryId/1672/-Freedom-vs-Freedom>.

economy under Sadat “cannot be described as worse than it was during the Nasser years,” Brennan maintains it *appears* that way due to — get this — rising affluence. Noting “Nasser’s austere economic policies” — in other words, his seizure of private assets and land, and other items from Marxism-Leninism’s playbook — Brennan writes that they:

lessened the great overt disparities between the wealthy and the poor, and therefore eliminated to a great degree the problem of rising expectations that arise from such disparities. But Sadat’s [unreadable] have caused these disparities to reappear and have brought charges of decadence and degeneration in Egyptian society.⁹¹

It’s a good bet Pravda would have agreed. Next, Brennan gets to the Marxist heart of the matter:

The ostentatious style of a small number of affluent Egyptians has increased political restiveness among the impoverished segments of society.⁹²

(The implications for a future American president whose “ostentatious style” has defined his life as a celebrity-billionaire seem clear.)

But forget about the Muslim Brotherhood and other violent Islamic factions (which would assassinate Sadat in 1981), and never mind the networks of Soviet subversion and Egyptian communism (which probably encouraged it), and pretend the poison of religious hatred isn’t warping Egyptian society (to this day). In Brennan’s analysis, Sadat’s turn away from Nasser’s socialism toward capitalism was creating a powder-keg of haves and have-nots. Presumably, socialist paradise was just around the corner if only the Egyptians could increase the number of have-nots by re-ramping up the government’s control of the economy.

That’s the way to “distributive justice,” which, like any good Marxist, communist, socialist, Alinskyite, progressive, or Niebuhrian college professor, John Brennan seems to prize over “procedural justice” (due process). “It can, in fact, be argued,” Brennan writes, “that the two are mutually incompatible and cannot be achieved simultaneously.”⁹³ He goes on to remark: “Nasser, through his socialist policies, sought only distributive justice,” and he did it for what Brennan refers to elsewhere in the paper as “the collective.”⁹⁴

When Nasser “restricted the liberties of the Egyptian people,” Brennan writes, “it was done for the purpose of economic equity. His brand of grass-roots socialism had to incorporate certain restrictions in order to be effective.”⁹⁵

Nellie Ohr, call your *kolkhoz*. What’s a few “restrictions” if the result is “grass-roots socialism”? Four years after pulling the lever for Gus Hall,

⁹¹ Brennan describes himself in his Twitter profile as: “Nonpartisan American who is very concerned about our collective future.”

it's quite clear CIA-recruit Brennan retains his faith that socialism is the answer to injustice and also political instability, as in Egypt.

This may be the stuff of academic tenure — and, as we are seeing, the anti-Trump conspiracy — but the CIA? Wasn't this intelligence agency supposed to be our secret weapon, collecting information that would give our president and lawmakers the knowledge to protect us from the clutches of the collectivists?

Apparently not. A few thesis-pages later, Brennan elaborates on the adverse impact of Sadat's turn to capitalism "in terms of distributive justice."

He writes:

During the Nasser years, there was a limit on land ownership and on the amount of private capital allowed. The larger tracts of land were broken up and distributed to less fortunate Egyptians. The result of these policies was a gradual bridging of previously blatant economic disparities. The average per capita income of the upper stratum was significantly lowered while the per capita income of the lower stratum was increased.⁹⁶

If this sounds like a blueprint for Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and the House Democrats, it also offers a rough idea of how John Brennan probably regards the luxury properties bought and developed by the Trump Organization. The larger point is, nearly forty years after completing his thesis, Brennan is still talking about the role the CIA or U.S. government more broadly might play in the Middle East to address "economic reforms, and the disparity in wealth that continues to exist out there."⁹⁷

His thesis continues:

Since the socialist policies of Nasser have been relaxed, there has been a shift in the distribution of wealth in Egypt. As expected the upper class has derived the most benefit from foreign investment, acting as local entrepreneurs who are able to invest and partake in business concerns.⁹⁸

No — not "local entrepreneurs"!

The lower classes ... feel exploited by both the foreign investor and the indigenous upper classes... This causes a perception of futility which results in civil unrest.⁹⁹

Let the tumbrils roll. Workers of the world, unite! All you have to lose is John Brennan's security clearance. Which is not to suggest that Brennan's belief in either Communist Party boss Gus Hall or Nasser's socialism should have barred him from an influential career in intelligence. It's just that it would have so much better served some nice Eastern Bloc country.

Alas, Americans had no such luck. For this reason, it is important to press on to the conclusion of Brennan's thesis to a line of thought that seems to imbue the anti-Trump conspiracy so many years later.

Leaving land expropriation and other Marxist-Leninist idylls behind, Brennan returns to his topic, human rights. First, he excuses Sadat for taking "authoritarian measures": Sadat's interference in the Egyptian judiciary, for example, to limit the activities of "radical groups ... who advocate the overthrow of the Egyptian government." In these "undemocratic methods," Brennan believes that Sadat is attempting to bring about "the ultimate preservation of democracy not its demise."¹⁰⁰

Brennan next decides it makes sense to bring in Brezhnev and the communist system.

He writes:

This explanation [of Sadat's crackdowns], of course, can provide a convenient excuse for any authoritarian leader in any country of the world. If the preservation of democracy is not given as justification, the preservation of another ideology is. Can human rights violations in the Soviet Union be as easily justified in terms of the preservation of the communist ideology? Unfortunately (taking a Western perspective), yes.

Trying to track Brennan's logic, it seems there is no difference between what he has described as Sadat's efforts to preserve democracy through undemocratic means and Soviet efforts to preserve communism — itself a system of undemocratic means — by using more undemocratic means. "Moral equivalence" is really too fancy a name for such ham-fisted analysis.

Unfortunately, that doesn't mean we can altogether dismiss it. That's because if, in the eyes of this powerful U.S. government official, rights may be violated to preserve any government or regime, they may also be violated to preserve the Deep State, too. Welcome to the anti-Trump conspiracy.

The following line from Brennan's 1980 thesis has an eerie resonance with everything we are learning about the conspiracy today. Brennan is discussing the deeply imperfect state of democracy in 1980s Egypt, noting it is still a "process," not a "state." It is no stretch to imagine any Gus-Hall-voter or socialist or Alinskyite or progressive or college professor today considering the state of democracy in America today to be deeply imperfect, too — still a "process," not a "state."

Brennan writes: "But if democracy is a process rather than a state, the democratic process may involve, at some point, the violation of personal liberties and procedural justice."¹⁰¹

This is the chilling apologia for the anti-Trump conspiracy. In order to keep the regime moving “forward,” the violation of personal liberties and procedural justice” is justified, whether it is an unpaid campaign adviser being violated (Carter Page) or the National Security Advisor (Gen. Mike Flynn); whether it entails launching a disinformation campaign (Trump-Russia), or reversing an election (the Mueller probe). The ends — their ends — justify any means.

Following the red thread, then, we may begin to see: The anti-Trump conspirators are not trying to save “democracy”; they are trying to save their revolution.

14. WHY IS JAMES COMEY LAUGHING?

In 2003, James Comey, at the time U.S. Attorney for New York’s Southern District, sat for what can only be described as an uproarious interview. According to New York Magazine’s Chris Smith, Comey was “laughing,” “howling” and “cackling.”¹⁰² The reporter was perplexed. “He is a deeply serious man,” Smith writes, “a law-and-order Republican appointee. ... But laughter is his natural state.”

Maybe Comey was giddy because he knew what was coming his way later that day: a phone call from Washington confirming that he would be nominated to become Deputy Attorney General, the No. 2 man, the Rod Rosenstein of the George W. Bush administration, under Attorney General John Ashcroft. *If people only knew how funny this really was. ...*

“On the surface,” Smith wrote, “it’s an odd pairing: Comey — who cites liberal theologian Reinhold Niebuhr as a formative influence, and who can sing along with Good Charlotte pop-punk hits — and Ashcroft, a reactionary born-again Christian who breaks into spirited renditions of biblical hymns.”

Fifteen years later, it’s still an odd pairing, and not just from the vantage point of the MSM, most of whom are so comfortable amid the pop punks and “liberal” formative influences that disciples of same get rhetorical questions such as this NY Mag subhead: “What’s a nice, non-partisan prosecutor going to do in a Justice Department like that?”¹⁰³ A “Justice Department like that,” of course, is one under a “reactionary” Attorney General, not only strongly suspected of fidelity to the Constitution through his association with the school of judicial reform known as originalism, but also reviled by the best people (“best” according to and including the MSM) for being, as the Washington Post’s Mike Allen put it, “one of the most vocal Christian conservatives in public life.”¹⁰⁴

This is not a rumination on media bias, however; it is an ongoing effort to remove the cloak of invisibility over “red threads” that were once as clear as day. It was not until the run-up to the 2018 midterms that Comey

emerged as a Democratic partisan.* Back in 2003, though, on the cusp of real power in Washington, Comey radiated political blandness. He was “nice” and “non-partisan” — so “nice” he could score a high-level appointment from a Republican administration, so “non-partisan” he could get favorable press coverage.

By his own telling, this was not always so. In this NY mag interview, perhaps his most candid ever, Comey explained his evolution, which began in his college days at William and Mary, from which he graduated in 1982.

“In college, I was left of center,” Comey said, “and through a gradual process I found myself more comfortable with a lot of the ideas and approaches the Republicans were using.”¹⁰⁵

According to the story, Comey voted for Jimmy Carter in 1980, his sophomore year in Williamsburg. Then, in 1984, as a law student at the University of Chicago, he said he voted for Ronald Reagan. If that sounds more like a road-scorching one-eighty, it’s nothing compared to what Comey described next.

“I voted for Reagan,” Comey said. “I’d moved from Communist to whatever I am now. I’m not even sure how to characterize myself politically. Maybe at some point, I’ll have to figure it out.”¹⁰⁶

I’d moved from Communist to ... If this were a Batman comic book, Robin would gasp: “Holy here we go again!” However, this is an intellectual history of a conspiracy. Thus, at the beginning of what would turn out to be the final decade of the USSR, the future Deputy Attorney General and FBI Director was a young Red at Thomas Jefferson’s alma mater. Up the road in Langley, Virginia, the Gus-Hall-voting, land-expropriation-approving future CIA Director was training as an analyst. In Cambridge, Mass., Nellie Hauke, nascent Stalin apologist, later with the CIA and Fusion GPS, was studying Russian and meeting future husband Bruce Ohr, later with the Justice Department. Across the pond, Christopher Steele was matriculating at Cambridge, soon to start burnishing those “CND credentials” and become known as a “confirmed socialist.”

Sometime over the next twenty years, Comey, for one, “moved” to “whatever I am now” — which is not a description that effervesces with the clarity of the ex-Communist (let alone anti-Communist) who woke up one day to support Ronald Reagan’s re-election in the deep-freeze days of the Cold War. Does Comey gradually finding himself “more comfortable” with GOP “approaches” reflect a tactical shift? Even the New York Magazine reporter wondered whether “maybe he was being disingenuous.”¹⁰⁷

* Comey tweeted openly in July: “All who believe in this country’s values must vote for Democrats this fall.” I say “openly” because until 2017, Comey was tweeting anonymously behind the Twitter handle of his intellectual hero, “Reinhold Niebuhr.”

The key to Comey seems to be the constant in his intellectual life: Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971). Whether a college Communist studying Niebuhr in the Reagan years, a top Republican appointee to the Bush Justice Department, or a post-Republican, ex-FBI Director fired by President Trump, James Comey has consistently attested to Niebuhr's deep influence on his thinking. If "Reinhold Niebuhr" was Comey's handle on Twitter until 2017, as recently as April 2018, when the New York Times asked Comey to name the books that "influenced his thinking over the years," the first two he listed were Niebuhr's *Moral Man and Immoral Society* (1932) and *The Nature and Destiny of Man* (1941).¹⁰⁸

If Comey "moved from" communism, shouldn't he have "moved from" Reinhold Niebuhr?

The question may shock some readers, who, even without ever having read Niebuhr, instantly associate his name with "leading Protestant theologian," or even "everyone's favorite theologian." *What's a nice, non-partisan Protestant theologian doing in a monograph like this?* To which I would reply, having freshly read a selection of Niebuhr's works and reviewed some of his political activism, *I* was shocked by the "Marxian ethics" or "war ethics" (as ex-Socialist, former fellow-traveler and educator J.B. Matthews called them ¹⁰⁹), running throughout, especially as interpreted by James Comey in his college thesis, and, more important, exalted by him ever since. Strip away the overly complicated scriptural parapets around Niebuhr's "moral complexities," and it's just another discussion of "the end justifies the means" (and the end is "distributive justice," which we have just read about in John Brennan's thesis). Comey may dress it all up as "a higher loyalty (the title of his 2018 memoir)," but such lawlessness is at the core of the anti-democratic, anti-Constitutional, anti-Trump conspiracy.

My question has additional relevance because in the years that Niebuhr wrote Comey's two favorite tomes, Niebuhr was a prominent, militant member of the Socialist Party (1930-1940), publicly well-known for his Marxist "ideas and approaches" (as Comey might say), including "social ownership" of property, the use of violence to bring about political change, and his membership in over one dozen Communist front organizations, including in leadership positions, which advanced the Kremlin line.

For example, in *Moral Man and Immoral Society*, and in language any Daily Worker reader could understand, Niebuhr wrote: "Difficult as the method of revolution is for any Western industrial civilization, it must not be regarded as impossible. ...¹¹⁰ If a revolution can destroy social injustice and preserve equal justice, much might be forgiven it in the method it employs."¹¹¹

How about the method of seizing property? Summary executions? Gulags? Niebuhr would deplore such crimes, we are told, although even

fifteen years after writing these words, he would declare to the (communist-penetrated¹¹²) World Council of Churches that communism would abandon force when its aims were achieved.¹¹³ In 1933, the year after *Moral Man and Immoral Society* was published, Niebuhr went to Swarthmore College to address a regional conference of the Women's League for International Peace and Freedom, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a "pacifist," nonetheless pro-class-war organization of which he was national chairman. The headline of an AP brief on his appearance summed it up: "Urges Use of Force for New Social Order."¹¹⁴

At this time, it was just fourteen years since "use of force" had catalyzed the Bolshevik experiment, which the U.S. still regarded as an illegitimate Communist Party dictatorship. Not Niebuhr. His Fellowship of Reconciliation initiated a petition in support of U.S. recognition of the USSR, collecting signatures from eight hundred college professors, including college presidents, and sent it to President-elect Roosevelt in early 1933.¹¹⁵ Later that same year, FDR reversed the policy of four Presidents before him to "normalize" relations with the Soviet regime. What this also "normalized," America painfully discovered later, was the influx of communists and pro-communists into the federal government, including hundreds, probably thousands, of covert Soviet operatives, including, for example, the infamous Alger Hiss.

It seems worth noting that in 1952, as the original "Swamp" was being dragged by patriots for government-embedded communists and agents, Sen. Joseph McCarthy and Rep. Richard Nixon rapped the Democratic presidential candidate, Adlai Stevenson, for his having served as a *character witness* for Alger Hiss in Hiss's first perjury trial. (Hiss would be convicted of perjury related to espionage in a second trial.) Among the group of "prominent Stevenson supporters" who popped up to denounce this criticism as "unjust" was Reinhold Niebuhr.¹¹⁶

This was just par for the Niebuhrian course. Reinhold Niebuhr spent the middle decades of the 20th century hopscotching among socialist ("progressive") organizations and Communist front groups, which mushroomed in the 1930s. These included the American Student Union, where Niebuhr served on the advisory board. Niebuhr was also closely affiliated with the American League for Peace and Democracy. Peaking at 7.5 million members, this Communist super-front group was identified by Roosevelt administration Attorney General Francis Biddle in a "strictly confidential" memo as an organization "established in the United States in an effort to create public sentiment on behalf of a foreign policy adapted to the interests of the Soviet Union."¹¹⁷

As a founding member of the Union for Democratic Action and, later, Americans for Democratic Action ("the principal vehicle for go-slow Socialism" in the USA, wrote conservative columnist George S. Sokolsky¹¹⁸), Niebuhr pitted himself against the nation's leading anti-

Communists. From Rep. Martin Dies in the late 1930s to Sen. Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s, these anti-Communists were simultaneously engaged in the hard, dirty work of exposing domestic communist infiltration and subversion. As late as 1965, Niebuhr was still championing pro-Communist causes as a member of the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, another Communist front group identified by the House Un-American Activities Committee. A member of the Rosenberg atomic espionage ring, Sobell was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage in 1951; Niebuhr's committee would seek Sobell's early release and pardon in vain. Sobell served 17 years in jail but didn't publicly confess to his crime until 2008.

With all of that (and there is more), nary a tint from Niebuhr's own red roots (let alone thread) colors his bland reputation as a "leading theologian" today. Invocations of his name continue to adorn a certain kind of journalism, rather like an intellectual garnish. Was he so "complex" as to "resist summary," as the New Yorker has told its readers? Not really. It doesn't take terribly much brain-power to follow Barack Obama and David Brooks' "out of the blue" conversation about Niebuhr — "one of my favorite philosophers," Obama told Brooks — which conveyed Niebuhr's understanding (clear throat, furrow brow) of the existence of ineradicable evil in the world, and the need to act against it.¹¹⁹ If this sounds trite, Niebuhr himself was not trite. He was as dangerous as a Bolshevik behind a clerical collar, masquerading as "a dedicated opponent of communism," which is exactly how he is put over today.

Never mind his dedicated opposition to *anti*-communism. Niebuhr's own peculiar opposition to communism led him in 1948 to advise Christians that the churches could not take a "negative attitude" toward communism, which he described as a "Christian heresy" — distinct from Nazism and fascism, which were "anti-Christian paganism."¹²⁰ (He was still discussing Communism as a "Christian heresy," plus Karl Marx being right about the history of class struggle — "class tension" — as late as 1960.¹²¹) By 1954, Niebuhr was lending his "leading theologian-ness" to every stop-and-censure-Joe-McCarthy group out there. They won a long-sought victory for the Communists in the U.S. Senate censure of McCarthy, a travesty that was also a cataclysmic defeat for the cause of anti-communism. In the heat of this dire struggle, the advisory council of Christian Action, a Protestant "social action" group Niebuhr stood up in 1951 (against "a recrudescence of a type of conservatism in which Christian pietism becomes a screen for an un-Christian economic order"), warned that so-called McCarthyism — i.e., McCarthy's highly effective efforts to force communists and pro-communists from their U.S. government sinecures — was "a greater threat to our institutions than domestic communism."

How about the Constitution? Was that a threat, too? In 1941, Niebuhr, with 16 co-authors, signed on to "A Declaration of World Democracy" in

The City of Man, a slim volume pointing to the Constitution's repeal. Certainly, the Bill of Rights had to go — or be tied, the authors write, to a "Bill of Duties" and "supplemented" by a "Bill of Economic Rights." To wit: "But the Bill of Rights pledging that no private property shall be 'taken for public use without just compensation' must be supplemented with a Bill of Duties stating that no private property can be tolerated outside the framework of just social use."¹²²

A decade later, in his own 1952 book, *The Irony of American History* (a favorite of Barack Obama), Niebuhr was still worked up over property rights — something John Brennan could no doubt relate to. Condemning both "bourgeois" and Marxist "property ideologies" (property ideologies?), Niebuhr wrote: "A democratic society preserves a modicum of justice by various strategies of distributing and balancing both economic and political power. But it is not tenable to place the institution of property into the realm of the sacrosanct."¹²³

Pray tell, Mr. Rev. Theologian, what is?

It's time for James Comey to pick up the story, as he wrote it in his senior honors thesis and acts upon to this day.

15. AN FBI DIRECTOR OF THE OLD FRANKFURT SCHOOL

Between Reinhold Niebuhr and James Comey lies only one "degree of separation." That "degree" is in the person of the late Professor James C. Livingston, Comey's main advisor on his 1982 senior honors thesis, "Reinhold Niebuhr and Jerry Falwell: The Christian in Politics."¹²⁴

As Comey was a student of Livingston in the 1980s at William & Mary, Livingston was a student of Niebuhr in the 1950s at Union Theological Seminary (UTS). Livingston was also a student of Paul Tillich, another world-famous socialist at UTS.¹²⁵ Tillich and Niebuhr were not only colleagues at UTS, but it was Niebuhr who helped Tillich secure his teaching position after Tillich arrived in the United States from Nazi Germany in the 1930s, with help from the Institute of International Education (IIE).

In Germany, Tillich had taught as a close associate of the Frankfurt School, the notoriously Marxist institution, some of whose members and associates were later linked to the NKVD.¹²⁶ (Meanwhile, the co-founder and president of IIE, Stephan Duggan, was also the father of State Department official Lawrence Duggan, later exposed as a Soviet agent. Much of the institute's 1930s legwork was performed by Edward R. Murrow, then an officer of IIE, later the CBS star and an open antagonist of Sen. Joseph McCarthy.) The institute transplanted hundreds of refugee-academics onto American campuses. Many, such as Tillich and Herbert

Marcuse, would inculcate Marxist ideas in generations of college students. The institute, by the way, is still up and running. On checking its current activities, I found its president, Allan Goodman, on a 2017 panel at a State Department-co-sponsored conference on “Global Ties.” One of the other co-panelists was suspected intelligence agent Joseph Mifsud, a “shadowy” figure in the anti-Trump conspiracy.

Just as it applies to James Comey, this is not only a red thread; this is a red pedigree. In the government service of James Comey, America not only had a Niebuhrian Deputy Attorney General and FBI Director reputed to be a Republican — by this point, I hope, a deeply unsettling notion — but a once-removed-Frankfurt-Schooled-one as well. For the record, here’s the chain of intellectual custody: Frankfurt School/Paul Tillich and Reinhold Niebuhr to UTS/James C. Livingston to William & Mary/James Comey to Us, the People.

While discussing Tillich and Niebuhr, I should interject that Hillary Clinton’s ideological thread runs parallel. Her key mentor as a teenager in the 1960s was the Reverend Donald G. Jones, who effectively infiltrated Hillary Clinton’s Methodist Church as a youth minister, spreading a Marxist kind of gospel inspired by Tillich’s theology. As described by Hillary Clinton biographer Barbara Olson, Tillich’s theology was based in a belief that Christianity’s revival “could come only from a critique of society that took its inspiration from Marxist lines of thought.” Oh, and did I mention Jones had young Hillary Rodham reading Tillich and Niebuhr, too? Hillary would “progress” to Saul Alinsky.^{127*}

Conservatives make much of the corrosive influence of the Frankfurt School’s Marxist teachings, and with good reason. Comey’s honors thesis, then, becomes a case study in the dissemination of these ideas over a couple of academic generations. Perhaps in Comey’s subsequent government career, we might begin to recognize ways in which those teachings have been weaponized.

Excluding notes, Comey’s paper is 95 pages. I have gone over it multiple times — it takes a while to get the rhythm of the Niebuhrian mumbo-jumbo — but I keep coming back to the same few pages in Chapter II. These pages are devoted to cracking Niebuhr’s code of justice. Niebuhr’s code of justice is very important to understand because Comey, soon to embark on his historic career in American justice, writes the following endorsement of it in the conclusion of his thesis: “Niebuhr’s notion of justice is valid for all nations and times.”

That’s as sweeping as an endorsement gets. Now, onto what Comey endorsed and, it may be seen, continues to pay homage to.

* Thanks to Larry Swickard, whose monograph “Hotel Hillwanda” first alerted me to the Clinton-Jones-Tillich connection.

As set forth by Comey, the student of Livingston (who was the student of Niebuhr and Tillich), Niebuhr's "notion of justice" includes no right and no wrong. There are no "moral absolutes." There is something Niebuhr calls "love," which is a nice name for his rationale for "equality" via "distribution" (read: redistribution) by a coercive, even violent regime.

No wonder Niebuhr's ideas appealed to young Communist Comey — and, *according to Comey, himself*, they still do.

Before I go on to show how Comey's interpretation of Niebuhr has informed his Justice Department career, I will present a selection of quotations from Comey's thesis to underscore what Comey learned from Niebuhr.

First, here is Comey setting forth Niebuhr's key principles of "justice":

In short, the organs of justice combat the persistence of self-regard in man. ... [L]ove is approximated by justice.¹²⁸

The equality of each human life must always be the regulative principle of justice, says Niebuhr.¹²⁹

Niebuhr believes that "equality is a higher social goal than peace" because equality stands for "the elimination of power and privilege which are frozen into every contemporary peaceful situation."¹³⁰

We now have some idea of what justice entails for Niebuhr. Justice is the balance of the claims and interests of men, enforced by power, in which the balance is regulated by the principle of equality.¹³¹

Could Marx, Stalin, Castro, Mao ... Ohr, Steele, Brennan ... have defined "justice" with more finesse? I don't think so. Young Comey might as well be describing the underpinnings of a working Soviet republic — a veritable "stabilized Kholkhos order" — but not those of the constitutional government restrained by "checks and balances" he would rise to the highest echelon of.

Comey sums up:

Justice is distributive, says Niebuhr, and must be accomplished through power, with one eye on the standard of love and the other on the regulative principle of equality. He clearly believes the duty to establish this justice to lie with the government.¹³²

Comey goes on to explain the "Christian" role in executing Niebuhr's "justice":

Niebuhr believes that the Christian must pursue justice and that justice is achieved through power. The Christian must recognize this connection between power, coercion and justice.¹³³

Note: This commandment (“must recognize”) is not one of the Top Ten.

[Niebuhr writes] “To the sensitive spirit, society must always remain something of a jungle ... which might be brought a little closer to the Kingdom of God if only the sensitive could learn ... how to use force in order to establish justice.”¹³⁴

Comey seems inspired by this fancy-pants police-state talk. He writes: “Because the source of power and force is government, the Christian must enter the political realm in some way.”¹³⁵ [Emphasis in the original.]

All he has to do, as Niebuhr also teaches — come to think of it, Bill Clinton, too — is compartmentalize.

Comey:

However, it is wrong for the Christian [Niebuhr writes] “to regard every political decision as simply derived from our faith. This is a wrong answer because political issues deal with complex problems of justice, every solution for which contains morally ambiguous elements. All political positions are morally ambiguous because, in the realm of politics and economics, self-interest and power must be harnessed and beguiled rather than eliminated. *In other words, forces that are dangerous must be used despite their peril.*”¹³⁶ [Emphasis added.]

No, “in other words,” the ends justify the means. Pre-exonerating Hillary Clinton in the FBI investigation of her unsecured server — and failing to conduct the required damage assessment of the security breach¹³⁷ — is really nothing on the Niebuhr-Comey spectrum of amoral possibility.

Comey concludes:

Thus “it is the duty of a Christian in politics to have no specific ‘Christian politics.’”

By this Niebuhr does not mean a Christian viewpoint is irrelevant but that a set of Christian political decisions is impossible given the evil present in such decisions.

* In violation of 18 U.S. Code Sec. 793 (f) Whoever, being entrusted with or having lawful possession or control of any document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blueprint, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, note, or information, relating to the national defense, (1) through gross negligence permits the same to be removed from its proper place of custody or delivered to anyone in violation of his trust, or to be lost, stolen, abstracted, or destroyed, or (2) having knowledge that the same has been illegally removed from its proper place of custody or delivered to anyone in violation of his trust, or lost, or stolen, abstracted, or destroyed, and fails to make prompt report of such loss, theft, abstraction, or destruction to his superior officer — shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.

Thus he declares the heart of Christian politics to be “the readiness to use power and interest in the service of an end dictated by love, and yet an absence of complacency about the evil inherent in them.”¹³⁸

Finally, in case there was any doubt, Comey writes:

The Christian in politics must be willing to transgress any purely Christian ethic. He must be willing to sin in the name of justice.¹³⁹

America, meet your future Deputy Attorney General/FBI Director, willing, we may presume, “to sin in the name of justice.” What a fine, anti-Trump team he will someday draft alongside the future CIA Director Brennan, for whom “the democratic process may involve, at some point, the violation of personal liberties and procedural justice.”

It was in the final year of Comrade Brezhnev’s position at the helm of international Marxism that Comey developed his amoral philosophy of Niebuhrian “justice”; throughout his subsequent career in justice, he has consistently invoked Niebuhr as his intellectual guide. I’ve made that point before, but it bears repeating.

Having endorsed Niebuhr’s code of coercion untrammelled by the elemental laws of right and wrong derived from the Bible; having embraced this same code at war with the Constitution that he (like Brennan) has throughout his career sworn to defend, James Comey presents a profile in public deception that is deeply etched. His ends (Special Counsel) justified his means (leaking classified memos); his determination of “good” (exonerating Hillary Clinton; framing Donald Trump) guided his actions (usurping powers outside his office; subverting the FISA court system). “Willing to sin in the name of justice”? Check. Ready to use “power and force” outside the law? You bet. James Comey believes he is law unto himself.

Comey’s arrogance has been widely recognized, even if the Niebuhrian flame within has not. Commenting on Comey’s “vainglorious” book, *A Higher Loyalty*, Fox News’ Gregg Jarrett writes, “It reads like a Harlequin romance, except that the protagonist is in love with *himself*.”¹⁴⁰ In reviewing the Comey book, Clintonista Jennifer Palmieri describes Comey’s “corrupting belief” in “his ‘higher loyalty,’” concluding: “There is no telling the damage one can do in a republic when you mistake your will to do good with an authority to do what you judge to be right.”¹⁴¹

This was no “mistake,” however. Comey’s will to do “good” is the familiar driver of socialist revolutions and coups and conspiracies the world

¹³⁸ When it comes to Comey’s decision to re-open the Clinton email investigation shortly before the 2016 election, I have come across no better theory to explain it than this one by Australian economics professor Steve Kates: <http://dianawest.net/Home/tabid/36/EntryId/3723/Law-of-Markets-The-Conspiracy-to-Make-Tim-Kaine-President.aspx>

over, including in Washington, D.C., and including among the anti-Trump conspirators. They were “willing to sin in the name of justice” (Comey) and ready to “[violate] personal liberties and procedural justice” (Brennan). After all, they were “desperate Trump not be elected” (Steele). “He is not ever going to become president, right? Right?!” (Lisa Page). “No. No he won’t. We’ll stop it” (Peter Strzok).

In the end, James Comey guarantees absolution. Drawing from Niebuhr, he writes: “A certain political action may be evil but not necessarily immoral given the circumstances.”¹⁴²

Lenin didn’t beat around the theological or academic bush. “Our morality is entirely subordinated to the interests of the class struggle of the proletariat,” he wrote in unvarnished ruthlessness. “To a Communist, all morality lies in this united discipline and conscious mass struggle against the exploiters. We do not believe in eternal morality, and we expose the falseness of all the fables about morality.”¹⁴³

16. THE LONGEST WAR

It was the 1980s, and Jerry Falwell and his Moral Majority organization were the perfect foils for James Comey to use in his senior honors thesis to extol the socialist teachings of his hero, Niebuhr (1892-1971). In a previous generation, Comey might have juxtaposed the evangelizing Billy Graham (1918-2018) with Niebuhr’s Bible-as-myth approach to “social action.” Earlier still, Comey might have compared the anti-New Deal, anti-Communist Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993) with the socialist and “anti-anti-Communist” Niebuhr.

It should become clear that we are looking at a theological and political divide in American Protestantism that is an old story. What is especially relevant to the “red thread” is that so, too, is Donald Trump’s place in it.

Norman Vincent Peale and Billy Graham both were Trump family favorites. Donald Trump has spoken fondly of taking in Graham sermons with his revered father, Fred, who, Donald remembers, attended “the crusades” at Yankee Stadium.¹⁴⁴ On the 2016 campaign trail at Liberty University, founded by Jerry Falwell in 1971, Donald Trump recalled watching Jerry Falwell’s TV show, *The Old-Time Gospel Hour*.¹⁴⁵ When Billy Graham died in 2018, Donald Trump attended his funeral; five living former presidents did not.

According to the New York Times, it was Peale’s church, Marble Collegiate, that the Trump family “gravitated to” in the 1960s.¹⁴⁶ Peale and Donald would develop a warm friendship. Peale officiated at Donald and Ivana’s wedding (1977) and also at the wedding of Donald’s sister Maryanne. In 1988, Donald hosted Peale’s 90th birthday party at the

Waldorf-Astoria.¹⁴⁷ As the Washington Post put it, “The Trump and Peale clans have [a] history.”¹⁴⁸

It’s easy to imagine heavy Niebuhrian eye-rolling over this “history,” and not a little choking on the Chardonnay and canapés. Back in the day, things could even get confrontational, as in 1955, when Niebuhr and several fellow “progressives”-of-the-cloth launched a vicious attack in a national magazine on Peale and Graham both. Their attack drew a public rebuke from President Eisenhower’s pastor, the Rev. Edward L.R. Elson, who accused these pastoral critics “of `sneering’ and shallow thinking,” according to a news report.¹⁴⁹

Their differences were not theological only. In August 1948, Niebuhr was counseling Christians that the churches could not take a “negative attitude” toward communism. “Churches everywhere,” Niebuhr stated, “had to recognize our involvement in injustices and insecurities. Communism seeks or promises to cure.”¹⁵⁰ In January 1951, Peale was carrying a very different message to the faithful: “The future belongs to Christ not Communism.”¹⁵¹ These were Cold War battle cries across the pro-Communist/anti-Communist divide.

Trump’s connection to Peale, then, not only informs the Comey-Niebuhr-Trump-Peale divide, but also throws into relief the larger national cleavage between Global Elites and the America First “Deplorables.” This is another old war in America — the “internationalists” vs. the nation-staters; the “progressives” vs. the patriots; the socialistic vs. the nationalistic. Now that Donald Trump is president, the first to reach this highest office from the ranks of “America First,” this clash may never have been so highly charged.

For much of the 20th century, Norman Vincent Peale was the nationally renowned pastor of Marble Collegiate in Manhattan. In addition to uplifting, spellbinding sermons, Peale was known for being outspoken in his opposition to all varieties of collectivism, from the socialism of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal, which he sermonized against as a dire threat to liberty,¹⁵² to Soviet communism.

“No one has more contempt for communism than I do,” he wrote in his 1952 mega-seller, *The Power of Positive Thinking*.^{*} In the late 1930s, he fought against the explosion of executive powers that undergirded Roosevelt’s “New Deal,” serving as secretary of a non-partisan group called the National Committee to Uphold Constitutional Government. This committee came together under newspaper editor Frank E. Gannett to oppose Roosevelt’s infamous Supreme Court packing plan and other executive branch encroachments that were destroying the Constitution’s “checks and balances.” The same concerns drove opposition to FDR’s

^{*} For a discussion of Peale’s anti-communism and influence on Donald Trump, see Andrew Bostom’s <https://www.andrewbostom.org/2018/08/peale-ing-to-the-core-of-donald-trumps-anti-totalitarianism/>

decision to run for an unprecedented third term in 1940, and the president's landmark foreign aid proposal known as Lend Lease, which arrived as a bill in Congress at the beginning of 1941, eleven months before Pearl Harbor.

In most histories, Lend Lease is a barely noticed stepping-stone to America's entry into World War II; at the time, however, the debate was loud and acrimonious. The vast war-making powers the bill gave the president galvanized its opponents in a quickly growing, grass-roots movement known as America First. Caricatured today, this anti-interventionist organization drew in a wide swath of Americans from both political parties, from all walks of life, from Frank Lloyd Wright to Gerald Ford to Kingman Brewster to Norman Thomas to Charles Lindbergh. Their main agenda was (1) steer clear of another European war and thereby save young American lives, (2) avoid building up one totalitarian monster (Stalin) to replace another (Hitler), and (3) ensure the government's three branches survived the process "co-equal." They failed on all counts.^{*}

Peale, as secretary of the National Committee to Uphold Constitutional Government, strongly opposed Lend Lease on well-defined constitutional grounds. Lend Lease expanded presidential powers to a point where the chief executive could send military support of any kind to any country he deemed "vital to the defense of the United States." There were no limits. No president had ever even sought such powers.

But there was even more to Lend Lease than that — and here is where the red thread pokes up and down like a hem-stitch through the rest of the "American century."

Lend Lease was not just anti-Constitutional; it was revolutionary. This will not surprise anyone who learns that the legislation's godfathers were Armand Hammer, Harry Hopkins and Harry Dexter White — all three men pro-Soviet to the core, all three men variously believed to be Soviet agents, although such shocking revelations came later.[†] We may now regard Lend Lease as the founding document of the "new world order" that arose in the aftermath of World War II, its heaviest cornerstones laid by covert Soviet agents Alger Hiss at the United Nations and Harry Dexter White at the International Monetary Fund.

The sea change came in making "any country's defense vital" to our own.

Secretary of State Edward Stettinius wrote:

^{*} For further discussion of the America First movement, see "America First, 1940-2016": <http://dianawest.net/Home/tabid/36/EntryId/3819/Another-Look-at-America-First-1940-2016.aspx>

[†] Lend Lease and the role of Hammer, Hopkins and White are discussed at great length in *American Betrayal*.

To favor limited aid to the allies as an expedient device for saving friendly nations from conquest was one thing. To declare that the defense of those nations was “vital” to our own national security was quite another. *If we adopted the bill with those words, we would, in effect, declare the interdependence of the American people with the other freedom-loving nations of the world ... [emphasis added].*¹⁵³

We did indeed adopt the Lend-Lease bill with those words (notwithstanding that a major recipient of Lend Lease was the Soviet Union — definitely not a “freedom-loving nation”). This makes March 11, 1941, the day the Lend-Lease bill passed, America’s Interdependence Day.

Norman Vincent Peale correctly warned that Lend Lease would give the president “the power to commit the American people to any war anywhere, and without action by Congress.”¹⁵⁴ Lend Lease itself may have expired but its powers have lived on in an unconstrained Executive. Such “interdependence” is the basis of the “liberal postwar order,” and the “neoconservative” mission we have known in our time as “nation-building.”

What was once controversial draws little comment today. When a President of the United States declares the destinies of foreign peoples to be “vital” to that of the United States, whether in Saudi Arabia (FDR), Iraq (Bush), or Afghanistan (Obama), he is merely carrying out the “internationalism,” or “globalism” that has been the primary purpose of U.S. foreign policy since FDR.

Then along came Trump.

Suddenly, the ideological mission of postwar America — as FDR put it, “our responsibility to build a democratic world”¹⁵⁵ — was in peril.

In his first foreign policy address on the 2016 campaign trail, Trump identified as “dangerous” the “idea that we could make western democracies out of countries that had no experience or interests in becoming a western democracy.” He promised: “We’re getting out of the nation-building business.”¹⁵⁶

To that end, he declared he was looking for a new set of foreign policy experts with practical ideas “rather than surrounding myself with those who have perfect résumés but very little to brag about except responsibility for a long history of failed policies and continued losses at war.”¹⁵⁷

For Washington’s entrenched and heretofore empowered elites in both parties — catastrophe.

Donald Trump understood there was a difference between the interests of global elites and those of ordinary Americans; there were the “progressives” with their plans for the world, and there were the patriots with their hopes for the wall. It was borderless free trade vs. American

manufacturing. In many ways, it was Niebuhr vs. Peale all over again. The ensuing struggle, then, is not political; it is existential.

Where did they come from, these Niebuhrian elites? Not from Marble Collegiate. Not from Queens. Not from Trump Tower, either. It was in all of those places where Donald Trump, influenced by Peale, developed his own “power of positive thinking” and his anti-communism, too. Andrew Bostom points us to Trump’s 2000 book, *The America We Deserve*, for an expression of Trump’s anti-communist outlook.

Bostom writes:

Referring to what he designated “oppressive Communism,” Trump championed “western style democracy” as his desired replacement for Communist totalitarianism in the collapsed former Soviet Union. Trump also decried the “disgrace” Castro’s Communism had wrought upon Cuba:

Trump wrote:

Terror reigns, the police are unrestrained; beatings and citizen disappearances are common, and all free expression outside the Communist Party is crushed.

Also in 2000, by the way, the late Sen. John McCain favored “a road map towards normalization of relations [with Cuba] such as we presented to the Vietnamese.”¹⁵⁸

Trump was unrelenting, too, about the dangers posed by Communist China, notwithstanding eight years of Clinton “collusion” with the PRC military, including the exchange of U.S. military and technological secrets for Chinese campaign contributions. Just as Obama would oversee Russia’s entry into the WTO, Clinton brought about China’s entry into the WTO, kick-starting the Communist state’s development into an economic and financial rival to the United States.¹⁵⁹

Trump wrote:

Where I break rank with many business colleagues and foreign-policy gurus is in my unwillingness to shrug off the mistreatment of China’s citizens by their own government. My reason is simple: These oppressive policies make it clear that China’s current government has contempt for our way of life. It fears freedom because it knows its survival depends on oppression. *It does not respect individual rights. It is still, at heart, a collectivist society. As such it is a destabilizing force in the world and should be viewed that way.*¹⁶⁰ [Emphasis added.]

A similar lack of respect for individual rights and a collectivist heart are innate to the anti-Trump conspirators, who are themselves a destabilizing force inside our constitutional government.

Yes, James Comey may have “moved from” his Communist position in his college days, but he never changed sides in the very long war that pits socialism and collectivism vs. free markets and liberty, and godless Communism vs. God-fearing Christianity.*

Neither did Donald Trump.

17. ENTER THE CLINTONISTAS

In 1993, a disgruntled FOB (“Friend of Bill”) and political science professor named Derek Shearer typed eight, single-spaced pages on Occidental College stationery directed at the Clintons: “Only for you and Bill.” The missive set forth the many reasons, from policy to politics, that the 42nd POTUS *owed* Shearer an ambassadorship “to a small country” at least.¹⁶¹

There was a darker set of activities that Shearer listed to churn the wells of presidential gratitude — a tally of political kills Derek Shearer chalked up to himself, his younger brother, Cody Shearer, and Sidney Blumenthal.

Derek Shearer wrote:

I also began working behind-the-scenes with **Cody** and with **Sid** Blumenthal to ... **attack your enemies**. ... I briefed Carville **on how to attack** Tsongas before James took off for Georgia — and I worked with **Sid** on his **attack piece** on Tsongas. ... As you know, **Cody** was with you in Boston when the Flowers story broke. I spoke almost every day of the campaign with **Cody**, and with **Sid**, as well as with Susan T., to work on **defense tactics** on this issue. ... For the New York Primary, I **coordinated** with Mickey and George **the attacks** on Jerry Brown. ... I also **leaked uncomplimentary material** on him to the national press. ... I was **very successful** in working with **Cody and Sid** on the Perot problem. I **coordinated their investigative work** on Perot, and I know that our work **played a crucial role in getting Perot to drop out** of the race in July ... I also **worked closely with Cody** on dealing with **other matters**. **Cody was very effective in scaring off** some of the Bush campaign’s potential **attacks** on you because of the **material** that he had on Bush.¹⁶² [Emphasis added.]

All hail the Clinton guerillas, dark operators of political “attacks,” “defense tactics,” “leaking,” “investigative work,” “scaring off” and, overall, “dealing with other matters” to further the Clintonian advance on the White House. This shocking little blueprint for information warfare was entirely unknown to the public until The Free Beacon dug it out of Derek Shearer’s

* “It is very dangerous to define the struggle as one between a God-fearing and a godless civilization.” — Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History*, p. 173.

papers at Brown University in 2016. If Derek & Cody & Sid fought the bad fight in 1992 for Bill & Hillary, setting off stink bombs and dirty nukes to destroy opponents, “bimbos,” and the men and women who knew too much, Cody Shearer and Sidney Blumenthal, at least, were still at it, 25 years later. In 2018, the two musketeers were outed as author and broker of an additional anti-Trump “dossier,” to be discussed below.

For Derek and Cody Shearer, smear-mongering was just a twist on the family business. Their father, Lloyd Shearer, parleyed rumor and innuendo into a hugely successful career as a gossip columnist for Parade Magazine — and provided a home away from home for Bill and Hillary Clinton in LA. Cody’s twin sister, Brooke, now deceased, was a “private investigator” who worked for the notorious Terry Lenzner, frequently tapped by the Clintons as part of their War on Bimbo Eruptions. As for Sidney Blumenthal, maneuverability may have been his forte. One day, Sid could publicly avow the veracity of Anita Hill’s claims against Clarence Thomas; the next day, he could publicly dismiss the “gaudy” Gennifer Flowers as “the lady in red trimmed in black to match the roots of her hair.” As they said in the 1960s, the issue was never the issue.

The key to all was the “transmission belt” — the means by which a political stink bomb reached the public. Cody Shearer may have perfected the mechanics in the run-up to the 1992 presidential campaign when he successfully shopped around “unvetted” allegations that Vice President Dan Quayle had purchased illegal narcotics as a law student and U.S. Senator.

Yes — another dodgy dossier! The story collapsed, with the DEA, the Los Angeles Times, “60 Minutes,” and others, stating there was nothing to it, *even as media coverage persisted*.

Don Hewitt, executive producer of “60 Minutes” explained the story’s creation:

Hewitt said that in about 1989, a Washington-based, free-lance writer, Cody Shearer, brought the allegations that Quayle had purchased drugs in Indianapolis to “60 Minutes.” Hewitt said his staff ascertained that the allegations were unfounded, but Shearer later took them to at least two newspapers. ‘Cody Shearer has been trying to get this story placed somewhere,’ Hewitt said Wednesday. ‘He finally talked Garry Trudeau into doing it.’¹⁶³

That was Garry Trudeau, creator of the “Doonesbury” comic strip. Trudeau ran with Cody Shearer’s #FakeNews story for *two weeks*, generating additional press coverage.

Sound familiar? The Shearer dossier on drugs and Dan Quayle was as “salacious and unverified” as the Steele dossier on Trump-Russia, but it powered news cycles just the same. In other words, “the smear terror,” as the sterling journalist John T. Flynn labeled this tactic in a 1947 book

by the same name,¹⁶⁴ is nothing new; nor is its mission — destroying “nationalists,” patriots and other traditionalists, while protecting “globalists,” which means the Left. We have recently lived through a particularly intense smear terror in the Brett Kavanaugh hearings. We are still living through an unusually extended and complex campaign in the volcanic “Trump-Russia” eruptions.

Blumenthal, too, was a whiz at seeding poison. Who could forget when Christopher Hitchens swore out an affidavit in 1999 to say that Blumenthal was portraying Monica Lewinsky as a “stalker”?¹⁶⁵ That was much later in the Clinton years, once the machine was foundering in its own corruption — which Blumenthal, deflecting, blamed on “the vast right-wing conspiracy.”

Back to Derek’s pitch for an embassy hitch. “Most important,” he wrote, still ticking off his credentials as a smear-terrorist, he reminded the Clintons that it was he who “arranged” an essential campaign hire: Betsy Wright, she who would coordinate press coverage — let’s be honest, press *cover-ups* — of the multitudinous “bimbo eruptions” (Wright’s term) and other potential derailments. Curiously, Shearer adds: “I knew how upset she was and what she had in her basement.”

What Betsy Wright had in her basement? Was Derek trying to pressure the President of the United States with this (still tantalizing) “hint”? Show his own “insurance” plan — and ultimate job guarantee? In any event, Derek Shearer got his embassy in Helsinki. After all, he was so well qualified “Re: Finland,” he wrote. “I do have a background in Russian matters.”¹⁶⁶ (That’s really what he said.) Four years later, Derek returned to the States with his title-for-life: “former ambassador to Finland.”

Thus, to the New York Times in 2018: “This ‘America First, Go It Alone,’ is so wrongheaded. It’s bad for us, and bad for the world,” said Mr. Shearer, the former ambassador to Finland.“ So much more impressive than “... *said Mr. Shearer, the infamous Clinton dirty-trickster.*” Apparently, it takes just one diplomatic tour to rinse an old Clinton operative clean — even one who previously served as Students for a Democratic Society revolutionary Tom Hayden’s “chief economic theorist.”

Who remembers that Amb. Shearer’s red thread stretches back to a time when he toiled to bring Tom Hayden off “the streets” and into the democratic process? The ticket was “economic democracy” — Shearer co-wrote a book by that name in 1980¹⁶⁷ — a.k.a., socialism. Literally. “Socialism has a bad name in America and no amount of wishful thinking is going to change that,” Shearer wrote. “The words, economic democracy, are an adequate and effective replacement.” Hayden’s stealth-socialist

¹⁶⁴ Sen. Trent Lott read this quotation from a 1979 article by Shearer appearing In These Times during US Senate debate over Shearer’s ambassadorship. Lott opposed Shearer’s nomination in large part due to Shearer’s embrace of socialism and “radical redistribution of wealth.” Lott

campaigns were fueled by dollars gushing from the free-market workout-empire of Hayden's pro-Communist wife, Jane Fonda.

As many will recall, Tom Hayden first came to prominence as the main author of the 1962 Port Huron Statement, the manifesto of the so-called New Left. David Horowitz later maintained it was not Hayden, but rather Hayden's "mentor," Richard Flacks, another SDS-er, who wrote the "real politics" of the manifesto. Flacks, Horowitz informed readers, was the son of "Communist schoolteachers," Mildred and David Flacks, who were "members of the same party-controlled teachers union as mine."¹⁶⁸

So many years later, who cared? Americans had long been told that none of these red threads mattered. In 1953, however, Americans still knew it mattered. Thus, during contentious appearances before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, then investigating the enduringly crucial matter of "Communist Methods of Infiltration (Education)," both Flacks, Mildred and David, took the Fifth Amendment rather than confirm they had secretly been Communist Party members under Kremlin discipline while teaching in New York City public schools.

Mildred and David Flacks were among a group of New York City schoolteachers who were fired from their jobs in the early 1950s for refusing to answer questions from the Board of Education about suspected Communist Party affiliations and activities. * Also fired was David Horowitz's father, Philip Horowitz, a teacher at Seward Park High School, also since the 1920s. Fun fact: While Horowitz *père* taught English classes at Seward Park, four (4) future members of the Rosenberg Ring attended the school. I don't know whether Philip Horowitz taught any of them, or, as a covert Party member, recruited, talent-spotted or guided any of them, but it's a fair question.^{169,†}

Another New York City teacher fired for failing to answer questions about Party affiliations was Cyril Graze. At the same time, however, his two Soviet-intelligence-linked brothers continued to work undetected inside the U.S. government at the War Department, the State Department, OSS and more. Cyril's brothers' names were Gerald Graze and Stanley

also noted: "In hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee, Dr. Shearer denied that he had ever espoused Socialist ideas, or that he was misquoted, or that he has changed his mind. Dr. Shearer's writings and quotes, though, are a matter of public record. Never have I seen such a complete confirmation conversion. Dr. Shearer has become a capitalist overnight." See Congressional Record: May 24, 1994.

* "I am not inquiring into their political beliefs," [Superintendent of Schools William] Jansen explained, "but I am inquiring into their activities in an organization which advocates the violent overthrow of our Government, which gives allegiance to an outside government rather than to our own, which teaches people to hate and which justifies lying as a means of accomplishing its goals." Kermit Jaediker, "Suspend Eight More Teachers in Red Probe," New York Daily News, February 1, 1952.

† The four Seward Park/Rosenberg Ring alumni are Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, Ruth Greenglass, and Michael Sidorovich. A fifth alumnus, Harry Hyman, pleaded the Fifth Amendment before Sen. McCarthy's subcommittee to avoid questions about Rosenberg links and espionage activities.

Graze.¹⁷⁰ Their KGB code names were “Arena” and “Dan.” Gerald/“Arena” retired in the 1980s from a top spot at the National Institutes of Health.¹⁷¹ Gerald/“Arena’s” daughter, Deborah E. Graze, recently retired from the State Department.

Is this the stuff of unread footnotes? I don’t think so. Red threads are real, plentiful and need to be returned to the surface for careful evaluation. Too many generations of Americans assume they were cut off long ago. That’s what we have been told. Like other New Leftists, Richard Flacks, David Horowitz, make much of their breaks with their parents’ and their “Stalinist” past. This same break writ large was the basis of New Left mythology: namely, that the New Left was completely different from the Old Left.

As we have seen in the case of the Soviet history revisionists (above), the facts say otherwise. Continuing with the Flacks example, Richard (Mr. Port Huron Statement) claimed to have broken with his parents and their Moscow-directed Communist Party discipline (Old Left) for something new and completely different (New Left). Nonetheless, his “new” guru was A.J. Muste, *a fixture of the Old Left*. “New Left” Flacks describes Muste as “a complete role model for me.” He even named his son “Ajay” for him.¹⁷²

Depending on the revolutionary moment, Muste (1885-1967) was variously described as a radical socialist, a labor organizer, a Fabian socialist, a pacifist and more. He joined forces with Reinhold Niebuhr (James Comey’s idol) at the Fellowship of Reconciliation to work for the U.S. recognition of the Bolshevik regime in 1933. Also in 1933, Muste founded the American Workers Party. Noting that Muste’s party “claimed to have no Communist connections,” the House Committee on Un-American Activities pointed out in 1938 that its “program ... was “in line with the ideals of Lenin, Trotsky and Marx. It claimed to be *more militant than the Stalinist movement* in the United States of America.”¹⁷³ [Emphasis added.]

The paths of these two men, Muste and Niebuhr, ideological forbears of the anti-Trump conspiracy, continued to cross. In 1959, their names appear on a petition seeking the shut-down of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. This makes perfect sense, by the way. What other official body was meticulously documenting America’s socialist takeover by such as they? In 1957, five years before the Port Huron Statement, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover told Congress that Muste had “long fronted for Communists.”¹⁷⁴ Hoover also offered analysis of the most recent Communist Party USA national convention, which “non-Communist” Muste was permitted to attend. Hoover pointed out “that the strategy and tactics of that convention were calculated to lay a foundation for possible unity with other leftwing groups ... with Socialists, members of the non-Communist left, liberals, and so forth, in an effort to secure their support for Communist projects.”¹⁷⁵

That's the "United Front" way. They could all blend right in: Muste, Niebuhr, Flacks, Hayden ... Jane Fonda, the Reverend Jones, Hillary Clinton, Derek, Cody and Sid, Comey and Brennan, Nellie and Stalin, and so many more. The trick was to go very, very deep and never, ever reveal your true colors until everyone was color-blind.

In 1982, Derek Shearer, acting as a campaign surrogate for Tom Hayden, said as much:

"The word 'Economic Democracy' sells; you can take it door to door like Fuller brushes and the doors won't be slammed in your face. So I commend it to you as an alternative to those of you who are willing to compromise on the use of the 'S' word."

60 Minutes' Ed Bradley wanted to make sure. Also in 1982, he asked Derek Shearer: "The net result of economic democracy would be the redistribution of the wealth?" "I would hope so," replied Shearer, as befits a Hayden supporter and associate of Democratic Socialists of America and Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and a multitude of Clintonian smear operations. "My own personal bias is that America's a profoundly unequal country."¹⁷⁶

Which puts us right back in sync with the 2016 anti-Trump conspiracy: Comey, Brennan and the rest of the redistributive gang. Their euphemistic ends — "love," "economic equity" — always justify their means (attempted coup). As James Comey put it in fanatical Niebuhrian terms: "He must be willing to sin in the name of justice." As John Brennan wrote in his paper on human rights: "But if democracy is a process rather than a state, the democratic process may involve, at some point, the violation of personal liberties and procedural justice." Such beliefs pose a mortal threat to constitutional government. If they are influences on officials empowered with federal police powers, "politics as usual" will necessarily give way to conspiracy and sedition.

On January 30, 2018, news of another anti-Trump "dossier" broke in The Guardian. The author of this second dossier was said to be Cody Shearer. The broker of the "Shearer dossier" was Sidney Blumenthal. Who would bet the farm that Derek Shearer was not also involved?

¹⁷⁶ As an undergraduate at UC Irving in 1981, Jeff Nyquist heard Derek Shearer make these remarks, spoke to him at length after his presentation, and related the story to me not too long ago. Then I found the report in the New York Times:
<https://www.nytimes.com/1982/05/02/us/jane-fonda-s-exercise-salons-aiding-her-husband-s-candidacy.html>

18. COULD THE SECOND DOSSIER BE THE FIRST?

What if this second dossier was really the first? That is, might the “Shearer dossier” have preceded or inspired the “Steele dossier”?

In documenting the similarities between the Shearer dossier and the Steele dossier, Real Clear Investigations’ Lee Smith uncovered a chronological marker that could reconfigure the whole yarn. Smith describes the first part of the Shearer dossier — a four-page report titled, “The Compromised Candidate” — as “a record of various journalists and media personalities explaining how they’ve heard the same [Trump-Russia] rumors, and even tried, unsuccessfully, to report the story that Shearer is pushing in the second report.”¹⁷⁷

One of these commentators, Robert Baer, later told Smith “he remembered speaking with Shearer about Trump and Russia in ‘March or April’ of 2016.”¹⁷⁸

If Baer’s memory is correct, the Shearer dossier could be the granddaddy of all Clinton 2016 opposition research. “March or April of 2016” is the timeframe during which the Democrats and Hillary Clinton hired Fusion GPS for the Trump-Russia project. (It is also the timeframe of the alleged DNC “hack,” which Julian Assange has all but attributed to a *leak*, not a hack, by murdered DNC official Seth Rich.) Nellie Ohr was already working for Fusion GPS; it is believed that Steele came on board in June — right after Nellie Ohr in May applied for a ham radio license.¹⁷⁹

Might Steele have been hired to give a new British intelligence accent to Cody and Sid’s (and possibly Derek’s?) old tricks? So long as Fusion GPS kept a lid on the fact that they were all working to elect Hillary Clinton, no one was likely to suspect that Steele was just a new kind of Clinton operative, albeit with an Old School tie.

Smith explains it this way:

[Cody] Shearer tried to drum up interest in the collusion narrative but no one in the press was biting. No one was willing to sink time and prestige on material sourced to unnamed Russian intelligence officials that was provided by a Clinton political operative whose partner, Sidney Blumenthal, had an even more controversial reputation.¹⁸⁰

* “Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity – including two ‘alumni’ who were former National Security Agency technical directors – have long since concluded that Julian Assange did not acquire what he called the ‘emails related to Hillary Clinton’ via a ‘hack’ by the Russians or anyone else. They found, rather, that he got them from someone with physical access to Democratic National Committee computers who copied the material onto an external storage device – probably a thumb drive.”

Ray McGovern and Bill Binney, “Memo to the President Ahead of Monday’s Summit,” AntiWar.com, July 16, 2018

This sounds similar to Shearer's early efforts to shop around his "dodgy dossier" about Dan Quayle in 1991. A quarter-century later, however, his and Blumenthal's notoriety as Clinton hatchet-men got in the way.

Smith continues:

But it would be different if it came from someone else, an intelligence operative whose American handlers worked up a suitable legend of his exploits in a glamorous, allied clandestine service, and his deep knowledge of all things Russian. So what did it matter if Steele had become an executive in a corporate intelligence firm whose official cover had been blown a decade before and who hadn't been to Russia in years? *The byline of a former MI6 [officer] could credential a compendium of unsubstantiated rumors when the names of Clinton confederates Cody Shearer and Sidney Blumenthal could not.*¹⁸¹ [Emphasis added.]

19. 'SPECIAL, UNOFFICIAL' STROBE

It's been a long time, more than a quarter-century, since the credentials of any "Clinton confederates" were clean — or just unfamiliar enough to appear clean. Derek and Cody's late sister, Brooke Shearer, was alive back then; she became close to Hillary Clinton during the 1992 campaign. Brooke's husband was Time magazine editor-at-large Strobe Talbott, another FOB. Talbott was Derek Shearer's roommate at Yale (they were both Class of '68), and later Bill Clinton's housemate as Rhodes Scholars at Oxford in 1969. That's when Derek, traveling in Europe at the time, first met Bill. During the Clinton presidency, Talbott became deputy secretary of state (1994-2001) and led the so-called "troika" driving U.S.-Russia policy, which included Vice President Al Gore and Lawrence Summers. Derek didn't get the big job redistributing the wealth that he clearly wanted; but at least he got the Helsinki embassy while his brother-in-law was shuttling back and forth to Moscow.

It's red-thread-relevant to recall that FOB, Shearer kin, and State Department powerhouse Talbott was also an enthusiast, a missionary, a zealot for "world government." In "The Birth of the Global Nation," an essay appearing in Time magazine a few months before Bill Clinton was elected president in 1992, Talbott wrote that he looked forward to a time when "nationhood as we know it will be obsolete; all states will recognize a single, global authority."¹⁸²

Talbott further predicted that by the end of the 21st century, the phrase citizen of the world "will have assumed real meaning." The following year, 1993, Talbott, the Clinton administration's top Russia specialist, would take home the Norman Cousins Global Governance Award from the World Federalist Association.¹⁸³

Strobe Talbott, Global Governance Award-winner, meet Donald Trump, leader of the Nationalist Renaissance.

There was something else about Strobe Talbott; something the public did not know, could not know. Even as he was U.S. coordinator of all Russia policy in the first post-Soviet decade, Talbott was regarded by the KGB's successor agency, the SVR, as a "special unofficial contact."¹⁸⁴

Former Washington Post reporter Pete Earley would reveal this in his 2009 book *Comrade J*, the story of Sergei Tretyakov, the Russian spymaster who directed post-Cold War espionage operations in the U.S. for the Kremlin (1995-2000). Between 1997 and 2000, Tretyakov also worked as a double agent for the FBI. His tenure both in and out of the cold overlapped Talbott's State Department years.

Earley explained what a Special Unofficial Contact was. "Inside the SVR, that term was used only to identify a top-level intelligence source who had high social and/or political status and whose identity needed to be carefully guarded." Another example Tretyakov discussed was Raul Castro, Fidel Castro's brother, recruited by the KGB during the Krushchev era, and who "worked secretly for the Russians continuously during the Yeltsin administration, [Tretyakov] said."

Strobe, Raul — that's special, all right.

Tretyakov emphasized that Talbott was not a spy. "... [L]ike so many before him," Tretyakov said, Talbott "underestimated his Soviet and Russian counterparts and he overestimated his own knowledge and influence to a point where our intelligence service was able to use him with great effectiveness during the Yeltsin presidency. He became an extremely valuable intelligence source."¹⁸⁵

The KGB Lexicon: The Soviet Intelligence Officers Handbook further defines such sources as "Unofficial contacts by the KGB with the holders of senior state posts, and the leaders of political parties in a target country, in the course of which the *participants solve their own tasks with the help of the other side.*"¹⁸⁶ [Emphasis added.]

A colluder, then, if not a collaborator. Such an SVR contact is someone so close to Russian state actors that he is subject to Kremlin manipulation. This raises questions going back to Talbott's days as a journalist at Time magazine, when, as Ken Timmerman reported in *The American Spectator*, "Talbott repeatedly took positions identical to those being promoted by the KGB and its mavens of disinformation — primary among them, Talbott's friend Victor Louis."¹⁸⁷

Victor Louis was a known KGB agent of influence. Sen. Jesse Helms, for one, believed that Louis, and, thus, the KGB, enjoyed a fruitful relationship with Talbott which had begun when Louis leaked tapes of

Khrushchev's memoir to Time magazine. Talbott translated the memoir in 1969, a feat which gave his budding journalism career a giant boost.

If Talbott never confirmed that Louis was his source, Jerrold Schecter, Time bureau chief in 1969, did so in his 2002 book, *Sacred Secrets*.¹⁸⁸ In Helms' 1994 speech opposing Talbott's confirmation, Timmerman reported, Helms "quoted a 1986 State Department Report to illustrate his concern over Talbott's ties to Louis. The Soviets 'gave high priority to the recruitment of foreign journalists who can help shape the opinion of elite audiences and the general public.' "

The report continues:

The USSR also uses Soviet citizens as unofficial sources to leak information to foreign journalists and to spread disinformation that Moscow does not want attributed directly. One of the most prolific of these individuals is Vitaliy Yevgeniyevich Lui — better known as Victor Louis — a Soviet journalist who several KGB defectors have independently identified as a KGB agent. In addition to his leaking such newsworthy items as Khrushchev's ouster, the imminent Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and the reassignment of Marshal Ogarkov, he has been used to try to discredit the memoirs of Stalin's daughter Svetlana. ... After the Chernobyl accident, Victor Louis was the vehicle for publicizing distorted statements by [Soviet dissident Andrei] Sakharov that implied he was supportive of the Soviet handling of the accident and critical of the Western reaction to it.¹⁸⁹

Timmerman sees geopolitical significance in the Louis leak that went well beyond advancing Talbott's career.

At the time the Khrushchev memoirs were turned over to Talbott, then-KGB-boss Yuri Andropov was engaged in a muted power struggle with Party leader Leonid Brezhnev, whom he accused of destroying the Soviet economy and weakening the USSR. The Khrushchev memoirs supported Andropov's thesis, painting Brezhnev as a fool who reveled in pomp and ceremony, while letting the country go to ruin. *By publishing the memoirs in the West, Talbott and Time aided Andropov's rise.*¹⁹⁰ [Emphasis added.]

In the course of the Talbott hearing, Helms stated:

"We already have the Department of State report and volumes of classified information about Mr. Louis. The evidence clearly points to the fact that Victor Louis reported to the KGB and his primary mission was to work foreign media contacts. Mr. Talbott's response to the Committee clearly acknowledges that he had more than a casual relationship with this KGB agent, Victor Louis."¹⁹¹

The good ol' U.S. Senate confirmed Talbott, 66-31.

Maybe the time just wasn't right in 1994 for a proper "Red Scare," not when the career of the sitting Vice President (and his former Senator-father) had been supported (and financed) by "red millionaire" Armand Hammer, a leading Soviet agent of influence, as Edward Jay Epstein demonstrated in his 1996 book, *Dossier: The Secret History of Armand Hammer*.¹⁹²

Say, what was Bill Clinton doing in Moscow and Prague in that Cold War winter of 1969-1970, anyway?

It shouldn't come as the biggest shock in the world to learn, as Pete Earley relates, that during a Russia security investigation in the 1990s, the FBI approached then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (1997-2001) to ask her not to discuss the bureau's investigation with Talbott, *her top deputy*, lest he spill the beans to his Russian friends.¹⁹³

Did Madame Secretary comply? We don't know; however, Talbott remained in office until the end of the Clinton administration. He then assumed the presidency of the Brookings Institution for the next 15 years and no jeers of "Yeltsin's puppet" (or worse) followed him.

But 20 minutes at Trump Tower with "Russians for Hillary" ...?

In this "red" context, then, the close working relationship between Secretary of State Clinton and Strobe Talbott becomes noteworthy. Judging by thirty emails between Hillary Clinton and Talbott published by Wikileaks in 2015, Clinton sought and relied on advice from this SVR "special unofficial contact" and old friend of the KGB's Victor Louis, even for office staffing.¹⁹⁴

Hillary to Strobe, June 9, 2009: I am looking for another smart, politically savvy assistant, preferably one w foreign policy experience expertise. Any ideas?

Strobe to Hillary, June 11, 2009: I've got great young guy (30ish) to suggest for the assistant position if you're interested in someone of huge promise and total dedication and immense intelligence...

Hillary to Strobe, June 11, 2009: Are you free for a quick dinner or lunch in the next week?

Hillary to Strobe, July 26, 2009: ... I'd love to talk soon. I'll start trying to find a time.

Hillary to Strobe, January 18, 2010: Can you talk/meet today?

Hillary to Strobe, February 27, 2010: Could you talk now or tomorrow early morning?

Hillary to Strobe, June 14, 2010: Let's aim for a time to catch up. When will you be back in DC?

Hillary to Strobe, April 10, 2011: Are you now back? Will I see you on Tues night at your big dinner?

Hillary to Strobe, May 9, 2012: ... I'd prefer talking to you myself if you can let me know when it would be convenient. ...

Even Hillary's senior staff got into the act: Cheryl Mills to Strobe, July 16, 2009: Just wanted to say many thanks for all your help on the Secretary speech. Your guidance was invaluable ..."

Talbott remained Hillary's unofficial and special contact, too.

Thus, it comes as no surprise to learn that during the 2016 campaign cycle, Strobe Talbott was also in communication with Christopher Steele."

20. MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, EDWARD LIEBERMAN, AND 'RUSSIANS FOR HILLARY'

If Strobe Talbott remains close to former Secretary of State Clinton, he also remains close to former Secretary of State Albright. In September 2018, the Brookings Institution hosted "a conversation with Secretary Albright and Strobe Talbott, distinguished fellow in residence and former Brookings president, on the threat of fascism and how we can avoid repeating the tragic errors of the past" —"fascism" being the smear of choice used by The Resistance (globalists) and Never Trump (internationalists).

Albright herself pops up at a formative moment in the anti-Trump conspiracy — the security conference affiliated with Cambridge in London in July 2016.¹⁹⁵ It was here where FBI informant/CIA asset Stefan Halper, a conference speaker, first made contact with Carter Page, the surveillance-quarry of the anti-Trump conspiracy, usually described as an unpaid Trump campaign adviser,[†] who was attending as a member of the audience. Another conference speaker was former head of MI6, Sir Richard Dearlove, Christopher Steele's former boss, at that time or soon thereafter advising Steele on getting his Trump-Russia "dossier" to the FBI.[‡] Dearlove, well-connected old thing, was also an associate of Stefan Halper. Later, in December 2016, Dearlove and Halper would suddenly resign from their posts at the academic forum, the Cambridge Intelligence

* British court documents reveal Talbott and Steele were in communication about dossier information. <https://dailycaller.com/2018/12/11/strobe-talbott-steele-dossier-clinton/>

† "Attorney Don McGahn told Page in a December 2016 letter to 'immediately cease' saying he is a Trump adviser and to stop suggesting he was more than a short-lived advisory council member 'who never actually met with the president-elect.'" See: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-lawyer-told-carter-page-to-cease-calling-self-adviser-as-russia-concerns-intensified>

‡ Dearlove's connections to intelligence operations, official and unofficial, are legion. <https://themarketswork.com/2018/05/20/sir-richard-dearlove-uk-intelligence-ties/>

Seminar, due to what Halper called “unacceptable Russian influence on the group.”¹⁹⁶

This incident remains mysterious. FBI Trump-campaign-informant Halper aside: Is it really the case that a former head of MI6, Dearlove, was completely duped by Russian agents of influence at the Cambridge Intelligence Seminar until just a couple of weeks before President-elect Trump would be briefed on the contents of the “dossier” named for Dearlove protégé Steele? Or were the resignations themselves a cover story for Dearlove and Halper as they cut their own, suddenly awkward Russian ties?

At the July conference, as Halper homed in on Page (under Dearlove’s approving gaze?), Madeleine Albright was a keynote speaker. This might seem to be no more than background noise, literally, except for one extremely odd detail: “She was always trying to get me into public debates,” Page told Sara Carter, referring to Albright during the conference. “I told her I was there just as a listener, just as an attendee.”¹⁹⁷

This caught Mark Steyn’s eye. He wrote:

It’s one thing to invite Carter Page to show up at some tedious yakfest at Cambridge with Halper sitting in front of him. ... But what if you could get Page to stand up and say something? Then you could find a friendly journo to report it and, instead of just a nobody on the fringes of the campaign, you’d have a “senior Trump advisor” sharing his thoughts on the global scene with Madam Albright and Sir Richard and Sir Malcolm and all the other bigshots, and then you could use *that* story three weeks later at the FISA court, to demonstrate how deep into the heart of the campaign the Russkies had penetrated.¹⁹⁸

Was Albright in on this fix, too?

Enter Edward Lieberman, the original counsel of Albright’s lobbying firm, The Albright Group. Lieberman has close ties to both Albright and the Clintons through his late wife, Evelyn Lieberman, and, apparently, to Russian intelligence through his longtime business partner, Rinat Akhmetshin, a participant at the “Russians for Hillary” meeting at Trump Tower.

This is not a thread so much as a knot.

Edward Lieberman is a Washington lawyer. He has specialized in “a wide variety of international legal and business issues, including multi-billion dollar privatizations of oil and gas assets in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Russia.”¹⁹⁹ This goes back to the beginning of the “new” Russia, by the way: Lieberman was among the first waves of American lawyers “streaming to Russia” by 1992.²⁰⁰

After five years as Sen. Joe Biden’s press secretary, Lieberman’s late wife, Evelyn, entered the Clinton White House in 1993. While Edward was

working on those multi-billion-dollar privatization issues in Russia and beyond, Evelyn became a fixture in Clintonworld, first on First Lady Hillary Clinton's staff and later as Bill Clinton's deputy chief of staff (1996-1997). She is best remembered for having extracted Monica Lewinsky from the White House for reassignment elsewhere. After leaving the White House, Evelyn occupied a senior position at the State Department under Secretary of State Albright. At the time of her death in 2015, Mrs. Lieberman was chief operating officer of Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign.

Edward Lieberman appears to have a connection to Russian intelligence through Rinat Akhmetshin, Lieberman's reputedly Russian-intelligence-connected business associate of some 20 years. There is a very close working relationship: Akhmetshin calls Lieberman his "personal adviser"; The New York Times calls Lieberman "Mr. Akhmetshin's gateway to Washington."²⁰¹

Russian intelligence seems to be an Akhmetshin family affair. According to the New York Times, Akhmetshin's father, sister and godfather all work in Russian intelligence services. Newsweek reports: "Some U.S. officials believe [Akhmetshin] has ongoing ties to Russian intelligence."²⁰²

Until recent times, Akhmetshin bragged about his intel background. "He would boast about ties and experience in Soviet intelligence and counterintelligence," former National Security Council staffer Matthew Bryza told the New York Times.²⁰³ In his 2017 Senate interview, however, Akhmetshin denied any personal or family connections to Soviet/Russian intelligence.²⁰⁴ In 2010, however, when Viktor Ivanov, a former deputy chief of FSB came to Washington, Akhmetshin squired him around town. This tells us the Kremlin considers Akhmetshin to be trustworthy, and with good reason. Summing up Akhmetshin's lobbying activities, both with and independent of Edward Lieberman, the New York Times wrote that they "routinely advanced the Kremlin's interests, especially after he became an American citizen in 2009."²⁰⁵

Let's connect a few dots. The late, chief operating officer of Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign was married to a man whose longtime business partner "routinely advanced the Kremlin's interests."

Oh, well. Nothing to see here.

Judging by Akhmetshin's two decades in Washington routinely advancing the Kremlin interests of Yeltsin, Putin, Medvedev and Putin, it's not going out on a limb to conclude that Akhmetshin's allegiance lies with the Kremlin. Judging by his relationship with Edward Lieberman, judging by his interview with Senate Investigators examining the infamous Trump Tower meeting with those I have dubbed "Russians for Hillary,"²⁰⁶ I'd say they lie with Hillary Clinton, too — definitely not with Donald Trump.

Let's go back to a day in June 2016, one month before Madeleine Albright was unsuccessfully pumping tangential Trump adviser Carter Page for sound bytes at the Cambridge conference. On the morning of June 9, 2016, routine-advancer-of-Kremlin-interests Rinat Akhmetshin was traveling with Clinton-Albright-connected-Russia-specialist Edward Lieberman to New York City. There, while Lieberman had family business at the Metropolitan Museum, Akhmetshin "unexpectedly," he claims, attended the "Russians for Hillary" meeting with Don Trump Jr. at Trump Tower.*

Having studied the matter,²⁰⁷ I have concluded there was not one Trump-supporter among the "Russians" who went to Trump Tower to "help" Donald Trump. I even put "Russians" in quotation marks because three of the four hold both Russian and U.S. passports. In fact, it's a fair guess that the three "Russians" in the room with U.S. passports were also Hillary voters. Besides Clinton-connected Akhmetshin, there was Irakly "Ike" Kaveladze, who told Senate investigators he *and his family* voted for Hillary Clinton; there was Anatoli Somorchnov, whose social media posts (expand health care, restrict gun rights) place his politics way outside any "basket of Deplorables." Also of note were the links (red threads?) to Russian intelligence among them. Besides Akhmetshin's reported ties, Kaveladze allegedly ran a suspected money-laundering scheme with a partner who was linked to "former KGB officers";²⁰⁸ Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya, too, finally outed herself in 2018 as a government informant of the Russian prosecutor general.

Business partners Lieberman and Akhmetshin reunited that evening as Lieberman, Lieberman's niece, Akhmetshin and two more Trump Tower alumni, Veselnitskaya and Somochornov, all attended a "beautiful" play together. The play starred a relative of Akhmetshin.²⁰⁹

Akhmetshin told investigators he didn't mention a word about the Trump Tower meeting to Lieberman.

Aaron Klein sums up:

In other words, Akhmetshin is claiming that he attended a meeting at the campaign headquarters of Clinton's presidential challenger with that challenger's son and other top Trump staffers, and that same night Akhmetshin did not even mention the meeting to his friend Lieberman, a Clinton associate.

He also said he had drinks that same night with another "friend" but could not remember who that friend was.²¹⁰

Poor, dizzy Akhmetshin. He fussed up all over again when it came to the 2016 Halifax International Conference, where, just ten days after

* Akhmetshin told Senate investigators that Lieberman was meeting with Metropolitan Museum officials about an art history scholarship in his late wife's name. "Both he and she are art collectors," he said.

Trump shattered the established global order on November 8, 2016, security and military grandees gathered to survey the rubble. Akhmetshin was there, too, just as he was at every Halifax Conference for the previous five years — although, as Canadian reporter Colin Freeze observed, the event “was not the kind of place one would expect to meet many Russians.”²¹¹

Senate investigators wanted to know whether Akhmetshin communicated with two other Halifax regulars in 2016, the late Sen. John McCain — one of the most vivid American political personalities of our time and an annual presence at the conference — and David Kramer, a close McCain associate and a director of the conference.

Poor Akhmetshin just couldn’t remember. “Might have spoken with” Kramer, he said. “Might have said hi” to McCain.²¹²

It was at the Halifax conference where John McCain claimed to have first learned about the Steele dossier in a *tête-à-tête* with Sir Andrew Wood, a former UK Ambassador to Russia, and a friend and associate of Christopher Steele (who isn’t?). The two men spoke in the company of David Kramer and another McCain associate, Christian Brose, McCain’s national security advisor turned staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee until shortly after McCain’s death in August 2018.

After the conference, McCain dispatched Kramer to meet with Steele in the UK. According to *The New Yorker*, Kramer spent hours going over the dossier with Steele at his home outside London. What did they talk about? Did the identity of the funders of the dossier — Hillary Clinton and the DNC — come up in these discussions?

When Kramer returned to Washington, Fusion GPS provided him with a copy of the dossier, which Kramer, in turn, gave to McCain. A *New Yorker* source said Kramer considered a plan “to have McCain confront Trump with the evidence, in the hope that Trump would resign. “He would tell Trump, ‘The Russians have got you’...”²¹³

The Russians have got you?

On December 9, 2016, Sen. McCain gave the Steele dossier to FBI Director Comey.

Fusion to Kramer to McCain to Comey: The chain of custody is important because it originates with a research firm known for its Democrat clientele. Kramer and McCain, then (unless Kramer withheld the dossier’s origins from the Senator) had just knowingly passed a packet of Democrat opposition research (at the very least) to the FBI. Not until December 2018 did we finally learn that it was David Kramer who passed the Steele dossier to BuzzFeed, pulling the pin on the “salacious and unverified” grenade to explode it on the incoming president in the public domain.²¹⁴

21. KREMLIN INFLUENCE AND THE EXPERTS

One more thing about David Kramer: He has a brother, Mark Kramer, who is a Russia expert, too. Where David has excelled in Washington in government and foundations, Mark has excelled in academia. Mark Kramer, as David Kramer pointed out in an article,²¹⁵ is Studies at Harvard.

Those who remember the extremely unusual attack campaign²¹⁶ against my 2013 book, *American Betrayal*, may recall Mark Kramer. He appeared at the onset to make a series of shifting claims²¹⁷ that formed one of many spurious attacks and outright fabrications promulgated about the contents of the book.²¹⁸ This becomes relevant anew for three reasons: (1) *American Betrayal* is a primer on what entered public discourse in 2016 as “Russian influence,” (2) Mark Kramer wrote an op-ed in the Washington Post²¹⁹ in 2018 to the effect that influence operations, Russian or other, are just a myth, and (3) his example of such “myth”-making was *American Betrayal*.

What should we make of the Harvard professor’s nonsense²²⁰?

Somewhere inside the “disinformation campaign”²²¹ unleashed against *American Betrayal* there was a mission: to cement the domestic history of the Cold War as a saga of stolen secrets *only*. According to the “experts,” there was no communist influence on our war councils and peace conferences, and there was no communist assault on our nation’s character, either. Call it #FakeHlstory. Two of the book’s repeat-critics, Harvey Klehr and John Earl Haynes, asserted that in their years of archival research they encountered “ample documentation of Soviet intelligence obtaining American technical, military, and diplomatic information, but very little indicated successful policy manipulation.”²²² Mark Kramer’s Washington Post op-ed went further, stating it was a “surprisingly common misconception” that intelligence agents really even attempted what Klehr and Haynes called “policy manipulation.”²²³

Taking the experts at their word leaves us, at best, with only half of the history. Piecing together the domestic Cold War as a chronology of stolen secrets only (in short, all Rosenbergs, all the time) omits — erases — the story, the mechanism, and the impact of the subversion of our institutions not least by intelligence armies directed by Moscow.

In a monograph titled “Soviet Agents of Influence,” Communist espionage expert Herbert Romerstein sets forth the well-known division of intelligence labor. “An intelligence service has two major functions in a target country. One is to collect information from either classified or unclassified sources. The second is to influence the situation in that country.”²²⁴ In his masterwork *Witness*, Whittaker Chambers made it clear that gaining influence was, in fact, more important than gaining information: “That power to influence policy has always been the ultimate

purpose of the Communist Party's infiltration. It was much more dangerous, and, as events have proved, much more difficult to detect, than espionage [stealing secrets], which beside it is trivial, though the two go hand in hand." In 1946, Chambers stated in a debriefing that senior GRU agent Alger Hiss's assignment inside the State Department was "to mess up policy."²²⁵ In an eerie echo, the James O'Keefe documentary "Unmasking the Deep State" features self-described communists and socialists working inside the federal government, bragging about doing exactly the same thing.²²⁶

The history of influencing policy — and the ongoing effort to cover that history up — are important to bear in mind while puzzling over the anti-Trump conspiracy.

22. A BOUQUET FOR PUTIN

Until recently, I didn't notice the fraternal connection between David Kramer and Mark Kramer. Nor do the brothers seem to take pains to make it themselves. When speaking or writing as an expert in "Russian influence" (or lack thereof) for example, Mark Kramer does not make it known that his younger brother David Kramer is himself a central figure in the current "Russian influence" controversy.

Maybe he didn't know.

That surely changed on December 11, 2017, when Fox News reported that almost exactly one year earlier, David Kramer served as the dossier-go-between for Sen. John McCain and Christopher Steele.

House investigators later interviewed David Kramer. Rather than participate in a second interview, Kramer pleaded the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination. Glenn Simpson pleaded the Fifth Amendment, too, rather than return to answer questions from Congress; Nellie Ohr invoked spousal privilege.

We learned that David Kramer pleaded the Fifth on February 22, 2018, roughly three weeks after President Trump declassified the sensational House Intelligence Committee memo. This four-page-memo²²⁷ reported that the uncorroborated Steele dossier — bought and paid for by Hillary Clinton and the DNC, augmented by Cody Shearer and Sidney Blumenthal, moved along by Kramer and McCain (among others) — "formed an essential part" of the application the FBI and DOJ presented to the FISA court to gain authorization to spy, first, on the Trump campaign, and then the Trump presidency.

^{*} Whittaker Chambers, *Witness*, p. 427

One of John McCain's final acts in the U.S. Senate was to taint these crucially important House findings as treasonous. He called them "attacks" that "serve no American interests — no party's, no president's, only Putin's." McCain concluded: "Special Counsel Mueller's investigation must proceed unimpeded. Our nation's elected officials, including the president, must stop looking at this investigation through the warped lens of politics and manufacturing partisan sideshows. If we continue to undermine our own rule of law, we are doing Putin's job for him."

Mueller's investigation *must* proceed unimpeded? Our nation's elected officials, including the president, *must* stop looking at this investigation ...?

It would be hard to invent a more sinister or absurd statement for a democratically elected official to make — effectively nullifying congressional oversight because "checks and balances" equate with Putinism! However, this was the unifying mantra of Never Trump Republicans such as McCain and Resistance Democrats led by Nancy Pelosi. "By releasing highly classified and distorted intelligence," Pelosi said, President Trump "just sent his friend Putin a bouquet."

These words, outrageous as they are, lie flat on the page, recalling little of the ear-drum-piercing clamor that rose across the Swamp against the release of this four-page House memo. The intensity was unlike anything I ever experienced in Washington, with the McCain Right and Pelosi Left summoning all of their power and stature *not* to denounce the FBI and DOJ deceptions, their perversion of federal police powers, their assault on the American political system, but rather to stop the release of information about such matters to the American people.

There was a diabolical flourish to their efforts: It was the essence of "patriotism," the McCains and Pelosis (and Flakes and Schiffs and Coons and Brennans and Comeys) instructed us, *to rubber-stamp the police powers of the federal government*, which had been, we were learning, effectively seized by anti-Trump conspirators and transformed into the enforcement mechanism of the Deep State. To expose the corruption, to hold the bosses accountable, however, was to *serve Putin as a Russian agent*. This shameless perversion of logic and principle marked a last-ditch gambit to protect the anti-Trump conspiracy from exposure. From cable panel to editorial page, the Swamp was loudly applauded for it, even as President Trump was excoriated for declassifying the memo for the American people to judge for themselves.

The memo is "dishonest and misleading," said James Comey, who signed the October 2016 FISA application.

Chairman Nunes abused his office, said John Brennan, who signed the October 2016 FISA application.

“The Justice Department did not believe the memo accurately described its investigative practices and that making it public could set a dangerous precedent, Reuters reported Rod Rosenstein said. (Rosenstein signed a FISA application renewal in 2017.)

“The Nunes memo is dangerous, ugly, and an assault on the integrity of the institutions of our country,” tweeted John Kerry, who signed the October 2016 FISA application. “I lived through Watergate/Nixon,” the former Secretary of State continued. “America pays a very steep price when a political party tries to undermine the institutions that hold us together ...”

Kerry’s statement is noteworthy. He slashes at the Republican “political party” because it “tries to undermine” — that is, expose the corruption of — “the institutions that hold us together,” otherwise known as the Deep State.

The “us” that Kerry and his Deep State “institutions” want to hold together, however, is not Us, the People; it is Them, the Swamp. Anyone outside of it, anyone fighting to expose its creatures, was not only wrong, he was *a Russian agent*. Soon, all of the Swamp loudspeakers were blaring the same thing: the patriots are comrades and the comrades are patriots.



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Things subsided.

The following month, March 2018, Mark Kramer published his Washington Post op-ed, “Five Myths about Espionage,” as described above. The news peg was not the latest Steele dossier revelations but rather the Skripal poisoning in the UK. Kramer’s op-ed is a peculiar piece, appraising espionage — for example, the massive infiltration by Communist intelligence agents of NATO and the West German government — as practically benign (“Espionage has often helped to prevent or reduce tension”), and dismissing the mission to influence policy as “myth.”

But note the yin and yang of the Kramers. Mark Kramer declares that influence operations are a myth; David Kramer played a central role in one.

Or so it is easy to argue. After all, the Steele dossier is billed as the product of a *foreign intelligence* professional — Steele — who, drawing on *Kremlin intelligence* sources, participated in a series of *multinational intelligence* operations involving FBI and CIA assets with assistance from *British and Australian intelligence* services (and who knows what else). The point of it all was to *influence* the course of a presidential election and, failing that, to “mess up” the Trump presidency.

The Russians might call it “active measures.”

23. WHAT DO THE FOUNDERS OF THE CPUSA HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

In a lengthy interview in 2011,²²⁸ David Kramer mentioned that he was able to learn to speak Russian at his high school in Middleborough, Mass. — “a fairly quiet town” where the Russian-descended Kramer family ran a clothing store. They traveled to the Soviet Union in 1983 and visited a cousin in Latvia, and David pursued Soviet and Russian coursework in college.

Granted, not the most exciting interview; especially since on the more interesting questions, David played it close to the vest.

Regarding the late 1970s-1980s in Massachusetts, David Kramer is asked: Was the Kennedy name still something [in those years]?

He replied: “Yes. Senator Kennedy still carried a lot of weight, yes, he did.”²²⁹

David might have spiced things up by mentioning that his older, also-Russian-speaking brother Mark worked for Sen. Ted Kennedy during his presidential run in 1979-1980, a decade after Chappaquiddick. During this primary campaign to challenge President Carter for the Democratic Party nomination, Kennedy sent his confidante and University of Virginia Law

School roommate, former Sen. John Tunney, to Moscow for discussions with the KGB. On March 5, 1980, Tunney conveyed to the KGB the Democratic presidential challenger's offer "to speak out against President Carter on Afghanistan."

Kennedy would do exactly that on the campaign trail, publicly opposing Carter on the issue. Talk about "Russian collusion"! To my knowledge, former Kennedy staffer and Cold war historian Mark Kramer has not offered his thoughts about this.²³⁰

This 1980 Tunney visit was not Ted Kennedy's first contact with the Soviet spy agency. According to KGB documents first reported on in 1992 and later analyzed by Herbert Romerstein,²³¹ the KGB considered a request from Sen. Kennedy in 1978 to establish a relationship "between the Soviet apparatus and a firm owned by former Senator John Tunney."

Into the 1980s, Ted Kennedy was still a presidential hopeful and still in KGB contact, notoriously seeking a reciprocal arrangement from Soviet General Secretary Andropov against President Reagan in 1983. Nonetheless, this lurid documentary evidence of Kennedy's "Soviet collusion" — Romerstein described Kennedy as a "collaborationist" — was and remains of zero interest to "mainstream" journalists.

In a way, Ted Kennedy's communications with the KGB go back to the very beginning of his public life. According to his FBI file, on a 1961 South American tour during his brother John's presidency, Ted not only sought to meet with "communists and others who had left-wing views" (and rent a brothel), but "the first person he wanted to meet" in Colombia, the U.S. Ambassador to Bogota reported, was the notorious Lauchlin Currie.²³² Currie was a senior aide to FDR with a long record of covert service to Stalin during his years in the Roosevelt administration, beginning in the Treasury Department and ending in the White House (1934-1945). What transpired at the Kennedy-Currie meeting — if, indeed, it came off — is unknown. It is challenging, however, to come up with an innocent explanation for Kennedy's interest in the meeting. By 1961, Currie had been exposed as a Soviet agent for well over a decade.

Is this another red thread? However unlikely it is that young Mark Kramer had any awareness whatsoever of Kennedy's lifelong tendency to KGB-outreach while working for him, it's fair to note that Kramer championed the dove-ish "red thread" politics that went with it — the opposite politics of a Reaganite anti-communist in the 1980s.

Back in the day, Mark Kramer even saw his Kennedy experience as a resume-builder. In 1982, he told the Stanford Daily that his year with

²³⁰ Herbert Romerstein reports, "Tunney expressed Kennedy's opinion that 'nonsense about "the Soviet military threat" and Soviet ambitions for military expansion in the Persian Gulf ... was being fueled by (President Jimmy) Carter, (National Security Advisor Zbigniew) Brzezinski, the Pentagon and the military industrial complex.'" <http://humanevents.com/2003/12/05/ted-kennedy-was-a-collaborationist/>

Kennedy was “a major factor” in clinching the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship he had just won;²³³ indeed, perusing the more illustrious biographies of Rhodes Scholars, Left-wing politics would seem to be a prerequisite. Besides Bill Clinton of Georgetown and Strobe Talbott of Yale, Stanford’s complement of Rhodes Scholars includes Democratic fund-raiser Peter Stamos and Obama administration veterans Michael McFaul and Susan Rice. Mark Kramer’s subsequent career in Cold War Studies has taken him deep inside many Soviet-era archives — perhaps not the most predictable career path for a political foot-soldier of one of the most left-wing (and KGB-cozy) U.S. senators of all time.

Also instrumental in Kramer’s selection as a Rhodes Scholar was the recommendation he received from his political science professor, Hubert Marshall (1920-2016), a venerated member of the Stanford faculty for nearly forty years. Marshall held great power on campus due to his serving on the “selection committees for Rhodes, Truman and Marshall scholarships.”²³⁴ In academic terms, Marshall was a kingmaker.

Professor Marshall told the Stanford paper how impressed he had been with Mark Kramer’s “rare, analytical mind,” and elaborated on their rapport: “He used to walk with me after every class period asking me questions. I was very impressed with his intelligence. We would discuss politics ...”²³⁵

They must have made a simpatico pair, the professor and the student: Hubert Marshall, “the Reigning King of Poli Sci 1” and left-wing activist in tweeds; Mark Kramer, an excellent student, who wrote prolifically in the Stanford newspaper about his enthusiasm for “wage and price controls,”²³⁶ or his pessimism about Reagan’s foreign policy — “as muddled as ever.”²³⁷

A pacifist in his twenties during World War II, Hubert Marshall supported Left-wing causes for the rest of his life, from civil rights, to advocating for “social action” on campus, to protesting the Vietnam War. Rachelle, his anti-war-protesting wife, got herself arrested as an anti-war protestor. Marshall also opposed military recruitment on the Stanford campus. “In a truly literal sense,” he said, “the end result of a recruiting interview at Stanford may be the successful destruction of a Cambodian village.”²³⁸ Marshall supported Nixon’s impeachment (Political Scientists for Impeachment), the equal rights amendment, the nuclear freeze movement (Mark Kramer in an op-ed called the latter “deeply flawed” but “deserved much of the credit” for pushing the Reagan administration toward arms control talks²³⁹). Hubert and Rachelle Marshall both are

remembered for their participation in the “April 3 Movement,” a Stanford-wide conglomeration of all of these political causes.’

By Marshall’s political compass, however, he was only a “mild liberal” on domestic questions, and “more nearly a liberal” on foreign policy matters.²⁴⁰ That’s what he told the Stanford paper in 1982 (the year he recommended Mark Kramer for a Rhodes), perhaps reflecting the normalcy of extremism in the academic world they lived in. Marshall’s marriage pulsed with political emanations. Rachelle Marshall was not affiliated with Stanford except by marriage and residence; however, her life on the local Left is chronicled in the Stanford Daily in news of protests, speeches, letters, and op-eds.

The Marshalls were married on their graduation day in 1947 at Antioch College, a campus Hubert went so far as to call “openly liberal.” How “openly liberal” was it? When the Marshalls were students in the 1940s, the Antioch faculty included a professor of “political economy” who was also a co-founder of the Communist Party USA, and a favorite professor of Rachelle’s.

In a 1982 letter to the New York Review of Books,²⁴¹ Rachelle reminisced about her studies under Professor Lewis Corey, unmasked in 1942 as Louis C. Fraina, the Italian immigrant who, in 1919, along with Ella Reeve Bloor and others, was a founding member of the Communist Party USA. Fraina/Corey was also an early chairman of the CPUSA, and, as such, according to a congressional report, “assumed the leading role in drawing up a program for the overthrow of the United States government.”

By the time the Marshalls arrived at Antioch twenty-odd years later, Fraina/Corey was teaching several courses: “labor economics,” a seminar on “social change,” and a course called “World Reconstruction.” Rachelle took them all (no word on whether her future-husband and classmate took them). In addition to teaching college courses, Fraina/Corey was also research director of the Union for Democratic Action, a group founded by Comey-idol Reinhold Niebuhr. In 1942, the House Un-American Activities Committee, taking strong exception to UDA’s midterms campaign to purge Congress of anti-Communist members, reported that fifty principal UDA members were associated with 25 Communist and Communist front groups — including Niebuhr and Fraina/Corey.²⁴²

We see some of our red threads coming together in 1964 when Hubert Marshall, Reinhold Niebuhr, and A.J. Muste all were sponsors of the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee;²⁴³ as recently as 2007, Hubert and Rachelle Marshall were

^{*} Marshall is also remembered as a member of the “April 3 Movement,” the Stanford-centered drive against the Vietnam War, which “overlapped with the civil rights/Third World liberation movement, women’s liberation, the counter-culture, gay rights, labor organizing, university reform, anti-draft work, anti-imperialism, and several version of socialism,” according to a website created to memorialize it.

supporters of the “progressive” Center for Constitutional Rights, which came into being in the mid-1960s fighting the House Un-American Activities Committee on the constitutionality of its subpoenas.

This thread of continuity interests me greatly. From Louis C. Fraina/Lewis Corey to A.J. Muste to Reinhold Niebuhr to Rachele and Hubert Marshall, we can follow a bright line of opposition to the anti-Communist investigations undertaken by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, from its inception in the late 1930s through the mid-1960s. Indeed, the debut of the so-called “New Left,” David Horowitz has written, was an organized disruption in 1960 of hearings in San Francisco by the Un-American Activities Committee — which, of course, was a very “Old Left” thing to do.²⁴⁴

Although the committee changed names in 1969 and shut its doors for good in 1975 (known as the House Committee on Internal Security), visceral, palpable hostility remains toward the Un-American Activities Committee and its long-defunct sister committees in Congress (very much including the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee chaired by Sen. McCarthy in 1953-1954). We might expect to find such hostility on the American Left — but I can’t help noticing it exists *also among the detractors of American Betrayal*. Even as they patrol the Cold War territory in academia, even as they riffle through and parse sets of decrypted KGB cables from the Venona archive and the Vassiliev notebooks, they continue to bristle at the suggestion that the massive, detailed investigations undertaken by democratically elected American officials in the 20th century created an illuminating public archive of the domestic communist assault on our nation that merits renewed study today.

For example, Venona and Vassiliev experts Harvey Klehr and John Earl Haynes go so far as to stipulate that it is “mistaken” to assume their KGB cable research vindicates figures like [sic] Martin Dies and Joseph McCarthy.²⁴⁵

It’s important to underscore: Neither of these great Americans, Dies nor McCarthy, elected to office multiple times, requires “vindication” from the academy. That said, it is downright bizarre to insist that the fraction of KGB communications released to the public to date does *not* confirm, buttress, augment or dovetail with the record as painstakingly amassed by congressional investigations into domestic Communist subversion, particularly, but not exclusively, undertaken between 1938 and 1975.

Frankly, it is hard to imagine that anyone but a Communist, an “anti-anti-communist,” an Antioch professor, a UDA official, a Rhodes Scholarship committeeman, the April 3 Movement, or a Cold War historian would even think to say otherwise.

24. UNSPOOLING JOHN KERRY

In January 2017, Carnegie Endowment chief William J. Burns introduced freshly retired State Department official Jonathan Winer to an audience by noting that Winer “was known at Foggy Bottom and across government as ‘The Fixer-in-Chief.’” Given that Winer’s portfolios included international law enforcement, financial transparency, and cross-border law enforcement issues such as cybercrime, small arms trafficking, illegal immigration, and money laundering, the sobriquet is not likely to inspire confidence in the general public. The in-crowd, however, seemed enthralled.

Burns, also a former State Department official, went on: “The more complicated and charged the issue, the more likely we were to ask Jonathan to help fix it. ... It’s because he was able to deliver results and to move the ball forward when most of us were inclined to throw up our hands in despair.”²⁴⁶

Winer liked the title so much he added it to his LinkedIn page.

True to form, Fixer-in-Chief Winer was able to move “the ball” forward — when “the ball” was a summary of the Steele dossier — from Christopher Steele to State Department seniors Victoria Nuland and Secretary of State John Kerry; he was also able to move “the ball” forward (the Shearer dossier) from Cody Shearer and Sidney Blumenthal to Christopher Steele. (Winer was equally effective in moving the ball forward — the Magnitsky Act — as discussed below.)

Such “fixing” drew the attention of both the House Intelligence Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee, prompting Winer to attempt a fix of his own: a pre-emptive op-ed in the Washington Post on February 8, 2018, arguing how completely routine, normal and even boring his “fixer” activities in the anti-Trump conspiracy actually were.²⁴⁷

For some, it was a hard sell. After all, one year earlier, the public began to learn that the DOJ’s Bruce Ohr was in frequent communication with Christopher Steele during the 2016 presidential election. Now, news was breaking that State Department official Winer, then Special Envoy to Libya, was the *second* government official working the Steele connection, in this case at the State Department.²⁴⁸ Later still, we learned that former State Department senior Strobe Talbott, too, was working a Steele connection.²⁴⁹ Maybe the most freakish dossier backchannel was James Baker, who, as general counsel of the FBI, accepted a set of the Steele memos from David Corn, a reporter from the far-left publication Mother Jones, and interceded in the FISA warrant process.²⁵⁰ What was going on?

Fixing as usual, according to Winer’s op-ed. He admitted meeting with Steele in September 2016, reviewing the “dossier,” and preparing a summary for Nuland and Kerry. In late September 2016, he also met with his “old friend” Sidney Blumenthal, reviewed *his* dossier and then passed

it along to Steele, who incorporated the lot into his presentation to the FBI. This became the primary “evidence” to convince the FISA court to authorize spying on the Trump team. “I did not expect them to be shared with anyone in the U.S. government,” wrote Winer of Cody and Sid’s contributions.²⁵¹

If the disclaimer sounds weak, remember that Fixers-in-Chief are not so hot at operating in the open. They work best behind the scenes, inside the impenetrable bureaucracy, with only their inscrutable resumes showing. Take Winer’s resume. It lists a series of positions in the Senate, two stints in the State Department (1993-1999 and 2013-2017), his positions with law firms, and the lobbying firm APCO. Thanks to FBI informant William Campbell, we know APCO services a most intriguing Russian account,²⁵² but we don’t know Winer’s role therein, if any. The rest of the CV reveals little.

Helpfully, Winer added in his op-ed: “After 1999, I left the State Department and developed a legal and consulting practice that often involved Russian matters.”

“Russian matters”? Join the club — or, rather, the anti-Trump conspiracy.

At Winer’s Twitter account, his anti-Trump bona fides and support for the Trump-Russia narrative were easy to ascertain — at least until Winer “blocked” me.

1) “When I worked #Russia in Moscow ...” When was that?



"Sparrows," by the way, is fictional espionage-speak for female intelligence operatives on honey-trap duty. The bird invoked by professionals, I am told, is "swallow."

2) Does he really believe that "assaults on Hillary's integrity" are something only the Kremlin could possibly cook up?



3) Below we see Winer throwing in with the McCain-Pelosi-Schiff-Brennan-Kerry-Comey forces of concealment, which equate constitutional oversight with aiding and abetting the Kremlin.



Attacks on them are "despicable"? What's "despicable" is faking "serious foreign threats" via DNC/Clinton dirty tricks to gain a warrant to spy on American citizens, subverting an election, and, failing to subvert the election, trying to overturn it.

Some still call that treason.

That said, Winer's tweets offer nothing out of the ordinary in the context of contemporary Democratic venting. We have to go back to the beginning to find our thread.

It was 1972 when 17-year-old Jonathan Winer first met 29-year-old John Kerry. Jonathan Winer was editor of his high school newspaper in Massachusetts. Kerry was running for office. Looking back thirty years later as a senior advisor on Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign, Winer recalled the meeting: Kerry "relatively recently had come off his Vietnam Veterans speech, which I and everybody else had seen. So it was a pretty big deal to interview him."²⁵³

Given the very close professional association that followed, it's fair to say that Kerry's "Vietnam Veterans speech" had the effect of bonding the teenaged Winer to Kerry, not repelling him. Remember, this was the two-hour speech that the anti-war movement champion, John Kerry, Yale '66, a decorated veteran of a four-month tour of duty in Vietnam (1968-1969), delivered before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1971, thanks to the intercession of Sen. Ted Kennedy (Mark Kramer's future candidate). Kerry's presentation scandalized the nation.²⁵⁴

The main trigger was Kerry's blanket-indictment of the U.S. military for war crimes in Vietnam. You name it, the U.S. did it: murder, torture, rape, mutilation, "razing villages in a fashion reminiscent of Genghis Khan," as Kerry put it, poisoning, destroying, terrorizing. These were "not isolated incidents," Kerry told the U.S. Senate, "but crimes committed on a day-to-day basis with the full awareness of officers at all levels of command."²⁵⁵

It is this passage that lives on, reintroduced to American consciousness during Kerry's 2004 presidential run. However, as William F. Buckley pointed out in a 1971 newspaper column, Kerry also excoriated American anti-communism. "Mr. Kerry informed Congress that what threatens the United States isn't 'Reds,' but 'the crimes we are committing.'" Further, the "criminal hypocrisy" that drove U.S. policy in Vietnam resulted from what Kerry said was "all that we were told about the mystical war against communism."²⁵⁶

It's unlikely that even two million Vietnamese "boat people," soon to risk their lives to escape *non*-mystical communist jailers, could have changed Kerry's mind.

I say so based on Kerry's unseemly rush in 1985, as a brand new U.S. Senator, to parley with another Soviet-supported government, the Sandinista junta in Nicaragua, led, then as now, by Daniel Ortega. This gambit, as author Jerome Corsi has pointed out, mirrored Kerry's unseemly rush in 1970 to talk with Soviet-supported Vietnamese Communists in Paris, notoriously including Madame Binh, a confidante of

Ho Chi Minh. At the time, Kerry was a naval officer in reserve status, and American soldiers were fighting on the battlefield and being tortured in prison camps.*

As a U.S. Senator, Kerry's visit to Nicaragua, traveling with Sen. Tom Harkin, carried political weight that his earlier grandstanding did not. In *Covert Cadre: Inside the Institute for Policy Studies*,²⁵⁷ S. Steven Powell notes that the two senators' trip to Managua, immediately preceding a House vote on \$14 million in aid to the Nicaraguan Contras, was widely credited with having killed the aid package. What rekindled Contra support was Ortega's announcement (on the day of the U.S. vote in Washington) that he was off to Moscow, where he would collect \$200 million for *la revolución* from Mikhail Gorbachev. Needless to say, Kerry did not pick up his red marbles and go home. It's doubtful he was even red-faced. Top aide Jonathan Winer stayed put too, remaining Kerry's unblushing counsel and principal legislative assistant for the next nine years.

Calling the senators' trip "one of the most controversial unofficial diplomatic junkets ever taken,"²⁵⁸ Powell notes that it was arranged by Peter Kornbluh, an Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) fellow. Where is he now? Kornbluh was recently seen participating in a 2016 panel at the Cuban Embassy in Washington honoring Fidel Castro.²⁵⁹ To this day, Kerry continues to forge his own personal foreign policy, undermining the White House most recently by interposing himself between the U.S. government and the Kremlin-allied ayatollahs in Iran.

Many assume Kerry's sympathies for Moscow's global revolutionaries were shaped by his tour of duty in Vietnam in the late 1960s; his father, however, Richard J. Kerry, a foreign service officer, was a profound influence on his political development. During the 2004 presidential campaign, Franklin Foer reported that Richard J. Kerry had set out to "[turn] his eldest son into his foreign policy protégé ... His father introduced the adolescent boy to such luminaries as [Jean] Monnet and West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer."²⁶⁰

Luminaries? Certainly, to the Niebuhrian Left and other defenders of the post-World War II "international order" — which is to say, to socialists and globalists the world over. To wit: Adenauer and Monnet both figure among "The Founding Fathers of the EU,"²⁶¹ with Adenauer remembered as a "tireless unifier" (of Europe), and Monnet as nothing less than "the unifying force behind the birth of the European Union." In the eyes of Brexiters and Deplorables, however, both men are hunters and killers of the nation-state, with Monnet occupying a special place. As Ambrose

* "We've had presidents who have served in the military. We've had presidents who have never served in the military. But we've never had an American president who met with the enemy in a time of war while a naval officer in reserve status. Inconceivable," said John O'Neill, a key member of the anti-Kerry Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. <https://www.foxnews.com/story/kerry-visited-vietnam-peace-talks>

Evans-Pritchard notes, Monnet is “the eminence grise of supranational villainy.”²⁶²

In other words, right at home at any Halifax Conference — along with every other “luminary” whose globalist agenda is existentially threatened by Donald Trump’s America First mandate.

In his early years at the State Department, Richard J. Kerry worked in the new Bureau of United Nations Affairs. Kerry *père* was one of six State Department officials who testified in congressional hearings, in effect, to having made a hash of implementing a secret 1949 agreement between the State Department and the UN to help the UN Secretariat rid itself of “undesirable Americans — communists and communist sympathizers.

The “red thread” here is a line of lost continuity with an era in which Communist subversion was still a burning national security issue, before the Moscow-guided assault on the House Committee on Un-American Activities, Sen. Joseph McCarthy and other “Red-hunters” hit its mark and gutted America’s counter-intelligence awareness, institutional knowledge and even perception of any “threat within.”

The roots of this obscure State Department case couldn’t be redder; however, it was just one of scores of similar cases bubbling up after World War II as shocked lawmakers tried to plumb the original D.C. Swamp. There, in the depths, hundreds, if not thousands, of Soviet agents and ideological communists had covertly embedded themselves in and around the U.S. government after FDR “normalized” relations with the Communist regime in Moscow in 1933. (And that’s not even counting the masses of “fellow travelers” and dupes.) Following the 1945 inauguration of his “baby,” the United Nations, arch-Soviet-agent Alger Hiss — still operating under the guise of a U.S. State Department official — cleared *hundreds of hires* for the globalist organization in New York City. Six, seven, even eight years later, these and more still hadn’t been sorted to remove those under Communist Party, and, thus, Kremlin discipline.

In 1952, a New York federal grand jury examined this state of affairs and charged in a sensational presentment that the State Department was clearing “disloyal Americans” for UN posts. That wasn’t all. “Angrily denouncing Department of Justice representatives for *trying to block publication of its findings*, the panel said that within the past ten days it had received evidence that two Americans holding top-ranking positions ... at the United Nations were members of a Soviet spy ring.”²⁶³ [Emphasis added.] A congressional investigation best described as anti-climactic ensued, during which the six officials, including John Kerry’s father, were finally put forward by State to testify to a kind of bureaucratic gridlock that had made doing their jobs impossible. A State Department security official also testified that none of the six was in any way suspected of subversion

or disloyalty, and that was pretty much that — even if President Truman saw fit to require another loyalty oath for prospective UN employees.

The matter was over in 1953. John Kerry was just a kid turning 10.

By decade's end, though, according to Franklin Foer, John Kerry was already making the pro-communist case. In a debate at St. Paul's, the prep school Kerry attended along with his lacrosse, soccer and hockey teammate Robert S. Mueller, John Kerry argued against the anti-Communist consensus of the day to advocate for U.S. recognition of Communist China (People's Republic of China).^{*} Youthful zeal? Not when thirty years later, as a U.S. Senator, John Kerry made precisely the same argument (with Sen. John McCain) for the U.S. to recognize Communist Vietnam, and, of course, won. During the Obama administration, Secretary of State Kerry also presided over the re-opening of the U.S. Embassy in Communist Cuba.

In his junior year at Yale, John Kerry won a speech prize, Foer reports, for an oration warning: "It is the specter of Western Imperialism that causes more fear among Africans and Asians than communism, and thus it is self-defeating." This theme — the West is to blame, not communism — weaves through the Senate speech Kerry gave as an anti-war leader calling for unilateral withdrawal from Vietnam, depicting America as the genuine threat and communism as the "mystical" one. All of this proved to be so much political catnip for young Jonathan Winer, soon to throw in with Kerry for the long, professional haul.

There is something else intriguing about this speech that launched Kerry on a political trajectory that very nearly reached the White House in 2004 — doubtless with Jonathan Winer in tow.

Also in 2004, Ion Mihai Pacepa, the highest-ranking intelligence official to defect from the Soviet bloc, asked presidential candidate Kerry to tell us whether he had solid sources in 1971 for his claims of American war crimes, or whether he had only heard "allegations of that sort as hearsay bandied about by members of antiwar groups."²⁶⁴

Pacepa explained:

To me, this assertion [of war crimes] sounds exactly like the disinformation line that the Soviets were sowing worldwide throughout the Vietnam era. KGB priority number one at that time was to damage American power, judgment, and credibility. *One of its favorite tools was the fabrication of such evidence as photographs and "news reports" about invented American war atrocities.*²⁶⁵ [Emphasis added.]

That favorite "tool" sure sounds familiar.

^{*} It is one of history's terrible ironies that Richard Nixon, the president who recognized Communist China, had, as a congressman, exposed Alger Hiss as a communist agent.

Pacepa continued:

These tales were purveyed in KGB-operated magazines that would then flack them to reputable news organizations. Often enough, they would be picked up. News organizations are notoriously sloppy about verifying their sources. *All in all, it was amazingly easy for Soviet-bloc spy organizations to fake many such reports and spread them around the free world.*

As a spy chief and a general in the former Soviet satellite of Romania, I produced the very same vitriol Kerry repeated to the U.S. Congress almost word for word and planted it in leftist movements throughout Europe.²⁶⁶ [Emphasis added.]

A stunning testament. If Pacepa is correct, Kerry debuted nationally in 1971 on a vector of KGB disinformation — drawing, in effect, from another unvetted Russian “dossier.” There are striking parallels, too, with Strobe Talbott’s early rise in journalism a few years later, seemingly from another vector of KGB disinformation.

In his 1971 column, William F. Buckley wrote that if what Kerry said was true, “better the destruction of America.”

Buckley:

Now if America is what John Kerry says it is, what is it that is appropriate for us to do? The stain described by Kerry goes too deep to be bleached out by conventional remorse or resolve; better the destruction of America if, in order to see ourselves truly, we need to look into the mirror John Kerry holds up for us. If we are a nation of sadists, of kid-killers and torturers, of hypocrites and criminals, let us be done with it and pray that a great flood or fire will destroy us, leaving John Kerry and maybe Mrs. Spock to the place of Lot in reseeding a new order.²⁶⁷

Buckley did not himself believe Kerry’s message was true (but did it occur to him that Kerry might have been imparting Soviet disinformation?); however, he understood the deeply demoralizing impact of Kerry’s message. “If we are such a nation ... let us be done with it ... leaving John Kerry and maybe Mrs. Spock to the place of Lot in reseeding a new order.”

Four decades later, we might look back and see that this “reseeding a new order” is exactly what happened. As Americans, we were brought along and convinced and bludgeoned to believe, if not in every specific of Kerry’s indictment, then more generally in the dark and permanent “stain” of Western civilization itself, of America itself, which so many now regard as an increasingly illegitimate state whose redemption is possible only in the continued “reseeding” of both its past (historical negation) and future (population replacement).

This whole hideous process calls to mind the warning of Soviet defector Yuri Besmenov, who, in 1984, laid out the four stages of psychological warfare by which the Kremlin was plotting to triumph over

the West. The foundational first stage, Besmenov said, was demoralization.*

What could be more demoralizing than to believe that the American military was a pack of sadistic baby-killers? Or that American nuclear weapons would cause the sun to be blotted out and the earth itself to freeze? Or that American capitalism is causing the earth to heat up and the oceans to rise?

Or that the America First president is a Putin-submissive-pervert, “colluding” to sell out his country to build a casino in Moscow?

In October 2016, Jonathan Winer’s longtime boss and patron, Secretary of State Kerry, joined James Comey, FBI Director; Andrew McCabe, Deputy FBI Director; John Brennan, CIA Director; James Clapper, DNI; Stephanie O’Sullivan, Principal Deputy DNI; Anthony Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State; Ash Carter, Secretary of Defense; and Susan Rice, National Security Adviser, to sign the first of four Democrat-co concocted FISA applications authorizing domestic spying on the Republican Party presidential team.

25. FUSION CONFUSION

I could stop right here and take stock of this first, exploratory loop of red thread running through the anti-Trump conspiracy. Instead, I will drop a new red tangle on the mat. It may be related to the anti-Trump conspiracy; it may not be. I find I cannot omit it, because this tangle includes so many of the players we have been looking at: David Kramer, Jonathan Winer, John McCain, Edward Baumgartner, Edward Lieberman, Natalia Veselnitskaya, Rinat Akhmetshin, Fusion GPS and, of course, Russia. That’s a lot of overlap.

We will start with Fusion GPS. While the firm was working for Hillary Clinton and the Democrats to generate “proof” that Donald Trump was “colluding” with Vladimir Putin to “steal” the election, it was also working on behalf of a Russian company, Prevezon, under indictment for money-laundering by the U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, Preet Bharara.

Bharara has close connections to key anti-Trump principals, too. Before assuming control of the U.S. Attorney office in Southern New York in 2009, Bharara served as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Southern New York (2000-2005), part of the time under U.S. Attorney James Comey (2003-2004); Bharara later worked closely with Sen. Chuck Schumer as chief counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee. In 2007, it was Schumer

* Besmenov’s four stages are (1) demoralization (2) destabilization (3) crisis (4) normalization.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3qkf3bjd4>

aide Bharara who spearheaded the surprise, protocol-busting testimony by James Comey against his former boss, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. In other words, as The Federalist's Sean Davis reminds us, there is a working-history of "collusion" among Bharara, Comey, and also Schumer, to oust a senior Republican official. Bharara and Comey both would be fired by President Trump.

Fusion's job was to dig into the government's case against Prevezon, drawing on the talents of Red-Thread favorites Vassar-grad Edward Baumgartner, Russian-intelligence-linked Rinat Akhmetshin, and Clinton-connected Edward Lieberman. The government's case, meanwhile, was based on a passel of documents that an ex-American, formerly pro-Putin billionaire named Bill Browder provided to Bharara's office.

Call it the "Browder dossier." Like the other Russian-related dossiers discussed above, it has not been independently corroborated. Indeed, there are those who vigorously dispute Browder's charges.

Browder and his dossier claim that Prevezon laundered about \$2 million sourced to a \$230 million tax fraud committed against the Russian government through a scheme involving the theft of several of Browder's own companies. According to Browder, it was his Russian lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky, who first reported the fraud, after which Magnitsky was arrested and later beaten to death in a Russian prison. As Browder tells it, this is the tragic genesis of his "Justice for Sergei" movement to lobby Western legislative bodies to enact sanctions against the individuals responsible — that is, Russian oligarchs and corrupt officials.

Notable among the Browder's critics is filmmaker Andrei Nekrasov, whose documentary, "The Magnitsky Act: Behind the Scenes," presents compelling evidence that Sergei Magnitsky was Browder's accountant, not lawyer; another person reported the tax fraud; Magnitsky was arrested for something else (tax evasion); Browder's "stolen" companies engaged in tax evasion; and Magnitsky died in prison not by assault but due to medical neglect.²⁶⁸

Nekrasov also presents first-hand evidence showing that Western officials charged with investigating the "Browder dossier" failed to conduct independent investigations to corroborate its findings. These include European parliamentarians at the Council of Europe, which released a special report on Magnitsky's death in 2014. It also includes the U.S. government investigator in the Prevezon lawsuit who, in a deposition, admitted under oath that he interviewed no witnesses other than Browder and his associates, and verified none of the financial documents they provided.²⁶⁹ We see the same reliance on Browder's dramatic testimony in the U.S. Senate, where the Magnitsky Act passed into law in December

²⁶⁸ Alberto Gonzales and George W. Bush both disputed aspects of Comey's story in their respective memoirs. <http://thefederalist.com/2017/05/17/former-attorney-general-on-comeys-integrity-jims-loyalty-was-more-to-chuck-schumer/>

2012, thanks in no small part to legislative strategist Jonathan Winer, supporter David Kramer, and GOP sponsor John McCain.

Not at all incidentally, Jonathan Winer also provides the legal muscle to suppress criticism of Bill Browder to a fantastic degree. Not only has Browder been able to prevent the screening of Nekrasov's documentary in multiple venues and platforms, but in September 2017, just a lawyer-letter from Jonathan Winer to Amazon caused a self-published book critical of Browder to be scrubbed from the Amazon and Kindle marketplace.*

Such bullying may advance Browder's quest for what he has called "global significance." Indeed, Browder's globally significant Magnitsky Act may be seen as the door-slammer on the Obama administration flow of goodies to Russia — the New START treaty, Russia's accession to the WTO, Skolkovo, Uranium One, the snappy return of a whole ring of Russian intelligence penetration agents, undebriefed. We might even see the Magnitsky Act as the mechanism of the Russian reset *reset* — a reversal in U.S.-Russia policy that Candidate Clinton would use in 2016 to create her quite laughable neo-Cold Warrior script. That's pretty globally significant. To be sure, it marks the ultimate reset in Browder's own earlier career as a pro-Putin cheerleader.

One more red-thread-thing: The Prevezon case is also where Natalia Veselnitskaya of Trump Tower infamy makes her American debut. Veselnitskaya was Prevezon's Russian lawyer and employer of Glenn Simpson and the Fusion GPS team. In written Senate testimony, Veselnitskaya blamed her opponent, Bill Browder, for leaking the Trump Tower story to the media in the first place, which may or may not be true.²⁷⁰

Thus, to recap: While Fusion GPS was working *with* Democratic Party interests seemingly *against* Putin, creating the "Steele dossier" for Hillary 2016, Fusion GPS was also working seemingly *for* Putin, debunking the Browder dossier for Prevezon. Are we looking at a private company trying to make a buck from both sides? Or, are we looking at a classic example of the old Soviet "scissors strategy" to infiltrate both sides of a struggle?

Certainly, we might see a "hinge" open and shut when Simpson first dined with his employer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, on the night before the infamous Trump Tower meeting, and then dined with her again on the night after the meeting. *If* this were an espionage case, such comings and goings would look rather like the "dispatch" and "recovery" of a HUMINT asset, deployed, perhaps, to smear or frame the Trump target with a clearly verifiable brush of Russian contact for narrative-building purposes.

* The book is *The Killing of William Browder: Deconstructing Bill Browder's Dangerous Deception*, by Alex Krainer. The author writes about his experience here: <https://thesaker.is/how-my-book-unmasking-bill-browder-was-censored-by-amazon-by-alex-krainer/>

We might really have something here if only Simpson hadn't told Congress that he had no knowledge of the June 2016 Trump Tower meeting until the story broke the following year in the New York Times; that Veselnitskya told him nothing whatsoever about the Trump Tower meeting (just as Rinat Akhmetshin said he told Edward Lieberman nothing about the meeting) — not even how Simpson's own talking points had gone over with Don Trump Jr.²⁷¹

In his Senate interview in August 2017, however, Simpson underscored the Trump Tower meeting as corroboration of a statement in the first memo of the Steele dossier to the effect that "he [Donald Trump] and his inner circle have accepted a regular flow of intelligence from the Kremlin, including on his democratic and other political rivals." Simpson flagged this statement from the dossier and told Senate investigators the Trump Tower meeting proved it.²⁷²

Really? Once upon a time, Fusion GPS could (and did) launch a thousand #FakeNews reports with this sort of thing. Now, as Lee Smith, for one, has suggested, the 2016 Trump Tower meeting looks like a joint Russian-Clinton setup orchestrated by Fusion GPS²⁷³ — especially once it becomes clear that the "Russians" at the meeting were really "Russians for Hillary."²⁷⁴

Nonetheless, Fusion's work advancing Russian interests in the Prevezon case seemed to perturb its principals, who released a statement to make their discomfort known. Describing the firm's role as collecting facts, the statement said: "Occasionally, the facts turn out to be helpful to people we deplore, like Vladimir Putin, or undermine people for whom we have considerable sympathy, like William Browder."²⁷⁵

This confessional mindset is fascinating. If Fusion GPS collected facts that undermined Browder's veracity and, thus, the veracity of the U.S. government's case against Prevezon, *and thus the veracity of Browder's international "Magnitsky" campaign to lobby Western legislatures (including the U.S. Senate) to impose sanctions on individual Russians*, it is also true that these same facts failed to shake the firm's "considerable sympathy" for the man.

Sympathy for Bill Browder, then, is not based in the truth of his story; rather, it is based in his political agenda. What is that agenda? Could it possibly relate in any way to the anti-Trump conspiracy?

Here's something to consider: While Browder and Veselnitskaya face off in legal, political and media settings, they seem to share the same animus against Donald Trump. Both Browder and Veselnitskaya posted the same nasty piece of anti-Trump artwork, "Trump as Putin's puppet," which appeared online during the 2016 presidential campaign. Browder posted it on Twitter in July 2016,²⁷⁶ just as the "Trump Russia" story gained mass in the media (noted above); Veselnitskaya posted it on her Facebook

page the day after President Trump's 2017 Inauguration Day.²⁷⁷ She also took it down again, sometime after the Trump Tower meeting became public.

Another possibly relevant point:

After the Veselnitskaya-Trump Tower story broke on July 8, 2017, Bill Browder told CBS (in CBS's paraphrase) that Veselnitskaya wouldn't have been in the U.S. to lobby against the Magnitsky Act "without the Kremlin's blessing."

Doubtless true, but only half the story. The Hill subsequently reported that Veselnitskaya wouldn't have been in the U.S. *without senior level intervention by the Obama administration*: specifically, the Obama Department of Homeland Security acting at the request of the Obama Department of Justice.²⁷⁸*

Gosh, everyone seems to be on the same Russian page!

* Andrew C. McCarthy believes Veselnitskaya's visa was a matter of court business-as-usual. Andrew C. McCarthy, "The Curious Case of Natalia Veselnitskaya," National Review, July 19, 2017.



Bill Browder ✓
@Billbrowder

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What more needs to be said. Trump/Putin 2016



11:03 AM - 30 Jul 2016

337 Retweets 328 Likes



On January 21st, the day after Trump's inauguration, Veselnitskaya posted a picture showing Putin holding a baby with Trump's head photoshopped onto its body, a common meme shared by leftists who say Trump is "Putin's puppet."



Natalia Veselnitskaya
Public · January 21 '16

Like Comment Share

12

14 Shares 3 Comments

Evangelist Tsyfandis
Translated from Russian
That's a good one.
See Original
Like · Reply · January 22 at 10:18pm

Louisa RoseWatts
Like · Reply · Jan 19 at 8:03pm

Kevin Williams
Like · Reply · Yesterday at 8:00am

Write a comment...

26. REMEMBERING THE BROWDER FAMILY COMMUNIST NETWORK

Few people in the world have a more historically significant — or more Russian — “red thread” than Bill Browder. Given his centrality in media and state discourse about U.S.-Russia relations, this family thread — all of it, not the slick and quick version he presents — should be a matter of “full disclosure.”

Here goes.

William Felix “Bill” Browder (b. 1964), now a British subject, is the American-born scion of a Communist revolutionary family. You’ve heard of the Flying Wallendas, the Kennedy dynasty, the Von Trapp Family Singers? Meet the Browder Communist Network. Its members, American and Russian, spent the early-to-middle decades of the 20th century doing their bit to overthrow the United States, the nation-states of Europe, and our anti-Communist ally, Nationalist China. The extended Browder family slavishly served Josef Stalin in global espionage operations, while negating or ignoring the slaughter and repression of Communist rule. It’s not illogical to wonder whether the family’s early/mid-20th-century-services to the Kremlin might have affected Bill’s late 20th-century rise to become the largest foreign investor in post-Soviet Russia.

Bill’s most infamous relatives are his grandparents, American-born Earl Browder and Russian-born Raissa “Irene” Berkman Browder.

Earl Browder (1891-1973) was born in Kansas to socialist parents and joined the Socialist Party as a teenager. He switched over to the newly founded Communist Party USA (co-founded, by Louis C. Fraina, Rachele Marshall’s professor, mentioned above), became a Comintern agent in the 1920s, and led the CPUSA between 1932 and 1945. Soviet intelligence code-named him “Helmsman.” Until 1945, “Helmsman” served as a liaison between the American Communist party and the KGB in America, and “assisted in the recruitment and running of Party members on behalf of Soviet intelligence.”²⁷⁹

What sorts of things did Earl Browder do? For example, he played a role in the complex Communist influence operation to turn the U.S. away from our anti-Communist ally, Chiang Kai-shek, helping to bring our Communist enemy, Mao, to power in China. Scores of millions of Chinese died at Mao’s hands, while the USA went on to lose two wars and tens of thousands of casualties (and more) in Korea and Vietnam. It is no exaggeration to say that the repercussions of this 1930s-1940s cataclysm continue to this day, as we see every time North Korea, Taiwan, China, trade wars, espionage, PTSD, “POW remains,” fentanyl overdoses²⁸⁰ and a range of other dangerous and tragic issues enter our news.

Bill Browder doesn't mention his family's secret war of Kremlin aggression in his best-selling memoir, *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice*. According to Bill, Family Browder was as folksy as the Midwestern prairie. He writes: "My grandfather Earl Browder was a labor organizer from Wichita, Kansas." Simply because "he was so good at his job" (aw shucks), he was invited to the Soviet Union by "the Communists" in 1926. There, he fell in love with "a good-looking Russian girl" (Raissa) and, in 1932, "returned to the United States ... to head the Communist Party, whereupon "he ran for president twice on the Communist ticket."²⁸¹

It's true that Earl Browder married Raissa Berkman in the Soviet Union in 1926 and ran twice for president as the leader of the Communist conspiracy in the U.S., but the lack of deeper context is sanitizing. For example, diehard Communist agent Agnes Smedley wrote of encountering Earl in Moscow as early as 1921 (a "dainty" young man who wore baby-blue silk Russian smocks²⁸²), when, according to Smedley, Earl was living with Ella Reeve Bloor, another co-founder of the American Communist party. In the 1930s, Bloor's son, Harold Ware, established the Soviet intelligence network inside the federal government known as the Ware Group, which was served by Soviet agent Whittaker Chambers until he left the revolutionary movement.

It's not just the details that are missing from Bill Browder's story; it's that covert communist milieu.

In 1927, Felix Browder, Bill's father, was born in Moscow.

That same year, the Comintern deployed Earl Browder and his "common-law" wife, Kitty Harris (Soviet intelligence codename "Gypsy"), to Shanghai to assist in establishing an underground network to operate against the nationalist government, which would fall in 1949. This network would be used by the legendary Kremlin spy and agent-of-influence Richard Sorge.*

In 1950, as the U.S. Congress was beginning to learn about the covert activities of Kremlin-loyal revolutionaries to turn the world Red,[†] Rep. Walter Judd (R-MN), a noted anti-Communist and medical missionary in China in the 1920s and 1930s, assessed Earl Browder's activities this way:

* Earl Browder traveled the world fomenting revolution on a fraudulent American passport in the name of George Morris. For these "passport violations," Earl received a jail sentence; later, FDR pardoned him in the name of U.S.-Soviet friendship. A State Department investigation later revealed that such fraudulent Comintern travels — absolutely vital to Moscow's global reach — were arranged through World Tourists, Inc., a New York City firm run by another top Soviet agent, Jacob Golos, who controlled the Soviet intelligence networks later revealed to the FBI and American public by Elizabeth Bentley.

† Communist, not Republican.

“What had Browder been doing in China in 1927? He was there with other leaders of the Communist hierarchy to help the Reds seize complete control of China as the Bolsheviks had done in Russia in the October revolution, just ten years before. Chiang Kai-shek in China was scheduled to be what Kerensky had been in Russia — an interim leader to be overthrown by the Reds as soon as he had defeated the war lords.”

There were American Communists who saw FDR as an “interim” Kerensky, too.²⁸³

In the early 1930s, Soviet authorities sent Earl back to the United States to head the CPUSA, as Bill wrote, and continue his Kremlin espionage activities, as Bill did *not* write.

Also in the early 1930s, the Comintern sent Raissa Browder, now with two young sons, “for special instructions at its training facility, the International Lenin School, to prepare her for work in the United States, where she would be the official wife of Earl Browder.”²⁸⁴

The best Bolshies in the world went to the Lenin School. There, they were taught the Communist arts of sabotage and revolution. Alumni include Tito (Yugoslavia), Ho Chi Minh (North Vietnam), Honecker (East Germany), Gomulka (Poland), John Brennan’s candidate Gus Hall, of course, and a host of lesser-known stooges including Irving Keith (born Kreichman) and his wife Lottie, Ron Radosh’s uncle and aunt. Irving became a political “commissar” (Communist Party enforcer) in the Spanish Civil War and was killed in 1938; Lottie, “a prominent Eastern labor organizer,” became secretary of the Communist Party in California and, like Gus Hall and others, was convicted (as Loretta Starvus Stack) of advocating the violent overthrow of the United States under the Smith Act.^{*}

In 1933, Raissa Browder (Soviet intelligence codename “Peasant”) entered the U.S. illegally from Canada and began covertly “assisting the party in its work” with Eastern Europeans.²⁸⁵ In 1934, a third son was born to Raissa and Earl.

Meanwhile, Earl’s ex, Kitty Harris, went on to serve Stalin in Berlin with Earl’s sister, Margaret Browder (code name “Gin”).²⁸⁶

Like his wife, Earl’s sister was a Lenin School alumna and trained as a radio operator. Key defector Walter Krivitsky claimed that Margaret Browder was involved in KGB operations, including the assassination of Ignace Reiss and the abduction of General Muller.²⁸⁷ Like her brother Earl, Margaret was in Europe fomenting revolution on a fraudulent American

^{*} When former Communist Party official Walter Patterson testified to Loretta Starvus Stack’s identity as Lenin School alumna “Lottie Keith,” widow of Irving Keith, some of her fellow-defendants, also Communist Party members, “expressed astonishment.” Gladwin Hill, “Coast Red Called Lenin School Pupil,” *The New York Times*, April 16, 1952.

passport and was married for a time to Abram Einhorn, another Soviet agent.²⁸⁸ All three were under the direction of Soviet spymaster, Vassili Zarubin, later the senior KGB resident in the United States supervising the penetration of the U.S. atomic project.*

Earl's brother William Browder variously served as Earl's assistant,²⁸⁹ Communist Party district chairman in New York²⁹⁰ and business manager of the Communist Party publication *New Masses*.

Earl's sister-in-law, Rose, William's wife, served a contact between Earl and the KGB.²⁹¹

Earl's niece, Helen Lowry (code name Ada/Elsa), was a Soviet agent, too. She would marry and serve alongside the legendary "illegal" Soviet spymaster Iskhak Akhmerov, who ran catastrophically damaging KGB networks inside the U.S. government during World War II.

All three of Earl and Raissa's sons became leading mathematicians at elite American colleges.

One might say that American consciousness of the Browders' role in the Kremlin's intelligence war against the United States has washed away in one fallow generation, except that so many, especially latter-day, revelations about it never entered American consciousness in the first place. Still, isn't there something peculiar now about being instructed in statecraft and even morality by the unapologetic scion of such a red network? To help place things into perspective, imagine how Americans would feel if Washington's stance toward Moscow was shaped in a meaningful way by the well-financed lobbying campaign of a grandson of Alger Hiss. Would we allow an unvetted "Hiss dossier" to influence the course of U.S.-Russian relations without question?

The answer might well be yes, but is that the right answer?

27. BETTER DEAD THAN ... ANTI-ANTI-COMMUNIST

Something else disappears in Bill Browder's telling: his family's cult-like devotion to Marxism-Leninism-Stalinism. Instead, we see glimpses of a somewhat eccentric strain of liberalism. The light-hearted title Bill gives to his chapter on his family of traitors and penetration agents — "How Do You Rebel Against a Family of Communists?" — sets an almost whimsical tone. Dinner-table-conversation, he recalls, revolved around "mathematical theorems and how the world was going to hell because of crooked businessmen."²⁹² Oh, those wacky Browders.

Bill's first cousin, Laura Browder, a professor of English at the University of Richmond at work on a biography of Earl Browder, describes

* Also discussed in *American Betrayal*.

a more politically charged family atmosphere.²⁹³ In the mid-1990s, when decrypted KGB cables attesting to a fraction of Grandpa Earl's KGB activities were released by the U.S. government from the Venona archive, Laura remembers how Earl's sons, including her father and Bill's father, found the release hard to "wrap their heads around." As Laura Browder put it: "To them it was pretty clear that this was just more recycled anti-Communist rhetoric."²⁹⁴

Venona's KGB archive = "just more recycled anti-Communist rhetoric"? That sounds like the reaction of diehard Communists, which is a noteworthy revelation. Even as the Cold War was supposed to be over and the Evil Empire broken apart, Earl Browder's sons, in their sixties and seventies, were such prisoners of Communist cant that they reflexively rejected *decrypted KGB cables about their father* as "just more recycled anti-Communist rhetoric."

Young Bill, meanwhile, decided that the best way to "rebel against a family of communists" was to become a "capitalist" — or at least an investment banker. Like sons of Communist houses before him (Armand Hammer comes to mind), he went to Moscow to seek his fortune in 1996. Even as his father and uncles griped about "recycled anti-Communist rhetoric" at home, Bill was getting extremely rich in Moscow.

My question is this: What exactly was Bill Browder rebelling against? His Communist forbears? I don't think so. According to *Red Notice*, Earl was really just a bleeding heart at heart, someone who "focused Depression-era America on the failings of mainstream capitalism and caused all of the political players to revise their policies leftward."²⁹⁵

Leftward?

In 1935, Communist Party boss Earl Browder pledged 2,000 new Party members in New York City with the following words: "I pledge myself to remain at all times a vigilant and firm defender of the Leninist line of the Party, the only line that insures the triumph of Soviet Power in the United States."

That's "Leftward," all right.

What about Raissa? Was she merely the bright babushka Bill depicts? Besides her Lenin School training, Raissa had Bolshevik credentials dating back to the Russian Revolution. Herbert Romerstein and Eric Breindel write: "According to Comintern records, in 1918, she

²⁹³ Herbert Romerstein and Eric Breindel explain in *The Venona Secrets*, pp. 57-58, that this Browder pledge is immortalized in the official Communist Party *Manual on Organization* by J. Peters, who headed the Party's underground and liaison with Soviet intelligence. The manual also revealed some things about which Communists were never allowed to disagree: "the necessity for the forceful overthrow of capitalism"; "the correctness of the revolutionary theory of the class struggle laid down by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin"; and "the political correctness of the decisions, resolutions, etc." of Communist authorities.

served in the city of Kharkov as a provisional commissar of justice `with extraordinary powers,' a colloquialism for the power to order executions.”

Executions?

Bill doesn't mention this, of course. It's one thing, perhaps, for a grandson to omit relevant biographical facts out of misplaced sentimentality; maybe he doesn't know *everything*. However, having made these omissions, it's quite another for him to re-enforce the old Communist Party line of deception: namely, that Congress's investigations of Kremlin-directed subversion in the 20th century were manifestations of mass hysteria and paranoia. This, however, is precisely the propaganda that Bill Browder reiterates in *Red Notice*. Not that he is alone in so doing. This same line, always promulgated by the Communist Party itself, remains the consensus across the contemporary political spectrum, making it one of the most successful Kremlin information operations ever.²⁹⁶ (Note the similarities with the campaign to demonize the House Intelligence Committee and then-Chairman Devin Nunes, especially on the point of release of the memo outlining FISA-gate.)

Of all people, though, Bill Browder *should* know better. When he asks readers of *Red Notice* to believe that his grandfather, a high-ranking Communist and important Soviet agent, was subject to “McCarthy-era” “political persecution” by the U.S. government, he is also asking them to believe he knows nothing of his grandfather's treasonous activities. When he writes about “the 1950s [being] a paranoid time in America,” he is reinforcing the Big Lie that there was no Communist infiltration to uncover. When he invokes Senator Joseph McCarthy's “infamous witch-hunt,” he is echoing the relentless Daily Worker campaign against McCarthy, which was guided and encouraged by Stalin and his many American agents, pro-Communists, fellow travelers, useful fools and dupes.²⁹⁷

Why, it got so bad, Bill wrote of the 1950s investigations into Communism, “it didn't matter if you were a good communist or a bad communist, you were still a communist.”²⁹⁸

Come again?

It seems fair to say that Bill sees his grandfather as a “good communist.”

²⁹⁶ In one of history's stranger twists, Earl Browder called Sen. Joseph McCarthy as his sole witness in his defense of a contempt citation from Congress. McCarthy verified that when Browder refused to divulge information to the Senate's Tydings committee, he was, in fact, acting “with the wholehearted approval of the chair” — Democratic Sen. Millard E. Tydings — who “was not interested in eliciting information from the witness which would indicate the presence of Communists in the government.” Browder was acquitted. See *Blacklisted by History* by M. Stanton Evans for more.

He probably subscribes to his professor-cousin Laura Browder's characterization — that Earl Browder was merely and only “sharing secrets” with an American ally (Stalin) and thus practicing what she calls “internationalism.” Such denial dovetails not only with the old Communist line, but with the current academic consensus on KGB espionage, certainly that of authors Haynes and Klehr and Harvard's Mark Kramer, as discussed above: namely, that espionage was and is the theft of secrets only — that is, until 2016, when a former KGB colonel named Putin sought and succeeded in influencing some 63 million Americans into pulling the lever for Trump.²⁹⁹ As *The Atlantic* reported in 2017, Haynes says the Kremlin's intelligence agencies have refocused their mission, from an emphasis on information-gathering in the 20th century to a greater interest today, in the *Atlantic's* paraphrase, “in manipulating U.S. policy.”³⁰⁰

More than a “good communist,” Bill Browder also sees his grandfather as a role model. In his book, Bill writes of being thrilled by “a lecture by the head of the United Steelworkers union” which made him “hear the voice of my grandfather ... I looked at aspects of my grandfather's life that I might emulate and came up with the idea of Eastern Europe. He had spent an important part of his life in the Soviet Bloc, and his experience there had catapulted him into global significance.”³⁰¹

It sure did — but was that “global significance” a good thing? Bill Browder thinks so. In a 2006 interview, Browder said he didn't see much difference between his activities as a “shareholder activist” and his grandfather's Communist Party efforts. “An outrage over injustice is something in our genes,” he said.³⁰²

It seems clear that Bill's “rebellion” against his “family of Communists” is not an *anti-Communist* rebellion.

It is also the case that even after Earl Browder was publicly purged from the Communist Party in a tactical shift directed by Moscow following World War II, he never sought or achieved ex-Communist status. As Romerstein and Breindel point out, “though expelled from the Communist Party, [Earl Browder] never told the truth about his role and the role of other CPUSA officials in Soviet espionage.”³⁰³ Further, Earl Browder maintained a relationship with the Kremlin, becoming the Communist regime's publishing representative in the U.S. (he finally registered as a foreign agent). As recounted by Philip J. Jaffe, a self-described Communist, Earl Browder continued to meet monthly with “the second secretary of the Soviet Embassy.”³⁰⁴

In other words, Earl Browder never came clean. *He never ceased to protect the Communist conspiracy against our nation.*

³⁰⁰ In her lecture (endnote 292), Laura Browder elaborates: “I think Earl Browder would never have called himself a spy. I think that he thought what he was doing was Internationalism.”

Neither, in effect, has Bill Browder. He has never come clean about his family's significant role in the Communist conspiracy against our nation. Worse, as noted above, Bill continues to re-enforce the old Communist line: There wasn't any.

I have taken pains to develop Bill Browder's "red" family profile for a reason. Since 2010, when Bill Browder began to lobby the U.S. Senate and other representative bodies in the West to levy sanctions against a list of Russian oligarchs and officials Browder claimed were responsible for, or benefiting from, the 2009 death in a Russian prison of his accountant, Browder has cloaked himself in the mantle of international human rights activism. Never a dissident, he has assumed the role of "Putin's No. 1 enemy." Through a caressing, magnifying media lens, Bill Browder looms ever larger as the avenger of Kremlin perfidy, a man of moral conscience to be emulated in the fight against totalitarianism.

How can this be possible? In perpetuating his family's secrets and other Big Communist Lies, Browder remains overall a Kremlin apologist, certainly in the long run. Thus, there is something very strange about his prominence in the public debate over U.S. policy toward Russia, which quite unexpectedly had to serve as the backdrop for the anti-Trump conspiracy rather than the chessboard of the Hillary Clinton Era.

But aren't Magnitsky Act sanctions the "hardline" response to "Putinism"? That is certainly their reputation. Jeff Nyquist offers an alternative hypothesis. Is it possible, he wonders, that the Browder campaign to sanction individual Russian oligarchs has the effect of forcing these oligarchs and their fortunes out of the West and back to Russia? Would that not, in the end, be a net gain for the Putin regime? Then again, Putin came into office with no love lost for the oligarchs, as Bill Browder, back in his pro-Putin days, used to tell the financial press. Could this whole melodrama, pocked with so many holes, strung together by so many red threads, be just another con?

Remember, anything is possible in the realm of deception — except, it seems, escaping it.

* "How I Became Putin's No. 1 Enemy" is the subtitle of the British edition of *Red Notice*.

AFTERWORD

We are victims of so many cons. As tools of deception, they do immense damage when the media confer on them the status of conventional wisdom, even if they are eventually debunked years or generations later. The Terror Famine isn't a famine. Stalin is our Uncle Joe. "McCarthyism" is worse than communism. Communism is democracy in a hurry. Mao, Castro, Ho Chi Minh are "agrarian reformers." Andropov loves jazz. Reagan is a war-monger. Nuclear winter is coming. Global warming is here. Islam is peace. Since 2016, these cons have come fast and thick. The Russians "hacked" the DNC. Seth Rich died in a robbery "gone bad." Trump "colluded" with Russia. Putin hates Hillary. James Comey is a "straight arrow." Trump supporters are "Russian bots." Congressional oversight is Putinism. Mueller must be protected.

With regard to the Trump-Russia con of 2016, there is one key difference. It failed. Despite the anti-Trump conspiracy, despite the interference and surveillance and manipulation by an array of domestic and foreign conspirators against the Trump campaign, despite anti-Trump media repetition and amplification, it was Donald Trump, not Hillary Clinton, who won the presidency. Did Trump's foes recognize the will of the people and do what normal Americans would do -- regroup for 2020? Not at all. Failing to have exchanged their masks of conspiracy for government portfolios in a Hillary Clinton administration, the anti-Trump conspirators embarked on far more elaborate and brazen plotting to destroy the Trump presidency. This wasn't politics. This was war. It still is.

From the first pages of this study, the question recurs: Why? Why so many Soviet-style acts of deception perpetrated from inside the federal government against the American electoral process? Why so many uncorroborated dossiers of Russian provenance influencing our politics? Why such a tangle of communist and socialist roots in the anti-Trump conspiracy? If the scant red threads teased out in this monograph reveal the presence of a fanatical, yea, revolutionary animus inside the conspiracy against President Trump, I hope that Trump's position as a counter-revolutionary man of history is clearer, too.

There is much we don't know, starting with the conspiracy's command-and-control structure. Who is in charge? Obama? Hillary? Brennan? Comey? Glenn Simpson? Christopher Steele? George Soros? Someone else? Was this intelligence war on the American First presidential candidate of domestic origin only? British, Australian, and Russian roles in the anti-Trump conspiracy are documented. The Steele dossier itself purports to be a Democratic Party product of mainly Russian intelligence and government sources. Where are headquarters? The Obama White House? Langley? Chappaqua? GCHQ? The Kremlin?

While still a work in progress, I hope this study recalibrates our focus on events. The anti-Trump conspiracy is not about Democrats and Republicans. It is not about the ebb and flow of political power, lawfully and peacefully transferred. It is about globalists and nationalists, just as the president says. They are locked in the old and *continuous* Communist/anti-Communist struggle, and fighting to the end, whether We, the anti-Communists, recognize it or not.

I pray we recognize it.

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INDEX

A

Adenauer, Konrad, 84
Adventures in Russian Historical
 Research (Baron, Frierson), 6, 14
Akhmerov, Iskhak, 97
Akhmetshin, Rinat, 66, 67, 68, 88, 89,
 109
Albright, Madeleine, 64, 65, 66, 68
Alinsky, Saul, 45
al-Zawaheri, Ayman, 21
America We Deserve, The (Trump), 53
American Betrayal, 51, 70, 79, 97, 105,
 106, 108, 110
Ames, Robert, 33
Andrew, Christopher, 12, 105
Andropov, Yuri, 5, 24, 25, 63, 76, 103
Angleton, James Jesus, 4
Applebaum, Anne, 28
Arbatov, Georgii, 22
Ashcroft, John, 39
Ashton, Cathy, 25
Assange, Julian, 60
Axelrod, David, 28, 34

B

Baer, Robert, 60
Baker, James, 80
Baron, Samuel H., 6, 105
Baumgartner, Edward, 16, 17, 88, 89
*Behind the Urals - An American Worker
 in Russia's City of Steel*, 10
Berkman Browder, Raissa, 94, 95, 96,
 97, 98
Besmenov, Yuri, 87
Bharara, Preet, 88, 89
Biden, Joe, 66
Binney, Bill, 60
Blinken, Anthony, 88
Bloor, Ella Reeve, 78, 95
Blumenthal, Sidney, 54, 55, 59, 60, 61,
 71, 80
Bostom, Andrew, 35
Bradley, Ed, 59
Brennan, John, 3, 4, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33,
 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 44, 46, 48, 49,
 59, 72, 82, 88, 96, 106, 107
Brewster, Kingman, 51
Brezhnev, Leonid I., 5, 24, 30, 38, 48,
 63

Brooks, David, 43
Brose, Christian, 69
Browder, Earl, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99,
 100, 111
Browder, Felix, 95
Browder, Laura, 97, 98, 100, 111
Browder, Margaret (code name Gin), 96
Browder, Rose, 97
Browder, William, 90, 91, 97
Bryza, Matthew, 67
Buckley, William F., 83, 87, 110
Bukovsky, Vladimir, 13, 14, 15, 30, 105
Bush, George W., 39

C

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
 (CND), 23, 24, 25, 40
Campbell, William, 81
Caplan, Howard M., 34
Carter, Ash, 88
Carter, Sara, 66
Cashill, Jack, 23
Castro, Fidel, 53, 84
Castro, Raul, 62
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), 3, 4,
 7, 12, 16, 25, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35,
 37, 40, 48, 65, 75, 88, 105, 106, 110
Chambers, Whittaker, 10, 70, 71, 95,
 105
Clapper, James, 88
Clinton, Bill, 47, 61, 64, 67, 77, 108
Clinton, Hillary, 1, 3, 4, 7, 22, 24, 28, 29,
 31, 32, 45, 47, 48, 55, 59, 60, 61, 64,
 67, 68, 69, 71, 88, 101, 107
Cohen, Geula, 23
Cold War and Its Origins, The (Fleming),
 12
Comey, James, 25, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45,
 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 58, 59, 69, 72,
 78, 82, 88, 89, 103, 107
Conquest, Robert, 7, 9
Corey, Lewis (Louis C. Fraina), 79
Corn, David, 80
Corsi, Jerome, 83
Currie, Lauchlin, 76

D

Davis, Angela, 35
Davis, Frank Marshall, 28

Davis, Sean, 89
Dearlove, Richard, 65
Dream That Failed - Reflections on the Soviet Union, The, 8
Duggan, Lawrence, 44
Duggan, Stephan, 44
Duranty, Walter, 7

E

Earley, Pete, 6, 62, 64, 105, 108
Einhorn, Abram, 97
Elson, L.R., 50
Epstein, Edward Jay, 64
Evans, M. Stanton, 99
Evans-Pritchard, Ambrose, 85

F

Falwell, Jerry, 44, 49
Felten, Eric, 26
Fitzpatrick, Sheila, 8, 11, 27, 105
Flacks, Mildred, 57
Flacks, Richard, 57, 58
Fleming, D.F., 12
Flowers, Gennifer, 55
Flynn, John T., 55
Flynn, Mike, 39
Foer, Franklin, 27, 28, 84, 86
Fonda, Jane, 57, 59
Ford, Gerald, 51
Fraina, Louis C. (Lewis Corey), 79
Frankfurt School, 44, 45
Free World Colossus, The (Horowitz), 12
Freeze, Colin, 69
Frierson, Cathy A., 6
Fusion GPS, 3, 7, 16, 22, 40, 60, 69, 88, 90, 91

G

Gannett, Frank E., 50
Getty, J. Arch, 8, 27
Gilbert, Joel, 23
Gonzales, Alberto, 89
Goodman, Allan, 45
Gorbachev, Mikhail, 84
Gore, Al, 61
Graham, Billy, 49, 108
Grassley, Sen. Charles, 1
Graze, Cyril, 57
Graze, Deborah E., 58
Graze, Gerald, 57
Graze, Stanley, 58
Gromyko, Andrey, 30
Guandolo, John, 30, 31
Guevara, Che, 28

Gulag Archipelago, The (Solzhenitsyn), 13, 30

H

Hall, Gus, 30, 31, 35, 36, 37, 96
Halper, Stefan, 3, 65
Hammer, Armand, 51, 64, 98
Hanssen, Robert, 21
Harkin, Tom, 84
Harris, Kitty, 95, 96
Harris, Lieutenant Quarles, Jr., 33
Harvest of Sorrow (Conquest), 9
Hauke, Kathleen A., 4
Hauke, Richard L., 4, 5, 6
Hayden, Tom, 56, 57, 59, 108
Haynes, John Earl, 70, 79, 108, 109, 110
Hellman, Lillian, 26
Helms, Jesse, 62
Hewitt, Don, 55
Hill, Anita, 55
Hindus, Maurice, 9, 10
Hiss, Alger, 2, 42, 51, 71, 85, 86, 97, 107
Hitchens, Christopher, 56
Hitchens, Peter, 23
Ho Chi Minh, 84, 96, 103
Hoover, J. Edgar, 58
Horowitz, David, 11, 57, 58, 79, 105
Horowitz, Philip, 57

I

Institute for Policy Studies, 59, 84
Institute of International Education (IIE), 44
Ivanov, Viktor, 67

J

Jaffe, Philip J., 100
Jarrett, Gregg, 48
Jarrett, Valerie, 28
Jefferson, Thomas, 40
Johnson, Brad, 30
Johnson, Charles C., 35
Jones, Donald G., 45
Judd, Walter, 95
Judgment in Moscow (Bukovsky), 15

K

Kai-shek, Chiang, 94
Kates, Steve, 48
Kaveladze, Irakly (Ike), 68
Keith, Irving, 96
Keith, Lottie, 96

Kennedy, Ted, 75, 76, 83
Kerry, John, 73, 80, 83, 85, 86, 87, 110
Kerry, Richard J., 84, 85
Khrushchev, Nikita, 8, 63
Klehr, Harvey, 70, 79, 108, 109, 110
Klein, Aaron, 68
Kornbluh, Peter, 84
Kramer, David, 69, 70, 71, 75, 88, 90
Kramer, Mark, 70, 71, 75, 76, 77, 78,
83, 100, 109
Krivitsky, Walter, 96
Krugman, Paul, 28
Kurtz, Stanley, 28

L

Laqueur, Walter, 8, 9, 11, 105
Leiden, Carl, 34
Lend Lease, 51, 52
Lenin School, 30, 96, 98
Lenin, Vladimir, 49, 58
Lewinsky, Monica, 56
Lieberman, Edward, 65, 66, 67, 68, 88,
89
Lieberman, Evelyn, 66
Litvinenko, Alexander, 21, 106
Livingston, James C., 44, 46
Louis, Victor, 62, 63, 64
Lowry, Helen (code name Ada/Elsa), 97

M

Maddox, Robert James, 11, 105
Magnitsky, Sergei, 89
Manning, Roberta, 27
Mao, 94
Marshall, Hubert, 77, 78, 79, 109
Marshall, Rachelle, 77, 78
Marx, Karl, 43, 46, 58, 98
Marzani, Carl, 12
Matthews, J.B., 41
McCabe, Andrew, 88
McCain, John, 32, 33, 53, 69, 71, 72,
82, 86, 88, 90, 109
McCarthy, Andrew C., 92
McCarthy, Sen. Joseph, 42, 43, 79, 85,
99
McCarthyism, 5, 6, 43, 111
McFaul, Michael, 77
McGovern, Ray, 60
Medvedev, Dmitry, 29, 67
Mifsud, Joseph, 45
Mills, Cheryl, 65
Mitrokhin, Vasili, 12, 105, 108
Monnet, Jean, 84, 85
Moral Man and Immoral Society
(Niebuhr), 41, 42, 107
Mother Jones, 80

Mueller, Robert, 22, 39, 72, 86, 103
Morrow, Edward R., 44
Muste, A.J., 78, 79

N

Nasser, 35, 36, 37
Nekrasov, Andrei, 89, 110
Niebuhr, Reinhold, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 58,
59, 78, 79, 107, 108
Nixon, Richard, 42, 73, 77
Nove, Alec, 9
Nuland, Victoria, 80
Nunes, Rep. Devin, 1, 72, 73, 99, 109
Nyquist, Jeff, 22, 59, 101

O

O'Keefe, James, 71
O'Sullivan, Stephanie, 88
Obama, Barack, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32,
33, 35, 43, 44, 52, 53, 77, 86, 90, 92
Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria, 37
Ohr, Bruce, 3, 6, 24, 40, 80
Ohr, Nellie, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13,
14, 15, 16, 26, 27, 36, 40, 59, 60, 105
Olson, Barbara, 45, 107
Open Source Works, 3
Orbis, 3, 22, 24
Ortega, Daniel, 83, 84

P

Pacepa, Ion Mihai, 86, 87, 110
Page, Carter, 39, 65, 66, 68
Page, Lisa, 49
Palmer, Alice, 28
Palmieri, Jennifer, 48
Patterson, Walter, 96
Peale, Norman Vincent, 49, 50, 52
Pelosi, Nancy, 72, 82
Perkins Coie law firm, 3
Pipes, Richard, 6
*Politics of Violence: Revolution in the
Modern World, The* (Leiden and
Schmitt), 34
Poston, Ted, 5
Powell, S. Steven, 84
Prager, Dennis, 20
Putin, Vladimir, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29,
67, 72, 88, 89, 90, 91, 100, 101, 103,
106
Putin's Puppet (Foer), 27, 28

Q

Quayle, Dan, 55, 61

R

Radosh, Ron, 96
Reagan, Ronald, 6, 21, 40
Red Notice
*A True Story of High Finance, Murder,
and One Man's Fight for Justice*
(Browder), 95, 98, 99, 101, 110, 111
Reiss, Ignace, 96
Rice, Susan, 77, 88
Rich, Seth, 60, 103
Rittersporn, Gabor, 27
Rive, Richard, 4
Romerstein, Herbert, 70, 76, 98, 100,
109, 110, 111
Roosevelt, Franklin, 42, 50, 76
Rosen, James, 3
Rosenberg Ring, 57
Rosenstein, Rod, 39, 73
Rosenthal, Andrew, 28

S

Sadat, Anwar, 35
Sagan, Carl, 5, 6
Sakharov, Andrei, 63
Schechter, Jerrold, 63
Schmitt, Karl M., 34
Schumer, Chuck, 88, 89
Shearer, Brooke, 61
Shearer, Cody, 55
Shearer, Derek, 54, 56, 59, 61
Shearer, Lloyd, 55
Simpson, Glenn, 3, 16, 90
Skripal, Sergei, 22, 23, 75
Skripal, Yulia, 22
Smedley, Agnes, 95
Smith, Chris, 39
Smith, Lee, 60
Sobell, Morton, 43
Solzhenitsyn, Alexander, 8, 13, 14, 30
Somorchnov, Anatoli, 68
Sorge, Richard, 95, 107
Stack, Loretta Starvus, 96
Stalin, Josef, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 27,
30, 40, 46, 51, 59, 63, 76, 94, 96, 98,
99, 100, 103, 105
Stamos, Peter, 77
State of Europe, The, 11
Steele, Christopher, 3, 22, 23, 24, 25,
26, 40, 46, 49, 55, 60, 61, 65, 66, 69,
71, 75, 80, 81, 90, 105, 106, 110
Sterling, Claire, 33
Stettinius, Edward, 51
Stevenson, Adlai, 42
Steyn, Mark, 66

Swickard, Larry, 45

T

Talbott, Strobe, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 77,
80, 87, 108
Terror Network, The (Sterling), 33
Thomas, Norman, 51
Thurston, Robert, 8
Thurston, Robert W., 8
Tillich, Paul, 44, 45
Timmerman, Ken, 33, 62, 63
Tito, 96
To Build a Castle (Bukovsky), 13
Tretyakov, Sergei, 5, 21, 62
Trudeau, Garry, 55
Trump, Donald, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 16, 20,
21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 37,
38, 39, 41, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55,
56, 58, 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68,
69, 71, 72, 75, 80, 81, 85, 88, 89, 90,
91, 92, 100, 101, 103, 106, 107, 108,
109, 110
Trump, Fred, 49
Trump, Maryanne, 49
Tunney, John, 76

U

Union for Democratic Action (UDA), 42,
78, 79

V

Veselnitskaya, Natalia, 68, 88, 90, 91,
92
Veteran Intelligence Professionals for
Sanity, 60

W

Ward, Chris, 8, 9, 105
We Can Be Friends (Marzani), 12
Weisberg, Jacob, 28
Wheatcroft, Stephen, 8
White, Harry Dexter, 2, 51
Winer, Jonathan, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86,
88, 90
Witness (Chambers), 10, 70
Wood, Andrew, 69
Wright, Betsy, 56
Wright, Frank Lloyd, 51

Z

Zarubin, Anatoly, 97