

Roar Mikalsen

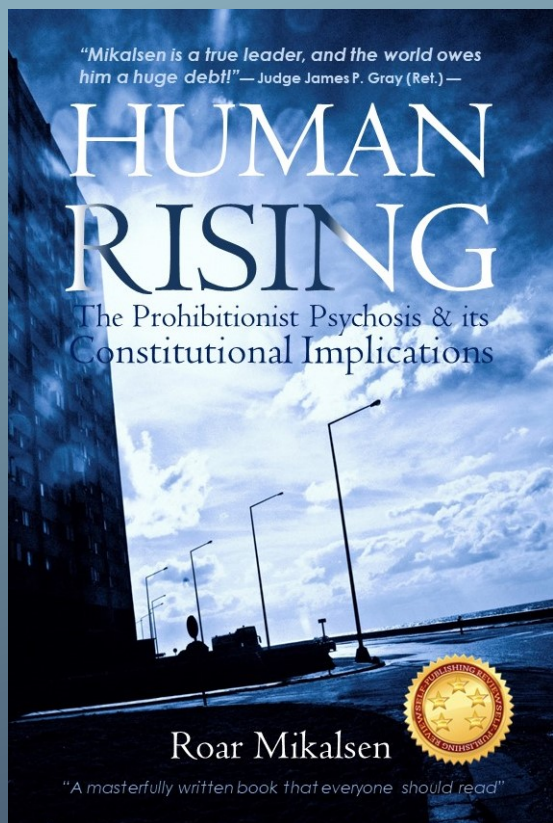


# DRUG BARONS AND GOVERNMENT:

A BRIEF HISTORY EXPOSING THE  
CLINTONS, BUSHES, AND US JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT COVER UPS

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Human Rising by Roar Mikalsen documents how powerpolitics and scapegoating maintains a regime of drug prohibition.

It shows why the drug laws violate basic human rights protections and this text is an excerpt from part 3, which explores the link between drug barons and the US government.

For more on his books, see [Lifelibertybooks.com](http://Lifelibertybooks.com)

"A powerful argument against totalitarian thinking, the war on drugs, and other ills of a broken society. Without slipping into unproven claims or outlandish theories, the author unravels a complex network of influence, deceit, and corruption. The effort required to compile and craft a book like this demonstrates Mikalsen's unwavering purpose to shine a light on the current state of the world. This is a masterfully written book that everyone should read, particularly those who seek to break out of the current paradigms and oppressive systems of thought in order to achieve a more liberated way of life."

Self-Publishing Review, ★★★★★

# The Secret Team in Control of Drug Markets

(Chapter 10 of MIKALSEN, *HUMAN RISING: THE PROHIBITIONIST PSYCHOSIS AND ITS CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS*)

*“Federal drug law enforcement is essentially a function of national security, as that term is applied in its broadest sense: that is, not just defending America from its foreign enemies, but preserving its traditional values of class, race, and gender at home, while expanding its economic and military influence abroad.”<sup>1</sup>*

—Douglas Valentine—

In following the diversity of factions that have contributed to the increased monopolization of the drugs economy, our quest begins with the not-so-easy realization that this world is not what it seems. The group and the individuals named here most certainly exist and they could not have achieved what they did without controlling the agencies that were established to hunt them down. This may seem too farfetched to consider. Yet the evidence is there. And hiding behind official positions of authority, this cabal has successfully positioned themselves at top of politics, while effectively derailing healthy progress and state relations.

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<sup>1</sup> Valentine, *The Strength of the Wolf* (2004) 3

In the world of cloak-and-dagger operations, then, this is the bad-boys crew, the one that has been dreaded by U.S. presidents since the days of Andrew Jackson (1829-37).<sup>2</sup> This coincides with the rising influence of the opium magnates, which established the Skull and Bones/322 Society at Yale in 1832. We shall now delve into its world of operations, and while there are other factions and interests involved, this group—the society of Death—would successfully bend the U.S. government to its will.<sup>3</sup>

Indeed, drugs have always been part of a bigger picture. Its illegal status not only ensures a vast network of intrigue; it also connects the dots between the biggest players in power-politics, and to understand drug policy we must recognize that politics is not what it is presented to be. In reality, bankers with an agenda of their own have been in control, and so, as Senator Dan Inouye observed, “with the passing of time, a shadow government structure has evolved, one that “has its own Air Force, its own Navy, its own fundraising mechanisms, and the ability to pursue its own ideas of the national interest, free from all checks and balances, and free from the law itself.”<sup>4</sup>

This cabal of secret elites, which includes the Rothschilds and other banking families, would use terror, deceit, blackmail, and murder as

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2 Franklin Roosevelt, the 32nd President, said this “element in the large centers has owned the government ever since the days of Andrew Jackson,” Letter to Col. Edward Mandell House (21 November 1933); as quoted in Elliott Roosevelt (Ed.), *F.D.R.: His Personal Letters, 1928-1945* (1950) 373

3 Former economics professor Anthony Sutton was delivered an anonymous package containing inside information on the Skull and Bones society. Among other things, it included lists of initiates, and after researching this information Sutton described this elite faction’s influence thus: “The Order has set up or penetrated just about every significant research, policy, opinion-making organization in the United States, in addition to the church, business, law, government and politics. Not all at the same time, but persistently and consistently enough to dominate the direction of American society. The evolution of American society is not, and has not been for a century, a voluntary development reflecting individual opinion, ideas, and decisions at the grass roots. On the contrary, the broad direction has been created artificially and simulated by the Order.” Sutton, *America’s Secret Establishment* (203) 25

4 Upon discovering its tentacles Daniel Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Secret Military Assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Opposition, said this during the Iran Contra hearings.

political currency. One insider, Samuel Todd Churchill, at his deathbed, revealed the Skull and Bones society to be “nothing more than a political assassination hit team against those United States politicians who do not fall in line with the House of Rothschild’s plans for a blood elitist domination and control over the world's economy”. While this may be difficult to believe, the quote comes from one of the most noteworthy deathbed-confessions in history.<sup>5</sup> As a high-level member of the secret New Orleans Mardi Gras Society called The Mystick Crewe of Comus, Todd was intimately involved with 19th century power-politics. His daughter recorded his deathbed confession and according to this insider, the Skull and Bones had killed seven U.S. presidents by the end of the Second World War.

President Kennedy experienced this cabal’s ruthlessness when he was assassinated—and his family and others experienced its power in the Warren Commission’s cover-up. This commission, of which every member was an insider (most were Freemasons, but the Skull and Bones was also represented) would whitewash the lone gunman theory, providing shelter to the real plotters.

It is only fitting, then, when we are to introduce this underworld of operatives, to begin with President Kennedy’s most trusted General, Fletcher S. Prouty. As first Chief of Special Operations with the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, his duty was structured to provide the military support of the world-wide clandestine activities of the CIA. In other words, he had daily interactions with the world of covert operations, and after retiring wrote a book that explained some hidden history. He described the operations of a “secret team”, one that we are now to become familiar with, and according to General Prouty this “network was ancient and worldwide.” It was the “functional element of the dominant power,” and would “operate everywhere with the best of all

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5 Mimi L. Eustis, the daughter of Samuel Todd, recorded his deathbed confession. Her article *the Mardi Gras Secrets* relates her father’s confession: [http://www.whale.to/c/mardi\\_gras.html](http://www.whale.to/c/mardi_gras.html)

supporting facilities from special weaponry and advanced communications, with the assurance that its members would never be prosecuted.” This network would “topple government, create governments, and influence governments almost anywhere in the world;” it was lawless, and would “get the job done whether it had political authorization or not.”<sup>6</sup>

It certainly boggles the mind. Yet, there are others, familiar with this group, who have lived to tell their tale. Another operator is Al Martin, a retired U.S. Navy lieutenant commander attached to the Office of Naval Intelligence, who described its operations thus:

*“It’s a Government within the Government, comprising some thirty to forty thousand people the American Government turns to, when it wishes certain illegal covert operations to be extant pursuant to a political objective. . . . Imagine a ‘system’ in which insiders use government agencies and programs as their own private piggy bank, like a criminal privatized public sector, and you can begin to understand the highest levels of corruption and criminality in the USA.”<sup>7</sup>*

The intelligence services are an integral part of this set up, and it comes as no surprise that the rise of prohibition was followed by an expansion of their trade. To intelligence services interesting things are happening in the area where crime and politics meet; this is where they usually operate, and as the drugs economy became an important area of control, the difference between drug dealers and government agents became difficult to distinguish.

Indeed, the tale to be told will make this an understatement. As more perceptive academics and politicians have noted, there has been a

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6 Fletcher L. Prouty, *The Secret Team: The CIA and its Allies in Control of the United States and the World* (2008) xxxvi

7 Al Martin, *The Conspirators: Secrets of an Iran-Contra Insider* (2002) vii-viii

coup in the United States,<sup>8</sup> and we shall see how “the CIA within the CIA” fed off the drugs economy in its quest to undermine the fabric of governments around the world.

## 10.1. Getting a Global Drug Market Going

*“In my 30-year history in the Drug Enforcement Administration and related agencies, the major targets of my investigations almost invariably turned out to be working for the CIA.”<sup>9</sup>*

—Dennis Dayle, DEA Agent—

When it comes to control of the global drug market, the CIA’s Directorate of Intelligence (DI) has been a central component. In 2004 the name was changed to the National Clandestine Service (NCS) but looking behind appearances, it is the directorate’s Deputy Director of Operations which seems to have been in charge of covering up drug operations.<sup>10</sup> Tracing the agency back to its origins, we find the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC), which was incorporated into the Office of Special Operations (OSO) in 1952.<sup>11</sup> This shady operations unit was established in 1948 without Congressional authorization. Beginning with the Korean war, its budgets and personnel increased rapidly, and

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8 In 2010, Congressman Ron Paul spoke to it: “There’s been a coup, have you heard? It’s the CIA coup. The CIA runs everything, they run the military. They’re the ones who are over there, lobbing missiles and bombs on countries. . . . Think of the harm they have done since they were established [after] World War II. They are a government unto themselves. They’re in businesses, in drug businesses, they take out dictators . . . We need to take out the CIA!” <http://rawstory.com/2010/01/ron-paul-cia/>

9 Scott & Marshall, *Cocaine Politics* (1998) xvii

10 Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 162

11 For more on OPC, see McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991) 166-178



key players in this scheme was Frank Wisner,<sup>12</sup> William Colby,<sup>13</sup> James Jesus Angleton,<sup>14</sup> Allen Dulles,<sup>15</sup> Richard Helms, William Donovan,<sup>16</sup>

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12 Frank G. Wisner was head of intelligence operations in south-eastern Europe at the end of World War II. He became head of the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC) at its creation in 1947 and oversaw the CIA's Directorate of Plans (DDP) from 1951-58. In this capacity, Wisner oversaw the creation of all the stay-behind (Gladio) networks in East and West Europe.

13 Bill Colby was an OSS officer during World War II. After the war he joined the newly created CIA where he spent 12 years setting up the stay-behind network known as Operation Gladio. He then went to Vietnam where he served as chief of station in Saigon and chief of the CIA's Far East Division. After Vietnam, Colby became CIA director under Nixon and Ford and during his tenure adopted a policy of relative openness about U.S. intelligence activities to the Senate Church Committee and House Pike Committee. He would more and more depart from the group we are to discuss and was murdered in 1996.

14 In May 1949, Angleton was made head of Staff of the CIA's Office of Special Operations, where he was responsible for the collection of foreign intelligence and liaison with the CIA's counterpart organizations (he got the job after agreeing not to polygraph Dulles and 50 of his cronies). Beginning in 1951, Angleton was responsible for liaison with Israel's Mossad and Shin Bet agencies ("the Israeli desk"), and he would continue this role after CIA Chief Allen Dulles in 1954 named Angleton head of the Counterintelligence Staff. Angleton had a close relationship with the founders of US intelligence and was forced to retire in 1975. He remained loyal to Dulles for many more years, but at the end of his life he passed his private papers on to Joseph Trento—a treasure trove for history. As he noted on his deathbed, "Fundamentally, the founding fathers of U.S. intelligence were liars. The better you lied and the more you betrayed, the more likely you would be promoted. . . . Outside of their duplicity, the only thing they had in common was a desire for absolute power." Speaking of men like Dulles, Helms, and Wisner, he noted that these men were "the grand masters. If you were in a room with them, you were in a room full of people that you had to believe would deservedly end up in hell. . . . I guess I will see them there soon." See Trento, *The Secret History of the CIA* (2005)

15 Allen Dulles was an American diplomat and lawyer connected with the Rockefellers who became the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) first director in 1927. He was the Council's secretary from 1933 to 1944 and became the first Director of Central Intelligence (DCI). He would serve in this position from 1953 to 1961 and was its longest-serving director to date. As head of CIA, Dulles oversaw the 1953 coup d'état against democratically elected Mossadegh (along with Frank Wisner) and his replacement with the Shah of Iran. He then oversaw the 1954 Guatemalan coup, where he paved the way for American corporations, but was fired by John F. Kennedy after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion. Kennedy swore that he would break the CIA into a thousand pieces, but his assassination put an end to this quest. Dulles then, as a show of how utterly corrupt the U.S. government was, would become a member of the Warren Commission, orchestrating the cover-up. Between his stints of government service, Dulles was a corporate lawyer and partner at Sullivan & Cromwell. His older brother, John Foster Dulles, was the Secretary of State during the Eisenhower Administration. For more on this man, see Talbot, *The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government* (2015), an excellent book.

General Richard Stilwell (the American commander in Asia), and Col. Paul Helliwell.

These agents were connected with the inner echelons of the elite's old boy network, people like the Rockefellers, Bushes, Mellons, Rothschilds, and others that we shall learn more about. They were all former OSS agents, and while there were many others involved—beginning with this group—the modern alliance between drug traffickers and governments would evolve to become the international web of intrigue, deceit, violence, and mayhem that we know today.<sup>17</sup>

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16 William "Wild Bill" Donovan was another American lawyer, intelligence officer, and diplomat interlinked with the Rockefeller and J.P. Morgan banking empire. Donovan was head of OSS during World War II and would become known as the "Father of American Intelligence".

17 A most interesting FBI document in this regard was sent to Senator Edward Kennedy in 1989. On the request of Kennedy, the FBI presented their overview of the connections between a sinister cast of characters, and this top-secret document illuminates much of what will be documented. As it went on to explain: "During the tenure of Richard Helms as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, decisions were made by the director, with implied approval of the Oval Office, to draft a blue-print and put into motion a plan by which the CIA could have as much funds as, and when, needed, without knowledge of Congress. This would accomplish the dual purpose of carrying out clandestine and covert operations without the "clearance" of the Congress, as well as avoid the necessity of having to request any extra funds, and thus, divulging the workings of any covert operations in progress or planned. . . . Director Helms put together a team of five top people. The five experts picked were, General Edward Lansdale, who ran the CIA activities in Vietnam; William Colby, who was to be put in total command of the blue-print operation when enacted; George Bush, who asked and received approval to have his top aid, Richard Armitage be brought aboard, and Lt.Col. Robert Ferrera, a top CIA asset. . . . The master plan called for the CIA to enter into the drug smuggling business, in a total and complete fashion." <https://cloverchronicle.com/2018/12/08/george-h-w-bushs-top-secret-cia-drug-running-empire/>

### 10.1.1. Preparing the Golden Triangle

*“We were never dealing opium in Laos. And if we were it was policy.”<sup>18</sup>*

—Richard Secord, US Air Force General—

Before the Second World War, Western drug markets were declining and opiate production as well as use were mostly confined to other regions of the world, like Turkey, Iran, and Southeast Asia. Delivering the product to Chinese users was Chiang Kai-shek, a right-wing general who used opium as a source of profits to fight the Communist forces. This was the 1940's, and Col. Paul E Helliwell served in China as a Chief of Special Intelligence for the OSS. His mission was to provide covert assistance to the Kuomintang (KMT) forces, the General's army, and knowing that it was difficult for Chiang to get the opium from producers to consumers, Helliwell saw a way in.

He therefore spoke with “Wild Bill” Donovan about flying opium for the KMT forces. His boss agreed and together with E. Howard Hunt (of later Watergate fame), Lucien Conein, a French ex-soldier with ties to the Corsican mafia (who would later become Nixon's chief of DEA covert operations), Lt. General Claire L Chennault, (the military advisor to Chiang Kai-shek), and Tommy “the Cork” Corcoran (an ultimate insider from the Roosevelt to the Reagan Administration), Helliwell and the CIA created the Civil Air Transport (CAT) from surplus aircraft in 1946.

Thus, the process of turning Southeast Asia into the world's biggest producer of opium had begun. President Franklin D. Roosevelt

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<sup>18</sup> Valentine, *The Strength of the Wolf* (2004) 511

believed that the best way of stopping Japanese imperialism in this region was to arm the Chinese general, but Congress was opposed to this idea as this help might trigger a war with Japan. Hence, Roosevelt tasked Corcoran to establish a private corporation to aid the nationalist government, not knowing that this would trigger an expanding illicit economy in drugs. This, at the very least, is the official explanation. However, it is uncontroversial that secret services had connections to organized crime already before this period.<sup>19</sup> It is also uncontroversial that secret societies are a breeding ground for corrupt politics,<sup>20</sup> and Roosevelt was not only a 33-degree mason, but a grandson of Warren Delano Jr., an intimate accomplice with William Russell, founder of the Skull and Bones. Thus, the plot thickens, and the actors involved fed off a pre-existing network of shady connections.

Helliwell himself was a member of the inner circle of the OSS, along with wealthy American dignitaries, including Henry Sturgis Morgan (Son of J.P. Morgan Jr.) Nicholas Roosevelt, Paul Mellon (son of Andrew Mellon) David K.E. Bruce (Andrew Mellon's son in law), and members of the Vanderbilt, Carnegie, DuPont, and Ryan families. Several of these families had profited from prohibitions in the 1800's, and the opium magnates of old had an interest in getting the drugs economy going.

Before the War, the American market was in ruins with opiate addicts being few and far between. The addict population was supplied by

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19 Professor Peter Dale Scott: "The U.S. government's narcotics Mafia connection goes back, as is well known, to World War II. Two controversial joint operations between OSS (Office of Strategic Services) and ONI (Office of Naval Intelligence) established contacts (via Lucky Luciano) with the Sicilian Mafia; and (via Tai Li) with the dope-dealing Green Gang of Tu Yueh Sheng in Shanghai. Both connections were extended into the post-war period as the Luciano and KMT networks slowly resumed their pre-war contacts." Henrik Kruger, *The Great Heroin Coup: Drugs, Intelligence, and International Fascism* (2015) 13

20 See Mimi L. Eustis, *New Orleans Mardi Gras Mystick Krewe of Comus Secrets Revealed* 2010. Found at [http://www.whale.to/c/mardi\\_gras.html](http://www.whale.to/c/mardi_gras.html)

Jewish and Italian gangsters like Arnold Rothstein, Lucky Luciano, and Meyer Lansky and there was a tremendous potential for growth. The newly established international drug control regime had disrupted old markets—and even if it is hard to imagine that powerful players already at this point sought to use the American drug-fighting machinery as a means of eradicating competition and maximizing profits (while building a police state), this is what appears to have taken place.

Indeed, Professor Anthony Sutton has noted how Skull and Bones not only become a major force in drug smuggling, but “in true Hegelian fashion, generated the antithesis, the so-called war on drugs.”<sup>21</sup> FBI-documents have also been released, showing that “during the tenure of Richard Helms as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, decisions were made to draft a blue-print and put into motion a plan by which the CIA could have as much funds as, and when, needed, without knowledge of Congress.” The result was the Five Star Trust, and people like General Edward Landsdale, William Colby, and George Bush Sr, were three of five key players in a “master plan to enter into the drug smuggling business, in a total and complete fashion.”<sup>22</sup>

Thus, a larger conspiracy seems to have been afoot. The FBI found connections between these guys and Baron Phillipe duDaphne, an agent of the Rothschilds banking empire. We shall later link them with money laundering activities, and the connection between politics and crime is deep. President Nixon himself started his career as a lawyer for Meyer Lansky. He was recommended to the CIA-connected mob boss by his long-time lawyer, Moses Polakoff,<sup>23</sup> and it is no coincidence that the world of crime and politics is connected through lawyers such as Nixon. As others have noted, the bigger the crime boss, the more

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21 Sutton, *America's Secret Establishment* (2002) xiii

22 <https://cloverchronicle.com/2018/12/08/george-h-w-bushs-top-secret-cia-drug-running-empire/>

23 Escohotado, *A Brief History of Drugs* (1999) 102

prominent is his counsel's relationship with the CIA,<sup>24</sup> and Richard Ben-Veniste, the lawyer of Barry Seal, (who we shall meet later) performed this function. His presence on the Whitewater and the 9/11 Commissions speaks volumes—and another lawyer that has specialized in this area is Bob Bennett, the brother of Bill Bennett.

While the former Drug Czar still enjoys his position as a moral entrepreneur, both Bennetts have been accused by Cathy O'Brien, a former sex slave, of committing highly immoral acts of violence.<sup>25</sup> Her story checks out on many other points but, as they have never had to face these charges, this will be a story for another day. What we know for sure is that criminals crave these lawyers for their ability to pull weight behind the scenes. And as Victor Marchetti, a former executive assistant to the Deputy Director of the CIA, said, "the CIA's involvement in the trafficking of heroin goes all the way back to the predecessor organization OSS and its involvement with the Italian mafia, the Cosa Nostra in Sicily and Southern Italy."<sup>26</sup> This was during the Second World War, and from this point of departure the unholy alliance between corrupt government agents and the criminal element would only strengthen.<sup>27</sup>

It is also clear that the drug enforcement agencies that were erected to combat the threat of narcotics were no match for this group and

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24 "There is an interesting common theme that runs through all CIA connected narcotics traffickers of this period [Iran-Contra]. These included men who were prosecuted—from Jack DeVoe to Barry Seal, Tony Fernandez, Bill Blakemore, Roberto Ruiz, Donald Raulerson and his son, Don Jr., who virtually controlled CIA narcotics trafficking in Georgia. There are about fifty-four names in all, but the common thread that runs through all these supposed defendants is the connection of their defense counsels to the government. Every defense counsel that was involved in defending these gentlemen was a former employee of the CIA. . . . The more prominent the narcotics trafficker defendant in question, the more prominent was his counsel's relationship with the Agency." Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 163

25 Cathy O'Brien, *Trance Formation of America* (1995)

26 Paul L. Williams, *Operation Gladio: The Unholy Alliance between the Vatican, the Cia, and the Mafia* (2015) 53

27 "My CIA, OSS, and DEA informants described their roles in the intelligence agency drug trafficking starting in the late 1940's and early 1950's." Rodney Stich, *Defrauding America* (1994) 294

were taken over by double agents. Thus, the FBN, BNDD, and later the DEA would eliminate competition, while the network with the best connections were free to control an ever-greater percentage of the world drug market. This, indeed, is what happened, and the Vietnam War seems to have been a side show created to take attention away from the real operation.

### 10.1.2. The Indochina Opium War

To oversee development in the Golden Triangle, CIA operatives Theodore Shackley and Thomas G. Clines came to Laos in 1966.<sup>28</sup> The OSS/CIA, however, had been active in the region since the Americans took over for the French and as opium had been their primary source of income, this business must have been a part of the deal since day one. At the very least, when Major General Edward Lansdale, an OSS/CIA agent, came to Vietnam in 1953 he discovered opium smuggling by French intelligence but was told not to interfere by his superiors.<sup>29</sup> Instead, drawing upon his connections to the secret team, he would spin a web of intrigue that set the region aflame, a job he had spent many years preparing for in the Philippines.

Reading between the lines, we have already seen how the Skull and Bones society, after the Spanish-American War, with three governors, plundered and terrorized the Philippines; from a power-political perspective, the modern War on Drugs appears to have its origin in the need to justify a regime of arbitrary violence upon the civil population, and the same operation was repeated in Indochina. According to

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28 The story of Shackley, Clines, Dulles, Prescott Bush, George H.W. Bush (and others discussed here) connected with the mob, organized the drugs economy, and created a rouge CIA is excellently told by Joseph Trento in *Prelude to Terror* (2005)

29 McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991) 102, 242

several authors, Lansdale was part of a team of covert operatives who had looted the Asians for more than trillions of dollars' worth of gold,<sup>30</sup> and the same shady cast of characters now arrived in Vietnam.

The scene was already set by Chiang Kai-shek's army of 12,000 mercenaries who were stationed in the opium rich hills of Burma and Thailand. To finance the secret war against the Chinese government, they had taken control of opium production in this area and together with 30,000 Hmong tribesmen the Americans relied on this network to substantiate their presence. Portable heroin processing facilities, a creation of the CIA's technical division,<sup>31</sup> was brought in and they trained the locals to run them. Profits soon became enormous, but the Communist government in China did not go away. Hence, assisted by the CIA, in 1950, this band of warlords appropriated Formosa, renamed it Taiwan, declared martial law, killed those who protested, and ran the country as despots until 1987.

As fascists know how to make a profit, it is no coincidence that Taiwan would provide a blueprint for the merging trend of turning traditional cultures into export-production-zones for international corporations. Nor was it a coincidence that, before this, the Philippines was the only Asian country to allow Chiang's army to function openly as a political

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30 The Philippines was an important hub in the US Imperialist Empire and Lansdale was appointed Chief of the Intelligence Division at the CIA station in Manila. There he took part in torturous interrogations aimed at silencing political dissent, rooting out political enemies, and locating secret chambers of bullion. As Seagrave explains "In 1945, US Intelligence officers in Manila discovered that the Japanese had hidden large quantities of gold bullion and other looted treasure in the Philippines. President Truman decided to recover the gold but to keep its riches secret. These would be combined with treasure recovered inside Japan during the US occupation, and with Nazi loot recovered in Europe, to create a worldwide American political action fund to fight communism. Overseen by General MacArthur, President Truman, and John Foster Dulles, this 'Black Gold' gave Washington virtually limitless, unaccountable funds, providing an asset base to reinforce the treasuries of America's allies, to bribe political and military leaders, and to manipulate elections in foreign countries for more than fifty years." Sterling Seagrave & Peggy Seagrave, *Gold Warriors: America's Secret Recovery of Yamashita's Gold* (2005); See also David Wilcock, *Financial Tyranny: Defeating the Greatest Cover-Up of All Time* (2012) for more on how the elite robbed the Asians of their gold in the 1920-40s.

31 Trento, *Prelude to Terror* (2005) 26



party. The secret team was in control of its government and under the guise of a War on Communism, they would wreak havoc on the region, installing their own puppet regimes.

### *10.1.2.1 The Vietnam War*

To observant readers, it should come as no surprise that the War on Communism was another front for meddling in the internal affairs of sovereign people, and the Vietnam War is a prime example. While 80 percent of the people supported Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh independence movement, the CIA prepped up a regime of their own in Saigon and made sure that war was the only option.<sup>32</sup> In 1968, Nixon even had had Anna Chennault, the wife of Claire Chennault, use her connections with the Saigon regime to delay peace talks for another two years;<sup>33</sup> this would serve the war profiteers well, while providing CIA with room to finish operations in the Golden Triangle.

Opium was the name of the game,<sup>34</sup> and Shackley was already well-connected with drug runners. Before coming to Laos, he had been Chief at the JM/WAVE CIA Station in Miami (1962-1965). There, together with Clines, he had prepped Cuban exiles for Anti-Castro operations, and this plot included political assassinations as well as lots of drug running.<sup>35</sup> It also included the Bay of Pigs invasion, an attempt

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32 See Russell, *Drug War* (2000); McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991); Blum, *Killing Hope* (2003)

33 Anthony Summers, *The Arrogance of Power: the secret world of Richard Nixon* (2003) 298-306, 322

34 As General Tuan Shi-wen, a veteran from the CIA's warfare in Burma, said: "To fight you must have an army; an army must have guns, and to buy guns you must have money. In these mountains, the only money is opium." McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991) 129

35 When Castro ousted Fulgencio Batista, the U.S. installed dictator, he not only obstructed the American elite's business investments; he also threw out the Mob who ran Havana's Casinos and underworld, and the CIA would ally with these forces. Hence, in 1960 Paul Helliwell had been sent to the Bahamas where he set up offshore banks for CIA use. After that he went to Florida, where he cemented the CIA's relationship with organized crime (Lansky and Trafficante), and (accompanied by

of 1500 soldiers of fortune to oust Castro. The Skull and Bones could again be seen behind the scenes,<sup>36</sup> and while it failed to open Cuba for exploitation it did provide alliances that would reach across the globe.

As shall be seen, these Cuban extremists would later take part in terror operations in Latin America, as well as Europe and the Middle East. In 1966, Ted Shackley brought some of them to Laos (this included Carl E. Jenkins, David Morales, Rafael Quintero, Felix Rodriguez and Edwin Wilson).<sup>37</sup> There the CIA backed General Vang Pao, who already was a major figure in the opium business, and helped him establish a monopoly over the heroin trade by setting him up with the Corsican and Italian Mafia.<sup>38</sup> Through “Wild Bill” Donovan, who arrived in Thailand as Ambassador in 1953, (at the same time as Lansdale arrived in Vietnam) the CIA also conspired with the Thai military police who helped the KMT thrive in the opium rich mountains. And while Donovan returned to the United States the next year to continue his work for the Rockefeller and Morgan interests (and registered as a

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Mitch WerBell and Lucien Conein) nourished relations with the Cuban mercenaries as they were prepped for the Bay of Pigs Invasion. The connection to drugs has been discussed by authors such as Peter Dale Scott, Joseph Trento, Henrik Kruger, and Joel Bainerman, and it could also be seen in 1973 when Newsday reported that “at least eight percent of the 1500-man Bay of Pigs invasion force has subsequently been investigated or arrested for drug dealing.” Kruger, *The Great Heroin Coup* (2015) 16

36 The Bay of Pigs Operation was overseen by the Skull and Bones society through William P. Bundy, McGeorge Bundy, Richard Drain, and George H.W. Bush—all Bonesmen. Shackley, E. Howard Hunt, and Clines, their subsidiaries, ran the Cubans. The Bundy brothers were close advisors to JFK, advising him on Cuba and Vietnam, and according to Colonel Fletcher Prouty (Chief of Special Operations under the Joint Chiefs of Staff under JFK) McGeorge Bundy not only sabotaged the Bay of Pigs invasion in an attempt to force Kennedy into overt American involvement, but had prior knowledge of the President’s assassination. See Prouty, *JFK: The CIA, Vietnam, and the Plot to Assassinate John F. Kennedy* (2011) x

37 For more on this period, see Trento, *Prelude to Terror* (2005) and Bainerman, *Crimes of a President: New Revelations on the Conspiracy and Cover Up in the Bush and Reagan Administration* (1992)

38 In 1968 Shackley (known as the Blond Ghost) arranged for Santos Trafficante Jr. to visit Saigon and meet with drug lord Vang Pao in the Continental Palace Hotel. The meeting concerned Vang’s ability to provide the supply for the ever-increasing demand. During his stay, Trafficante also met with prominent Corsican gangsters to assure them of increased shipments to their laboratories in Marseilles.” Williams, *Operation Gladio* (2015) 88

lobbyist for the Thai government), these forces would ensure that the Golden Triangle became the world's greatest producer of opium.<sup>39</sup>

From this point KMT heroin would be produced deep in the jungles of Burma, Thailand, and Laos, and then shipped to Western markets. To launder the drug money, Shackley had Richard L. Armitage (who later became Deputy Secretary of State under George W. Bush) set up a secret conduit to Australian and American banks,<sup>40</sup> and after the Vietnam War the same cast of characters would move their operations to Latin America, doing the same to the drug market of this region—and finally to Afghanistan where they now control 90 percent of the world opium supply.<sup>41</sup>

While operations in Afghanistan will be a story for another day, we shall see how this group set up shop in Latin America. For now, however, we focus on the Golden Triangle, which by 1989 would produce 70 percent (3000 tons) of the world's opium—and while this was going on the FBN, BNDD, and the DEA were always two steps behind. The FBN would ignore the Golden Triangle and focus upon other regions of the world, places like Turkey, Marseille, and the Middle East. Until the 1970's they would claim that 80 percent of the heroin shipped to America came from Turkey and that only 5 percent came from Southeast Asia—but as the FBNs head, John Warner, admitted in a 1971 interview, this assumption was rooted in nothing

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39 As William Blum, a former employee of the U.S. State Department, noted: "The operation was not a paragon of discretion. Heroin was refined in a laboratory located on the site of CIA headquarters in northern Laos. After a decade of American military intervention, Southeast Asia had become the source of 70 percent of the world's illicit opium and the major supplier of raw materials for Americas booming heroin market." Blum, *Killing Hope* (2003) 142

40 Trento, *Prelude to Terror* (2005)

41 As author Paul L. Williams noted the situation "Heroin had become a \$400 billion business, with two hundred million users throughout the world. The CIA's share of this business was used to finance the mujahideen in Afghanistan, the guerrilla forces in Angola, the Contras in Nicaragua, the puppet regimes in South America, and the death squads in El Salvador. Paul E. Helliwell's brainstorm had produced an intelligence agency with seemingly limitless funds for seemingly endless operations." Williams, *Operation Gladio* (2015) 220

but imagination.<sup>42</sup> More likely, it was the result of a deal with the CIA, as FBN agents in the region were sent home by Anslinger in 1949 when they reported that opium was the primary source of income for the French. Ten years would pass before FBN again put boots on the ground, and by then production had increased more than 500 percent since the end of World War II, when production hit a rock bottom of 80 tons.<sup>43</sup>

Doing his part was President Richard Nixon, who in 1971 provided \$100 million in aid to end opium production in Turkey, a country which at the time produced 5 percent of the world opium supply. By this time, the CIA had set up shop elsewhere and the Golden Triangle was preparing to become the world's primary source of opium. Thus, to the CIA, this move seems to have been about eliminating competition so that a more centralized system under its control could emerge. And while this interpretation is open for questioning—and the CIA will have us believe that this was not their intention—the story of Khun Sa suggests otherwise.

#### *10.1.2.2. Khun-Sa: The Idealistic Drug Lord*

Khun Sa was a Burmese opium lord who received military equipment and training from the Kuomintang and Burmese Army before establishing his own independent territory. In the period between 1976-1996, he was the dominant player in the region, but there is more to this man than meets the eye. He is interesting because his fate reveals the true ambitions of the CIA in the Indochina theatre, for while his biggest customer was the CIA, his unruliness made him a nuisance. It was for this reason that the Reagan administration would

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<sup>42</sup> McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991) 281

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 162

pronounce him enemy number one in the Golden Triangle, but his problems with the CIA started already in the early 1960's.

In this period, Khun Sa became one of Burma's most notorious drug traffickers and would increasingly challenge the local dominance of the KMT. In 1967, however, in a battle involving the KMT and the Laotian army on the Thai-Burma-Laos border, Khun Sa was ambushed while leading a convoy of 500 men and 300 opium-filled mules. The Laotian Air Force showed up, bombed the battleground, and stole the opium. At that time, General Ouane Rattikone, the commander-in-chief of the Royal Lao Army, ran several heroin refineries in the nearby Ban Houey Sai area. He was backed by the CIA, and as the Laotian military continued to ambush Khun Sa's drug shipments over the next few years his military strength declined. Thus, a period of trouble followed until 1974, when he got out from Burmese prison in a release secretly brokered by Thai General Kriangsak Chomanan.

During the next two decades (1974-1994), Khun Sa became the dominant opium warlord in the Golden Triangle. In 1981, however, his luck ran out when the Thai army, pressured by the Americans, decided to turn against him. The Thai government announced a bounty on his head and in October 1981, a 39-man unit of Thai Rangers and local rebel guerrillas attempted to assassinate Khun Sa at the insistence of the DEA. The attempt failed, and the American ambassador to Thailand, William Brown, denounced him as "the worst enemy the world has."<sup>44</sup>

Curiously, this coincided with him being a nuisance to the secret team: In 1977 he offered to take his territory's entire opium crop off the black market by selling it to the American government, but his offer was rejected. Undeterred, he continued his attempt to get the U.S. government (and others) to recognize the sovereignty of the Shan State by offering to destroy the illicit market in drugs, but his offers

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44 Bertil Lintner, *Death of a Drug Lord*, Asia Times Online. November 1, 2007

were turned down. Why? The official explanation of the Australian government, which also rejected his plan, was that the “Government is simply not in the business of paying criminals to refrain from criminal activity.” The U.S. government, for its part, simply rejected Khun Sa’s proposal as blackmail and placed a \$2 million-dollar bounty on him.

#### *10.1.2.3. Bo Gritz: Integrity Standing Tall*

Into this fray arrived James “Bo” Gritz. He was one of the most decorated soldiers of the Vietnam era and after retirement at the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1979, he continued his work in black ops. In his book *A Nation Betrayed* Gritz documents why, most likely, the American and other governments rejected Khun Sa’s offer of stopping the flow of heroin,<sup>45</sup> and the story begins with missing American prisoners of war. There was reason to believe that at least 135 U.S. soldiers had been left behind when the United States withdrew from Indochina and Gritz’s mission was to contact Khun Sa to see what he knew.

The CIA, for its part, claimed that Khun Sa was dead and made travel arrangements difficult. Even so, Gritz prevailed and in 1986 met with the drug lord at his stronghold, where they conversed for two days. At this meeting Khun Sa claimed that he did not know about American POWs, but he would provide Gritz with 2500 soldiers if he would pass on a message to President Reagan. Again, the offer of eradicating opium production came up, and as a testimony to his good will Khun Sa offered to surrender one ton of pure heroin. Not only that, but the opium lord offered to give up the names of his best customers. As he expected the Reagan administration to jump on this opportunity, Gritz was delighted and promised to return a few months later.

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<sup>45</sup> James Gritz, *A Nation Betrayed* (1989)

Coming back to the United States, however, Gritz was surprised at the White House's disinterest in Khun Sa's proposal. He could sense powerful forces conspiring against him and team members were imprisoned on trumped-up charges. Nevertheless, Gritz and two compatriots, Barry Flynn and Lance Trimmer, a private detective from San Francisco, managed to return as promised. Khun Sa then showed his accounting records and they discovered that his biggest clients the past 25 years had been the CIA.

Khun Sa specifically mentioned Theodore Shackley, the Deputy Director of CIA's Covert Operations, and Daniel Arnold, the CIA Station Chief in Thailand, as key operators, and Richard Armitage as the one that laundered the money. Armitage, who was Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs, held several positions with the State Department which suggested Khun Sa was right. These charges, furthermore, were supported by Ronald Rewald, a Honolulu businessman who ran Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham and Wong, a CIA connected bank we shall learn more about later, and Khun Sa also charged that, after leaving the State Department, Armitage organized the Far East Trading Company as a front to continue opium trafficking.

These clues were easy to pursue. When Armitage predictably denied the allegation, the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on crime was tasked to assess the charges, but Congress dared not follow through. Instead, Congress parroted CIA's position that these men were beyond reproach and joined President Bush and the Justice Department in the lynching of scapegoats.

Upon his return to the United States, Gritz had been told by the White House to erase and forget what he had learned.<sup>46</sup> Gritz, however, did

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46 "Instead of receiving an 'Atta Boy' for bringing back video tape showing Khun Sa's offer to stop 900 tons of illegal narcotics and expose dirty USG officials, Scott was jailed and I was threatened. I was told that if I didn't 'erase and forget' all that we had discovered, I would, 'hurt the government'. Further, I

not obey, and informed Congress and the media on the situation.<sup>47</sup> He was also in touch with the Christic Institute, which prepared a case in the justice system, but the secret team ensured that these efforts were stonewalled and made an example of.<sup>48</sup>

The cover-up made Gritz realize the extent to which the U.S. government had become corrupted, and he left Washington to join the militia movement with other “conspiracy theorists”. When George H.W. Bush became president, he wrote a letter that exposed his connections to the secret team, but Bush did not respond. By then Bush was busy dealing with the fallout of Iran-Contra and silencing more immediate threats, like Ross Perot, a fellow Texas Republican who threatened to expose his dirty laundry. Another threat that had to be eliminated was General Noriega, who also knew too much about the President’s past. To silence him, Bush sent the U.S. Army to invade Panama and bring the general home in chains. Then there were Khun Sa who threatened to expose the secret team’s activities in Indochina; the \$2 million offer on his head had not provided a solution, and the White House intensified the DEA’s efforts to arrest him.

He had been indicted in absentia on drug trafficking charges by a federal grand jury in Brooklyn, New York, in January 1990, and Bush

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was promised a prison sentence of 15 years.” James Bo Gritz, Letter to Vice President George H.W. Bush, February 1, 1988

47 In June 1987, Gritz delivered copies of a videotape with Khun Sa’s confession to the Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence; the Chairman of the House on Foreign Affairs Task Force on Narcotics Control; the Co-Chairman of the Senate Narcotics Committee; Senator Harry Reid, NV; Representative James Bilbray, NV; and other Congressional members. Senator Ross Perot would investigate these charges and deliver evidence to George H.W. Bush, but the Vice President angrily denied the charges and set up a team of military men to neutralize the Senator. These men included Chip Tatum, which we shall meet later.

48 In 1986, attorney Daniel Sheehan named Shackley, Armitage, Clines and 27 other conspirators in a \$24 million civil lawsuit filed by the Christic Institute. In 1988, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida dismissed the Christic suit after finding it to be frivolous and ordered the Institute to pay \$955,000 in attorney fees and \$79,500 in court costs. The ruling was subsequently upheld by the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States.



would use the hunt for Khun Sa as another occasion to pose as a defender of law and order. No doubt, he really wanted this man who threatened to bring light to a dark chapter of CIA history. Bush himself was thick as thieves with the conspirators, but Khun Sa had good friends. He was considered something of a hero to the Shan people, and while the DEA was chasing him, he continued to live comfortably at his headquarters at Hmong near the Thai border. In January 1996, he eventually surrendered to the Burmese military. Even so he continued to live prosperously the remainder of his life (he died in 2007, at the age of 73 in Yangon), and the fact that he “spent the last years of his life incommunicado inside a compound protected by Myanmar’s secret intelligence service gives some indication as to how important the country’s ruling junta considered it to keep him isolated and quiet.”<sup>49</sup>

### 10.1.3. The Vietnam Theatre

*“Look, if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth then you’re stupid. Did you hear that? Stupid.”<sup>50</sup>*

—Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, speaking to U.S. correspondents in Saigon, 1965—

The story of Khun Sa suggests that there is some truth to these tales of government complicity in the drug trade. It is also notable that George Bush and Richard Armitage were named by the FBI as two of

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49 Bertil Lintner, *Death of a Drug Lord*, Asia Times Online, November 1, 2007. For more on Kuhn Sa, see McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991) 348, 419-35.

50 Mike Lofgren, *The Deep State: The Fall of the Constitution and the Rise of the Shadow Government* (2016) 48

five individuals involved in the Five Star Trust, the CIA's master plan to control the drugs economy. As the FBI's division of Intelligence put it:

*"Each of the five planners would have his own field to handle. Bush would be the secret head of ONA and handle all the shipping of the drugs under forged waybills. Armitage would be the "gopher" for the group and the intermediary with any "undesirables". General Landsdale would handle all the distribution network and collection services within the military in Vietnam. William Colby was to handle the setting up of all the man-power—from runners, peddlers, pushers, collectors, and so forth, as well as the elimination of any who might prove to be uncontrollable, be they American or Vietnamese. Lt.Col. Ferrera was to use his contacts in Latin America and in the middle east, to obtain 'from various governments the needed drugs—heroin, cocaine, marijuana, LSD, etc, as ordered by Colby, Bush was to handle the opium from China."*<sup>51</sup>

This information was sent to Senator Edward Kennedy in 1989. Thus, if not for the corruption of government, this plot could have been exposed. Kennedy, however, had met with a conspiracy too big; one where those who pursued the truth were murdered or threatened into submission, and so the story of Khun Sa and government-sponsored drug smuggling never made the headlines.

Nevertheless, what we have seen is a microcosm of a much greater picture, and behind the Indochina War there was a trend of increased opium production; an ever more professionalized heroin industry; and a streamlining of markets according to the wisdom of a chosen few. Working for these chosen few were the henchmen of the secret team, and following their trail, when Shackley and Clines had coordinated a

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51 <https://cloverchronicle.com/2018/12/08/george-h-w-bushs-top-secret-cia-drug-running-empire/>

working opium-program in Laos, they left for Vietnam. Bringing his elite force of assassins, Shackley took over the CIA Station in Saigon, where he and Bill Colby oversaw the Phoenix Program.

Under this program, within a two-year period, some 30,000 civilians were murdered with extreme prejudice as the CIA helped eradicate political opposition and set up new kings in the drug business. Lansdale had already arranged so that President Ngo Dinh Diem's advisor (and brother), Ngo Dinh Nhu, controlled the South Vietnamese opiate trade, while Diem ran the country for the Americans. In 1963, however, the Diem brothers would be killed in a CIA sanctioned coup instigated by Henry Cabot Lodge, the newly arrived U.S. Ambassador. After this, two generals of the Air Force, Ngyen Cao Ky and Ngyen Ngoc Loan, would be the CIAs greatest allies in Vietnam's illegal drug business.<sup>52</sup>

As history went on to show, the arrival of Ambassador Lodge signalled a turn for the worse for the Vietnamese. Connecting the Lodges and the Cabots, he belonged to a long lineage of initiates, and together with W. Averell Harriman and McGeorge Bundy, both of the Skull and Bones society, he ensured that the death cult proved victorious.

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<sup>52</sup> McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991). See also Trento, *The Secret History of the CIA* (2005) 343-49 for an excellent summary: "The nasty secret of the early phase of the Vietnam War was that Conein's clients, Ngo Dinh Diem and Ngo Dinh Nhu, were at the Vietnamese end of the Corsican heroin trail. What the CIA had taken over from the French colonial administration in Vietnam was the Southeast Asian drug business." (p. 345)

### 10.1.3.1. Enter Harriman

*"It is a Princeton tradition that whenever a Yale man who is a member of the widely advertised "Skull and Bones" hears the sacred name mentioned, he must leave the room. It is also a tradition that the members are invariably successful in later life, amassing fortunes or votes or coupons or whatever they choose to amass."*

—F. Scott Fitzgerald, *This Side of Paradise*, 1920—

A look at history reveals that few have been more eager to profit on war than the Skull and Bones. At any given time, some 600 Bonesmen are active on this planet, hiding in the shade while continuing the age-old plot to control populations, and Averell Harriman was a true king. Together with the Bush family, he would finance Russian revolutionaries and the rise of Hitler<sup>53</sup>—and not only did he get away with it, but he was rewarded by President Roosevelt as a special envoy to Europe during the War. Being a Skull and Bones member, then, comes with certain privileges.<sup>54</sup> In 1943, Harriman became

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53 The connections between the Bush family, Harriman, and the rise of Hitler can be found in Stone & Hunt, *The Bush Crime Family* (2016) 84-89. Among other indecencies, these industrialists would profit nicely from slave labour in Auschwitz and other concentration camps (where IBM serviced the machinery), and it would seem that Hitler invaded Poland to keep this scheme going. At the very least, the Polish government accused the Americans and Germans of gross mismanagement, excessive borrowing, fictitious bookkeeping, and gambling in securities, and when Hitler invaded Poland, any fears that Prescott Bush or Averell Harriman may have had about losing their Polish steel and coal operations vanished. See also Black, *Nazi Nexus: America's Corporate Connections to Hitler's Holocaust* (2009).

54 Despite this, Roosevelt, as early as 1906, in a letter to Senator Sherman, described Harriman as a man of "deep seated corruption," an "undesirable citizen" and "an enemy of the Republic." (Harriman, in a fit of anger, had boasted "that whenever he wants legislation from a state legislature he could buy it; that he could buy Congress, and that if necessary he could buy the judiciary.") Kennan, E. H. *Harriman: Railroad Czar* (2011) 209. At the CIA, also James Angleton was worried about Harriman and began a secret counterintelligence investigation code named DINOSAUR. The investigation never went

Ambassador to the Soviet Union and after the War he served as ambassador to Britain before he moved on to become United States Secretary of Commerce. In 1948, he was put in charge of the Marshall Plan and throughout the 1950's, he would encourage and orchestrate the Cold War. Hence, it is difficult to overestimate his impact on world affairs and the Indochina situation was no exception.

In January 1961, Averell Harriman was appointed Ambassador at Large by President Kennedy, a position he held until November, when he became Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs. During this period, he advocated U.S. support of a “neutral” government in Laos, while providing cover for the real events. He remained in this position until April 1963, when he became Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. He retained that position during the transition to the Johnson administration until March 1965 when he again became Ambassador at Large. He held that position for the remainder of Johnson's presidency and then headed the U.S. delegation to the preliminary peace talks in Paris between the United States and North Vietnam (1968–69). In short, he was on top of things, and while controlling drug markets was fine, a bigger game was being played—one that would ensure more murder and mayhem.

By this time, 500,000 American troops had mustered in Indochina. War on a more massive scale was being prepared, and in the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident Americans found a pretence for going to war. Never mind that the alleged North Vietnamese attack did not take place; never mind that President Kennedy did his best to stop the escalating crisis; thanks to Harriman and his accomplices,<sup>55</sup> the American military

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anywhere, but as Angleton said: “There was a strong circumstantial case that Harriman was at least an agent of Soviet influence and maybe much worse.” Trento, *The Secret History of the CIA* (2005) 355

<sup>55</sup>Author Joseph Trento has done an amazing job piecing together this puzzle. In his great work *The Secret History of the CIA* (2005), relying on insider testimony, he shows that Harriman, by 1963, was running Vietnam without consulting the president or the attorney general, and that the violent coup that Harriman set in motion against the Diem brothers seemed “designed to throw American policy in that country into chaos.” (p. 334-35)

would bomb the country asunder, leaving up to 5 million dead, while ensuring vast profits for U.S. corporations, and the Skull and Bones was everywhere.

One fellow was William H. Sullivan. Having served as Harriman's deputy at Geneva negotiations about the future of Laos in 1961, he was a reliable protegee, and Harriman appointed him ambassador to this country from 1964–1969. When the Vietnam War heated up, he also served briefly as deputy chief of mission to the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, and would be followed by G. McMurtrie Godley, who served as ambassador to Laos from 1969-1973.

Godley was as corrupt as they come. Before taking this position, he had been the United States ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, when Mobutu Sese Seko staged coup and seized control of the country. Now, he would ensure that the FBN and others kept away while the CIA did its dirty work.<sup>56</sup> After this, Godley would continue to Lebanon for more mischief, and he would be succeeded by another high-level insider, Charles S. Whitehouse—who was also a member of the Skull and Bones. Mr. Whitehouse oversaw the downsizing of the U.S. involvement in Laos and then left Vientiane to become ambassador to Thailand in 1975. There, the CIA was in deep with the fascist military police, and only a year later, with the bloody suppression of student demonstrations on October 6, 1976, a coup followed.

It was this shady cast of characters that dominated U.S. policy and covered up for the events taking place. Harriman was a top dog,<sup>57</sup> but he had plenty of help and we shall now look at one important ally.

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56 In December 1970, he used the FBN's rigged statistics to marginalize attention to the real events and he would also oppose the BNDD (FBN's successor) establishing a foothold in Laos. See McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991) 304, 381

57 Researcher and author Joseph Trento summarizes the big picture in his book: "President-elect Kennedy appointed Harriman as ambassador-at-large, to operate 'with the full confidence of the president and an intimate knowledge of all aspects of United States policy.' But by 1963, Kennedy had

## 10.1.4. Fascists of the World: Unite!

A front organization in all this was the World Anti Communist League (WACL). It was officially established in in 1966 by the KMT but had chapters at least a decade before. Hunt and Conein personally established its Latin American forerunners in 1954, and while it currently goes by the name World League for Freedom and Democracy (WLFD), WACL would unite “Latin American death squads, Croatian and Cuban terrorists, Japanese gangsters, the Moonies’ bizarre and dictatorial sex cult, scientific racists, Waffen SS veterans, high-ranking Nazis, Saudi princes, supporters of apartheid in South Africa and Rhodesia, supporters of America’s Jim Crow apartheid (well into the 1980’s), Corsican gangsters, KMT drug dealers, right-wing Asian, Latin American, European, Middle Eastern and African Dictators, Italian and Mexican secret societies, bishops, priests, ministers, generals, special forces vets, military men, spies, secret police, mainstream western politicians, academics, and journalists.”<sup>58</sup>

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come to suspect the loyalty of certain members on his national security team. According to Colonel William Corson, USMC, by 1963 Harriman was running ‘Vietnam without consulting the president or the attorney general.’ Corson said Kenny O'Donnell, JFK's appointments secretary, was convinced that the National Security Advisor, McGeorge Bundy, followed the orders of Harriman rather than the president. Corson also claimed that O'Donnell was particularly concerned about Michael Forrestal, a young White House staffer who handled liaison on Vietnam with Harriman. Harriman certainly supported the coup against the South Vietnam president Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963. However, it is alleged that the orders that ended in the deaths of Diem and his brother actually originated with Harriman and were carried out by Henry Cabot Lodge's military assistant. The fundamental question about the murders was the sudden and unusual recall of Saigon Station Chief John 'Jocko' Richardson by an unknown authority. Special Operations Army officer, John Michael Dunn, was sent to Vietnam in his stead. He followed the orders of Harriman and Forrestal rather than the CIA. According to Corson, Dunn's role in the incident has never been made public but he was assigned to Ambassador Lodge for 'special operations' with the authority to act without hindrance; and he was known to have access to the coup plotters.” Wikipedia summary of Joseph Trento, *The Secret History of the CIA* (2005) 334–335

<sup>58</sup> Hugo Turner, *Beyond the Iran-Contra Affair Part 3: The World Anti-Communist League*, July 19, 2016. For more on WACL, see Scott and Jon Lee Anderson, *Inside the League: The Shocking Exposé of How Terrorists, Nazis, and Latin American Death Squads Have Infiltrated the World Anti-Communist League* (1986); Scott & Marshall, *Cocaine Politics* (1998)

This network would use the drugs economy, murder, and propaganda to get their way—and “Freedom” or “Democracy” has never been on the agenda.<sup>59</sup> To the contrary, at least three European chapters of the organization were controlled by former SS officers from Nazi Germany, and as Hugo Turner noted, this is only the tip of the iceberg:

*“WACL is undoubtedly one of the most important organizations that most people have never heard of. WACL played a far greater role in history than anyone ever realized. It was closely connected to the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the death of JFK, the string of coups that swept Latin America for decades and has, after a brief interruption begun, to sweep Latin America again. It was involved in the wars in Angola and Mozambique. WACL members founded and led the Latin American death squads that claimed hundreds of thousands of victims. WACL was instrumental in both the start of the ‘cold war’ and its end with the destruction of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. WACL helped get Nixon, Reagan, and Bush into office. WACL was tied to terror attacks, hijackings, bombings, and assassinations. It was deeply involved in the global drug trade. It served to keep fascism alive after its defeat in World War 2.”<sup>60</sup>*

For those interested, History Channel’s *Hunting Hitler* series documents how the Nazi elite, aided by the Vatican and the OSS/CIA,

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59 As Professor Peter Dale Scott noted: “Before World War II the KMT regime in China was perhaps the best example of political manipulation of the narcotics traffic., under the guise of an ‘opium suppression campaign’, to finance both a political and an intelligence apparatus (under General Tai Li). This practice spread after World War 2 to a number of other WACL World Anti-Communist League) member countries and groups. Today there is cause to fear that Nixon’s superagency, the Drug Enforcement Administration, has, like other narcotics enforcement agencies before it, come to use corrupt personnel who are actually a part of the traffic, as part of a covert war against revolution. This is easiest to argue in the case of corrupt police forces overseas, such as the DEA-supported Thai Border Patrol police who, by a massacre of unarmed Thai students, contributed to the overthrow of Thai democracy in October 1976.” Kruger, *The Great Heroin Coup* (2015) 12

60 Id.



relocated to South America after the war. They were given large territories in Argentina under Peron, and they also flourished in neighbouring Paraguay and Chile. Unrestrained by local authorities, they would draw upon the drugs economy to renew their strength and they had deep ties to the intelligence services and police in the region. Like the American elite, these forces had mutual interest in keeping authoritarian governments in place and aided by the CIA they conspired to keep positions of power.

The secret team was instrumental in this plot and a key WACL player in Indochina was General John Singlaub who became chief of MACV-SOG in 1964. This was an unconventional warfare task force which oversaw political assassination and paramilitary operations throughout Southeast Asia and Ted Shackley, the CIA chief in Laos, had monthly meetings with the general. His boss throughout this period was Richard Stillwell, another key member of the secret team, and after Vietnam Singlaub would serve as Chief of staff of the United Nations Command in South Korea. He was forced to resign in May 1978, after criticizing President Jimmy Carter and his plans to reduce the number of troops in South Korea. After this, he would join his allies in attacking Carter and preparing for the inauguration of Reagan—and he would play a sinister role in Latin America doing so.

This, however, is a story for later, and we shall now see how this group centralized the Latin American drug market.

### 10.1.5. The War on Communism

*“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.”*

—Dom Helder Câmara, Archbishop of Brazil—

When it comes to the CIA’s dealings in Latin America, its operations leave no doubt about the preferred ideology. It invariably has allied itself with fascists and right-wing dictators, rulers that have prioritized the interests of U.S. corporations rather than the people. Thus, the citizens of Guatemala (1954, 1962-80’s), Chile (1964-73), Costa Rica (1955, 1970), Haiti (1959-63, 1986-94), Ecuador (1960-63), Brazil (1961-64), Peru (1960-65), the Dominican Republic (1960-66), Cuba (1959-2012), Uruguay (1964-70), Bolivia (1964-75), Jamaica (1976-80), Grenada (1979-84), Panama (1969-91), and El Salvador (1980-94) all got a taste of CIA’s “medicine” when they began dreaming of a better tomorrow.<sup>61</sup> As soon as they did, they would be overrun by a military-political machine which ensured that the wheels of oppression continued, and this pattern has deep historical roots.

It goes back at least 500 years to the arrival of Columbus, and the American elite took over the region as Spain and other European powers withdrew. The United States Marines itself was a creation of these elites and together with other corrupt forces and departments of government they would be used as tools to ensure that the hemisphere remained safe for investments.<sup>62</sup> The result was strongly

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<sup>61</sup> Blum, *Killing Hope* (2003)

<sup>62</sup> As Major General Smedley Butler said in a 1933 speech: “I spent thirty-three years and four months in active military service as a member of this country's most agile military force, the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major-General. And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high-class muscleman for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American

oppressive regimes, and after the Second World War events proceeded much as before.

The elite, however, could no longer justify imperial ambitions by alluding to “the white man’s burden” of bringing civilization to all corners of the world. Instead, they had to invent a more plausible scenario, and the War on Communism was born. To the elite, it would serve as an excuse to intervene wherever integrity and solidarity threatened to overthrow regimes of unjust rule. This scheme worked until 1991, when the Soviet Union was dissolved. The end of the cold war made the elite seek out new enemy images to justify their policies, and in the War on Terrorism and the War on Drugs they got what they needed to maintain the status quo.

These campaigns are identical in that their practical application is the control of populations—and to anyone based in the region it was a front for fascism, which surely was alive and kicking. As Celerino Castillo, a DEA agent in El Salvador and Guatemala testified to Congress in 1996:

*“The CIA and the Guatemalan army . . . label as communist sympathizers anyone who opposes the traditional oppressive role of the Guatemalan military. Therefore, they label as communists or communist sympathizers, priests and nuns who work to elevate the position of the poor in the society, union organizers . . . indigenous leaders (the Indians are kept down so they can be used as cheap laborers by the rich, who are supporters of the military)*

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republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested. Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.” Smedley Butler, *War Is a Racket* (1935)

*and student activists. . . . The CIA supports the intimidation, kidnapping and torture, surveillance and murder of these people.”*

As Celerino discovered, the Guatemalan military would use the War on Drugs as an excuse to subject the citizenry to a reign of terror. They would do this by keeping control of drug markets, ensuring that profits went to the right people and subjecting the citizenry to an arbitrary regime of violence by taking out those in their sight. When the spoils of war were not shared between corrupt public officials and drug warriors, it would be presented as evidence that the drug war was working, then burned or used to frame political opponents.<sup>63</sup> The feared Guatemalan G2 police was frank about these procedures to Castillo; they would even take him to areas where they tortured and killed off people for politics, but the DEA insisted that he continued to work with local authorities.

This was the mid-1980's and there was nothing new about this situation. In 1954, President Jacobo Árbenz had been overthrown in a CIA instigated coup after a series of reforms which included an expanded right to vote, the ability of workers to organize, legitimizing political parties, and allowing public debate. The “worst” part was a program for agrarian reform under which uncultivated portions of large landholdings were expropriated in return for compensation and redistributed to poverty-stricken agricultural laborers. Approximately 500,000 people benefited from the program, the majority being indigenous people, but there were those concerned, not least the United Fruit Company which owned half of Guatemala's lands and much of its infrastructure. The Dulles brothers were heavily invested in this Rockefeller-controlled company. They all wanted a fascist dictatorship (the most stable environment for their investments), and so the U.S. installed their own puppet regime.

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63 Celerino Castillo, *Powderburns: Cocaine, Contras and the Drug War* (1994)

So it was that between 1954 and 1985, more than 60,000 people were murdered to preserve a healthy business environment. WACL was a player in this,<sup>64</sup> and the Guatemalan coup was part of a bigger pattern—one where the drug market provided funding as well as motivation for regime change.

#### *10.1.5.1. Operation Condor*

We already know that the death squads of this period were connected to Nazi networks in the region; they, in turn, were protected and assisted by the CIA and the political result was that General Stroessner took control of Paraguay in 1954; the Brazilian military overthrew the president in 1964; General Hugo Banzer took power in Bolivia in 1971; a civic-military dictatorship seized power in Uruguay on 27 June 1973; forces loyal to General Pinochet bombed the presidential palace in Chile on 11 September 1973, overthrowing the democratically elected president; and a military junta headed by General Jorge Rafael Videla seized power in Argentina on 24 March 1976.

Assisted by the CIA in 1974 (in what would become known as Operation Condor), security officials from these countries met in Buenos Aires to prepare coordinated actions against subversive targets. That these authoritarian governments were in league with the network of exiled SS Nazis was seen in the following Bolivia coup,

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64 As far as the Guatemalan military goes, an important figure was Mario Sandoval Alarcon, architect of the Guatemalan death squads, and also a Vice President from 1974 to 1978. He was a key WACL member, and the Latin American death squads were all linked through an umbrella group of Central and South American rightists called the Latin American Anti-Communist Confederation (CAL). CAL in turn was affiliated with the World Anti-Communist League, which was led by retired U.S. Major General John Singlaub. See Anderson, *Inside the League* (1986)

where Hugo Banzer (trained by the Americans at the SOA)<sup>65</sup> allied with Klaus Barbie, an SS officer formerly known as the Butcher of Lyon. French Intelligence wanted him arrested for war crimes; he was suspected of being directly involved with the deaths of 14,000 people, but he had protection. Thus, together with Roberto Suarez, the biggest coca producer in the world, Barbie helped Banzer overthrow the Bolivian regime in 1980.

This was the second time that Banzer grabbed power. It was such an obvious display of collusion between criminal elements and government agents that it would go down in history as the “Cocaine Coup”, but his collaboration with drug barons and Nazi war criminals was evident from before. As Paul Williams noted, during his first period, land in coca production tripled,<sup>66</sup> and Banzer was part of an elite network of military officers which had collaborated with Nazis and coca producers for several decades. The Vatican itself was in bed with this group, as was the Propaganda Due (P2) Masonic Lodge of Italy, who had a powerful influence in the Argentinian military and political circles. It was Peron’s ties to this organization which ensured that Licio Gelli, the P2s Worshipful Master, could arrange for Argentina as a safe-haven for Nazis after the War—and Gelli had close ties to the Vatican and the CIA. So close, that by 1970 the P2 received an

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65 The School of the Americas, which in Latin America is known as “escuela de golpes,” (school of Coups) has trained most military juntas in the region, teaching them interrogation techniques, combat skills, and setting them up with a network intended to promote U.S. corporate interests.

66 “To fund the army, Banzer ordered coca trees to be planted throughout the country’s ailing cotton fields. Between 1974 and 1980, land in coca production tripled. The coca was exported to Colombian cartel laboratories, including Barbie’s Transmaritania. A Multibillion-dollar industry was born. The tremendous upsurge in coca supply from Bolivia sharply drove down the price of Cocaine, fuelling a huge new market and the rise of the Colombian cartels. The street price of cocaine in 1975 was fifteen hundred dollars a gram. Within a decade, the price fell to two hundred dollars per gram. The CIA became an active participant in this new drug network by creating a pipeline between the Colombian cartels and the black neighbourhoods of Compton and Los Angeles.” Williams, *Operation Gladio* (2015) 118-19

estimated \$10 million a month from CIA black funds to commit terror attacks in Europe and South America.<sup>67</sup>

### 10.1.6. Operation Gladio and the Vatican Connection

The terrorist campaign on the European continent would be exposed as *Operation Gladio*. In the period from 1956-1990, to make Europe align with American interests, the CIA would draw upon the international network of fascists to carry out more than 2000 terrorist attacks on European soil, leaving hundreds dead and thousands wounded.<sup>68</sup> Drug dealing was an intimate part of the operation, as was bank fraud, but South America would experience the worst atrocities. Under *Operation Condor*, not only were union leaders, students, parents, journalists, generals, and politicians—anyone with integrity—attacked with extreme prejudice; as we have seen, death squads ensured that those who opposed this group would disappear,<sup>69</sup> and in

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67 Ibid., 70, 76, 95

68 As Giovanni Pellegrino, president of Italy's parliamentary commission investigating Gladio, noted the situation: "The official figures say that alone in the period between January 1, 1969, and December 31, 1987, there have been in Italy 14,591 acts of violence with a political motivation. It is maybe worth remembering that these acts have left behind 491 dead and 1,181 injured and maimed—figure of a war without parallel in any other European country." Ibid., 95

69 DEA agent Michael Levine was intimately familiar with this situation. Here is how he summarized life in Argentina under the military dictatorship: "In 1980, death was very much a way of life in Argentina. The military government believed itself to be in a life-and-death struggle against communism. It was called la Guerra sucia—'the dirty war.' If you were an idealistic Argentine with sympathies that could in any way be construed as leftist, you kept your mouth shut, or got your butt out of Argentina. Otherwise, you stood a good chance of hearing a knock on the door at any time and greeting cold-eyed men in civilian clothes carrying official government identification cards. They would take you to a secret subbasement of a military or government building, where they would methodically savage your body and brain with the latest 'advances' in torture methods, designed to inflict the maximum pain a human can tolerate without losing consciousness or dying, until you named other 'leftists' you knew. You would then disappear from the face of the earth, and these men would pay a visit to everyone you had named. From 1976 to 1982, it was estimated that some 25 000 Argentines had been turned into desaparecidos—'disappeared ones.'" Levine, *The Big White Lie* (1994) 29

1975 the Bolivian Interior Ministry drew up a master plan with the help of Vatican officials for the elimination of liberation theology. This scheme, called the Banzer Plan, was adopted by ten Latin American governments; they would kill even priests and nuns, and the Vatican joined this quest while laundering drug money.<sup>70</sup>

For those that have any doubt, the story of how the Vatican, the CIA, and the Italian Mafia connected with Nazis and right-wing dictators to profit on the drugs economy is excellently told by Paul Williams in *Operation Gladio: The Unholy alliance between the Vatican, the CIA, and the Mafia*. The connection went back to World War II, when the Vatican and the OSS helped thousands of Nazis flee Europe. Traditionally, the Church of Peter had been aligned with the elite, and the Pope had no love for liberation theology as it sided with the oppressed. The Vatican, therefore, were intimately connected with the networks that came to control the drug market, and a key figure in this scheme was Michele Sidona, a mob lawyer who had control of the cash flow from American streets to the Vatican Bank.<sup>71</sup>

Sidona was a member of P2. His mafia connections extended back to 1957, when he managed profits for the Gambino family, and ten years later he would become the Pope's banker. Sidona was not only an unlikely friend of Sir Jocelyn Hambro, the heir to one of England's most prestigious banking families,<sup>72</sup> but he developed a friendship with Chiang Kai-shek and members of the general's family. On several occasions, he travelled to Formosa to provide funds to Chiang and the remnants of the KMT, who continued to cultivate the poppy fields of

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70 Id.

71 Williams, *Operation Gladio* (2015) 80

72After World War II, Hambros became known as the "diamond bank" with its thriving activity in financing the diamond industry and its trade. Traditionally, this is a way of laundering money, and Hambros was one of the top three banks in the Euromarket by the mid-1960s. As Williams noted, "The sole explanation for the bizarre partnership resides in the long-standing ties of Hambro to the intelligence community. He was one of the founders of the OSS, and his presence on the board of the World Commerce Company (WCC) smacks of complicity in the heroin trade." Ibid., 82



Laos and Thailand. He would set up shell corporations and buy banks to hide the wrongdoing, but it all went sour in 1981 with the Banco Ambrosiano scandal. Sidona then was imprisoned for his shenanigans, and it should come as no surprise that he ended up dead. While serving a life sentence for the murder of a lawyer who investigated him, he was poisoned in 1986. And while Sidona was out of business, he would be replaced by others, equally eager to make a living in this sinister market.

### 10.1.7. Propaganda Due

Thus, the Vatican continued its money laundering practices. And while all this is very hush-hush, there is evidence that the Vatican Bank (IOR) has been a loyal servant of Nazis, dictators, and drug dealers since at least the 1950's. Intricately involved with this plot was the Propaganda Due (P2) Masonic Lodge of Italy, who's list of membership was discovered by the police while investigating this scandal. It contained 962 names, among which were important state officials, politicians, and military officers, including the heads of the three Italian secret services. This was the shadow government of Italy. It was fascist to its bone, and P2 was also active in Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina. Among its Argentine members were Raúl Alberto Lastiri, interim president in 1973 during the height of the Dirty War; Emilio Massera, who was part of the military junta led by Jorge Rafael Videla from 1976 to 1978 (he was also a member of WACL); José López Rega, a Minister of Social Welfare from 1973–1975 and founder of the Argentine Anticommunist Alliance; and General Guillermo Suárez Mason.

These were the CIA's allies. It was no coincidence that George H.W. Bush, after becoming Director of CIA in 1976, became an honorary

member of P2. Nor was it accidental that Cuban mercenaries would work for Argentinean, Chilean, and other intelligence services, assisting them with population control and eradication. These connections were the result of the secret team's cloak-and-dagger operations and it was the same band of thugs that would assist Nixon in the Watergate break-in, as well with other problems. Nixon had wanted a team under White House control which could be used for assassinations and other extra-legal activities and he set up Lucien Conein with such a department in the DEA. Hunt was integral to this plot and when the Watergate case broke, he had recruited no fewer than 120 Cuban exiles to murder at Nixon's command.<sup>73</sup>

It was Latin America, however, that would bear the brunt of these assaults, and CORU and other terrorist organizations ensured that the hemisphere experienced a wave of terror attacks.<sup>74</sup> In 1974-75, this wave reached even Florida, and from 1974 to 1976 Miami was rocked by over 700 bombings. Even airplanes would drop from the sky, and the CIA made sure that hunting down these terrorists was hard.

### 10.1.8. The Ultimate Cocaine Coup

We now have a backdrop from which to view the evolution of Latin American drug markets. With the military coup of Banzer in Bolivia, coca production became effectively legalized and the Suarez organization would control much of these lands. By 1977, cartels had formed which would buy coca paste in Bolivia, turn it into cocaine in Colombian laboratories, and from there smugglers would use different routes to the United States, usually going through Mexico.<sup>75</sup> While the

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<sup>73</sup> Kruger, *The Great Heroin Coup* (2015) 19

<sup>74</sup> For more on this, see Ibid., and Scott & Marshal, *Cocaine Politics* (1991)

<sup>75</sup> To Mexicans, the drugs economy is worth up to \$40 bn and the state is intimately involved. As Roberto Alcaino, a Medellin drug dealer, noted the situation in 1987: "It has the okay of the federal

market, at this point, was becoming professionalized, there were also disorder and the CIA wanted to improve upon things.

When it comes to the details, there is evidence that the CIA has had several operations intended to control and centralize the Latin American drug market. According to Rodney Stich, CIA agents Trenton Parker and Gunther Russbacher disclosed that they went to Colombia in 1981-1982 (there were two meetings) to have the cartels organize their own death squads, comparable to those of other governments in the region.<sup>76</sup> To arrange for their cooperation, the CIA had ensured the kidnapping of Martha Nieves Ochoa, the sister of Jorge Luis Ochoa, by M-19, a left-wing group. Based on this, the Colombian drug barons got together and created Muerte a Sequestradores (MAS), an army of 2000 men.<sup>77</sup> MAS—Death to Kidnappers—would function as a rogue element, a paramilitary group that did what the Colombian Army could not do for the elite.<sup>78</sup> They had thirty pilots and an assortment of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. U.S., Israeli, British, and Australian

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government there. If there's no police or army involved in the contract, you cannot come through. And they tell you point blank, it costs you so much to come in and so much to get out. . . . When the plane comes in, there's one general in Mexico who has to say okay—so you pay the money so the plane can take off. And that's the way it goes, in an airfield owned by the army. If you deal with somebody else, who's not with the government, they kill the people. They confiscate the plane; they kill the people as if they'd resisted arrest. And then they sell the merchandise. . . . There's not an honest Mexican. They don't make them. They're born rotten." Robert Mazur, *The Infiltrator* (2009) 65

76 Rodney Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 367

77 "Such de facto collaboration between drug traffickers and government security forces, common in countries such as Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Chile, and Argentina, had been characteristic of Colombia through the 1970s, when high-level corruption pervaded the security police. The drug cartel's death squads and the military were consolidated in 1981, when Colombian drug traffickers, in collaboration with the Colombian army, convened a 'general assembly' to create their own counterterrorist network, Muerte a Sequestradores (Death to Kidnappers), or MAS." Scott & Marshal, *Cocaine Politics* (1998) 89

78 "Collaboration between Colombian security forces and the drug traffickers' death squads has significantly escalated since 1985, according to Amnesty International. In an October 1989 press release, Amnesty charged that in Colombia 'sectors of the armed forces—often operating in alliance with alleged drug traffickers—and paramilitary groups acting on their orders had killed unarmed civilians on an unprecedented scale in the past months. . . . The victims have included trade union leaders, human rights workers, teachers, priests, peasants, and more recently, members of the judiciary trying to investigate human rights abuses.'" Ibid., 90

military instructors would teach at paramilitary training centres, and the CIA's involvement provided for increased cooperation. From now on Escobar's organization focused on production, the murderous Rodriguez Gacha and the Ochoa brothers concentrated on transport, and the Lehder-organization dealt with distribution.<sup>79</sup>

This cooperation would make the cartels more effective, and in 1984 another meeting took place in Zurich, Switzerland. Kenneth Bucci, a captain of the US Air Force, was tasked to get the drug lords together<sup>80</sup> and this was the offer:

*"The Peruvians and the Bolivians would be partners with the Colombians in the drug trade. They would remain the primary growers of the coca and would process the raw material into coca paste, which they would supply to the Columbians, but they would essentially be excluded from the distribution network into North America. The deal would also exclude affiliates of Shining Path or other revolutionary movements."*<sup>81</sup>

*"Accepting this deal made the drug traffickers keep 50 percent of their product [while the Secret Team collected the rest]. Louis Porto's and Roberto Suarez organizations from Bolivia were elated with the final agreement. They would produce most of the coca*

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79 McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991) 479. For more on MAS, see Attwood, *American Made* (2016) 182-86

80 As he described this operation: "We were to intercept Colombian cocaine coming into America by posing as the Coast Guard. Once we secured the vessel, we were to send the crew back to its port of origin with a message for the drug lord to send a representative to Zurich, Switzerland, to meet with other cocalers and discuss an operation of mutual benefit to themselves and the U.S. government. This coterie of drug lords would be given the means to destroy the numerically superior but smaller drug traffickers in Latin America and the Caribbean; specifically, they would receive U.S. intelligence on the exact locations of competitors' cocaine laboratories and be given weapons to destroy the labs and any collateral resistance. This was designed to centralize Colombian drug trafficking operations and to give the CIA more control over them." Kenneth C. Bucci, *Operation Pseudo Miranda: A Veteran of the CIA Drug Wars Tells All* (2000) 59

81 Ibid., (2000) 59

*paste in South America and would do so predominantly with their own crops. The climate, rainfall, and altitude of Peru and Bolivia produce the richest plant in the world, and for this reason, the Colombians were pleased to receive the paste from there. The fact that the Peruvians and Bolivians would no longer pose as a competitive threat to their business also pleased the Columbians. For their part, the Porto and Suarez camps were happy not to have to fly drugs into America and face the possibility of arrest or extradition for drug trafficking”* <sup>82</sup>

At this meeting much was accomplished and these forces conspired to get rid of competition. As indicated, this meant revolutionary forces and leftist organizations which fed off the drugs economy, and so, after the Colombian cartels were gone, right-wing paramilitary groups would take control of Colombian drug markets.<sup>83</sup> The same pattern evolved in other countries, and we shall now look at one episode—one that almost broke through the collective unconscious and threatened to expose the Reagan administration.

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<sup>82</sup> Ibid., 93

<sup>83</sup> Professor Scott elaborates: “A recent Colombian government investigation collected compelling evidence that through the years 1997 to 1999 ‘Army officers worked intimately with paramilitaries under the command of Carlos Castaño,’ Colombia’s chief paramilitary leader, who is from a family of drug traffickers. In a rare television interview, Castaño stated that 70 percent of the income for his group . . . came from drugs.” (Scott, *Drugs, Oil, and War* (2003) 74). In the 1980’s, Castaño had been involved with the Medellin- and Cali cartels, but as paramilitary groups took over the drug trade, he became leader of AUC. AUC is again connected to Mossad, who in 2001 provided them with 3000 Kalashnikov rifles (Ibid., 91), and Scott and Marshall explain why: “The fact is that connections to powerful drug traffickers with local killers and political influence are assets to any international intelligence agency. Or, to turn the argument around, it is those who enjoy the best connections with the international intelligence milieu who gain the protection and power to emerge as the most powerful drug kingpins.” (Scott & Marshall, *Cocaine Politics* (1998) 88) As seen in this light, the strong position of paramilitary groups in Columbia is explained. Explained is also why, in the period between 1990 and 1997, there were only seven confrontations between these groups and the army (compared to 5000 between FARC and the army), even though the former is responsible for 70-80 percent of the killings in this country. See Krøvel, *Kokainkrigen* (2004) 114

## 10.2. Prelude to Iran-Contra

*“Someday, perhaps, if it’s decided that the stories can be told, you’ll see that the state has been involved in acts which are a thousand times more dirty than anything going on in Colombia. As long as the government decides to do something, something that the national interest demanded, then it’s legitimate.”<sup>84</sup>*

—Rafael Eitan, former Chief of Staff of the Israeli army—

President Carter, next to Kennedy, was the worst president the CIA ever had. While Johnson, Nixon, and Ford posed few problems to the secret team, it comes as no surprise that the dealings discussed here made more sane individuals fear for the nation’s security—and Carter was one. By this time, George H.W. Bush was Director of the CIA and Shackley was his Deputy of Operations. The secret team was running rampant and the network behind Carter had had enough. Thus, Carter fired Bush and replaced him with Stansfield Turner, an Admiral of the Navy. With Turner as the new director a battle raged within the CIA. Turner appointed eight high-ranking naval officers (called the “Navy mafia”) to leadership positions—and not only did he eliminate over 800 operational positions, most of them in the clandestine service, but he secured the release of 20,000 documents relating to Project MKULTRA.

This revelation led to a Senate inquiry in 1977, but the Bush-faction quickly pushed back. Hence, another wave of right-wing terrorism would hit the Southern hemisphere, and although Carter would right many wrongs, such as cutting aid to the fascist network of dictatorships, American and local elites fought back.<sup>85</sup> Not only did

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<sup>84</sup> Scott & Marshall, *Cocaine Politics* (1998) 78

<sup>85</sup> As Fred Sherwood, a CIA pilot during the overthrow of the Arbenz who settled in Guatemala in 1954 and became president of the American Chamber of Commerce said: “Why should we be worried about

they ensure that there was no solution to the Iranian hostage crisis which troubled Carter and his administration; Shackley, the Skull and Bones, and the Israelis would undermine his every effort at changing the course of policy (Admiral Turner had denied to Israeli intelligence the kind of privileged access that Mossad up to that point had enjoyed), and with the inauguration of President Reagan the rogue elements returned to power.

### 10.2.1. The Contras and the Sandinistas

Between 1853 and 1933, U.S. Marines invaded Nicaragua twelve times to secure conditions more suitable for the elite. When they left the country in 1933, they set up Anastasio Somoza as the local dictator, and his family would rule Nicaragua with iron fist over the next 43 years. As William Blum summarized this reign:

*“While the Guardsmen, consistently maintained by the United States, passed their time on martial law, rape, torture, murder of the opposition, and massacres of the peasants, as well as violent pursuits such as robbery, extortion, contraband, running brothels and other government functions, the Somoza clan laid claim to the lion’s share of Nicaragua’s land and business.”<sup>86</sup>*

It is with this backdrop in mind that we must see the Sandinistas’ rise to power. When they took control of Nicaragua in 1979, Somoza left

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the death squads? They’re bumping off the commies, our enemies. I’d give them more power. Hell, I’d get some cartridges if I could, and everyone else would too . . . Why should we criticize them? The death squad—I’m for it . . . Shit! There’s no question, we can’t wait ‘til Reagan gets in. We hope Carter falls in the ocean real quick . . . We all feel that he [Reagan] is our savior.” Blum, *Killing Hope* (2003) 236. For more on the intrigues at the CIA and the activities of the rogue CIA faction, see Trento, *Prelude to Terror* (2005)

<sup>86</sup> Ibid., 290

behind a country broken by debt (\$1,6 billion) and where two-thirds of the population earned less than \$300 a year. The Sandinistas sought to change this—and while Somoza settled in Miami with an account worth \$900 million, they began a program of social reform. By prioritizing healthcare, education, gender equality, and agrarian reform, the new government improved rural and urban working conditions. They provided free unionization for all workers, improved public services, housing conditions, and schools, while they abolished torture, political assassination, and the death penalty.

Within six months, half a million people had been taught rudimentary reading, bringing the national illiteracy rate down from 50 percent to 12 percent. The success of the campaign was recognized by UNESCO and life was getting better for the Nicaraguan people. With President Carter in the White House, the poor nation had been allowed some room to operate and the wounds of war were beginning to heal. In 1980, however, President Reagan came into office. The secret team was back, and his administration immediately denounced the Sandinistas as terrorists, increased funding to the opposition, and stopped all aid and investments programs that the Carter administration had allowed. The U.S. not only imposed their own embargo, but pressured the IMF, World bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and EU to hold back loans.

To make these policies look good, Reagan recalled the U.S. Ambassador after admitting that the Sandinistas had done some good in terms of education. To counter such nonsense, the Reagan administration produced evidence that the Nicaraguan regime was in league with narco-terrorists and Alexander Haig, Reagan's Secretary of State, showed the world a picture of a burning body as an example of what the Sandinistas were capable of. The photo was later revealed to be a fraud, as it was taken in 1978 and depicted atrocities of the



Somoza regime.<sup>87</sup> Even so, the damage was done, and Reagan had an excuse for preparing for war.

To oust the Sandinistas, however, the elite needed a viable opposition and so the CIA created the contras. These were mostly the remnants of Somoza's National Guard. To Reagan, they were "freedom fighters" and "the moral equal of our founding fathers," but in truth they were a ragtag group of fascists, murderers, rapists, torturers, and drug runners that would pillage at will. As author William Blum noted their modus operandi:

*"The contras' brutality earned them a wide notoriety. They regularly destroyed health centres, schools, agricultural cooperatives, and community centres—symbols of the Sandinistas' social programs in rural areas. People caught in these assaults were often tortured and killed in the most gruesome ways. One example, reported by The Guardian of London, suffices. In the words of a survivor of a raid in Jinotega province, which borders on Honduras: 'Rosa had her breasts cut off. Then they cut into her chest and took out her heart. The men had their arms broken, their testicles cut off, and their eyes poked out. They were killed by slitting their throats and pulling their tongue out through the slit.'"*<sup>88</sup>

Such instances were so common with the contras that Americas Watch concluded that "the contras systematically engage in violent abuses . . . so prevalent that these may be said to be their principal means of waging war."<sup>89</sup> Even so, the Reagan administration provided these groups with training, equipment, as well as funding, and there is no reason to presume that these behaviours were not encouraged. To the

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<sup>87</sup> Ibid., 301

<sup>88</sup> Ibid., 293

<sup>89</sup> Id.

contrary, using terror to overwhelm populations has been a key component of U.S. policy since the Monroe Doctrine in 1823,<sup>90</sup> and the U.S. government did what it could to escalate the situation by mining Nicaraguan waters. This operation would be denounced by the International Court of Justice in 1984 as an act of state terrorism—but while the Court held that the United States had been in violation of International law when it supported the contras, this warfare successfully undermined the Nicaraguan government.

Because of Reagan and his administration, the Sandinistas had to use the resources they had to counter the contras' terrorist attacks. Hence, more positive ventures were obstructed, people became increasingly distraught, and as the contras carried out a systematic campaign to disrupt the program of social reform, it finally resulted in regime change.

Throughout this campaign, the contras received military and financial support from the CIA and the White House. They were based in CIA-protected camps in neighbouring Honduras and Costa Rica and would operate across the border, spreading murder, rape, and mayhem. Congress, however, became increasingly opposed, and in 1983 prohibited federal funding of the contras through the Boland Amendment. The Reagan administration then continued to back the contras by raising money from foreign allies and covertly selling arms to Iran.

Officially, this was the essence of the Iran–Contra affair. Even so, it is only the top layer, and for those who dig deeper the truth is more sinister.

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90 This Doctrine of a policy directed at U.S. hegemony in Latin America was used as a defense by such Iran-Contra conspirators as Robert Gates, another insider, and a key operator for the secret team. In 1984, as deputy director of CIA under Reagan, he advocated that the U.S. initiate a bombing campaign against Nicaragua and that the U.S. do everything to stop the Sandinista regime. Mossad agent Ari Ben Menashe has implicated him in drug operations (see his book *Profits of War*), and as President Bush's Director of the CIA, he would later assist in covering up operations.

## 10.3. Iran-Contra

*“[I]f people ever knew what we had done, we’d be chased down the streets and lynched.”<sup>91</sup>*

—George H.W. Bush—

Between 1982 and 1984, U.S. Congress passed three amendments which prohibited support for the Contras. Instead of conforming to these constitutional limitations, however, the Reagan administration decided to continue its funding and the drugs economy became the go-to solution. A variety of programs, commissions, and personnel therefore were put in place to cover for the real events, but we know that between 1982 and 1986 the White House fought a secret war against Nicaragua assisted by an airbridge which flew guns to bases in Central America and drugs back.<sup>92</sup> Cocaine imports doubled as a result of government orchestrated drug smuggling, and banks like Palmer

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91 Bush discussing Iran-Contra with journalist Sarah McClendon, June 1992. Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 20

92 According to Barry Seal, one of the conspirators, then-CIA Director William Casey met with Adolfo Colero, the leader of the Contras, and it was decided that the Contras would get money and weapons in exchange for cocaine. Casey put Oliver North to oversee the project and North, prompted by the CIA, recruited Seal to oversee delivery of the products. A man named Ramon Navarro from the Medellin Cartel then began to train the Contras in the manufacturing process. Colero was the ‘point man’ for the Contras, the one who dealt with Washington and others as needed and Contra leader Enrique Bermudez was tasked with getting the cocaine kitchens built and protected. According to Barry, “Bermudez had solicited three other Contra commanders to assist in this project. Their names are Commander Fernando, Commander Franklin, and Commander Marlan. Ramon Navarro supplied the cocaine paste and raw coca leaves to the Contras. The U.S. provided the equipment. It was delivered to the camps by Chinook helicopters (CH-47) out of Ft. Campbell, Kentucky (159th Aviation Battalion). It was Barry's job to deliver the finished product and monies to destinations as dictated by Mr. North.” Barry himself told this to Chip Tatum, a CIA agent working for Bush, at a meeting in San Lorenzo, Honduras, April 10, 1985. See Gene Chip Tatum, *The Chip Tatum Chronicles* (1985)

National Bank of Washington, D.C.,<sup>93</sup> and other banks controlled by the network, would launder immense profits.

It all went well until a plane crash and other events colluded to compromise the operation and expose the network behind it. A cover-up immediately begun and the government's first official response—the press conference held by Ed Meese, Reagan's Attorney General (who was implicated in this affair) on November 25, 1986—was an attempt at damage control. So was the investigative committee proposed by the president the same day, and if we want to know more about this operation, we must accept testimony of the individuals who were involved.

As this story broke there were many who came forward to expose the dirty dealings of the Reagan White House. Even so, they faced a powerful apparatus of oppression and agents of the state ensured that the authority of the U.S. government did not suffer a death blow. Like the Warren Commission and the 9/11 Commission, therefore, the investigative efforts of government were set up to fail. Nonetheless, investigative reporters and whistle-blowers have revealed enough of the Iran-Contra affair to have senior conspirators (and those who keep covering their tracks) put away for a long time. We are talking of a shady network who have fed on corruption to this day—and as this network still wreaks havoc, another look at this episode can do some good. After all, if the U.S. government is ever to claim credibility, it will have to confront these serious charges; it must also confront this network which remains above the law, and so let us begin with the main characters.

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93 Stefan Halper, an insider who has served the secret cabal well until today, dealt with much of the money laundering. From 1984 to 1990 he was chairman and majority shareholder of the Palmer National Bank of Washington, D.C., the National Bank of Northern Virginia and the George Washington National Bank. Palmer National Bank was used to transfer money to Swiss Bank Accounts controlled by White House aid Oliver North. See Pizzo; Stephen; Fricker; Mary; Muolo; Paul, *Inside Job: The Looting of America's Savings and Loans* (2015).; Patricia Goldstone, *Interlock: Art, Conspiracy, and the Shadow Worlds of Mark Lombardi* (2015) p 120.

### 10.3.1. The Usual Suspects

*“I have put thousands of Americans away for tens of thousands of years for less evidence than is available against Ollie North and CIA people. . . . I personally was involved in a deep-cover case that went to the top of the drug world in three countries. The CIA killed it.”<sup>94</sup>*

—Michael Levine, Former DEA Agent—

For those investigating Iran-Contra, Al Martin, a lieutenant commander with the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), is essential reading. In 1984, he ran a financial scheme involving Florida-based corporations laundering money to the contras, and he later wrote *The Conspirators* on his connections with the secret team.

This man was directly involved. He personally knew the Bush family and during this period had frequent meetings with Jeb Bush, Oliver North, and Richard Secord.<sup>95</sup> In his book, he implicates George H.W. Bush and his son Jeb in several hundred financial crimes,<sup>96</sup> and according to him what became known as the Iran-Contra affair was a conspiracy began by Vice President George H.W. Bush, CIA director Bill

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<sup>94</sup> Michael Levine interview CNBC-TV, October 8, 1996

<sup>95</sup> Major General Richard Secord came to Vietnam in 1961 and was responsible for coordinating the airbridge in the Golden Triangle. He would later provide much the same services for the Reagan administration in Latin America, and in Afghanistan after 9/11. After his retirement from the USAF, Secord went into business, and in the Iran–Contra affair Secord made \$2 million on illegal arms transactions. He was later convicted of lying to Congress about it and was sentenced on January 24, 1990, to two years’ probation.

<sup>96</sup> “George Bush, Sr. would invariably be given a piece of everything, of every fraud that was done, because he was at the very top of the pyramid, and much of this fraud could not have been committed without either his protection or his influence.” Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 255

Casey, and the National Security Council's (NSC) Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North to support the contra movement. This would be done by large-scale drugs and guns running, including a variety of financial schemes. The idea was to raise \$35 million, and they intended to use no more than 500 personnel. Events, however, did not go according to plan. Agents and elites were running rampant and by 1986 the operation had become a monstrosity, involving some 5000 individuals and raking in more than \$350 billion in profits.<sup>97</sup>

Al Martin explains that Oliver North's importance to the operation was his position as chairman of the National Programs Office (NPO). This organization was a key component of the government's plans for martial law and North not only had access to logistics and facilities which was key to the venture, but his organization possessed the authority to keep secrets.

North's superiors were Casey and Bush. The CIA Director established three Restricted Access Groups (RAGs) and the Vice President was put in charge of RAG 1—that which dealt with weapons and drugs smuggling, as well as transfer of funds to the contras. His underlings were working on a need-to-know basis; most were used to this kind of work, and so it was that this operation could succeed over a period of years even though the conspirators were operating in plain sight.<sup>98</sup>

In this operation, Bonesman George H.W. Bush was on top. The president was a puppet in the early stages of Alzheimer's—and if he ever thought differently, he learned better three months into his presidency. Reagan, then, was shot by John Hinckley, a psychiatric

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<sup>97</sup> Ibid., viii

<sup>98</sup> Also included in these RAGs, Al Martin names Reagan's National Security Advisor Col. Donald Gregg, Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrahams, and Richard Armitage, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy. From the Department of Defense, they included Frank Carlucci (National Security Advisor and later Assistant Secretary of Defense) and Richard Stillwell (Assistant Secretary of Defense), Robert Gates (Deputy Director of CIA), and Caspar Weinberger (Secretary of Defense). From the CIA, they included Bill Casey, Clair George (Deputy Director of Operations) and Alan Fiers (Assistant Deputy Director of Operations). Ibid., 14

patient who happened to know Neil Bush, one of the Vice President's sons. Even so, it took no more than four hours before the FBI and Secret Service concluded that no conspiracy was involved, and after this Bush ran the country officially for 44 days—and unofficially for the rest of Reagan's eight-years. When he returned from the hospital, Reagan let Bush handle all matters relating to National security, and so it was that the Vice President was perfectly positioned to do what he did. After Reagan's term ended, Bush became president, and he would not only use his position to continue the cover-up but pardon his accomplices—those convicted of lying to Congress and for other crimes against the state.

It is not for no reason, therefore, that Bush has been called the biggest drug lord in the world. Indeed, he was one of the greatest villains of the 20th century, and this is saying a lot.

### 10.3.2. Drugs and Guns Running: The Big Picture

The contras were positioned in bases near the borders of Nicaragua. In the South they invaded from Costa Rica and from the north they came from Honduras. Their camps were protected by the NSC and CIA, and while they did not forget to rape and plunder, cocaine became an important business. Chip Tatum, a CIA agent who worked directly for the Vice President, has told how helicopters ostensibly supplying medicines and other aid would return loaded with cocaine. He also claims to have visited contra camps in Honduras together with Oliver North for the purpose of inspecting cocaine production. This supposedly took place on March 30, 1985,<sup>99</sup> and in Costa Rica the

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<sup>99</sup> See *Presidential Secrets*, an interview by Ted Gunderson, a former FBI special agent, with Chip Tatum.

ranch of John Hull, a local CIA agent, was used as an airstrip for all kinds of transport.

John Hull was not only friends with George Bush and Joe Fernandez, the CIA Station Chief in Costa Rica; he was, according to Bucchi, present at the meeting between drug lords at Hotel Zurich in 1984, when the drug market was organized according to the dictates of the CIA. The story of Hull and his ranch is told by author Leslie Cockburn in her book *Out of Control*, and while the governments of Costa Rica and Honduras officially remained neutral, Hull was conspiring with corrupt officials.

The only problem was the DEA station in Honduras. Established in 1981, Thomas Zepeda, its chief agent, soon discovered that the drug business was run by the Honduran military and other agents of state.<sup>100</sup> Because they were supporting the contras, CIA told him to keep away, but Zepeda did not obey and begun to investigate SETCO in May 1983. This was a CIA contractor who flew drugs and weapons to the contras—and one month later, the DEA station in Honduras was closed.<sup>101</sup>

As this took place, the CIA tripled its personnel in the region and while Honduras now was open for business, Celerino Castillo, the local DEA agent in El Salvador and Guatemala, would become another problem.

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100 As Zepeda testified to Senator John Kerry's investigative committee: "It was difficult to conduct an investigation and expect the Honduran authorities to assist in arrests when it was them we were trying to investigate." McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991) 484

101 Alexander Cockburn & Jeffrey St. Clair, *Whiteout: the CIA, Drugs and the Press* (1999) 283



### 10.3.2.1. *The Air Bridge*

According to Oliver North's testimony during the Iran-Contra hearings, he tasked General Richard Secord to arrange an air bridge to the Contras in July 1984. As US Air Force Liaison to the CIA, Secord had assisted in the air bridge of the Golden Triangle and he was perfect for the job. Being an integral part of the "secret team", he could be relied upon to keep the operation going, and the DEA estimates that cocaine imports more than doubled in this period (1981-1985).<sup>102</sup>

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics, and International Operations were tasked to look into this. Unfortunately, the subcommittee was led by John Kerry, another Bonesman, and it was another cover-up. Nevertheless, while the investigation failed to find evidence of direct CIA/contras' involvement in the drug trade, the Kerry Committee's report revealed that contracts for supplying medical aid and other goods were given to four companies which were run by known drug smugglers. These contractors were paid \$806 000 to fly for the contras—and they were registered as big-time drug smugglers by the FBI, DEA, and Customs before this.<sup>103</sup>

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102 According to the DEA U.S. cocaine consumption were at 34 to 45 metric tons in 1981, 45 to 54 metric tons in 1982 and 50 to 61 metric tons in 1983. In 1984 it was about 85 metric tons, and in 1985 it exceeded 100 tons. This brought the price of cocaine down from \$30 grand a kilo to \$12 grand. Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 196-197

103 SETCO was run by Juan Matta Ballesteros, who had been arrested at Dulles Airport, Washington D.C., in 1970 with 26 kilos of cocaine. As punishment he was deported to Honduras where he became a serious player in the drug trade. He was an ally of General Paz Garcia in his 1978 military coup (and the Cali Cartel) and SETCO made \$ 186 000 working for the U.S. government—plus whatever they could make selling drugs. Another contractor was Frigorificos de Puntarenas, a company ostensibly in the business of freezing and exporting seafoods, but known drug smugglers since 1983. A third contractor was DIACSA, a company from Miami which had a fleet of airplanes and was run Alfredo Caballero, a Bay of Pigs veteran who was being investigated by the DEA. The fourth company was Vortex, another Miami-based company involved with aircraft. It was run by Michael Palmer, a drug pilot whose drug operations went at least a decade back. Palmer was under investigation by the FBI when Vortex was

### 10.3.2.2. Ilopango

*“What I have found is a snake pit without a bottom. They will do anything to keep this covered up.”*

—Ross Perot, 1992 Presidential candidate—

These “humanitarians” flew guns to the contras and brought cocaine back.<sup>104</sup> Most likely, there were many other routes of transport,<sup>105</sup> but facilities such as Palmerola Air Base in Honduras and General Noriega’s military bases in Panama were frequently deployed. It is, however, the U.S. airbase at Ilopango, El Salvador, which has received the most attention. This airstrip deep in the jungle was central to North’s operation. It would be used by the contras for refuelling planes and storage, and in his book *Powderburns* Celerino Castillo, a DEAs agent in El Salvador, has much to say on these operations.

On arrival in 1985, he had been told by his boss Robert Stia and Jack McCavett, the CIA’s Station Chief, to stay away from this base and the

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hired by the CIA—which, according to themselves, did rigorous background checks. For more on this, see Scott & Marshall, *Cocaine Politics* (1998) 10-17; Cockburn & St. Clair, *Whiteout* (1999) 281

104 According to the DEA, 4,400 kilograms of cocaine was seized nationally in 1982, 7,300 kilograms in 1983 and 11,742 kilograms in 1984. In the first six months of 1985, in south Florida alone, over 13,000 kilograms of cocaine was seized, more than in the entire country in 1984. The real amount of drugs entering the U.S. can be extrapolated if we believe an analysis by the House Subcommittee on Operations which concluded that drug warriors were intercepting only 0.5 percent of the drugs coming by air and about 5 percent of the sea shipments. See George Volsky, *U.S. Says Smugglers Bring in Record Cocaine Flow*, New York Times, August 8, 1985

105 According to Mossad’s Ari Ben Menashe, the government of Guatemala was also involved: “In 1985 Guatemala started to be used heavily as a drug transit point to the United States from South America. Meija, The Chief of the Nation, was, in fact, a much bigger drug boss than Noriega. Massive amounts of drugs were shipped into the United States . . . This would all have been impossible without the wink and the nod that the CIA gave.” Menashe, *Profits of War* (1998) 139

contras but Celerino did not listen. He was a believer in the War on Drugs and documented more than a hundred cases of contra drug running. Somehow, the Kerry Committee, failed to mention this man in its report. He would be questioned by Lawrence Walsh, Kerry's lead investigator, but like so many others his testimony would be buried.

Luckily for the Vice President, Senator Kerry pulled sufficient weight to hide that the CIA agent in charge of drugs and guns running at Ilopango was Felix Rodriguez—a friend of Bush. A former police chief to Battista, he had fled Cuba after Castro came to power. After that, at the Miami CIA Station, Rodriguez had joined Shackley and Clines to become part of a team of assassins that would kill for the CIA. He was part of the squad that murdered Che Guevara in Bolivia in 1967, and over the next decades he was deeply involved with shady operations in many Latin American nations. He was an ardent anti-communist, and during Iran-Contra Rodriguez had weekly meetings/communications with Donald Gregg, Bush's closest advisor. Gregg, himself, would admit to these meetings. And while he claimed they never discussed Iran-Contra operations, this is difficult to believe, considering that Rodriguez was the man who oversaw Contra operations in El Salvador from 1982-86. His assistant was "Ramon Medina," another Cuban exile whose real name was Luis Posada Carriles—the very same terrorist who in 1976 blew up a Cuban airplane, killing 73 passengers.

Rodriguez had helped Carriles out of Venezuelan prison after serving 9 years for this atrocity. Now, he ran Ilopango, while Rodriguez took care of business in the region as a whole.

#### *10.3.2.3. Panama*

General Noriega of Panama was another conspirator. He had been on the CIA's payroll since 1955, when he at the age of 19 joined the Socialist Party and began to spy for the Americans. The BNDD

suspected him to be a bigtime drug dealer already in 1971. By the time Bush became CIA Director in 1976, he was registered in over 40 DEA databases but the CIA still paid \$110 000 for his services. Carter put an end to these transactions, but the CIA would continue its funding under Reagan, this time doubling his salary.

Under General Noriega's rule, Panama was a haven for the CIA but also other drugs traffickers. The Cali and Medellin cartel had access to airstrips for a fee and Panamanian banks relied upon the drugs economy to prosper.<sup>106</sup> Under Iran-Contra, Noriega would let North and his network operate freely,<sup>107</sup> often assisted by Mike Harari, an Israeli Mossad agent. Harari had overseen a unit which dealt with political assassinations, but after a job gone wrong in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1973, he had come to Central America to enlarge Israel's involvement with the shady side of politics. He was a serious player, no doubt, and integral to another power-political faction which we shall get to know.<sup>108</sup> There is even reason to suspect that he was part

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106 See Mazur, *The Infiltrator* (2009) 115, 216.

107 Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 266

108 Ari Ben Menashe describes his connections: "[B]etween 1975 and 1977, Sharon was a private citizen who was trying to build a fortune dealing arms in Central America. He had a network of people working with him there, one being the disgraced Mossad agent Mike Harari, who had just left Israel because of his failure in the 'Moroccan Waiter Affair,' where the wrong man was shot dead in Lillehammer, Norway. . . . Sharon's network had been able to provide military equipment from Israel to various Central American countries, including, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica, and even Mexico. This was never official Israeli government policy, and it was frowned upon by the cabinet itself, but Sharon was too wild a goose for anybody to handle. . . . Gates [the CIA Deputy Director] had developed a professional interest in the arms network that Sharon and his former intelligence cowboys were operating in Central America. By 1981, Sharon and Harari were running what Harari described as more of a CIA network than an Israeli operation—and were filling their private bank accounts at the same time. It was in 1981 that they started supplying a secret army in Central America, the contras, who were trying to destabilize and eventually bring about the downfall of the Sandinista government of Nicaragua, which had come to power in 1979. . . . Sharon, with all his power, could not force the prime minister or the leaders of the Israeli intelligence community to pay for weapons from the slush fund that had grown out of the Iran arms sales. So, with the backing of Gates and the CIA, some members of the group created their own fund. They did this, according to Harari, by transporting cocaine from South America to the United States via Central America." Menashe, *Profits of War* (1998)

of the 9/11 terror operation,<sup>109</sup> and as Noriega's security advisor, he would be implicated in the murder of several U.S. military personnel who sought to stop the illegal operation.

We shall have more to say on that, after following the drug shipments.

### 10.3.3. Arkansas: The United States' Banana Republic

*"If George Bush is prosecuted, and goes to jail for the crimes he committed when he was the Drug Kingpin of the 1980s, this will be the single most important historical event in decades. It will define a realm of possible action that many people right now feel is impossible, or unfathomable—that it would ever happen. It can happen, it must happen. This is the responsibility of the American people."*

—Jeffrey Steinberg, EIR 1996—

Arkansas was a hub of Iran-Contra operations. As it was a state inside the United States homeland federal authorities and drug fighting agencies were less present; struggling economically, its officials and elite were easily corrupted; and as Governor Bill Clinton was eager to trade constitutional principles for power, everything was arranged for the CIA.

Several contra-operations were involved. In addition to large-scale drug smuggling and money laundering,<sup>110</sup> the state served as a training

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109 In 2001, Dimitri Khalezov, a former officer of the Soviet nuclear intelligence, was working with Harari in Bangkok. Harari, at this point, was setting up Al-Qaeda cells in South-East Asia, and on the morning of 9/11, Harari was in excellent mood, ordering fine wine, and telling Khalezov that it was Mossad's finest hour. Khalezov have presented this story in several interviews, also presenting copies of Harari's fake passport.

110 Terry Reed, a former Air Force Intelligence operative who became a Little Rock businessman, estimated that CIA, between 1984 and 1986, laundered \$250 million in drug profits in Arkansas. Governor Clinton and his conspirators received 10 percent, but as more than 100 million from cocaine

ground for the contras, and there were also an illegal weapons industry. Most of the intrigue would centre around Mena, a small town with 5000 inhabitants. The arrival of strangers, drugs, drug money, and mysterious events made the local population catch on, but pressure from above ensured that the façade were kept.<sup>111</sup>

It was not until Clinton's bid for presidency that Mena again would become a nuisance. The event sparked renewed interest in his past and the media again began to speculate. The Republicans, however, must have known that digging into this would hurt both parties,<sup>112</sup> and so the matter was dropped.

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sales went missing from the CIA's ledgers, it was possibly even more. This, at the very least, was believed to be true by the CIA, who by late-1985 had taken their business elsewhere. Before this, however, Dan Lasater would launder money through the Arkansas Development and Finance Authority (ADFA). Terry Reed expands: "Arkansas offered the CIA something money launderers are rarely able to achieve, a secure business environment containing a banking industry where vast amounts of money move around unnoticed as part of the normal course of business. Through its substantial bond underwriting activities, the state had a huge cash flow that could allow dirty money to co-mingle without detection. All they were lacking was the 'dirty banker' to cooperate with them by ignoring the federal banking laws. And that they found within the Clinton administration. This 'banker' was none other than the Arkansas Development and Finance Authority, or ADFA, which was a creation of, and directly under the control of, the governor's office. Its official mandate was to loan money to businesses either already in or coming to Arkansas in order to develop an industrial base for new jobs that Clinton had made the centerpiece of his administration. ADFA, was in effect, a bank making preferred loans." Reed & Cummings, *Compromised: Clinton, Bush and the CIA* (1994) 232. For more, see *Ibid.*, 231-33, 244-50, 518-21, and *Presidential Secrets*, former FBI agent Ted Gunderson's interview with Chip Tatum.

111 As federal investigation into Mena was obstructed, the Arkansas Committee sought to persuade state authorities to pursue a criminal investigation (1990-1992). The Governor, along with most politicians, however, were opposed and the media sided with authority, attacking members of the Arkansas Committee. This unfortunate legacy aside, there were journalists willing to pursue the matter, On May 21, 1992, the Arkansas Times headlined an article which delved into the connections between Barry Seal and George H.W. Bush, and also the Arkansas Gazette published a series of articles which put local and federal authorities to shame. See Michael Haddigan, *The Kingpin and his many connections*, June 27, 1988; Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta, *Drug Runner's Legacy*, February 28, 1989; Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta, *Small Town for Smuggling*, March 1, 1989; Michael Arbanas, *Hutchinson knew in 83 of Seal probe, ex-IRS agent says*, September 19, 1990, Michael Arbanas, *Truth on Mena, Seal shrouded in shady allegations: Drug smuggling rumors just won't die*, December 22, 1990.

112 In his book, Al Martin exposes political duplicity across the board: "As I've always said, Arkansas is where political liability vis-à-vis Iran-Contra crosses party lines. And I intend to show that bridge, both

Nevertheless, we know that Bill Clinton, as Governor of Arkansas, was heavily involved with criminal activities. From the available evidence, we find that the Iran-Contra operation, at the federal level, was run by Vice President George H.W. Bush, CIA Director Bill Casey, National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, Admiral John Pointdexter (who took over after McFarlane resigned on December 4, 1985), and Oliver North, and that it was protected by officials like Bill Clinton and Robert Nash, his advisor, on the state-side.

These officials, no doubt, profited on the operation; economically in obvious ways, but politically in that their usefulness to the secret team assured future promotion. As we shall see, FBI and DEA officials, together with the Department of Justice and members of Congress, colluded to cover it up, whereas those with integrity would be threatened, fired, or in other ways forced into submission. So it was that the lie could live, and Clinton become president. Despite this, several have testified to the affairs that took place during his time as governor, and—unlike the official version—they paint a coherent and overlapping picture.

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in context of narcotics, weapons, and money transactions. Next, I am going to build that bridge into Republican/Democratic political liability crossovers in Arkansas, vis-à-vis Arkansas-related Iran-Contra weapons, narcotics, and monies operations. I will talk about my knowledge of Governor Bill Clinton, Betsey Wright, Bruce Lindsey, Buddy Young, Patsy Thomasson, Dan Lasater, Web Hubbell, Hillary and Rose and Hubbell Law Firm, and Stephens investment group. I did a lot of business with Stephens. I did business with Lasater. I was familiar with what was going on at the time. I have extensive 1985 tape recordings of gubernatorial aides, Bruce Lindsey and Betsy Wright discussing Oliver North's operations in Arkansas. They can't say they didn't know about them—and their efforts to manipulate the Arkansas State Police on behalf of the Republicans." Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 115.

### 10.3.3.1. CIA, Barry Seal, Bush, Clinton, and Mena

*"I can arrest an old hillbilly out here with a pound of marijuana and a local judge and jury would send him away to the penitentiary, but a guy like Seal flies in and out with hundreds of pounds of cocaine, and he stays free. . . . I resigned and retired primarily because of the injustice in the federal system, and I have spent the last several years forgetting that this ever occurred."*<sup>113</sup>

—Polk County Sheriff A.L. Hadaway—

While drug smuggling had been a problem at Mena before 1982, the problem reached endemic proportions with the arrival of Barry Seal. Barry had been connected to the CIA and the anti-Castro Cubans since the early 1960's and by the 1980's he was working with the Medellin cartel flying cocaine to the United States.<sup>114</sup> By then, Barry also had acquired legal troubles in Louisiana and Florida—and when the Louisiana police wanted him to turn informer and the Florida police wanted him in jail for 10 years, Seal called old friends in the intelligence community. Having attained much information that was damaging to the U.S. government, he had established a reputation for "handling the

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113 Mara Leveritt, *Bad company: Arkansas's most notorious drug smuggler testified about his links to Colombia. His ties to Washington have yet to be explained*, Arkansas Times, May 21, 1992

114 The FBI file given to Senator Kennedy in 1989 contains the following information on Seal: "Adler Berriman Seal was the most important organizer, facilitator, and impresario of the partnership between the CIA and organized crime. Seal earned over thirty million as his share of the drug smuggling, but what he loved more than money was the fact that he knew that we could not touch him, nor could any other agency of the United States. He loved to play the role of the back-slapping good "old boy" from Baton Rouge, and he loved flying. . . . The CIA had full knowledge of Seal's total actions. He ran guns to the contras for Casey, and he always was found innocent of any accusations in the courts." <https://cloverchronicle.com/2018/12/08/george-h-w-bushs-top-secret-cia-drug-running-empire/>



handlers”,<sup>115</sup> and after contacting George H.W. Bush he began to work for his Drug Task Force.

He was free on condition that he would provide information linking the Sandinistas and the Medellin Cartel to drug trafficking. There is, however, more to this than meets the eye and assisted by the CIA, Seal continued to fly drugs and evading prison until he was killed in 1986.<sup>116</sup>

Several authors have since connected the Vice President to his murder,<sup>117</sup> and detectives at the scene found Bush’s phone number among Seal’s possessions.<sup>118</sup> We do not know what else was found in his car as the rest was never revealed<sup>119</sup> and in 1988 the White House

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115 As he told a Louisiana newspaper reporter in November of 1984: “If they indict me, it means that I go to court. It means that then I get to tell my side of the story. All of this and much, much more than you’re now hearing from me will be put out in the public eye. The Justice Department is not going to tolerate this. There’s no way they can indict me.” Mara Leveritt, *Bad company: Arkansas’s most notorious drug smuggler testified about his links to Colombia. His ties to Washington have yet to be explained*, Arkansas Times, May 21, 1992

116 Because of this, Louisiana Attorney General William J. Guste Jr. wrote a letter to Attorney General Ed Meese demanding to know why Seal could have been allowed to operate as he did. He estimated that Seal had brought between \$3 and \$5 billion worth of drugs into the US, but there was no response to his query.

117 According to Al Martin, CIA Director Bill Casey decided that Barry had to be killed. It was supposed to look like a hit from the Colombians and Martin claims to have records showing that the alleged assassins, Raoul Herrera and Bernardo Tamayo, were CIA contractors. Martin alleges that he also, at a meeting in September 1985, heard Jeb Bush, Oliver North, Richard Secord, and Dewey Clarridge discuss the assassination of Seal. This is not the only murder in which Jeb Bush is implicated. According to Martin, Jeb Bush were also involved with the death of three other CIA connected drug dealers. (Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 11, 194-97). Chip Tatum also contends that CIA were involved with the death of Barry Seal. On March 30, 1985, he heard Oliver North say that “[Vice President Bush] is very concerned about those missing monies. I think he’s going to have Jeb arrange something out of Columbia.” (The Chip Tatum Chronicles) Terry Reed is another witness to these events who can testify to the same. Reed & Cummings, *Compromised: Clinton, Bush and the CIA* (1994) 244-49. For the whole story on the death of Barry Seal, see Attwood, *American Made* (2016). Also Stone & Hunt, *The Bush Crime Family* (2016) covers the Bushes, their involvement in the drug trade, and the death of Barry Seal.

118 Russell, *Drug War* (2000) 415

119 According to author Shaun Attwood, some of the stuff that disappeared was “three boxes of precious documents, including the encrypted numbers of Swiss bank accounts, where senior politicians stashed money. One account under the encrypted code KPFBMMBODB with over \$ ten million

ordered the CIA, the Defence Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency to refuse to turn over information sought by the General Accounting Office for its investigation into Mena. This was not the only case pending. The IRS and the local police at Mena also had a case against the conspirators, but they were consistently rebuffed.<sup>120</sup>

There is reason, then, to suspect foul play. According to both his attorney and his secretary, Seal himself was not too worried about the Medellin Cartel. Instead, he was worried about Bush, a man on which he had compromising information.<sup>121</sup>

Seal allegedly had a videotape of a 1985 DEA cocaine sting which had netted George Bush's two sons, George and Jeb, involved with drug trafficking and prostitution. According to Darlene Novinger, an FBI agent who spoke with investigative journalist Rodney Stich, this was called *Operation Nimbus* and she claimed that Bush Sr. was pressured by the Medellin because they had evidence of his involvement in the drug business. This was reported to senior FBI officials, who began to

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belonged to the Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who allegedly received kickbacks on drugs and arms sales." Attwood, *American Made* (2016) 329

120 Joe Hardegree, the prosecuting attorney for Polk County, Arkansas, in a written statement explaining why there was no action taken in the Mena investigations, said this: "I have good reason to believe that all federal law-enforcement agencies from the Justice Department down through the FBI to the DEA all received encouragement to downplay and de-emphasize any investigation or prosecution that might expose Seal's activities and the national-security involvement in them. It was in this framework that the federal grand juries and law-enforcement authorities in Arkansas apparently stopped in their serious deliberations or investigations concerning Barry Seal's activities and all of the surrounding circumstances. The really unfortunate aspect of this whole matter is the apparent fact that the federal investigation of drug trafficking in connection with the Mena airport came to be intricately involved with the internal politics and more particularly with the private wars conducted by the Reagan White House and so sensitive that no information concerning Seal's activities could be released to the public. The ultimate result is that not only Seal but all his confederates and all those who worked with or assisted him in illicit drug trafficking were protected by the government." Mara Leveritt, *Bad company: Arkansas's most notorious drug smuggler testified about his links to Colombia. His ties to Washington have yet to be explained*, Arkansas Times, May 21, 1992

121 As he told Terry Reed: "Ever hear the old expression, it's not what ya know, it's who ya know? Well, whoever said that just hadn't caught the Vice President's kids in the dope business, 'cause I can tell ya for sure what ya know can definitely be more important than who you know." Reed & Cummings, *Compromised* (1994) 212. See also Attwood, *American Made* (2016) 149-51

make life difficult for Novinger. The Bush family's involvement in the narcotics business was extremely sensitive material and not only was she threatened, but family members died suspiciously.<sup>122</sup>

This affair was covered up by the DEA and Customs, while the Democrats saw an opportunity to use it as leverage. Bush, however, ensured that leading democrats would not talk too loud when Seal helped frame Clinton's brother, Roger, for possession of cocaine. Following investigations also implicated Dan Lasater, Clinton's good friend.<sup>123</sup> Among other legal issues, an US Customs investigative report noted that a ski resort which he acquired in 1984 in New Mexico (and, with permission, used Clinton's name to promote) was being used for drug trafficking and money laundering, but his connections ensured that the investigation was limited to small stuff. In 1986, therefore, Lasater was sentenced to 30 months in prison for the distribution of cocaine—a sentence Bill Clinton would forgive after six months.

As a side note, his lawyer Gandy Baugh jumped to his death in 1994, and his law partner committed suicide one month later. These are just two of the more than 50 suspicious deaths that surround the career of Bill Clinton and an indication that the secret team was busy eliminating problems. Indeed, Bush had a task force dedicated to such missions—and Chip Tatum was one of his henchmen. Between 1986 and 1992 Chip was in the Terrorist Incidence Working Group, working directly for the Vice President. Tatum claims that he, on orders from Bush, was tasked to neutralize several people, one of them being Senator Ross Perot who was asking too many questions about Richard Armitage.

There is plenty, therefore, to suggest that Bush was involved with this plot—and Tatum also implicates Bill Clinton. Not in the assassination of Barry Seal, but in large-scale criminal activities.

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<sup>122</sup> Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 469, 693-96

<sup>123</sup> Reed & Cummings, *Compromised* (1994) 212, 230, 235.

### 10.3.3.2. *Chip Tatum and Mena*

Chip Tatum's contra involvement was extensive. Working for Oliver North and Felix Rodriguez, he would fly secret missions to contra camps in Honduras and pick up cocaine. Every time, a hundred kilos of cocaine disguised as medical equipment were loaded onboard and when he asked his superiors, North and Gregg would tell him that it was confiscated from the Sandinistas and would be taken to the World Court as evidence against Nicaragua. His story is significant because Tatum was flying missions into Mena in 1983-84 where he met Clinton's chief of Security, Raymond Young, and Dan Lasater. It was these people who received the cocaine shipments and Tatum also met Clinton.

He would continue to work with this group which included Mike Harari, the Mossad-agent connected with Noriega. After refusing to neutralize Senator Perot in 1992, however, Tatum knew that his life was in danger and he began to gather evidence that could keep him alive. By then Harari figured as a suspect in the murder of several U.S. military officers and two years later, when he was contacted by Colby, North and Rodriguez, who warned him to give up his documents "or else", he made some information available as *the Chip Tatum Chronicles*. While piloting the helicopter, he would listen to the intercom, sometimes recording conversations, and this dialogue between Mike Harari and Raymond "Buddy" Young is revealing:

Buddy: *"Arkansas has the capability to manufacture anything in the area of weapons—and if we don't have it, we'll get it!"*

Mike: *"How about government controls?"*

Buddy: *"The Governor's on top of it, and if the feds get nosey we hear about it and make a call. Then they're called off." He was looking*

*around the countryside and continued, “Why the hell would anyone want to fight for a shit-hole like this?”*

*Mike: Shaking his head in awe, answered, “What we do has nothing to do with preserving a country's integrity—it's just business, and third world countries see their destiny as defeating borders and expanding. The more of this mentality we can produce, the greater our wealth. We train and we arm—that's our job. And, in return, we get a product far more valuable than the money for a gun. We're paid with product [cocaine]. And we credit top dollar for product.”*

*Buddy: (Still looked confused).*

*Mike: “Look: one gun and 3,000 rounds of ammo is \$1,200. A kilo of product is about \$1,000. We credit the Contras \$1,500 for every kilo. That's top dollar for a kilo of cocaine. It's equivalent to the American K-Mart special—buy four, get one free. On our side, we spend \$1,200 for a kilo and sell it for \$12,000 to \$15,000. Now, that's a profit center. And the market is much greater for the product than for weapons. It's just good business sense, understand?”*

*Buddy: “Damn! So you guys promote wars and revolutions to provide weapons for drugs—we provide the non-numbered parts to change out and we all win. Damn that's good!”*

*Mike: “It's good when it works—but someone is, how do you say, has his hand in the coffer.”*

*Buddy: Responding on the defensive, “Well, we get our ten percent right off the top and that's plenty. GOFUS can make it go a long way.”*

*Mike: “Who is GOFUS?”*

*Buddy: “Governor Clinton! That's our pet word for him. You know they call the President ‘POTUS’ for ‘President of the United States’. Well, we call Clinton ‘GOFUS’ for ‘Governor of the United States’. He thinks he is anyhow.”*

Mike: *"That's your problem in America. You have no respect for your elected officials. They are more powerful than you think and have ears everywhere. You should heed my words and be loyal to your leaders. Especially when speaking to persons like me. Your remarks indicate a weakness—something our intelligence analysts look for."*

Buddy: *"Aw hell, Mike. Everybody knows the Clinton's want the White House and will do anything to get it. That's why I'm here instead of someone else. We know about the cocaine—hell! I've picked it up before with Lasater when he was worried about going on Little Rock Air Base to get it."*

A new line of conversation ensued. Harari questioned Young about his knowledge of who the "players" were. He went down a list. He started with "The Boss—Clinton." Here's a synopsis of the players according to Young.

Buddy: *"Clinton thinks he's in charge, but he will only go as far as Casey allows. Me and my staff, we keep the lid on things you know—complaints about night flying. Arkansas people are private folks, they don't like a lot of commotion and Mena just isn't the right place for the operation. It keeps us busy at the shredder, if you know what I mean. Dan the Man (Lasater)—He does magic with the money—between him and Jack Stevens we don't have to worry a bit. Then we got Parks—if there's a problem, he's the man. We call him the Archer, that's the codename that Casey and Colby told us to assign to that position. Finnis oversees our drop zone. Nash—he's just the boss' 'yes' man. Personally I think he's a mistake! Seal and his guys—I like his attitude 'and leave the driving to us!' he said, quoting one of Seal's good ole boy sayings."*

Mike: *"You like Seal?"*

Buddy: *"Hell! He's the only one I trust—respect is the word."*

Mike: *"Do you see much of him?"*

Buddy: *"Hell, yea. We test drive Clinton's rides before we send 'em on, ya know? (He laughed, grinding his hips.) Say—how much coke do you recon you can make in a week?"*

Mike: *"One camp can produce 400 keys a week. The others are about half that. But that's just our operation here. We have other sources in various parts of the world. Why do you ask?"*

Buddy: *"What? Oh, the Governor wanted to know our capacity."*

This is a portion of the material Chip Tatum collected. After being threatened by Colby, North, and Rodrigues, Tatum knew that to turn over his documents would be lethal and so he began searching for the original flight plans which were in the possession of a ranking Honduran official. In 1985, the official, aware of the implications of the documents, had secured these flight plans and other briefing sheets for safe keeping, and in 1995 Tatum met with this official secretly in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, where he was supplied certified copies of the originals. It was at this point "agreed that he would maintain possession of original documents until they were needed by authorities to seek prosecution of Messrs. Bush, Clinton, North, Rodriguez and others directly involved in the manufacturing and trafficking of cocaine."

Hence, as there are many others who have come forward, putting these conspirators out of business should be a slam dunk case. And we shall now have a further look at operations at Mena.

### 10.3.3.3. Mena Operations

*"I have seen the rug of 'national security' grow larger by the year, and it concerns me that so many aspects of this war on drugs are piously being swept under it. Too often 'national security' means 'don't tell the American people.'"*<sup>124</sup>

—Mara Leveritt, Arkansas Journalist—

Barry Seal, as we have seen, was no nobody and that is why he came to Mena, Arkansas. Here everything was prepared for his arrival and Barry was free to operate due to corrupt individuals in powerful positions. Thus, while local drug fighters such as IRS-detective Bill Duncan and Russell Welch with the Arkansas State police were pursuing investigations, higher-ups such as Asa Hutchinson, the newly arrived U.S. Attorney, and Mike Fitzhugh, his successor, ensured that such efforts went nowhere.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>124</sup> Mara Leveritt, *Asa and Me*, Arkansas Times, May 25, 2001

<sup>125</sup> As Mara Leveritt, a local journalist wrote: "Soon after Seal's move to Mena, U.S. Attorney Hutchinson called a meeting at his Fort Smith office to coordinate local surveillance. Among those attending were an Arkansas DEA agent, a U.S. Customs official, and U.S. Treasury agent William C. Duncan. Duncan's job was to investigate money laundering by the Seal organization. By the end of 1982, he had gathered what he believed to be substantial evidence of the crime. Duncan and an Arkansas State Police investigator, who was also monitoring Seal's enterprise, took their evidence to Hutchinson. They asked that the U.S. attorney subpoena 20 witnesses they'd identified to testify before a federal grand jury. To Duncan's surprise, however, Hutchinson seemed reluctant. Ultimately, Hutchinson called only three of the 20 witnesses the investigators had requested. The three appeared before the grand jury, but afterwards, two of them also expressed surprise at how their questioning was handled. One, a secretary at Rich Mountain Aviation, had given Duncan sworn statements about money laundering at the company, transcripts of which Duncan had provided to Hutchinson. But when the woman left the jury room, she complained that Hutchinson had asked her nothing about the crime or the sworn statements she'd given to Duncan. As Duncan later testified, 'She basically said that she was allowed to give her name, address, position, and not much else.'" Mara Leveritt, *What does Hutchinson know about Arkansas's biggest drug smuggler? And when did he know it?* Arkansas Times, May 25, 2001. For more on this, see ORAL DEPOSITION OF RUSSELL FRANKLIN WELCH, a witness produced at the request of the Attorney General's Office, June 21, 1991.



The reason why Seal was protected was two intelligence operations called Jade Bridge and Centaur Rose.<sup>126</sup> The former included training of contras as well as drug smuggling operations, and the latter had to do with the production of weapons and transports to the contras in Honduras and Costa Rica. Terry Reed was intimately involved with both and met with Seal several times. Among other activities, he helped Barry smuggle money into Arkansas, dropping off \$40 million on a monthly basis at a ranch owned by Seth Ward, one of Arkansas' wealthiest businessmen. The Ranch's name was triple-S, and it was used by Ward's son-in-law, Finis Shellnut who worked for Dan Lasater.<sup>127</sup>

Reed also flew with Seal to Panama, via Ilopango. He learned how Barry could fly all his missions, as Seal would evade radar- and other protective measures due to advanced electronics that made it possible to disappear in thin air. This device was so effective that even the military's radar did not pick up on Seal's plane and it was connected to another CIA operation that begun in 1976, *Operation Watchtower*.

This operation consisted of a series of high-frequency radio towers dispersed throughout Central America,<sup>128</sup> and it was to wrest control

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126 "Seal would later confide to Reed that there were going to be two separate, compartmentalized operations based out of the Mena area. The one Terry was becoming sucked into, involving flight training and aerial delivery techniques, was code-named 'Jade Bridge'. . . . The second was the ferrying of large quantities of arms and munitions from Arkansas to staging areas in Central America. This tributary to the Agency cut-out was code named 'Centaur Rose.'" Reed & Cummings, *Compromised: Clinton, Bush and the CIA* (1994) 64

127 Ibid., 138-39, 143-44, 163

128 "Watchtower was a series of very powerful radio transmitters on towers with beacons on the end of them, built from Andros Island off the coast of Colombia all the way up into US air space, essentially traversing all of Central America. These beacons would emit a frequency which was changed from time to time for security reasons. Aircraft could triangulate a position from them. The beacons in essence created a corridor. It was a so-called 'safe corridor.' In other words, all aircraft flying in that corridor would not be intercepted. . . . The corridor was created originally for the same purpose it got used later on in Iran-Contra—to provide a safe corridor for the shipping north of narcotics and the shipping south of weapons pursuant to authorized narcotics and weapons transactions." Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 264-65

of this operation from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), that the Vice President created his Drug Task Force in 1983. According to Martin, the purpose of this task force was the opposite of its stated mission and its real purpose was (1) to control the airspace between Mexico and the United States, and (2) to keep U.S. Customs from interfering.<sup>129</sup>

Edward P. Cutulo, a Colonel in U.S. Army and a key participant in the original Watchtower operation, tried to have this exposed. In a lengthy affidavit dated March 11, 1980, (which was confirmed by retired Colonel William Wilson) he exposed the illegal operations of the secret team, naming Frank Terpil, Ed Wilson, Thomas Clines, Robert Gates, Bill Casey, and Mike Harari as the main conspirators. In this affidavit, Col. Cutulo also mentions another operation (*Operation Orwell*), where the CIA, to cover its tracks, infiltrated and surveyed 8400 police departments, 1370 churches, and 17 900 American citizens. He goes on to describe how Elaine Tyree, a military officer who knew about this plot, was murdered because of a diary she kept, and how her husband, William Tyree, was set up and convicted for killing her.<sup>130</sup> Cutulo himself, together with a number of other military men, would be killed to keep this a secret and Mike Harari would be implicated in at least three murders.<sup>131</sup>

The connection to drugs becomes obvious when we consider the testimony of Jose Blandon, a former intelligence aid to Noriega, to the Kerry Committee. According to Blandon, Harari was connected to a network of Central American airstrips used by traffickers, and he

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129 Ibid., 162, 221

130 William Tyree was also involved with the Watchtower operation. For more on his unfortunate fate, see Mike Ruppert, *Crossing the Rubicon* (2004) 150-84

131 Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 351-62

agreed with Senator Kerry that, through this network, “guns would go in one shipment and drugs would come out in another.”<sup>132</sup>

This testimony was not only substantiated by the FBI in their file to Senator Kennedy, but also by the testimony of Richard Brenneke to the Kerry Committee. Since 1967, he had been running drugs with this group in the Golden Triangle and in December 1986 Brenneke was listed by the Philadelphia Inquirer as one of a cast of characters involved in the Iran-Contra affair. Because of this, he was called to testify before the Kerry Committee, and Brenneke claimed to have run drugs from Colombia through Panama to the United States as part of a contra-supply operation. Backing up the story of Blandon, he also testified to having purchased arms in Czechoslovakia for the Nicaraguan rebels, but the Vice President called his testimony “slanderous.” Like so many others he was in for a fight, and as the CIA denied that Brenneke had ever worked for them, a 1989 Senate committee concluded that he was a fraud.

Even so, others were not that easily intimidated, and on June 21, 1991, Brenneke testified before members of Congress and Arkansas State Attorney General’s Office. Brenneke, at this meeting, claimed to have flown cocaine to Mena a dozen times and that the drugs, from there, were sent to Kennedy International Airport, New York, where it was distributed by John Gotti. The Congressmen were shocked to hear this, but even more bewildered when Brenneke replied that CIA had a longstanding relationship with the mob. He himself had laundered most of their money in Panama City, transferring some \$50 million to European banks through an account belonging to Brown Brothers Harriman—a bank with deep Skull and Bones affiliation.<sup>133</sup> Brenneke, having second thoughts, had complained about the illegal activities to

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132 Scott & Marshall, *Cocaine Politics* (1998) 74

133 Donald G. Lett, *Phoenix Rising: The Rise and Fall of the American Republic* (2008) 273

Don Gregg, George Bush's National Security Advisor, but Gregg had told him "To shut up and do your job".

Brenneke could provide proof of his accusations, but pressure from above made sure that nothing come of it. By now George H.W Bush was president. He would continue to stall inquisitive minds, and when Brenneke brought supporting testimony in another case, one fingering Bush and Gregg at several meetings they did not want to be associated with, Brenneke was charged with five counts of making false declarations to a federal judge—a charge slightly stronger than perjury. He was indicted on May 12, 1989, accused of lying about his CIA connections and the meetings. Coincidentally, this was the same day Gregg was scheduled for confirmation hearings for his appointment as Ambassador to South Korea. Adding to the political overtones, Brenneke was offered a deal that would keep him out of prison if he plead guilty. Brenneke, however, refused. He took his chances in court and was found "not guilty" on all five counts.

His testimony, then, remains a troublesome issue—and more people can confirm these tales. If we want more evidence, Michael Riconosciuto is another CIA contractor who claims to have visited Mena with drugs between 1980-89.<sup>134</sup> His story confirms that of Terry Reed, Chip Tatum, and Kenneth Bucci,<sup>135</sup> and other witnesses are Larry

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134 Cockburn & St. Clair, *Whiteout* (1999) 335-37

135 "The complex at Nella airstrip outside Mena, Arkansas, as I came to learn, was the hub of CIA operations in Central and South America . . . [This] included the state-of-the-art communications system that I had just stumbled on; the clandestine airstrip itself; facilities there and at the Inter-Mountain Regional Airport in Mena for refurbishing and retrofitting aircraft, especially with IFF transponders and other communication and navigational gear; a barracks and training program for Contra pilots during the Nicaraguan civil war; air transport of weapons to the Contras; and shipments of cocaine and money into the U.S. through Operation Lighthouse and similar programs. In short, it comprised a vast array of activities taking form as what Oliver North later referred to as Casey's dream of an 'off-the-shelf, totally self-sustaining, stand-alone entity that could perform certain activities on behalf of the United States.'" Bucci, *Operation Pseudo Miranda* (2000) 116

Nichols,<sup>136</sup> Sharlene Wilson,<sup>137</sup> and Larry Douglass Brown, a policeman working for Clinton in Arkansas. In 1984, Clinton encouraged Brown to join the CIA, and in 1995 he testified to an investigative committee that the CIA arranged for him to meet Barry Seal. Brown would join Seal in picking up cocaine at contra camps—and when he later told Clinton about this, the governor was not surprised.<sup>138</sup>

All told, then, it is no wonder that Bill Clinton, as president, would continue to cover-up what Reagan began. He had been groomed for office by Pamela Harriman. She was not only an insider with the Democratic party but the widow of Averell Harriman, and being aligned with these sinister forces, the Clintons would continue their career on the wrong side of history. Today, therefore, the Clinton Foundation is under investigation for all sorts of wrongdoing, not only trafficking in drugs but also in children—and knowing their past, one can safely say that if this investigation is not botched, Bill and his wife, Hillary, will be going away for a long time.

#### *10.3.4. The Iran-part of the Contra Affair*

After President Carter put human rights first and fired many covert operatives, this cabal would cooperate with another power-political faction to oust Carter from the White House. This was the Israelis, and together they found common cause in undermining the president's policy on Iran. If not for the infighting that followed, the scandal never

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136 Nichols worked for Clinton in Arkansas, with a front-row seat to the whitewashing that took place. Among other things, he is one of the creators of *The Clinton Chronicles* (1994), a documentary exposing many shenanigans, including Mena. See also his website [www.nicholslive.com](http://www.nicholslive.com).

137 Sharlene was a friend of Roger Clinton who reported to Jean Duffy, a deputy prosecuting attorney and head of a drug task force, that she had worked “for three- or four-months unloading bags of cocaine at Mena Airport.” see Attwood, *American Made* (2016) 100

138 See L.D Brown, *Crossfire: Witness in the Clinton Investigation* (1999) detailing his experiences with the Clintons.

would have got much attention and so, to understand the Iran-Contra enigma, we need to look at this.

#### *10.3.4.1. "The October Surprise"*

On November 4, 1979, a group of Iranian students stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, taking more than 60 American hostages. They were angry at Americans for supporting the Shah, a puppet of the CIA, who for nearly 30 years had ruled Iranians with iron fist. Not surprisingly, a counterforce arose, and as religious fundamentalists had taken power, relations were tense. Both Carter and the Iranian regime had much at stake; as their populations thrived on enemy images, leaders did not want to look weak, and as the hostages remained within the embassy, the U.S. President froze Iranian assets and prohibited the sale of arms to Iran.

This was a problem for the Iranian regime because Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi dictator, was preparing for war and the Iranians needed to upgrade their armoury. The Israelis, for their part, considered Saddam to be their greatest threat, and while they did not think highly of the new Iranian leadership, they wanted to sell weapons to fight off a common enemy. They also wanted to make a profit. Thus, they were lobbying for opportunities, and George H.W. Bush and his cabal<sup>139</sup> was not difficult to persuade.

Through unofficial channels, therefore, meetings were arranged. These would take place in Paris and Madrid between March and October 1980, and a deal was struck where the Iranian regime, as soon as Reagan came into office, would receive arms. This was on the

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<sup>139</sup> Some of the conspirators tied to these illegal negotiations were Miles Copeland, a veteran of the CIA who helped install the Shah in 1953, Robert McFarlane, Robert Gates, Bill Casey, Don Gregg, and senator John Tower, who at the time was Chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Menashe, *Profits of War* (1998) 52-76

condition that they did not free any hostages before the election,<sup>140</sup> and in the meantime the Israelis was to provide weapons.

To sweeten the deal, the Iranian priests were offered \$52 million in cash. According to the Mossad agent Ari Ben Menashe, who was intimately familiar with this plot on the Israeli side, this money stemmed from “a band of former Israeli Intelligence officers who were running a drug-and arms-smuggling operation in Central America, backed by the CIA”,<sup>141</sup> and Menashe took it from Guatemala to the United States, where he met Robert Gates at the airport to avoid customs.<sup>142</sup>

Gates’ career took off after this, but the conspirators were not limited to Republicans. According to Menashe, Don Gregg was a key-conspirator and would fly with Bush to meetings in Europe while serving as a member of Carter’s National Security Council (NSC). Gregg, then, is another insider with a lot to answer for. And while he disputes these allegations, he failed a polygraph on this matter as well as Iran-Contra, while the credibility of Menashe remains uncontested. In fact, the CIA tried to pay him \$2 million not to write his book, and his accusations align with others, such as the testimony of Richard Brenneke and Gunther Russbacher.<sup>143</sup>

### *10.3.4.2. Internal Strife*

The deal with the Iranian regime turned out to be a lucrative endeavour. Between 1981 and 1987 Israel, backed by the Reagan

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<sup>140</sup> Id.

<sup>141</sup> Ibid., 80

<sup>142</sup> Ibid., 85

<sup>143</sup> They claim to have been pilot and co-pilot on the plane ride to Paris. See Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 134-42, 152-60, 172-201

administration, would rake in \$89 billion selling arms to Iran,<sup>144</sup> and it was internal intrigue between two Israeli factions which ensured that the scandal broke. Menashe was in the thick of it, and his book *Profits of War* documents how this power struggle evolved.

According to him, the origin of the twist was a coalition government between the Likud- and the Labour party (1984-90). From 1984 to 1986 Yitzhak Shamir (Likud) was Israeli Prime Minister while Shimon Peres (Labour) would be Foreign Minister, and then positions were switched. The Likud party had the best connections in the intelligence community and the Mossad-network mentioned here was loyal to President Shamir and Rafi Eitan, his Security Advisor. Before taking office, Shamir (who was a Foreign Minister from 1980-83 and Prime Minister from 1983-84) and his power faction had been key to the secret deal with Iran. They made good money on these sales,<sup>145</sup> but when Labour took power Amiram Nir, Peres' Anti-Terror Advisor, discovered the conspiracy and the new government wanted in. Even so, neither Likud, Mossad, nor the Bush-faction wanted to cooperate, and so Nir and Peres established their own operation.

To get in on the action, Nir travelled to Washington where he met with Robert McFarlane and told him that the CIA, from now on, should cooperate with the Labour-faction in its Iran dealings, not the Likud. After this, McFarlane put Nir in touch with Oliver North and John Pointdexter who welcomed the idea. They therefore talked to CIA

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144 Ari Ben Menashe noted the situation thus: “[I]f a question had been put to a computer about what needed to be done to: 1) get the Arabs off Israel’s back; 2) part the Arabs from their money; 3) keep the Iranians contained—and part them of their money; 4) keep the oil flowing; 5) make sure the world recycled its old military equipment; 6) keep the Soviets happy; and 7) make lots of arms dealers and defense contractors rich, it could not have come up with a better solution than the Iraq-Iran war.” Menashe, *Profits of War* (1998) 126

145 Menashe estimates that between 1984 and 1989 \$90 million went to the Likud party, while Shamir and his faction made \$160 million. *Ibid.*, 120



Director Bill Casey, and, with Casey onboard, Nir and North partnered up.<sup>146</sup>

From this point on, events would become troublesome between the Israeli factions. They both wanted to be top dogs and a fight broke out. First, the Labour faction made the FBI aware of a Likud-network of spies. This would become known as the Pollard case<sup>147</sup>, and in return the Likud faction sabotaged North and Nir's efforts to establish a parallel weapons operation. North repaid these services by having Bar Am, an Israeli general, and several others arrested on illegal arms charges in April 1986—and this again made the Likud faction punish North by exposing his activities. Thus, in May 1986 they presented the story of North and his shenanigans to Raji Samghabadi, a Time Magazine journalist in the Middle East. Times editor Henry Grunwald, however, refused to publish this article<sup>148</sup> and the story was given to Newsday, which also were not interested. The first to expose this plot, therefore, was Al Shiraa, a Lebanese newspaper on November 3, 1986.

By then problems were brewing on several fronts. CBS News' Leslie Cockburn had followed the trail of contra drugs- and gun smuggling since 1984, and on December 20, 1985, AP reporters Brian Barger and Robert Parry had a Spanish article published. June 27, 1986, another article came out in the San Francisco Examiner; and when an American C- 123 (Barry Seal's old plane) flying equipment to the contras, on October 5, 1986, was shot down in the Nicaraguan jungle, the

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146 The operations of Nir and North also involved Terry Reed. As the CIA left Arkansas, they were setting up an illegal arms factory in Mexico, headed by Reed, and he met with Nir in Panama in December 1985, and a year later in Mexico. The operation was called Screw Worm, but these plans fell apart due to Oliver North's problems with Congress—and because Reed discovered that the place was used by Felix Rodriguez for storing cocaine shipments. Reed & Cummings, *Compromised: Clinton, Bush and the CIA* (1994) 207-210, 307-317

147 Ibid. 174

148 Ibid. 183

operation finally got the world's attention. Consequently, phase two, the cover up, began.

### 10.3.5. Iran-Contra: The Cover Up

*"We'd go down and lie to them consistently. . . . In my 25 years, I have never seen the agency tell the truth to a congressional committee."*<sup>149</sup>

—Ralph McGehee, CIA officer for 25 years—

By late 1986, it was obvious that something had to give. Being a White House spokesperson was becoming ever more torturous, and so Attorney General Ed Meese held a press conference November 25, 1986, to ease tensions. He stated that illegal arms sales to Iran had been used to support the contra movement but claimed that this was limited to a few instances where North, in a fit of patriotism, had not thought legalities through.

This, then, was the story that the White House wanted to sell to the American people, and Congress obliged. They accepted Reagan's plea for an investigative committee, one headed by Senator John Tower—but the Senator had already been compromised by the secret team.<sup>150</sup> Tower, therefore, did as he was told, and Mossad agent Menashe commented on his proceedings:

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<sup>149</sup> Cockburn & St. Clair, *Whiteout* (1999) 110. See also Ralph McGehee, *Deadly Deceits: My 25 years in the CIA* (1983)

<sup>150</sup> According to Menashe, he was one of Bush's travel companions to the meeting in Paris with the Iranian regime in 1980. Menashe, *Profits of War* (1998) 52-76.

*“The commission of inquiry was to investigate only the years 1984 to 1986. The conclusions Tower reached were nothing but a cover up. He declared that some people in the National Security Council, interested in the release of hostages in Lebanon, had tried to make a deal with the Iranians, selling them 97 TOW missiles and some Hawk missiles—and that was it. Granted, the second channel [The North-Nir channel] had not succeeded, so there wasn’t much to discover about it. But Tower knew perfectly well that there was an ongoing original arms channel. Yet the Tower Commission made no mention of it. George Bush later rewarded Tower for his loyalty by nominating him for defense secretary, but he was never confirmed by Congress.”<sup>151</sup>*

Instead, President Bush appointed Tower as chairman of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, but somehow his mixing with the wrong crowd must have got him into trouble. The day after his long-time friend John Heinz, a Bonesman who was him on the plane to Paris, fell from the skies, Tower’s plane would also fall apart and he died in New Brunswick, Georgia, on April 5th, 1991.

The Democrats, for their part, were not entirely happy with the Tower Commission and pressed on for further investigations. On December 19, 1986, therefore, Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed Independent Counsel to investigate the Iran-Contra affair, and while his efforts led to indictments and convictions of key players,<sup>152</sup> President Bush, in December 1992, pardoned his co-conspirators. That was it for the Iran-

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151 Ibid., 191

152 His investigation led to the convictions of both former Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Vice Admiral John Poindexter and former NSC staffer, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North. Walsh also brought an indictment on two counts of perjury and one count of obstruction of justice against former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger in June 1992. On the eve of the 1992 presidential election, on October 30, Mr. Walsh obtained a grand jury re-indictment of Weinberger on one count of false statements, but Bush intervened, ending his efforts at further indictments.

Contra affair, and Walsh would go on to write a book about its cover up.<sup>153</sup>

Even so, there were parallel investigations which could have reopened Pandora's box. In 1988, at the request of Congress, the GAO's National Security and International Affairs Division examined General Noriega's drug-related activities and the U.S. government's knowledge of it. The GAO had assembled a team of professional investigators with law enforcement backgrounds and was on the Vice President's trail. CIA, however, refused to cooperate, as did the White House and other agencies—and the Justice Department put an end to this effort by deciding that the matter was “beyond GAO's statutory authority.”

Another botched investigation was the House October Surprise Task Force which was to examine the allegations that a deal had been made with Iran to obstruct a solution to the hostage crisis before the 1980 presidential election. By 1991, media investigations had led to increased speculations about the role of Bush and others and Congress answered by a Task Force which was to put the record straight in 1992. However, also this smelled of cover up. It was chaired by Rep Lee H. Hamilton, who already had chaired the failed House Select Committee to Investigate Covert Arms Transactions with Iran. This was in 1987, and Hamilton chose not to investigate the President or the Vice President Bush, stating that he did not think it would be “good for the country” to put the public through another impeachment trial. This time, he was in league with Vice Chairman Henry Hyde, who as a member of the congressional panel investigating the Iran-Contra affair had enthusiastically defended the Reagan administration and others accused. He would even compare Oliver North to Thomas Jefferson, arguing that although he and others had lied before Congress, their actions were excusable as they were in pursuit of a greater good.

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153 Lawrence E. Walsh, *Firewall: The Iran-Contra Conspiracy and Cover-up* (1997)

It was these guys, then, that were to decide upon the matter, and as the Task Force's Chief Counsel, Lawrence Barcella, in 1985, had given the go-ahead in a legal opinion to an unnamed government official to an Iran-Contra-related private weapons shipment,<sup>154</sup> it came as no surprise when the final report, published on 13 January 1993, concluded that "there is no credible evidence supporting any attempt by the Reagan presidential campaign—or persons associated with the campaign—to delay the release of the American hostages in Iran." To put any doubt to rest, Hamilton added that the vast majority of the sources and material reviewed by the committee were "wholesale fabricators or were impeached by documentary evidence."<sup>155</sup>

To those who looked beyond appearances, however, a pattern of cover-ups was easy to see.<sup>156</sup> Hamilton would, as Vice Chairman of the 911 Commission, continue his career of cover ups, and Congress' zeal to exonerate the White House was motivated by more than the "nation's good". As Menashe goes on to tell:

*"Contributions were . . . made . . . to U.S. politicians, including Democrats on the Iran-contra panel. This may be one reason that the full story behind the Iran-contra scandal never materialized. Even though Israel leaked details of some of Oliver North's activities, the Democrats, many of whom were well aware of what was going on, kept quiet about the huge flood of arms that had been running to Iran from Israel. Tel Aviv, not wanting its own*

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154 Lyn Bixby, *Head of Iran Hostage Probe Linked To Arms Deal*, May 29, 1992

155 One of the congressmen, Representative Mervyn M. Dymally, refused to sign the final report, but withdrew his dissent after Hamilton threatened him and fired the entire staff of another subcommittee Dymally were connected with. Hoping to save his former staffers' jobs, Dymally agreed to withdraw his dissent. Hamilton, for his part, continued to work for the deep state, among other things serving as Vice Chairman to the 911 Commission.

156 Menashe quotes Spencer Oliver, the chief counsel for the House Foreign Relations Committee: "[W]e knew it was a coverup. But at the time the Democratic congressmen and senators were very weak, and also 'for the good of the nation' we did not want to start a scandal that would bring down the president." Menashe, *Profits of War* (1998) 193-94

*arms deals with Teheran to be exposed, had paid them off through various, often convoluted, contributions to the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)."*<sup>157</sup>

These were moneys coming from Iranian arms sales and such contributions must have helped soothe congressional conscience. Even so, to begin with, it was a cover-up instigated from the top, and we shall now have a look at how the Justice Department helped the White House and CIA hide their tracks.

#### *10.3.5.1. A Conspiracy of Oppression*

*"From 1987 to 1991, I cooperated with every Democrat investigating committee in Washington investigating Iran-Contra and later investigating Iraqgate, BCCI, BNL, etc. from the early stages of the Kerry Commission hearings in 1987 to the Tower Commission, the Hughes Commission and the Alexander Commission. This finally ended in 1991. Despite the 1.6 million pages of testimonies, depositions, affidavits, and interrogatories accumulated by these committees, not one shred of the truth was ever revealed to the American public."*<sup>158</sup>

—Al Martin, Naval Intelligence Officer—

Before testifying on his involvement with the Iran-Contra affair, Reagan's Attorney General, Ed Meese, told Martin to refuse to answer all questions for national security reasons.<sup>159</sup> Independent Counsel

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<sup>157</sup> Ibid., 118

<sup>158</sup> Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 8

<sup>159</sup> Ibid., 7

Lawrence Walsh also puts Meese at the centre of the cover up,<sup>160</sup> but there were many others who took part. We already know that the CIA has infiltrated the government's infrastructure, making it possible for a shadow government to function, and while Senator John Kerry did his bit, Martin also names the Kerry Committee's lead investigator, Jack Blum, (and Jack Terrell and Ralph Maestre, members of his team) as puppets of the CIA.<sup>161</sup>

With such people in charge, those who knew about government corruption would be excluded from proceedings,<sup>162</sup> but there were other civil servants who noticed the deception and refused to play along. Senator Alan Cranston was one of the few that really wanted to get to the truth and, addressing Don Gregg, he spoke in a committee hearing on June 15, 1989:

*"In sum, you have told us a tale of an elaborate plan in which your professional colleagues and life-long friends conspired to keep you ignorant of crucial facts through days of meetings, monthly phone calls and nearly two years' worth of cables and memos. Incredibly, when senators confront you with the documentary evidence which undermines your story, you accuse us of concocting 'conspiracy theories' and you do so with a straight face . . . I think it is clear by*

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160 Walsh, *Firewall* (1997)

161 Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 8

162 Rodney Stich was one. Throughout the years, he had been in contact with a dozen former CIA operatives who had first-hand knowledge of these matters and he tried to make their testimonies available. As he said: "I mailed certified letters and transcripts to Independent Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, who had the duty to investigate all aspects of the Iran-Contra affair . . . I reminded Walsh of his responsibilities under federal criminal statutes to receive my testimony and evidence and that of the CIA whistleblowers. Despite hundreds of certified mailings, each one containing over fifty pages of data, no one responded. The non-response was one of the most amazing examples of mass coverup that I ever witnessed. But it happened time and again. My letters raised very serious charges that, if only a small fraction of them were true, would inflict enormous harm upon the United States. This refusal to perform a duty made possible the continuation of the government corruption that continues to inflict great harm upon America." Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 163. For more on the alleged Walsh cover-up, *ibid.*, 207-18.

*now that many important questions may never be answered satisfactorily, especially because we have been stonewalled by the administration. The National Security Agency has rejected our legitimate enquiries out of hand. The Central Intelligence Agency provided a response with access restrictions so severe . . . as to be laughable. The Department of Defense has given an unsatisfactory response two days late. The State Department's response was utterly unresponsive. They answered our letter after their self-imposed deadline and failed to produce specific documents we requested and which we know exist."*<sup>163</sup>

As we can see, NSA, CIA, FBI, Justice Department, State Department, and Department of Defence officials all contributed to the Iran-Contra cover-up. This cover up could never have overcome the obstacles that it endured without being enormous in scope, nor without the shadow government being more powerful than the official government.<sup>164</sup> The fall-out of the Iran-Contra cover-up, therefore, is the heart-breaking realization that U.S. institutions of government are thoroughly corrupted by an unruly power-political faction who thrives on the drugs economy, and the only way to undermine its presence is the legalization of drugs.

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<sup>163</sup> Lett, *Phoenix Rising* (2008) 269

<sup>164</sup> As Chip Tatum, one of those who were refused an opportunity to testify, summarized the uneventful proceedings: "At a cost of over \$40 million the investigation yielded only a few prosecutions for minor infractions. It is curious that neither the Select Committee on Secret Military Assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Opposition subcommittee tasked with the congressional investigation of the Iran-Contra, nor the office of the Special Prosecutor assigned to investigate criminal wrongdoings which occurred during the Iran-Contra Affair, subpoenaed any active-duty military personnel assigned to the border area of Nicaragua/Honduras. Had the service members been called to testify concerning the daily training/resupply, and support of the Contras, it would have been determined that the Boland Act, which prohibited any efforts of the United States or its military to support the Contra effort, was being violated. Testimony by military personnel would have also revealed that military aircraft and supplies were used to support the shipment of cocaine from manufacturing facilities co-located with CIA supported Contra camps. Why weren't we called to testify?" Gene 'Chip' Tatum, *The Chip Tatum Chronicles* (1996)



This is the only way to solve the gordian knot prohibition has made of law and order. We have already seen so many reasons why, and the U.S. Justice Department will be hard pressed to justify a continuing effort to enforce a prohibition on drugs when it so many times has proven that its loyalties lie with agents of power, not agents of justice. Until it accepts a system of principled rule, it simply will have no real authority. Instead, it will have to rely upon highly offensive “safety mechanisms” to obstruct those that agitate for truth and wholesome values, and there will be a continuous dynamic which feeds the darkness.

In this regard, Iran-Contra should serve as a lesson. If the American people had acted against the unsound doctrines of government in the 1980’s, they would have cleaned house and avoided the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001. At the very least, they would have had a Justice Department which was competent of handling criminal conspiracies of this magnitude,<sup>165</sup> and we shall now have a look at the campaign of repression which took place to preserve the authority of government.

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165 Essential reading on 9/11 includes Ruppert, *Crossing the Rubicon* (2004); David Ray Griffin, *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions* (2004); David Ray Griffin, *New Pearl Harbor Revisited: 9/11, the Cover-up and the Exposé* (2008). After reading only one of these books, one cannot seriously dispute that there was a cover-up.

### 10.3.5.2. The Suppression Unit

*“Though there are no doubt other branches of the government where corruption flourishes, there is no question in my mind that the stench of evil which emanates from Washington, originates in the so-called Department of Justice, particularly in its permanent bureaucracy. . . . In case after notorious case . . . Justice Department personnel appear as liars, perverts, frame-up artists, and even assassins.”<sup>166</sup>*

—John DeCamp, former U.S. Senator—

As we have seen, the distance between what the U.S. government says and does is huge, and to cover up the distance between theory and practice a mechanism must be in place. It only makes sense that this is found in the Department of Justice, and Al Martin has some knowledge of this unit. Under Iran-Contra it was run by Deputy Attorney General George W. Terwilliger (who also covered up BCCI) and his successor William P. Barr—who later became Trump’s Attorney General.<sup>167</sup> Martin goes on to say that: “The function of these people was to prosecute those who had talked too much—or who might talk too much in the future. . . . The Suppression Unit in the Department of Justice is so powerful it reaches into all agencies.”<sup>168</sup>

It is this unit that has preserved the face of authority when all else fails. To take care of affairs in Arkansas, it ensured that the position of U.S.

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<sup>166</sup> John DeCamp, *The Franklin Cover-Up* (1992) 293

<sup>167</sup> William Barr was also counsel to Bush while he served as CIA director. Terry Reed claims to have met him in a highly sensitive meeting discussing the cover-up of Arkansas operations. See Reed & Cummings, *Compromised* (1994)

<sup>168</sup> Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 19. For more on this unit, see 345-350.

State Attorney was filled with suits of a similar nature,<sup>169</sup> and so the suspicions of local IRS detective Bill Duncan that Seal's bribes reached even Ed Meese was never pursued.<sup>170</sup> Also buried was the anthrax attack on Russel Welch, a criminal investigator in the Arkansas State Police who investigated the money trail, as well as the murders of Kevin Ives and Don Henry. These two teenagers were brutally killed in Alexander, Arkansas, when they accidentally came across the police picking up cocaine. The cover-up was so obvious that it remains a deeply contested issue to this day.<sup>171</sup> And while another whistleblower, William Albert Haynes, recently has gone public, disclosing that he was on the tracks that night when the boys were murdered and that he is willing to expose the politically connected drug dealers affiliated with this plot, he better speak fast before this unit gets to him.

Coming forward with such evidence surely can surely be hazardous to health, as Paul Wilcher, an attorney who probed into drug smuggling

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169 We have seen how U.S. Attorneys J. Michael Fitzhugh and Asa Hutchinson covered up for Governor Clinton and the White House, and part of this team was Eric Holder, the Assistant U.S. Attorney in Little Rock, Arkansas. As Asa Hutchinson went on to become Director of DEA, logic dictates that this was the same Holder who later became President Obama's Attorney General, but I am not sure. Anyway, local detectives and prosecutors tried in vain to pursue Seal and his activities, but they were constantly stonewalled. In 1994, detective Bill Duncan summarized the perspective of law-enforcement officers in testimony to Congress: "By the end of 1987 . . . thousands of law enforcement man-hours and an enormous amount of evidence of drug smuggling, aiding and abetting drug smugglers, conspiracy, perjury, money laundering . . . had gone to waste. Not only were no indictments ever returned on any of the individuals under investigation for their role in the Mena Operation, there was a complete breakdown in the judicial system. The United States Attorney, Western Judicial District of Arkansas, . . . refused to issue subpoenas for critical witnesses, interfered with the investigations, misled grand juries about evidence and availability of witnesses, refused to allow investigators to present evidence to the grand jury, and in general made a mockery of the entire investigative and judicial process" Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 413

170 This most likely was the case. See Reed & Cummings, *Compromised* (1994) 240

171 Fahmi Malik, Clinton's corrupt state medical examiner lied and said that the boys had smoked an equivalent of 20 cannabis cigarettes, rendering them unconscious as the train arrived. Pressure from parents resulted in another autopsy which proved the lie, but further investigation was stalled. For more on this story, see Mara Leveritt, *The Boys on the Tracks: Death, Denial, and a Mother's Crusade to Bring Her Son's Killers to Justice* (1999)

at Mena discovered. Just after Clinton had become president, Wilcher went to the Department of Justice and delivered a 100-page letter which claimed that, unbeknownst to Attorney General Janet Reno and President Clinton, holdover Justice Department employees from the Reagan-Bush era were responsible for a number of government cover-ups. On or about June 11, 1993, Wilcher was interviewed regarding the contents of the letter, but a few days later he was found dead.

As we shall see, there were also others, and with the increasing avalanche of cover ups this unit is probably more active than ever. Spreading fear, terror, and disinformation is their modus operandi, and while this suppression unit and agencies of similar nature will be inhabited by players loyal to power, the actors themselves have little idea of the greater picture of which they are apart. They are those most eager to pursue appearances and quite a few believe that they are acting for the good of the nation. Even so, maintaining the status quo comes at a terrible cost. The machine of which they are part is the same machine that has denied Americans inherent liberties for centuries. It is a machine whose primary fuel is force, not reason. It uses blackmail to survive, feeds on fear, and thrives on trauma. Considering that there is an alternative to the status quo, therefore—one that public officials and bureaucrats oppose—they should not sleep so well. Truth being their enemy, only a machinery of oppression can withstand the tides of change, and what it took to sustain the façade during the Iran-Contra years was not pretty.

### 10.3.5.3. The Machinery of Oppression

*"I feel like I live in Russia, waiting for the secret police to pounce down. The government has gotten out of control. . . . Men of no account find themselves in positions of power and suddenly crimes become legal. . . . Should a cop cross over the line and dare to investigate the rich and powerful, he might well prepare himself to become the victim of his own government, the government of the United States of America. The cops are all afraid to tell what they know for fear that they will lose their jobs or go to jail themselves."*<sup>172</sup>

—Diary of Russell Welch, An Arkansas state police detective who was attacked with anthrax for his efforts to get to the truth—

To keep Americans ignorant of truth, Al Martin claims that the U.S. government murdered 400 witnesses and through staged court cases, imprisoned 1200.<sup>173</sup> These people were mostly drug dealers but also public officials such as Amiram Nir, the Israeli Anti-Terror Advisor.<sup>174</sup> Martin describes the procedure:

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172 Traver & Gaylord (Ed.), *Drugs, Law and the State: A Reexamination of the Physics of Motion* (1992) xxiv

173 Al Martin claims that "of the 1,300 witnesses, subpoenaed, deposed, interrogated before these committees, 413 have since died under clouded circumstances." (Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 8). He further elaborates on his reasons for believing so: "[I]f you see the subpoenas issued (or subpoenas that were intended to be issued) by the Kerry Committee, the Hughes Commission, the Alexander Commission and so on, and even Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh, and then you see how closely they relate to people who were murdered at the time, and just how many people were murdered on the eve of being subpoenaed by a congressional investigating committee, it becomes quite a revelation. Bill Alexander tried to make this public in 1992. He had a wonderful list prepared. He had the support of both Congressman Jack Brooks of Texas and Congressman Charlie Rose of North Carolina. The Washington Post and the New York Times would not touch it with a ten-foot pole" Ibid., 168

174 Amiram Nir was murdered on November 29, 1988. "Who was behind it? Israeli intelligence has always believed it was a well-executed CIA operation. Nir's death ensured there would be no embarrassment for Peres, Reagan, or Bush at the North trial. In fact, while in London, Nir was getting

*“In the aftermath of any illegal covert operation which collapsed and became public, Iran-Contra is the most egregious and notorious. When an operation collapses, people like me get put through a three-tiered strainer. We’ll call it the ‘A,’ ‘B,’ and ‘C’ strainer.*

*The ‘A’ strainer is for people who were two rungs of the ladder above me—guys like Major General Richard Secord and Major General John K. Singlaub. These are people are on the right side of the door of liability when it slams shut. They are the ones who get their ‘Briefcases’ and they will always live in great financial comfort and security, just going along—endlessly committing fraud and endlessly being protected from the consequences of it . . .*

*The bulk of people involved in such an operation are put through the ‘B’ strainer. The ‘B’ strainer is where people are pressured, harassed, intimidated, discredited, bank-rupted and sometimes imprisoned on false charges, forced into exile in an effort to maintain the deniability of their superiors and to legally discredit them before any potential congressional committee, or any court proceeding in which they might testify, or give any deposition on someone else’s behalf.*

*The ‘C’ strainer, which is the minority—in which usually one in ten people are put through—is death. Those are the people who were simply down the ladder. They were not trained intelligence people. They found out a few little kernels of something that nobody wants*

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bored and unhappy. He had started talking about writing a book. He even sounded out a journalist and told him some of his conversations with U.S. officials.” (Menashe, *Profits of War* (1998) 290). Robert Hunt, a CIA agent Rodney Stich was in contact with, told him that Casey had said that Nir was killed because he had tape recorded a meeting with George H.W. Bush in Israel in 1986, that Nir threatened to expose. (Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 628). Chip Tatum, for his part, claims to have executed the murder on orders from Bush. Ibid., 457

*revealed. And these people are considered unreliable, so they are simply done away with.*

*As we mentioned, more than 400 people out of the 5000 involved would be in that category.”<sup>175</sup>*

Rodney Stich was not personally involved with Iran-Contra. Even so, he became familiar with these procedures when he was imprisoned on trumped-up financial charges for trying to expose corrupt agents. Throughout the years, Stich also documented others who had suffered a similar fate, and summarizes his perspective:

*“Whatever the reason, CIA and Justice Department officials acted in unison with federal judges, eliminating people who constituted a threat of exposure. The standard tactic is to charge the targeted individual with a federal offense for some act they were ordered to perform by their CIA handlers, deny them adequate legal counsel, deny them the right to have CIA witnesses testify on their behalf, and deny them the right to present CIA documents. A standard and sham excuse for denying these defences is that they are not relevant to the immediate charge, when the matter of who gave the person his or her orders is absolutely relevant.*

*From 200 to 300 former CIA operatives or contract agents had been sentenced to prison by Justice Department prosecutors during the 1980s on charges arising out of covert activities they were ordered to perform by their CIA bosses.”<sup>176</sup>*

Such trials are presided over by judges who obstruct constitutional protections and who show no conscience in their sentencing.<sup>177</sup> Al

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<sup>175</sup> Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 22-23

<sup>176</sup> Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 144

<sup>177</sup> Sidney Powell, former Assistant United States Attorney in three judicial districts under 9 United States Attorneys, estimates that some 10 percent of the U.S. prison population is behind bars due to

Martin describes how this was the case at the Miami, US Attorney's office:

*"All politically sensitive, Iran-Contra politically sensitive cases, would be heard by one of two judges—either the chief federal district judge, Lawrence King, now retired, or the cases would be held by the newly ensconced Republican judge Fred Merano. In some cases, when there was an overload, the cases would be bumped up to the retired judge, Claude Atkins, a solid Republican. The defendants were convicted in every single Iran-Contra sensitive case heard by these three federal district judges."*<sup>178</sup>

These court cases, in other words, were no better than those provided defendants in other totalitarian regimes. They are a symptom of a deeply troubled society and we can expect the same situation to surround the cover-up of the real events surrounding 9/11, as well as modern-day CIA drug operations. As Barry Jennings,<sup>179</sup> a deputy director of an emergency service in New York, discovered, it would be immature to believe otherwise, and there were many who worked for

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fabricated cases and large-scale corruption. See Powell, *Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice* (2014)

178 Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 47

179 "On August 19, 2008, 53-year-old Barry Jennings died, two days before the release of the NIST Final Report on the collapse of WTC7. Jennings was Deputy Director of Emergency Services Department for the New York City Housing Authority. On September 11th, 2001, he saw and heard explosions BEFORE the Twin Towers fell, while attempting to evacuate the WTC 7 Command Center with NYC Corporation Counsel Michael Hess. Jennings publicly shared his experiences with a reporter on the day of 9/11/01, as well as in a lengthy 2007 video interview with Dylan Avery, a small clip of which was then released; subsequently his job was threatened and he asked that the taped interview not be included in Loose Change Final Cut. However, after an interview with Jennings was broadcast by the BBC in their program The Third Tower ostensibly refuting what he had previously stated to Avery, Avery felt compelled to release the full original video interview to show the distortions made by the BBC. The cause of Jennings' death has not been made public, and a private investigator hired by Avery to discover the cause and circumstances surrounding his death refused to proceed with the investigation. Despite the significance of Jennings' position with NYC on 9/11 and his controversial eyewitness testimony regarding the collapse of WTC7, the media has not investigated or reported on his death, nor reported on his statements." Quote from <http://jenningsmystery.com/>



the Iran-Contra committees who could feel an aura of tyranny creeping upon them. Professor Peter Dale Scott, who has authored several books on drug policy and power-politics, was one:

*"I had a chance to observe the viciousness of this corrupt system in 1987, when I spent six months in Washington at a think tank, supplying documentation to the Kerry congressional subcommittee. . . . Less alarming to me than the facts were their consequences for those who knew of or reported them. One conscientious witness, a Republican businessman and Reagan supporter, suffered credible death threats that appear to have been partly acted on. Another for his pains was similarly menaced and directly targeted by Oliver North in the White House as a 'terrorist threat.' Even members of our think tank were interrogated by the FBI, which was perhaps the least bothersome inconvenience suffered by those promoting the truth. Others were placed under twenty-four-hour surveillance by forces the Washington police could not identify, or deprived of their professional jobs. In an arrangement that was probably illegal, a CIA-type propaganda campaign was funded through the State Department against the American people, targeting for defeat those who had opposed the contras in Congress."*<sup>180</sup>

#### 10.3.5.4. Damage Control Ne Plus Ultra

No doubt things were bad. But no matter how totalitarian the atmosphere surrounding Iran-Contra, the situation could have gone far worse. Indeed, there is evidence that George H.W. Bush and Oliver North perceived another option, which was an open dictatorship led

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180 Scott, *Drugs, Oil, and War* (2003) xviii

by the Vice President, and that they had plans to start a World War to arrange for the legal necessities. This sure sounds like the plot of a bad movie. However, people who witnessed the preparation for these events have spoken out and while the Continuation of Government (COG) planning remains shrouded in secrecy, we know that it was the responsibility of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

When the topic was touched upon during the Iran-Contra hearings, Congress quickly closed their doors. Even so, authors like Peter Dale Scott have researched these plans and people like Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld were key architects.<sup>181</sup> This, most certainly, does not bode well. Rumsfeld, at this point, did not even work for the government, and yet there is reason to believe that these plans have been operational since 9/11.

What remains clear is that President Reagan left all matters of state security to George H.W. Bush and that, at this time, without congressional oversight, an operational framework was created which prepared for martial law.<sup>182</sup> Not much more can be known through official channels, but Al Martin has more to say. Until 1987, he was one of the conspirators, and he was informed about this plan in late-1984.

At this time, with the pretence of improving business relations in Latin America, there were meetings for insiders being held at the Dade County Latin American Chamber of Commerce. The most prominent figure was Jeb Bush and every other week the conspirators would

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181 Upon becoming Ford's Secretary of Defense in 1975, his immediate staff had bought Rumsfeld flowers to congratulate him on his new job. Rumsfeld, however, "instantly threw the gift in the trash can in front of the staff in order to humiliate them and show them who was boss." Lofgren, *The Deep State* (2016) 201

182 These were the Special Situations Group and its offspring the Standing Crisis Pre-Planning Group, created May 14, 1982; The Crisis Management Center (February 1983); The Terrorist Incident Working Group (April 3, 1984); The Task Force on Combatting Terrorism (July 1985); and The Operations Sub-Group (January 20, 1986). Webster Tarpley & Anton Chaitkin, *George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography* (2004) 386

discuss Iran-Contra related events.<sup>183</sup> One meeting, however, stood out (one where Oliver North and Don Gregg also was present), and at this gathering Martin learned of *Operation Orpheus* and *Sledgehammer*.<sup>184</sup> Martin describes these operations:

*“Orpheus was the idea that, if what later became known as ‘Iran-Contra’ fell apart early and everything spilled out publicly, it would have been potentially necessary to institute a silent coup against the Government of the United States.*

*Obviously it would be done with the tacit support of said government, in which case Oliver North would have been a prominent member of the new post-silent coup administration. He would then control political fallout, which would have been tremendous, if all of Iran-Contra fell apart and became revealed to the public.*

*But it went beyond that. Orpheus actually went to the point, where if liability could not be controlled, it would be necessary for Casey, North, and George Bush to secretly formulate and potentially launch an outright coup d’état against the Government of the United States. These were the three principals involved.*

*. . . [T]his would have been an outright coup. It was envisioned that George Bush would become acting President of the new Provisional Military Government of the United States. In order to*

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183 Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 194

184 “Sledgehammer” was also an alias of North. Martin describes this operation: “Operation Sledgehammer was essentially a contingency operation to institute a putsch against the United States Government (with the tacit support of said Government) should knowledge of Iran-Contra operations become publicly disseminated. The feeling was that if people were to know the quantities of narcotics and weapons being dealt and the enormity of State-sanctioned fraud against US banks (and other financial institutions which taxpayers ultimately guarantee), there would be such a reaction among the people that in order to divert public attention, it might become necessary to institute a putsch having the tacit agreement of the Reagan Administration. I know this sounds draconian, but that was the level of concern in those years).” Ibid., 15

*do this, the pretext was going to be a limited nuclear exchange with the Soviet Union, wherein we would create a situation, a catalyst as it were, a military confrontation that would lead to a limited nuclear exchange. This would be in cooperation by the way with certain hardline elements within the Soviet military. That was the whole idea of the Orpheus Project.*

*. . . It was quite frightening what North and Casey and Bush were actually prepared to do to cover up what they were doing. They understood the egregiousness of what they were doing. They also understood that if Iran-Contra fell apart, then everything else fell apart that came before it.*

*All of the preceding conspiracies and coverups including the post-war conspiracies and cover-ups might also fall apart. That's what they were actually afraid of. And the temerity of this was such that it would require a new government with an iron fist. It would also require the cooperation of the Soviet Union because there were many hardliners who were also very interested in getting rid of the new and tender Gorbachev. The hardliners in the Russian military saw him as a tremendous threat. So there became commonality between hardline interests in both the United States and the Soviet Union to maintain the status quo.*

*The status quo of the Cold War was very good for business, and it was very good for maintenance of old power structures and cabals. Those who had benefitted from it on both sides didn't want to give it up.”<sup>185</sup>*

According to Martin, Oliver North estimated that between 50 and 70 million people would die if this plan came to fruition. He also implicated the British and the German government:

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<sup>185</sup> Ibid., 38-39

*“This was not simply the United States and the Soviet Union. Some of our allies, as North had mentioned, had also been consulted about this. The Thatcher government and the Kohl government—they were going to become part of this because they had exactly the same concerns. From what I heard, it was obvious that this involved the long-term post-war cooperation between deep right-wing elements within our allied governments and their concerns that conspiracies of the past would potentially come back to haunt them.*

*This is a really big story. . . . that there is, in fact, literally a global deep-right wing conspiracy with connections that make certain things happen, so that certain policy objectives are met and certain geo-political, economic and military spheres interact.”<sup>186</sup>*

While this may come as a shock, we have seen every indication that this is so. The story of how the elite organized the illicit drugs market and profited on maintaining controls is just one of many secrets that, if known, they fear will make us put them away for a long time. And as these conspiracies are becoming public knowledge one by one, we should keep in mind that these people have acted no differently than most of us would have done if we ever were put in their shoes. Our leaders have been born into a network and a culture that presents them with every incentive to continue the dysfunctional behaviours of the past—and their impact on world affairs mirrors exactly our collective refusal to abide by the very same values, ideal, and principles that we ourselves so proudly boast.

Hence, the balance of the world can either be changed for better or worse, depending upon our ability to process this information. To the extent that humanity continues the timeless tradition of looking for scapegoats, the elite rightfully fear that they will be blamed for all our

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186 Ibid. 341

troubles, and we will have people like Bush and North willing to take extreme protective measures. If there is ever to be a solution, therefore, playing the blame game is the last thing we should do, and instead we should focus on how we all, collectively, can move past the current state of affairs.

As we can see, it is neither worthy of government nor civil community and the solutions are fair and simple. Before we go on to discuss human rights, restitution, forgiveness, and common resolve, however, we shall discuss the laundering of drug money.

## 10.4. The Drugs Economy

*“There is something wrong in this country; the judicial nets are so adjusted as to catch the minnows and let the whales slip through.”*

—Eugene V. Debbs, 1895—

Our banking system is a loan-based fiat economy. What keeps a bank afloat is assets; every loan counts as an asset, and depending on how much assets they got, they can lend around 10 times to customers. This is how the banks operate, like a Ponzi scheme. Thus, the most important source of growth is cheap capital—and nothing is cheaper than dirty money. Throughout the years, therefore, banks have become increasingly dependent upon the drugs economy and this was confirmed in 2009 by Antonio Maria Costa, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In a rare fit of honesty, the UN Drug Czar told reporters that western banks, to survive the crash of 2008, had relied upon the drugs economy to recover and that some \$352 billion were laundered in this period. Costa, however, refused to identify the countries or the banks involved, as that would

be “inappropriate because his office is supposed to address the problem, not apportion blame.”<sup>187</sup>

Even so, as Costa, one year earlier, condemned Amy Winehouse for being a “coke-snorting fashionista” and a “poster girl for drug abuse,” this is not entirely true. What Costa means, therefore, is that blame is reserved for drug users and drug dealers, while those who sit on top of the profit chain deserves their privacy. Upon this notion the drug war proceeds, but we shall now have a look at the banking activities of the CIA in the period we have reviewed. While there are many others involved, we shall concentrate on three banks whose businesses and personnel overlapped with CIA operations in Indochina and Latin America.

#### 10.4.1. The Nugan Hand Bank

Nugan Hand was an Australian bank linked to the laundering of Golden Triangle drug money. It was established by Francis Nugan, Michael Hand, and Maurice Bernard Houghton in 1973, went international in 1976 (based on the Cayman Islands), and reached its zenith in 1979 with a reported turnover rising from \$30m to \$1bn, as the bank opened offices in Hong Kong, Singapore, the Cayman Islands and Saudi Arabia.

Nugan, an Australian lawyer, managed legalities, while Hand and Houghton were intelligence operatives with a history from the Indochina theatre. Its board of employees was a who’s who of shady operatives,<sup>188</sup> including Paul Helliwell, William Colby, Theodore

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187 Rajeev Sval, *Drug money saved banks in global crisis, claims UN advisor*, the Observer, December 13, 2009.

188 In addition to the above, the president of the company was Rear-Admiral Earl P. Yates, the former Chief of Staff for Policy and Plans of the U.S. Pacific Command and a counter-insurgency specialist. Other appointments included General Leroy J. Manor, the former chief of staff of the U.S. Pacific

Shackley, Ed Wilson, Richard Armitage, and Thomas Clines. As we have seen, it was this disreputable bunch of characters who oversaw opium exploits in the Golden Triangle, and it is proven beyond doubt that laundering drug money was central to the bank's operations.<sup>189</sup>

Looking at the bigger picture, Nugan Hand became the CIA's go-to bank when Castle Bank & Trust collapsed in 1977. This bank was established in 1962 by Paul Helliwell and it quickly became a "conduit for millions of dollars earmarked by the CIA for the funding of clandestine operations directed at countries in Latin America and the Far East."<sup>190</sup> The IRS, however, discovered that the bank was in league with underworld figures connected to the drug trade and while the CIA ensured that the matter was dropped for reasons of national security, Castle Bank and Trust was beyond salvation.

As author Paul Williams reminds us, the CIA does not take control of a bank merely to finance covert operations and launder drug money, but to "chalk up losses in a bewildering array of bogus ventures."<sup>191</sup> Castle was no different, and also Nugan Hand would suffer the same fate three years later.

Intrigues took off on January 27, 1980, when Frank Nugan was found shot dead in his car. With his body was a bible that included a piece of paper with the name "Bob Wilson" and "Bill Colby." The former was a longstanding member of the House Armed Services Committee, while the latter not only was a Director of the CIA but the bank's legal

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Command and deputy director for counterinsurgency and special activities; General Edwin F. Black, former commander of U.S. forces in Thailand; Walter J. McDonald, retired CIA deputy director for economic research; Dale C. Holmgren, former chairman of the CIA's Civil Air Transport and Guy J. Pauker, senior Republican foreign policy adviser.

189 For more on Nugan Hand, see: Jonathan Kwitny, *The Crimes of Patriots: A True Tale of Dope, Dirty Money, and the CIA* (1987); Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 241-46; McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin* (1991) 461-78.

190 Williams, *Operation Gladio* (2015) 85

191 Id.



advisor. Not long after, a witness saw Thomas G. Clines going through the briefcase at Wilson's office and remove papers that referred to him and General Richard Secord, and Michael Hand convened a meeting of Bank directors. The cover-up was on, and Hand warned that unless managers did as they were told they would "finish up with concrete shoes" and be "liable to find their wives being delivered to them in pieces".

Shortly thereafter, Hand left the country accompanied by James Oswald Spencer, a man who had served with Ted Shackley in Laos. He would then disappear from official records, being unavailable to angry clients and inquisitive law-enforcement officers. Even so, witnesses claim to have seen him later in South America running drugs for Casey and Bush,<sup>192</sup> before secretly returning to the United States.<sup>193</sup>

While U.S authorities covered up this mess,<sup>194</sup> Australian authorities took a more serious look. Three investigative committees were established to examine the bank's affairs and evidence was found that the Nugan Hand Bank was implicated in money-laundering, illegal tax avoidance schemes, and widespread violations of banking laws. Even so, the Royal Commission of inquiry was largely a cover-up.<sup>195</sup>

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192 Trenton Parker, a CIA agent, told this to Rodney Stich. Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 242.

193 Investigative journalists appear to have found him: "In March 1991, the Australian magazine *The Eye* reported that Michael Hand was living in the United States, giving an address and other details, but Australian authorities declined to pursue an extradition. In November 2015, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that Peter Butt had located Hand living under the name Michael Jon Fuller in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Peter Butt queried the failure of the FBI to find him, given that Fuller's social security numbers are identical to Hand's." (Wikipedia June 1, 2018)

194 US intelligence services were not forthcoming and when Australian authorities contacted the FBI they were denied access for reasons of "national security". Scott, *Drugs, Oil, and War* (2003) 53

195 Clive Small, a New South Wales Task Force Task Force investigator, concluded that the Stewart Royal Commission was a whitewash: "The royal commission was so dismissive of an American connection that many people who read it simply felt that it was a cover up, because it was in effect so superficial and so dismissive. It never attempted to put into context its findings with the findings of the Joint Task Force, which have not been found to be in any way, shape or form inaccurate or unreliable." Peter Butt, *Merchants of Menace* (2015) 236

Australian intelligence services (ASIO) intervened to offset further investigation into the bank's drug connections, and so the most far-reaching report would be that of the Commonwealth—New South Wales Task Force on Drug Trafficking, which concluded that there was a connection between the bank, Indochina drug cartels, and Pentagon and CIA officials. In this regard, the report specifically named Theodore Shackley and Thomas Clines.<sup>196</sup>

#### 10.4.2. Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham and Wong

When Nugan Hand failed, the CIA needed another bank to fund covert operations and launder drug money. The answer was Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham and Wong (BBRDW).<sup>197</sup> Based in Hawaii, its operations began in 1979, and the bank's function and personnel were largely the same as that of Nugan Hand: Shady characters like General Edwin Black, General Leroy Manor, Admiral Lloyd Vassey, and Admiral Earl Yates were involved—and again, making a profit on the worldwide web of drugs- and arms dealing became a preferred livelihood.

By 1984, however, this bank had suffered unrepairable damage. The CIA set-up Ronald Rewald, its chief executive, as a fall guy and he was sentenced to 80 years. Before this, someone had cut him up, making him fear further attempts on his life, and he was probably right. On September 19-20, 1984, Scott Barnes, a CIA agent, was interviewed on ABC News Tonight where he revealed that he had been tasked to kill Rewald. The CIA not only contested the charge, but in November 1984 Director Bill Colby asked the Federal Communications Commission to revoke all of ABC's TV and radio licenses. In February 1985, the CIA

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<sup>196</sup> Cockburn, *Out of Control* (1987) 103

<sup>197</sup> For More on BBRDW, see Stich, *Explosive Secrets of Covert CIA Companies* (2006); Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 247-80

went on to ask FCC to apply Fairness Doctrine penalties to the network—and the following month ABC was bought by Capital Cities Corporation, a media conglomerate full of spooks, where Casey was on the board of directors.

From this point on, the U.S. press posed no real problem. While the big media corporations continued to act as if they watched Republicans and Democrats closely, they all sang to the Piper's tune and could be relied upon to rally behind authority when called upon. Even so, the CIA needed another bank to continue financial transactions and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) shouldered the load.

#### 10.4.3. Bank of Credit and Commerce International

BCCI was founded in 1972 by Agha Hasan Abedi, a Pakistani financier and an associate of Saudi Intelligence Minister Kamal Adham. The Bank was registered in Luxembourg with head offices in Karachi and London, but it was so much more. As investigative journalist Joseph Trento noted, “with the official blessing of George H. W. Bush as the head of the CIA, Adham transformed a small Pakistani merchant bank, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), into a worldwide money-laundering machine, buying banks around the world to create the biggest clandestine money network in history.”<sup>198</sup>

Indeed, when French customs raided the Paris BCCI branch, they discovered that George H.W. Bush had established an account at BCCI while he was director of the CIA, and author Trento has shown that the bank really was a shell for a group of anti-communist intelligence services whose cooperation had become more difficult with Carter as president. At this time, the intelligence community was tied down by

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<sup>198</sup> Trento, *Prelude to Terror* (2005) 104

Congress, and Bush, Adham, and other heads of intelligence, therefore, would work with Abedi to contrive a plan whereby BCCI would solicit the business of every major terrorist, rebel, and underground organization in the world. The information gained would be shared with 'friends', and CIA operative Raymond Close worked with Adham on this.

The operation, at first, was hugely successful and a decade after opening BCCI had over 400 branches in 78 countries, 19,000 employees, and assets in excess of \$20 billion, making it the seventh largest private bank in the world. As the 1980's moved on, however, it became obvious that BCCI was involved with largescale criminal activities and, as Time Magazine would explain in 1991, BCCI was not just a bank: It was probably the biggest intelligence operation in the world, and at its centre was the "black network," a secretive group consisting of some 1,500-employees who used sophisticated spy equipment and techniques, along with bribery, extortion, kidnapping, and murder to further the bank's aims.<sup>199</sup>

To enter the American financial market, this dubious entity needed a cover. Beginning in 1978, therefore, a group of foreign investors, fronted by Kamal Adham, attempted to buy First American Bankshares, the biggest bank in the Washington, D.C., area. First American represented old money. It was intimately connected with the CIA and if BCCI controlled this holding company, they could bank on U.S. soil. To get this done BCCI relied upon Clark Clifford, a Washington insider and advisor to five presidents, who provided sufficient respectability to convince the Federal Reserve that everything was okay.

The Fed had every reason to be suspicious. In 1981, the Federal Reserve asked the CIA for information about investors, but the CIA withheld everything they knew including the fact that Adham was

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199 Jonathan Beaty and S.C. Gwynne, *BCCI: The Dirtiest Bank of All*, Time Magazine, July 29, 1991

intelligence minister. As a result, the sale went through in 1982—the same year that the Bank of England, in an internal memo, called BCCI “the financial equivalent of the SS. Titanic.”<sup>200</sup> Even so, throughout the 1980’s, the British and the American central bank failed to police BCCI, arguing that it was the responsibility of Luxembourg authorities, where the bank was registered. Thus, no one intervened and when the bank went bust in 1991, BCCI owed more than \$18 billion to its creditors.

As investigative journalists dug into this quagmire of corruption, it became clear that BCCI was connected to Iran-Contra and hordes of other criminal enterprises. In New York, District Attorney Robert Morgenthau seized upon this information to launch his own investigation. He gathered that more than \$5 billion had been stolen, and through testimony in Congress not only learned how BCCI controlled First American but how the bank laundered Noriega’s drug money.

As 99,5 percent of all U.S. financial transactions go through Manhattan, Morgenthau claimed jurisdiction. And while its New York department (which is connected with the most secretive powers of the world) joined the Justice Department in stone-walling investigations, he had help from another Federal Reserve department and established that BCCI, indeed, controlled First American. Moreover, it was established that Clifford and Altman had lied about this and that Agha Hasan Abedi, BCCI’s Pakistani founder, and three associates had been running BCCI as a criminal conspiracy, bribing bankers, officials, and others around the world.

Except for a few convictions of politically expendable BCCI officials, however, not much came of Morgenthau’s efforts as the Justice Department opposed him. Already in 1990 it had struck a deal with BCCI, protecting them against RICO and money laundering charges,

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200 *BCCI scandal: Long legal wrangling over collapsed bank*, The Guardian, May 17, 2012

provided that they pay \$14 million. This was \$12 million less than BCCI over the next couple of years would spend on lawyer fees, and a good deal as it prevented other agencies from building a case.

After the scandal had broken, the Justice Department would come under heavy fire for this. Senator Kerry seemed personally involved in taking BCCI down and by mid-1991 the Senate Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics and International Operations had begun hearings to learn more. While the subcommittee received no help from the Justice Department, the Senator was not deterred, and as he connected with Morgenthau's office—and the press started to demand answers—corrupt officials at the Department of Justice began to act like they were all about the rule of law. Thus, Assistant Attorney General Robert Mueller made a show of effort. He assigned nearly three dozen attorneys to BCCI's case, who during 1992 brought several indictments. Nevertheless, it was no more than what was needed to be done to preserve a minimum of credibility—and looking back, chief orchestrators of this cover-up was George Terwilliger, William Barr, and Robert Mueller.<sup>201</sup> 30 years later, Barr and Mueller were involved

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201 Until late 1991, DOJ stonewalled Congress, Morgenthau, and any other investigative measure which threatened to expose the bank's dirty laundry. One threat was Customs. By March 1988, high level Customs officials connected to Operation C-Chase were reporting to Commissioner Von Raab that several BCCI officials were indictable under RICO. Justice officials, however, rebutted the proposal and ensured the worst possible conditions for the agents and prosecutors who worked the case causing Mazur, the chief undercover agent, to quit Customs. Also, in March of 1988, the chief investigator for the Foreign Relations Committee, Jack Blum, contacted the Justice Department with astonishing information about BCCI. In the course of his investigation into narcotics trafficking in Panama, Blum had come into contact with "a very senior BCCI officer who was in the process of disengaging from the bank." According to Blum, the BCCI banker provided him with a substantial amount of information about the bank's criminality. Blum proceeded to seek authorization from the Foreign Relations Committee to issue subpoenas to the bank, which were granted. Before issuing the subpoenas, however, Blum contacted the US attorney's office in Miami and Tampa, which asked him not to proceed. Yet another investigation was obstructed, one that had been launched in the Southern District of Florida under the direction of US Attorney Dexter Lehtinen in 1989. By mid-1989, the US Attorney's office in Tampa had information on much of BCCI's criminal activities, as well as alleged ownership of First American in four instances from two separate sources. By September 1988, also Customs had gathered evidence that BCCI was a major operator for drug cartels and that First American was really owned by BCCI. Even so, the Justice Department followed up on none of this and stonewalled progress. In fact, even after regulators in England, Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands

in another game of intrigue during the Trump Presidency, this time relating to elite paedophilia, child murder, and affairs connected with the Clinton Foundation.<sup>202</sup> We shall learn more about it shortly, but the Mueller investigation was another example of biased inquiry and institutionalized corruption at the FBI, while Barr's Department of Justice continued the tradition of cover ups, holding back John Durham's investigation into the origins of the Trump-Russia probe.

Now, knowing that BCCI's involvement with Iran-Contra was only the tip of the iceberg, it comes as no surprise that the suppression unit at Justice worked hard to keep the façade in place. No investigative efforts into the major hotspots of conspiracy, such as the European branches, would be allowed and considering that BCCI provided services that elite networks relied upon but could not officially deliver, there is reason to believe that BCCI served as a front for more "respectable" banks like the Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, and Citigroup. Indeed, private investigative measures into the Swiss branch seems to document these suspicions. As Engdahl and Steinberg found:

*"In 1976, BCCI established a Swiss base of operations by purchasing 85% of Banque de Commerce et Placements (BCP) of Geneva. The remaining 15% was retained by the original owner, Thesarus Continental Securities Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS). Under BCCI control, BCP was*

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on July 5, 1991, closed down BCCI's international operations, alleging the fraud was so massive that BCCI could not be reformed, the U.S. Justice Department continued to protect BCCI and those behind it.

202 Sidney Powell, the lawyer of Michael Flynn, an Army Lt. General who was attacked by these corrupt forces, have several times confirmed the story of the Weiner laptop. So far, the news have largely ignored the story on how the N.Y.P.D. seized the computer of Anthony Weiner, husband of Huma Abedin, Hillary Clinton's closest confidante. On his computer was a file marked "life-insurance", containing not only 650.000 emails Hillary had sought to hide but images of such extreme nature that experienced police officers had to throw up. FBI Director Comey made sure that this material was never looked at. Together with the testimony of Patrick Byrne, former CEO of Overstock, (note 231), this explains why Hillary Clinton and the democrats started a campaign to derail President Trump, and why Mueller and Barr were called to keep the façade.

*managed by Alfred Hartmann, a former senior official of UBS. Hartmann eventually became chief financial officer for BCC Holding, and was the person most accountable for the 'lost' \$23 billion. While serving as BCCI's 'man in Switzerland,' Hartmann was always operating on behalf of the Rothschild family. Hartmann was president of Rothschild Bank AG of Zurich, was vice-chairman of NY-Intermaritime Bank of Geneva (run by Mossad operative Bruce Rappaport), and was a member of the board of directors of the elite N.M. Rothschild and Sons in London."*<sup>203</sup>

This is as high-up as we come. The Rothchild's and other banks are not only too big to fail, but too big to be probed—and so, in 1991, investigative agencies agreed with the assessment of Price Waterhouse, BCCI's accountant, that it would be "difficult, if not impossible, to reconstruct BCCI's financial history."

Nevertheless, it is incontestable that BCCI owed much of its success to its involvement with intelligence operations and a willingness to do the dirty work for bigger players. And while executives at CIA and Bank of America predictably would distance themselves from its operations, those who investigated BCCI discovered an institution fully dedicated to debasing humanity.<sup>204</sup> As Rodney Stich described its operations:

*"BCCI was custom-made for the covert and corrupt activities of the CIA, the Mossad, drug dealers, and terrorists. My CIA contacts, including Russbacher, told how CIA operatives used the bank to launder money from CIA enterprises. These included drug*

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203 Bill Engdahl and Jeffrey Steinberg, *The real story of the BCCI*, Executive Intelligence Review, October 13, 1995

204 "A class action lawsuit filed in San Francisco courts by a class of defrauded BCCI depositors charged that Bank of America officials had considerable control over BCCI and had more knowledge of its illegal operations than previously disclosed. . . . The suit charged that the wrongful acts of BCCI could not have been accomplished without the active and knowing assistance of Bank of America." Stich, *Defrauding America* (1998) 311. For more on this subject, *Ibid.*, 309-332.



*trafficking proceeds, the looting of savings and loans, funding unlawful arms shipments, financing terrorist operations, undermining foreign governments, and other covert activities.”<sup>205</sup>*

Despite these forces and their ability to control the outcome of official investigations, BCCI’s association with drug barons across the world would be documented not only by independent research<sup>206</sup> but Congress. In the aftermath, congressional hearings discovered an abundance of evidence and one witness was Robert Mazur, the lead investigator of Operation C-Chase. This was a Customs operation which began in 1986 and Mazur went under-cover for two years as a banker for the Medellin cartel where he dealt with BCCI executives and drug dealers from around the world. Based upon his personal experience, he found that “the bank’s mission was to gain power in the financial community by gathering deposits from every corner of the underworld. [BCCI] laundered money, bribed regulators, corrupted politicians, financed arms dealers, and even provided prostitutes for favored customers.”<sup>207</sup>

More specifically, Mazur spent most of his time investigating BCCI in Panama. He was meeting with its top officials, and they summarized BCCI’s Latin American affairs like this:

*“In Latin America . . . evidence is indisputable that the bank moved aggressively to boost its share of that region’s total drug money. BCCI officers met with and opened accounts for such major Colombian cartel leaders as Pablo Escobar, Jorge Luis Ochoa and Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. The bank established branches in*

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205 Ibid., 310

206 “Numerous sources confirm that the CIA (and Arab states) used BCCI to move funds into the afghan pipeline, and that the bank was used in turn by corrupt Pakistani officials to launder drug profits from the burgeoning heroin trade.” Scott & Marshall, *Cocaine Politics* (1998) xvi)

207 Mazur, *The Infiltrator* (2009) 331-32

*such notorious drug centers as Medellín, Cali and even Pablo Escobar's hometown, Envigado. In Peru, it opened an office in the Huallaga Valley, the center of that country's coca production. In Florida, it handled accounts for some 200 drug traffickers and tax evaders. In all, according to estimates by some U.S. sources, the bank laundered nearly \$1 billion in Colombian drug profits."*<sup>208</sup>

BCCI could only get away with these kinds of banking practices because it had political protection. As we have seen, people like Robert Altmann and Clark Clifford were key to this plot—and willingly or not Senator John Kerry came in handy. In December 1992, he provided Congress with the official account of BCCI when he submitted his report to the Committee on Foreign Relations in 1992.<sup>209</sup> Even though it was one of the most scathing reports on CIA and DOJ activities ever released, Kerry ensured that the façade remained intact and that the BCCI affair ended up looking like another Arabian misadventure, largely disconnected from the bigger picture.<sup>210</sup>

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208 Ibid., xvi

209 Senator John Kerry and Senator Hank Brown, *The BCCI Affair: A Report to the Committee on Foreign Relations*, United States Senate, December 1992

210 However, as his committee received no assistance from other agencies, he can hardly take much credit for this cover-up. In its report, the committee confessed ignorance on many important subjects and recommended further investigative measures to determine the use of BCCI by central figures in arms sales to Iran during the 1980's; BCCI's involvement with foreign intelligence agencies; The alleged relationship between the late CIA director William Casey and BCCI; and money laundering by other major international banks. As Kerry noted: "Numerous BCCI officials told the Subcommittee that BCCI's money laundering was no different from activities they observed at other international banks, and provided the names of a number of prominent U.S. and European banks which they alleged engaged in money laundering. There is no question that BCCI's laundering of drug money, while pervading the institution, constituted a small component of the total money laundering taking place in international banking. Further investigation to determine which international banks are soliciting and handling drug money should be undertaken." Ibid.

## 10.5. The Modern State of Money Laundering

Nevertheless, while BCCI went down in flames, BCCI officials claimed that they were merely engaging in the same kind of practices everyone else was—and they probably were right. As Robert Mazur, the lead agent on Operation C-Chase noted in 2009:

*“BCCI got caught. Only that detail separates them from the rest of the international banking community. They’ve been out of the game for twenty years. The drug trade has produced about \$500 billion per year since then, but no one has been prosecuted for laundering those \$10 trillion.”<sup>211</sup>*

Since this date, several more trillions have been laundered. And while no one has been prosecuted, Wachovia, Wells Fargo, and HSBC has admitted to laundering hundreds of billions for Mexico’s drug cartels. Between 2004 and 2007, \$378 bn went onto the Wachovia/Wells Fargo currency exchange system and yet none of its employees was arrested. Speaking of HSBC, this bank admitted to breaches of anti-money-laundering norms in 2012 as it had moved hundreds of millions through the US on behalf of Mexican and Colombian drug cartels. As US Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer noted: “From 2006 to 2010, the Sinaloa cartel in Mexico, the Norte del Valle cartel in Colombia, and other drug traffickers laundered at least \$881 million in illegal narcotics trafficking proceeds through HSBC Bank USA. These traffickers didn’t have to try very hard.”<sup>212</sup>

In all, HSBC not only stood accused of failing to monitor over \$670 billion in wire transfers from HSBC Mexico between 2006 and 2009,

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<sup>211</sup> Mazur, *The Infiltrator* (2009) 340

<sup>212</sup> Nikhil Kumar & Jamie Dunkley, *HSBC: The Drug World’s Local Bank*, *The Independent*, December 12, 2012

but the bank failed to monitor the purchase of an incredible \$9 billion in physical U.S. dollars from Mexico. Thus, HSBC played a key role in the so-called Black-Market Peso Exchange, which allowed Colombian and Mexican drug cartels to convert U.S. dollars from drug sales into pesos to be used back home. The plot was so popular that drug dealers in Mexico built special cash boxes to fit the precise dimensions of HSBC teller windows,<sup>213</sup> but HSBC did not stop there. It was, after all, a global operation and in this period an astonishing \$200 trillion in wire transfers went through without monitoring. This made HSBC a banker for Russian gangsters as well as terrorist organizations linked to Al Qaeda, ISIS, and Hezbollah, and they also helped countries like Iran, Sudan, and North Korea evade sanctions.<sup>214</sup>

Serious stuff, in other words, but what HSBC did was not indictable. The U.S. Assistant Attorney General held that criminal persecution, even withdrawal of its U.S. banking license, would be catastrophic for the stock market and that a fine of \$2 billion would do. This was less than five weeks profits for HSBC but, more importantly, the big banks now had assurance that they could continue to violate the law without suffering real consequences.

No doubt HSBC was happy to plead guilty. Paul Thurston, the man in charge of HSBC's Mexico operation for some of the relevant period, was promoted to become head of global retail on a multi-million-dollar salary, whereas Stephen Green, the chief executive of the bank throughout its service to Chapo Guzman's cartel, was appointed to the British government. Indeed, the only persons to lose their job in this scandal were Everett Stern, Martin Woods, and Carolyn Wind, the compliance officers with HSBC, Wachovia, and the U.S. government—those who took their job seriously.

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213 Matt Taibbi, *Gangster Bankers: Too Big to Fail*, Rolling Stone, February 28, 2013

214 Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, *U.S. Vulnerabilities to Money Laundering, Drugs, and Terrorist Financing: HSBC Case History*, September 6, 2012

For reporting on these crimes (or inherent problems with the system), they were effectively punished so that others would get the message. And to those who did not care about integrity or the rule of law, this message was simple. If they did not know before, they learned that to the extent that they ignore the distance between theory and practice; to the extent that they accept a world where values have no meaning and where principles and ideals carry no weight; and to the extent that they abide by the dictates of fake authority, they will do just fine: they will be promoted and have a career at society's expense.

For those, however, who thought more wisely, the message would be different. And for those who cared about truth, integrity, and the nature of government, the lesson would be that the system had become utterly corrupted by the drugs economy and that a regulation of drugs was the only solution. When banks are not only too big to fail, but too big to do time or suffer real consequences for financing terrorism, illegal covert operations, wars, and drug running, there is no way that a healthy society can survive. While it remains taboo to think in these terms, the obvious fact remains that satanism is the open (or hidden) reversal of values, and to the extent that we accept the status quo we can see a dark grid ever tightening its grip on world populations.

When whistle-blowers, not corrupt agents, are punished everything is set for the acceleration of this dynamic and we would do well to remember that these institutions are not merely banks. They are connected to a host of other profitable endeavours where human suffering is the main outcome, and as one of the largest banks in the world, Wells Fargo serves as an example. Not only did it make money on laundering the profits of some of the world's most deeply troubled souls, people who in the last decade have murdered tens of thousands of innocent civilians in their battle for territory; it is heavily invested in the GEO Group, the second largest private prison company in the

United States. Hence, it also profited (and continues to profit) on the millions that are arrested in the War on Drugs.

Along with its friends, Wells Fargo now can continue to consolidate markets, growing larger and larger, while knowing that they can get away with its criminal activities for relatively small fines. And again, it would be extremely naïve to believe that the problem remains limited to this group of banks. As we have seen, they were only discovered because of whistle-blowers, but the system was definitely rigged against them and this means that there are other banks waiting to be discovered.

Indeed, federal and state authorities have also been investigating a handful of other major American banks for failing to monitor cash transactions. JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, and Citigroup are among the institutions suspected of being involved in the drug trade—and while no one has been prosecuted for these affairs, we need only consider Citigroup's history in Mexico, a hotspot of drugs- and money laundering activities. We already know that the connection between drug barons and government agents goes back to the beginning of the drug war; this also applies to Mexico—and yet, from 1940 until the late 1980's, Citibank was the only American bank to do business in this country. It would be extremely naïve to suppose that the Rockefeller-connected bank has not been a major money launderer for the Cartels. After all, we know that it helped the powerful Salinas family stash away billions in drug profits,<sup>215</sup> and on May 17, 2001, Citibank bought Banamex, Mexico's second-biggest bank.

The owner of Banamex, Roberto Hernandez, was overtly connected to drugs, and yet he joined Citibank's Board of Directors. As former police officer Mike Ruppert commented on the purchase:

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215 Cockburn & St. Clair, *Whiteout* (1999) 370

*“The level of criminality in the US financial and political systems has reached a threshold where it can no longer be spun into something which [the] Public can ignore and where US drug ‘enforcement’ efforts are now revealed to be nothing more than a reaction to the imperative of ‘managing’ the drug trade so as not to lose control of the trillions of dollars at stake. Crime has become, overtly, the largest free enterprise in the world. . . . The move will place Citigroup in control of one of the major—and proven—money laundering institutions in Mexico and allow Citigroup (first time for a US company) to penetrate the Mexican stock market. . . . It doesn't matter anymore whether the American public chooses to notice. The fait accompli is that drug money and criminal money are now out of the closet as the most important determinants of economic success for the US financial system. The careless arrogance of these moves only reveals the utter confidence in Washington, on Wall Street and in the banking system that no voices from the wilderness can stop it.”<sup>216</sup>*

No doubt, Ruppert’s thesis has been confirmed. And if we wonder why this pattern has been allowed to develop, we need only follow the money. Alain Ambrose, editor at Geopolitical Drug Dispatch, estimates that roughly 80 percent of the total drugs economy is laundered by western banks and that for every dollar made by gangsters on the U.S. drug market 75 cent end up with these banks. This is why no one is allowed to interfere with the status quo—and yet we have not seen all. As Mazur found out when he met Akbar Bilgrami, a BCCI official responsible for Latin American operations, the biggest money launderer was the Federal Reserve. Bilgrami told him:

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216 Mike Ruppert, *All hell breaks loose*, 2001 [http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ciadrugs/053101\\_Citigroupandasa.html](http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ciadrugs/053101_Citigroupandasa.html).

*“The Federal Reserve Bank [is the biggest money launderer in the U.S.]. They are such hypocrites! They know that the Bank of the Republic in Bogotá has a teller window known as ‘the sinister window.’ Under Colombian rule, any citizen who has huge piles of cash can come to that window and anonymously exchange their U.S. dollars for Colombian pesos—no questions asked. This causes the central bank to accumulate pallet loads of U.S. dollars that are shipped to the Federal Reserve and credited to the account of the Bank of the Republic—again no questions asked.*

*The people at the Federal Reserve aren’t idiots. They see this river of hundreds of millions in U.S. dollars being shipped to them from Colombia. They know what generates that cash. That’s drug money that has been smuggled from the U.S. and Europe to Colombia. The Federal Reserve takes that because it’s good economics for this country’s banking system. The Americans so-called War on Drugs is a sham.”<sup>217</sup>*

Mazur later found out that this information was correct, and Bilgrami’s story is supported by the testimony of Al Martin, the Iran-Contra insider. As he said:

*“Another way the government ‘acquiesced’ to these narcotics operations was by effectively allowing them to launder vast sums of money through Iran-Contra sympathetic banks in south Florida. They allowed enormous sums of money to leave these banks for accounts in Central America, the Caribbean, South America, and so on. Banks like Eagle National Bank, which was 80% owned by the Banco de Colombia, the central Bank of Colombia, were allowed to maintain a confidential cable arrangement with their main bank in Colombia. They were completely unfettered. There were no forms to be filled out. Nothing. . . . I was a substantial*

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217 Mazur, *The Infiltrator* (2009) 339



*client of Eagle National Bank at that time, as was Jeb Bush and all of his minions.”<sup>218</sup>*

As we can see, this is all done in the open, and it is easy to put two and two together for those who want to look. Indeed, it is for this reason that no one does. After DEA agent Michael Levine’s undercover work in the early 1980’s implicated top officials in three countries, the DEA and DOJ ensured that future investigations would be blocked long before they reached those at the top. Hence, it was a glitch in the system that made it possible for Mazur to do his work, and when he connected the drugs economy to the central banking system, that was it for similar law-enforcement endeavours. As Mazur himself said:

*“No one in our government or any other country’s government wants to test the integrity of the financial community anymore. I continue to interact with and train thousands of law-enforcement officers throughout the U.S. Their hands are tied. Bureaucrats have established regulations obstructing anyone from doing what we did.”<sup>219</sup>*

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218 Martin, *The Conspirators* (2002) 165

219 Mazur, *The Infiltrator* (2009) 340

# 11

## Conclusion

*“In our age there is no such thing as ‘keeping out politics’. All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia.”<sup>220</sup>*

—George Orwell—

In this part of the book, we have looked at the shady side of drug policy. As seen, current policies breed not only hypocrisy but intrigue, and if we ever wondered why drug policy continues as it does, we now have an answer: Despite all its shortcomings, power politics and scapegoating ensure that prohibition can wreak havoc, and the collective wisdom of humanity has yet to reach that point where we will free ourselves from our burdens.

No doubt, facing that the world is run by gangsters comes at great psychological cost. No doubt, opposing the status quo also comes at a great personal expense. In closing our eyes to this bigger picture, however, we continue to give power to the forces that has unleashed hell upon humanity. As Hannah Arendt discovered in researching the Nazi psychology, the ideal subject of tyrannical rule is not the person who is convinced of a totalitarian ideology; it is the person for whom the distinction between fact and fiction, truth and falsehood, is no longer of relevance.<sup>221</sup> Hence, the triumph of totalitarianism resides

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220 George Orwell, *Politics and the English Language* (1946)

221 Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1966) 474

not in a few rotten apples, but in the common man's eagerness to deny difficult issues. It is a problem of carelessness, plain and simple, and in doing nothing—and in wanting to know nothing—we give power to the darkness.

Indeed, it is the cowardice of man that has brought us into this mess. Without the psychological phenomenon of scapegoating and its mass appeal, war profiteers could not flourish. Without it, we would have had the sense to treat drug users as other consumers, and we would have steered away from the destruction of values on a near-cataclysmic scale. Even so, here we are. Forcing our will upon others without thinking about human rights and accepting lawlessness to govern our institutions. It does not take much to discover that this problem is worldwide. And as we did not learn the lessons from alcohol prohibition, it is difficult to conceive of a more prophetic outcome: In criminalizing products that have been a central part of human experience and tradition for millennia, we have not only provided jerks with the authority of law; we have prepared the ground for a dynamic where the corruptive influence of the drugs economy has destroyed all proper government. "Al Capone" runs the show.

### 11.1. A Total Breakdown of Law and Order

This may be harsh to imagine. Even so, let us not fool ourselves. The concept of law and order no longer makes sense, and the drug laws have been key to the eradication of a more wholesome morality. One may object, but where is the righteousness of the prohibition quest? How can prohibitionists continue to spin a tale of good guys and bad guys? As we have seen, it is not possible to separate the drugs economy from other economies—its hypocrisy only comes with a more sinister side. Thus, DEA agents like Celerino Castillo have written books on how the DEA is colluding with murderous death squads in

Latin America and elsewhere; how they use drug laws as a means to frame political opposition and to maintain control. The level of deception, however, is even more astonishing. DEA agent Hector Berrellez discovered how the CIA murdered another DEA agent who did not accept the CIA's centralization of drug markets. In the traditional manner of deception, the torture and death of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985, became another atrocity that was attributed to the drug lords and by politicians to escalate the War on Drugs. Camarena retrospectively received the DEAs most esteemed award and was even on the cover of Time Magazine, but it is difficult to envision the betrayal felt by dedicated drug warriors when they discover that the game is rigged.

For "Kiki" Camarena, it was a tip for a 2,500-acre marijuana plantation called Rancho Búfalo, which was owned by Félix Gallardo, Rafael Caro Quintero, and Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo that got him into trouble. The CIA was deeply connected to this farm with an estimated annual production worth \$8 billion, but "Kiki" did not care. After raiding the premises with 450 military men, Camarena was kidnapped to reveal what he knew; he was found one month later, bound and mutilated in the trunk of a car. His skull, jaw, nose, cheekbones, and windpipe were crushed. His ribs were broken, and a hole had been bored into his skull with a power drill. Amphetamines and other drugs found in his toxicology report suggested that he was forced to remain conscious while being tortured.

Such is the hypocrisy of the drug war.<sup>222</sup> Another CIA contractor, Tosh Plumlee, went public on FOX discussing this murder, and its due to these courageous individuals that we have any idea of the corruption of government. After all, government itself will attempt to hide rather than clarify any link between itself and organised crime.

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222 For an excellent story on this murder, see Charles Bowden, *Blood on the Corn* (2014)

This fact alone attests to the power of the criminal enterprise and the corruption of government. We have already seen how bad it was in the 1980s, and things have not improved. When it comes to more recent corruption, attorney Lin Wood has publicised testimony from an agent of Homeland Security who blows the whistle on Rod Rosenstein, recently retired US Deputy Attorney General, for being involved in the most heinous criminal activity. This network includes Chief Justice John Roberts, who is said to have procured two children from Jeffery Epstein. These are children the good Judge adopted and who “have been through hell”, being used as “gifts” or in schemes of blackmail. Indeed, Lin Woods whistle-blower reveals how these people used drugs and child porn to spin a network of control. He also informs us that Justice Scalia went to the White House because Roberts had teamed up with Hillary Clinton in a quest to kill off judges. The plan was for her to replace them after she won the 2016 election, and while this level of cynicism may be astonishing, it is a tiny fraction of the problems we are dealing with.<sup>223</sup> After all, the hypocrisy and injustice that follow in the wake of the drug laws is global. We are dealing with evermore centralized patterns of corruption; it is like alcohol prohibition, only a million times worse, and with “enforcers” like this around, no one is safe.

Hence, righteous enforcers, politicians, gangsters, and bankers, should appreciate the bigger picture. They should respect the integrity of whistle-blowers and see that drug prohibition is a danger to the fabric of society. They should honour the constitution, abstain from siding with totalitarian principles, and work towards an effective remedy for the persecuted groups. In the interests of society, Truth and Reconciliation commissions should be established. This will be the

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223 <https://populist.press/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FULL-Transcript-of-Whistleblower-Interview.pdf>

beginning of a new dawn, as society has been caught in a long and agonizing spiral, one devised by mechanisms of arbitrary law.

It takes its toll to recognize that we are dealing with its offspring, arbitrary persecution. We have been conditioned into thinking that this phenomenon only exists elsewhere, in third world countries. Nevertheless, the connection between moral panic, scapegoating, and human rights violations remains, and unwholesome laws can only encourage unwholesome values. It does not help that this is seldom understood by the millions of policemen who care about law and order. No one is served by a culture of needless violence, and cops are getting frustrated for having to enforce laws that make matters worse. This process has been going on for too long, and the riots of 2018-20 are a sign that things are coming to ahead.

One could argue that the “Black Lives Matter” and “Defund the Police” movements represent a healthy opposition to a system of justice that is built on injustice. May do. In truth, however, our policemen have been betrayed by society. If only one of the many constitutional challenges against the drug laws that were made in the 1960s or 70s had been handled correctly by US courts, American society would have gone down a different route. Rather than becoming a vehicle for unwarranted incarceration and unjust oppression, the police would have gone on to pursue legitimate police work and they would not have continued to persecute drug users.

Only a system of double standards could maintain the demonization of the drug dealer and the victimization of the drug user. However, on such tales budgets were built. On such tales the enforces would construct their moral platform, and the drug free ideal would continue to guide their ways, justifying any collateral damage.

It is unfortunate that the system did not function and that drug users to this day have been denied an effective remedy. Even so, the harder this war is fought, the more obvious the solution becomes, and a day

will come when drug producers are not demonized, nor drug users forced to buy their goods at a market where violence reigns and deceit flourishes. For nearly a century, these people have taken the brunt of our collective folly. The drug dealer has been the supreme culprit, arousing the greatest budgets and authoritarian powers. In the fight against this perceived evil, society has gone haywire demanding ever greater retribution, when in truth they are the ultimate scapegoats: They are the ones that vast bureaucracies have preyed upon to justify increasing powers and budgets; they are the ones met with wrath for no good reason. Like in the ancient of days, we have left them outside the gates to be sacrificed by an obscure sense of justice.

This, of course, is taboo. Even so, if we are serious, when it comes to our justice system, this is its worth—and we are not much better than the ancient Hebrews who offered a goat to the gods to create a sense of balance. In fact, as a human's life is said to be of more value than an animal's, one could argue that we have regressed. Modern man may not believe in spirits, but his worship of authority certainly is more misplaced than ever. Moreover, our sense of justice has not increased much, and the short-term winners in this scheme are the politicians, enforcers, gangsters, and bankers who rely upon the drugs economy and the enemy image of drugs to go to work. These forces combine to play out a greater historical act. In the bigger picture, however, this is a game where everyone loses—everyone, but those bent on stopping healthy progress.

We have seen too many examples of officials with an agenda of their own and we cannot ignore that there remains a problem with corruption in government. A certain percentage of the populace will continue to thrive on selfish schemes, and the drug law is an ideal tool for sinister intentions. In fact, the enemy image of drugs is one of a few instruments left for those who fancy systems of unjust oppression and if only for this reason, the drug laws should be abolished. Historically, they are linked to control-oriented elites who exist above the law. The

Iran Contra affair speaks volumes, and this is no fiction. As Seth Rich, a Democratic National Committee staffer more recently found out, gangsters and politicians have allied long ago. He was murdered by MS-13 gang members in 2016 after downloading incriminating evidence against Hillary Clinton. And if we continue to ignore the corruptive influence of drug prohibition, thinking that the law defines proper boundaries between good guys and bad guys, the War on Drugs will continue its destructive course.

It should be noted that we are at that point where corruption can go no further without our society openly giving up on the rule of law. It is, after all, not only plain to see that the ideology of prohibition has brought untold damage, but that society cannot much longer endure such authority. Because authority must rest its power on deception or truth, false authority will have to use totalitarian means to preserve its powers, and the moral panic that comes with reliance on enemy images has brought our civilization to the brink of destruction. Not only have war profiteers taken control of government: The War on Drugs reached its logical conclusion in 2012 when U.S. government operations in Latin- and Central America were outsourced to Academi, the private military contractors formerly known as Blackwater. As its operatives are the moral equivalent of the contras, this could only mean a turn for the worse as also these contractors have proven “too big to fail”.

Having no business but war, however, a notable difference between Blackwater and JP Morgan is the former’s willingness to truly play “the bad guy”. Its mercenaries would be reviled by international forces in Afghanistan for shooting at anything that moved—and they only got away with their activities in Iraq and elsewhere after lead executives threatened to kill congressional investigators. Amazingly, the American embassy in Baghdad, which was filled with CIA- and contract



personnel, sided with Blackwater against the State Department, its own nominal superior, in this affair.<sup>224</sup>

The balance of power, therefore, is not what it was. Since the days of the founders, there has been a constant shift towards tyranny, and while the Congress in the 1970's would make waves when illegalities was discovered, the weight of power has moved on into the darkness where creeps are running the show. No doubt, times were more lenient to politicians when lobbyists used their purse rather than the stick to grease the wheels of Washington. Nevertheless, as fascism sooner or later comes home to roost, we should not be surprised that the campaigns against terror and drugs would end in ruin for Americans.

## 11.2. Accepting Unwholesome Premises

*“Everyone knows nowadays that people ‘have complexes.’ What is not so well known, though far more important theoretically, is that complexes can have us.”<sup>225</sup>*

—Carl G. Jung—

One can argue what came first: the hen or the egg. However, only the scapegoating mechanism ensures the continuation of a War on Drugs, and the War on Terror is no different: they both build on lies and false premises, and their only effective function is to destroy what is left of a healthy society. Hence, whether these campaigns were promoted to serve despotic tendencies already inherent in the state, or these inherent tendencies merely ensured fertile grounds for such lies to

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<sup>224</sup> Lofgren, *The Deep State* (2016) 102

<sup>225</sup> C.G. Jung, *A Review of the Complex Theory* (1934)

flourish is less important. What is more important is that it was only logical that the dark web which connects these forces would gain a life of its own. Psychology, after all, begets policy, and so the military-industrial complex that President Eisenhower warned against before leaving office would continue to increase in scope. The tension between constitutional ground and the powerplay of factions became ever more intolerable, and the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and his brother Robert (and their cover-ups) were symptoms of a growing cancer on the body politic. They were evidence that vigilance had failed and that the republic had become a tyranny. More war, therefore, followed, where the U.S military performed globally what the elites' hit men could only do locally. Criminal enterprises like the Bushes and the Clintons, who catered to the ambitions of globalist elites, became more powerful than mafia families. Their ties to drug cartels and human trafficking only became more blatant, but there were forces who opposed them.

General Fletcher Prouty, Kennedy's most trusted military man, for instance, was a pioneer exposing the operations of this cabal. Together with contemporary generals like Michael Flynn, Paul Vallely, Thomas McInerney, and some 200 military leaders behind President Trump, he represents that tradition in the military who have known about the cancer that was praying on America and has opposed its influence. Since the killing of Kennedy, therefore, as the political schemes and deceptions took an increasing toll, this tradition have fought to restore constitutional ground—at least as they see it. President Trump's "America First" policy is the result of this faction. According to insiders, it is a final stand against the City of London and its bankers who have wanted to undermine the American experiment since day one.<sup>226</sup> The founders warned against their influence, and as even congressmen these days are writing books about "the Deep

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226 Juan O. Savin, *Kid by the Side of the Road* (2020)

State, the fall of the Constitution, and the rise of a shadow government,”<sup>227</sup> this has finally passed the realm of conspiracy theory.

Indeed, with Trump in office, more and more are waking up to find that a neglect of first principles has made Congress subservient to assassins and child traffickers.<sup>228</sup> It is no coincidence that General Flynn’s problems with the Deep State began when he tweeted about Pizzagate and wanted to review long-time misuse of public funds. His lawyer, Sidney Flynn, has fought with him against corrupt factions, and a historic battle is raging as we speak. It is of course not mentioned in the news. But to those Americans who see through the fake media façade that has been set up to present Washington DC as a place of decency, she has become the nation’s Joan of Arc. To this half of the population, conspiracy theory has become real with the stealing of the 2020 election. It is all out in the open.<sup>229</sup> A senile Joe Biden even bragged about being part of the “most extensive and inclusive voter fraud organization in the history of American politics”, and the collective psychosis is a fascinating watch as the Democratic Party falls apart.

For the other half of the population, the prophecy of H.L. Mencken seems to have come true. If we are to believe CNN, MSNBC, and other media outlets, the White House is now “adorned by a downright

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227 Ibid.

228 WikiLeaks published cables exposing that DynCorp, another contractor in the wars on drugs and terror, not only earned \$2 billion per year in Afghanistan and Iraq, but that the company was involved in child trafficking. The same charges have been levied against the company in Latin America, as well as elsewhere. Regarding its operations in Bosnia, the whistleblower Kathryn Bolkovac a former employee, has told the story of how DynCorp was involved in human trafficking and forced prostitution of minors; her book documents these allegations, and yet DynCorp executives continue to define policy. Kathryn Bolkovac, *The Whistleblower: Sex Trafficking, Military Contractors, and One Woman's Fight for Justice* (2011)

229 The Navarro Report by Dr Peter K. Navarro speaks volumes. So does the work of Judicial Watch, uncovering millions more votes than eligible voters.

moron.”<sup>230</sup> America has never been so divided, but the criticism aimed at the President is a clue that he may be a blessing in disguise. After all, the efforts to do away with Trump is what we could expect if the network described in this book felt less secure. These people are used to controlling politics, but President Trump is no ordinary politician: he has no loyalty to Washington DC, which has been a den of corruption for centuries, and those who look to his accomplishments will find that he has done more to protect ordinary Americans than most presidents.

Perhaps that is why he is so despised? Looking back, every politician who have put the interests of the American people before the interests of the global elite have been subjected to harassment and evidence abounds that Democrats and the establishment media have joined forces. After all, Hillary Clinton and her crew are guilty of much worse crimes than they have tried to frame on Trump. She even paid for the Steele Dossier, which was used to begin investigations, and it is likely that she did so out of fear that Trump would put her in jail. As one can appreciate, there is much to hide. Patrick M. Byrne, former CEO of Overstock, for example, has gone public that he worked with FBI-agents in a sting to catch Hillary receiving bribes. He personally gave her \$18 million, but the FBI did not pursue an investigation. Instead, President Obama and CIA Director John Brennan wanted to use this information to control her. This was “Operation Snowglobe”, and the plan was to keep Hillary on a leash as president, only to replace her with Michelle Obama. This little game of intrigue alone would be enough for Hillary to be afraid of Trump, but here is also the case of the 33.000 deleted emails on her private server, the Benghazi attack,

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230 “As democracy is perfected, the office [of president] represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. We move towards a lofty ideal. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart’s desire at last, and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron.” H.L. Mencken, Baltimore Sun, July 26, 1920

and the fake Osama Bin laden operation (and more), which the FBIs Robert Mueller and other insiders have shielded from exposure.

We may now appreciate why Washington DC, corrupt to its core, has tried to oust President Trump. To those who have looked behind the headlines, however, the so-called Russian collusion, the Mueller investigation, Ukrainegate, and the impeachment proceedings was charades to keep us distracted.<sup>231</sup> And while the news will not report on any of this, it is probably Trump's pledge to stop human trafficking that bothers elites the most. Annually, hundreds of thousands of children are abused in the United States.<sup>232</sup> Because such abuse has been prevalent in the circles of the elite, the system has protected such activity, but not anymore. Now, America has a president who (in the eyes of predatory elites) has gone rogue, and this very much explains the current panic. For those who look beyond appearances, therefore, there is a civil war, and if the faction behind Trump can rectify this wrong it will expose many corrupt politicians, bureaucrats, industrialists, and other powerbrokers. It will be the beginning of a new dawn for America, one where the concept of human rights may be meaningfully applied—and it is only fitting that facing the evils of drug prohibition should follow.

Perhaps, 50 years ago, some sort of innocence could be attributed to the prohibitionist quest, but those days are gone. Not only do youth instinctively reject the propaganda of the state as nonsense; with the internet, information is no longer controlled, and as the distance between theory and practice becomes more difficult to ignore, our

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231 For more on this, see Patrick M. Byrne, *The Deep Rig: How election fraud cost Donald J. Trump the White House, by a man who did not vote for him* (2021); Dan Bongino, *Spygate: The Attempted Sabotage of Donald J. Trump* (2018) and Jerome R. Corsi, *Killing the Deep State* (2018). <https://www.newswars.com/overstock-ceo-says-fbi-tapped-him-to-bribe-hillary-clinton-as-part-of-sting-operation-for-obama/>

232 For an excellent exposure, see the International Tribunal of Natural Justice at [www.itnj.org](http://www.itnj.org). Its Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Human Trafficking and Child Sex Abuse has carefully addressed this problem and it should no longer be ignored.

leaders can no longer ignore that they have left constitutional ground. Their credibility, in fact, depends upon them adjusting to reality: Nearly half the population are aware that there is something wrong with the management of our affairs, and those who dig further will find that the War on Terror and the War on Drugs are both examples of the great big lie—that lie which rulers will advance, knowing that its impact will shock us into conformity.<sup>233</sup>

If it were not for the impact of these campaigns', humanity would have followed its inclination to thrive. As a society, we would have begun the movement towards a healthier expression of human potential, but our leaders have failed. Because our leaders (by and large) have been a spineless bunch, they have preferred to use these campaigns to provide cover for the theft of rights and resources. Even so, these campaigns not only fail to make the world a safer place; they are what separates us from a more wholesome morality, and leaders only make matters worse by acting as they have a clue while saluting these crusades. As we have seen, such shallowness can only undermine the authority of state—and so, unless they want a violent revolution, they should make way for change.

With or without our politicians, humanity will find a solution. Based on what we have seen, it should be clear that the citizenry no longer can afford to ignore the wealth of evidence linking public officials to criminal conspiracies, and as the consciousness of humanity aligns

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233 As Hitler would write on the principle of the Big lie: "in the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods. It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explanation. For the grossly impudent lie always leaves traces behind it, even after it has been nailed down, a fact which is known to all expert liars in this world and to all who conspire together in the art of lying." Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, vol. I (1925) chapter X

with the spirit of freedom there comes a time when we will no longer accept double standards and hypocrisy as the norm. When that time comes, we will embrace a system of principled rule, and we will reap the benefits of the constitutional charter.

*For more info on how this is done, see the books [Human Rising](#) and [To Right a Wrong](#). The former shows how the morality of the prophets and the founders is one and the same, while the latter provides a foundation for utopian society building, and together they provide a way out of the false right/left paradigm.*



## About the Author

Mikalsen is the author of six books which are changing the world one at a time. His authorship covers a large area ranging from cosmology, mysticism, self-help, and consciousness research to power politics, human rights law, drug policy, constitutional interpretation, and social engineering. He is the founder of the Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies (AROD), an organization which addresses drug policy reform from a perspective of human rights and a nominee of two prestigious human rights awards (Vaclav Havel and Martin Ennals).

A platform for his work is Life Liberty Productions, a publishing house and consulting agency dedicated to the Spirit of Freedom. You will find books that are embraced by professionals and have the potential to bring humanity one step further on the online store [lifelibertybooks.com](http://lifelibertybooks.com)



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